TDN EUROPE

WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2020

FRENCH LEADERS HAVE "POSITIVE" MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT

The Chantilly training grounds in mid-March | *Scoop Dyga*

By Kelsey Riley

French racing officials remain hopeful that racing in that country could resume behind closed doors on May 11 after a meeting with government officials on Tuesday that France Galop Chief Executive Officer Olivier Delloye described as "positive."

Among those in attendance at the meeting with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture were France Galop President Edouard de Rothschild; Bertrand Meheut and Cyril Linette, chairman and director general, respectively, of the PMU and Jean-Pierre Barjon, President of LeTROT, the governing body of trot racing.

"It was a positive meeting as far as we are concerned," Delloye said. "We had pretty positive feedback from the ministers regarding racing's resumption mid-May. We are targetting May 11; that hasn't been approved by the government at this stage, but they're not saying no. They will probably be supportive of our willingness to resume racing on May 11, and it will probably be in the hands of the Prime Minister's team who is in charge of the conditions of how the country is going to get out from this quarantine."

Cont. p2

FLOWER OF SCOTLAND STILL BLOOMING

By Emma Berry

The story of **Attraction (GB)** (Efisio {GB}) is one that gives all breeders hope. The crooked-legged filly who was too poorly conformed to go to the sales grew up to be a Classic heroine, her untidy gait propelling her through an unbeaten juvenile season and on through Newmarket's famous Dip to win the G1 1000 Guineas. And she didn't stop there.

On The Curragh, Attraction added a second Guineas title to her extraordinary winning stretch, and then a crowning in front of Her Majesty the Queen in the G1 Coronation S. at Royal Ascot. The Group 1 haul continued, with the Sun Chariot S. at the end of her 3-year-old season, and one last hurrah at Leopardstown to claim the G1 Matron S. at four. What a filly.

Though trained in Yorkshire by Mark Johnston, Attraction was, like her trainer, made in Scotland.

Cont. p2

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

CE CE EXTENDS 'MAGICAL' HIRSCH LEGACY

Chris McGrath investigates the breeding background of GI Apple Blossom victress Ce Ce (Elusive Quality). **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.**

French Leaders Have "Positive" Meeting With Government

Cont. from p1

Delloye said he is hopeful that a concrete plan for racing's resumption and a new calendar can be unveiled on Wednesday, with backup plans waiting in the wings.

"We have to be really flexible and ready to adjust our plans if there is any news that would be in contradiction with what we have initially planned," he said. "We're assuming we'll be able to race as of May 11 at all our major racetracks in France, yet if it proves to be a major problem to resume racing in bigger cities like Paris, we'll have to relocate some fixtures to other racecourses. There is Plan A, and then we have some B, C and D plans that we won't necessarily disclose to everyone because it could become confusing, but they're ready in case they're needed."

Share this story

Flower Of Scotland Still Blooming

Cont. from p1

She gave her owner-breeder the Duke of Roxburghe much cause for celebration throughout her racing career and then made a triumphant return to his Floors Stud just outside Kelso.

Guy Innes-Ker, the 10th Duke of Roxburghe, died last August but his equine pride and joy is still a mainstay of his breeding operation. Now 19, Attraction traditionally spends most of the year at Floors before heading to Luca and Sara Cumani's Fittocks Stud near Newmarket to be foaled. Last week she delivered her 13th foal, a Dubawi (Ire) colt, on Apr. 13.

"She's absolutely fantastic, a stunner really," says Sara Cumani of her annual visitor. "She was not only a great racehorse but she also hasn't done badly at all as a broodmare. To be at the age she is and have the number of foals she has had is fantastic. And the quality of foals too--they all weigh an absolute ton."

Attraction and her Dubawi colt, born Apr. 13 | *Courtesy Fittocks Stud*

IRISH-BRED EMOJI CHALLENGE
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Many thanks to Cathy Grassick for coordinating this competition
WORKING TOGETHER FOR IRISH BREEDERS

In 14 years at stud, Attraction has had just one season when she wasn't covered, in 2014. Her offspring are led, in both ability and sales price, by Elarqam (GB) (Frankel {GB}), her eighth foal and winner of the G2 York S. for Sheikh Hamdan, who bought him as a yearling for 1.6 million gns. Elarqam's five wins also include the G3 Tattersalls S. and two listed contests and, now five, he too is trained by Johnston.

Fountain Of Youth (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB}), a 420,000gns yearling purchase by Demi O'Byrne, won the G3 Sapphire S. and now stands at Bearstone Stud. Attraction's sole mating with Galileo (Ire) produced the GIII Violet S. runner-up Cushion (GB), who foaled a Dubawi colt last year and has a 3-year-old colt, Bright Idea (Ire) (Zoffany {Ire}), in training with Joseph O'Brien. Another son, Neoattraction (GB) (Montjeu {Ire}), was bought by JS Company as a yearling and was exported to Japan, where he stood at Arrow Stud for a time.

Cumani says, "Attraction's feet have always been something that we have had to look after very carefully especially when she's heavy, but she's a star and she really does seem to do it so professionally when she's producing her foals."

Of this year's foal, who weighed in at 64kg, she adds, "I wouldn't say he's a typical Dubawi but he's a typical Attraction. He's good, strong, well made--couldn't be nicer. I just hope he's really lucky for the duchess and the family and gives them all encouragement to keep going." Cont. p3

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IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

STAR OFFERINGS AT UPCOMING SALES

Star Thoroughbreds will offer Invincibella (Aus) (I Am Invincible {Aus}) and Noire (Aus) (Foxwedge {Aus} at upcoming Oz broodmare sales. **Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.**

Flower Of Scotland Still Blooming Cont.

Floors Stud has sent seven mares to Fittocks this foaling season, including **Titivation (GB)** (Montjeu {Ire}), a half-sister to Attraction and the dam of listed winner Titi Makfi (GB) (Makfi {GB}), who is visiting Frankel (GB).

"They send their mares down roughly two months before foaling and then they stay with us until they're about 42 days in foal," says Cumani. "**Fusion**, another half-sister, had a nice Siyouni foal the night before Attraction foaled."

Attraction's offspring have been a highlight of the Floors Stud drafts during the Tattersalls October Yearling Sales over the years, with two selling in excess of a million gns and another four bringing six-figure returns.

Cumani admits to a soft spot for the mare's current 3-year-old Motion (GB), a daughter of Invincible Spirit (Ire) who was retained by the Duke of Roxburghe. She says, "She was an absolute stunner. It was just one of those lightbulb moments when she was born, she was up and on her feet instantly and was just completely beautiful. She's now in training with Mark Johnston and we're all hoping that Mark [who was diagnosed with COVID-19 last week] gets better soon."

As for Attraction, her next outing will be a return to Banstead Manor Stud to visit Kingman (GB) for the first time.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

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OSARUS TO STAGE BREEZE-UP ONLINE

Scoop Dyga photo

Osarus will stage its breeze-up sale online, with the date to be confirmed later depending on the resumption of racing in France. **Cont. p4**

Osarus Cont.

The sale was originally slated for Apr. 8 and 9 but postponed indefinitely with the country in lockdown due to COVID-19.

A statement from the sales company said its aim is to schedule the sale between the third week in May and the first week in June. The sale will be streamed live with *France Sire*, with bidding available online or by phone and with the auctioneer present at the rostrum to sell each lot. Breeze videos, photos and vet files will be available on the Osarus website about 10 days before the sale.

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YORK MULLING OPTIONS FOR SUMMER MEETINGS

Officials at York are considering all options as to how the season will proceed in light of the coronavirus crisis. The track called off next month's Dante Festival last week when the British Horseracing Authority announced an extension to the suspension of racing, with spectators ruled out until June even if action has resumed.

The BHA has outlined a phased return when the Government says it is safe to do so, with plans in place for racing behind closed doors on the Flat as soon as that becomes the case, although the first four Classics of the season--the 1000 and 2000 Guineas, Oaks and Derby--are on hold until dates yet to be determined.

York's showpiece Ebor Festival is not due to be kick off until Aug. 19, with the popular John Smith's Cup meeting and the Music Showcase Weekend also scheduled in July.

York Racecourse Chief Executive William Derby underlined that while meetings with crowds would obviously be the ideal, alternative scenarios will be considered in due course, with safety paramount in the planning process.

He said, "All options are open--our preference is to be able to race in front of crowd, but the priority is the safety of everyone. The world could look very different in August and no one really knows what will happen.

"The Dante Festival was called off when the British Horseracing Authority announced there would be no racing in front of crowds until the end of May. Combined with the fact the Dante and the Musidora are tied in with the Derby and Oaks as trials, the decision was made.

"The Ebor is our flagship race and with three Group 1 across the meeting, we are very much aware of our importance to the industry. We are just looking to keep our options and thinking open about what the situation might be in August, but safety is the priority."

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GALWAY SUMMER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD WITHOUT SPECTATORS

Following the news that mass gatherings of over 5,000 people have been banned in Ireland until Sept. 1, the 2020 Galway Races Summer Festival, provisionally scheduled for July 27-Aug. 2, will be held without spectators due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Galway Race Committee announced on Tuesday. As it currently stands, the meeting will be conducted in accordance with Irish government policy and with the approval of Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) and the Irish Horse Racing Regulatory Board. This spectatorless scenario is currently being worked on, and an update will be provided when possible. All customers who have already paid for tickets and corporate hospitality will be refunded by Galway Racecourse and Lydon House Catering, as a full refund policy is now in effect.

Share this story

This colt, born Mar. 17th, is a full-brother to last year's dual Group 2-winning 2-year-old Threat (Ire) (Footstepsinthesand {GB}). His dam, Flare of Firelight (Birdstone), visits Frankel (GB) this season.

Juddmonte Farms

FERLAND LOOKING TO MAINTAIN STRIKE RATE *By Sean Cronin*

Christophe Ferland, who is based at La Teste de Buch near Bordeaux in the South-West of France, was one of a clutch of trainers to hit the ground running before the pandemic-enforced halt to proceedings in March. His 17 victories and 33 places from just 74 runners during the prologue is an impressive strike rate and good enough, as things stand, for fifth position in the French trainers' championship.

"It was an excellent start to the year; we had 17 winners and 33 horses placed, which is a great [strike] rate," Ferland said.

Cont. p5

Christophe Ferland | *Scoop Dyga*

Ferland Cont.

"We had the horses in fantastic form and it looked like I had a little edge over some of my colleagues at that stage. It's slightly frustrating to have been stopped in the way we were, but now the cards are redistributed and we start all over again."

Leading the way pre-furlough, for the conditioner of G1 Prix Morny and G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere-winning sire Dabirsim (Fr) (Hat Trick {Jpn}) and G1 Prix Marcel Boussac heroine Indonesienne (Ire) (Muhtathir {GB}), was 3-year-old colt **Waltham (Fr)** (Wootton Bassett {GB}). He was an impressive winner of both starts this term, including Chantilly's Mar. 9 Listed Prix Maurice Caillault, but sold out of the yard and exported to Hong Kong earlier this month.

"Waltham was definitely impressive and I can guarantee you that he is a very, very good horse," insisted Ferland. "I wish his new owner the best of luck with him and I am sure that he has bought the right horse. There are some offers which can't be refused and the present sanitary crisis was very influential in our decision. At the time, we had no indication when the Classics were to be run or what would or would not be. It was a tough decision, but one that made economic sense for his owners [Marie-Therese Dubuc-Grassa and M Horse Racing]."

The show must go on and Ferland gave mention of possible ready made replacements in the yard to fill the void vacated by Waltham. "**Pao Alto (Fr)** (Intello {Ger}) is a nice colt and the winner of two out of his three career starts last season, including a very easy victory in the Listed Grand Criterium de Bordeaux," he said. "**Castle (Ire)** (Frankel {GB}), out of Group 1 winner Plumania (GB) (Anabaa), won his only start [over 10 furlongs at Pau] as a juvenile. He will stay and I have him entered in the [July 5] G1 Prix du Jockey Club and [Sept. 13] G1 Juddmonte Grand Prix de Paris.

"**Frohsim (Fr)** (Dabirsim {Fr}) is now the winner of three of his four career starts; he is improving all the time and was two-for-two before we came to a stop this season. I also train a nice filly who could very well turn out to be a good propsect. Her name is **Euclidia (Fr)** (Maxios {GB}) and she won very nicely on debut [at Toulouse] in early March. She will stay up to a mile-and-a-half."

Home base remains on guard and is prepared for when racing eventually restarts in France, as Ferland explained, "All is pretty much normal and business-as-usual as far as training of the horses is concerned. It's been a few weeks and all the sanitary measures are now part of our daily routine. Maybe it will teach us to implement better practices in the future when another virus will inevitably hit the horses. Unfortunately, it happens and what we are experiencing now will stand us in good stead. I have had no problems with the staff and they are all working, except one girl who is married and has to stay at home to take care of her child."

Departures notwithstanding, the trainer hasn't been as inconvenienced as others by events in recent weeks and continued, "Everything has been perfect in that regard, especially the training centre at La Teste which is extremely well maintained. All riders are careful and follow the safety guidelines. Trainers are as helpful as they can be, maintaining [social] distancing and ensuring all mandatory measures are perfectly observed. Like many of my colleagues, I had high hopes that racing would resume at the end of the lockdown period on Apr. 15. Therefore, I kept my horses under pressure and most of them were ready to go again by that time. They canter every day and I used to give them a little work, in pairs, once a week to keep them fit. We all understand the lockdown period had to be extended and health is the priority. Obviously, things changed so I slowed down a bit on the training with no more fast work at this stage." **Cont. p6**

Christophe Ferland's string | *Emma Berry*

Ferland Cont.

However, a revision of those plans will be quickly implemented should ongoing discussions at the top produce a positive outcome. "I haven't mapped out any contingency plans as we don't know exactly where things are headed at this stage. We hope to resume on May 11 or 12, but nothing is certain. I am a member of the technical committee for racing at France Galop and we had worked on a program starting on May 4. It will be delayed, by at least a week and ideally no more. That is what all professionals hope for, but making plans is not easy. When you listen to what is said about economic activities and the end of the lockdown, it is sometimes suggested that it will first happen locally. As a provincial trainer, it would be hard for me and my colleagues if we are not allowed to travel with our horses to race outside of our region."

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WORLDWIDE NEWS

JAPAN RESTRUCTURES 2YO SALES DUE TO COVID-19

A trio of Japanese 2-year-old sales have been changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The news was first reported in *Blood-Horse*.

Nakayama Racecourse was due to host the 83-lot Japan Racing Association's Breeze-Up Sale on Apr. 28, but the sale has now become an online auction only.

All confirmation photos, breeze videos and vet reports will be available on the JRA website. Virtual bids will be accepted from buyers from Apr. 28-30.

The Hidaka Breeders' Association's May 12 Hokkaido Training Sale has been cancelled, with all 162 juveniles available for private sale only. Funabashi Racecourse was the site of the May 15 Chiba Agricultural Cooperative's Thoroughbred Sale, but that sale has been postponed to June 5. Seventy-one horses will go under the hammer.

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Nakayama Racecourse | *Getty Images*

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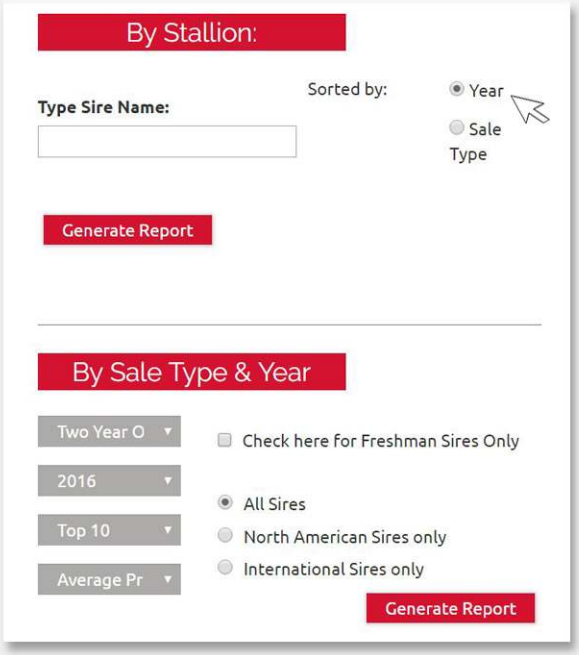

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STAR OFFERINGS AT UPCOMING SALES

Invincibella | *Bronwen Healy*

By Paul Vettise

The Chris Waller-trained stablemates **Invincibella** (I Am Invincible) and **Noire** (Foxwedge) were sourced as yearlings at Magic Millions and Inglis respectively, and will make return visits in the coming weeks to be offered as broodmare prospects.

"We started selling our better mares at auction a couple of years ago and I think it works very well for partnership mares to be offered in that arena," Denise Martin of Star Thoroughbreds said. "It allows transparency, which is vital, and allows for the mares to be assessed by buyers and attract market price.

"I feel there is a certain obligation to support the sale company that presented them as yearlings so these mares will appear as catalogue items where they were sourced.

"In a couple of years we will have our Group 1 placed and stakes winning I Am Invincible mare **Fiesta**, who will be presented and there will be others. These mares warrant exposure at a mares' sale."

Top Quality Offering

Invincibella certainly fits into the elite category as an outstanding racing servant for the potent Star-Waller combination. She will be one of the headline acts at the Magic Millions National Broodmare Sale in July.

She was purchased out of Sledmere Stud's draft at the Gold Coast in 2015 for $185,000 and won the G1 Tattersalls Tiara, four Group 2 contests and a history-making three consecutive editions of the Magic Millions Fillies and Mares' event. She retired with earnings of more than $3 million. An older half-sister to the stakes-winner Secret Blaze (Sizzling), Invincibella is a daughter of the unraced Galileo (Ire) mare Abscond and her dam is a half-sister to the G1 Adelaide Cup winner The Hind (NZ) (McGinty {NZ}).

"She's just been a wonderful mare and really admired by the racing public. She was a great horse to have in the stable and a high class performer in three states," Martin said. "She won a Group 2 at Flemington, obviously won the Sheraco in Sydney and Queensland just seemed to be her second home, she loved it with the three Magic Millions races and the Group 1 and the Dane Ripper twice. Everybody who cared for loved her so much and I'm sure she'll be actively sought after at the broodmare sale."

Noire a Class Prospect

Noire was bought for $135,000 at the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale where she was offered by Highgrove Stud. She has retired as the winner of the G2 Shannon S. was third in the G1 Coolmore Classic and banked more than $690,000. She is a half-sister to seven winners and is out of Valadon (Woodman {USA}), a half-sister to the G2 Wakeful S. winner Timbourina (Timber Country {USA}) and the G2 Magic Night S. winner Media (Gilded Time {USA}).

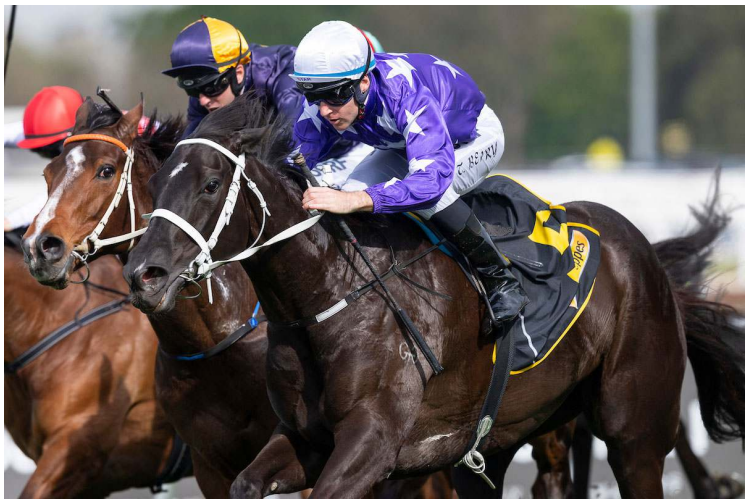
"Her most recent preparation was terrific and she ran third in the Group 1 and second in a Group 2 and she's a mare who always gave her best. She competed at Group level almost for the last two years," Martin said. "She's got a very good pedigree and a good type of individual and I'm quite sure she'll be very popular at the Chairman's Sale as well."

She will be offered as Lot 55 in the Glenesk Thoroughbreds draft on May 8.

While Star Thoroughbreds signed for both Invincibella and Noire, Martin said they wouldn't have been secured without the efforts of Randwick Bloodstock Agency principal Brett Howard.

"Brett helps me at the sales and finds the horses for me. I am enormously thankful to Brett because when I saw Invincibella as a yearling I thought she was too tall.

"We had a very friendly and very animated conversation about whether I should try and buy her. I said to Brett she's too tall and he said she won't be by the time she's a 3-year-old, she will have evened out and she'll be lovely, so I did buy her.



Noire | *Bronwen Healy*

"Noire was a pass in, Brett found her for me from Ron Gilbert's draft. I though initially she was a little bit narrow, but Brett said to allow her to develop through her 2-year-old year and she'll furnish into a really good quality filly. Foxwedge has been really good to Star because in his early days I bought Noire and (Group 1 winner) Foxplay and they have both been two of his best performers."

Howard's judgement was on the money with both mares and competition on the pair is sure to be keen.

"What's exciting as well is that like all the Star Thoroughbred mares is that they go through unreserved. Invincibella and Noire are there for genuine sales," Howard said. "Invincibella is a big, strong and imposing mare. I also advised her breeders Andrew and Nielma Grant-Taylor so I had seen her growing up and she was fairly early in the sale.

"Denise was keen on an I Am Invincible and I thought she was the pick of them so I said jump in early and go hard. She's out of Abscond, who was a massive mare and a great producer.

"Andrew was able to buy back into her with a few of his mates and she's been a great mare and in terms of longevity as well."

Noire was another mare recommended with an eye to the future and again Howard's judgement was on the money with her best form coming later in life, including her third in the G1 Coolmore Classic in March.

D'Argento Retired

Meanwhile, plans for a return to racing for Star Thoroughbreds' lightly-raced G1 Rosehill Guineas winner **D'Argento** have been shelved and Howard will now be looking to find a suitable home at stud for the grey son of So You Think (NZ).

"I've spent considerable time watching D'Argento's races and trials. He could have easily been a triple Group 1 winner," he said. "D'Argento raced against the crème de la crème and just did not know how to run a bad race. He had a fabulous turn of foot and an abundance of courage. Once studmasters have reviewed his races, I will be surprised if they are not similarly in awe of just how good this horse really was."

Purchased by Martin out of Baramul Stud's draft for $135,000, D'Argento is a half-brother to four winners with his dam the stakes-winner Fullazz (Redoute's Choice). It is the family of the G1 TJ Smith S. winner and sire Sizzling and the multiple stakes-winner and G1 Golden Slipper S. placegetter Loving Cup (Bluebird {USA}).

"When you consider he probably should have won a Doncaster and an Epsom it certainly would have made him into a high-profile stallion, but his performances in both races again highlighted his talent. After that he never quite was the same horse. I will certainly be supporting and helping to promote D'Argento as a stallion."

D'Argento & The Autumn Sun | *Bronwen Healy*

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

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CE CE EXTENDS 'MAGICAL' HIRSCH LEGACY

Ce Ce | *Coady Photography*

by Chris McGrath

Well, I guess even Clement L. Hirsch might have had to scratch his head once or twice, if he were still around, to help confront the challenges facing Santa Anita over the past year or so. But there's no doubt that we could all, in the present crisis, usefully emulate the spirit of altruistic dynamism by which he sustained Californian racing in his own time.

In 1969, Hirsch and his partners began a game-changing, not-for-profit enterprise at the Oak Tree Racing Association and established a similar regime at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club the following year. Fifty years on, as we grope for a way out of this lockdown maze, we could all take our bearings from the same compass--one that points the needle away from self-interest, and towards the greater good.

Hirsch showed that you can be an idealist without being a dreamer. There could not be anything woolly or impractical about a man who had fought with the U.S. Marines at Guadalcanal; who made a fortune in the hard-nosed world of building and trading companies; and whose fund-raising for Nixon secured dinner invitations on the presidential yacht. But he was one classy guy. On his death, the California Thoroughbred Breeders' Association saluted him as "the epitome of a gentleman," and Warren Stute, who had trained for him for 48 years, called him "the nicest, most intelligent and honest person I've ever had the pleasure of having as a friend." ***Cont. p3***

TAMPA MEET EXTENSION IN PIPELINE

by T.D. Thornton

A plan is in the works to extend the race meet at Tampa Bay Downs beyond its scheduled May 3 closing, but a track official deferred comment on specifics while the request is pending at the state level. The Tampa overnight for the Apr. 24 races (drawn Apr. 19), led with the notice "Attention Horsemen: We are seriously considering extending the meet," but no additional details were disclosed.

When reached via phone Tuesday, Peter Berube, Tampa's vice president and general manager, said, "I'm really not going to comment until I get the approval back from the state, and I anticipate getting that sometime this week."

TDN could not reach a representative from the Tampa Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association for comment. That organization's on-track office is keeping limited hours as a pandemic precaution. ***Cont. p6***

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

FRENCH LEADERS HAVE 'POSITIVE' MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT

French racing officials met with government officials on Tuesday, and racing in France could resume as early as May 11.

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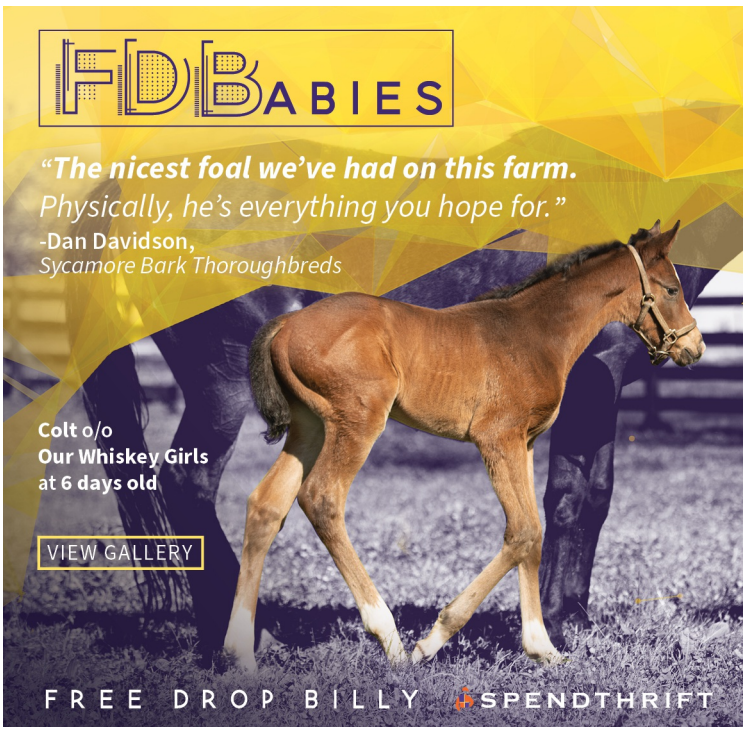

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TODAY in the TDN
THOROUGHBRED DAILY **NEWS**

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

August 31, 2002. *Miss Houdini (Belong to Me), dam of Ce Ce (Elusive Quality), and Gary Stevens head to the track for the 2002 GI Del Mar Debutante S.* | *Horsephotos*

UPSTART OFF TO A GOOD START 6

Katie Ritz offers a closer look at Airdrie's young stallion Upstart (Flatter), who made a splash at the OBS. 2-year-old sale earlier this season despite the ongoing struggles stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

NYTHA/NYRA TO MATCH TAA CONTRIBUTION 9

The New York Racing Association and the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association have announced they will match the projected per start owners' aftercare contribution to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance through the end of the now cancelled Aqueduct Racetrack spring meet.

THIS SIDE UP

by Chris McGrath

Ce Ce Extends Magical Hirsch Legacy

Bo Hirsch | *Benoit*

(cont. from p1)

Hirsch's sporting career began when he and a buddy salvaged a racing greyhound from threatened euthanasia, for $2.50, and nursed him back to health and success. This experiment in canine nutrition had momentous incidental consequences, as he launched his business career as a door-to-door pet food salesman. But his Thoroughbred career would need no less adventure and perseverance.

The adventure took him to South America, where he found several of his best runners. And the perseverance, ultimately, has given us one of the brightest of the few sunbeams to have penetrated our benighted racing program this spring.

For in extending Grade I success to a third generation, **Ce Ce** (Elusive Quality) has set an extremely rare seal on the kind of acuity and patience required by any breeder trying to cultivate a family. The sequence began with her granddam Magical Maiden (Lord Avie), who was foaled in 1989 and won the GI Hollywood Starlet S. and GI Las Virgenes S. in Hirsch's silks. Early in 2000, she delivered a filly by Belong To Me. Unfortunately, her breeder died seven weeks later, aged 85, but his son Bo--advised by agent Kathy Berkey--made this the only weanling among five horses picked out from the dispersal to keep the family stable going.

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Stute was evidently unimpressed when Bo Hirsch introduced him to the filly, exclaiming, “I hope you didn't pay too much for her!” But Miss Houdini's GI Del Mar Debutante S. success very aptly book-ended his career, Stute having saddled a Polynesian filly named Tonga to win the inaugural running in 1951. Though confined to just three other starts, Miss Houdini soon delivered in her second career, as well, her millionaire son Papa Clem (Smart Strike) putting the family on the Triple Crown trail after winning the GII Arkansas Derby. He finished fourth to Mine That Bird (Birdstone) at Churchill Downs, but unfortunately had to be retired after winning the GII San Fernando S. on his sole start at four. Nonetheless Papa Clem--named for the way Bo's kids knew their late grandfather and conditioned by Stute's nephew Gary--had taken them all on a stirring journey. Ten years after delivering Papa Clem, Miss Houdini produced a filly by Elusive Quality.

GI Apple Blossom field | *Coady*

She made her debut just over a year ago, winning a Santa Anita sprint, and finished miles clear of the rest when beaten narrowly next time. That emboldened trainer Mike McCarthy to ship Ce Ce to Belmont for the GI Acorn S., where she missed the podium by a head. Promising as those foundations were, she has built dizzily since her return from an eight- month layoff. After a straight-forward resumption on her home track in February, she administered a startling defeat to the charismatic Hard Not To Love (Hard Spun) in the GI Beholder Mile. Then, last Saturday, she visited the scene of her half-brother's big success in Hot Springs for an exceptional edition of the GI Apple Blossom H. Though Ollie's Candy (Candy Ride {Arg}) proved insanely game, after contributing to scalding fractions, Ce Ce nailed her on the line. Ce Ce has come a long way in six starts, but the genetic foundations go very deep--and beyond the elite streak she has extended from dam and granddam.

The family, tracing to 1946 Irish Oaks winner Linaria (Ire), has notably interested the unerringly astute Glennwood Farm. When Clement Hirsch's stable was dispersed, John Gunther bought both a daughter and a half-sister of Magical Maiden at Barretts in January 2001. He gave $100,000 for an A.P. Indy filly, the unraced 3-year-old Miss Brickyard (subsequently won a maiden); and $175,000 for the 11-year-old Miswaki mare, Magical Flash, who had shown respectable ability on the track and already produced a couple of stakes performers.

Gunther first sent Magical Flash to Chester House, and the result was the Grade I-placed, Grade III winner Take The Ribbon. Magical Flash has since produced a litany of stakes performers and producers, the standout being Glinda The Good (Hard Spun), the dam of champion juvenile Good Magic (Curlin).

Gunther and his daughter Tanya obviously liked Hard Spun for the family, because the year after Magical Flash's visit they sent him Miss Brickyard. She delivered a tough British sprinter named Moviesta (Hard Spun), who won a Group 2 on the downhill five at Goodwood and was also placed in Group 1 company.

Magical Maiden had been only one of several siblings purchased by Clement Hirsch--the others included Magical Mile, a Grade II winner who broke the Hollywood Park track record at :56.40--and Warren Stute was always asking him why he didn't just go ahead and buy their dam outright. Her name was Gils Magic. Down the field in her solitary start, she was by a forgettable son of Northern Dancer, Magesterial; but her half-brother by Lord Avie did finish third in the 1987 GI Kentucky Derby. Hence, presumably, the selection of Lord Avie for Gils Magic the following spring.

The resulting filly was Magical Maiden, acquired by Hirsch as a 2-year-old in training for $26,000. The legacy of that transaction is still evolving. Aside from Papa Clem and Ce Ce, Miss Houdini has obtained a couple of other minor distinctions--notably the stakes-placed daughter by Victory Gallop who produced Grade III winner Hot Springs (Uncle Mo). (He had made $750,000 as a Keeneland September yearling, sold through Columbiana Farm where Bo Hirsch boards half a dozen mares.) And Miss Houdini is still going strong at 20. She has a yearling colt by American Pharoah and, though she reportedly slipped the foal due this spring, has now been successfully covered by Midnight Lute.

Papa Clem | *Horsephotos*

That underrated stallion looks a value call, much as was the aging Elusive Quality when Berkey urged him as a mate for Miss Houdini. Though he had become rather criminally neglected by the time he died, two years ago, Elusive Quality remained ever a golden conduit of class and versatility. Those Gone West trade-marks, also so evident in Speightstown, had been immediately signalled when his first two crops (at $10,000) produced a precocious turf sprinter in Europe, in the G1 Prix Morny winner Elusive City, and then Kentucky Derby winner Smarty Jones. Happily, moreover, Elusive Quality's legacy seems meanwhile to have been secured by excellent sons at stud, at both ends of the fee spectrum, in Quality Road and Raven's Pass. Ce Ce herself compounds one or two of his key appeals. Both Elusive Quality's parents were out of mares who brought sons of Somethingroyal into the equation: one being by Secretariat, the other by Sir Gaylord's son Sir Ivor.

This Side Up cont.

And Magical Maiden's sire introduces an extra strand, Lord Avie being a grandson of Sir Gaylord. Another nice balance in her pedigree concerns Elusive Quality's damsire Hero's Honor and Miss Houdini's sire Belong to Me. Both share a fourth dam in Big Hurry, arguably La Troienne's most influential daughter.

Those parchments of scroll won't interest everyone, but three Grade I-winning mares in a row is too rare a feat for such tendrils to be weeded out. Storm Flag Flying (Storm Cat) remains still more accomplished, perhaps, as a third female in a row to win her Grade I at the Breeders' Cup; and Clear Mandate (Deputy Minister) surpasses both, being not only a third-generation Grade I-winning female but also dam of an elite male scorer in Strong Mandate (Tiznow).

Regardless, as and when it becomes possible to plot any kind of dependable program for Ce Ce, there's no doubt what her priority will be. For before it was renamed in 2000, following the death of the man it now honors, the Clement L. Hirsch S. was known as the Chula Vista H.—and had been won, in 1993, by none other than Magical Maiden.

Meanwhile elevated to Grade I level, it would be the perfect cue for Ce Ce to renew the gratitude of the Californian sport to its modern architect. The landscape has changed since, of course. But let's remember the boldness, generosity and imagination with which Hirsch and his partners guaranteed an apparatus that also sustained many community projects, research programs and charities.

We still have the same, wonderful stage; perhaps the best backdrop in the racing world, at Santa Anita. Let's hope we also still have the actors equal to the challenging roles now being cast.

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Tampa Meet Extension in Pipeline (Cont. from p1)

There are currently four other Thoroughbred tracks running spectator-free meets in America. Gulfstream Park is scheduled to run through Sep. 27. Oaklawn Park closes May 2 and has indicated its meet will not be extended. Fonner Park races through Apr. 29, but a 12-date extension is on the agenda for Wednesday's Nebraska Racing Commission meeting. Will Rogers Downs is currently racing through May 20.

Tampa's contiguous winter/spring meet traditionally closes in early May, although the schedule annually contains one quirk--a standalone single-day program, this year scheduled for June 30--that is related to a fiscal technicality at the state level. That lone date allows Tampa to be classified as a live racing facility for the entire year, which enables the track to import simulcasts year-round without having to take them through another permit-holder in the state of Florida.

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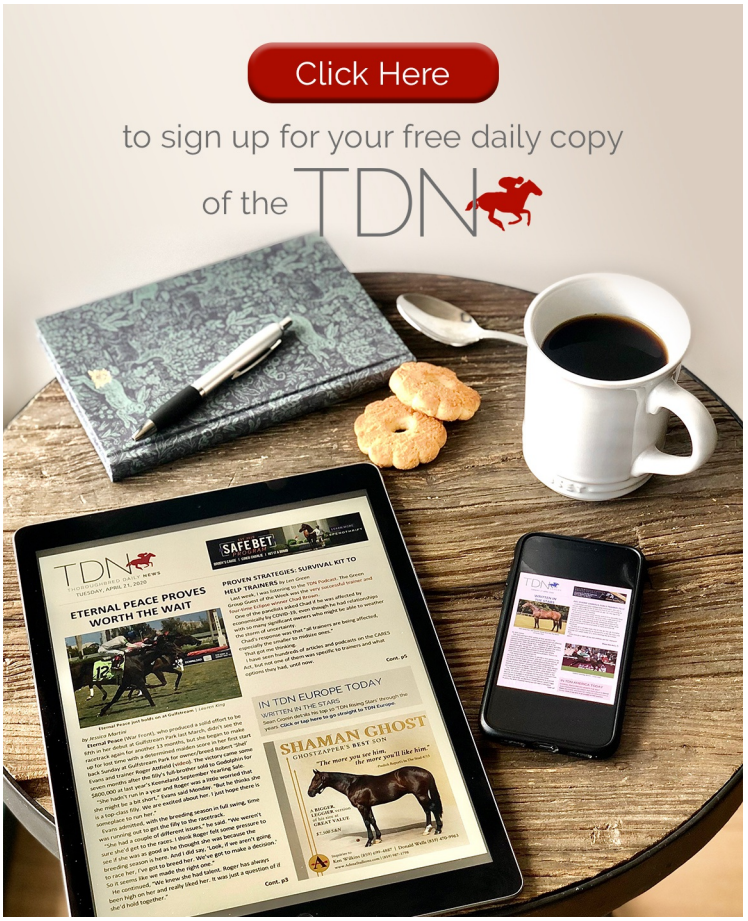
UPSTART OFF TO GOOD START IN ODD YEAR

Upstart | *EquiSport*

by Katie Ritz

The sales ring can be a formidable place for any first-crop sire. Add in a global pandemic, with side effects of low sales attendance and a free-falling stock market, and a positive outcome for the stallion might seem futile. But this year, the first crop of Airdrie Stud's Upstart (Flatter) must not have gotten the message. ***(Cont. p 7)***



They were the hot commodities at the OBS March Sale, the only 2-year-old sale to be held before the sales season was forced to grind to a halt. Six Upstart 2-year-olds brought the hammer down during the two-day sale, averaging $260,833 and soundly placing their sire as the leading first-crop stallion by sales average, and the only one to break past a $200,000 average. Airdrie Stud's Director of Bloodstock Services Bret Jones said that, while they had hoped for positive results, they were blown away by the sale's outcome.

"We were optimistic going into the sale because the reports from Florida had been extremely encouraging," Jones said. "We'd had several 2-year-old guys book mares to Upstart this year, and one group even bought a share in him a few weeks before the sale. So that all boded extremely promising, but this exceeded all conceivable expectations."

Jack Knowlton, Jose Ortiz, Ralph and Judith Evans, Rick Violette Jr. after Upstart's 2014 Funny Cide S. win | *Adam Coglianese*

A son of Flatter (A.P. Indy), Upstart was purchased for $130,000 at Fasig-Tipton's 2013 edition of the New York-bred sale by Ralph Evans. Trained by the late Rick Violette, Jr., the colt shone from the start, breaking his maiden on debut by over five lengths before going on to win a stakes race at Saratoga and then placing second in the GI Champagne S. At three, he soundly claimed the GII Holy Bull S., and was demoted to second in a controversial GII Fountain of Youth S. Victorious in the GIII Razorback H. at four, he retired as a millionaire with two graded stakes wins, finishing in the money in six Grade Is. Upon Upstart's retirement, Evans retained a piece of the stallion and still remains his biggest cheerleader.

Upstart | *Adam Mooshian*

"I called Mr. Evans after the first day of the March sale," said Jones. "There were so many reasons for him to not be in a good mood with everything that was going on in the world, but he was as giddy as anyone I had every spoken with over the phone. He was just over-the-top excited about how the Upstarts were performing." Jones continued, "It's been one of those incredible relationships, getting to know Mr. Evans. I don't care who you ask about him, they're going to tell you he's special. It makes Upstart all the more exciting to get to work with Mr. Evans and have as much fun as we're having."

If Mr. Evans was excited after the first day of the sale, he must have been ecstatic with the second day's results. After breezing a quarter in :21 flat at the under-tack show, an Upstart colt out of the Bernstein mare Blue Beryl topped the second session when he sold for $600,000 to Mike Ryan. Jones said that their team had been tracking the colt since he was a foal.

"We saw him in a paddock at Suzi Shoemaker's farm when he was a few weeks old, but then as a yearling he was a pretty mind-blowing individual," said Jones. "He was a man among boys at the September sale, the type that you notice from the other side of the barn and want to go see who you're looking at."

The colt sold for $220,000 to Woodford Thoroughbreds in September. Ryan said that he was initially struck by the colt at the breeze show.

"His breeze was phenomenal," he said. "The term gallop-out is overused, but I had him at three furlongs in :32 1/5, a half-mile in :46 flat, and five furlongs in a 1:00 4/5. I know on the synthetic it's a little easier to do that, but it takes a pretty good horse to sustain that, and his stride was as long as your dining room table."

The breeze was backed by Ryan's seal of approval later at the barn.

"He was a no-brainer to me," Ryan said. "He had a lot of scope and was a big, handsome horse. He reminded me a lot of Structor (Palace Malice), from the standpoint of his size, frame, profile, and quality. I wasn't surprised when he brought what he brought. He sold himself."

Cont.

Ryan purchased a second Upstart 2-year-old for $280,000, a colt out of Ridingwiththedevil (Candy Ride {Arg}), who breezed a quarter in :20 4/5.

"This colt had lovely shape and quality," Ryan said. "He had a very powerful breeze, an easy mover and naturally athletic. I hope to see both of these colts running at Saratoga. They both should stretch; they have natural pace and speed."

"When Mike Ryan buys two from the first crop, that's as strong as an endorsement a stallion could ever have," Jones said. "No one has a better eye than Mike Ryan, so for him to be as complimentary of not only the two he bought, but of the Upstarts as a whole, it's extremely encouraging."

Ryan remarked that he was immediately impressed by the Upstarts at the breeze show.

"I was sitting in the stands watching the breeze show live and they were all very good, efficient movers," he said. "They seemed pretty effortless. I made a mental note that there were too many of these moving well. They're easy to like: consistent quality, style, presence, lovely demeanors, and an easy way about them. He caught me by surprise, and the market responded with fantastic returns."

Jones confirmed that the buzz around the Upstarts began at the breeze show for many other buyers.

"Everybody remarked about what a solid group of horses he was represented by," Jones said. "And then the good news was that when people got back to the barns and looked at them, they found nice physicals. This stallion has always thrown an athletic, good-bodied horse."

"Upstart is a beautiful individual," said Jones. "He's by Flatter, who's been a fabulous stallion, but Upstart is a more racy, athletic-looking type than what can sometimes come with that sire line. If you follow the evidence, his progeny mature well. They sold well as weanlings and yearlings, and then they absolutely broke out as 2-year-olds once they got to the track."

Despite the high that the Upstart team may be riding on from March, they have a long road ahead with an uncertain sales season and limited 2-year-old racing action for the foreseeable future.

"The good news is that it wasn't just the March horses getting touted," said Jones. "Cary Frommer in particular was effusive in her praise about a filly she still has. Airdrie kept three to race, and they're doing everything you could ask of them, and they're doing it well."

Airdrie Stud sold a filly out of Visavis (Indian Charlie) last July for $125,000 to Let's Go Stables, and trainer Todd Pletcher reported that she is looking to start soon.

Jones said, "We talked with Todd Pletcher a few days ago, and he's planning to run her at Gulfstream in early May."

"If we continue with this momentum, it would certainly give us an opportunity to build on what this horse has already established for himself," said Jones. "We've seen great demand for him since the 2-year-old sales, but we've got the potential to see even more once they get to the starting gate."

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OPEN LETTER TO THE INDUSTRY

BOB ELLISTON, KEENELAND VICE PRESIDENT OF RACING AND SALES

Bob Elliston | *Keeneland photo*

I hope this note finds each of you well and healthy. During these uncertain times, every day presents a new set of challenges and surprises on both a personal and professional level. As we navigate this fluid situation together, we hope that these regular email communications covering both sales and racing provide helpful information to guide your decisions over the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for the tremendous feedback following last week's newsletter. In this edition, we're taking the opportunity to address a few specific questions from you, our customers, since our last installment. We value your input and we will be transparent with you as we work together to find answers during this uncertain time. As we address these concerns, we encourage you to continue to check keeneland.com/sales2020 for the latest updates and pertinent information.

Cont. p9

Can you share details on why the May 1 entry deadline for the September Sale was not extended?

Great question… As you can imagine orchestrating a sale of 4,500+ horses requires time to coordinate logistics, catalog entries and ensure that we are providing the best sales experience to our buyers and sellers. The Friday, May 1, deadline allows for this. However, Keeneland has extended the option for sellers to withdraw horses until June 12 and pay no entry fees. With this option, there is no reason not to enter every horse you have for consideration for September, as you will have six weeks to determine whether you want them in the sale, without any financial obligation.

When will Keeneland return to racing?

We can't wait for it to return and would like to safely conduct racing as soon as possible. Keeneland is currently working with Kentucky race tracks, health officials and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to establish consistent health and safety protocols for all of our tracks state-wide. These plans will be presented to the Governor's office, and once we receive approval from our Governor, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and health officials on these plans, we will be collectively announcing plans to return to safe racing state-wide.

Keeneland has established a window of race dates this summer where we could conduct if those approvals are in place and officials deem it safe to do so. It is too early at this time to know whether this would include spectators. As always, we will keep you updated as more information is available.

Is Keeneland considering alternative options for bidding?

The answer is yes. We will have contingencies in place to make sure that wherever you are, and whatever means of communication you use, you will be able to bid on a horse. Keeneland has been developing in this space for some time, even before the COVID-19 crisis hit. While plans are in place to conduct this year's sales in our traditional live format, we must have measures in place to expand all bidding opportunities, especially in the event that physical participation is impacted. From phone and internet bidding to expanded digital capabilities, we are excited to share these plans with you in the coming weeks. As with everything Keeneland does, we will implement tools that are equipped to handle volume, while also providing the level of quality and professionalism you expect from Keeneland auctions.

How do you plan to handle summer yearling inspections?

The Keeneland team is working closely with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian's Office to identify the safest protocols to conduct summer yearling inspections.

The inspection process is of critical importance and we will share these protocols with you as soon as they are finalized.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of the sales team with questions or concerns. We will continue to use this newsletter and all Keeneland communication channels to keep our customers apprised of developments for both sales and racing.

On behalf of the entire Keeneland team, thank you for your support of our great industry and of Keeneland. We are all looking forward to brighter days ahead.

Stay well,
Bob Elliston

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NYRA, NYTHA TO MATCH PROJECTED TAA CONTRIBUTION

The New York Racing Association and the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association have announced they will match the projected per start owners' aftercare contribution to the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance through the end of the now cancelled Aqueduct Racetrack spring meet.

New York's owners donate $10 per start to the TAA, and NYRA matches that donation at the conclusion of each meet. Based on a projection of 1,200 starters through the end of April at Aqueduct, NYRA and NYTHA will contribute $24,000 to the aftercare program.

"It is important that we continue to support the TAA and the individual accredited farms who care for our retired equine athletes during this difficult time," said NYRA CEO and President Dave O'Rourke. "The care we provide our retired horses is essential and we encourage our fellow racetracks to contribute to the TAA to the best of their ability."

Live racing on the NYRA circuit was last conducted Mar. 15 at Aqueduct before being suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. The track's winter meet was scheduled to continue through Mar. 29 and the spring meet was slated to run Apr. 2 through Apr. 19.

Cont. p10

The TAA is a nonprofit organization that accredits, inspects, and awards grants to approved aftercare organizations to retire, retrain, and rehome Thoroughbreds using industry-wide funding. The TAA is supported by owners, trainers, breeders, racetracks, aftercare professionals, and other industry members.

"NYRA and NYTHA have shown their sincere understanding and genuine commitment to aftercare. It is so meaningful to the TAA and our accredited organizations to receive this funding especially under the circumstances. We cannot thank them enough," said TAA President John Phillips.

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FINGER LAKES HBPA SENDING 'STIMULUS' CHECKS

The Finger Lakes Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, in conjunction with racetrack management, will send horsemen its own version of stimulus checks, with trainers receiving $25 for every start at the 2019 Finger Lakes meet and owners receiving $100 for every start. A trainer who also owns the horse will get $125 per start. The total cost is estimated to be $827,000, which will be funded through canceled race days and a reduced stakes program.

"Our board of directors felt it imperative to get some quick money to our horsemen to help with expenses, including feeding their horses, as everyone waits for racing to resume in New York," said Finger Lakes HBPA president Chris Vaccaro. "It's designed to be a shot in the arm for our trainers and owners with horses at area farms, training centers or wintering out of state. The coronavirus has been a devastating health and economic crisis for millions of Americans. Our horsemen continue to feed and take care of their horses with no way to earn income to defray the cost, adding to their financial hardship."

Finger Lakes was scheduled to open for training Mar. 15 and its 127-date race meet was slated to start Apr. 25. Both dates have been pushed back indefinitely because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Finger Lakes HBPA and Finger Lakes Gaming & Racing are working with the New York State Gaming Commission and state and local health officials on how and when the track can safely open for training and subsequently racing.

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TIP PERFORMANCE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program, designed to encourage the retraining of Thoroughbreds into other disciplines at the end of their racing careers, has announced the winners from its 2019 performance awards program. The list is available to view at tjctip.com/PerformanceAwardsWinners.

"We received applications representing 630 Thoroughbreds competing in more than 12,500 classes and divisions during the 2019 award year," said Kristin Werner, senior counsel for The Jockey Club and the administrator of T.I.P. "Winners will receive ribbons, prize money, and a variety of prizes, including custom Horseware coolers, halters, keychains, and apparel."

Performance awards will again be available in 2020 and will be based on results in shows from Dec. 1, 2019, through Nov. 30, 2020. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 20. Updated forms are available at tjctip.com/About/TBPAF.

In response to the ongoing cancellations of horse shows due to COVID-19, stand-alone divisions have been added for online dressage shows and online horses shows (non-dressage) for 2020. More information is available at tjctip.com/About/TBPAFI.

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IN OTHER NEWS...

A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Non-Industry Media

Proud to Represent Top Horsemen

DID YOU KNOW LEGACY Bloodstock ...

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- Has had a graduate in either the **Kentucky Derby**, **Kentucky Oaks** or **Steve Haskin's Derby Dozen** the last 4 years in a row

Del Mar horse racing faces many questions amid coronavirus crisis At Del Mar racetrack, coronavirus-related questions remain the odds-on favorite with answers the 99-1 longshot. When can it race in 2020? Will it race in front of empty grandstands? Can it race at all? And what does it mean if the summer meet, scheduled for a potentially muted opening day July 18, is shelved entirely for the first time since World War II? **Bryce Miller, *The San Diego Union-Tribune***

WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE HORSE?

TOM MORLEY, TRAINER

Favorite: It's very rare that your family own, breed and train the winner of a Group 1 at Royal Ascot. But when **Celeric (GB)** (Mtoto {GB}) won the 1997 Ascot Gold Cup having been bred by my Uncle Christopher Spence, owned by he and my father, and trained by my uncle David Morley then to me there can be no bigger favourite. He was the horse that got me hooked, the best day out from school in the world was being able to go to Ascot that day. There have been countless that I have trained, not all fast ones either, winning small races with hard trying slow horses is always very gratifying.

Best: The best horse during my lifetime, in my opinion, was **Frankel (GB)** (Galileo {Ire}) but only by a neck from Sea The Stars (Ire) (Cape Cross {Ire}). To put together three seasons like Sir Henry Cecil did was astonishing, but he kept getting better and better. Sea The Stars came at a tough time, when he reeled off his unbeaten 3-year-old season. I never thought I would see the likes again, the way he won the Arc having been on the go since the 2000 Guineas was astonishing. But he came as a prelude to the greatest of all time.

GEOFFREY RUSSELL, KEENELAND

Favorite & Best: Mill Reef (Never Bend) was the first horse that really got me interested in racing, breeding and pedigrees so he is my favorite and best racehorse. He won 12 of his 14 starts and was only beaten by champions, My Swallow and Brigadier Gerard. The first race I remember seeing him win was the Gimcrack S. at York when he won by many lengths. The following year, the 2,000 Guineas had a small but select field. In a thrilling race, Brigadier Gerard came up the rail and beat Mill Reef with My Swallow third. Considering, he was beaten by Brigadier Gerard, who was unbeaten at the time and is remembered as one of the best milers of the 20th Century, in hindsight, it was not a bad run. It would be the last time Mill Reef would lose. He won his next six races, all Group 1s and that record he held for 30 years.

Mr. Paul Mellon's silks in England were black with a large yellow cross, which were difficult colors to follow on a small black and white TV but, luckily, he always wore that distinctive shadow roll which made him easy to follow. The first time in the Epsom Derby I could see him was when he came cantering around Tattenham Corner. I do not think Geoff Lewis asked Mill Reef to run until the furlong pole and he won by three or four lengths.

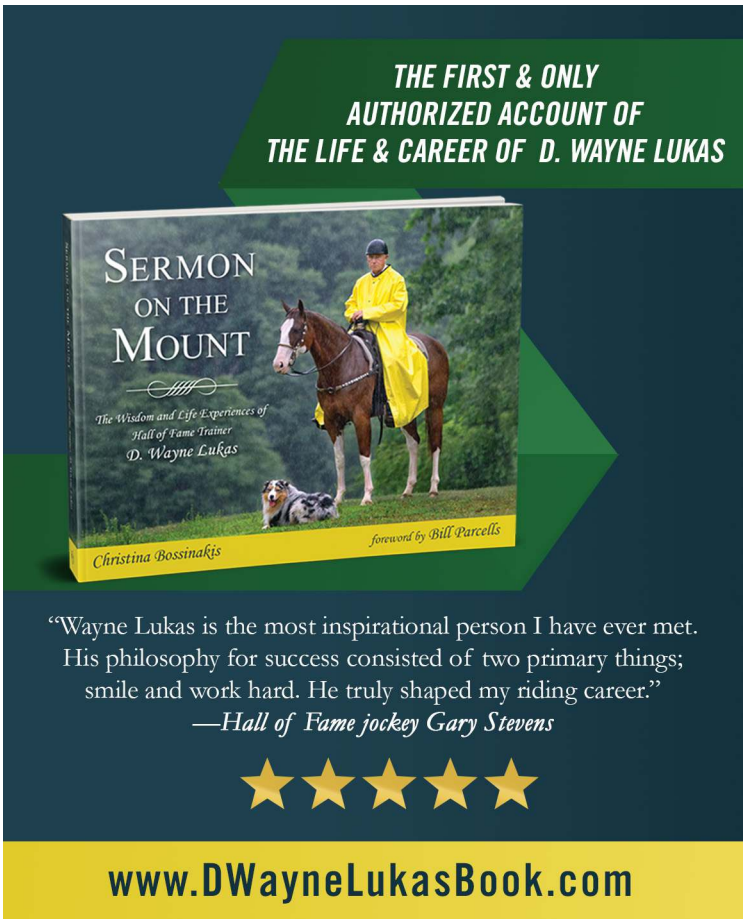
Mill Reef then took on older horses in the Eclipse S. and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. at Ascot, which he won easily. His final race of the year was the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the most prestigious race of the year in Europe, which he won in record time beating the top French 3-year-old Pistol Packer, who was also a U.S. bred.

Mr. Mellon kept Mill Reef in training as a 4-year-old. He won the Prix Ganay and the Coronation Cup. The highlight of the summer was to be the rematch with Brigadier Gerard in the inaugural running of the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup at York, now known as the Juddmonte International S., but it was not to be. He shattered his cannon bone on the gallops at Kingsclere, but thanks to Mr. Mellon, innovative veterinary science and wonderful care his leg and his life were saved.

Mill Reef is still the only horse to win the Epsom Derby, Eclipse S., King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in the same year.

Mill Reef will always be my favorite racehorse and best racehorse.

Email Gary King (garyking@thetdn.com) to have your say.



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NORTH AMERICAN RACING
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

INSIGHTS
sponsored by ALEX NICHOLS AGENCY

WEDNESDAY INSIGHTS: EXPENSIVE HONOR CODE COLT DEBUTS FOR SHUG AT TAMPA

7th-TAM, $20K, Msw, 3yo, 7f, 3:30 p.m. ET

Lynne and Edward Hudson's pricey sophomore colt **CREED (Honor Code)** adds spice to the Wednesday card at Tampa Bay Downs as he makes his career debut for Shug McGaughey in this elongated sprint. A son of GSP Aspiring (Seeking the Gold), the bay hammered for $650,000 at Keeneland September and boasts a strong female family. Second dam Lassie's Legacy (Deputy Minister) is out of MGSW/GISP Weekend Surprise (Secretariat), making her a half-sister to the legendary A.P. Indy (Seattle Slew) and MGISW Summer Squall (Storm Bird). Creed shows a steady worktab at Payson Park going back to early February, highlighted by a half-mile gate breeze in :49 flat (3/13) Apr. 13. McGaughey then tightened the screws with an easy three-furlong move in :39 flat (4/4) Sunday.

Of the horses with experience, Lothenbach Stables' **Blame the Cake (Blame)** looms as a likely favorite. Bought for $160,000 at OBS April, the Ian Wilkes trainee debuted with a big effort for his patient stable, running a close second against fellow New York-breds July 14 at Saratoga, but retreated to be a well-beaten fourth when favored Aug. 28 at the Spa. Off since then, he returns with a half-dozen breezes at Lambholm South in tow, capped by a four-panel spin from the gate in :50 flat (1/2) Apr. 16. **TJCIS PPs**

--@JBiancaTDN

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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Honor Code (A.P. Indy), Lane's End Farm, $30,000
213 foals of racing age/21 winners/1 black-type winner
7-Tampa Bay Downs, Msw 7f, CREED, 5-2
$650,000 KEE SEP yrl

Khozan (Distorted Humor), Journeyman Stud, $8,500
130 foals of racing age/30 winners/2 black-type winners
8-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 5fT, BABY BOOMER, 5-1
$1,000 OBS OCT yrl; $19,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Summer Front (War Front), Airdrie Stud, $10,000
181 foals of racing age/25 winners/3 black-type winners
8-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 5fT, SUMMER ASSAULT, 2-1
$80,000 RNA FTK JUL yrl; $15,000 FTK OCT yrl; $45,000 OBS APR 2yo

ADDITIONAL RACING

STAKES RESULTS:

WILL ROGERS S., (NB) $55,000, Will Rogers Downs, 4-21, (S), 3yo, c/g, 1m, 1:39.47, ft.

1--**CANEY'S GHOST, 122, g, 3, Dramedy--Caney Creek, Service Stripe**. ($24,500 Ylg '18 OKCYRL). O-Ra-Max Farms LLC; B-John James Revocable Trust (OK); T-Theresa Sue Luneack; J-David Cabrera. $33,000. Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, $80,754. *1/2 to Vertical Vision (Pollard's Vision), MSW, $202,979.

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TAKE CHARGE NIKI

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PHOTOS BY FRANCES J. KARON

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(APPROVED MARES) **NO CHARGE FOR 2020**

2--**Great Faces**, 122, g, 3, Tapiture--Successful Show, by Successful Appeal. O/B-Jack Schuyler & Kevin Keiser (OK); T-Donnie K. Von Hemel. $11,000.
3--**Southgate**, 122, g, 3, Dramedy--Perfect Southerner, by Dixieland Band. ($6,500 RNA Ylg '18 OKCYRL). O-Michael Schmidt; B-John James Revocable Trust (OK); T-Scott E. Young. $6,050.
Margins: 3/4, 1 1/4, 4HF. Odds: 1.90, 2.10, 1.20.

ALL TDN WINNERS BY SIRE

DRAMEDY, Caney's Ghost, g, 3, o/o Caney Creek, by Service Stripe. Will Rogers S., 4-21, Will Rogers

DID YOU KNOW?

GI Pegasus World Cup hero
Mucho Gusto (Mucho Macho Man)
was tabbed as a "TDN Rising Star"

Visit the **TDN Rising Stars** section on our website!

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