FAST STARTS FOR LANE’S END YOUNG GUNS

By Kelsey Riley

VERSAILLES, KY—With the foal crop of 2020 beginning to gradually dot the paddocks of the Bluegrass, excitement and anticipation are running high, perhaps even more so for a stud farm with a stallion celebrating its first arrivals.

For Lane’s End Farm, the feeling is threefold, with the farm set to welcome the first crops of Grade I winners Accelerate (Lookin At Lucky), City of Light (Quality Road) and West Coast (Flatter).

In a media-only event at the farm’s stallion complex Tuesday evening, Lane’s End’s Sales Director Allaire Ryan said she has been touring the Bluegrass to see some of the early arrivals of the trio. They have, apparently, set the bar high.

“I’ve had the opportunity to visit with some local breeders over the past week and we’re really pleased and impressed with what we’re seeing so far from these stallions,” Ryan said.

Accelerate is a classically made son of dual Eclipse champion Lookin At Lucky. While most of his elite crop-mates were taking some down time after the Triple Crown of 2016, Accelerate was breaking his maiden by 8 3/4 lengths at Del Mar in late July. He didn’t stay below the radar long, winning the GII Los Alamitos Derby two starts later and adding the GII San Diego H. back at Del Mar the following summer. It was at five that he truly came to life, however, winning six of seven starts including five consecutive Grade Is. Cont. p3

2YO CHAMP STORM THE COURT TOPS 347 EARLY TRIPLE CROWN NOMS

A total of 347 3-year-olds, headed by juvenile champion and GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile winner Storm the Court (Court Vision), were nominated to this year’s Triple Crown during the early nomination phase, which closed Jan. 25. All of the newly-turned 3-year-olds were nominated with a $600 payment to run in this season’s GI Kentucky Derby May 2; GI Preakness S. May 16; and the GI Belmont S. June 6. The total decreased 4.1% (15 horses) from last year’s 362 that were nominated at this stage.

For the complete list of 2020 Triple Crown nominees, click here.

Leading the fray is Exline-Border Racing LLC, David A. Bernsen, Susanna Wilson and Dan Hudock’s Storm the Court, who is scheduled to make his sophomore debut in the GI San Vicente S. Feb. 9.

Cont. p7

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

AGA KHAN MARES IN DEMAND AT GOFFS

Aga Khan mare Sheranda (Ire) (Siyouni {Fr}) topped the Goffs February Sale on Wednesday. Daithi Harvey has the full report. Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.
Never hesitant to push the envelope, officials at Monmouth Park have reached an agreement to offer fixed-odds wagering in 2020.

Pennsylvania breeders are still trying to process Tuesday's news regarding potential deep cuts to purses in the Commonwealth, but breeders aren’t taking the news lying down. Bill Finley reports.
Lane’s End Young Guns cont.

“Accelerate so far has been consistent with throwing nice, strong foals,” Ryan said. “He gives you a good amount of leg and scope and a well-balanced individual on top of that. They’re straightforward, they have great angles and they’ve been correct so far. Based on what we’ve seen from what’s on the ground he’s a stallion you could put any type of mare to and get a quality individual from, which is really special. His covering sire average at the breeding stock sales was impressive as well, a little over three times his stud fee with a high price of $400,000.”

Accelerate was denied a fairytale finish by his future studmate City of Light in last year’s GI Pegasus World Cup, and that son of Quality Road compiled quite an impressive package, having also taken the GI Breeders’ Cup Dirt Mile, the GII Oaklawn H. over 1 1/8 miles and the GI Malibu S. and GI Triple Bend S. over seven furlongs.

“The City of Light foals have been impressive so far,” Ryan said. “He’s looking like he’s throwing a classic-looking individual: lots of leg, pretty profiles with a great head and eye, a lot of quality. He too did very well as a covering sire at the breeding stock sales; his mares averaged $217,000, which is 5 1/2 times his stud fee, which is absolutely remarkable. Nineteen mares in foal to the stallion brought at least $200,000.”

Ryan acknowledged that the first foals of West Coast, the GI Travers S. and GI Pennsylvania Derby winner who was also placed in the GI Breeders’ Cup Classic, the Pegasus and the G1 Dubai World Cup, “are the most forward, precocious-looking physicals out of the three.”

“West Coast is also throwing some impressive individuals,” she said. “I’m really impressed by the amount of natural substance that these foals already show. They have great bone and muscle tone, balance, and they look like athletes already, which is very exciting.

Cont. p4
Lane’s End Young Guns cont.

“Based on what we’re seeing now and the support these stallions had from the breeders and in the sales ring, we have nothing but hope that they’re all going to be represented by a top-quality first crop.”

As the longstanding yearling manager at Lane’s End, Peter Sheehan has had the opportunity to work closely with multiple generations of Lane’s End stallions and their progeny. This season, his experience comes full circle once again as the first crop of Lane’s End stallions Unified and Connect celebrate their first birthdays.

Unified was a multiple graded stakes winner at three and four who won stakes from 6 1/2 furlongs to 1 1/8 miles. He was second by a neck in the GI Carter H. He is by Lane’s End sire Candy Ride (Arg) and was sold by Lane’s End for $325,000 at the Select Sale at Saratoga in 2014.

“Unified himself was about as good a looking son of Candy Ride as I’ve ever been around,” Sheehan said. “He had a great hip and shoulder, a beautiful profile and was a beautiful mover. “His offspring remind me a lot of him, and also of the Twirling Candys I’ve been around. They’ve got strong, powerful hips, great shoulders; they’re great-moving horses. They look like they’re supposed to, like they’re by a son of Candy Ride out of a Dixie Union mare: they have that strength and that look of speed.”

“The thing that probably impresses me the most about the Unifieds is their minds,” Sheehan added. “They have a great eye and they look like they’re going to be good, honest horses, easy to train and horses that are going to give it their all. I think we’re going to see the best out of the Unifieds once they go under tack; that’s what we saw with the Twirling Candys and I think that’s where Unified is headed.”

Cont. p5
"HE'S THE BEST VALUE IN KENTUCKY" - Jason Litt

**MET MILE-G1 WINNERS LAST DECADE**

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THE ONLY G1 2YO TO WIN THE MET MILE IN 25 YEARS.
Lane’s End Young Guns cont.

Connect, winner of the 2016 GI Cigar Mile, is by Curlin, who Sheehan would have had plenty of experience with in the early days, that two-time Horse of the Year having started his stud career at Lane’s End.

“The Connects are a bit more of an obvious horse,” Sheehan said. “They have an elegant profile, pretty looks and they’re very attractive; they’ll be very attractive to the commercial marketplace as well.

“Connect was a very forward horse. He was a $150,000 July Sale yearling at Fasig-Tipton. Connect is a more correct, stylish version of his sire Curlin, and he really seems to be passing that along to his stock. He’s really stamping them and his offspring have plenty of leg and scope, they’re very correct and they move beautifully. I think that coupled with their elegant profile and the classic racehorse shape that’s he’s throwing, I think we’re going to see some fireworks in the sales ring and they’ll bring that forward onto the racetrack.

“I think we have two very exciting young sires here that are going to appeal to lots of different people, whether they want to race or resell.”

Joining the Lane’s End roster for 2020 is another son of a resident sire in Catalina Cruiser (Union Rags).

In fact, Catalina Cruiser is a true home-grown product: he is out of a daughter of Mineshaft, a Lane’s End Horse of the Year by its immortal A.P. Indy, and he was bred by Will Farish and sold by Lane’s End at Keeneland September in 2015 for $370,000 to David Ingordo on behalf of the Hronis family. Trained by John Sadler, Catalina Cruiser went unbeaten through his first four starts, including 6 3/4- and 7 1/4-length scores in the GII San Diego H. and GII Pat O’Brien H.

Turning the calendar over to Catalina Cruiser’s 5-year-old campaign last year, the goal was to further enhance the chestnut’s credentials and earn him a spot alongside his sire in the stallion barn at Lane’s End.

“Cruiser had been a horse that from the day we brought him home, the day we broke him and got him going, we always knew he was a bit special,” Ingordo recalled. “When John [Sadler] debuted him for his 5-year-old season, he said, ‘we have to make this horse a Lane’s End stallion.’ I said ‘yeah, that would really help my resume, it would be really nice if you could do that.’

Catalina Cruiser shipped to Belmont Park for his seasonal debut in the GII True North H., where he battled on to win by a half-length in stakes record time despite traveling wide throughout. Cont. p6
Lane’s End Young Guns cont.

“John said what would get him there [to the Lane’s End stallion barn] was winning a big race in a place like New York,” Ingordo said. “And he not only won a big race in New York, he broke a stakes record in a race that’s been around a long time. And Joel Rosario never hit him. So with these new whip rules we’ll have, the Catalina Cruisers are going to be ok with that.”

Catalina Cruiser added repeats in the San Diego and Pat O’Brien last summer. Ingordo admitted that a Grade I is missing from his resume, but noted that a similar omission hasn’t held back stallions like War Front and Distorted Humor from reaching the pinnacle in their second careers.

“Cruiser is missing a Grade I, but we were talking about War Front and Distorted Humor, two leading sires that were brilliantly fast. Cruiser is fast, and that’s what stallions need, is speed. He has the looks to go with it and he has a great pedigree. For $20,000, you can’t really go wrong.”

Terence Collier, who played the role of emcee for the evening, recalled the story of another great sire who had no issue rising to legendary status despite the lack of a win at the highest level. This sire, too, has roots with the Farish family.

“I don’t hear the story repeated often enough that Bill’s dad took on a project many years ago when he partnered with a gentleman by the name of Marshall Jenney who had Derry Meeting Farm in Pennsylvania,” Collier said. “They raced a mare called Pas De Nom together and had some success with her. She was a tough, hard-knocking racemare. She didn’t have a lot of glamour but she was a very successful racemare.

“The only reason she was bred to Northern Dancer was that Will Farish said that he wanted to breed her to Northern Dancer. He called Marshall, and Marshall tells me this story: ‘I got a call from Will: that mare that’s just won down at Fair Grounds, we’re going to retire her, and I’ll tell you who we’re going to breed her to, we’re going to breed her to Northern Dancer. And I said, Will, I couldn’t even afford a quarter of the stud fee, let alone half it.’ Apparently Will said, ‘we’re going to breed her anyway, we’ll work that out later.’ That horse, Danzig, never won a stake, but he had blistering speed.

“Pedigree will always out in one way or another, but unless they have that speed inherent in their breeding, you’re hoping they’re going to make a stallion. This one, Catalina Cruiser, has got it.” Cont. p7
Lane’s End, too, has the precedent as a stallion-making operation to continue its history of success, and such a roster of exciting young horses should ensure it remains in the headlines for generations to come.

**Triple Crown Noms cont.**

Other prominent nominees include stakes winners **Authentic** (Into Mischief) (GIII Sham S.); **Basin** (Liam’s Map) (GI Hopeful S.); **Chance It** (Currency Swap) (Mucho Macho Man S.); **Dennis’ Moment** (Tiznow) (GIII Iroquois S.); **Eight Rings** (Empire Maker) (GI American Pharoah S.); **Enforceable** (Tapit) (GIII Lecomte S.); **Gold Street** (Street Boss) (Sugar Bowl and Smarty Jones S.); **Green Light Go** (Hard Spun) (GII Saratoga Special S.); **High Velocity** (Quality Road) (GIII Bob Hope S.); **Independence Hall** (Constitution) (GIII Nashua S. and Jerome); **Liam’s Lucky Charm** (Liam’s Map) (Pasco S.); **Max Player** (Honor Code) (GI Withers S.); **Maxfield** (Street Sense) (GI Breeders’ Futurity); **Mischievous Alex** (Into Mischief) (GII Swale S.); **Shoplifted** (Into Mischief) (Springboard Mile); **Shotski** (Blame) (GII Remsen S.); **Silver Prospector** (Declaration of War) (GII Kentucky Jockey Club); **Structor** (Palace Malice) (GII Pilgrim S. and GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf); **Thousand Words** (Pioneerof the Nile) (GI Los Alamitos Futurity and GII Robert B. Lewis S.); and **Tiz the Law** (Constitution) (GI Champagne and GII Fasig-Tipton Holy Bull S.).

Five-time Classic winner Todd Pletcher led all trainers with 26 nominations. Hall of Fame conditioners Steve Asmussen, who has won three Triple Crown races, and Bob Baffert, a winner of a record 15 classics—were next with 21 and 19 nominees, respectively. Brad Kelley’s Calumet Farm led all owners with 13 nominations. Godolphin was the leading breeder with nine nominees.

Representing the equine division, first-crop sire and 2015 Triple Crown winner **American Pharoah** led all sires with 15 nominees. **Uncle Mo** followed with 13, ahead of **Into Mischief** (12), **Constitution** (10), **Liam’s Map** (10), **Curlin** (9) and **Tapit** (9).

Seven fillies were nominated, including three-time stakes winner **Finite** (Munnings) and undefeated **Taraz** (Into Mischief).

Internationally, 35 horses were nominated, including 20 from Japan—up from four last year—led by Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun winner **Vacation** (Jpn) (Espoir City {Jpn}) and Cattleya Sho winner **Dieu du Vin** (Jpn) (Declaration of War). Additionally, 11 horses were nominated from Ireland, including six conditioned by Aidan O’Brien, led by G2 Juddmonte Royal Lodge hero **Royal Dornoch** (Ire) (Gleneagles {Ire}).

Horses not nominated to the Triple Crown during the early phase can be made eligible at www.thetriplecrown.com for $6,000 during the late nomination period which continues through Mar. 30.
Force the Pass enters stud in 2020 at Anchor and Hope Farm
Sarah Andrew

WASABI 'VENTURES’ INTO STALLIONS
By Katie Ritz

After a devastating 2019 fire at Louis and Grace Merryman’s Anchor and Hope Farm in Port Deposit, Maryland, the rebuilding process has come full circle with the arrival of Force the Pass, a Grade I-winning son of Speightstown, who will begin his first season at stud at the farm this year. Force the Pass also marks a new beginning for T. K. Kuegler's Wasabi Ventures Stallions as the first stallion to stand for the growing syndicate.

Kuegler grew up listening to racing stories from his great grandfather, trainer P. J. Lacoste. At an early age, Kuegler told himself that someday, when he had the time and money, he would start a racing stable of his own.

"I fell in love with the romantic image of racing that my grandfather always talked about," Kuegler recalled. "No one in my family from him to me had anything to do with racing, but it's been stuck in my head for my entire life."

Three years ago, as a successful venture capitalist and a recent empty nester, Kuegler decided it was time to fulfill his childhood dream. "I wanted to do it in a creative way, so I took some ideas from my start-up world, and decided that I wanted to create new owners, allowing everyday people to buy into small portions of horses. My goal was to get 3,000 new owners into the game."

Cont. p9

STAKES CLOSING THURSDAY - 2/6!

$250,000 THE GENERAL GEORGE STAKES (G3)
Four year olds & up, 7 furlongs

$250,000 THE RUNHAPPY BARBARA FRITCHIE STAKES (G3)
Fillies & Mares, Four year olds & up, 7 furlongs

$100,000 THE JOHN B. CAMPBELL STAKES
Four year olds & up, about 1 1/6 miles

$100,000 THE MIRACLE WOODS STAKES
Three year olds, 1 mile

$100,000 THE WIDE COUNTRY STAKES
Fillies, Three year olds, 7 furlongs

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www.LaurelPark.com
Wasabi/Force the Pass cont.

Kuegler joined a dozen random syndicates, learning what worked and what didn't. He quickly realized that he could make his partnership group stand out with improved communication and technology. "I joined one syndicate and after I paid my money, I literally never heard from them again. I had to look up everything about the horse myself."

He took bits and pieces of what he had learned to start his new business. "At first, it was just me claiming some horses. I got a few friends interested, and it grew by word of mouth."

Over the past three years, Wasabi has had almost 100 horses on its roster, and has over $1.1 million in earnings while achieving a 14.12% win rate and in the money in 44.07% of starts.

The syndicate now has just under 1,000 people in the group. Kuegler said that the partnership is unique from a communication standpoint in the way it offers transparency and educational opportunities.

"We built an online community so that our members all over the country can talk to each other. We have webinars teaching how to look at a horse's conformation, how to handicap a pick five, and the basics of claiming. We also have a regular State of the Stables conference, updating members on what's going on with our horses across the country."

Kuegler's methods have been successful in achieving his initial goal of bringing in new owners. Of the current members, 78% had never owned a horse before joining the group, while 43% had never been to a racetrack before.

"We are built to bring in new owners in a safe and transparent way," Kuegler said. "We never mark up a horse and there's no ongoing bills, so there's no risk of losing money on the racing side. I'm not trying to make money off people, I'm trying to make money off horses."

While initially only a racing syndicate, Wasabi transitioned to the breeding side of the industry in May of last year. "I actually had no real intention of being in the breeding game," Kuegler confessed. "We claimed a filly last spring and the next day we found out that she had bowed a tendon. I looked at her pedigree and thought she could be a nice broodmare. My friend and bloodstock agent George Adams agreed, so that was our first broodmare."

Kuegler's interest in the breeding side of the industry grew quickly. "The mares became like peanuts," Kuegler said. "The more I looked into the breeding side, the more I realized that I liked it. Now we have 33 broodmares, and we're one of the largest broodmare bands in the Mid-Atlantic."
Wasabi Ventures cont.

As the roster of racehorses and broodmares continued to grow last year, Kuegler turned his attention to finding a stallion. Kuegler and Adams, who was named Director of Stallions and Breeding for Wasabi, scoured the racing world, talking to dozens of stallion prospect owners, including those of a few sons of a few Galileo (Ire) overseas.

One morning while in Saratoga, Kuegler got a call from Adams. "I've got Force the Pass, and I think he's available," Adams said. "I'm in my car heading to New Jersey to look at him. If he's good, can I buy him?"

Kuegler responded, "If you like him, buy him and send me a picture."

Four hours later, the deal was closed.

The duo believed that Force the Pass was the whole package.

"He's a physically well-conformed horse who looks beautiful in person," Kuegler said. "For a regional stallion, especially our first, it was pretty amazing that we got him."

The 8-year-old son of Speightstown is out of the Dynaformer mare Social Queen, a dual Grade III winner with over $344,000 in earnings.

Bred and raced by Colts Neck Stables, Force the Pass was unraced at two before breaking his maiden upon second asking at three for trainer Alan Goldberg. He then registered three stakes victories in his next four starts, including the GI Belmont Derby Invitational S.

Kept in training through his 7-year-old season, he finished in the money all but five times from 21 trips to the post for earnings in excess of $1.3 million. He will stand for $4,000 this year.

"We priced him really aggressively," Kuegler said. "We've had people tell us we could have easily set him at $6,000, but I wanted to get as many mares to him as we could with a price they couldn't refuse."

Kuegler reported that they already have 70 mares committed this year, and four of the top breeders in Maryland have already purchased lifetime breeding rights.

Force the Pass is the newest addition to the stallion ranks at Anchor and Hope.

"I'm a Maryland guy and I want to support the Maryland-bred program," Kuegler said. "I met with lots of people on where to stand our first stallion, and I grew to know Louis and Grace as trustworthy and hardworking horse people. When we got Force the Pass, it made perfect sense to send him there."

Anchor and Hope Farm has been in the Merryman family for decades. Purchased by Louis's grandfather in 1965, it has been run by Grace and Lois since 2017. Their first stallions included Bourbon Courage (Lion Heart), Imagining (Giant's Causeway), and Holy Boss (Street Boss), all of which are still a part of the roster.

"Force the Pass is our first outside client stallion, and we couldn't ask for a better fit with our roster," Grace said. "We look for speed, talent, and soundness, and Force the Pass has all three. As a Grade I-winning millionaire son of Speightstown, he's a perfect addition."

Grace said that they have been busy receiving inquiries on the new stallion. "He's been incredibly well-received. We are getting calls from all over the place. People are excited to have him."

After a difficult year in 2019, the Merrymans said that they are looking forward to putting their energy into their new addition. On August 12th last year, a fire destroyed the central barn on the property. Although all the horses made it out safely, the loss severely disrupted the daily operation of the farm.

Five months later, the rebuilding process is now well underway. "With any construction project, you start with an end date in mind and never meet that date," Grace said. "We have a long way to go, but it's exciting. It will be beautiful when it's done."

Grace remembered receiving a call from George Adams the morning before the fire occurred, letting them know that Force the Pass was being sent to them. "It was a pretty incredible thing for the team at Wasabi to stick with us," Grace said. "With this being their first stallion, I wouldn't have blamed them if they got nervous and sent him somewhere else. But it never even crossed their minds, they never wavered in their support and understanding."

Cont. p11
Wasabi cont.

Both the Merrymans and Kuegler said they believe that Force the Pass will offer a new opportunity for breeders in the Midatlantic region. "There isn't another Grade I-winning son of Speightstown in this region," Kuegler said. "So we saw an opening and now we're excited to see what he can do."

With Force the Pass now in capable hands at Anchor and Hope Farm, Kuegler is focusing his attention on new ways to grow his business. "This year, we want to continue to improve the quality of our racing stock. Soon, we will be able to race some homebreds. On the breeding side, we plan to add one or two more stallions in the next couple of years."

He continued, "Although we've grown so much in the last three years, our principles have not changed. I want to give ordinary people a chance to be an owner. Even on the breeding side, people can own as little as 1% of a broodmare and we sold a few small pieces of Force the Pass to people who wanted to have that experience. It's important for our industry to bring in new people, and to do it in an honest and transparent way."

Dennis Drazin

Drazin said fixed-odds betting should prove to be attractive with bettors who are not happy about drastic odds changes in the pari-mutuel pools after the a race has started.

"When I speak to our consumers, bettors tell me they are tired of having a horse go into starting gate at one price and, a furlong into the race, the price is half what it was when they left the gate," he said. "People will get a fairer shake this way."

He also believes fixed odds will be more attractive to younger customers and to seasoned players who like to shop for value. But, he admitted that it may take time for the concept to catch on.

"In the early part, this will probably be smaller than what you will see five or 10 years from now," he said. "It might be like what we have seen with exchange wagering, that there will be a learning curve before people switch over. Probably a lot of people will just still use the pari-mutuel system. But this should appeal to a younger demographic. They will be more interested in this and so will bettors who really understand the value of their wagers and feel they can get a better shake with fixed-odds betting."

There is also a school of thought that casinos will be more likely to offer betting on racing with fixed odds and that sports betting customers are more likely to gravitate to fixed odds, which are a staple of sports betting, as opposed to pari-mutuel betting.

Fixed-odds betting has been a major success in Australia and has led to healthy increases in purses. Fixed-odds betting there has nearly doubled since 2012 and helped generate a purse increase of about 24%.

"There is a real opportunity for the U.S. horse racing market to grow like it has in Australia, which has seen prize money levels double over the past seven to 10 years based on a funding model that is equitable to all participants," Buckingham said.
Fixed-Odds Betting Coming to Monmouth cont.
Drazin said he did not know what the effective takeout would be on fixed-odds betting and that that would be left up to BetMakers.
After making the announcement that it had entered into an agreement with Monmouth, BetMaker’s stock rose by 54%.

“Fixed-Odds Betting Coming to Monmouth cont.”

PENNSYLVANIA BREEDERS REELING BUT DETERMINED TO FIGHT BACK

by Bill Finley
A day after receiving the potentially devastating news that as much as 80% of the slots money that goes to purses in the state of Pennsylvania may be diverted elsewhere, leaders of the state’s breeding industry began to plot a campaign that they hope will convince politicians that the industry must be protected.

Tuesday, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf unveiled a budget proposal which called for $204 million to be taken out of the Race Horse Development Fund and diverted to a program that would provide college scholarships for Pennsylvania residents. About 88% of purses paid at the Pennsylvania tracks comes from slots revenues. Should Wolf succeed in steering the money away from racing, many believe that the breeding and racing industries in the state will not survive.

Brian Sanfratello, the executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, called on everyone who works in Pennsylvania racing to reach out to their legislators and explain the devastation the potential purse cuts could bring. Perhaps the most effective argument the Pennsylvania racing and breeding industries has is that the slots money was placed into a trust in 2017, which was supposed to be a guarantee that the money was untouchable.

“We don’t believe the governor should be able to break that trust agreement,” Sanfratello said. “This is not about higher education. This is about the $1.6 billion in economic impact that the racing industry brings into Pennsylvania. This is about hundreds of thousands of acres of open space in Pennsylvania. I don’t know how you give higher education money by putting 20,000 of these young people’s parents out of work. We’re going to do whatever is necessary to make sure this does not happen.”

Not surprisingly, farm owners reported that they were getting flooded with phone calls from people questioning whether or not they should breed in Pennsylvania this year.

“My phone has been ringing off the hook,” said WynOaks Farm operator Barbara Wheeler. “Our clients want to know what is going to happen to the program.”

At Northview Stallion Station, bloodstock manager Paul O’Loughlin was also fielding calls from worried clients.

“People are letting me know they are concerned,” he said. “They say they might as well stay where they are because there are no benefits right now to breed in Pennsylvania. There is nothing to encourage them to come. They’re looking at four years down the road when these horses will be 2-year-olds and are ready to race and they worry that there might not be anything there for them.”

That Wolf, a Democrat, asked that $204 million comes out of the Race Horse Development Fund does not mean that it is going to happen or that the hit won’t be less. The deadline for approval of the budget is July 1, which gives the industry and their lobbyists time to negotiate a better deal. They will no doubt appeal to members of a Republican-controlled legislature, which must sign off on the governor’s budget. The horse racing industry could wind up victorious, but not until a point in time when the breeding season is over. By that time, it may be too late to salvage the 2020 breeding season.

“Breeding season starts in two weeks and here is another threat to our livelihood,” said Boggs Shoemaker, who operates Timber Ridge Farm. “Before this happened, Pennsylvania was the place. Not now. This was a sucker punch to the gut and it doesn’t give you a good feeling about what’s going to happen in the next few years. It takes so much time and effort to get a horse from the in-utero stage to the track. Then when you add in the threat that there might not be anything out there for these horses in three or four years, what are people going to do? My head tells me I should just pack it in. But I will keep going because of my passion.”

One of the bitter ironies of this situation is that the Pennsylvania breeding program was on an upswing after some lean years that revolved around a 2017 raid of the fund by then-Governor Tom Corbett. When the industry got the politicians to
agree to put the money into a trust it was believed that never again would a politician try to take away racing’s slot money.
Bucking a nationwide trend, the number of mares bred in Pennsylvania in 2019 was 686, an increase of 12.5% over 2018. It was the third straight year that the number of horses bred in Pennsylvania has increased.

“In politics, nothing is ever as it is presented,” said Wheeler. She said Northview has options that other farms don’t have because they also have a facility in Maryland and can transfer everything there. But that’s not what she wants. She wants the Pennsylvania breeding industry to survive this setback. Everybody does. Yet, everyone is preparing for the possibilities that $204 million will be leaving the industry, a crippling blow for racing and breeding.

“A here we go again,” Boggs said. “We’ve seen this how many times in the past? You have the arrogance of this governor and the failure on his part to realize the impact his words and actions have on this industry. It's devastating. It’s disgusting.”

**CANADIAN JOCKEY CLUB ANNOUNCES SIX STAKES UPGRADES**

After its annual review of Canadian graded and listed stakes, The Jockey Club of Canada’s Graded Stakes Committee has upgraded six black-type races to listed status for 2020. The number of graded stakes in Canada will remain at 45. The meeting was conducted by Committee Chair, Ross McKague who was accompanied by Committee Members Jeffrey Begg, Tom Cosgrove, Catherine Day Phillips and Jockey Club of Canada’s Chief Steward R. Glenn Sikura. The attending race track representatives also included Julie Bell, Jessica Buckley, Matt Jukich, Scott Lane, Darren MacDonald, Rob MacLennan and Nichelle Milner.

The races upgraded in 2020--the Belle Mahone S., Flaming Page S., Sweet Briar Too S., Charlie Barley S., Alywow S. and Ruling Angel S. These races had previously been considered ineligible for graded and listed status.

Other changes include distance reductions to the GII Nijinsky S., which will decrease from 12 furlongs to 10 furlongs; the Gilli Dominion Day S. from 10 furlongs to nine furlongs, the Gilli Singspiel S. decreasing from 12 furlongs to 10 furlongs and the Gilli Durham Cup S. cutting back from nine furlongs to 8 1/2 furlongs for 2020.

Additionally, the Fantasy S. was downgraded from listed status to black-type for 2020.

The Jockey Club of Canada Graded Stakes Committee bases their decisions on the cumulative NARC ratings for five consecutive years as well as the most recent and black-type RQS Scores.

**MORE SUPPLEMENTAL ENTRIES FOR FASIG-TIPTON WINTER MIXED SALE**

Officials at Fasig-Tipton have announced the addition of five entries to the supplemental catalogue for its upcoming Winter Mixed Sale Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 10 and 11 at the company’s Newtown Paddocks.

The new entries are catalogued as hips 646-650.

- **Hip 646**, Sentimental (f, 3, Honor Code); placed at two, the dark bay is out of SW & GSP Smooth Performer (Benchmark), making her a half-sister to SW Into Trouble (Into Mischief). Her MGSW second dam Smooth Player (Bertrando) produced Singapore champion Maximus (Lemon Drop Kid)
- **Hip 647**, Nanuet (f, 4, Pioneerof the Nile); the bay filly is a daughter of SW & GSP Dr. Diamonds Prize (Pure Prize), a half-sister to MGSW & GISP Lady Apple (Curlin), recent winner of the Gilli Houston Ladies Classic
- **Hip 648**, Smart Emma (m, 7, Smart Strike); a stakes-placed daughter of Irish highweight Miss Emma (Ire) (Key of Luck) and a half-sister to French SW Kagura (Vindication), Smart Emma is offered as a broodmare prospect not in foal
- **Hip 649**, Respect (f, 3, He’s Had Enough); catalogued as a broodmare prospect only, Prospect’s dam Turko’s Turn (Turkoman) was a one-time Broodmare of the Year who produced Horse of the Year and dual Classic winner Point Given (Thunder Gulch), three other black-type performers and the dam of GSW Street Story (Street Cry {Ire}) and SW Paige (Sky Mesa)

Cont. p14
FTKFEB Supplements cont.

• Hip 650, C’Est La Vie (f, 3, Medaglia d’Oro); the unraced bay filly is a half-sister to GISP Normandy Invasion (Tapit) and to Princess Anne (Indian Charlie), the dam of MGSW & GISP Quip (Distorted Humor) and is catalogued as a racing/broodmare prospect

The supplemental catalogue will be offered Feb. 11 following the conclusion of the main catalogue. For further information, visit www.fasigtipton.com.

MIXED SIGNALS IN ARIZONA SIMULCASTING DISPUTE

by Dan Ross

The simulcasting stand-off between an arm of The Stronach Group (TSG) tasked with distributing the company's signal and the Arizona Department of Gaming has nearly reached the two-week mark, and the affected stakeholders are sending out mixed signals of their own as to its impact.

The issue surrounds a state law passed last year requiring all simulcast providers that send their races into Arizona to offer the products uniformly among all tracks and all their Off-Track Betting parlors (OTB). On Jan. 24 of this year, the Arizona Racing Commission passed a motion requiring the three racetracks in the state—Turf Paradise, Arizona Downs and Rillito Park—to comply with that law. The same day, the commission also sent a letter to Monarch to “stop sending any simulcast signals to Arizona permittees racetracks and/or their additional wagering facilities.” TSG’s Monarch argues that the law is unconstitutional, and that it is preempted by the federal Interstate Horseracing Act. Monarch has also filed an appeal of the ruling with the ninth circuit. Monarch’s signal comprises Santa Anita Park, Golden Gate Fields, Laurel Park and Tampa Bay Downs, along with certain international races. The Arizona Racing Commission has scheduled a special meeting this Friday, Feb. 7, for a public discussion on its decision last month to enforce the state law.

Vince Franzia, Turf Paradise general manager, said that the Monarch signal comprises 42% of its simulcast wagering, and 11 days of the dispute has resulted in a $948,512 decline in on-track, in-state and OTB live and simulcast handles.

"That's what's down," he said. "How that translates for the horsemen after 11 days is, they've lost about $77,726 in purses." Cont. p15
Arizona Simulcasting Dispute cont.

Indeed, in an earlier email blast to its OTB partners, Turf Paradise urged them to email and write the Arizona Racing Commission before this Friday's meeting to explain how "economically damaging" the January decision has been.

"We're certainly feeling the effects of this," said Franzia, who added that, should the commission uphold its earlier decision, Turf Paradise might have to cut a race day to offset the lost revenue.

According to Bob Hutton, president of the Arizona Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA), however, "there seems to be discrepancy between Turf Paradise and the HBPA in how this is going to effect the purse accounts." He added that the organization has put in a document request for the Tote reports from the state of Arizona. "I don't think we're in trouble."

Leroy Gessmann, the HBPA president, further elaborated, and said that while handle was down during the first week of the dispute, revenues from the signal going out of state this past week have offset the money lost on the Monarch signal.

"When you look at the last week, we have more money going into the purse account than a year ago," he said, adding that it appears the bettors are adapting to the new marketplace. "We're even getting a higher attendance at the track than a year ago the last couple days."

The genesis of the dispute appears to revolve around Arizona Downs, formerly known as Yavapai Downs. When Arizona Downs reopened for live racing in 2019, Monarch had sent its signal to Turf Paradise and its network of some 60 OTB's. In contrast, Monarch distributed its signal to Turf Paradise and its network of some 60 OTB's.

When asked if Monarch should send its signal uniformly across Arizona until the ninth circuit appeal has been adjudicated—if indeed the Arizona Racing Commission this Friday upholds its earlier decision—Franzia said that "I feel very strongly that Monarch is its own independent business, and they are entitled to make decisions about that business."

When asked the same question, Monarch’s president, Scott Daruty, said that Arizona Downs has been "consistently delinquent in its payments to our racetracks." Daruty added: "They have publicly stated at an Arizona Racing Commission meeting that they're out of money. They were unable to run the live race meet they were scheduled to run last summer. It was apparent very early on in this process they had a failed business model, and I think this is playing out now."

However, he added, "at this moment, they are current" in their payments.

Tom Auther, an Arizona Downs owner and partner, confirmed that any outstanding debts to Monarch have been satisfied, and insisted that his track’s shaky financial footing could have been avoided had Monarch distributed its signal to the track’s broader OTB network from the start.

"The problem was, a guy would walk into our OTB's and say, ‘where’s Santa Anita?’ We’d say we don’t get it and he’s gone," said Auther, who added that, while Arizona Downs and one more OTB are currently operational, five of the track's other OTB's have been temporarily shuttered. "It's remarkable we've been able to stay afloat this long."

More broadly, Auther said that he believes Monarch's selective approach to its signal belies an ultimate objective: "Their goal is to shut us down," he said. "That's our opinion. There's a way out of this, but Turf [Paradise] and their partner won't play ball."

In court filings related to last year's lawsuit, Monarch argued that sending a signal to Arizona Downs' broad network of OTB's would "create dilution of the wagering product, and depress the overall consumption of content."

Daruty told the TDN that part of the problem concerned the proximity of the Arizona Downs OTB network to Turf Paradise's.

"When I say a short distance, some of them were less than a mile away," he said.

According to Auther, figures from the Arizona Racing Commission show that a broader OTB network correlates to overall higher revenues—even when the OTB's are in close proximity.

Auther said that Arizona Downs and Turf Paradise have three OTB's within 1.5 miles of one another. Two of Turf Paradise's facilities showed increased revenues when the Arizona Downs OTB's opened up, said Auther, and while the third--Turf Paradise OTB--saw diminished returns when in open competition.

"It has not been a particularly good location for them and has had a diminishing handle for a while," he said.

"In our opinion and based upon our research, the Turf [Paradise]/Monarch partnership's narrative simply is not supported by the facts," Auther wrote in an email. "This is a big state with a long horse racing history. For many decades it supported at least two tracks and can continue to do so."

As for California, "the economic impact on our tracks is minimal," said Daruty. "Arizona is a relatively small market for us. That doesn't mean it's unimportant. It is important."

According to Greg Avioli, president and CEO of the Thoroughbred Owners of California, the signal dispute is costing the horseman's purse account in California about $10,000 a week. When asked if he's concerned the dispute might foster ill-will among the Arizona horsemen and horseplayers towards California at a time when the state is struggling with small fields
and shrinking handle, Avioli said that the issue is “primarily” a business dispute between Monarch and Arizona Downs.

"Secondly, we share the point of Monarch that the law that was passed in Arizona violates the Horseracing State Act and we oppose it," Avioli said. "We think it puts a constraint on horseman’s approval rights that is not in the federal law, and therefore it should be struck down."

HORSE WOUNDED IN LEXINGTON

A horse suffered a nearly shattered jaw bone when it was struck by a bullet near the Jessamine-Fayette County border off Tates Creek Road in Lexington, WKYT, the CBS television affiliate in the city reported.

A surgeon caring for the horse told the station that the shooting happened in the early morning hours of Feb. 3 when she was informed there was a horse with blood around its face.

“If the bullet had been, say, four inches higher she would not be alive at this time,” Dr. Liz Barrett told WKYT. “So it basically entered through the front of her nose and came out the back just behind her jaw.”

The horse is now under the care of Barrett and other equine veterinarians at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute.

The shooting is the second in the same area, as another horse was shot and killed at Springhouse Farm in 2018.

MASSIVE OVERNIGHT PURSE INCREASE AT LONE STAR

Officials at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie have announced that daily average overnight purses for their 2020 racing season will reach $200,000, up a whopping 43% from the $140,000 in 2019.

“This boost in overnight purses has energized Lone Star Park in a way that we haven’t experienced in a lot of years," said Bart Lang, Director of Racing. "This is a very exciting time for the Grand Prairie, Texas racetrack."

The purse increase is due to funds collected and distributed by the passage last year of Texas House Bill 2463. The law will eventually put up to $25 million annually into escrow, some $17.5 million of which will be available to Texas’ racetrack operators strictly for purses. The other $7.5 million will be available to official breed registries to enhance their incentive programs.

The 2020 racing season opens Apr. 16 and is highlighted by the $300,000 GIII Steve Sexton Mile and the $300,000 Texas Derby.

BEHOLDER

10, Henny Hughes--Leslie’s Lady, by Tricky Creek

Foal born Jan. 15, a filly by War Front

Will be bred back to Bolt d’Oro.

Owned by and boarded at Spendthrift Farm.

Accomplishments: Ch. 2yo filly, 3yo filly, Older Mare, MGISW, $6,156,600.

APP UPDATE

For those subscribers who have been having problems opening the TDN in the app, there is now an update in the App Store. Please update your app, which will fix the bug.
### LAS VIRGENES S.-GII, $200,000, 3yo, f, 1m

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<td>Empire Way</td>
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<td>Stellar Sound</td>
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<td>Don Alberto Stable</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Millennium Farms & Godolphin, 2-Stone Farm, 3-Terry C. Lovingier, 4-Colts Neck Stables LLC, 5-Don Alberto Corporation

### SAM F. DAVIS S.-GIII, $250,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m

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<td>Karakontie (Jpn)</td>
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<td>Albert Park</td>
<td>Street Sense</td>
<td>Godolphin, LLC</td>
<td>Stidham</td>
<td>Morales</td>
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<td>Independence Hall♠</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Twin Creeks Racing Stables, LLC, Verratti, Kathleen and Verratti, Robert N.</td>
<td>Trombetta</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No Getting Over Me</td>
<td>He's Had Enough</td>
<td>Abdullah Saeed Almaddah</td>
<td>Bennett</td>
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<td>Premier Star♠</td>
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<td>Sonata Stable</td>
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<td>Tiznow</td>
<td>Bourbon Lane Stable, Massey, Cleber J. and Gladden, Jim</td>
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<td>Chapalu</td>
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<td>Seltzer, Edward A. and Anderson, Beverly S.</td>
<td>Delacour</td>
<td>Centeno</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Shadwell Farm, LLC., 2-Flaxman Holdings Limited, 3-Godolphin, 4-Woodford Thoroughbreds, 5-Richard E. Wilson, 6-Charles H. Deters, 7-Sierra Farm, 8-Edward A. Seltzer & Beverly Anderson

### LAMBHOLM SOUTH ENDEAVOUR S.-GIII, $175,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT

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<td>A. A. Azula's Arch♠</td>
<td>Arch</td>
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<td>Jehozacat</td>
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<td>Don Alberto Stable</td>
<td>Albertrani</td>
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<td>Dynatail♦</td>
<td>Hightail</td>
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<td>Anthony's Cross</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Got Stormy♠</td>
<td>Get Stormy</td>
<td>Gary Barber</td>
<td>Casse</td>
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<td>Phantom Opening♠</td>
<td>Arch</td>
<td>Surfside Stables, LLC</td>
<td>Blair</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Fox Hill Farms, 2-Carlos Vazquez Gonzalez, 3-Mr. & Mrs. M. Roy Jackson, 4-Don Alberto Corporation, 5-Calumet Farm, 6-T. Wynn Jolley & Mary Jolley, 7-Mt. Joy Stables, Pope McLean, MarcMcLean & Pope McLean Jr., 8-Warrender Associates & Diane Curry
### Saturday, Tampa Bay Downs, post time: 4:59 p.m. EST
#### TAMPA BAY S.-GIII, $175,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16mT

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<td>Dubawi (Ire)</td>
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<td>Caribou Club</td>
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<td>Halladay</td>
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<td>Hembree</td>
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<td>Maker</td>
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<td>Real Story</td>
<td>Fast Bullet</td>
<td>Amling, Jeffrey S. and Merrie belle Stable LLC</td>
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<td>Castanon</td>
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<td>My Bariley</td>
<td>Mizzen Mast</td>
<td>Captain Jack Racing Stable LLC</td>
<td>Granitz</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Live Oak Stud, 2-S. C. H. H. The Aga Khan Studs, 3-Calumet Farm, 4-Glen Hill Farm, 5-Stride Rite Racing Stable, Inc., 6-Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. &Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC, 7-Derby Lane Farm, LLC, 8-J. Amling & Merriefield Farm, 9-Captain Jack Racing Stable LLC

### Saturday, Gulfstream, post time: 5:04 p.m. EST
#### SUWANNEE RIVER S.-GIII, $150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8mT

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<td>Magic Star</td>
<td>Scat Daddy</td>
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<td>Ortiz, Jr.</td>
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<td>Vow to Recover</td>
<td>Broken Vow</td>
<td>Imaginary Stables and Braverman, Paul</td>
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<td>Great Sister Diane</td>
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<td>Tapit Today</td>
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<td>Lawrence, William H. and Bradley Thoroughbreds</td>
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<td>Castellano</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-T. Wynn Jolley & Mary Jolley, 2-Calumet Farm, 3-Betz, D. J. Stables, CoCo, Burns& Magers, 4-Rustlewood Farm, Inc., 5-Siena Farms LLC, 6-William P. Sorren, 7-Gainesway Thoroughbreds LTD.

### Saturday, Santa Anita, post time: 6:30 p.m. EST
#### THUNDER ROAD S.-GIII, $100,000, 4yo/up, 1mT

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<td>Nathaniel (Ire)</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-M. Morrissey, 2-M. Auerbach, L.L.C., 3-B. Flay Thoroughbreds, 4-Mr P. O'Rourke, 5-Sean Speck & Barbara Speck, 6-Limestone & Tara Studs, 7-Scott Pierce & Debbie Pierce, 8-Red Baron's Barn LLC, 9-Thomas W. Bachman, 10-Clearsky Farms
## Leading Third-Crop Sires

for stallions standing in North America through Tuesday, February 4

Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2019 fees.

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FOR ALL TDN SIRE LISTS—INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL CROP-YEAR REPORTS—VISIT WWW.THETDN.COM/TDN-SIRE-STATS/

Start with a Darley stallion and the rest will follow www.Darleyamerica.com
THURSDAY INSIGHTS: CURLIN RISING STAR RETURNS OFF LONG LAYOFF AT BIG A

7th-Aqueduct, $75K, Alw/Opt. Clm ($62,500), 1m, 4:25 ET

Repole Stable’s LEGIT (Curlin) followed up a dominant debut victory going a mile at Gulfstream with an equally impressive two-turn, ‘TDN Rising Star’-earning score in the Pimlico slop on Preakness weekend in 2018, but disappeared after that and resurfaces off a near 21-month layoff in this mile feature at Aqueduct. Unveiled as a 17-10 chance in Hallandale, the chestnut scampered away to triumph in hand by 7 1/4 lengths, then rallied from well off the pace to a four-length tally despite a wide trip in Maryland, a race out of which the second, third and fourth finishers returned to win. He returns here off a steady if unspectacular string of works at trainer Todd Pletcher’s Palm Beach Downs base, capped by a half-mile spin in :49 3/5 (16/29) Jan. 26. Legit’s chief competition appears to come from Grumps Little Tots (Sky Mesa), third in the local GIII Discovery S. two starts back, and Sea Foam (Medaglia d’Oro), who looks to recapture the form that saw him win the New York Derby and Albany S. two summers ago. --@JBiancaTDN

9th-Gulfstream, $48,900, Alw (NW1$X)/Opt. Clm ($75,000), 2-5, 3yo, 7f, 1:23.37, ft.

SMASH FACTOR (g, 3, Khozan--Kiss N Karen, by Untuttable), a debut victor over subsequent MSW and potential GI Kentucky Derby contender Chance It (Currency Swap) here on debut June 1, was runner-up to that same rival in the Florida Sire In Reality S. stretching out to two turns Sept. 28 and completed the exacta again in the state-bred Juvenile Sprint S. at Gulfstream West Nov. 9 before backing up to sixth behind Chance It once more in the Mucho Macho Man S. Jan. 4. Made the 23-10 second choice in this spot, the gelding broke sharply and dictated terms narrowly through a :22.86 quarter. Taken on by Conquest Day (Race Day) passing a half in :45.40, Smash Factor briefly lost the lead to that foe at the top of the lane, but battled back gamely to retake control at the eighth pole and edge away to a 1 1/4-length tally. Conquest Day held second over odds-on Carpe Omnious (Carpe Diem). The winner has a juvenile full-sister named Liv and Let Liv and his dam produced a filly by Cajun Breeze last term before returning to his sire. Lifetime Record: MSP, 5-2-2-0, $161,100. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton. O/B-Stonehedge LLC (FL); T-Michael Yates.

http://www.thoroughbreddailynews.com/getLatest.php to download the latest edition of the TDN each day.
HAVE A NEW FOAL?

Click here to submit your Foaling News for Stakes Winning and/or Stakes Producing Mares for publication in the TDN.
ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

1st-Fair Grounds, $46,000, (S), 2-5, (NW1X), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12.76, sy.
STRONG BEAUTY (f, 3, Overanalyze--Headstrong Beauty, by Latent Heat) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, $52,920. O-Golden Rock Thoroughbreds; B-Terry Gabriel & Dr. & Mrs. E C Hart (LA); T-Jose M. Camejo. *$2,700 Ylg ‘18 OBSWIN; $30,000 2yo ‘19 OBSOPN.

7th-Fair Grounds, $46,000, (S), 2-5, (NW1X), 3yo, 6f, 1:12.77, my.

2nd-Fair Grounds, $42,000, (S), (NW2X)/Opt. Clm ($20,000), 2-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 1m 70y (off turf), 1:44.21, sy.
TAP DANCE STAR (m, 5, Star Guitar--Dance by Em, by Tapit) Lifetime Record: MSP, 19-3-3-5, $125,020. O-Virginia Lazenby Racing Stable LLC; B-Virginia Lazenby (LA); T-Oscar Modica.

5th-Mahoning Valley, $37,500, (NW3X)/Opt. Clm ($25,000), 2-5, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12.05, ft.
TRUE CINDER (m, 6, Alcindor--Be True, by Shakespeare) Lifetime Record: MSW, 28-11-8-3, $548,000. O-Michael L. Rone; B-Larry Byer (OH); T-Penny Rone.

7th-Sam Houston Race Park, $37,000, (S), 2-5, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1mT, 1:38.46, fm.
COWBOY BLING (g, 5, Too Much Bling--Frieda Frau, by Shaquin) Lifetime Record: 27-6-8-3, $84,260. O-Gary Gholston, Lilburn Warford & Danny Pish; B-Danny Pish (TX); T-Danny Pish.

6th-Mahoning Valley, $32,700, (S), 2-5, (NW3L), 3yo, 6f, 1:13.41, ft.
MS. MAXIMA (m, 7, Albertus Maximus--Holy Akadya, by Holy Bull) Lifetime Record: 13-3-0-2, $62,166. O/T-T. R. Haehn; B-Jac Tomasello (OH).

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:


He's a Suitor, c, 3, Hat Trick (Jpn)--Bluegrass Arch, by Bluegrass Cat. Sam Houston Race Park, 2-5, (S), 6f, 1:12.89. B-Lori & Mark Collinsworth (TX).


Riding the Train, g, 4, Bullet Train (GB)--Aunt Mabel, by Flatter. Sam Houston Race Park, 2-5, (C), 5ft, :58.84. B-Paul Pearson (IA).

ALBERTUS MAXIMUS, Ms. Maxima, m, 7, o/o Holy Akadya, by Holy Bull. ALW, 2-5, Mahoning Valley

ALCINDOR, True Cinder, m, 6, o/o Be True, by Shakespeare. AOC, 2-5, Mahoning Valley

BOLD RED, Really Red, g, 3, o/o O. T. Hughes, by Henny Hughes. MSW, 2-5, Mahoning Valley

BULLET TRAIN (GB), Riding the Train, g, 4, o/o Aunt Mabel, by Flatter. MCL, 2-5, Sam Houston

HAT TRICK (JPN), He's a Suitor, c, 3, o/o Bluegrass Arch, by Bluegrass Cat. MSW, 2-5, Sam Houston

KOZAN, Smash Factor, g, 3, o/o Kiss N Karen, by Untuttable. AOC, 2-5, Gulfstream

MY PAL CHARLIE, Palvera, g, 3, o/o Vera Belle, by Not For Love. ALW, 2-5, Fair Grounds

ORB, Top Seed, c, 4, o/o Trophy Wife, by Giant's Causeway. MSW, 2-5, Gulfstream

OVERANALYZE, Strong Beauty, f, 3, o/o Headstrong Beauty, by Latent Heat. ALW, 2-5, Fair Grounds

RATTLESNAKE BRIDGE, Loriloupies, f, 3, o/o Nina's Gift, by Victory Gallop. MCL, 2-5, Gulfstream

STAR GUITAR, Tap Dance Star, m, 5, o/o Dance by Em, by Tapit. AOC, 2-5, Fair Grounds

TAKE CHARGE INDY, Coach Bahe, c, 3, o/o Bauble, by Tale of the Cat. MSW, 2-5, Fair Grounds

TOO MUCH BLING, Cowboy Bling, g, 5, o/o Frieda Frau, by Shaquin. ALW, 2-5, Sam Houston

TODAY'S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS

Top Seed (Orb) graduates at first asking for the Phippses and Shug McGaughey at Gulfstream
AGA KHAN MARES IN DEMAND AT GOFFS

The sale-topping Sheranda | Peter Mooney

By Daithi Harvey

KILDARE, Ireland--The second and final day of the February Sale at Goffs saw a selection of 2-year-olds, horses in training, breeding stock and a pair of stallion prospects come under the hammer and after a tough morning for vendors trade picked up in the early afternoon when a number of attractive broodmare prospects were offered for sale.

The Aga Khan Studs can always be relied upon to offer a draft that contains some star quality, and it was one of their select offerings, Sheranda (Ire) (Siyouni (Fr)) (lot 513), that proved the most sought after when selling to Eamonn Reilly of BBA Ireland for €220,000. This top price comfortably eclipsed the highest achieved last year and contributed to a total sale aggregate of €4,078,700, a small increase on last year, admittedly from a slightly bigger catalogue. The clearance rate of 65% dropped a couple of points on last year’s 68% while the average of €13,965 and median of €6,500 also just failed to match the corresponding 2019 figures.

Speaking after the sale, Goffs Chief Executive Officer Henry Beeby said, “Goffs February is the preferred option for so many breeders at this time of year as it combines the largest selection of [yearlings] with an eclectic mix of mares and fillies with breeding potential." Cont. p2

HALF-SHARE IN JAPAN PURCHASED BY MATSUSHIMA

A half-share in European highweight and 2019 G1 Juddmonte International S. hero Japan (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) has been purchased by Masaaki Matsushima, Racing Post reported on Wednesday. Also a winner of the G1 Juddmonte Grand Prix de Paris, third in the G1 Investec Derby and fourth in the G1 Qatar Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe, the Newells Park Stud-bred was previously owned solely by a Coolmore partnership. Out of a SP daughter of fellow European highweight Saganeca (Sagace (Fr)), the 1.3-million Tattersalls October Book 1 yearling is a full-brother to GSW and G1 Investec Epsom Oaks bridesmaid Secret Gesture (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) and the GSWs Sir Isaac Newton (GB) and Mogul (GB).

"Mr. Matsushima saw Japan at Longchamp on Arc day last October and was very impressed by the horse," racing manager Yasufumi Sawada told Racing Post. Cont. p4

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

347 EARLY TRIPLE CROWN NOMS
Champion juvenile and GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile winner Storm the Court (Court Vision) leads 347 early nominees for the 2020 Triple Crown. Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.
He added, "In the main it reacts to the previous autumn's trade both in terms of entries and trade. As such it follows a superb edition of the Goffs November Sale which returned a stunning trade for the cream of the foal crop and exceeded expectations for the breeding stock catalogued. Tuesday's [yearlings] enjoyed a vibrant trade for the most part with keen competition for those that a large group of buyers, mostly made up of pinhookers, felt would hold most appeal at the first choice 2020 yearling sales. Of course the knock-on effect is a trade that can be unforgiving for those less obvious picks although it was gratifying to see the clearance rate improve by three points; that said 65% is not a statistic that leads to much celebration but is a stark illustration of the unforgiving nature of the market."

He continued, "Wednesday's breeding stock and mixed session has performed well with the top two prices of €220,000 and €200,000 both more than double last year's high. We have been delighted to welcome a truly international group of buyers from across Europe and the Gulf Region, whilst the home team has also been very active although, once again, selectivity has been the key word reflecting the market everywhere at present. For now we extend our thanks to each vendor and every purchaser for their support as we are nothing without them."

BBA agents accounted for the top three lots of the whole sale and after signing for the sale topper Eamonn Reilly said, "I've bought her for an Irish breeder who would prefer to remain anonymous. I don't know what stallion she will go to but there will be plenty of options. She comes from a typically deep Aga Khan family and there was a lot to like about her."

Reilly certainly wasn't talking her up as Sheranda is a half-sister to two graded stakes winners in the G2 Blandford S. winner Shamreen (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) and Canadian Grade III winner Sharoze (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}). Reilly had earlier breathed some much-needed life into the sale when buying another of the Aga Khan draft in Hazakiyra (Ire) (Camelot {GB}) (lot 430). Acting for the same unnamed Irish client, Reilly saw off a determined series of bids from Paul Monaghan to land the Tramore maiden winner for €150,000. Like his earlier purchase, Hazakiyra hails from a family replete with bold print, being a half-sister to the multiple group winner Hazapour (Ire) (Shamardal), from the family of dual Derby winner Harzand (Ire) (Sea The Stars {Ire}).

Before signing for the sale topper Eamonn Reilly had earlier been usurped by his colleague Mick Donohoe as buyer of the top lot when Donohoe landed Hergame (GB) (Motivator {GB}) (lot 450), a winner and stakes-placed in France and offered by Grange Hill Stud. Like Reilly, Donohoe was also acting on behalf of an existing Irish client. "She is a lovely physical, with a very nice page and she showed plenty of ability on the track," Donohoe said. "She will go to stud straight away but I'm not sure what stallion she will go to."

Four mares brought six figures on Wednesday and the fourth to do so was Vrai (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) (lot 521), who was making her second successive appearance in this sale. Offered last year barren, she was signed for by Mick Flanagan at €75,000 but she returned this year again from Baroda Stud complete with a Le Havre (Ire) cover and it was John Walsh who landed the half-sister to Libourne Lad (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) for €130,000. Cont. p3
Goffs February Sale Cont.

"She is for a new client in Ireland and she is from a family I know well going back a few generations," Walsh said.

Paul Monaghan of The Cottage Stud got involved in the bidding with another one of the best-bred mares in the catalogue but again had to give best ultimately when **Dawn Of A New Era (Ire)** (New Approach {Ire}) was knocked down to Martin Wanless for €72,000. The Redmonstown Stud offered full-sister to both **Dawn Approach (Ire)** and **Herald The Dawn (Ire)** was offered in foal to **Make Believe (GB)**, and all Wanless could reveal about lot 438 was that she was bought to remain in Ireland.

Having originally been bought back by her vendor, **Araajmjh** (Street Cry {Ire}) (lot 500) then changed hands back in the barns when selling to Summerhill Bloodstock for €62,500. The 10-year-old ticked a lot of boxes for a broodmare being a half-sister to Invincible Army (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) who has already produced a stakes horse in **All Star Cast (Ire)** (Kodiac {GB}) and who is carrying a foal by US Navy Flag.

The first of the mares to make a bit of a splash in the ring was **Maiden Voyage (Fr)** (Motivator {GB}) (lot 383). The former French and British trained 5-year-old won twice and showed some smart form without getting black-type and this was enough to see the good-looking mare command a price of €55,000 from the bid of Blue Diamond Stud's Imad Al Sagar and Tony Nerses. A mating with Irish National Stud stallion **Decorated Knight (GB)** is next on the agenda with Al Sagar already making good on his intention to support the stallion as much as he can, as evidenced by his purchase of a number of foals by the stallion last year.

Of his purchase on Wednesday Al Sagar said, "She is a lovely, well-balanced mare with good conformation and she should suit Decorated Knight well. I think her pedigree will also work well with Decorated Knight and it continues our policy of supporting the stallion strongly to give him every possible chance of success."

The Blue Diamond team stuck round for the afternoon and added a Galileo (Ire) mare to their broodmare band when acquiring **Stereo Viewing (Ire)** (lot 478) for €80,000. The Castlebridge-consigned 5-year-old was a winner and placed six times in seven starts in America and is out of a full-sister to **Chinese Dragon** (Stravinsky).

The session opened with a section of 2-year-olds, the majority of which failed to find new homes, but breeze-up supremo Willie Browne spotted an opportunity with the only offering by 2019’s champion first-season sire **Night Of Thunder (Ire)**. **Lot 311**, an attractive chestnut filly offered by Oghill House Stud, went Browne’s way for €30,000 and it will be no surprise to see the half-sister to the useful dual winner Romantic Vision (Ire) (Dandy Man {Ire}) grace a sales catalogue again in the coming months. **Cont. p4**
Goffs February Sale Cont.

Others to find favour were Crossed My Mind (Ire) (Cape Cross (Ire)) (lot 371), a three-time winner and rated 83 at her peak for trainer Ralph Beckett that was bought by John Banahan’s Ridge Manor Stud for €32,000, while the smart sprinter Bailly (GB) (Charm Spirit (Ire)) (lot 406), a half-sister to stakes winner Mabait (GB) (Kyllachy (GB)), was knocked down to ES Bloodstock for €40,000. Group 1 winner Verbal Dexterity (Ire) was offered as a stallion prospect towards the end of the sale but failed to find a buyer when the bidding stopped at €85,000.

Japan Cont. from p1

Sawada continued, “He loved the horse and believes he is not only very talented but very courageous, and is one of the best in the world. We would like to thank the entire Coolmore team as well as Aidan O’Brien, for whom we have enormous respect as a horseman.”

Added Sawada regarding the colt’s 2020 targets, “One thing is for sure, the main objective will be the Qatar Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe again.”

Matsushima also bought into Australia (GB) colt Broome (Ire) last season.

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**SESSION TOPPERS**

**GOFFS FEBRUARY SALE DAY 2**

**Lot** | **Name** | **Status** | **Price (€)**
---|---|---|---
513 | Sheranda (Ire) | Broodmare Prospect | 220,000

(f, 3, Siyouni (Fr)--Shareen (Ire), by Bahri)
Bred by His Highness the Aga Khan’s Studs S. C. (Ire)
Consigned by Aga Khan Studs
Purchased by BBA Ireland

450 | Hergame (GB) | Broodmare Prospect | 200,000

(f, 4, Motivator (GB)--Kayaba (GB), by Anabaa)
Bred by Wertheimer et Frere (GB)
Consigned by Grange Hill Stud
Purchased by BBA Ireland

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**GOFFS FEBRUARY SALE DAY 2**

**Lot** | **Name** | **Status** | **Price (€)**
---|---|---|---
430 | Hazakiyra (Ire) | Broodmare Prospect | 150,000

(f, 3, Camelot (GB)--Hazarafa (Ire), by Daylami (Ire))
Bred by His Highness the Aga Khan Studs S. C. (Ire)
Consigned by Aga Khan Studs
Purchased by BBA Ireland

521 | Vrai (Ire) | i/f to Le Havre (Ire) | 130,000

(f, 3, Dark Angel (Ire)--Sogno Verde (Ire), by Green Desert)
Bred by Swordlestown Little (Ire)
Consigned by Baroda Stud
Purchased by John Walsh Bloodstock
KEMPTON’S RACING FUTURE SECURED

Racing at Kempton could be assured for the foreseeable future after the Jockey Club announced it has submitted plans for a smaller-scale residential development on part of the racecourse estate. In Jan. 2017, the Jockey Club unveiled a shock proposal to close the Sunbury venue, with the land submitted for consideration following the local authority’s 'Call for Sites' to address unmet local housing needs. The decision caused huge dismay in the racing world, with trainer Nicky Henderson fearing it would be "a nail in the National Hunt coffin" if the track were to close. The initial plans included moving the King George VI Chase to Sandown and building a new all-weather track near Newmarket.

However, Spelthorne Borough Council did not include Kempton on its "preferred options" for consultation at the end of last year and the Jockey Club, along with developer Redrow Homes, has now submitted a revised plan which would not affect the racecourse, alongside the original scheme.

A statement from the Jockey Club explained the new proposal "would involve only previously developed land and would retain all racing facilities to continue as today, including both the jumps course and all-weather track."

Sandy Dudgeon, Senior Steward of the Jockey Club, said, "We have respected the position of Spelthorne Borough Council throughout their Local Plan process with relation to Kempton Park. Having weighed up the latest information, we have now put forward another option alongside the original full site for their consideration. This would involve just a proportion of the available land there and allow jump and all-weather Flat racing to continue.

"A healthy, sustainable and well-funded sport for the long-term can only be achieved by investing in our sport. The need for British racing to raise significant funding to enable this is perhaps even more vital now than when our original proposals were announced."

SHARE IN NO RISK AT ALL ADDED TO ARQANA FEBRUARY

One fiftieth of National Hunt stallion No Risk At All (Fr) (My Risk (Fr)) (lot 217 ter) and 11 supplements brings the total lots to go under the hammer at the Arqana February Mixed Sale to 442. Held on Feb. 11-12, the sale consists of 105 horses-in-training, 25 2-year-olds, 175 broodmares, 62 fillies and 75 yearlings. Among the supplementary lots is Eau Vive (Ire) (Siyouni (Fr)) (lot 76 bis). Consigned by HSV Agency, she is out of a SP half-sister to National Defense (GB) (Invincible Spirit (Ire)).

Another new addition is Queen Khaleesi (Fr) (Manduro (Ger)) (lot 170), from the draft of Haras du Lieu des Champs. She is a full-sister to MGSW Square de Luynes (Fr) (Manduro (Ger)).

ITBA NEXT GENERATION 10-TO-FOLLOW COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The ITBA Next Generation 10-to-Follow Competition, sponsored by Racing Post Bloodstock, was announced by ITBA Next Generation on Wednesday. To enter, contestants pick their top five Flat and top five National Hunt horses to follow in 2020, with prizes on tap including 1 year free Ultimate Membership to the Racing Post (£349). The competition starts on Feb. 14, but entries can be made after the beginning of the competition through the month of February. Only one entry is allowed per person, with free entry for ITBA Next Generation members. Results are tabulated through Dec. 31, 2020. Points are rewarded for Irish racing only (G1=50, G2=30, G3=20, Listed=12, any other race=5), with the followed exceptions worth double points:

- Cheltenham Festival
- Aintree Festival
- Epsom Derby/Oaks
- Royal Ascot
- Glorious Goodwood
- Leopardstown Christmas Festival

ITBANG membership is just €20 per year. To become an ITBANG member or for more details on the competition, go to www.itbang.ie.

CONDICTIONS RESULT:

4th-Southwell, £5,300, Novice, 2-5, 3yo, 6f 16y (AWT), 1:15.60, st.
LION TOWER (IRE) (c, 3, Exceed and Excel (Aus)--Memorial (Aus) (GSP-Aus, $311,761), by Street Cry (Ire)) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, $8,932. O-Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum; B-Godolphin (IRE); T-Mark Johnston.
ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:
Garsman (IRE), g, 3, Garswood (GB)—Regina (GB), by Green Desert. Southwell, 2-5, 4f 214y (AWT), 0:58.49. B-Coseda Ltd (IRE). *€34,000 Wlg ‘17 GOFNOV; €42,000 Ylg ‘18 TIRSEP; 15,000gns 2yo ‘19 TATAHI.

IN AUSTRALIA:
Mighty Oasis (GB), g, 4, Oasis Dream (GB)—Swingland (GB), by Pivotal (GB). Ararat, 2-5, Maiden, 1600mT, 1:37.03. B-BBA 2010 Ltd. *€52,000 Ylg ‘17 GOFORB; €72,000 2yo ‘18 GORMAY.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:
Tepeka (GB), g, 3, Olympic Glory (IRE)—Super Eria (Fr) (MSP-Fr, $113,870), by Hold That Tiger. Cagnes-sur-Mer, 2-5, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17.82. B-EARL Haras De Mandore (GB). *€35,000 Ylg ‘18 ARAUG.

FRANCE

Wednesday’s Results:
1st-Cagnes-sur-Mer, €35,000, Cond, 2-5, 3yo, 10f (AWT), 2:00.98, st.

BEAUTIFUL (FR) (f, 3, Le Havre {IRE}–Be Released {IRE}, by Three Valleys), off the mark over this course and distance Jan. 13, was allowed to dictate at her own leisure as she had been on that occasion. Pressing on when straightened for home, the 27-10 favourite was always too strong for her rivals and hit the line with 1 1/2 lengths to spare over London Memories (Fr) (Hurricane Cat). The unraced dam, whose 2-year-old filly Be Great (Fr) is by Myboycharlie (IRE), is a half to the G1 George Ryder S., G1 Prix de la Foret and G1 Haydock Sprint Cup hero Gordon Lord Byron (IRE) (Byron (GB)). This is also the family of the G1 St. James’s Palace S. winner Barney Roy (GB) (Excelebration [IRE]). Sales history: €35,000 RNA Ylg ‘18 ARAUG. Lifetime Record: 4-2-2-0, €24,700. O-Gerard Augustin-Normand; B-Haras D’Haspel (FR); T-Frederic Rossi.

CONDITIONS RESULT:
4th-Cagnes-sur-Mer, €19,000, 2-5, 4yo/up, 7 1/2fT, 1:32.40, sf.

RECOVER ME (FR) (m, 5, Fastnet Rock [AUS]–Marie Rossa (GB), by Testa Rossa (AUS)) Lifetime Record: 8-2-2-0, €46,420. O-Ecurie Des Mouettes & Oceanic Bloodstock Sarl; B-Oceanic Bloodstock Inc & Mme A. Gravereaux (FR); T-Jean-Claude Rouget. *€125,000 Ylg ‘16 ARAUG; €210,000 HRA ‘19 ARFEB.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:
Tepeka (GB), g, 3, Olympic Glory (IRE)–Super Eria (Fr) (MSP-Fr, $113,870), by Hold That Tiger. Cagnes-sur-Mer, 2-5, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:17.82. B-EARL Haras De Mandore (GB). *€35,000 Ylg ‘18 ARAUG.

SAUDI CUP DAY DRAWS 66 INTERNATIONAL RUNNERS

The inaugural $29.2-million Saudi Cup card at King Abdulaziz Racecourse on Feb. 29 drew 66 runners from overseas, including 21 Group/Grade 1 winners, HRH Prince Bandar bin Khalid Al Faisal, Chairman of the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, announced on Wednesday. The full list of runners for the eight-race Saturday card have won a combined 32 top-level races.

Some of the big names in the $20-million Saudi Cup include: recent GI Pegasus World Cup winner Mucho Gusto (Mucho Macho Man) who squares off with Bob Baffert stablemate and MGISW McKinzie (Street Sense) and Jason Servis trainee and MGISW Maximum Security (New Year’s Day). Other possibles for the signature race are the mares Midnight Bisou (Midnight Lute) for Steve Asmussen and Aidan O’Brien’s Magic Wand (IRE) (Galileo [IRE]). Cont. p7
Saudi Cup Entries Announced Cont.

MG1SW Benbatl (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) also contests the 1800-metre event for trainer Saeed bin Suroor, as do Japanese stars Chrysoberyl (Jpn) (Gold Allure {Jpn}) and Gold Dream (Jpn) (Gold Allure {Jpn}).

The highlight of the 2100-metre $1-million Neom Turf Cup is MG1SW Deirdre (Jpn) (Harbinger {GB}), who won the 2019 G1 Nassau S. in England for Mitsuru Hashida, while American speedballs Imperial Hint (Imperialism) and Shancelot (Shanghai Bobby) face each other in the $1.5-million Saudia Sprint over 1200 metres on the main track. In the $2.5-million Longines Turf H., 2018 G1 Melbourne Cup victor Cross Counter (GB) (Teofilo {Ire}) lines up versus French Group 1 winner Call The Wind (GB) (Frankel {GB}).

“The establishment of the Saudi Cup is a great moment in the history of horseracing in Saudi Arabia and I am gratified that the global racing community has embraced our new concept with such enthusiasm,” said Prince Bandar. “I look forward to welcoming some of the world’s most highly decorated horsemen and women to Riyadh and am thrilled that so many champion international horses will be taking part on Saturday Feb 29.”

Final fields will be completed with the addition of two local runners after the Feb. 8 Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques raceday. There were also two Platinum Partners announced for the Saudi Cup—Longines and Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAUDIA).

Tom Ryan, Director of Strategy and International Racing for the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, said, “Since the launch of the Saudi Cup less than seven months ago, the level of support and assistance we have received from our friends in the world of horse racing has been quite overwhelming, and I could not be happier with the quality of the horses set to contest our big races in just over three weeks’ time. Quality is spread throughout the card and we are looking forward to watching these superstars of global racing take to the track on Feb. 29.”

Share this story

BENBATL MAKES HIS DIRT BOW AT MEYDAN THURSDAY

Godolphin’s Benbatl (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), a Group 1 winner on grass in Australia, Germany and Dubai, makes his dirt bow in Thursday’s $450,000 G2 Al Maktoum Challenge R2 over 1900 metres. An easy-as-he-pleased winner of the local G2 Singspiel S. for trainer Saeed bin Suroor on Jan. 9, the 6-year-old’s main competition is Phoenix Thoroughbred III and Khalid Bin Mishref’s 2018 GI Belmont S. runner-up Gronkowski (Lonhro {Aus}). The latter was third last out in the Listed Entisar going 2000 metres locally on Dec. 5.

“He’s in good form and worked really well last Thursday,” Bin Suroor said. “This is a test for him to see if he can handle the dirt and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed made the decision to run him and see if he’s going to like the dirt. He works very well on the all-weather Tapeta at Al Quoz [training centre], but that is Tapeta. On Thursday, it’ll be his first time on dirt, so we will see.

“He needed the (Singspiel) and has improved from the race. That race was just to get him fit and he is ready to try the dirt. There’s no excuse now that he’s had a run and is fit. He’s an easy horse to train; a proper horse who has won in England, Germany, Australia and Dubai. Just a class horse.”

Narrow G2 Al Maktoum Challenge R1 victor Kimbear (Temple City) returns after his Jan. 9 victory for Sheikh Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi and trainer Doug Watson.

“He came out of his run in great shape and when I look back on his run [in the 1800m GI] Santa Anita Derby [in 2017], he didn’t run a bad race,” Watson said. “He’s matured and the nice thing about him you can ride him however you want. He takes kickback and he’s just in really good form right now. We’re hopeful he’ll stay the trip, but there are a few others in the race feeling it out, as well, including Benbatl, who is trying dirt for the first time and possibly Gronkowski, who may be using it as a prep for Saudi. His coat looks great, he’s working extremely well and you can’t say those things very often about every horse going into a big race like this. We’re just really pleased.”

Earlier on the card is the oversubscribed G3 UAE 2000 Guineas, also on the main track. Bin Suroor saddles the pair of Laser Show (Ire) (New Approach {Ire}) and Colour Image (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}) in the 1600-metre pointer for the upcoming G2 UAE Derby at the end of March. Lightly raced, Laser Show won going away by 4 1/2 lengths with the addition of blinkers in the 1900m Al Bastakiya Trial on Jan. 23. Cont. p8
Meydan Preview Cont.

“He is a good horse, but he needs a farther trip,” Bin Suroor explained. “He needs at least nine furlongs and this time we’ll run him the shorter mile trip and give him a chance now that he has the visor. The visor really helped him and I know he can run farther in the [Al Bastakiya Trial and UAE Derby].”

The top-rated horse in the Guineas hails from the States, as Reddam Racing’s Fore Left (Twirling Candy) makes his Meydan debut for trainer Doug O’Neill, who has a dedicated string in the desert for the first time. The speedy bay won twice at stakes level as a juvenile, and was also third in the GII Best Pal S. He’s been off since a 10th-place finish in the grassy GII Cecil B. DeMille S. at Del Mar on Dec. 1 and leaves from gate 14 in the 16-horse field.

“He has a lot of confidence right now,” reported Leandro Mora, assistant trainer. “I think a lot of that is due to the track and how he adjusted really well to it. The distance of a mile here is tricky, but I think, with it being around one turn, horses like him think it’s a six or six and a half-furlong race and because of that I like his chances a lot.

“Early on, we thought he was a legit [Kentucky] Derby horse, but that faded a little bit and we tried to change his style and that didn’t help; even tried him on turf as an experiment. We tried to rate him a little bit and I don’t think he likes that style. He wants to be forward in first or second and then go for home. Even if he’s not in front, as long as he’s up there, he has a big chance. As far as the post, I like to be outside, but being inside doesn’t matter too much, because he usually breaks really well.”

Nasir Askar’s Commanding (Ire) (Camacho {GB}) is aiming for his third consecutive victory. Runner-up over 1400 metres here when unveiled in November, he utilised frontrunning tactics to take the Dec. 5 Jebel Ali Port locally over this trip, and got the job done once again in similar conditions over Al Modayar (Competitive Edge) in the UAE 2000 Guineas Trial on Jan. 9.

Ektiyyaar (GB) (Bated Breath {GB}) must shoulder 132 pounds, anywhere from three to 16 pounds more than his rivals, in the Listed Dubai Sprint Trophy in between the pair of group races on Thursday. A colourbearer for Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Doug Watson trainee won a track and trip conditions contest under this impost last out on Jan. 9.

“It was the next logical spot and I love the 28 days between races, which also gives us another 28 days to Super Saturday,” Watson said. “He’s doing great and I love the way he ran last time. If he can jump like that every time, that would be good. We had to run him on the dirt to get a race into him and give him a try on it. My only thought was that I hope it didn’t mess him up, which it didn’t, so hopefully he can keep his good form going.”

DID YOU KNOW?

G2 Al Fahidi Fort fourth and GSW Blitzkrieg (War Front), Jan. 16 course-and-distance victor Roulston Scar (Ire) (Lope de Vega {Ire}) for Simon Crisford and G3 Prix de Seine-et-Oise Angel Alexander (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) also hold their ground in the 1200-metre straight-course turf sprint.

G1SW Star Catcher (GB) (Sea the Stars {Ire}) was tabbed as a “TDN Rising Star”

Visit the TDN Rising Stars section on our website!
### AL MAKTOKUM CHALLENGE R2 SPONSORED BY MUBADALA-G2, $450,000, NH 4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 1900m

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### UAE 2000 GUINEAS SPONSORED BY MASDAR-G3, $250,000, NH & SH 3yo, 1600m

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<td>Dark Angel (Ire)</td>
<td>Fresu</td>
<td>Al Mheiri</td>
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<td>Carpe Diem</td>
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*All post times are local time.*
By Bren O'Brien

With the Inglis Classic Sale producing four Group 1 winning graduates in the past 12 months, it is little wonder vendors and buyers are heading into the 2020 edition with a degree of confidence. But there are four vendors in particular which will have an extra spring in their steps at the Sale which begins on Sunday at the Riverside Stables.

Arrowfield has sold plenty of Group 1 winners in the past and Castelvecchio (Dundeel {NZ}) joined that storied list with his win in the G1 Champagne S., while Newgate was the vendor for Shadow Hero (Pierro), when he went through that same 2018 Classic Sale 10 lots prior to Castelvecchio, who he would beat in the 2019 G1 Spring Champion S.

Twelve months earlier, Vow And Declare (Declaration Of War {USA}) was offered by Kitchwin Hills at Classic, and after being passed in short of his $60,000 reserve and retained by his breeder Paul Lanskey after a deal with trainer Danny O'Brien, would famously go on and win last year's G1 Melbourne Cup.

"That's the beauty of something like the Classic Sale, there are plenty of very good horses that come out of it. You don't have to be paying huge money for them. If you do your homework and all the rest of it, you've got a chance to pick up a horse like Samadoubt for reasonable money," he said.

Class of 2020

Riversdale has a 15-strong draft of yearlings for the 2020 Classic Sale with Hodges confident in what his team will present across the three days in Sydney.

"We are really pleased with the draft we have got. We've got some really nice horses by the right sires and so we are looking forward to the sale," he said. "We are really pleased with the draft we have got. We've got some really nice horses by the right sires. It's all about type for Classic Sale. You have to have the right type. Generally, a racy sort, an early type helps but we have got a good spread right across the board."
That spread sees Riversdale present lots by 15 different sires, with a mixture of proven stallions, such as Testa Rossa, Artie Schiller (USA), Lonhro, Nicconi, Foxwedge and Choisir and younger stallions such as Dundee (NZ), Kermadec (NZ), Vancouver, Rubick and Pride Of Dubai. There are also yearlings by first-season sires Winning Rupert, Flying Artie, Star Turn and Sooboog.

The colt by Kitchwin Hills' Sooboog, Lot 461, is particularly well regarded by Hodges.

"He looks like a real sprinter and a real early comer," he said of the colt out of Silent Charades (Magic Albert), the half-sister to Group 2 winner Maitland Gold (Made Of Gold {USA}).

Lot 757, a colt by Winning Rupert out of stakes placed Shamardani (Shamardal {USA}), the half-sister to Group 1 winner Pillaging (Marauding {NZ}), will feature in the Day 3 Highway Session where Hodges believes he will make an impression.

Hodges also has plenty of time for Lot 263, a colt by Dundee out of Lucky Thirteen (Red Ransom {USA}), who he said was a 'real racy type' and Lot 270, by Vancouver, who he said will 'do a job for his owners wherever he ends up.'

Lot 254, a Kermadec colt from Lighthouse Flame (Fastnet Rock), the half-sister to Group 2 winners Lieutenant (Danehill Dancer {Ire}) and Count Encosta (Encosta De Lago) is a horse Riversdale also has plenty of faith in.

"He will develop into a really lovely horse. He has got a great walk and will get over a bit of ground," Hodges said.

**Belief in the Strength of the Market**

The market will of course be the ultimate judge of Riversdale's draft, but with the fundamentals of the industry in good health, Hodges sees no reason why it won't be positive at the Classic Sale.

"It was good up at the Magic Millions and hopefully it rolls into the Classic Sale. We are very lucky that the industry has got a very solid base to it, in that the prizemoney is good and the racing is good," he said. "We are in a great position that way and I think that the market can be as strong as it's been. It won't go ahead in leaps and bounds, but I think the competition will be strong and the right horses will get the right money."

**AUSTRALIAN-BRED WINNERS**

**IN HONG KONG:**

**Naboo Star, g, 5, Casino Prince--Private, by Encosta de Lago.**  
Happy Valley, 2-5, Hcp. ($277k), 1650m, 1:38.97. B-Ramsey Pastoral Pty Ltd (NSW). *1/2 to Believe Yourself (Sebring), GSW-Aus, MSP-Sin, $515,329. **$160,000 Ylg '16 INGEAS; HK$5,700,000 HRA '18 HKIS. [VIDEO]

**This Is Class, g, 5, So You Think (NZ)--Pride of the Class (NZ), by Volksraad (GB).**  
Happy Valley, 2-5, Hcp. ($277k), 1200m, 1:09.50. B-Vieira Group Pty Ltd (NSW). *1/2 to First Among Equals (Exceed and Excel), MSW & MGSP-Aus, $876,130. **$120,000 Ylg '16 MMGCYS. [VIDEO]

**Methane, g, 4, Pierro (Aus)--Mapmaker (GSP-NZ), by Volksraad (GB).**  
Happy Valley, 2-5, Hcp. ($185k), 1650m, 1:39.90. B-B Castle, M J Davies, M H S Davison, Mapperley Stud Ltd, M Patterson, A & Mrs B J Spary. *$65,000 Ylg '17 NZBJAN; $80,000 RNA 2yo '17 NZBRTR. [VIDEO]

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**Busuttin/Young Gear Up for Super Saturday**

**Artie Schiller's Kaakit Akit has Bright Future**

**Sebring’s Surooj Wins on Debut**

**Rosehill on Standby for Inglis Millennium**