SERVIS, NAVARRO AMONG THOSE IMPLICATED IN DOPING INVESTIGATION

by Alan Carasso and Bill Finley

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York unsealed indictments against Thoroughbred veterinarians and trainers, including Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro Monday in Manhattan.

A total of 27 defendants were named in four separate indictments, alleging that the two trainers and 25 others engaged in a “widespread, corrupt scheme by racehorse trainers, veterinarians, performance-enhancing drugs distributors and others to manufacture, distribute, and receive adulterated and misbranded PEDs and to secretly administer those PEDs to racehorses under scheme participants’ control.” The indictment that includes Servis and Navarro can be downloaded here.

The indictments allege that these individuals sought to improve the performance of their racehorses at home and abroad, in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Ohio, Kentucky and the United Arab Emirates. The indictment explains that by failing to abide by federal statutes and regulations, drugs of an unknown composition were dispensed by non-veterinarians (i.e. racehorse trainers) using methods that could be harmful to the animal and, in extreme cases, cause death.

WITH RACING’S DOPING SCANDAL, TIME TO DRAIN THE SWAMP

by Bill Finley

Seven trainers, including two of the biggest names in the sport in Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro, are among 27 individuals indicted for doping horses. The scheme involves Eclipse Award winner Maximum Security (New Year’s Day), G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen winner X Y Jet (Kantharos), exotic drugs you’ve never heard of and the killing of horses to hide the evidence. It does not get any uglier.

With this, coming on top of the breakdowns and fatalities at Santa Anita, many were left to wonder if the sport can survive another devastating scandal. That’s a reasonable fear. But I choose to believe this will prove to be the moment that horse racing came together and finally got serious about cheating and put an end to it. I am not alone. Cont. p8

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

MONTJEU’S LEGACY SHINES ON AT CHELTENHAM AND BEYOND

Emma Berry examines the extended influence of the late, great Montjeu (Ire) (Sadler’s Wells), as the Cheltenham Festival begins on Tuesday. Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.

Look for 2YOs at OBS March

by

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Cont. p3
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- Eddie Woods

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Dan Ross talks to California Horse Racing Board equine medical director Rick Arthur about the drugs allegedly used and what the indictments mean for the industry.

T.D. Thornton breaks down the timeline of intercepted calls and texts between the alleged conspirators.

Hall of Fame member Ashado, a 19-year-old mare owned by Godolphin, delivered a filly by Frosted at Gainsborough Farm on March 6, 2020 as part of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame’s Foal Patrol Season 3. Foal Patrol is a one-of-a-kind interactive web project featuring a collection of live cameras where people can view real-time streams of several mares and their foals and the stallion Frosted. For more information, please visit www.foalpatrol.com.

CHRB’S RICK ARTHUR ON INDICTMENTS

Dan Ross talks to California Horse Racing Board equine medical director Rick Arthur about the drugs allegedly used and what the indictments mean for the industry.

ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS CHATTED, TEXTED

T.D. Thornton breaks down the timeline of intercepted calls and texts between the alleged conspirators.
Servis, Navarro Among 27 Implicated in Doping Scandal cont.

The indictment went on to allege that the accused further endangered the welfare of the animals by masking the ability to feel pain, causing them to over-exert themselves, leading to breakdowns, sometimes catastrophic.

According to published reports, FBI agents conducted predawn raids on barns at Gulfstream Park West and at the Palm Meadows Training Center.

"Today's unsealing of four indictments for widespread doping of racehorses is the largest ever of its kind from the Department of Justice," said Geoffrey S. Berman, Manhattan U.S. Attorney. "These defendants engaged in this conduct not for the love of the sport, and certainly not out of concern for the horses, but for money. And it was the racehorses that paid the price for the defendants' greed. The care and respect due to the animals competing, as well as the integrity of racing, are matters of deep concern to the people of this District and to this Office."

"These men allegedly saw the $100-billion dollar global horse racing industry as their way to get rich at the expense of the animals that were doing all the hard work," added FBI Assistant Director William F. Sweeney, Jr. "Our investigation reveals the cruelty and inhumane treatment these horses suffered all to win a race. The FBI New York Joint Eurasian Organized Crime Task Force worked along with our law enforcement partners at the

New York State Police, FDA, and DEA to stop this ring of criminals from abusing helpless animals simply so they could cheat the odds and rake in millions of dollars."

The Drugs...

The indictment lays out four types of PEDs that are in question.

1) Erythropoietin (Epogen, epo)—used to boost red blood cell counts to enhance endurance and expedite race recovery, often referred to as ‘BB3' and ‘monkey.' Blood builders, when combined with intense physical activity, can thicken the blood and possibly lead to cardiac issues or death;

2) SGF-1000—see additional information below;

3) Customized analgesics—commonly referred to as ‘pain shots' or joint blocks, and contain various pain-relieving substances that can mask underlying physical issues and can lead to catastrophic events;

4) “Red Acid”—term used by the defendants to refer to PEDs specifically aimed at reducing swelling in joints and can also mask underlying problems. Cont. p4
The ‘Navarro Doping Program’...

Navarro is alleged to have “orchestrated a widespread scheme of covertly obtaining and administering various adulterated and misbranded PEDs to the racehorses under his control. [Navarro] and his co-conspirators concealed the purchase and administration of adulterated and misbranded PEDs from federal and state government agencies, racing officials, the betting public and others.

Navarro is said to have paid co-defendant Seth Fishman--according to the indictment, a licensed veterinarian--‘tens of thousands’ of dollars from January 2017 through at least April 2019 to purchase PEDs, including ‘BB3’; ‘ITP Plus,’ a custom-made PED capable of increasing the amount of oxygen in body tissues; ‘VO2 Max,’ an adulterated and misbranded PED that aids a horse’s respiration; and a customized analgesic PED referred to as the ‘Frozen Pain’ shot.

Defendant Nicholas Surick, a Standardbred trainer whose own history includes investigations by the New York State Gaming Commission for glaucine positives as well as a ban from the Meadowlands in 2018, is named in the indictment as the supplier to Navarro of the ‘red acid’ in addition to a shockwave machine. The indictment includes an excerpt of a phone call between Surick and defendant Michael Tannuzzo, in which Surick stated, in part, among other things: “You know how many

f--king horses he [Navarro] f--king killed and broke down that I made disappear....You know how much trouble he could get in...if they found out...the six horses we killed?”

The ‘Doping of X Y Jet…

A subsection of the indictment is devoted to the Navarro-trained X Y Jet (Kantharos), who died from an apparent heart attack this past January. The indictment sets out that Navarro treated X Y Jet with PEDs prior to a Gulfstream allowance victory in February 2019 and also prior to his victory in the G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen the following month.

Prior to the Gulfstream allowance success, Navarro is said to have requested ‘a blocker’ from Midlantic-based conditioner Marcos Zulueta, specifying that it was meant to be administered to X Y Jet. Zulueta obliged and sent the PED via overnight shipment to Florida.

While in Dubai Mar. 22, 2019, Navarro--according to the indictment--“personally administered various adulterated and misbranded PEDs to X Y Jet, including one referred to as ‘monkey.’ The indictment says that Fishman texted his congratulations in the days following the Golden Shaheen to which Navarro allegedly replied: “Thank u boss, u are a big part of it.”

Cont. p5
Like Father, Like Son

MO TOWN
One of the most popular new sires of 2019

UNCLE MO
Record-breaking young sire of 56 Stakes winners, including 8 Gr.1 winners

Two new GSW’s headed for Louisville

King Guillermo won Saturday’s G2 Tampa Bay Derby by an easy 4 3/4 lengths earning 50 points towards the Kentucky Derby. Also on the Derby trail is G2 Risen Star winner Modernist having also earned 50 points.

Following Sunday’s 4 1/4-length romp in the G3 Santa Ysabel, Donna Veloce is virtually assured a spot in the Kentucky Oaks.
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Colt ex Mybrokenhome, bred by Ralph Kinder & Ev Woolsey

Colt ex Dixie Babe, bred by Hubert Vester

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Filly ex Delavie, bred by Shawhan Place, Dr. Perry Wornall & Billy Thomson

Filly ex All Talk, bred by Scott Ahlschwede & Hidden Lake Farm

Filly ex Runfor Ro, bred by Raj Maharajh

Colt ex Tizza Trick, bred by Bo Hirsch

MO TOWN
G2 winner at 2 & Gr.1 winner at 3
One of the best sons of Uncle Mo

Call today for a great deal!
The late X Y Jet winning the 2019 G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen  

DRC/Mathea Kelley  

In a separate phone conversation following the Golden Shaheen, Navarro discussed with Zulueta the administration of the ‘monkey’ leading up to and even on the day of the race in Dubai. “I gave it to him through 50 injections. I gave it to him through the mouth.”

Zulueta was the listed trainer for three runners during the Monday program at Parx, but the horses were withdrawn. DRF reported later Monday that horses trained by Servis and Navarro will be scratched from Gulfstream races Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

In laying out other specific overt acts undertaken by Navarro, the indictment says that co-defendant Christopher Oakes offered to Navarro in January 2019 a PED created by Oakes and designed to avoid PED testing. “Zero chance you get caught,” Oakes stated and agreed to deliver the substance to Navarro. The indictment includes photographs of the substances allegedly procured and used by Navarro.

The details of a phone conversation between Navarro and “operators of a racing stable in California, for whom Navarro is a trainer” were also released. Discussing the horse Nanoosh, one of the operators on the call was quoted as questioning whether Navarro was “giving them [the operator’s horses] all the s--t,” asking later, “Is this horse jacked out? Is he on f--ing pills or are we just f--king --.” Navarro is alleged to have replied, “Everything. He gets everything.” Individual-1 cuts short the discussion, saying, “You don’t have to tell me on the phone,” according to the indictment. In his most recent start July 1, 2019 at Parx, the registered owners of Nanoosh (Paynter) were Rockingham Ranch, Zayat Stables LLC and David L. Bernsen.

The Servis Doping Program...  

Servis is alleged to have made use of a specific performance-enhancing drug called SGF-1000 and is alleged to have given that drug “to virtually all of the racehorses under his control.” He is also accused of falsifying veterinary bills to conceal the administration of SGF-1000 and using fake prescriptions.

According to the indictment, SGF-1000 is a customized PED purportedly containing ‘growth factors,’ including fibroblast growth factor and hepatocyte growth factor, which are intended to promote tissue repair and increase a racehorse’s stamina and endurance beyond its natural capability.

In an intercepted phone conversation between Servis and Navarro Mar. 5, 2019, the indictment states that Servis recommended SGF-1000 to Navarro, saying, “I’ve been using it on everything, almost.” Navarro retorted that he “got more than 12 horses on” SGF-1000, but ended the call a short time later, saying, “Jay, we’ll sit down and talk about this s-it. I don’t want to talk about this s-it on the phone, OK?”

On June 5, 2019, New Jersey regulators subjected would-be GI Kentucky Derby winner and recent Saudi Cup winner Maximum Security (New Year’s Day) to PED testing, a short time after receiving a shot of SGF-1000. The testing occurred just less than two weeks ahead of the Pegasus S., in which he finished runner-up. The indictment alleges that following the test, Servis reached out to co-defendant Kristian Rhein, a veterinarian who maintains a practice at Belmont Park, who insured the trainer that the colt would not test positive.

“I don’t even have a test for it in America,” Rhein said in an intercepted phone call. “There’s no test for it in America.” Rhein said the presence of SGF-1000 could return a false positive for ‘Dex.’ The indictment states that the same day, Servis received a promise from another veterinarian who agreed to falsify records to make it appear the horse was treated with ‘Dex’ and not the illegal SGF-1000. Cont. p6
Also implicated were Alexander Chan, a veterinarian, who is alleged to have administered PEDs at the direction of Servis; and Michael Kegley, Jr., founder of the Kentucky-based Medivet Equine, who is said to have conspired with the trainers to ship mislabeled PEDs across state lines. The indictment states that in a phone conversation intercepted at the direction of law enforcement, Kegley, Jr. acknowledged the illegal nature of his actions, going so far as to say that racehorse trainers in this country could face felony charges for doping horses.

The indictment alleges that Feb. 18, 2019, Servis alerted Navarro via text of the presence of a racing official in the barn area where both trainers allegedly stored PEDs. On the same day, in another intercepted call, Navarro told co-defendant Michael Tannuzzo, “He would have caught our asses f--king pumping and pumping and fuming every f--ing horse [that runs today].”

Reached for comment by Horse Racing Nation, Ben Glass, racing manager to Gary and Mary West, said he would wait to hear Servis’s side of the story before taking any action.

Obstruction Charges Against Surick...

While federal guidelines set the maximum sentence for the majority of the defendants at five years in prison, the two most serious and potentially most penal charges—obstruction—have been filed against Surick. Between December 2018 and February 2019, Surick is accused of instructing others to make false statements and to falsify documents as to the whereabouts of the racehorse Northern Virgin, which Surick understood to be the subject of scrutiny for PED administration. During the same period of time, Surick is alleged to have “altered, destroyed, mutilated and concealed a record, document and other object” with the intent to “impair the object’s integrity and availability for use in an official proceeding.” These included the falsification and destruction of veterinary bills and other records. Surick has been ordered to forfeit to the United States “any and all property, real and personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds...including, but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of said offenses.”

Thoroughbred Racing Reacts...

Officials at The Jockey Club issued a statement in full support of Monday’s raids and indictments, saying, “It will be critical to the future of the sport that the reforms that are so badly needed are pressed forward by all segments of the industry—by everyone truly interested in clean competition and the safety and welfare of horse and rider.”

It continues, “Equine doping has long been a concern in racing circles, but one that has been difficult to investigate or prosecute effectively because the sport’s regulatory oversight has been diffused, and often lax, across more than 30 separate state regulatory and enforcement agencies. Most people in the sport have suspected that some level of doping occurs, but evidence has been mostly third hand and circumstantial, and real information was needed to define the problem and craft a path to a solution.”

Alex Waldrop, CEO of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, said: “There is no place in our sport for individuals who treat horses with disregard for their well-being or who undermine the integrity of our competition for personal gain. We support the effort to bring these charges to light and are hopeful that their swift adjudication will help assure other horse racing participants and the public at large that our sport will not condone or tolerate the behavior alleged in the indictments.”
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Fastest time on dirt since 2000

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Spendthrift
The National HBPA added in a statement, “The news today of the indictment returned against racehorse trainers, veterinarians and others involved is extremely troubling. The National HBPA focus has always been, and remains, the health and safety of the horse, the jockey and of all individuals coming into contact with the horse, and we strongly oppose the behavior alleged in this indictment. We firmly believe in striving for the highest standards of horsemanship, and our industry strongly believes that anyone participating in the types of activities alleged in this indictment should be severely punished.”

For Michael Dubb, one of Servis’s biggest clients, the news was still just sinking in late Monday.

“I am trying to process it all. I need to understand it better before I make any comment. I will. I am trying to understand it before I say anything,” Dubb said.

The Stronach Group, operators of the facilities that were raided Monday morning, released a statement saying in part, “The Stronach Group complied fully with the search warrants that were executed by federal authorities this morning. The warrants issued were specific only to the barns and stalls that were occupied by the individuals charged today. The Stronach Group is not included in the charges. The Stronach Group is committed to achieving the highest level of horse care and safety standards in Thoroughbred racing ... There is no room in our sport for anyone who does not prioritize the health and well-being of horses and riders. As this matter is under federal investigation, we will not be commenting further at this time.”

The New York Racing Association said NYRA Spokesperson Pat McKenna. “The New York Racing Association is committed to preserving and protecting the integrity of the sport and the safety of the equine and human athletes who compete at our tracks. We will continue to work closely with the New York State Gaming Commission and our industry partners across the country to advance meaningful reforms that protect the future of thoroughbred horse racing.”

WEG’s Jim Lawson said: “While today’s news is very disappointing, it’s a necessary development and further evidence that horse racing requires a higher level of coordinated regulation across all North American jurisdictions. It’s also a strong statement that the use of performance-enhancing drugs will not be tolerated. Hopefully this permeates through the industry and changes the culture at all levels of horse racing. While Woodbine Entertainment was not specifically involved in this investigation, we are extremely supportive of all efforts to eradicate cheating and the use of PEDs in our sport. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this investigation. Even though the vast majority of trainers do not use PEDs, it’s important that we all work together for the betterment of horse racing and the welfare of our horses.”

The Water Hay Oats Alliance, an organization formed to stop drugs in racing, chimed in by saying in part, “While many outside of horse racing will decry today’s news as another black mark against the sport, WHOA members look upon this revelation as a step in the right direction to root out those in the sport who would take advantage of horses for their own selfish gain, as well as cheating their fellow trainers, owners and the wagering public.”

Clients of Bradley Weisbord’s BSW Bloodstock have raced horses with Servis, and Weisbord issued the following statement Monday.

“Today, Jason Servis, a trainer who we have employed since 2018, was indicted and accused of covertly obtaining and administering adulterated and misbranded performance enhancing drugs to racehorses under his care while evading PED prohibitions and deceiving regulators and horse racing authorities. This news is not only shocking and deeply upsetting, but, above all, greatly disappointing. We manage over 350 horses on the racetrack, and 10 horses are under the care of Jason Servis. Each of these horses will be immediately removed from his care.”

The TDN has also reached out to owners Gary West and Rockingham Ranch principle Gary Hartunian for comment. Dennis Drazin, the CEO of Darby Development--operator of Monmouth Park--declined to comment.

Kathy Guillermo, senior vice president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), said in a statement: “This sweeping federal investigation has exposed that illegal doping is still ubiquitous in horse racing, including at the highest levels. These crimes cheat bettors of billions of dollars and are egregiously cruel to horses, resulting in rampant injuries, pain, and deaths, such as those cited in the indictment. PETA is calling for a permanent ban from racing of all guilty trainers and veterinarians as well as any other conspirators and for criminal charges of cruelty to animals to be added forthwith.”
“Obviously, it’s extremely sad for horse racing that we have had this going on, but honestly, I’m not surprised at all,” trainer Mark Casse said. “When it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, it’s usually a duck. And now the important thing is to build on this because you are only looking at two of the biggies. We have to go in and clean up our sport and clean it up now. There is more to come. This is a great day, a very satisfying day.”

He doesn’t see this ending until Servis, Navarro and others serve prison time.

“These guys are going to go to jail and that’s where they need to go,” he said.

Casse was out front on this, coming out last week against the abuse of the drug Clenbuterol. Clenbuterol seems like kid stuff now that we have heard about drugs SGF-100, Red Acid, Erythropoietin, BB3 and “Monkey” and the rest of the poison these guys were said to be using on their horses. With its indictments, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York told the racing public what the racing public already knew—that an awful lot of horse races were decided not by who had the best horse but who had the best drugs.

“You know how many millions in purse earnings I have lost and my owners have lost over the years because of these guys?” Casse said. “I have a big training center and my wife and I have spent millions of dollars, trying to do the right thing by the horse and we get beat by drugs. You know how frustrating that is?”

Extremely. But not so much if the sport has finally been punched in the gut to the point where it will act. And that doesn’t mean lip service, half measures or more fines for bute overages. It means regarding this as a crisis that calls for drastic action.

“I think it is a devastating day when our sport is shown to be so corrupt and unethical,” trainer Graham Motion said. “There’s nothing good about it. The fact that we are not capable of policing our own sport is tragic. That’s what this has come to. At the end of the day, if they catch the bad guys I guess it’s a good thing, but you have to ask, ‘Why did it have to get to this point?’ I’m guessing we haven’t seen the end of it. If ever there is a case for passing the Horse Racing Integrity Act, this is it. We cannot police our own sport. We have to do something about it, we can’t just keep on creating committees. We have to stop the cheats.”

Motion isn’t wrong. The Horse Racing Integrity Act won’t put an end to all cheating. There’s too much money involved and too many ways to beat the system. But, in the aftermath of the 27 indictments, how can anybody be against trying something different, something that figures to have more teeth than the patchwork system we now have? That means you, Churchill Downs, and you, the Association of Racing Commissioners International, and you, horsemen’s groups across the sport.

That means Gary West coming out with an emphatic statement denouncing Servis and announcing that Maximum Security and the rest of his horses have been turned over to a new trainer. That means all of Servis’s and Navarro’s owners doing the same thing.

These are just some of the steps. There must be zero tolerance when it comes to doping and cheaters.

Every track and racing commission must step up and bolster its out-of-competition testing program. More money needs to be devoted to improving existing testing methods. Tracks have to be much more willing to exercise their rights to ban a participant. Navarro, Servis and the other trainers involved can’t be the only ones who were cheating. There are dozens, maybe even hundreds, more who are cheating the sport, the betting public, the honest horsemen and putting the very future of the sport at risk. Cont. p9
“For someone who has been in the sport their entire life, I’ve come to the point in my life where it’s not about me,” Casse said. “I’m not going to do this forever. It’s more about our sport staying around and letting my sons and other young people have a future. It has to be cleaned up. I look at today as a new beginning. This is only the beginning. Anybody who is doing the wrong thing out there better be tied on and be ready because we are coming after you.”

Casse had better be right. The future of the sport depends on it.

“It’s a Cat and Mouse Game:” CHRB’s Rick Arthur on Indictments

by Dan Ross

The latest bombshell to hit the racing industry was dropped Monday morning, when 27 individuals—including trainers Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro—were named in four separate indictments alleging that they had engaged in a “widespread, corrupt scheme by racehorse trainers, veterinarians, PED distributors and others to manufacture, distribute, and receive adulterated and misbranded PEDs and to secretly administer those PEDs to racehorses under scheme participants’ control.”

The indictments list a number of illegal performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) that the 27 individuals allegedly manufactured, distributed and used. They include erythropoietin (EPO)—a hormone secreted by the kidney to produce red blood cells—and snake venom, a well-known painkiller.

Some of the details are a little more obscure, however. For example, the indictments mention an anti-inflammatory called “Red acid,” a customized PED containing “growth factors” called SGF-1000, and a masking agent called “the devil.”

And so, the TDN asked outgoing California Horse Racing Board equine medical director Rick Arthur for his immediate reactions to the indictments, as well as for clarification on some of the drug-related details included within them. The following has been edited for clarity.

(Update: since the interview was conducted, the CHRB explained that it has started its own investigation.)

TDN: What are your main takeaways from the indictments?

RA: This indictment demonstrates a point I’ve been making for years and years—the best anti-doping technique I have seen probably in the last 10 years in horse racing are the video surveillance cameras at Santa Anita. There is nothing here that I can see that was detected by drug testing. This was all by investigation—same thing with Lance Armstrong.

The fallacy of relying—whether it’s human sport or equine sport—relying totally on drug testing just shows a lack of understanding of the problem. I think all of those involved in drug testing know, and have always known, that there are drugs that are not amenable to a testing regimen. And that’s true whether you’re talking about [World Anti-Doping Agency], [U.S. Anti-Doping Agency], or the Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis.

You have to have a two-pronged approach to look, not only at your drug testing program, but in your surveillance monitoring and investigations. Investigations are very expensive, but I’ve been saying this for years: if you only rely on drug testing, you’re going to miss the boat.

TDN: Arguably the most well-known of the relevant “adulterated and misbranded” PEDs in the indictments are those pertaining to EPO and “blood builders.” Why are these drugs so problematic to detect?

Cont. p10
RA: The basis of EPO doping is to increase oxygen carrying capacity--EPO stimulates the production of red blood cells. The confusing part of it in horses is that horses are natural blood dopers--they have a huge spleen that when they run, their spleen contracts, puts red blood cells into their system so that they can carry more oxygen.

It’s very commonly used in human medicine. We test for EPO, and we’ve done a lot of testing for EPO and seen no evidence of it in California. Admittedly, it does have a very short detection window--that’s the basis of our Out-of-Competition testing program.

TDN: It’s not just the short detection window for these EPO variants--there are a broad number of them.

RA: Some of these EPO variants are actually easier to find than the actual EPO. But yes, it is a challenge.

TDN: In the indictments, SGF-1000 is described as a customized PED containing “growth factors” which are intended to promote tissue repair and increase a horse’s endurance. What exactly is SGF-1000?

RA: Our testing of SGF-1000 from half a dozen years ago showed it was sheep collagen--that’s all we were able to detect in SGF-1000.

TDN: How do you detect it?

RA: SGF-1000, I believe, would not be amenable to any drug testing method unless you were going to be looking for sheep genes in horse blood--it’s not something that’s going to test. It’s unclear to me whether they found growth factors within the collagen or whether they just read the advertisements.

The reality of it is, we have gotten very good at small molecule blood-testing. So, what [drug cheats] are looking for are biologics--a way to turn on the body itself. For example, if you look at gene doping, every gene you would want to dope with is already in the body--it’s already in our genetic makeup. The real key is turning it on. You basically turn the body on to produce the biologic effect that you’re looking for.

It’s a cat and mouse game. It always will be--doesn’t matter if you’re talking about human sport or equine sport. It’s the same thing.

TDN: How far ahead of the regulators are the cheats?

RA: Look at the drug Barry Bonds was using--it actually wasn’t that good of an anabolic steroid. But it was an anabolic steroid that was not amenable to the common [gas chromatography/mass spectrometry] screening that human sport used at the time. So they designed it and the schedule for administration was entirely designed to beat the drug testing system.

If you look at Travis Tygart’s presentation at The Jockey Club Roundtable, when he talked about their investigation on doping, it’s really how the drug administration programs were very sophisticated and designed to beat the testing system.

TDN: Arguably less well known is “Red acid,” what is purportedly an anti-inflammatory for use in things like joints. What exactly is “Red acid?”

RA: I have no idea what Red acid is.

TDN: You’ve never heard the term before?

RA: I’ve heard the term before, but I have no idea what they’re referring to. It could be some phenol [an organic compound that can act as an analgesic or anesthetic]. It’s the same with the SGF-1000. Listen, I can sell you something, call it red acid and tell you it has the Ark of the Covenant in it. If you believe me, then, there it is.

TDN: Another indictment mentions a masking agent called “the devil,” which can purportedly mask the presence of other drugs in the system, including cocaine. Have you heard of such a masking agent?

RA: Again, I would have no idea what that is and whether it works as a masking agent. I mean, there maybe a specific drug that would do that--I have no idea. Masking agents are prohibited. One of the reasons Lasix is prohibited is it’s a potential masking agent--it masks by diluting. But, it is very difficult to mask certain drugs in the way that we test them. The dosing regimens that I mentioned before that Travis Tygart talked about was really a way to mask drugs from testing--trying to avoid detection during testing. That’s part and parcel of the way people cheat. But I think it’s lot harder to do than it seems here.

TDN: So, you’ve never heard of a masking agent that could mask the detection of cocaine?

RA: No, but I’m sure somebody in the human field would have an idea. Cocaine testing is very sensitive. And don’t forget, our testing for coke is so much more sensitive than what they use in humans--I doubt anybody could mask it.

Cont. p11
I actually think these people are a bunch of charlatans. Not only is it unethical, they’re selling stuff that I wouldn’t be surprised isn’t just pure nonsense.

TDN: What leads you to reach that conclusion?

RA: If you call something “the devil”–really? Come on. This bathtub stuff, nobody knows what it is, and it could be different from one day to the next. You’re buying this from a disreputable source, so how do you know what’s in it?

TDN: But some of these drugs do have the potential to be quite potent PEDs?

RA: Sure, there may be something in them that can. You could be getting something entirely different from what you’re thinking, it doesn’t mean that it doesn’t do anything, you just don’t know what’s in it. It’s not like a [Food and Drug Administration]-approved product where you have the active ingredients and can go on the FDA website and find out.

DESPITE FEARS OF GETTING CAUGHT, ALLEGED DOPING CONSPIRATORS CHATTED AND TEXTED ANYWAY

by T.D. Thornton

Trainers Jorge Navarro and Jason Servis have both racked up well-above-norm winning ratios of 29% since 2017, and no Thoroughbred horseman in this day and age can sustain such gaudy numbers without inviting allegations of cheating via illegal horse doping.

Monday, those suspicions exploded beyond the boundaries of our sport when four unsealed federal indictments implicated 27 individuals in a “widespread, corrupt scheme” dating to at least 2017 that centers on Navarro, Servis, and a vast network of co-conspirators who allegedly manufactured, mislabeled, rebranded, distributed and administered performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) to racehorses all across America and in international races.

You can read TDN’s lead news coverage of the criminal indictments here.

This article will give a deeper dive into the chronology behind the Federal Bureau of Investigation legwork that led to the charges. In particular, the most damning evidence against Navarro and Servis appears to come from a series of intercepted phone calls and text messages that occurred over the first seven months of 2019.

Two findings are underscored within the indictments: 1) That Navarro and Servis allegedly conspired together to procure and administer the PEDs and to warn each other of potential investigations by regulatory officials; 2) That the alleged doping involved very high-profile horses, such as the disqualified GI Kentucky Derby winner Maximum Security (New Year’s Day), the now-deceased, elite-level sprinter X Y Jet (Kantharos), and the blazingly fast, now-retired MGISW sprinter World of Trouble (Kantharos).

The indictments also yield another startling revelation: That some of the defendants--particularly Navarro--allegedly expressed a fear of getting caught by communicating their alleged wrongdoings via phone conversations and text messaging. Yet they allegedly persisted in making alleged doping plans using their mobile devices anyway.

Below is a chronology of the key 2019 conversations detailed in the indictments:

Jan. 25: Christopher Oakes, who allegedly created and manufactured his own customized, misbranded and adulterated PED, "which was known as an undetectable "drench" that would rapidly increase a racehorse's performance during a race," allegedly discusses doping options with Navarro in a phone call, telling him, “Zero chance you get caught.”

Feb. 1: Nicholas Surick, a Standardbred trainer whose history includes a ban from the Meadowlands in 2018, allegedly details Navarro’s previous history of New Jersey equine fatalities in a phone call with another alleged Navarro conspirator, Michael Tannuzzo.

Cont. p12
“You know how many [expletive] horses [Navarro] [expletive] killed and broke down that I made disappear?” Surick said. “You know how much trouble he could get in...if they found out...the six horses we killed?”

Feb. 9: With X Y Jet four days away from an important Gulfstream Park prep race that would determine whether or not the gelding next started in the G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen, Navarro and Parx-based trainer Marcos Zulueta allegedly discuss Navarro’s need for a particular customized analgesic PED, referred to as a “blocker” that Zulueta allegedly agrees to ship overnight.

Feb. 10: Navarro allegedly texts to Oakes “Do u have any of that new block the dr. makes [?]” Oakes allegedly agrees to procure and deliver it before the Gulfstream race.

Feb. 11: Navarro allegedly complains to Zulueta about a lackluster workout by X Y Jet.

Separately, according to the indictment, “Navarro and Oakes discussed a plan to secretly introduce a bottle of the ‘blocker’ into the stable where X Y Jet was being held prior to the Feb. 13 race. Oakes confirmed that he would smuggle that PED into the racetrack and meet Navarro inside.”

Also that day, Gregory Skelton, an alleged dealer of customized PEDs, allegedly ships an analgesic and “joint block” to Navarro.

Feb. 13: On race day for X Y Jet, according to the indictment, “Navarro instructed Oakes to visit X Y Jet to administer the PED, and to lie to racing officials if necessary to access the racehorse: ‘Drive through. If anything, if they stop you, you are an owner and you come to Navarro’s barn.’”

X Y Jet wins his allowance sprint by 7 3/4 lengths at 2-5 odds.

Feb. 18: According to the indictment, “Servis warned Navarro, via text message, of the presence of a racing official in the barn area where Servis and Navarro stored and administered PEDs to their respective racehorses.”

Later that same day, Navarro allegedly recounts the brush with the regulator to Tannuzzo: “He would have caught our asses [expletive] pumping and pumping and fuming every [expletive] horse [that ran] today.”

Mar. 5: In an intercepted phone call between Servis and Navarro, the two trainers allegedly coordinate the procurement and administration of SGF-1000, a customized PED intended to promote tissue repair and increase a racehorse’s stamina and endurance beyond its natural capability.

“I’ve been using it on everything, almost,” Servis allegedly says. Navarro allegedly replies that he’s “got more than 12 horses on” that drug, but he ends the call by adding, “Jay, we’ll sit down and talk about this shit. I don’t want to talk about this shit on the phone, OK?”

Apr. 3: Four days after winning the Golden Shaheen in Dubai, an intercepted call between Navarro and Zulueta details how Navarro allegedly doped X Y Jet in the weeks leading up to, and even on the day of, the race: “I gave it to him through 50 injections. I gave it to him through the mouth.”

Apr 5: A NAVARRO text sent to veterinarian Seth Fishman allegedly requests “1,000 pills ASAP.”

Also that day, either Seth Fishman or Jordan Fishman (the indictment does not specify which; both are defendants) allegedly has a phone call with a prospective PED-purchasing customer who wants to know if the administration of the products in question would be considered “doping.”

One of the Fishmans allegedly sets the unnamed customer straight: “Any time that you give something to a horse, that’s doping. Whether or not they can test for it is another story...Don’t kid yourself: If you’re giving something to a horse to make it [perform] better, and you’re not supposed to do that...that’s doping.”

May 8: Four days after Maximum Security won the Derby but got disqualified for interference, Servis allegedly has a conversation with his longtime assistant, Henry Argueta, to discuss “the concealment from racing officials of a PED that they intended to administer to the racehorse World of Trouble,” who was scheduled to ship to New York for the GI Jaipur Invitational S. on the GI Belmont S. undercard.

Allegedly, they conspired to conceal the PED within other containers when shipping World of Trouble, who ended up winning that stakes as the 2-5 favorite. It would be the final race of the horse’s career.

May 15: Tannuzzo allegedly arranges to receive a shipment of “blood builder” PEDs at Navarro’s New Jersey residence on the trainer’s behalf.

May 29: In a conference call between Navarro and “operators of a racing stable in California” the horse Nanoosh (Paynter) is discussed, four days after he ran next-to-last in the GIII Salvatore Mile S. (in which Servis trainees ran one-two).

Cont. p13
One of the irate stable operators allegedly questions whether Navarro was “giving [the stable’s horses] all the shit,” then asks, “Is this horse jacked out? Is he on [expletive] pills or are we just [expletive]...” Navarro is alleged to have replied, “Everything. He gets everything.” The stable operator cuts short the discussion, saying, “You don’t have to tell me on the phone,” according to the indictment. The owners of Nanoosh for that race were Rockingham Ranch, Zayat Stables LLC, and David L. Bernsen.

June 5: Eleven days before he runs second in the Pegasus S. at Monmouth Park, Maximum Security gets subjected to PED testing. This is allegedly a short time after the colt received a shot of SGF-1000. The indictment alleges that following the test, Servis reached out to co-defendant Kristian Rhein, a veterinarian who maintains a practice at Belmont Park, out of concerns the colt might test positive. “They don’t even have a test for it in America,” Rhein allegedly tells Servis, adding that the presence of SGF-1000 could, however, return a false positive for “Dex.” The indictment states that later that same day, Servis received a promise from another veterinarian who agreed to falsify records to make it appear the horse was treated with “Dex” and not the illegal SGF-1000.

July 10: Servis and Argueta, according to the indictment, allegedly “discussed the illegality, and planned the administration, of clenbuterol, a particular prescription drug that may be used as a PED, which [defendant and veterinarian Alexander Chan] administered to Servis’s racehorses without a valid prescription.”

July 11: According to the indictment, Chan allegedly administers SGF-1000 to multiple racehorses, then states in a call to Rhein that he has run out of the product because he did “like eight” horses for Servis and six at another (undisclosed) barn.

July 16: Rhein and Michael Kegley Jr., the director of sales for a Kentucky company called Medivet Equine, allegedly discuss in a phone call how Servis and his associates are “buying literally as much” SGF-1000 as Rhein has sourced from Kegley Jr.’s firm. The indictment states that “Rhein bragged that he was selling ‘assloads’ of SGF-1000.

On that call, Kegley Jr., and Rhein further discussed regulatory scrutiny of SGF-1000 and the benefits of re-labeling the packaging for SGF-1000 in order to avoid inquiries.” Kegley Jr. allegedly suggests that “We can even put on the box, you know, ‘dietary supplement for equine.’ That way it’s not, no one even has to question if it’s FDA approved or not--it’s strictly a supplement.”

### LINKS TO HARNESS GAME ALL OVER DOPING INDICTMENTS

_by Bill Finley_

Jorge Navarro, among the 27 individuals indicted Monday by the District Attorney for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan for doping horses, had become the go-to trainer for many harness racing horsemen who dabbled in thoroughbred racing. Including Shancelot (Shanghai Bobby), who was owned by prominent harness breeders and owners Al and Michelle Crawford, Navarro trained a number of horses for people involved in the standardbred game. According to the indictment, Navarro’s ties to several of those individuals involved far more than the typical client-trainer relationship.

Harness trainers Rick Dane Jr., Chris Oakes, Chris Marino and Nick Surick were among those indicted. Surick’s name appears several times in the indictment as a central figure in Navarro’s doping routine.

“In addition to his role in the Navarro Doping Program, at all times relevant to this Indictment, Nicholas Surick, the defendant, was a racehorse trainer who orchestrated a widespread scheme of covertly obtaining and administering adulterated and misbranded PEDs to the racehorses under his control, including ‘red acid’ among other substances,” the indictment reads. Red acid is described as a PED designed to reduce inflammation in the joints.

In a particularly disturbing portion of the indictment, the District Attorney’s office reveals an intercepted conversation between Surick and another defendant, Michael Tannuzzo, in which Surick talks about disposing of horses that died under Navarro’s care.

“You know how many f---ing horses [Navarro] killed and broke down that I made disappear,” Surick said. **Cont. p14**
“...You know how much trouble he could get in...if they found out...six horses we killed?”

Starting in 2011, Surick owned outright or co-owned a handful of horses that were trained by Navarro. So did Oakes.

Surick has trained 1,775 standardbred winners and had 367 victories in 2019. He has 53 wins at the current meet at Freehold Raceway, 42 more than the runner-up. He has seven wins at the Meadowlands this year.

In December, 2018 the New Jersey Racing Commission issued a full suspension to Surick’s training license. The commission cited a “failure to cooperate with an ongoing investigation being conducted by the investigative staff of the New Jersey Racing Commission and for failure to appear for a hearing with the Board of Judges...” Eight days later and without an explanation from the NJRC, Surick’s license was restored to good standing.

The indictment also claims that Surick used Viagra pills as a means to dope his horses, used a “bleeder drug, which can be used as a PED,” though there was no medical need for the drug, and also used the PED Epogen.

Surick, 31, was also the co-owner of the Thoroughbred Sassy Chub (Hey Chub) when the mare tested positive for dexamethasone after a race at Monmouth. Sassy Chub was trained by Aparna Battula, who was summarily suspended after she was determined to be in possession of 30 hypodermic needles and syringes and more than 80 vials of injectable substances.

On his Twitter feed, Surick describes himself as “self employed, entrepreneur, I try to train horses to run in circles really fast.” Surick did not return phone calls from the TDN Monday.

Oakes is also a prominent harness trainer who has won 1,875 career races. The indictment names him as one of several people who “engaged in a corrupt scheme to manufacture, create, purchase, distribute, transport, sell, and administer a wide variety of misbranded and adulterated PEDs, as well as substances designed to mask the presence of PEDs from drug testing by racing and state officials.”

Following the announcement of the indictments, United States Trotting Association President Russell Williams released a statement, which read: “Having worked in the criminal justice system some years ago, I’m acutely aware of the presumption of innocence that applies from indictment through trial. At the same time, it’s essential to the administration of justice and to the health of our industry for anyone with knowledge of possibly illegal activity to cooperate with law enforcement authorities. It is imperative that our sport is conducted fairly and with integrity.”

Meadowlands owner Jeff Gural has led the fight within the standardbred industry to combat cheating. He said Monday that Oakes and Marino had already been banned at the Meadowlands and that Surick and Dane would now be banned, as well.

“I think the FBI did a great job,” Gural said. “I commend them and the U.S. attorney for tackling this. I think it is a positive step forward. I think this will help. What I am hoping is that everybody joins forces and we get the feds to take this over. There’s no question we need federal intervention because the current system doesn’t work. Hopefully, this will get legislation in Congress over the finish line and the people who have been holding out to join in. That would be the best thing. Once the feds take over, I think they will do a good job.”

Crawford Farms, run by Michelle and Al Crawford, were not involved in the indictments and the Crawfords were quick to distance themselves from Navarro.

“We are disgusted,” Michelle Crawford said. “We spend all my free time running around advocating for horse care and horse health and aftercare, so I am disgusted. On the phone right now to line up truckers to get our horses out of that barn. We’re having problems reaching people but every one will be moved. They’ll be gone as soon as they can. We have other phenomenal trainers and the horses will be dispersed to them.”

“You meet Jorge Navarro and he talks about how he loves his horses and how he wants his son to get into the business, how he worked 15 hours a day,” said her husband, Al. “That’s the Jorge we knew. We would see him four or five times a year and that was when Shancelot raced. That’s your experience with the individual. You don’t really know him personally so what you get is what that person wants you to get, just like a Bernie Madoff. He seemed like a really nice person.”

On his Twitter feed, Surick describes himself as “self employed, entrepreneur, I try to train horses to run in circles really fast.”
CHEATING WILL STOP WITH HARSHER PENALTIES

by Dan Liebman

Thirty-six years ago, I was dispatched to cover the annual gathering of the Association of Racing Commissioners (now ARCI). I had been covering Thoroughbred racing and breeding full-time for all of about three months.

That night I found myself sitting at dinner with the head of a state testing lab.

“I listened to the session on uniform medication,” I told him. “Seems logical.”

“Never happen,” he said matter-of-factly. “Every state has its own racing commission. Every state has its own testing procedures. No one wants to let go of that.”

As the conversation progressed, I inquired about rumors regarding a “new” performance-enhancing drug said to have appeared on the scene.

“The problem is,” he said, “that by the time we do all the work to develop a test to detect a drug, the cheaters have already moved on to something else.”

So, when 27 people were indicted Monday by the United States District Court, Southern District of New York--including well-known trainers Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro--for administering illegal PEDs to Thoroughbreds, I was particularly struck by one part of the 44-page indictment.

On a phone call intercepted by authorities between Servis and veterinarian Kristian Rhein, the latter tells the trainer that Maximum Security would not test positive for the drug (said to be SGF-1,000). Why? Because, she said, “They don’t even have a test for it.”

The indictment alleges the trainers, veterinarians, drug compounders and distributors knowingly conspired to not only administer the drugs but mislabel them to hide their existence from regulators.

In a private conversation with a New York-based trainer many years ago, the subject of illegal drug use came up. This trainer, later inducted into racing’s Hall of Fame, made this brash and bold statement: “If there is no test for a drug, then it must be legal.”

Some words you just never forget, and those have haunted me ever since. So, as the lab chemist said, there will always be cheaters. And, as the trainer said, if there is no test for a drug, you are allowed to use it. Which rings true with the indictment, which alleges these trainers were determined to be cheaters, especially in light of the fact there is no test to catch them.

Factor in nefarious characters willing to manufacture and distribute designer drugs and you have the means by which the betting public is bamboozled and the industry has yet another swollen black eye to recover from.

The fact that champion Maximum Security is involved certainly brings more attention to the story, but those who handicap and wager regularly are just as concerned about the thousands of other races where PEDs were administered to horses by these trainers.

It doesn’t take a handicapper long to notice when a trainer starts winning more races, particularly with those just claimed and/or moving up in class. This writer has, for years, advocated for stronger penalties for those caught cheating. Why should a jockey found guilty of using a buzzer ever be allowed to ride again? Why should a trainer or veterinarian convicted of participating in a scheme to illegally drug horses and defraud the public ever be allowed to hold a license again?

Furthermore, also as advocated by this writer previously, the only way to curtail such behavior is for the penalties to also involve the horse. How about disqualification from purse monies and banned from racing again? How about being forbidden from becoming a stallion or broodmare?

If a jockey, trainer, or veterinarian thought their actions would not only cost them their livelihood but also cost the horse they train the chance to become a breeding animal, there surely would be less incentive to cheat.

How could any owner not be in favor of such penalties?

Sound too harsh? Not if you want the betting public--without whom there is no sport--to feel assured everything is on the up and up.

Not if you want to know you are part of an industry that rejects cheaters.

Not if you want Thoroughbred racing to survive.
Want to list your job?

Standard listing: $350
- One printed ad on this page (date of your choice)
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Multi listing: $300 each
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FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 8, 2020
NORTH AMERICAN-BASED STALLIONS

‘TDN Rising Star’ Donna Veloce (Uncle Mo) became her sire’s second new graded winner on the weekend in the Santa Ysabel S.

Benoit

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<td>ENGLISH CHANNEL (Smart Strike)</td>
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Italicized numbers indicate new activity

Interested in listing your information in future New SWs tables? Contact suefinley@thetdn.com

ONTARIO HBPA RELEASES STATEMENT ON CLENBUTEROL ABUSE

The HBPA of Ontario released a statement Monday speaking out against the abuse of clenbuterol, saying that it has passed a motion “supportive of stopping the abuse of the medication clenbuterol” and is requesting the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency and Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario “take immediate action thereupon.” The statement comes on the heels of Canadian Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse calling for a ban of the drug last week in the TDN.

The statement continued, “We feel that all owners and trainers deserve a level playing field and that bettors have the right to rely on the fairness of the races upon which they choose to wager. The HBPA of Ontario is committed to work with industry members, racetrack partners and regulators to identify and stop any abuse of our equine athletes. Please know that, in this current environment, it is of utmost importance that we all work together for the common good of our horses and our industry.”

BREEDERS’ CUP TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Tickets to the 2020 Breeders’ Cup World Championships at Keeneland Nov. 6-7 are now on sale to the general public. The Breeders’ Cup also announced that the 2020 event will incorporate several special elements and offerings, including expanded luxury seating spaces and an attendance cap of 45,000. To review seating options and purchase tickets online, fans can visit BreedersCup.com/Tickets now.

“We eagerly anticipate returning to Lexington for the 37th running of the Breeders’ Cup World Championships,” said Drew Fleming, President and CEO of Breeders’ Cup. “We look forward to unveiling this exemplary World Championships experience to longtime racing enthusiasts and new fans alike in November.”
CHURCHILL ANNOUNCES DERBY PARTNERSHIP 
WITH FORD

Churchill Downs has launched a five-year partnership with Ford Motor Company that would establish the brand as the official truck, SUV, car and van of the Kentucky Derby and Churchill Downs Racetrack.

“Ford is such a vital part of the Louisville community that this new partnership is a natural fit,” said Kevin Flanery, President of Churchill Downs Racetrack. “Ford vehicles power so much of our operations at Churchill Downs and many of our breeders rely on Ford Super Duty trucks to transport their precious cargo.”

The new 2020 Ford F-Series Super Duty, which recently began production at Kentucky Truck Plant, will serve as the featured vehicle of the 146th Kentucky Derby. Ford will host on-site activities throughout Derby week highlighting the Built Ford Proud lineup as well as provide a Ford Explorer to each Kentucky Oaks and Derby horse owner for use at Churchill Downs during the event.

“Our employees here in Louisville are proud to be building products that play an integral role in our customers' lives, and now for the great American tradition that is the Kentucky Derby,” said Joe Bobnar, Ford director of manufacturing for Louisville Assembly Plant and Kentucky Truck Plant. “This partnership means something special to our thousands of dedicated employees, retirees and dealers in the Louisville community.”

LTBA MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR MAR. 22

The 2020 Annual Membership Meeting of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association is set for Sunday Mar. 22 at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots in New Orleans, Louisiana. The annual meeting brings members together to celebrate the breeders and owners of outstanding accredited 2019 Louisiana-bred Thoroughbreds. The champions are chosen by a vote of the membership and are based on performance and breeding records for the 2019 year.

“The process of producing and training a champion race horse takes considerable resources,” said Roger Heitzmann, secretary treasurer for the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association. “Breeding a champion takes research and the right team to start, train and race the horse. We recognize the breeders, owners and businesses that are the lifeblood not only of our organization, but the Louisiana racing industry as well.”

Sunday, Gavea, Brazil
GRANDE PREMIO DIANA-G1, BRZ$134,640 (US$28,498), Gavea, 3-8, 3yo, f, 2000mT, 2:00.38, fm.
1--MAIS QUE BONITA (BRZ), 125, f, 3, Agnes Gold (Jpn)
1st Dam: Feia Que Doi (Brz), by Scat Daddy
2nd Dam: Jorley, by More Than Ready
3rd Dam: First Flyer, by Riverman
2--Helquis (Brz), 125, f, 3, Wild Event--Belquis, by Exchange Rate. O/B-Haras Santa Maria de Araras (Brz); T-C. Oliveira.
3--Tanganyka (Brz), 125, f, 3, Midshipman--Tasmania (Brz), by Romarin (Brz). O/B-Carlos dos Santos (Brz); T-C. Morgado Neto.
Margins: 1HF, 3/4, 2 3/4. Odds: 7.40, 9.80, 5.00. Also Ran: Bavaro Beach (Brz), Notavel (Brz), Hector Gold (Brz), Capitoao Barbosa (Brz), Amor Total (Brz), Caribeian (Brz), Blood Father (Brz), Norgaard (Brz), Hamburger (Brz), Hall Pass (Brz), Principe Daniel (Brz), Madison (Brz). Click for the JCB Gavea chart or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

Sunday, Gavea, Brazil
GRANDE PREMIO FRANCISCO EDUARDO DE PAULA MACHADO-G1, BRZ$112,200 (US$23,748), Gavea, 3-8, 3yo, c, 2000mT, 1:59.83, fm.
1--OLYMPIC JOLTEON (BRZ), 125, c, 3, Elmustanser (GB)
1st Dam: Olympic Special, by North Light (Ire)
2nd Dam: Naughty Mambo, by Kingmambo
3rd Dam: Naughty Notions, by Relaunch
1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. 1ST GROUP WIN. 1ST GROUP 1 WIN. O/B-Haras Regina (Brz); T-Roberto Solanes; J-Wilkley Xavier. Lifetime Record: 8-2-2-1. Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.
2--Vacheron (Brz), 125, c, 3, Agnes Gold (Jpn)--Great Love (Brz), by Ori Normand. O/B-Fazenda Mondesir (Brz); T-C. Morgado Neto.
Margins: 1HF, 2, 1HF. Odds: 2.30, 7.80, 6.70. Also Ran: Garrucha Lerap (Brz), Quick’N Easy (Brz), Kapalua (Brz), North Bound (Brz), Qaqui (Brz), Olympic Justice (Brz), Queen of Rio (Brz), Hang Loose (Brz), Hacienda (Brz), Que Bacana (Brz), Happy To Be Me (Brz). Click for the JCB Gavea chart or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.
IN ORDER OF PURSE:
5th-Parx Racing, $47,230, Msw, 3-9, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12.27, ft.
MABEL ISLAND (f, 3, Mission Impazible--Catalina Island, by Belong to Me) tired to fifth after contesting the early pace in her 6 1/2-furlong debut versus $40,000 maiden claimers at this oval Jan. 21. The 9-2 shot zipped out to the early lead and was clear through fractions of :22.17 and :45.91. Five lengths in front in upper stretch, the chestnut filly was never challenged and won by 4 1/2 lengths. Favored Arima (Colonel John) was second.
Sales history: $15,000 Ylg ’18 OBSWIN; $20,000 2yo ‘19 EASMAY. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $28,050.
O-Perez Stables LLC; B-Sequel Stallions New York, Twin Creeks & Eisaman Farms NY, LLC (NY); T-Carlos Soto.

IN JAPAN:
Cosmo Ku, c, 3, Declaration of War--Memories for Us, by Street Cry (Ire). Chukyo, 3-8, Novice Race, 10fT. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-1, $68,421. O-Shigeyuki Okada; B-Robert Nataf, Joe Allen & Tim Thornton (KY); T-Hiroyuki Uehara. *$20,000 Wlg ‘17 KEENOV; €35,000 Ylg ‘18 GOFOCT. **He traveled comfortably, and the distance at Chukyo was very suitable for him,” said winning jockey Hiroto Mayuzumi.

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: TUESDAY, MAR. 10
Bourbon Courage (Lion Heart), Anchor & Hope Farm, $5,000 93 foals of racing age/11 winners/1 black-type winner
5-Parx Racing, Msw 6f, UNCOMMON VALOR, 10-1
$1,000 RNA FTK FEB wnl; $7,000 EAS OCT yrl; $18,000 EAS MAY 2yo

Golden Lad (Medaglia d’Oro), Northview Stallion Station, $5,000 124 foals of racing age/11 winners/2 black-type winners
5-Parx Racing, Msw 6f, BRILLIANT CHASE, 7-2
$15,000 EAS MAY 2yo
9-Parx Racing, Alw 6f, CINNABUNNY, 9-2

IN JAPAN:
Cosmo Ku, c, 3, Declaration of War--Memories for Us, by Street Cry (Ire). Chukyo, 3-8, Novice Race, 10fT. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-1, $68,421. O-Shigeyuki Okada; B-Robert Nataf, Joe Allen & Tim Thornton (KY); T-Hiroyuki Uehara. *$20,000 Wlg ‘17 KEENOV; €35,000 Ylg ‘18 GOFOCT. **He traveled comfortably, and the distance at Chukyo was very suitable for him,” said winning jockey Hiroto Mayuzumi.
### UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Track</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>GI Beholder Mile S.</td>
<td>Santa Anita</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GII Rebel S.</td>
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<td>GII Azeri S.</td>
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<td>GII Hurricane Bertie S.</td>
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<td>GIII San Simeon S.</td>
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<td>GII Jeff Ruby Steaks</td>
<td>Turfway</td>
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<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>GII TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby</td>
<td>Fair Grounds</td>
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<td>GII TwinSpires.com Fair Grounds Oaks</td>
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<td>GII Muniz Memorial Classic</td>
<td>Fair Grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GII New Orleans Classic</td>
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<td>GII San Luis Rey S.</td>
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<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td>GII Sunland Derby</td>
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<td>Mar. 27</td>
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<td>GII Hal's Hope S.</td>
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<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>GI Curlin Florida Derby</td>
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<td>GI Gulfstream Park Oaks</td>
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<td>GI Pan American Kitten's Joy S.</td>
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<td>GII Orchid S.</td>
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<td>Apr. 3</td>
<td>GII Distaff H.</td>
<td>Aqueduct</td>
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<td>GIII Transylvania S.</td>
<td>Keeneland</td>
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### ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**9th-Mahoning Valley, $23,500**, 3-9, (NW2L), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:13.08, ft.

**BAD KARMA**, f, 3, Gemologist--Karma Police (SW, $174,557), by Consolidator Lifetime Record: 8-2-0-1, $33,605. O-Joel F. Mascher; B-Atlas Farm LLC & Conor Doyle (KY); T-Candace M. Huffman.

**4th-Mahoning Valley, $23,500**, 3-9, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:40.35, ft.

**HEATHERFROMPHOENIX**, m, 5, San Pablo--Lisbonvale, by Archers Bay) Lifetime Record: 28-8-5-3, $78,938. O-Urjeta’s Racing Stable; B-Dan Bearden (KY); T-Johanna Urieta.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Pink Halder**, f, 4, Kentucky Dane--Tsurugaoka Matsuri (Jpn), by Jade Robbery. Mahoning Valley, 3-9, (S), 6f, 1:16.35. B-Joseph A. McFadden Jr. & Melody Fewster (OH). *1/2 to Mikoshi (Orientate), MSP, $270,204.
MONTJEU'S LEGACY SHINES ON AT CHELTENHAM & BEYOND

Montjeu’s grandson Tiger Roll at Cheltenham this week with Kevin Donoghue | Racing Post

By Emma Berry

There are few areas in which any stallion can topple Galileo (Ire). It was only last year, however, that the champion sire drew level with his erstwhile studmate Montjeu (Ire) by number of Derby winners. The two sons of Sadler’s Wells now have four apiece—and one Derby-winning paternal grandson each—but Montjeu was much quicker off the mark in this field and, following his death in 2012, he has not been represented by Classic-generation runners at Epsom in the last three years.

As the Cheltenham Festival begins its four-day run today, there will doubtless be a number of examples throughout the week which prove that it is a fine line that runs between decent middle-distance performers on the Flat and top-class National Hunt prospects.

Almost inevitably, Montjeu has augmented his Classic record by compiling a pretty noteworthy legacy over jumps. His own best representative in this regard has been Hurricane Fly (Ire), a listed winner on the level in France whose phenomenal record over hurdles includes two Champion Hurdle titles among his 22 Grade 1 victories. Montjeu has also been represented at the Cheltenham Festival by the G2 Jewson Novices' Chase winner Noble Prince (Ire), himself a former decent Flat horse in France for Andre Fabre, and G1 JCB Triumph Hurdle winner Ivanovich Gorbatov (Ire). Cont. p2

CHELTENHAM TO PROCEED AS PLANNED

Officials at Cheltenham on Monday said it was "full steam ahead" for the start of the Festival on Tuesday. While confirmed cases of coronavirus in Britain now total over 300, a meeting on Monday between sports governing bodies with broadcasters and government officials to discuss contingency planning concluded that based on the "current scientific advice" there were no reasons to cancel sporting events "as things stand".

Cheltenham clerk of the course Simon Claisse said, "Of course these things happen, but we do our bit for the public as a responsible business. We've been getting some positive signals from Government over the last week or so, and that was all confirmed this morning at the meeting.

"It's full steam ahead, with appropriate measures to reassure people—the likes of hand gels and notices to remember to wash your hands." Cont. p4

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

SERVIS, NAVARRO FACE FEDERAL INDICTMENT IN DOPING SCHEME

Twenty-seven veterinarians and trainers, including Jason Servis and Jorge Navarro, face a federal indictment for a doping scheme. Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.

AUGUST YEARLING SALE
15-17 AUGUST / DEAUVILLE

CONTACT: technique@arqana.com - +33 (0)2 31 81 81 00 www.arqana.com

TDN EUROPE
TUESDAY, MARCH 10 2020

41 BOOK 1 YEARLINGS SOLD FOR 1 MILLION GNS+ IN THE LAST THREE YEARS
TATTERSALLS OCTOBER YEARLING SALE
Nominations Close 23rd March
Montjeu’s Legacy Cont. from p1

But it as a grandsire that Montjeu is now most prevalent in the jumps sphere, with at least 12 active stallion sons to his name, either at dedicated National Hunt studs or standing as dual-purpose sires. Of these, it is perhaps Authorized (Ire), the second of Montjeu’s Derby winners, who has made the most noise of late, and his rising appeal to jumps breeders makes it all the more mystifying that he left France for Turkey before the start of this covering season.

Authorized is of course the sire of the darling of the National Hunt world, the extraordinary Tiger Roll (Ire). The little gelding first came to prominence when winning the Triumph Hurdle for Gigginstown House Stud in 2014 and he has only missed the Cheltenham Festival in one year since then. Tiger Roll has won the last two runnings of the Glenfarclas Chase as well as the National Hunt Challenge Cup, and he will return to Prestbury Park on Thursday in a bid to secure his hat-trick over the cross-country fences in a warm-up for an even bigger three-timer in the Grand National next month.

The G1 Stayers’ Hurdle winner Nichols Canyon (Ire), who was also third in the 2016 Champion Hurdle, was another classy jumper for Authorized, who has a great chance of extending his Cheltenham roll of honour this year via Goshen (Fr), who is currently vying for favouritism in Friday’s Triumph Hurdle. This juvenile contest has been a happy hunting ground for horses from the Montjeu line in recent years, with four of the last six runnings falling to the aforementioned Tiger Roll and Ivanovich Gorbatov, as well as Farclas (Fr) and Pentland Hills (Ire), respectively by Montjeu’s sons Jukebox Jury (Ire) and Motivator (GB). The latter will be back at Cheltenham on the opening day as one of the leading lights for the Champion Hurdle.

Motivator and Walk In The Park (Ire), members of Montjeu’s first crop, ran first and second in the Derby and while the former has stood at first the Royal Studs then Haras du Quesnay and will always be primarily associated with the brilliant dual Arc winner Treve (Fr), Walk In The Park has earned his reputation in a harder fashion. He retired to France’s Haras du Val Raquet, covering small books of mares at a fee ranging from €1,500 to €3,000. Once the great Douvan (Fr) arrived at Willie Mullins’s yard from France, however, the picture changed considerably. Douvan’s eight Grade 1 wins at Cheltenham, Aintree, Leopardstown and Punchestown, and the emergence of the classy Min (Fr), saw Walk In The Park repatriated to Ireland’s Grange Stud, where he has attracted three-figure books since 2016 with last year’s tally standing at 234 mares. The five-time Grade 1 winner Min is set to line up on Thursday as one of the favourites for the G1 Ryanair Chase, which also features recent G1 Ascot Chase winner Riders On the Storm (Ire), by Montjeu’s son Scorpion (Ire), whose best runner is the enigmatic Might Bite (Ire). Cont. p3
Montjeu’s Legacy Cont.

One grandson of Montjeu who could feature prominently in the opening race of the Festival, the G1 Supreme Novices’ Hurdle, is Abracadabras (Fr), a son of Davidoff (Ger), who also has Vivas (Fr) running in the G3 Ultima Handicap Chase on Tuesday. A Group 3 winner in Germany, Davidoff’s death at the age of 14, just after he had moved to Haras de Saint Arnoult from Haras de la Kammerholz, could come to be seen as a blow for the National Hunt industry as he has some interesting prospects emerging.

Similar may well be said of the high-class galloper Fame And Glory (GB), who died a year before Davidoff at the age of just 11 after five seasons at stud.

Montjeu’s third Derby winner Pour Moi (Ire) served five years at Coolmore’s main Flat base before being transferred to Grange Stud in 2017, the year his son Wings Of Eagles (Fr) emulated him at Epsom. Pour Moi has moved on again, to one of France’s premier jumps studs, Haras de Cercy, while Wings Of Eagles is now at Beeches Stud in Ireland having stood just one season in France at his birthplace, Haras de Montaigu. It is too early to judge Pour Moi on his jumping stock but he does have two runners, Clemencia (Ire) and Repetitio (Ire) in Wednesday’s Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle.

We can also expect to hear more from Haras d’Etireham’s Masked Marvel (GB) in the years to come. The winner of the St Leger for Bjorn Neilsen, he later spent several seasons in Australia running for Lloyd Williams before returning for a stud career in Europe. In the meantime, his half-sister Waldlerche (GB) (Monsun {Ger}) has given the family a tremendous boost, primarily through the exploits of her Arc-winning son Waldgeist (GB). Cont. p4
Montjeu’s Legacy Cont.

With Masked Marvel’s first crop now 4-year-olds, his sole winner in the UK is Maskada (Fr) but he has representatives with a number of France’s leading jumps trainers, including Guillaume Macaire, Francois Nicolle and David Cottin.

Another St Leger winner, Leading Light (Ire), who went on to claim the following year’s Gold Cup, retired to Grange Stud in the same year as Masked Marvel returned to France. He will be another young Montjeu stallion to keep an eye on, along with Haras de la Croix Sonnet resident Walzertakt (Ger), whose first crop are now 2-year-olds.

Camelot (GB) is of course very firmly on Coolmore’s Flat roster, but he has already has the distinction of having sired the quinella in last year’s G1 Spring Juvenile hurdles at Leopardstown, won by Sir Erec (Ire) from Gardens Of Babylon (Ire), both trained by Camelot’s former rider Joseph O’Brien. In fact, the first four home that day were all grandsons of Montjeu.

The late, great Montjeu may be gone, but he most certainly has not been forgotten.

STUDY OF MAN GETS FIRST MARES IN FOAL

Seven of the first eight mares covered by French Classic winner and first-season sire Study of Man (Ire) (Deep Impact {Jpn}) are in foal, Lanwades Stud announced on Monday. The bay, a homebred for the Niarchos family’s Flaxman Stables, stands for €15,000 in 2020. The stud is supporting the young stallion and already has the following Lanwades mares in foal to the G1 Prix du Jockey Club hero: German Group 1 winner Lady Jane Digby (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), Almiranta (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) and her three daughters, French Group 3 winner Alea Iacta (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Alyssa (GB) (Sir Percy {GB}), a winner at Group 2 level in England, and Listed Height of Fashion S.

TWO DOZEN LOTS CATALOGUED FOR CHELTENHAM SALE

Thursday’s Tattersalls Cheltenham Festival Sale, featuring National Hunt horses-in-training and point-to-pointers, has attracted 24 lots, as the catalogue was released on Monday. Among the two dozen set to go under the hammer in the winner’s enclosure on Thursday from 6:15 p.m. local time are lot 18, Indigo Breeze (Fr) (Martaline {GB}), a gelded half-brother to Grade 1-winning hurdler Brindisi Breeze (Ire) (King’s Theatre {Ire}) consigned by Maizey Manor Farm; and Monbeg Stables’ Killer Kane (Ire) (Oscar {Ire}) (lot 21), who is a half to MG1SW jumper Go Native (Ire) (Double Eclipse {Ire}).
Cheltenham Festival Sale Cont.
The former scored in an Alnwick point-to-point when unveiled Mar. 8, while the latter saluted at first asking in a point-to-point at Ballycahane on Saturday. Horses may be viewed Mar. 11 beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the RDA Stable Yard and on Mar. 12 from 8:30 a.m. there and in the pre-parade ring from 5:50 p.m.

TESSA GREATREX APPOINTED TO ARQANA OVERSEAS TEAM

Tessa Greatrex of Highflyer Bloodstock has joined the Arqana Overseas Representative Team and will be based in England with a focus on National Hunt racing. Formerly with Goldford Stud and then Stateside with Jonathan Sheppard and Leo O’Brien, Greatrex also worked for trainer Nicky Henderson in the past and has 15 years of experience as a bloodstock agent. A member of the TBA National Hunt Committee, Greatrex was an amateur jockey and also participated in eventing.

“I am delighted to be joining the Arqana team and am very much looking forward to this opportunity in helping expand Arqana sales to the racing and breeding professionals from UK,” said Greatrex.

Added Arqana Executive Director Freddy Powell, “It is a great pleasure to welcome Tessa to our overseas team. She brings with her a vast network and knowledge of the jumping discipline. She will be responsible for facilitating access to the Arqana sales for English professionals and investors in the National Hunt sphere.”

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Note Bleu (GB), c, 3, Camelot (GB)--Silent Music (Ire), by Peintre Celebre. Kempton, 3-9, 8f (AWT), 1:42.92. B-Chris Stedman (GB). *8,000gns RNA Ylg ’18 TAOCT.
The First King (Ire), g, 3, War Command--Rochitta, by Arch. Wolverhampton, 3-9, 9f 104y (AWT), 1:59.84. B-Nesco II (IRE). *45,000gns Ylg ’18 TAOCT.

Monday’s Results:
PRIX MAURICE CAILLAULT-Listed, €55,000, Chantilly, 3-9, 3yo, c/g, 9f (AWT), 1:50.30, st.
1--WALTHAM (Fr), 125, c, 3, by Wootton Bassett (GB)
1st Dam: Baki (Fr), by Turtle Bowl (Ire)
2nd Dam: Benzolina (Ire), by Second Empire (Ire)
3rd Dam: Balouchina (Ire), by Rainbow Quest
1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. (€110,000 Ylg ’18 ARAUG; €110,000 RNA 2yo ’19 ARQMAY). O-Mme Marie-Therese Dubuc-Grassa
& M Horse Racing; B-François Rohaut (FR); T-Christophe Ferland; J-Christophe Soumillon. €27,500. Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, €50,100.

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2--_Mfkancy (Fr),_ 129, c, 3, Makfi (GB)--Fancy Green (Fr), by Muhtathir (GB). O-Abdullah Al Maddah. €11,000.

3--_Chachnak (Fr),_ 125, c, 3, _Kingman (GB)--Tamazirte (Ire),_ by Danehill Dancer (Ire). (€95,000 RNA Ylg ’18 AROCT). O-Ecurie La Vallee Martigny EARL & Ecurie des Mouettes. €8,250.

Margins: 1, 1HF, 3. Odds: 1.00, 1.60, 15.00.

Also Ran: Superhon (Ire), Nobody’s (Fr), Piet (Fr).

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Waltham, who suffered his lone defeat when an Oct. 14 debut second going one mile at Toulouse, broke through tackling nine furlongs at Lyon La Soie Nov. 21 and came back this term to double up stretching out to 10 furlongs at Pau last time Jan. 19. Settled behind all five rivals from the outset of this black-type bow, he made eye-catching headway in the straight to challenge on the bridle entering the final eighth and cruised to the line in hand to easily dispose of G1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud victor _Mfkancy (Fr) (Makfi {GB})_ for a career high.

“He won very nicely at Pau, but we didn’t know what to make of the form as it was quite a weak race,” explained trainer Christophe Ferland. “To get a better handle on his ability, we booked Christophe Soumillon to replace Julien Auge as he has a wealth of experience riding top horses. I wanted to hear what he had to say and what he told me was very positive. We’ll now step Waltham up to Group 3 company and then go to the [May 31 G1] Prix du Jockey Club.”

Waltham, who hails from a family featuring MG1SW sire Anabaa (Danzig) and G1 Poule d’Essai des Pouliches heroine Always Loyal (Zilzal), is the first foal produced by a winning half-sister to stakes-winning G1 Poule d’Essai des Pouliches second Baine (Fr) (Country Reel), stakes-winning G3 Prix Andre Baboin third Bassamba (Fr) (American Post {GB}) and Listed Prix Urban Sea victress Wajnah (Fr) (Redoute’s Choice {Aus}). The February-foaled bay is kin to the unraced 2-year-old colt King Shalaa (Fr) (Shalaa {Ire}) and a yearling colt by The Grey Gatsby (Ire). Click for the Racing Post result. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

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CONDITIONS RESULTS:

4th-Toulouse, €30,000, Cond, 3-9, 3yo, 6fT, 1:20.80, hy.

_MUTUAL (FR) (g, 3, _Lope de Vega (Ire)--Tautou Montjeu (Ire),_ by Montjeu {Ire})_ Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, €29,400. O-Prime Equestrian SARL; B-Ecurie des Monceaux & Qatar Bloodstock Ltd (FR); T-Christophe Ferland. *€80,000 Ylg ’18 ARAUG.

4th-Chantilly, €20,000, Cond, 3-9, 4yo/up, 6 1/2fT, 1:17.45, st.

_PARIGOTE (FR) (m, 5, _Dream Ahead--La Bastoche (Ire),_ by Kaldoun (Fr))_ Lifetime Record: 38-4-2-5, €107,100. O-Mlle Micheline Vidal; B-Ecurie Haras du Cadran, Ecurie Patrick Klein & Jean-Louis Burgat (FR); T-Robert Collet. *€11,000 Ylg ’16 ARAUG. **1/2 to Mariol (Fr) (Munir {GB}), MGSW & G1SP-Fr, GSP-Ger, $776,596.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

_Tilsitt (Fr), c, 3, _Charm Spirit (Ire)--Azores (Ire),_ by Danehill Dancer (Ire). Toulouse, 3-9, 8fT, 1:49.20. B-Ecurie des Monceaux (FR). €110,000 Ylg ’18 AROCT.
Cumulative Lifetime Active Sire List by Black-Type Horses
for stallions standing in Europe through Sunday, Mar. 8
Earnings represent worldwide figures, stud fees listed are 2020 fees.

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GROUP 1 WINNER BOOKED FOR CHAIRMAN’S SALE

By TDN AusNZ

Booker (Written Tycoon) is the latest high-profile mare to be added to the Inglis Chairman’s Sale catalogue with the G1 Oakleigh Plate winner to be auctioned to dissolve a racing partnership.

The 5-year-old will join fellow top-flight winners In Her Time (Time Thief) and Unforgotten (Fastnet Rock) in the sale and in the meantime will campaign through the autumn for Sydney trainer Gerald Ryan in the famous Northwood colours of Victorian owners Barrie and Midge Griffiths.

They raced 1989 G1 Melbourne Cup winner Tawriffic (Tawfiq {USA}), 1992 G1 Caulfield Cup winner Mannerism (Amyntor {Fr}) and 1994 G1 Thousand Guineas winner Northwood Plume (Military Plume {NZ}).

“I’ve always bought and raced fillies and I think of the 13 Group 1 winners Midge and I have had, which I think 12 of which were fillies, she’s probably the nicest type we’ve had,” Barrie Griffiths said. “Mannerism and the others were good sorts, but Booker is just outstanding. ”

Booker was purchased by Barrie Griffiths for $230,000 at the 2016 Inglis Premier Sale out of the draft of Mill Park Stud.

“I’m good friends with her co-breeder Bill Rigg and as soon as I saw her I wasn’t going to miss her, she was athletic and just so powerful. People will only have to look at her now and see how well she’s constructed.

“I went way beyond my normal price bracket to secure her because I thought so much of her in terms of her physique. It’s been both satisfying and a thrill for Booker to fulfil her Group 1 looks on the track.”

Booker is a daughter of Noondie (Flying Spur), who sold for $600,000 to Mitchell Bloodstock at last year’s Chairman’s Sale, and is a sister to the Listed Springtime S. winner and G2 Autumn S, runner-up Banquo.

A winner over 1100 metres on debut at Flemington as a 2-year-old for Mathew Ellerton and Simon Zahra, when she defeated subsequent Group 2 winner and Group 1-performer I’ll Have A Bit (Smart Missile), Booker then ran second in the G3 National S. at her only other juvenile start. The following season she beat Shoals (Fastnet Rock) and Catchy (Fastnet Rock) in the G2 Thousand Guineas Prelude, and finished a close second to champion sprinter Merchant Navy (Fastnet Rock) in the G3 McNeil S. Her career best came as a 4-year-old when she won the G1 Oakleigh Plate and has earned more than $850,000.

Booker was transferred to the Rosehill stables of Gerald Ryan earlier this year to concentrate on a Sydney Autumn Carnival campaign.

“She’s a lovely mare, really strong, sound and correct,” Ryan said. “She won a trial at Rosehill in great fashion, but we will see what the weather does before deciding on where we target her.

“It’s likely to be the G1 TJ Smith at Randwick or the G3 Star Kingdom S. a week earlier at Rosehill.”

Griffiths said Booker’s move to Sydney was in order to give breeders and agents a chance to see her before she’s offered at Riverside Stables on the evening of May 8.
“I will be sad to see her go. If I was a breeder I would never sell her, but we race fillies and the other owners aren’t breeders either so now that she’s rising six, it’s an ideal time to offer her unreserved to the marketplace.

“She has the right pedigree and Group 1 results to be a success at stud, plus her 3-year-old brother Banquo is already a stakes winner and looks to have an exciting future with Danny O’Brien.”

The sale will also include mares in foal to I Am Invincible, Not A Single Doubt, Zoustar, Justify (USA), The Autumn Sun, Trapeze Artist, Kingman (GB) and Lope De Vega (Ire).