

TDN DERBY TOP 12: FINAL FIREWORKS BEFORE THE CARAVAN ROLLS ON



Forte in Florida Derby winner's circle | Ryan Thompson

by T.D. Thornton

We're approaching the edge of the GI Kentucky Derby abyss. Three final 100-points prep races Saturday, followed by four weeks of microscopic analysis and animated speculation. Bring it on!

1) FORTE (c, Violence--Queen Caroline, by Blame) 'TDN Rising Star'. O-Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable; B-South Gate Farm (KY); T-Todd Pletcher. Sales history: \$80,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV; \$110,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo Colt, MGISW, 7-6-0-0, \$1,833,230. Last start: 1st GI **Curlin** Florida Derby at Gulfstream Apr. 1. Kentucky Derby Points: 190. **Cont. p9**

Purchased by Jacob West Bloodstock

EATON SALES **SOLD**

THOROSTRIDE-featured horse

WINTER QUARTER REMAINS EVERGREEN

by Chris McGrath

In most respects, the years have passed very lightly over Don Robinson. He remains vigorous and full of verve. But the one thing he really hasn't clung onto is the hair he wore as a teenager in the 1970s, when shaking the Bluegrass from his feet and embracing an alternative lifestyle in Northern California.

"Oh man, the hair," he says. "Depending who you talk to, it just gets longer every time. It really wasn't that long. Probably over my collar. But they love to tell the story that it was waist length or beyond." His strong, chiseled features crease into one of those huge Don Robinson smiles, which you'll know very well if you're among his many friends in Kentucky. **Cont. p3**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

SEVEN DAYS: ALL THE YOUNG DUDES

Emma Berry looks back at the week in racing, highlighted by a Saturday near dominated by jockeys with nascent careers.



Don Robinson | Sue Finley



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- Chris McGrath, TDN 3/29/2023

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Sue Morris Finley @suefinley
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Gary King @garykingTDN
garyking@thetdn.com

EDITORIAL

editor@thetdn.com

Editor-in-Chief

Jessica Martini @JessMartiniTDN

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News and Features Editor

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ADVERTISING

advertising@thetdn.com

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Alycia Borer

Advertising Manager

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Advertising Designers

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Advertising Assistant/Dir. of Distribution

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Photographer/Photo Editor

Sarah K. Andrew @SarahKAndrew
photos@thetdn.com

Associate Producer

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Chief Financial Officer

Ray Villa
rayvilla@thetdn.com | accounting@thetdn.com

WORLDWIDE INFORMATION**European Editor**

Emma Berry | emmaberry@thetdn.com

Associate International Editor

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

Associate European Editor

Brian Sheerin @BrianSheerin91

Cafe Racing

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary

caferacing@thetdn.com

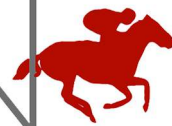
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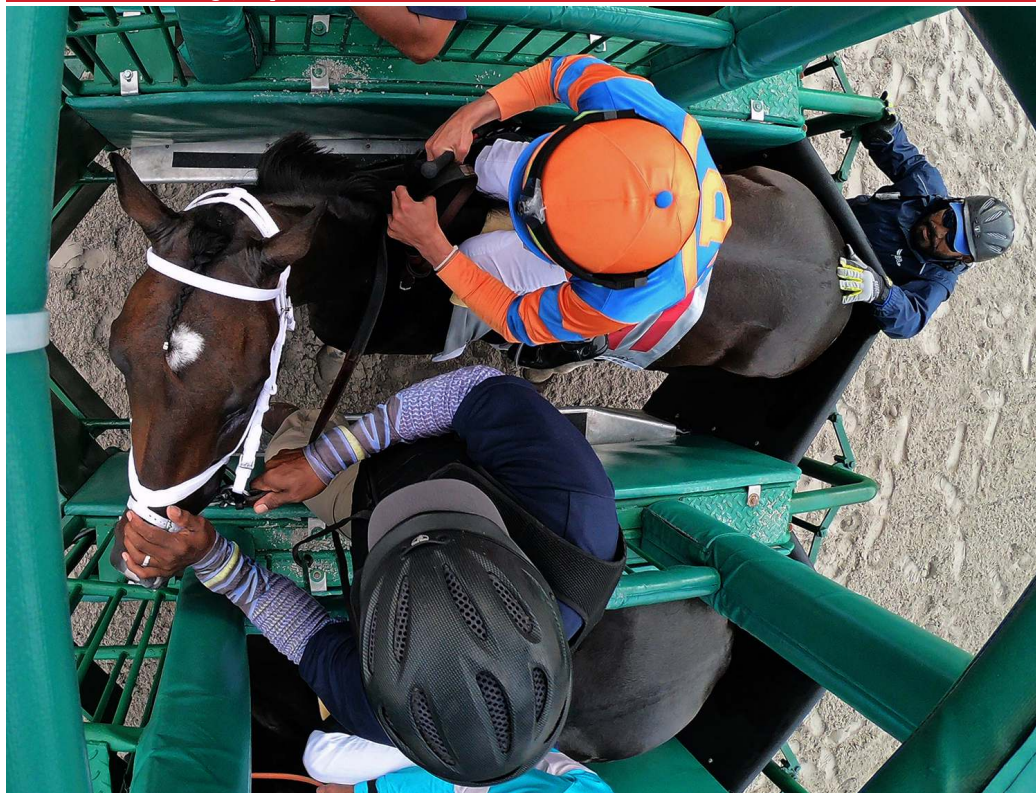
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TODAY in the

TDN
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS



Tuesday, April 4, 2023



Pictured in the starting gate before winning Saturday's GI Curlin Florida Derby, Forte (Violence) is this week's TDN Derby Top 12 leader. | Ryan Thompson/Coglianese

OCEAN REEF RACING BUYS INTO CONFIDENCE GAME 14

The Ocean Reef Racing partnership has acquired an interest in GII Rebel S. winner Confidence Game (Candy Ride {Arg}), who is expected to make his next start in the GI Kentucky Derby.

NO FOUL, INQUIRY OR DQ, BUT GEROUX SUSPENDED 15

Jockey Florent Geroux has been suspended two days by the Oaklawn Park stewards for careless riding in the Apr. 1 Hot Springs S., a race that did not involve a foul claim, posted inquiry, or a disqualification.

LAOBAN VET BEGINS SUSPENSION

15

Dr. Heather Wharton, the veterinarian responsible for injecting WinStar stallion Laoban with a so-called "Black Shot" shortly before his death in 2021, has begun serving a 90-day suspension.

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Winter Quarter Remains Evergreen

(cont. from p1)

We're sitting in the kitchen at Winter Quarter Farm--just about as anomalous a name as you could find, for a place so irradiated by this human sunbeam. Nor is there any quarter given, in terms of his unstinting devotion to the horses grazing here, who have ranged from Zenyatta herself to the granddam of Kelso.

Harking back to his youth, however, Robinson admits that he was happy to be half a world away. Out in Humboldt County he had a young bride, a young son, and was hand-milking four cows.

"Just 'back to the land' stuff," he recalls. "My grandmother had left me some stock. With the proceeds I bought a lovely, south-west face hillside and I built a house, built a barn, we grew food, grew hair, did the whole thing. Had some great neighbors, some that I still keep up with. It was really neat."

But then, in 1977, came the awful summons home. Dad had Lou Gehrig's Disease. It was time to rally round, see if Robinson could piece back together the horsemanship he'd learned as a kid. Truth be told, he was already restless. He sensed an urban contamination seeping into their idyll--Eden was on its way to becoming a weed plantation--while their own, bucolic lifestyle would soon have been consumed by industrialization of dairy farming.

"Anyway Dad had been diagnosed, and everything was just falling apart," Robinson recalls. "Even as it was, there wasn't much business here. Cattle, tobacco, a core of clients and horses. I don't think Dad owned any horses at all, at that time. His passion was training. He'd kept a barn at Keeneland for years. He loved to background horses, year round, pre-training. The nomadic trainer's life was not for him, he wanted to sleep in his own bed every night. So this place was perfect: he loved the farm, and the barn was 10 minutes away. It was a great life."

Sadly his father could hold out only until 1980. On his own, Robinson felt like an impostor. He remembers coming clean to Jimmy Conway--Hall of Famer James P. Conway, "a great man"--after their mutual client Geoffrey C. Hughes indicated that he would be sending horses to Winter Quarter.

"Mr. Conway, I've got to tell you, I don't know a thing. Really I don't."

He'll never forget the response.

"Donnie, you are a worker," Conway said. "You'll be fine. You've got the right ethic. Don't worry about any of that other stuff, it'll come to you."

And it did, Robinson concedes now. Not that the sweat of his brow was adequate on its own. His father had an expression about people who could work, only without ever getting on a wavelength with horses.





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O/O TAKE CHARGE ANGEL
C: GAINESWAY
B: DAVANT LATHAM, AGT





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O/O SWEET TALKIN
C: FOUR STAR SALES
B: P B BLOODSTOCK

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“That old boy,” he’d say, “could sleep with a horse and still wouldn’t understand.”

“Either you have it naturally or you don’t,” Robinson reflects. “And I’ve always just been able to connect with an animal. Just organically. I didn’t have any teaching, any schooling. As a kid I’d hang out in the barn with the grooms. The more I look back, just the demeanor of those old timers was so impactful, the way they related to the horses. Back then it wasn’t just a job. They lived with those horses. They were older men and you’d only call the veterinarian if a horse was dying. The grooms and trainers could do the rest: blistering, soundness, everything. If you had a pneumonia, I’d hear stories of them piling on newspapers and a blanket to sweat the horse.”

Those remedies go back centuries. No less timeless, however, was the loyalty of the farm’s patrons, who gradually drew out an inborn vocation in Robinson.



Winter Quarter Farm Silks | Sue Finley

“I mean, just think about those two,” he says of Conway and Hughes. “Both real characters, and both real mentors to me. Geoffrey was British, he’d inherited a shipping company, he lived by himself in Utah, skiing. He would hotwalk his own horses at Saratoga. And Jim Conway, he had been real tight with my father. So the reason I survived, when I came back from California, is because those two adopted me: the son of a New York beat cop, and this fascinating English gentleman, this man of the world.”

It feels like we’re doing Robinson a disservice to dwell on those distant days, when the here-and-now remains so full of vitality. It was fully 42 years after his return, after all, that the Winter Quarter consignment broke the record for the New York Sale in Saratoga with a \$775,000 Malibu Moon filly; and within the month scored the top two prices of a Book 2 session at Keeneland, at \$1 million and \$650,000. (This latter turned into Rock Your World (Candy Ride {Arg}), now standing at Spendthrift after becoming Winter Quarter’s second graduate--emulating Midnight Interlude (War Chant)--to win the GI Santa Anita Derby.



CONNECT

Curlin - Bullville Belle, by Holy Bull

#2 BY STAKES WINNERS

AMONG THIRD-CROP SIRES YTD

Black-type winners in 2023 include exciting three-year-olds Hayes Strike, Nosilverspoonshere and Kentucky Oaks (G1) contender The Alys Look. Very Scary picked up black type when 3rd in the Royal Heroine S. (G2) last weekend.



THE ALYS LOOK



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Both were out of mares sent by cherished friend and longstanding client Ron McAnally.) Farm graduates to have succeeded Zenyatta include Audible (Into Mischief), who emulated the GI Florida Derby success of Vicar (Wild Again) 19 years previously. Earlier breakthroughs, meanwhile, had been made by two GI Arlington Million winners in four runnings, Golden Pheasant (Caro {Ire}) and Star of Cozzene (Cozzene).

But the fact remains that none of that could have happened unless Robinson survived the initial crash course.

"So those clients were all like my uncles," Robinson says, further invoking the names of Charles and Eddie Theriot. "[Mrs. Charles] Theriot had a really nice Sir Ivor filly. I was just barely cutting my teeth, so she was advised to have Lee Eaton sell her. I was not hurt but I did think, 'Oh gosh, that'd have been nice.' And that fall, out of the blue, Eddie sent me a commission. I just couldn't believe it. Those relationships, they were just very, very personal."

Besides, the real start of this whole story goes a lot farther back. It takes a long time just to get through the hallway at Winter Quarter, so compelling are the photographs recording the era of Duntreath Stable, owned by Robinson's grandmother Suzanne, Mrs. Silas B. Mason. These include the iconic image of the stretch duel for the 1933 Kentucky Derby, Head Play versus Broker's Tip with the jockeys practically hauling each other out of the saddle. (Head Play put things right in the Preakness.) There's also a photograph of Mrs. Mason with Samuel Riddle, giving a 20th birthday cake to Man o' War.

"Oh, she was a force!" Robinson says. "She loved the horses, and she loved entertaining. I was only a little kid but remember her very well. She was scary, because she was such a huge personality, but always very gracious and I loved visiting her."

Her stable had to be dispersed after the death of her husband, but their son Burnett had by then inherited a passion for horses. He wanted to drop out of school and ride steeplechases, so Mrs. Mason sent him to James Cox Brady in New York, to have some sense drummed into him. Brady, either misreading or ignoring his brief, told the young man to follow his dream.

The war interrupted Burnett's turf career, but did at least yield a name for the Fayette County farm he bought in 1948: Winter Quarter had been a coastguard lightship off Virginia, where he rode mounted patrols securing the shore against the contingency, presumably fairly remote, of sabotage by German frogmen.

Robinson was born the same year. Granted the depth of his own pedigree--his father also resurfaced Keeneland, incidentally, and laid out the training track--he was honored to revive his grandmother's silks to campaign Cambodia (War Front), bred in partnership with Eric Kronfeld, to win four graded stakes between 2015 and 2018.



CONNECT

Curlin - Bullville Belle, by Holy Bull

17 TWO-YEAR-OLD WINNERS IN 2022

STAKES WINNER IMPLICATED

He had six two-year-old stakes horses last year--more than all other second-crop sires bar one.



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“That was fantastic,” Robinson reflects. “I’d had the whole page for clients, and ended up buying into the family which was durable as hell. I’d bred and raced the mother, and I’d got to **War Front** at \$25,000. But when we did the screening X-rays on the yearling, my vet just said, ‘You’re done.’ He’s pretty blunt! I was crushed.

“But I don’t think she had three lame days that spring, and we did a stem cell procedure at his suggestion. We broke her in the fall and she was a star from the beginning. We gave her time, she didn’t really get going until she was four, but she ended up winning \$860,000 and Grade I-placed. And of course she was one of our own. There’s been no thrill like Zenyatta. But to breed a racehorse as good as that, when you’d had the mother and grandmother, that was incredibly rewarding.”



Cambodia | Benoit

Cambodia’s first foal, a Medaglia d’Oro colt sold for \$575,000, is now in training with Zenyatta’s trainer John Shirreffs, which brings many things full circle. Shirreffs, a near-contemporary, himself had his drifting years in the 1970s, and the pair forged a great bond during the rise of the champion bred by Kronfeld and raised at Winter Quarter.

Kronfeld had arrived at the farm fairly circuitously. It had initially seemed an ample boon, to Robinson, simply to receive some Marshall Jenney and George Strawbridge mares when King Ranch was sold.

“I don’t do much seasonal stuff anymore,” Robinson says. “It was a lot of work. But these magnificent mares, when they came in, gave me chills. It was like when I first got some King Ranch yearlings to break: I’d been used to Chevrolets and Fords, and then these Ferraris come in. I said to Helen [Alexander] that she taught me what pedigree was all about, just by seeing that difference. They could be crooked-legged or anything, but they just had that fire.”



CONNECT

Curlin - Bullville Belle, by Holy Bull

GRADE 1 SIRE

172 MARES BRED LAST YEAR

Connect’s first crop included Grade 1 winner Rattle N Roll and Grade 3 winner Hidden Connection. With a full book bred last year, his momentum looks likely to grow.

[SUBMIT MARE](#)



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CLOSING APRIL 15

DERBY WEEK STAKES

ROXELANA OVERNIGHT STAKES

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from KTDF)
Runs Sat., April 29
Fillies and Mares,
Four-year-olds and up
SIX FURLONGS, Dirt

ISAAC MURPHY MARATHON OVERNIGHT STAKES

\$175,000
(includes \$65,000
from KTDF)
Runs Wed., May 3
Four-year-olds and up
ONE MILE AND
ONE-HALF, Dirt

MAMZELLE, LISTED

\$225,000
(includes \$25,000
from KTDF)
Runs Wed., May 3
Fillies,
Three-year-olds
FIVE AND ONE-HALF
FURLONGS, Turf

ST. MATTHEWS OVERNIGHT STAKES

\$175,000
(includes \$65,000
from KTDF)
Runs Thurs., May 4
Four-year-olds and up
NW of a graded
stakes in 2022-2023
SIX FURLONGS, Dirt

KENTUCKY JUVENILE

\$200,000
(includes \$25,000
from KTDF)
Runs Thurs., May 4
Two-year-olds
FIVE FURLONGS, Dirt

OPENING VERSE, LISTED

\$300,000
(includes \$25,000
from KTDF)
Runs Thurs., May 4
Four-year-olds
ONE MILE, Turf

KENTUCKY OAKS DAY

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS, GRADE I



\$1,250,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Second Closing
Fillies, Three years old
ONE MILE AND ONE-EIGHTH, Dirt

LA TROIENNE, GRADE I

\$750,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Fillies and Mares,
Four years old & Up
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Dirt

ALYSHEBA, GRADE II *presented by Sentient Jet*

\$600,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Four-year-olds and up
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Dirt

EIGHT BELLES, GRADE II

\$500,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Fillies, Three years old
SEVEN FURLONGS, Dirt

EDGEWOOD, GRADE II *presented by Forcht Bank*

\$500,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Fillies, Three years old
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Turf

MODESTY, GRADE III

\$300,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Fillies and Mares,
Four-year-olds and up
ONE MILE AND
ONE-EIGHTH, Turf

UNBRIDLED SIDNEY, LISTED *presented by Sysco*

\$300,000
Runs Fri., May 5
Fillies and Mares,
Three-year-olds and up
FIVE AND ONE-HALF
FURLONGS, Turf

KENTUCKY DERBY DAY

OLD FORESTER BOURBON TURF CLASSIC, GRADE I

\$1,000,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Four-year-olds and up
ONE MILE AND
ONE-EIGHTH, Turf

DERBY CITY DISTAFF, GRADE I *presented by Kendall-Jackson Winery*

\$750,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Fillies and Mares,
Four-year-olds and up
SEVEN FURLONGS, Dirt

CHURCHILL DOWNS, GRADE I *presented by Ford*

\$750,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Four-year-olds and up
SEVEN FURLONGS, Dirt

LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE, GRADE II

\$500,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Fillies and Mares,
Four-year-olds and up
ONE MILE, Turf

AMERICAN TURF, GRADE II

\$500,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Three-year-olds
ONE MILE AND
ONE-SIXTEENTH, Turf

PAT DAY MILE, GRADE II

\$500,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Three-year-olds
ONE MILE, Dirt

TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT, GRADE II

\$500,000
Runs Sat., May 6
Three-year-olds and up
FIVE AND ONE-HALF
FURLONGS, Turf

KNICKS GO OVERNIGHT STAKES

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Four-year-olds and up
NW of a graded stakes in
2022-2023
ONE MILE, Dirt



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Jenney brought in Kronfeld, too--and when that pair fell out, the music executive declared that he would leave his couple of mares at Winter Quarter.

"Eric was gruff, and Marshall was gruff!" says Robinson, by way of humorous explanation. "Anyway one of Eric's mares was For The Flag (Forli {Arg}), the granddam of Zenyatta. Over time Eric and I became fast friends. We were night and day, but somehow a great match. He was the New York lawyer, so sharp, knew a lot of stuff I didn't. But I knew stuff he didn't know, too. He was a real curmudgeon, but I had a lot of affection for him. I still miss him."

When they were selling Zenyatta, they argued over the reserve. Kronfeld got his way and David Ingordo was bewildered to get her for just \$60,000. But then Robinson had opposed the Street Cry (Ire) cover, as too European, so nobody got everything right!



Zenyatta | Sarah Andrew

Here, then, is a man who has not only seen an awful lot over the years, but can entwine it with many rich strands of the past. And who can say what fresh chapters may yet be written by the couple of dozen mares on these 300 fertile acres?

Sure, our world has changed a lot over the last 75 years. Robinson remembers chatting with Bernie Sams at a sale, maybe 25 years ago now, and the Claiborne manager commenting: "You know what's changed, Donnie? These days, people would rather make \$1 million in that ring than win a Grade I."

"Believe me, I love to sell a horse," Robinson says. "But boy, the reward is on the track. I mean, that's why we're doing this."

Sure enough, this relatively small farm has consistently produced elite runners decade after decade.

"First of all, it's great ground," Robinson says. "My father knew what he was doing. You can't raise them on a rock pile. I always say Kentuckians aren't very smart, but the smartest thing we do is take care of this land that we're lucky enough to be on."

G1 Arkansas Derby winner!

Angel of Empire now has consecutive stakes wins, this tally following the Risen Star, and **he was much the best here.**

DRF.com



“Very impressed with this horse, how he ran today. He came home quick, and he's a horse that the longer the better. Looking forward to getting him to the Kentucky Derby in five weeks” Brad Cox

2023 Leading Third-Crop Sires

RANK	STALLION	BTW	GSW	G1SW	EARNINGS
1	Gun Runner	3	-	-	\$4,214,075
2	Practical Joke	4	3	-	\$2,719,633
3	Classic Empire	2	2	1	\$2,262,572
4	Connect	3	-	-	\$1,789,409
5	Arrogate	3	3	-	\$1,785,319

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Robinson has certainly walked the walk, on that account, having long since gone in “with all four feet” on local land use policy. In fact, he started out by suing the planning commission--and ended up being asked to join it. Subsequently he was a founder of the Fayette Alliance, a local land use advocacy organization.

“Farm land’s under threat, but it feels like we’ve got the community’s ear,” he says. “In polling, what do people consistently value? The farms, the green space. They feel they own that. Now, you have to buy into that. It can’t just be us guys behind the black fences, that won’t work. But people get it: the rings of economic impact, what this business means to the state, and how this land really is a finite resource.”

With the parcel under his direct stewardship, however, Robinson is happy to play a rather shorter game: taking and enjoying each day as it comes.

“I’m still out getting horses every day of the week, all year, in all weather,” he says. “It’s what I do, and it’s what I love. I don’t do nearly as much as I used to, thanks to great staff, but the hands-on is so important.”

He exudes such boyish enthusiasm, in fact, that you can still discern the teenager who used to go to Saratoga with Charlie Nuckols.

“I was about 14 or 15 and we worked the sale and really thought of ourselves as grown men,” he recalls. “And then Charlie, who was a little older, told me about riding the train to Santa Anita with horses. I said, ‘You got to be kidding me.’ Because I used to love to ride vans with horses. So I got myself introduced to Tex Sutton--another guy, thank God, that took me under his wing.

“So for the next couple of summers I got to take horses through Cincinnati, St. Louis, all the way to Santa Anita, on a baggage car. I could have done it the rest of my life. It was the most magnificent deal ever. The door was wide open and you’re just sitting there watching the country pass by. And if a horse ran a temperature, you just let the conductor know--and at the next stop the vet would come and, though there were passenger cars too, that train did not move till that horse was treated and cleared, or else needed to be offloaded.”

That opens a still farther horizon of memory: his father and his farm manager, telling him about how horses would be led into the branch stations from outlying farms in Scott County, Georgetown, Jessamine County.

“Kids would be paid 50 cents to take them downtown, to load on the box car to Saratoga,” he recalls. “They’d start at dusk and lead them by lantern. There was a one urban streetcar to Georgetown. They had to wait till that stopped, because all the horses would freak out. But once the last car had gone through, then they’d walk the horses in and put them on the train at 2 a.m.”

No less a man than John Magnier, coming to Winter Quarter to appraise Zenyatta’s dam, once congratulated his host: “Don, this is a magnificent place.”

“I knew that to be no idle compliment,” Robinson says proudly. “But here’s the thing, my people all had patience. They had a program, and they stuck with it. To me, that’s for all time. If you’re not patient in this, you’ll be a flash in the pan.”

And that still applies at his time of life, no less than when he was gazing at the continent unscrolling from a train car. That’s why Robinson has decided not to sell Cambodia’s yearling filly by **Tapit**.

“I’m an old man now, and I have a great partner in Allen Schubert,” he explains. “We were little kids together, and he loves to race one. I’m not sure I really have an exit strategy, anyway. Mostly, I don’t want one. The life, this farm, this land: no kidding, I just got lucky that my father started a small horse business. It’s been pretty remarkable. I’ve had a lot of good horses. I’ve worked really hard, but I’ve always had wonderful people. And that’s key. Wonderful people I think can bring wonderful horses.”

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TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING

2YOs by:

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FROSTED
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MALIBU MOON
MUNNINGS *etc.*

Prospects from first year stallions:

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CATHOLIC BOY
COPPER BULLET
MAXIMUS MISCHIEF
MITOLE
VINO ROSO
YOSHIDA *etc.*

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10 AM

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FORTE (cont. from p1)

'TDN Rising Star' Forte has made it through his two-race prep campaign still perched atop the Top 12. But it's now an open question as to how strong his grip is, considering the scare he gave backers at 3-10 odds when flying home with a belated rush to nail the GI **Curlin** Florida Derby by a length.

What we saw was an athlete so far ahead of his peers, that, even though he was tactically disadvantaged by leaving himself so much work to do, Forte was able to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat without fully extending himself. A few desperate moments for sure, but no true panic.

Still, the not-fully-cranked Florida Derby win exposed vulnerabilities. Forte registered a 100 Beyer Speed Figure when he won the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile, but he regressed to a 98 when winning the GII Fountain of Youth S. That number dipped again, to 95, in the Florida Derby. If you're an improving divisional champion and formidbale Derby favorite, those Beyers should be going in the opposite direction.

Forte is a stalker at his best and a very capable closer from farther back when circumstances dictate. But the Derby has not recently been kind to horses who make sustained far-turn moves. In eight of the last nine Derbies, the first horse under the wire has raced either on the lead or just off it. Forte will be up against the grain of that winning profile in 4 1/2 weeks.

Jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr., said he had to resort to Plan B when Forte couldn't clear the field into the first turn in the Florida Derby like he thought he would. Ortiz had to urge the champ before settling into a more rhythmic beat down the backstretch.

Forte edged up incrementally, but still looked beaten at the five-sixteenths pole. He hesitated momentarily before responding nimbly to Ortiz's hand commands off the turn, and it took mild left-handed encouragement and the length of the stretch to reel in his target in measured fashion.

Yet Forte finished with his ears pricked after making the lead in the final few jumps to the wire, a subtle, positive sign that he can handle more.

2) PRACTICAL MOVE (c, **Practical Joke--Ack Naughty, by Afleet Alex)** O-Leslie & Pierre Jean Amestoy & Roger Beasley; B-Chad Brown & Head of Plains Partners (KY); T-Tim Yakteen. Sales history: \$90,000 RNA yrl '21 KEESEP; \$230,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: MGSW, 6-3-1-2, \$434,200. Last Start: 1st GII San Felipe S. at Santa Anita Mar. 4. Kentucky Derby Points: 60.

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THOROSTRIDE—featured horse

Practical Move owns the two fastest final times among the 16 points-earning Derby qualifying stakes run at 1 1/16 miles in 2022-23. He ran 1:41.65 when winning the GII Los Alamitos Futurity and 1:42.01 when he tallied in the GII San Felipe S. For perspective, no other horses in that series of stakes have clocked below 1:43.06.

Based on how impressively this Tim Yakteen trainee orchestrated that San Felipe score, Practical Move seems well equipped to handle a stretch-out to nine furlongs and beyond.

Inside runs have evolved as the strong suit for this son of **Practical Joke**, who has enough tactical speed to stay in touch with brisk paces and enough late-race oomph to see his jobs through.



Practical Move | Benoit

Should he win Saturday's GI **Runhappy** Santa Anita Derby while putting up a second consecutive triple-digit Beyer, Practical Move would head to Louisville with a touch of swagger--and maybe enough gravitas to challenge Forte for favoritism.

3) TAPIT TRICE (c, **Tapit--Danzatrice, by Dunkirk) 'TDN Rising Star'**. O-Whisper Hill Farm LLC and Gainesway Stable (Antony Beck); B-Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. (KY); T-Todd Pletcher. Sales history: \$1,300,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-3-0-1, \$100,150. Last start: 1st GIII Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby at Tampa Bay Downs Mar. 11. KY Derby Points: 50.

Co-Bred & Consigned by  **GAINESWAY**

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Tapit Trice will headline the field when entries are drawn Wednesday for the GI Toyota Blue Grass S. at Keeneland. This Todd Pletcher-trained gray is on a roll with three straight victories following a very useful third in his Nov. 6 debut.

This colt himself probably doesn't need much shoring up in terms of confidence. But bettors leaning toward backing this son of **Tapit** in the Kentucky Derby are going to want more assurance he can get out of the gate capably.

Tapit Trice has been lethargic off the mark in all four lifetime starts. Yet his raw talent, assertive nature, and ability to reliably fire down the lane have been enough to overcome any self-imposed disadvantages so far.

The Kentucky Derby is going to be different. The multiple waves of attackers will definitely not be of the lower-caliber variety like those **Tapit** Trice manhandled in the GIII Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby. The desperate image of jockey Luis Saez imploring **Tapit** Trice for run at multiple points in that race still resonates, even though the result was a win.

These lead-in stakes to the Derby are called "preps" for a reason. **Tapit** Trice is safely 11th with 50 points on the Derby leaderboard.

Still, a Blue Grass victory with a more adept start would go a long way toward solidifying his status as a major threat in Louisville.



4) GEAUX ROCKET RIDE (c, **Candy Ride {Arg}--Beyond Grace, by **Uncle Mo**)** O-Pin Oak Stud LLC; B-OXO Equine LLC (KY); T-Richard Mandella. Sales history: \$350,000 yrl '21 FTKJUL. Lifetime Record: GSP, 2-1-1-0, \$120,200. Last Start: 2nd GII San Felipe S. at Santa Anita Mar. 4. Kentucky Derby Points: 20.



CONGRATS TO PIN OAK FROM TAYLOR MADE

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Geaux Rocket Ride, celebrating his third birthday Apr. 4, will enter Saturday's Santa Anita Derby stretching out from a 92-Beyer sprint debut win and a very encouraging 96-Beyer, pace-pressing second in the 1 1/16-miles San Felipe S.

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Trainer Richard Mandella told *Daily Racing From* last week this son of Candy Ride must either win or "have a good reason for not winning" to merit an attempt in the Kentucky Derby.

That pragmatic approach underscores why the Hall of Fame conditioner rarely makes the trip to Louisville unless he's confident he has a colt with a realistic shot.

5) DISARM (c, Gun Runner--Easy Tap, by Tapit) 'TDN Rising Star'. O/B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Steve Asmussen. Lifetime Record: GSP, 4-1-2-1, \$290,350. Last Start: 2nd GII Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby at Fair Grounds Mar. 25. Kentucky Derby Points: 40.

Rebecca Maker Rehab Graduate

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One metric certain to percolate over the next month is trainer Steve Asmussen's 0-for-24 record in the Derby, a vexing statistical shadow that the Hall-of-Fame conditioner has publicly dealt with in good humor as that number has edged upward over the past several seasons.



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Objectively though, his record has to be considered skewed by the large number of "just take a shot" Derby starters Asmussen has saddled over the decades. When you drill down the list to Asmussen's best-intended Derby entrants, none of them have ever been off the board. Curlin (third in 2007) and Gun Runner (third in 2016) later blossomed spectacularly despite not peaking on the first Saturday in May. And last year's Derby fave, Epicenter, looked home free before an 80-1 shot relegated him to second in the final jumps.



Disarm | Sarah Andrew

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This handsome, sturdy son of **Gun Runner** (out of a **Tapit** mare) won't be a top-tier betting choice. He closed at 33-1 in Pool 6 of the Derby future wager last Saturday.

But look out for this 'TDN Rising Star' and Winchell Thoroughbreds homebred, who has put together two better-than-they-look routes since stretching out off an August layoff. Both off-the-pace efforts were against the biases of speed-favoring tracks.

Disarm closed for second in a Feb. 19 Oaklawn allowance behind a wire-to-wire winner on an afternoon when horses racing on the lead or just off it won seven of nine races. And he was second (with minor trip trouble) in the Mar. 25 GII Louisiana Derby when trying to pull back another frontrunner who set a slow tempo on a day when 10 forwardly placed horses scored in 11 dirt races at Fair Grounds.

6) ANGEL OF EMPIRE (c, **Classic Empire--Armony's Angel, by To Honor And Serve)** O-Albaugh Family Stables LLC; B-Forgotten Land Investment Inc & Black Diamond Equine Corp (PA); T-Brad Cox. Sales history: \$32,000 RNA wlg '20 KEENOV, \$70,000 yrl '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GISW, 6-4-1-0, \$1,069,375. Last Start: 1st in the GI Arkansas Derby at Oaklawn Apr. 1. Kentucky Derby Points: 154.



After a 94-Beyer win in the GI Arkansas Derby, Angel of Empire rates as the only Top 12 contender with two wins at nine furlongs.

Since starting this Pennsylvania-bred's career at Horseshoe Indianapolis last summer, trainer Brad Cox has brought along this son of 2017 Arkansas Derby winner **Classic Empire** in patient fashion, all the way praising Angel of Empire's unruffled demeanor and keen mind.

"He's not blessed with a tremendous amount of speed," Cox said Sunday at Oaklawn. "He just kind of breaks. And he's not void of speed, but he kind of finds his way and they get away from him a little bit. But he settles. He's a very smart horse."

While Angel of Empire's late-run win in the GII Risen Star S. on Feb. 18 was aided by a pace meltdown, his no-nonsense score in the Arkansas Derby resonated more along the lines of him purposefully cracking the leader while blowing by the two favorites. A nicely torqued far-turn bid put him over the top at the quarter pole, then he freewheeled into another gear that didn't suggest this colt was scraping bottom, stamina-wise.

It's only a small sample of six races, but Angel of Empire's final furlong at Oaklawn (:12.12) is the fastest so far among the 1 1/8-miles preps in 2022-23. He also closed into the second-fastest final furlong (:12.95) in the Risen Star.

7) TWO PHIL'S (c, **Hard Spun--Mia Torri, by General Quarters)** O-Patricia's Hope LLC and Phillip Sagan; B-Phillip Sagan; T-Larry Rivelli. Sales History: \$150,000 RNA Ylg '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MGSW, 8-4-1-1, \$683,450. Last start: 1st GIII Jeff Ruby Steaks at Turfway Mar. 25. Kentucky Derby Points: 123.

The company lines for Two Phil's, the 101-Beyer winner of the GIII Jeff Ruby Steaks, upticked over the weekend when two horses who beat him in recent months--Angel of Empire and Forte--both won Grade I stakes.

If this Larry Rivelli trainee is being molded to follow the career path of his sire, **Hard Spun**, that would be a worthy aspiration. **Hard Spun** also won the version of Turfway's premier stakes in 2007 (when the Jeff Ruby was known as the GII Lane's End S. and run over Polytrack). That win vaulted **Hard Spun** to 2-3-4 finishes in the three Triple Crown races and a second-place try later that season in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic.

Hard Spun carved out a reputation as a reliable, determined runner who could handle any type of distance or surface. Two Phil's, with wins both sprinting and routing over fast dirt, slop, and now Tapeta, is similarly evolving as a colt who goes out and executes, no matter what assignment he is tasked with. He's an overachiever who could make an outsized impact in the Derby.



Mage | Lauren King



8) MAGE (c, **Good Magic--Puca, by Big Brown)** O-OGMA Investments, LLC, Ramiro Restrepo, Sterling Racing LLC and CMNWLTH; B-Grandview Equine (KY); T-Gustavo Delgado. Sales history: \$235,000 yrl '21 KEESEP; \$290,000 2yo '22 EASMAY. Lifetime Record: GISP, 3-1-1-0, \$247,200. Last Start: 2nd GI **Curlin** Florida Derby at Gulfstream Apr. 1. Kentucky Derby Points: 50.

Mage is an eye-catching chestnut, but he sparks interest as a Kentucky Derby "dark horse" after his last-to-first slingshot move on the far turn of the Florida Derby. The only foe capable of running him down was the vastly more experienced divisional kingpin, Forte.

Mage broke toward the back and was slow to settle on the first turn, eventually dropping out last. Jockey Luis Saez didn't rush him, and instead let Mage find his stride, coaxing the colt to uncoil 4 1/2 furlongs out.

A commanding burst of acceleration in the five path gave Mage an unexpected far-turn jump on Forte, who had yet to ramp up into a higher gear. That big move might have been a tad premature, but it propelled Mage to the lead at the head of the homestretch. And once he hit the front he confidently repulsed a long drive from another better-seasoned colt, the third-place finisher Cyclone Mischief (Into Mischief). Mage yielded to the more powerful Forte in the final strides, but held second without quitting.

"He might have gotten tired but, remember, it's still his third race," said assistant trainer Gustavo Delgado, Jr. "How many races did it take for Forte to get to the level he is?"



9) **KINGSBARNs** (c, **Uncle Mo**--Lady **Tapit**, by **Tapit**)

O-Spendthrift Farm; B-Parks Investment Group (KY); Todd Pletcher. Sales history: \$250,000 yrl '21 FTSAR; \$800,000 2yo '22 FTMAR. Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0, \$657,300. Last Start: 1st GII Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby at Fair Grounds Mar. 25. Kentucky Derby Points: 100.

Congratulations to all the connections from Paramount Sales

The 3-for-3 Kingsbarns, who wired the GII Louisiana Derby in his most recent start, got pounded to 11-1 second favoritism in Pool 6 of the Derby future wager that closed last Saturday.

Although the prospect of an undefeated colt is always tantalizing, that mutuel seems underlaid with respect to what price Kingsbarns will actually be on Derby day.

The plot for this **Uncle Mo** colt also thickened over the weekend in terms of who will ride him in the Derby. With the win by Angel of Empire in the Arkansas Derby, jockey Flavien Prat now has potentially competing calls aboard last-race winners Kingsbarns, Angel of Empire and Geaux Rocket Ride.



Kingsbarns | Ryan Thompson

10) SLIP MAHONEY (c, **Arrogate**--Got Lucky, by A.P. Indy) O-Gold Square LLC; B-Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings & Philip Steinberg (KY); T-Brad Cox. Sales history: \$150,000 yrl '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSP, 4-1-2-0, \$126,100. Last Start: 2nd in GIII Gotham S. at Aqueduct Mar 4. Kentucky Derby Points: 20.

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It was a nice bit of value handicapping if you locked in 130-1 odds on the vastly overlooked Slip Mahoney in Pool 6 of the Derby future wager that closed Apr. 1.

This Arrogate colt out of an A.P. Indy mare is bred to run all day. He exits a dismal trip when second and closing with a big rush over a muddy track in the GIII Gotham S., and is likely going to be the favorite or second choice in the GII Wood Memorial S. this Saturday (entries Wednesday). Should he run big at Aqueduct, that juicy futures ticket could represent roughly five to seven times his starting price come Derby day.

This \$150,000 KEESEP colt has only won once, but Slip Mahoney's first two losses at the MSW level came at the expense of No. 3-ranked **Tapit** Trice and the formerly Top 12-ranked Litigate (**Blame**), who subsequently won the GIII Davis S. at Tampa, but is now off the Derby trail.

Note that the Gotham (and Slip Mahoney) got a boost this past Saturday when the fourth-place finisher out of that one-turn mile, Eyeing Clover (**Lookin At Lucky**), came back to win Oaklawn's \$200,000 Hot Springs S.



Hit Show | Sarah Andrew

11) HIT SHOW (c, **Candy Ride** {**Arg**}--Actress, by **Tapit**) O/B-Gary & Mary West (KY); T-Brad Cox. Lifetime Record: GSW, 4-3-0-0, \$126,100. Last Start: 1st in GIII Withers S. at Aqueduct Feb. 11. Kentucky Derby Points: 20.

Hit Show, a **Candy Ride** (**Arg**) colt who won't technically turn three until three days after the Derby, has Saturday's Wood Memorial circled as his chance to leapfrog into Derby relevancy from his current 27th spot on the qualifying list.

A homebred for Gary and Mary West, Hit Show has already won over nine furlongs, having scored in the GII Withers. S. at Aqueduct back on Feb. 11. He made a rail run to gradually grind down the leader with incremental, focused gain. No one was firing at him in the stretch, so he was able to pad his lead inside the final furlong to open up by 5 1/2 lengths at the wire.

Coming off an eight-week layoff, he'll spar for favoritism in the Wood with fellow Brad Cox stablemate Slip Mahoney while trying to add to an ascending Beyer pattern of 60-71-82-91 from four lifetime starts.

12) REINCARNATE (c, **Good Magic**--Allanah, by Scat Daddy)

O-SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Robert Masterson, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Jay Schoenfarber, Waves Edge Capital LLC & Catherine Donovan; B-Woods Edge Farm (KY); Tim Yakteen. Sales history: \$775,000 yrl '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 6-2-3-1, \$231,900. Last Start: 3rd in the GII Rebel S. at Oaklawn Feb. 25. Kentucky Derby Points: 15.

Reincarnate had a no-excuse stalking trip in the Arkansas Derby, forcing the issue on the front end. He was second and bearing down on a sacrificial speedster, but Angel of Empire blasted off to his outside turning for home and this colt never mustered any true response to match that winning move. Reincarnate held on for third.

Right now he's ranked 13th for eligibility with 45 qualifying points. Expectations were high going into the Arkansas Derby because Reincarnate had persevered through a difficult trip when third in the GII Rebel S., and he figured to be rounding into the type of Derby contender who might be dangerous because of his lead-seeking tendencies and long, strong stride.

This \$775,000 KEESEP grad has never been off the board from seven starts, all at a mile or longer. But his most promising effort (a 95-Beyer GIII Sham S. win back on Jan. 8) is now three months in the rearview mirror. A turnaround is not out of the question, but Reincarnate must aim for several notches of improvement without the benefit of positive last-race momentum.

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OCEAN REEF RACING BUYS INTO DERBY

BOUND CONFIDENCE GAME *by Bill Finley*

Ocean Reef Racing, a Key Largo, Florida-based syndicate made up of nine partners, has bought an interest in GII Rebel S. winner **Confidence Game** (**Candy Ride** {Arg}) from the colt's owner, Don't Tell My Wife Stable. Confidence Game is expected to make his next start in the GI Kentucky Derby for trainer Keith Desormeaux.

William "Billy" Paynter, who heads the Ocean Reef syndicate, would not disclose the percentage that was purchased, but said that it was less than 50% and that Don't Tell My Wife will remain the principal owner.

"Although I split my time between Versailles and Key Largo, I'm a Louisville native, so I'm over the moon," **Paynter** said. "Our stable has only been in racing for about three years and never in a million years did I think we could have a horse in the Derby in our first three years. I can't even imagine what might happen. I'm going to be a nervous wreck until they come out of the starting gate on Derby day. It's very exciting for myself, my family and all my partners. It gives me goose bumps just thinking about it."

"We are thrilled that Billy and his partners at Ocean Reef Racing have joined us on this amazing ride with Confidence Game, and look forward to going on this exciting journey with them," said Don't Tell My Wife's Kirk Godby. "It was just five years ago that we had My Boy Jack run in the Derby and it's truly incredible to be back again. All the credit goes to trainer Keith Desormeaux, though, who continues to prove his elite horsemanship in buying young horses and getting them to this level. I can't thank him enough."

When it comes to the Derby, Confidence Game was flying under the radar until he pulled off the upset in the Rebel at 18-1. With James Graham aboard, he won by a length. The Ocean Reef team noticed the effort and was soon in touch with Godby.

"I knew Kirk from Fort Worth through some business connections when I went to SMU business school," **Paynter** said. "We liked the **Candy Ride** side of his pedigree and that he's out of a Bernardini mare, Eblouissante. Eblouissante is a half-sister to Zenyatta. But it wasn't even a thought until the Rebel. That race weighed heavily on our decision. There were the wet conditions and how he won and galloped out. That was very impressive. They have a pretty good track record. This is their second Derby horse and they were in the Oaks last year [with Candy Raid]. I haven't gotten to know Keith Desormeaux yet, but I am looking forward to racing with him. He obviously has a good track record."

Paynter said the stable has been trying to focus on buying more expensive horses, but having a horse in the Derby was not necessarily a goal.

"At the level we've been buying at, we thought getting to the Derby was a possibility, but it never crosses your mind until it actually happens," he said. "To be honest, we didn't expect to have a Derby horse. This is one of those pinch yourself moments."

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

Check it out here!

NO FOUL CLAIM, INQUIRY, OR DQ, YET GEROUX SUSPENDED FOR WINNING OAKLAWN RIDE *by T.D. Thornton*

Jockey Florent Geroux has been suspended two days by the Oaklawn Park stewards for “careless riding while allowing his mount to cause interference multiple times” after a winning ride in the Apr. 1 \$200,000 Hot Springs S. that did not involve a foul claim, posted inquiry, or a disqualification.

The penalty was handed down in a Monday ruling. **Eyeing Clover** (*Lookin At Lucky*) scored by a length as the 9-5 second choice in Saturday's eighth race for owner Ten Strike Racing and trainer Brad Cox.

Eyeing Clover, who was racing with blinkers removed for the first time in his four-race career, caught a flyer out of post two, but then got outgunned for the lead by two outside rivals. Geroux conceded the top spot to save ground, but landed in a tight spot at the fence on the heels of the horse running second. He then shifted outward and appeared to briefly affect the momentum of the two trailers in the five-horse race.

Oaklawn announcer Jim Byers described the trouble as Eyeing Clover having to “steady sharply around that club turn.” The Equibase chart stated the colt “fell back off the leader early in the first turn, [was] rank [and] fell back soon after.”

Eyeing Clover briefly bumped with a rival just prior to splitting horses entering the far turn. In upper stretch, he drifted slightly prior to straightening out approaching the short-stretch wire.

The stewards specified Saturday, Apr. 8, and Friday, Apr. 14, as the dates Geroux must sit out, adding that, “During the term of his suspension, if named to ride in designated stakes races he may ride in them, but then must serve a replacement day of suspension for each day that he rides in a designated stake.”

It is unclear if Geroux will be appealing. A phone message left with his agent, John Panagot, did not yield a return call prior to deadline for this story.

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LAOBAN VET BEGINS DEATH-RELATED SUSPENSION

Dr. Heather Wharton, the veterinarian responsible for injecting WinStar stallion Laoban with a so-called “Black Shot” shortly before his death in 2021, has begun serving a 90-day suspension as part of a negotiated settlement with the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners revealed Tim Sullivan with the LEO Weekly. Per the released report, Wharton is also obligated to pay a \$30,000 administrative fine, complete at least four hours of continuing education, and has agreed to accept a written reprimand that will serve as a permanent disciplinary mark on her record.

A report prepared on behalf of North American Specialty Insurance Company described in detail the fatal efforts to spark Laoban's interest in breeding. Wharton injected the stallion with a mixture of four substances--three of them expired--and one intended to treat anemia in baby pigs, not horses. Attorney Harvey Feintuch concluded vitamins intended to be administered intramuscularly were instead injected intravenously, that expired Vitamin B12 was administered at five times the recommended dosage, and that expired Vitamin B Complex was administered despite a warning of anaphylactic shock.

WinStar attorney W. Craig Robertson provided a prepared statement from the farm's CEO, Elliott Walden, to Mr. Sullivan, and said no other comment from the farm would be made.

“Laoban's tragic passing has had a profound impact on everyone at our farm,” Walden said. “With more than 20 years of experience in the thoroughbred business, WinStar always has placed the utmost priority on the safety of our horses. We've accepted the board's decision, Dr. Wharton will remain on staff, and we will continue to review treatment protocols. Our commitment to our horses is unwavering, and we will work tirelessly to uphold the highest standards of safety and welfare in our sport.”

WinStar's Dr. Natanya Nieman, interviewed during the initial investigation, told the veterinary examiners board that she was unaware of any other horse at WinStar being treated with the combination of ingredients in the “Black Shot,” and that the farm had changed its protocols since the stallion's death.

“Things are much tighter,” she told St. Clair. “We have written a whole standard operating procedure.”

This story has also been reported by the *Blood-Horse*.

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U.S.-BRED KOREAN CHAMPION DOLKONG PASSES AWAY

Dolkong (Afleet Alex--Swampoodle, by Broken Vow), the champion older horse in Korea in 2019, was euthanized Apr. 1 after suffering an injury during trackwork two days earlier. He was nine years old.

Bred in Kentucky by **Ellen B. Kill Kelley**, the chestnut was the distant runner-up in the Korea Cup in 2018 and was part of a select Korean contingent at the 2019 Dubai World Cup Carnival, posting a 9 1/2-length victory in the Listed **Curlin H.** (*video*) beneath Olivier Doleuze before just missing second in the G1 Al Maktoum Challenge Round 3.

Returned to Korea after finishing well down the field behind Thunder Snow (Ire) (Helmet {Aus}) in the G1 Dubai World Cup, he added a second black-type success in the Listed Busan Mayor's Cup in June 2019.

He tacked on a five-length defeat of local legend Cheongdam Dokki (To Honor and Serve) in the valuable KRA Cup Classic (non black-type) to secure champion older horse honors.



Dolkong and trainer Simon Foster in Dubai in 2019
Dubai Racing Club/Mathea Kelley

Dolkong, a \$52,000 Fasig-Tipton October yearling and \$35,000 OBS April breezer, amassed a record of 9-3-2 from 22 starts for earnings of \$1,408,864.

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TOTAL HANDLE INCREASES AT TURFWAY MEET

All-sources handle on the Turfway Park Winter/Spring Meet, which concluded Saturday, increased 62% from a year ago, while purse money awarded jumped 43%, according to a release from the Kentucky track. More than \$145 million was wagered at the meeting, nearly \$56 million more than 2022. Connections who raced at Turfway Park were rewarded with more than \$19 million in prize money, an increase of more than \$5.5 million (including funds from the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund). Turfway Park ran nine additional days this year and had an increase of more than 900 starters.

"The racing season at Turfway Park Racing & Gaming was a huge success across the board," Turfway Park President Michael Taylor said. "Our team at Turfway Park delivered a competitive racing product while welcoming back fans to our newly renovated facility."

Five-pound apprentice jockey Walter Rodriguez led the standings with 48 victories from 250 starts. Rodriguez's outstanding meet was highlighted by stakes wins in the Dust Commander S. and the Wishing Well S.

Wesley Ward topped the trainer's standings with 22 wins and tied for leading owner with six wins. Kirk Wycoff's Three

Diamonds Farm also tabbed six victories at the stand. Roy Jackson's Lael Stables broke the tie for the champion owner with the highest earnings of \$341,365.

"We're so thankful for all of our owners, trainers, jockeys and horseplayers for their continued support of our racing season," Turfway Park General Manager Chip Bach said. "Thanks to Churchill Downs Incorporated's continued investments in Turfway Park's facility and racing product, we can confidently look forward to a thriving future of horse racing in Florence."

Horses will remain stabled at Turfway Park throughout the spring and summer. Racing is set to resume Nov. 29.

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BRAMBLE BAY NAMED NJ HORSE OF THE YEAR

Bramble Bay (Bullet Train) has been named the 2022 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year, as well as champion turf runner and champion older female, by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. The bay mare won last summer's Jersey Girl H. at Monmouth Park for breeder/owner Ballybrit Stable, LLC and trainer Mike Dini. Claimed for \$62,500 by trainer Mike Maker and owner Michael Dubb, the then-6-year-old added the Pinot Grigio H. She won three of 10 starts in 2022 and earned \$160,170. To date, the mare has won eight of 35 career starts with earnings of \$474,623.

Also honored as New Jersey-bred champions of 2022 are: champion 3-year-old and sprinter **Speaking** (Mr Speaker); champion older male **He'spuregold** (Vancouver); champion 2-year-old filly **Girl Trouble** (Fast Anna); champion 2-year-old male **Great Navigator** (Sea Wizard); and champion 3-year-old filly **I Can Run** (Tourist).

Adorabella (Ghostzapper) was named 2022 Broodmare of the Year and **Hey Chub** was named Stallion of the Year.

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TAPWRIT FILLY FIRES BULLET IN TEXAS

A filly by Tapwrit turned in the fastest furlong breeze of :9 4/5 during the under-tack show for the Texas 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Lone Star Park Monday. Cataloged as hip 167, the filly is consigned by Pike Racing, agent, and was bred by H. Allen Poindexter. She is out of the winning Sky O'Blue (Henny Hughes) and is a half-sister to two winners from as many to race.

"It's not every year in Texas we get a :9 4/5 breeze and she did it the right way," TTA Sales Director Foster Bridewell said. "We had seven get the 1/8th of a mile in :10 1/5, which is also very impressive over the dirt here in Texas. We're grateful to our consignors and the owners of these athletes for bringing them to Texas to sell and we're looking forward to Wednesday's sale."

The breeze results and videos are available online at TTAsales.com. The 2023 Texas 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale begins Wednesday at 10 a.m. CT at Lone Star Park.

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THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE ALLIANCE ON SITE AT CHURCHILL FOR DERBY WEEK

The Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) will be present this year at Churchill Downs during Kentucky Derby Week and will be recognized with a named race on the undercard of Champions Day happening May 3. Following the running of the TAA race, a presentation will be made to the winning connections including a branded blanket and swag bag.

“Churchill Downs is proud to utilize Champions Day as a platform to recognize the heroes of thoroughbred racing. We look forward to promoting the work of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance as we celebrate champions in horseracing,” said Cathy Shircliff, Churchill Downs Incorporated Director of Equine Industry Relations.

“We appreciate the support from Churchill Downs to continue to feature the importance of accredited aftercare,” said Emily Dresen, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Director, Funding & Events. “We are looking forward to being present during such an exciting week of racing.”

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SARATOGA SEASON PASSES ON SALE WEDNESDAY

Season passes for the upcoming Saratoga Race Course summer meet will go on sale Wednesday at [NYRA.com/Saratoga](https://www.nyra.com/Saratoga). Available for \$75 through the end of May, a season pass provides fans with admission for all 40 days of the Saratoga meet, including the Aug. 26 Travers Day card, at the equivalent of less than \$2 per day. Without a season pass, Travers Day advance general admission is \$25. Starting June 1, season passes will be available for \$85 and beginning July 1 for \$95. The summer meet will open July 13 and continue through Sept. 4.

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**FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 2, 2023
NORTH AMERICAN-BASED STALLIONS**



Angel of Empire followed in the hoofprints of his sire Classic Empire in winning the GI Arkansas Derby | Coady

<u>Sire (Sire's Sire)</u>	<u>#SWs</u>	<u>#GSW (GISWs)</u>
American Pharoah (Pioneerof the Nile)	29	15
<i>(Marketsegmentation--Sand Springs S.-L)</i>		

**STANDING AT ASHFORD STUD • CLICK HERE FOR MORE
NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL CHARLIE O'CONNOR**

Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile)	8	4 (1)
<i>(Angel of Empire--Arkansas Derby-GI)</i>		

**STANDING AT ASHFORD STUD • CLICK HERE FOR MORE
NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL CHARLIE O'CONNOR**

Lookin At Lucky (Smart Strike)	32	17
<i>(Eyeing Clover--Hot Springs S.)</i>		

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NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL CHARLIE O'CONNOR**


Twirling Candy (Candy Ride {Arg})	39	17
<i>(Exalted--American S.-GIII)</i>		

**STANDING AT LANE'S END • CLICK HERE FOR MORE
NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL CHRIS KNEHR**

Italics indicate new activity, statistics include Northern Hemisphere results only. Want to promote your stallion? Email suefinley@thoroughbreddailynews.com.

Friday, Aqueduct #7, post time: 4:34 p.m. EDT

DISTAFF H.-GIII, \$150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT	
1	Pass the Champagne	Flatter		R. A. Hill Stable, Black Type Thoroughbreds, Rock Ridge Racing, BlackRidge Stables LLC, and James F. Brown	Weaver	Lezcano	119
2	Gerrymander 	Into Mischief		Klaravich Stables, Inc.	Brown	Franco	122
3	Easy to Bless	Flat Out		Amsterdam Two Stables	Ferraro	Davis	118
4	Hydra	Kantharos		Vincent S. Scuderi and Michael Imperiol	Rodriguez	Gomez	115
5	Meraviglioso	Lemon Drop Kid		DeLuca Racing Stables	Ferraro	Torres	114
6	Rossa Veloce	Girolamo		Robert A. Derr	Atras	Ortiz	119
7	Funny How	Overanalyze		Adelphi Racing Club and Cutair Racing	Handal	Davis	118
8	Mommasgottarun 	Maclean's Music		Ronald P. Stewart	Rice	Cancel	117

Breeders: 1-Preston Madden, 2-Town & Country Horse Farms, LLC & Pollock Farms, 3-Haymarket Farm LLC, 4-Bull Dog Racing, 5-Hibiscus Stables, 6-John Scott Rogers, 7-Hibiscus Stables, 8-Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc



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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

8th-Parx Racing, \$45,860, (NW2L)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 4-3, 3yo, f, 7f, 1:26.19, ft, 10 1/4 lengths.

UNIFIED ALLIANCE (f, 3, Unified--Star Power, by Speightstown) successfully returned to Parx after a failed trip to test Laurel Park allowance company a month ago and clearly appreciated her home track, dominating her rivals in a 10 1/4-length romp. As the 6-5 favorite, she broke right on top from the rail and the race was over from there as she led at every call and was never significantly challenged by any of her six rivals. She held a three-length lead over the field as she turned for home and then easily drew away with each stride under a hand ride to earn the win. Hop On Me (Hopportunity) was the distant runner-up. Star Power, who is out of a full sister to GISW A.P. Adventure (A.P. Indy), was bred to **Game Winner** for a foal this spring. Sales History: \$170,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP; \$60,000 2yo '22 EASMAV. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-1, \$75,000. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.**

O-Alexandria Stable & Carguys Racing LLC; B-Calvin & Shane Crain (KY); T-John C Servis.



MACHMER HALL SALES GRADUATE





AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS
ABROAD

IN JAPAN:

Vent de Lion, h, 6, **First Samurai--Kitten's Peak**, by Kitten's Joy. Nakayama, 4-2, Allowance, 1200m, 1:11.1. Lifetime Record: 35-3-3-6, \$434,849. O-Southern Holding; B-P Headley & Nancy Bell & NATO (KY); T-Yasuhiro Nemoto. *\$70,000 Ylg '18 KEEJAN; \$120,000 RNA Ylg '18 FTSAUG; \$40,000 Ylg '18 FTKOCT; \$100,000 2yo '19 OBSAPR.



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IN PERU:

Illustre Seniorita, f, 3, **Kantharos--Misty Lady** (Arg) (G1SW-Arg), by Lucky Roberto. Monterrico, 4-1, Maiden, 1000m. B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY). *1ST TIME STARTER. **\$25,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. **VIDEO (SC 4)**

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WINNERS IN JAPAN

Saturday's Results:

2nd-Hanshin, ¥10,480,000 (\$78,736), Maiden, 3yo, 1800m, 1:54.8, ft.

FREEWHEELING (c, 3, War Front--Fresh Feline {MGSP, \$254,657}, by Kitten's Joy) may have struggled with a rain-affected strip when well-beaten on his Mar. 18 debut over course and distance behind Mystic Lore (Arrogate x Folklore). Off at just shy of 14-1 for this second go, the \$250,000 Keeneland November weanling was under a hustling ride to make the early lead and was well-rated on the front by Mirai Iwata. Asked to kick turning into the straight, the bay carried a clear advantage into the final furlong and was punched out late to graduate by 1 3/4 lengths. The winner, a half-brother to Feel the Fear (**Honor Code**), SW, \$138,031, is out of a multiple Grade II-placed daughter of Merry Me In Spring (Wekiva Springs), also the dam of Grade III-winning juvenile So Brilliant (**Medaglia d'Oro**). Fresh Feline is also responsible for the 2-year-old filly Purr Factor (**The Factor**), a yearling filly by **The Factor** and was most recently covered by **Accelerate**. Sales history: \$250,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$41,414. O-Godolphin; B-Lazy F Ranch & W S Farish (KY); T-Mitsumasa Nakauchida.



LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE





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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: TUESDAY, APRIL 4

2023 Stud Fees Listed

Code West (Lemon Drop Kid), Westwin Farms
40 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
9-Will Rogers Downs, 6:05 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Okie Code, 6-1

Good Samaritan (Harlan's Holiday), WinStar Farm, \$7,500
172 foals of racing age/31 winners/1 black-type winner
8-Mahoning Valley, 4:04 p.m. EDT, Alw 6f, Huntertown, 9-2

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Mor Spirit (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, \$5,000
190 foals of racing age/28 winners/1 black-type winner
3-Turf Paradise, 5:20 p.m. EDT, Alw 1m, Mohamad, 15-1
CAN\$8,000 ALB MIX yrl



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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-Parx Racing, \$56,500, (NW2X), Opt. Clm (\$35,000), 4-3,
4yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:19, ft, 5 lengths.

**EARLY EDITION (m, 5, Munnings--Very Distinctive {SW,
\$160,388}, by Mutakddim)** Lifetime Record: 22-4-3-1, \$189,630.
O/B-Gary & Stacy Machiz (NY); T-Stacy Machiz. *1/2 to Late
Breaking News (Jump Start), SP, \$370,398.

3rd-Parx Racing, \$45,610, (NW2L), Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 4-3,
4yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:45.09, ft, 1 length.

**PRINCE MARCO (c, 4, Tiznow--Walking in Nassau, by Put It
Back)** Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$49,080. O-Lean Entertainment,
LLC; B-Dennis Lynch (KY); T-Juan Carlos Avila. *\$23,000 Ylg '20
KEEJAN; \$13,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP; \$60,000 2yo '21 OBSAPR.

6th-Mahoning Valley, \$35,100, (S), 4-3, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 6f,
1:13.31, ft, neck.

**COWTOWN BOSS (g, 5, Cowtown Cat--Bossy Girl, by Street
Boss)** Lifetime Record: 16-3-7-1, \$118,985. O-Authentic Racing,
LLC; B-Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm (OH); T-Marco Ibarra.
\$10,000 Ylg '19 OTBOMX.

**2nd-Turf Paradise, \$26,900, (C)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000-\$50,000),
4-3, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:07.36, ft, 2 3/4 lengths.**

**BRIDLEUPTOTHEBAR (g, 4, Fullbridled--Nearlycocktailtime, by
Thisnearlywasmine)** Lifetime Record: 7-4-0-0, \$58,089. O-Holly
Rydman; B-Mark Rydman & Holly Rydman (CA); T-Niccolo
Troiani.


8th-Mahoning Valley, \$25,900, 4-3, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f,
1:13.74, ft, nose.

**DOMITIA LUCILLA (f, 4, Carpe Diem--Coed Kate, by Flower
Alley)** Lifetime Record: 14-2-2-2, \$68,234. O-Shawn O'Brien;
B-Monticule (KY); T-Richard Estvanko.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Awesome Outlaw, g, 3, Majestic Hussar--Reenlist, by Service
Stripe.** Will Rogers Downs, 4-3, 6f, 1:11.84. Lifetime Record:
8-1-0-2, \$24,052. B-Kirton Farms (OK).


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Carpe Diem, Domitia Lucilla, f, 4, o/o Coed Kate, by Flower Alley.
ALW, 4-3, Mahoning Valley

Cowtown Cat, Cowtown Boss, g, 5, o/o Bossy Girl, by Street
Boss. ALW, 4-3, Mahoning Valley

Fullbridled, Bridleuptothebar, g, 4, o/o Nearlycocktailtime, by
Thisnearlywasmine. ALW, 4-3, Turf Paradise

Majestic Hussar, g, 3, o/o Reenlist, by Service Stripe. MSW, 4-3,
Will Rogers Downs

Munnings, Early Edition, m, 5, o/o Very Distinctive. ALW, 4-3,
Parx Racing

Tiznow, Prince Marco, c, 4, o/o Walking in Nassau. ALW, 4-3,
Parx Racing

Unified, Unified Alliance, f, 3, o/o Star Power, by Speighstown.
ALW, 4-3, Parx Racing

SEVEN DAYS: ALL THE YOUNG DUDES



Benoit de la Sayette celebrates on Migration | [Racingphotos.com](https://www.racingphotos.com)

By Emma Berry

We're starting to feel a little long in the tooth in this corner. The racing equivalent to the observation about policemen looking young these days now applies to the weighing-room, and on Saturday one young gun after another came out with a performance that would entitle them to be considered the next big thing.

Benoit de la Sayette has already achieved plenty in his nascent career. Now 20, he had his first ride in November 2020 and became the first apprentice attached to John Gosden's stable in almost 30 years. On Saturday he won the Lincoln for the second time in three years aboard the David Menuisier-trained top weight Migration (Ire) (Alhebayeb {Ire}). Last October, de la Sayette was crowned champion apprentice, a title that could probably have been his a year earlier if he had not been banned for six months after testing positive for cocaine not long after his first Lincoln victory on Haqeeqy (Ire) (Lope De Vega {Ire}).

Chasing him up in last year's apprentice race was Harry Davies, who has just turned 18 and is attached to the powerful Kinsglere academy which has produced so many good apprentices over the years. Currently on 70 winners, it won't be long before Davies loses his 3lb claim and, as he demonstrated nicely on Saturday evening, he's every bit as good without it.

Cont. p3

OLLIE FOWLSTON TO RUN DULLINGHAM PARK FOR CLIPPER GROUP

Ollie Fowlston is leaving Tattersalls to join Steve Parkin's Clipper Group as managing director at Dullingham Park, the 90-acre stud based just outside Newmarket.

Following 25 years at Tattersalls, Fowlston, whose auctioneering has led him to sell horses in the UK, Ireland, Australia, Jamaica and Dubai, will take up his new role in June on the completion of this season's yearling inspections.

Parkin, whose horses run in the all-grey silks of Clipper Logistics, said, "We are delighted that Ollie is coming to join the team. He brings a wealth of knowledge and integrity from his time working at such a reputable company as Tattersalls. We have big plans for the future at Dullingham Park and, with Ollie at the helm, we have the right man to take things forward."

Cont. p6

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

TDN DERBY 12: FINAL FIREWORKS BEFORE MAY

We're approaching the edge of the GI Kentucky Derby abyss. T.D. Thornton proposes his penultimate top 12 before the three final 100-points prep races on Saturday.

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PUBLISHER & CEO

Sue Morris Finley @suefinley
suefinley@thetdn.com

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Gary King @garykingTDN
garyking@thetdn.com

European Editor

Emma Berry @collingsberry
emmaberry@thetdn.com

Associate International Editor

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

Marketing Manager

Alayna Cullen Birkett @AlaynaCullen
alaynacullen@thetdn.com

Associate European Editor

Brian Sheerin @BrianSheerin91

Cafe Racing

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary
caferacing@thetdn.com

Contributing Editors

Alan Carasso
Christina Bossinakis

Regular Columnists

Chris McGrath | John Berry

ADVERTISING

advertising@thetdn.com

Director of Advertising

Alycia Borer

Advertising Manager

Lia Best

Advertising Designers

Amanda Crelin
Amie Newcomb

Advertising Assistant/Dir. of Distribution

Kristen Zaidi

Advertising Assistant

Liz Fronczek

60 Broad Street, Suite 100

Red Bank, NJ 07701

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Tuesday, April 4, 2023



Lot 117, a daughter of Pierro, brought a session-topping A\$1,750,000 from Michael Wallace and medical technology entrepreneur Kuldeep Singh Rajput in Day 1 of the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale. See p1 of TDNAusNZ | *Inglis*

KINROSS TARGETS NEWMARKET'S JULY CUP

7

Ralph Beckett's dual Group 1 winner bids to provide Frankie Dettori with a breakthrough victory in the British summer highlight.

ALMACADO GREE GAME IN PRIX RIGHT ROYAL

8

The French-bred veteran proved his Arc weekend exploits were no aberration with a hard-fought first black-type success on this seasonal bow at Chantilly.

SON OF INVINCIBLE SPIRIT WINS CAREER DEBUT

9

British-bred Cawdor caught the eye as he held on to win at first asking in a debutante at Chantilly on Monday.

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Seven Days

by Emma Berry



Cont. from p1

Charlie Appleby was swift to notice Davies's talents and has used the young jockey with some frequency, including in the Cardinal Conditions S. at Chelmsford, in which he was unable to claim but still got the job done nicely to win aboard Bold Act (Ire) (New Approach {Ire}), who heads next to a Classic trial.

While Davies was wintering in Bahrain then preserving what's left of his claim, a new name came to the fore on the all-weather circuit: Billy Loughnane. Now with 42 wins to his credit, 36 of which have come this year, the youngster only turned 17 last month and is currently lying in third in the overall jockeys' standings. Returned from a stint riding in America, he won the first turf race of the season, the Brocklesby S., in which he too was unable to use his claim.

Loughnane's winning mount, Doddie's Impact (GB), is named after the late rugby star Doddie Weir, who died from motor neurone disease (MND) last November. The son of Pearl Secret (GB) was bred by Ciaran and Nicola Paterson and was bought for £6,000 as a yearling by his trainer Robyn Brisland, who is now dreaming of Royal Ascot.

Cross Channel Racing, which owns Doddie's Impact, has pledged 50% of his prize-money and any sale proceeds to the My Name's Doddie Foundation which raises funds towards vital research into MND. There will be plenty of people willing this colt to keep winning.

Honourable mentions must also go to apprentices Jonny Peate, who won the Lincoln consolation race, the Spring Mile, on Harswell Duke (GB) (Garswood {GB}), and to Connor Planas, who landed both divisions of the apprentice handicap at Doncaster in a rare Flat double for Grand National-winning trainer Lucinda Russell.

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Hold That Thought

In the centenary year of the Wildenstein family's racing and breeding operation, a Classic winner would certainly be fitting, and there would arguably be no race more appropriate for Diane Wildenstein to win than the Prix de Diane.

The owner-breeder, who races under the name of Ballymore Thoroughbred, is currently in pole position for the 'French Oaks', with her unbeaten filly Pensee Du Jour (Ire) (**Camelot {GB}**), who progressed from her facile victory in the Listed Prix Rose de Mai to take Saturday's G3 Prix Penelope with similar ease.

Pensee Du Jour's family has already been represented by a winner of the Prix de Diane in the 1976 victrix Pawneese (Ire) (Carvin {Fr}), who also won the Penelope en route to victories in the Oaks at Epsom and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. in her sensational season for Angel Penna Sr. Pawneese was a half-sister to Pensee Du Jour's third dam, the Group 3 winner Petroleuse (Fr) (Habitat). The celebrated dynasty also includes the Arc winner Peintre Celebre (Nureyev) and star stayer Stradivarius (Ire) (**Sea The Stars {Ire}**), who is a great grandson of Pawneese.



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Brazen Doncaster Double



Astral Beau heads next to the G2 Dahlia S. | *Racingfotos.com*

Sunday's results at Leopardstown had a largely familiar feel to them with Aidan O'Brien winning both Guineas trials courtesy of Hans Andersen (GB) (**Frankel {GB}**) and Never Ending Story (Ire) (**Camelot {GB}**).

At Doncaster on the first day of the British turf season, results were more evenly spread with some notable results for smaller stables and less-heralded stallions.

Australian sprinter Brazen Beau (Aus) hasn't stood in the northern hemisphere since 2019, but fillies from his second and third crops, Vadream (GB) and Astral Beau (GB), gave him a stakes double. The former, who has also won the G3 Bengough S. at Ascot, was the comfortable winner of the Listed Cambridge Trophy in her preferred muddy conditions for Charlie Fellowes, while Astral Beau took a major step forward to notch her first stakes victory in the Listed Doncaster Mile for trainer/breeder Pam Sly.

The Sly family has enjoyed much success with Astral Beau's family. Her grand-dam Speciosa (Ire) (Danehill Dancer {Ire}) pulled off a famous triumph in the 1,000 Guineas 17 years ago and has produced five winners, including Asteroidea (GB) (**Sea The Stars {Ire}**), the dam of Astral Beau, and Specialty (Ire) (**Oasis Dream {GB}**), whose daughter Eileendover (GB) (Canford Cliffs {Ire}) won a Listed bumper and later scored on the Flat at Newmarket.

The trainer now plans to return to Newmarket's Guineas meeting, with the aim of running Astral Beau in the G2 Dahlia S.

Birch Flying

Cheveley Park Stud, who were once more celebrating victory at the Cheltenham Festival last month, will be turning their attention towards the Flat even though a few juicy jumping targets remain this season.



“She’s a very exciting prospect.”

Anthony Stroud, Ballymore Thoroughbred Racing & Breeding Manager, TDN, April 2nd

PENSEE DU JOUR extended her unbeaten record with an all-the-way win in the **Group 3 Prix Penelope** at Saint-Cloud on Saturday, the **Group 1 Prix de Diane** is her target. Trained by Andre Fabre for owner/breeders Ballymore Thoroughbred Ltd.

CAMELOT

Already sire of 10 Group 1 winners including 3YOs of 2022 **LUXEMBOURG** and **SAMMARCO** who both remain in training for 2023.

And remember his best-bred crops have yet to run!

COOLMORE

Contact: **Coolmore Stud** Tel: +353-52-6131298.

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With the treble Group 1 winner Inspiral (GB) (**Frankel {GB}**) set to headline this year's Flat team, several colts bred by the stud got the ball rolling in other owners' colours. Arguably most pleasing of all for the Cheveley Park team was the victory of White Birch (GB), who provided his sire Ulysses (Ire) with back-to-back winners of the G3 Ballysax S. after Piz Badile (Ire) last year.

White Birch, who really should be owned by Peter Brant, is out of the 98-rated Dutch Art (GB) mare Diagnostic (GB). He made his first two starts in the colours of his trainer John Joseph Murphy until being sold privately to race for Chantal Regalado-Gonzalez.

Another grey colt from the same Cheveley Park Stud crop, Theoryofeverything (GB) (**Frankel {GB}**), made a striking debut on Sunday when winning a Doncaster novice race by six lengths in ground that had dried overnight from heavy to soft. Now owned by Prince AA Faisal, Theoryofeverything had a yearling price tag of 325,000gns, reflecting his breeding. His dam Persuasive (Ire (Dark Angel {Ire})) won the G1 Queen Elizabeth II S. and her Dubawi (Ire) juvenile colt is now with Godolphin, having fetched 1 million gns at last year's October Sale. Amazing Both Sides of the Atlantic

There was a Franco-German one-three in Saturday's GIII Orchid S. at Gulfstream when French ex-pat Christophe Clement saddled Amazing Grace (Ger) (Protectionist {Ger}) to win on her American debut, with fellow German-bred and stable-mate Atomic Blonde (Ger) (The Grey Gatsby {Ire}) in third.

Both mares went through the ring at Arqana last December, when Dr. Christoph Berglar's homebred Amazing Grace sold to Moyglare Stud for €850,000 and a private sale of €340,000 was agreed for The Atomic Blonde. Breeder Michaela Faust, who owns Gestut Karlshof with husband Bruno, has retained part-ownership of the latter and now races the Italian Group 3 winner with West Point Thoroughbreds and Heather Winter. Incidentally, Amazing Grace and The Atomic Blonde had filled the same two places when racing against each other in last year's G2 T von Zastrow Stutenpreis at Baden-Baden.

The winner wasn't the only high-profile purchase for Moyglare Stud at Arqana last year. Malavath (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}), winner of the G2 Criterium de Maisons-Laffitte and runner-up to Clement's Pizza Bianca (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) in the GI Breeders'

Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf, has also now joined the Clement barn to race for Moyglare's Eva Maria Bucher-Haefner.

Closer to home, the Irish-based, Swiss-owned operation can look forward to the return of last year's Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Homeless Songs (Ire) (**Frankel {GB}**) in Wednesday's Heritage S. at Leopardstown.

Starstruck by Mr Hollywood

Germany placed itself on the TDN Rising Stars list early for the season when the glitzily-named Mr Hollywood (Ger) was pushed out with just hands and heels by Leon Wolff to win on debut for Henk Grewe at Mulheim.

There was a lot to like about the race. Firstly, who doesn't love a flag start on the Flat? Far better than the angst of starting stalls. And Mr Hollywood, as pointed out by Tom Frary, did

indeed add some movie star sparkle to a grey day in Mulheim.

His sire Iquitos (Ger), who signed off from his racing career at the age of six with victory in the Grosser Preis von Bayern to add to his two previous Group 1 wins, is a son of Adlerflug (Ger), the stallion who sadly died just as the rest of Europe suddenly realised he was really rather good. The only other Adlerflug sire remaining in Germany is the more widely known Torquator Tasso (Ger), now in his first season at Gestut Auenquelle.

Iquitos stood for two seasons at

Gestut Ammerland before moving last year to Gestut Graditz, south of Berlin, where he covers for €5,000. Mr Hollywood was the first of only five foals born in his debut crop. The following year that number dropped to two, and he had 13 registered foals last year. It's fair to say that Iquitos has not exactly been well supported in his stud career to date. Perhaps Mr Hollywood might prompt a rush of late bookings this season.

Let's Get Quizzical

Two members of the TDN Europe team were lured to Co Carlow last week to take part in the Mark O'Hanlon Memorial Racing and Breeding Quiz at the famous Lord Bagenal Inn.

The last time this quiz had taken part in 2020 was just before the Covid shutters came down on the world. One can normally expect to find Willie Mullins on a team in his local, and it can only be presumed that his absence this time around was as a result of the lingering embarrassment at having answered one of the questions about himself incorrectly three years ago.



Amazing Grace winning at Gulfstream Park Saturday

Adam Coglianese



The winning team of Ryan McElligott, Mouse O'Ryan, Bobby O'Ryan and Ger Connelly with Charles O'Neill of ITM, centre | Emma Berry

There was no such shame for the trainers in attendance last week. Richard Fahey remembered that he had trained 235 winners in 2015, Pat Fahey was able to name his winner of the November Handicap, and Joseph O'Brien recalled the name of his brother's first Classic winner, guiding his team of JJ Slevin, Kevin Blake and Mark Hackett into a dead-heat for second with Luke Barry, Nancy Sexton, Brian Sheerin and myself.

I had hoped to sign up a ringer when I saw Ryan Moore waiting in the queue for my flight to Dublin. I swiftly thought the better of it as I passed him by and could have sworn that I saw his look of vague recognition change in a heartbeat to one of horror at the thought that he might have to spend the flight sitting next to an annoying member of the Fourth Estate.

Fortunately for Moore, our seats were far apart. He disembarked to go and do what he does best, and rode a winner at Navan that afternoon. I headed to Leighlinbridge and followed that time-honoured tradition observed by racing journalists of starting an argument in a pub quiz and staying up drinking into the early hours. We all have our calling.

A brave person might say that quiz organiser Joe Foley is something of a control enthusiast. His own version of 'the umpire's decision is final' was read out at the start and went along the lines of 'the answers are the answers even if they are wrong'. A few bold quizzers approached the front desk to challenge Foley through the evening but were swiftly sent packing, and almost certainly docked several points for the audacity of the challenge.

I'm not usually a favourite-backer, but the identity of the winning team was never really in doubt. The unimpeachable Ryan McElligott, who had turned down several large bungs to jump ship, lifted the trophy along with Bobby and Mouse O'Ryan and Ger Connelly.

Richard Fahey was less fortunate than Ryan Moore when he was obliged to share his breakfast table the next morning with two journalists and the indefatigable Foley, who had presumably overseen at least three covers at Ballyhane Stud across the road before returning to the Lord Bagenal.

Foley spent much of breakfast looking at videos of various horses on Fahey's phone. The words "rocket" and "Queen Mary filly" were uttered in hushed tones and when an enquiry as to the identity of this speedball was issued, the stallion master wasted no time in replying with a grin, "She's by Soldier's Call".

Fahey rashly promised to allow the TDN to visit his yard, but only on the proviso that I muck out ten boxes before being granted an interview. Happily, along with arguing in pub quizzes, mucking out is one activity at which I'm fairly proficient. In the coming weeks, I'll head to Yorkshire, pitchfork in hand, with the aim of extracting the name of this year's Queen Mary winner.

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Ollie Fowlston cont. from p1

Dullingham Park was previously owned by former trainer Mark Tompkins and was bought last year by Parkin, who also owns Branton Court Stud in Yorkshire. The operation was represented by its first homebred group winner last year when Dramatised (Ire) (Showcasing {GB}) won the G2 Queen Mary S. at Royal Ascot.

Fowlston commented, "Dullingham Park is a very exciting venture within the Clipper Group and I can't wait to get started in my new role working for Steve Parkin and Joe Foley. As a group, I'm sure we will be doing plenty of business with Tattersalls, so it's a case of 'Au Revoir' and not 'Goodbye'."

He continued, "Park Paddocks is a truly remarkable arena and I will leave Tattersalls with nothing but very fond memories. I cannot thank Edmond Mahony and my colleagues at Tattersalls enough for my amazing 25 years with the company."



Ollie Fowlston | Tattersalls

Edmond Mahony added, "It has been an absolute pleasure working with and selling horses alongside Ollie for the best part of 25 years. We will all be very sad to see him go. But this represents a wonderful opportunity for Ollie, so I and everyone at Tattersalls wish him all the very best in the future and look forward to seeing plenty more of him at Park Paddocks in the coming years."

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EUROPEAN NEWS

DUAL GROUP 1 WINNER KINROSS HANDED JULY CUP AIM



Kinross | *Scoop Dyga*

Kinross (GB) (**Kingman {GB}**) is to be targeted at the July Cup at Newmarket as Ralph Beckett's dual Group 1 winner bids to provide Frankie Dettori with a breakthrough victory in the summer highlight. The July Cup is one of the few top races in Europe that is missing from Dettori's CV, but last season's G1 Prix de la Foret and G1 British Champions Sprint winner could rectify that for the legendary jockey.

Kinross has started off in Haydock's John Of Gaunt S. for the past two campaigns, however, connections have decided to delay his return until Royal Ascot this term, before moving on to Newmarket's July Course in a bid to land a signature blow during Dettori's season-long swansong.

"Kinross has wintered really well," said Jamie McCalmont, racing manager for the horse's owner, Marc Chan. "He has come out of a hard end-of-season campaign in great form and we will be concentrating on a latter-half of the year campaign with him again."

"He will start off at Royal Ascot and I think both the trainer and jockey are keen to try to win the July Cup. That is the one Group One race I think that Frankie hasn't won in England. That is the major target for now and then after that, do we try to stretch him out to a mile?"

He added, "Kinross can't run in the Jacques Le Marois because geldings can't run in that race, while we know he loves Goodwood. If the ground was to his liking at Goodwood, I could easily see him running in the Sussex S. But for now he isn't going to run until Ascot."

Kinross could bring the curtain down on his campaign in Hong Kong, where his owner is based.

McCalmont explained, "He's now a six-year-old and Marc quite rightly thinks we should only run in Group One races and not waste our bullets. I think Hong Kong is more than likely and that is kind of really why we are starting off later in the season."

"With Marc living in Hong Kong, he naturally would love to have a horse run on Longines Day and Hong Kong is very much in our plans. It would definitely be the mile race, there's no doubt about that, but it's a long way away from now."

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WHAT'S IN A NAME: CICERO'S GIFT, GOOLOOGONG *by Andrea Branchini*

4th-Navan, Mdn, 3-29, 3yo, 10fT.

GOOLOOGONG (IRE) (c, 3, **Australia {GB}**--**Muwakaba, by Elusive Quality**). O-Westerberg, Mrs J Magnier, M Tabor, D Smith; B-Capital Bloodstock (Ire); T-Aidan O'Brien.

The name of Navan winner Gooloogong has an impeccable Down Under connection, being by renowned sire (and Epsom & Irish Derby winner) Australia. In fact, "Gooloogong is a village located in New South Wales, Australia, population 295", according to Wikipedia.



Cicero's Gift | *Racingfotos.com*

The name of the hamlet also evokes (with a very slightly different spelling) that of Australian tennis phenomenon Evonne Goolagong, who was born in Griffith (a town) and grew up in Barellan (a village)--both locations are in New South Wales and not that far from, yes!, Gooloogong. Evonne Goolagong won seven Grand Slam tournaments between 1971 and 1980; she was a true champion and could have shined even more if not for interruptions caused by motherhood and injuries. The colt in question is also expected to shine and have a bright future at the Derby distance, so race commentators better start practicing the pronunciations of his lovely name, which is spelt with only one vowel recurring five times--exotically challenging.

4th-Wolverhampton, £17,600, Novice, 3-30, 3yo, 8f 142y. CICERO'S GIFT (GB) (c, 3, Muhaarar {GB}--Terentia {GB}, by Diktat {GB}). O-Rosehill Racing; B-Mrs F S Williams (GB); T-Charles Hills.

Cicero's Gift, a 3-year-old winner, has an intriguing name--deeply rooted in ancient Roman history. Terentia is the name of the dam of our promising colt, but also of the rich, engaged and dutiful wife of the famous writer/politician/lawyer Cicero (106BC-43BC), a colossus of the turbulent last century of the Roman Republic and contemporary of history heavyweights Julius Caesar, Crassus, Pompey. Cicero was both a philosopher and a man of action (or inaction, at times, as some critics say). The marriage eventually ended in divorce; Cicero soon had a new wife, but was eventually assassinated by hitmen sent by rival Mark Anthony (Cleopatra's future beau). Terentia remarried too (twice), survived and prospered. What the "gift" in the name of our colt may allude to, we will probably never know--maybe that behind every great Roman consul there is a remarkable lady, clearly contributing to the good times.

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OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

ZOOLOGY RETURNS AT SOUTHWELL

6.00 Southwell, Novice, £8,000, 3yo, 7f 14y (AWT) ZOOLOGY (GB) (Zoustar {Aus}) is back in novice company, having tried to mix it with **Blackbeard (Ire) (No Nay Never)** and co in the G1 Middle Park S. at Newmarket in September. Earning that tilt with a dynamic debut success at Yarmouth just 11 days prior, the Qatar Racing representative will tell trainer James Ferguson if his entry in the 2000 Guineas is realistic or not here operating under a seven-pound penalty.

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Zoology last fall | [Racingfotos.com](#)

FRANCE

Monday's Results:

PRIX RIGHT ROYAL-Listed, €52,000, Chantilly, 4-3, 4yo/up, 15fT, 3:16.35, vs.

1--ALMACADO GREE (FR), 126, g, 8, Domedriver (Ire)--Polka De La Tour (Fr), by Daliapour (Ire). 1ST BLACK TYPE WIN.

O-B Audouin & Claude Le Lay; B-F Bellanger, D Salle & A Bellanger (FR); T-Bruno Audouin; J-Christophe Soumillon. €26,000. Lifetime Record: G1SP-Fr, 28-8-6-2, €215,475.

2--Flyingbeauty (Fr), 125, m, 6, Galiway (GB)--Kiyrna (Fr), by Manduro (Ger). (€20,000 Ylg '18 ARQAUG). O-Ecurie X; B-Mme D Kindler & J-F Henocq (FR); T-S Wattel. €10,400.

3--Diva Donna (Fr), 122, m, 5, Cima De Triomphe (Ire)--Grande Synthe (Fr), by Dunkerque (Fr). O-Eric Bergougnoux & Julien Carayon; B-GFA Du Pont Rouge (FR); T-Julien Carayon. €7,800. Margins: NO, 3, 1 1/4. Odds: 3.80, 7.20, 61.00.

Also Ran: Always Welcome (Fr), Golden Call (Fr), Homo Deus (Fr), Mormona (Fr), Diamantis (Ger), Willamette Valley (Ire), Bukhara (Ger). **Video, sponsored by TVG.**

Coming out of relative obscurity to finish best of the mortals behind the otherworldly Kyprios (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) as that Ballydoyle luminary provided his party tricks in the G1 Prix du Cadran at ParisLongchamp, Almacado Gree who had subsequently finished a well-beaten seventh in that track's G1 Prix Royal-Oak proved that his Arc weekend exploits were no aberration with a hard-fought first black-type success on this seasonal bow. Racing in rear early under Christophe Soumillon, the homebred was a touch outpaced at times with this trip being his bare minimum but when joining Flyingbeauty on the lead approaching the furlong pole was always going to win that stamina duel.



Almacado Gree (blue and white silks) | ScoopDyga

“Our intention was to see how he is in this first part of the season, because we have the ambition to eventually travel to Royal Ascot for the Gold Cup,” explained Claude Le Lay, representing his son-in-law Bruno Audouin. “This horse has this very special ability to follow a strong pace and be capable to quicken, so he could be very well suited by the English style of racing. Most probably he will run again once before that, but we won’t decide until we see how he comes out of this one. There is plenty of time until June.”

2nd-Chantilly, €27,000, Debutantes, 4-3, 3yo, f, 8fT, 1:42.94, vs.

ATAKAMA (FR) (f, 3, Le Havre {Ire}--Best Intent {GB}, by King’s Best), sent off the 29-10 second favourite, raced a touch freely throughout the early stages behind the leading pair. In front with two furlongs remaining, the homebred showed a professional attitude from there to score with authority by three lengths from Wild Pansy (GB) (**Siyouni {Fr}**). The winner is a half-sister to Bran (Fr) (Muhaarar {GB}), who captured the GII Kentucky Downs Turf Sprint S. In track record time and the GIII Daytona S. The dam, whose 2-year-old is a full-brother to the winner, is a daughter of the G2 Prix d’Astarte winner and G1 Poule d’Essai des Poulisches runner-up Hydro Calido (Nureyev). A half-sister to the renowned Coup De Genie (Mr. Prospector), Machiavellian and Exit To Nowhere et al, she produced two stakes winners and is the ancestress of last year’s G1 Sun Chariot S. third Grande Dame (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}) and Listed Feilden S. winner and G1 2000 Guineas fourth Eydon (Ire) (Olden Times {GB}). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €13,500.

Video, sponsored by TVG.

O-SARL Darpat France & Carlos Laffon-Parias; SARL Darpat France, Mlle P Laffon Lomba, Mme I Laffon Lomba & F Laffon Lomba (FR); T-Carlos Laffon-Parias.

3rd-Chantilly, €27,000, Debutantes, 4-3, 3yo, c/g, 8fT, 1:43.24, vs.

CAWDOR (GB) (c, 3, Invincible Spirit {Ire}--Delivery {GB} {GSP-Fr}, by Rail Link {GB}), the 2-1 second favourite, raced with one behind early. Enjoying an uninterrupted run down the outer in the straight, the imposing homebred was in front approaching the furlong pole and stayed on to beat Stressfree (Fr) (Anodin {Ire}) by 1 3/4 lengths. The winner is the last foal out of the G3 Prix Chloe runner-up, who died in 2021 and was a half to the similarly big-boned G2 Prix Guillaume d’Ornano and G2 Prix Eugene Adam winner Headman (GB) (**Kingman {GB}**) and to the GII Baltimore/Washington International Turf Cup scorer Projected (GB) (Showcasing {GB}). The third dam is the G2 Prix de Royallieu and G3 Prix de Royaumont winner and G1 Prix de Diane runner-up Dance Routine (GB) (Sadler’s Wells), responsible for the operation’s multiple Group and Grade I-winning US champion and dual Arc runner-up Flintshire (GB) (Dansili {GB}). This is also the family of the brilliant Enable (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €13,500. **Video, sponsored by TVG.**

O-Juddmonte; B-Juddmonte Farms Ireland (GB); T-Francis-Henri Graffard.

BRITAIN

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Wadacre Gomez (GB), c, 3, Brazen Beau (Aus)--Wadacre Gigi (GB), by Martaline (GB). Newcastle, 4-3, 10f 42y (AWT), 2:09.61. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$8,276. B-Wadacre Stud (GB).

Old Harrovian (GB), g, 4, Sea The Stars (Ire)--Daivika, by Dynaformer. Lingfield, 4-3, 12f (AWT), 2:29.23. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$5,162. B-The Niarchos Family (GB). *£70,000 Ylg ‘20 GOFOR.



IN JAPAN:

Wurayah (GB), c, 4, New Approach (Ire)--Wadi (Jpn), by Pyro. Hanshin, 4-2, Cond., 1400m, 1:24.8. Lifetime Record: 10-3-1-0, \$263,095. O/B-Godolphin; T-Kenji Nonaka.



INGLIS EASTER DAY 1: TOP END HOLDS FIRM



Lot 117, top lot and top filly, Pierro x Ennis Hill | Inglis

by Oz Wedmore

The question heading into Day 1 of the 2023 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale was clear: Would the top end results hold up against a market that has flourished in recent years, or would they succumb to the same economic pressures that appear to have forced a market correction in the middle and lower tiers?

By the time the 14th million-dollar lot had been sent through the Riverside ring, the answer was pretty clear.

"I was very pleased with the day," said Inglis' CEO Bloodstock Sales, Sebastian Hutch. "We were given the opportunity to sell a lot of nice horses."

"Whilst we were confident that the horses would sell really well, I probably didn't envisage we'd be in this position quite at this stage. It's nice to have been able to achieve really positive results for vendors who've supported the sale."

"Mr Zhang was strong, but there was good competition across a lot of horses. It felt through the day like there was a good spread of competition across the higher-end horses."

Yulong's Spend Broken Down

Spending more than three times their nearest competitors, Yulong were by far the most dominant force amongst the buyers on Monday. Signing for 18 yearlings for a total of \$9.72 million, amongst those Yulong also secured one (Lot 77) in partnership with Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott and Kestrel Thoroughbreds.

Whilst their purchases were split evenly between nine fillies and nine colts, the spend by sex was clearly in favour of the latter. Headed by a \$1.4 million son of Written Tycoon, they spent an average of \$731,111 on colts, compared to \$351,111 on fillies. Yulong displayed a strong show of support for progeny of their own sire in all, purchasing seven yearlings by Written Tycoon, who was still standing at Arrowfield Stud when this season's yearlings were conceived.

Yulong also purchased two by Widden Stud's Zoustar whilst the remaining stallions were a variety of proven producers, purchasing one each by: Almanzor (Fr), Capitalist, Extreme Choice, I Am Invincible, **Justify** (USA), Snitzel and Lonhro.

Two first-season sires were supported on Day 1, taking home a filly (Lot 89) by Darley's Blue Point (Ire) and a filly by Aquis Farms' Pierata (Lot 57).

Fillies Reign Supreme On Average

With six seven-figure fillies through the ring on Monday, nearly half of the 14 individual million-lots were females. Half of those were fillies by Yarraman Park's I Am Invincible, whilst the remaining three were by Pierro, The Autumn Sun and Fastnet Rock. Whilst the fillies were well-represented amongst the headliners, their appeal was even more marked amongst the greater body of trade on Day 1. Most notably, the average for a colt at the close of trade stood at \$376,429 against a \$453,116 average for the females.



Buyers of Monday's top lot: Michael Wallace and Kuldeep Singh Rajput (Ghandarvi)
Inglis

Ghandarvi Heads Variety Of Top-End Buyers

A notable feature of the first day was the variety of buyers signing for the most expensive horses. At the end of the day's trade, 11 separate buyers had signed for the 14 millionaire yearlings. In 2022 there were 10 separate buyers responsible for the 20 seven-figure lots.

Monday's proceedings were headed by the \$1.75 million Pierro filly, knocked down to Mick Wallace and Ghandarvi. Headed by medical technology entrepreneur Kuldeep Singh Rajput and with day-to-day runnings handled by Wallace, Rajput aims to grow Ghandarvi slowly, investing in only top-quality bloodstock and spreading risk on expensive purchases by taking smaller shares.

The Pierro filly is the most expensive yearling purchase made in Australia by Rajput, eclipsing the \$800,000 Michael Freedman-trained Moravia (Snitzel) from the 2022 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale.

Gary Chittick Makes A Splash

Waikato Stud's founding father Garry Chittick made a first visit to Inglis Riverside for this year's Easter sale. On Sunday evening he was still making up his mind about attending the first sale day, but agreed to climb into an Inglis car and arrived shortly after selling began on Monday morning.

Whilst wife Mary disappeared to powder her nose, Chittick found Peter Moody, with whom he'd lifted the G1 TJ Smith S. trophy courtesy of I Wish I Win (NZ) (Savabeel) at Randwick on Saturday. As Moody was signing for Lot 7, Chittick was busy assessing the page of Lot 8, an I Am Invincible filly from Sledmere Stud.

When what he saw on the page--a sister to G1 Tattersall's Tiara winner Invincibella--matched what was parading before him in the ring, he asked Moody for his opinion. A positive noise from the trainer was all he needed, and before long Chittick's wife had returned to see \$825,000 of their 'retirement fund' spent on a blue-blooded filly to complement their private broodmare band.

Apologising for a hoarse voice as a result of Saturday's celebrations, Chittick rubbished any suggestions that his spirited bidding was inspired by Waikato Stud's recent success.

"The two activities aren't related," he told *TDN AusNZ*. "Mark (Chittick, son) owns I Wish I Win and a quarter of Major Beel, so I get nothing--I'm spending the pension fund.

"Mary and I operate with about 20 mares on the stud, we've sold the business to Mark. We try to hang on to four or five nice fillies a year and this is one we've added to that.

"We've been in the game a long time. If you're going to come over here and buy a filly there's no point buying a filly that's not as good as the ones you've got at home. And there's not many of them."

Foreign Mares Appeal Amongst Top Lots

Since 2018, 23 per cent of the seven-figure lots were out of mares bred outside Australia. At the end of Day 1 at this year's edition, that figure stood at 35.7 per cent, including all three colts by Snitzel to sell for more than a million dollars.

This is not a new trend for Snitzel who has a strong record with foreign-bred mares. In fact, all three of his sire sons (all Group 1 winners) at Newgate Farm fit that profile - Russian Revolution is from a US-bred Stravinsky (USA) mare, Wild Ruler is from a US-bred Daaher (USA) mare, and new recruit In The Congo is from a South African-bred Var (SAf) mare.



Lot 36, Snitzel x Ballet d'Amour, is a full-brother to Russian Revolution | Inglis

Russian Revolution's brother was picked up for \$1.4 million by the James Harron Bloodstock Colt Partnership NSW, while Wild Ruler's sister was purchased for \$700,000 by Dermot Farrington Bloodstock.

Newgate's Henry Field spoke about Lot 58, a Snitzel colt from Arrowfield Stud. Bought in conjunction with China Horse Club, Go Bloodstock and Trilogy, he's out of the South African champion Carry On Alice (SAf) (Captain Al {SAf}).

"She's much like the mother of In The Congo, he is also by Snitzel out of a champion sprinting South African mare," explained Field.

Queensland Back Amongst the Millionaires

Before Monday, the last decade of Inglis Easter sales have seen just one Queensland vendor send a million-dollar lot through the ring, that was an I Am Invincible filly from Glenlogan Park in 2021.

That tally was doubled soon after the sale got underway when Lot 12, a Snitzel colt from Highgrove Stud sold to Yulong for \$1.3 million.



Lot 12 - Snitzel x Acquired (NZ) colt | Inglis

"It's very special, it's very hard to do," Highgrove Stud principal Ron Gilbert told *TDN AusNZ*. "You need a lot of things to go right and today was that day."

"We've sold five for a million before today, but a long time ago in the old complex. We sold two in one year going back--we sold three colts and averaged a million."

Back in 2008, the cheapest of that trio was Wanted at \$800,000, who went on to win the G1 Newmarket H.

"It's hard to get a million-dollar horse. My business plan has always been to breed and sell and not to retain any parts of horses. Very occasionally I might buy a little piece of something after it's sold, but that happens rarely."

Godolphin's Exceed And Excel Pair

Whilst they've been busy on the racetrack, Godolphin as a buying entity have been quiet since the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale earlier this year. In January they picked up two, spending \$600,000 on an Extreme Choice yearling and \$280,000 on one by their first-season sire Blue Point (Ire). Both were colts, which isn't the usual buying strategy according to Godolphin's Racing and Bloodstock Manager Jason Walsh.

On Monday they secured the second foal from Group 3 winner Ellicazoom (Testa Rossa) (Lot 114) from Kitchwin Hills for \$850,000, alongside Torryburn Stud's Lot 104 out of G1 Coolmore Classic winner Dixie Blossoms (**Street Sense** {USA}) which cost them \$900,000.

"In both cases we thought the fillies were outstanding physicals," Walsh explained. "They both bring very strong female families, out of very good racemares."

One wouldn't imagine that Exceed And Excel females are something that Godolphin lack for in their broodmare band, but Walsh explained that the appeal was in the pure quality of their latest two acquisitions.

"Yes, it's true that we have access to Exceed And Excel, and he's very well-represented in our broodmare band. But, we certainly are of the view that both fillies are value propositions."

Godolphin might not purchase many yearlings in Australia, but when they do the record shows an enviable success rate.

Dual-Group 1 winner In Secret (I Am Invincible) is the most obvious and recent example--she was a \$900,000 purchase at the 2021 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale.

There's also Exhilarates (Snitzel), a sister to the recent G1 Golden Slipper S. winner Shinzo. A winner herself of the R. Listed Magic Millions 2YO Classic and the G3 Quezette S., she was a \$600,000 purchase at the 2018 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale.

Then there's this season's Group 3-placed 2-year-old Inhibitions (Zoustar), who was picked out for \$380,000 at this sale last year.

"If you look at the yearlings we've managed to achieve stakes success with, they're very much of the profile that aligns with these two fillies," said Walsh. "Exhilarates is out of a Group 1 winner and is now a sister to the Slipper winner."

"Certainly, when you're giving this sort of money, the focus is on fillies with a residual value. If they don't hit the heights that we hope for on the racecourse--it's very much a seven-to-eight-year strategy--they might be the mothers of the next stallion prospect for us."



Godolphin's pricier acquisition: a daughter of G1 Coolmore Classic victress Dixie Blossoms (Lot 104) | Inglis

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SESSION TOPPERS

2023 AUSTRALIAN EASTER YEARLING SALE

MONDAY'S TOP YEARLINGS

LOT	Sex	SIRE DAM	PRICE (Aus)
117	f	Pierro--Ennis Hill Breeder: Katom (NSW) Consignor: Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW Purchaser: Mike Wallace/Gandharvi	1,750,000
116	c	I Am Invincible--English Breeder: Newhaven Park Stud (NSW) Consignor: Newhaven Park, Boorowa, NSW Purchaser: Kia Ora Stud/TFI/Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott Racing	1,550,000
36	c	Snitzel--Ballet D'Amour (USA) Breeder: Mrs B Bateman (NSW) Consignor: Newgate Farm, Aberdeen, NSW Purchaser: James Harron Bloodstock Colt Partnership	1,400,000
223	c	Written Tycoon--Meryl Breeder: Mystery Downs (NSW) Consignor: Fairview Park Stud, Grose Wold, NSW Purchaser: Yu Long Investments	1,400,000
164	f	I Am Invincible--Heavens Above Breeder: Mr R Kemister (NSW) Consignor: Yarraman Park Stud, Scone, NSW Purchaser: Glentree Thoroughbreds/ Badgers Bloodstock	1,350,000
12	c	Snitzel--Acquired (NZ) Breeder: Highgrove Stud, Kitchwin Hills (Qld) Consignor: Highgrove Stud, Darling Downs, Qld Purchaser: Yu Long Investments	1,300,000
49	c	I Am Invincible--Bonny O'Reilly (NZ) Breeder: Widden Stud Australia Pty Ltd, Qatar Bloodstock Ltd, Figtree Thoroughbreds, Moran Superannuation Fund, Warringah Contractors (NSW) Consignor: Widden Stud, Widden Valley, NSW Purchaser: Yu Long Investments	1,300,000
192	c	Zoustar--Lady Jivago Breeder: Widden Stud Australia Pty Ltd, Dodgy Investments (NSW) Consignor: Widden Stud, Widden Valley, NSW Purchaser: Hermitage Thoroughbreds Pty Ltd	1,300,000

201	f	I Am Invincible--Listen Here Breeder: Cressfield Thoroughbreds, China Horse Club (NSW) Consignor: Cressfield, Scone, NSW Purchaser: China Horse Club	1,300,000
157	f	The Autumn Sun--Grisi Breeder: Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd (NSW) Consignor: Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW Purchaser: Emirates Park	1,200,000
58	c	Snitzel--Carry On Alice (SAf) Breeder: Arrowfield Group Pty Ltd, Klawervlei Stud (NSW) Consignor: Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW Purchaser: China Horse Club/Newgate/ Go Bloodstock/Trilogy	1,100,000
101	f	Fastnet Rock--Different To (NZ) Breeder: Peachester Lodge Pty Ltd (Qld) Consignor: Lime Country Thoroughbreds, Blandford, NSW Purchaser: Sheamus Mills Bloodstock (FBAA)	1,100,000
159	f	I Am Invincible--Gust of Wind (NZ) Breeder: Go Bloodstock (NSW) Consignor: Segenhoe Stud Australia Pty Ltd, Scone, NSW Purchaser: K Yoshida	1,100,000
154	c	Deep Field--Granny Red Shoes Breeder: Segenhoe Thoroughbreds Australia Pty Ltd (NSW) Consignor: Segenhoe Stud Australia Pty Ltd, Scone, NSW Purchaser: China Horse Club/Newgate/ Go Bloodstock/Trilogy	1,050,000

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WILLIAM JOHNSON BLOODSTOCK WILL@WJBLOODSTOCK.COM +61 0481 291 008

Yulong Splash Out Day 1 of Easter

Waterhouse/Bott Juveniles Dominate Randwick

Mr Brightside Due For A Spell After 'Donny' Win