

## AGE GAP NO PROBLEM FOR EUROPEAN YEARLINGS



Russian Camelot winning on Apr. 9 | Getty Images

By Emma Berry

The state of lockdown has given a decent boost to TV viewing figures in Australia, where racing has been allowed to continue behind closed doors. The major feature this week is the Warrnambool May Carnival, which is perhaps best described as Victoria's answer to the Galway Festival, with its mixture of Flat and jumping action and, in a normal year, huge crowds.

It's quieter at 'The Bool' this year but there are a few familiar names among the entries for anyone tuning in from this part of the world. In fact, half the field of 12 for Wednesday's Listed Warrnambool Cup were bred in Europe, including the Juddmonte-bred Midterm (GB), a son of two champions in Galileo (Ire) and Midday (GB), and the G1 Gran Premio del Jockey Club winner and St Leger runner-up Ventura Storm (Ire) (Zoffany {Ire}).

In common with plenty of European-bred horses now in Australia, these two geldings both changed hands privately after showing decent form in the Northern Hemisphere, and over the years plenty of Australian buyers with deep pockets have made their way to the Tattersalls Horses-in-Training Sale, where they've found horses such as dual G1 Australian Cup winner Harlem (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}).

Cont. p2

## OVER 1,000 ENTERED FOR FRENCH RETURN

French racing will return behind closed doors on Monday after being off since Mar. 16 due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, and the initial three cards at ParisLongchamp, Toulouse and Compiègne have drawn a whopping 1,069 entries.

ParisLongchamp, which received clearance on Monday to stage its meeting in the nation's capital, has drawn a total of 257 entries across 10 races. The card's feature races are the G2 Prix d'Harcourt and Group 3 Prix la Grotte, Prix de Fontainebleau and G3 Prix de Saint-Georges. Last year's G1 Prix du Jockey Club winner **Sottsass (Fr)** (Siyouni {Fr}) anchors 13 entered for the Harcourt, and he is set to face the likes of **Skalleti (Fr)** (Kendargent {Fr}), unbeaten in his last seven including three pattern races; last year's G1 Prix Jacques le Marois runner-up **Shaman (Ire)** (Shamardal) and last year's G2 Prix Maurice de Nieuil winner **Way To Paris (GB)** (Champs Elysees {GB}).

Cont. p4

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### GOLDENCENTS RISES IN FORTUNE

Chris McGrath details the influence of Into Mischief through his son Goldencents, sire of GII Oaklawn H. winner By My Standard.

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### Age Gap No Problem For European Yearlings cont. from p1

Form comes at a price, however, and the group of owners who bought Harlem from Juddmonte had to give a sale-topping 520,000gns even before the cost of shipping the horse to Australia.

It is perhaps no surprise then to find Australian trainers and agents shifting their focus towards the yearling and even foal sales to find horses with good middle-distance pedigrees but at a price which represents a little more value.

Bloodstock agent John Foote was one of the trailblazers in this regard, and in fact one of his Tattersalls yearling purchases, Furrion (GB) (Camelot {GB}), won last year's Warrnambool Cup having been picked up from October Book 2 in 2016 for 60,000gns. Foote was also responsible for buying another Book 2 graduate and this year's G1 Australian Cup winner, the Airlie Stud-bred Fifty Stars (Ire) (Sea The Stars {Ire}), whose record now stretches to five group victories.

Danny O'Brien gave the Australian breeding industry a boost last November when sending out the locally-bred Vow And Declare (Aus) (Declaration Of War) to victory in the Melbourne Cup but, in common with many of his fellow leading trainers, his stable contains a number of youngsters bearing GB and IRE suffixes. O'Brien has also made a point of focusing on the European yearling market and one of the early recruits to this project is set to line up in Saturday's G1 South Australia Derby.

**Russian Camelot (Ire)** (Camelot {GB}) was bred by Lynch Bages & Camas Park Stud and was selected for O'Brien by agent Jeremy Brummitt, with whom he works regularly. Ever since he made his eye-catching debut at Ballarat last October when still a 2-year-old by Northern Hemisphere reckoning but running against Australian 3-year-olds, the colt has been the subject of plenty of interest and is held in the highest regard by his trainer. So much so that after he was narrowly beaten in a listed race on Oaks day at Flemington last November, O'Brien and jockey Damien Oliver were mulling over the idea of bringing Russian Camelot back to Europe to run in the Derby at Epsom. Coronavirus has of course scuppered many people's hopes and dreams but Russian Camelot, whose ownership group includes Britons Mark Edwards and Melvyn Ford, will have his Derby day

this weekend at Morphettville.

"We've got two 3-year-olds, Russian Camelot and an unraced horse by Champs Elysees," says O'Brien. "We went back to Tattersalls last October and, between the horses I bought and some bought by my clients, I now have six 2-year-olds--a couple of Camelots, an Australia (GB) colt, a Sea The Stars (Ire), a Le Havre (Ire) colt and a Teofilo (Ire) colt. So they are all by really nice stallions and they are horses that we just don't have access to."

He continues, "Obviously there is a good deal of shuttling that goes on but none of those stallions are available in Australia and, likewise, the pedigrees that we are buying are good and strong. They're not all from Tatts Book 1 but some of them are, and on a dollar-for-dollar basis, I think they are terrific value

next to horses that you buy either at Inglis Easter or Gold Coast Magic Millions. We are landing them back in Australia for between 200,000 and 400,000 Australian [dollars] and they are top-class horses by world-class stallions out of the best sales in Europe."

In Northern Hemisphere terms, Russian Camelot only turned three on Mar. 29, but he has been running against Australian 3-year-olds since his Oct. 11 debut. He has now won two of his four starts but was forced to miss his intended Derby prep race on Anzac Day (Apr. 25) at Flemington with an



Danny, Grace, Thomas and Nina O'Brien with Vow and Declare | Emma Berry

inflamed throat.

O'Brien says of the colt out of the Cape Cross (Ire) mare Lady Babooshka (Ire), "We're still finding our way with the age differential but we haven't found a big issue, hence we're hoping he runs in a Derby on Saturday, albeit at an age disadvantage. We're very happy with him. He had a jump out at Flemington on Friday on the course proper and that should have him exactly where we need him for the Derby."

In the same year as he bought Russian Camelot, Jeremy Brummitt also picked out for O'Brien the as-yet-unraced **Grand Avenue (GB)**, a Meon Valley Stud-bred son of Champs Elysees and Millennium Dash (GB) (Nashwan), the granddam of last year's Oaks winner Anapurna (GB) (Frankel {GB}).

"I've always believed that people confuse precocity and speed, and that we should be trying to breed horses and buy horses that mature and last for more than one season," he says.





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## Age Gap No Problem For European Yearlings cont.

"What appeals to me about [buying yearlings for] Australia is that I want to buy that profile of horse, and if he is exceptionally good he can meet the targets up here and if he's not quite so good he can earn more money down there. Danny realised that and was smart enough to get in early and take them down there. I suspect Russian Camelot is a bit of a freak. He was the first one out and I think the bigger the focus group we have the more we'll realise how difficult it is to compete with that age difference, but even if we are behind in terms of maturity I think we are well ahead in terms of ability."



Jeremy Brummitt | Tattersalls

Brummitt cites the example of the 4-year-old Grand Promenade (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}) as an example of a typically progressive middle-distance campaigner.

He continues, "I bought him as a foal few years ago and he was bought by John Foote as a yearling. He went to Ciaran Maher and has won four in a row this season. I would have thought that he is the more typical profile of what you can expect by sending a horse to Australia, even as a yearling. I would say the advantage still lies with going that way because the Australian is getting an undamaged horse that he is training for his own ends, rather than one who has been sent to Australia as an after-thought."

Danny O'Brien follows a very similar routine to that which the yearlings would face if they remained in Europe after the sales. He explains, "They go straight from the sale grounds into quarantine so they do two weeks there and another two weeks once they reach Australia."

## IN TDN AUS/NZ TODAY

VINERY'S EXCEEDANCE TO STAND FOR \$38.5K IN '20  
 Vinery Stud stallion Exceedance, winner of the G1 Coolmore Stud S., will stand his first season for \$38,500 in 2020. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Aus/NZ.](#)

### Age Gap No Problem For European Yearlings cont.

We break them in straight away, usually around the middle of November, and we've found that they break in really well. They are getting out of the cold in Europe and coming into our summer which they seem to appreciate, and then we just treat them like any other horse. We're only just into it--Russian Camelot is the first one of the first year and we were probably surprised by how early he raced, but having said that he effectively raced as a late-season 2-year-old in his own hemisphere. He had his first start in October, so there would have been a lot of horses from his own vintage who would have done a lot more racing than that by then."

O'Brien adds, "Obviously before us Gerry Ryan brought those horses down, like Fifty Stars and Furrion, and they've been successful. I certainly think the value is there and the horses themselves are performing, so as long as that continues I'm sure there will be more people looking into doing it."

As well as buying yearlings with O'Brien, Jeremy Brummitt also works with the British-based Quantum Leap Racing syndicate which focuses on selecting staying-bred youngsters to race in Britain at two before looking to sell them on with some early form in the book to Hong Kong or Australia. O'Brien will soon be taking charge of the 100-rated Wyclif (GB) (Archipenko), who won two of his four starts last season for Ralph Beckett and was runner-up in the Listed Silver Tankard S. at Pontefract.

"I met Danny through Mark Edwards, who is one of the owners in Russian Camelot and Wyclif, and Danny is a great guy to work for because I can say to him, 'trust me this will be all right down there', and he's not bothered, whereas most people like to have a horse by a stallion they recognise," says Brummitt, who buys the Quantum Leap horses in association with syndicate manager Eamonn O'Connor. "We've sold half of Wyclif to an Australian syndicate but Quantum Leap Racing will retain half the interest in that horse. We also send horses to Hong Kong but the difference is that we can't own horses in Hong Kong whereas we can own horses in Australia."

Brummitt's quest for the durable horse has been demonstrated to great effect by the Australian Group 2 winners Gallic Chieftain (Fr) (Tamayuz {GB}) and Lord Fandango (Ger) (Lord Of England {Ger})--both now owned by OTI Racing--who have a total of 84 starts and 14 wins between them. Both are still in training at the age of seven and were bought by the agent as yearlings with this long-range view in mind.

He adds, "I hope that we can increase that side of the business--though nothing can be taken for granted in the current environment. I hope we can continue to send horses to Danny as yearlings and that we'll be able to send older horses as well. Our aim is to not squeeze the lemon dry up here but to campaign the horses with a global view."

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## EUROPEAN NEWS

### Over 1,000 Entered For French Return cont. from p1

The group-winning fillies **Simona (Fr)** (Siyouni {Fr}), **Villa Rosa (Fr)** (Doctor Dino {Fr}) and **Soudania (GB)** (Sea The Stars {Ire}) are also engaged in the Harcourt, which carries a purse of €90,000; last year it was worth €130,000.

Last year's G1 Jean-Luc Lagardere winner **Victor Ludorum (Ire)** (Shamardal) is favoured for the Fontainebleau ahead of his Andre Fabre stablemate and G1 Middle Park S. winner **Earthlight (Ire)** (Shamardal), with both of those Godolphin homebreds tuning up for a Classic campaign. In the Grotte, the 3-year-old fillies get their shot, and G3 Prix Six Perfections and G2 Prix du Calvados victress **Tropbeau (Fr)** (Showcasing {GB}) faces off against the likes of **Emoji (Ger)** (Soldier Hollow {GB}), who got a start under her belt the day before racing was shut down with a two-length victory in the Listed Prix la Camargo. The Fontainebleau and Grotte are each worth €56,000 this year, down from €80,000 last year.

ParisLongchamp's most subscribed race is a mile handicap for 3-year-olds worth €24,000 that drew 82 entries. The biggest entry for the day, however, goes to a mile handicap for older horses at Toulouse that drew 121 entries. Toulouse will on Monday feature seven flat and three jumps races, while Compiègne has a nine-race jumps card.

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Sottsass returns in the Prix d'Harcourt on Monday | Scoop Dyga



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## BRITISH EBF TO PROVIDE BOOST UPON RACING'S RETURN

The British European Breeders' Fund said on Tuesday that it will honour the £1.68-million in bonuses it had previously allocated to purses in 2020, and that it will focus on making the bonuses available upon racing's return. The British EBF supports over 600 flat races a year, and the organization's chairman Simon Sweeting said it is also making plans to support a flat programme that will likely extend into November and December.



Simon Sweeting | Adam Smyth

"We are committed to supporting as many races within our remit as practical to help the sport back on its feet as quickly as possible," Sweeting said. "We are aware of how significant our £1.68-million is to the industry this season and we are working to make sure it gets in to the system effectively. We will use money not spent during the cessation of racing to support additional races during the first month or so of the resumption. We know our additional funding is needed by owners and trainers and we want to assure them that the British EBF is here to help at every opportunity."

Sweeting extended thanks to stallion owners, who have kept their doors open and kept up their contributions to the fund.

"They have worked tirelessly to make sure their covering sheds are open for business and provided flexible options to support breeders," he said. "The British EBF is generously funded by stallion owners and the importance of their contributions to us, especially now, cannot be overstated."

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## MUSSELBURGH GRANTED ANOTHER EXTENSION

Musselburgh Racecourse has been granted another temporary license by the British Horseracing Authority in the hopes that it can get a deal done with Chester Racecourse to take over its operation, *Racing Post* reports. The Scottish course's previous temporary license expired on May 1.

A joint statement from the BHA and Musselburgh owner East Lothian Council read, "The extension has been approved in order to give sufficient time for the complications that have arisen in the deal to appoint a third party operator due to the coronavirus pandemic to be worked through."

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## FLUTTER, STARS GROUP MERGE

Gaming conglomerate Flutter—parent company of Paddy Power, Betfair and FanDuel—has purchased all shares in The Stars Group, owner of Sky Bet. *Racing Post* reports the two companies had a £10.5-billion combined market value at the time the deal was done. The companies' combined annual revenues in 2018 would have totalled £3.8-billion, making it the world's largest online betting and gaming operator.

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## WORLDWIDE NEWS

### Tuesday, Funabashi, Japan

**KASHIWA KINEN-Listed**, ¥102,000,000, Funabashi, 5-5, 4yo/up, 1600m, 1:38.60, gd.

1--**WIDE PHARAOH (Jpn)**, 126, c, 4, by Henny Hughes--**Wide Sapphire (Jpn) (SP-Jpn, 611,043)**, by Agnes Tachyon (Jpn). O-Masanobu Habata; B-Fujiwara Farm; T- Katsuhiko Sumii; J-Yuichi Fukunaga; ¥60,000,000. Lifetime Record: 12-4-3-0.

2--**K T Brave (Jpn)**, 126, h, 7, by Admire Max (Jpn)--K T Laurel (Jpn), by Sakura Laurel (Jpn). O-Kazuyoshi Takimoto; B-Okano Farm; ¥21,000,000.

3--**Sunrise Nova (Jpn)**, 126, h, 6, by Gold Allure (Jpn)--Bright Sapphire (Jpn), by Thunder Gulch. O-Takao Matsuoka; B-Yanagawa Farm; ¥12,000,000.

Margins: 2, 1 1/2, 1/2; Odds: 25.90, 11.10, 4.70.

[Click for the Video](#)



## VINERY'S EXCEEDANCE TO STAND AT \$38,500



**Exceedance** | Bronwen Healy

by Bren O'Brien

Vinery Stud has confirmed its fees for the 2020 breeding season, with star new addition in G1 Coolmore Stud S. winner Exceedance to stand at \$38,500 (inc GST) in his first season.

All Too Hard, off a season where he produced a first Group 1 winner in Alligator Blood, stays at his 2019 fee of \$27,500 (inc GST), while in line with the broader trends of the industry, the fees of Star Turn, Headwater, Press Statement and Casino Prince have all been reduced.

Vinery Stud General Manager Peter Orton said the current market uncertainty also had an impact on Exceedance's debut fee, which compares quite favourably to stallions who have retired with a similar record in recent years.

"We did have a little bit more of an optimistic view as to where it was going to be. The way the market has gone, I think he lines up against a few horses well who have performed at a similar level. I think it's pretty fair," he said.

"The expectation was that it was going to be higher, but I think we are in for the long game. With a horse like this, we are going to put a lot of support behind him and we will follow him up on the track as well. It's important he sits at a rate which he maintains for the next few years.

"The breeders have got a good chance of sending him nice mares and getting a good return for it."

Historically, his service fee will be the equal lowest for a

Coolmore Stud S. winner since Star Witness, who debuted at \$33,000 (inc GST) in 2011.

Orton said the response to Exceedance, since it was confirmed he would be retired to stud last month, had been very strong.

"It's been phenomenal. We've got a big list of people waiting to see what the service fee will be and the conditions of sale. He'll be very easy to fill," he said.

Orton confirmed Exceedance's book will be restricted to under 150 mares in his first season, with Vinery keen to manage his workload.

"We always work on a restricted book on the young horses. We don't like young horses getting bored. He'll be covering under 150, and probably around 120-130," he said.

"We usually start at that and if the horse has proven after the first month or so that he is happy and content and managing his workload without any problem, we will allow a few others to come on board. It's important these young horses are started off the right way."

### All Too Hard Holds Firm

All Too Hard has been a tremendous producer of winners and is on the verge of breaking through for a century in Australia for the second consecutive season. Coinciding with that has been a rise in the quality of winners, with eight at stakes level so far in 2019/20, including his flagbearer, G1 Australian Guineas winner Alligator Blood.

Under usual circumstances, Orton said Vinery would be considering a lift in fee but it is keen to retain him at an affordable level for breeders in what is his eighth season at stud.



**All Too Hard's G1SW Alligator Blood** | Bronwen Healy



"There was a bit of room to move up because of the way they are selling and what a great job he continues to do. He's very true value there under the conditions we are in. We wanted to stay as modest as we can and conservative for breeders so they get every chance," he said.

Orton said that keeping momentum up in the produce record of their mares during tougher times was very important for breeders and the market needed to reflect that.

Accordingly, Press Statement and Headwater, whose first crops hit the track this season, both drop to \$13,750 (inc GST) and Star Turn, who will have his first runners in 2020/21, comes back to \$16,500 (inc GST).

"We need to give the breeders a chance of getting a return and we've done that, We've also changed up our terms to pay on a live foal," he said. "We have to play the long game. We have got a bit of a rough patch to go through and we have to maintain the same level of momentum we have had and give breeders the opportunity to keep breeding to genuine stallions."

With the era of More Than Ready (USA) shuttling to Australia now over, Casino Prince assumes the role of the Vinery Stud elder statesman and will stand his 13th season at \$5500 (inc GST).

## MAGIC MILLIONS ONLINE SALE A SUCCESS



**Empress Ali | Magic Millions**

by Paul Vettise

Magic Millions' inaugural online sale on Tuesday was topped by Empress Ali (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}) when she sold for \$220,000 during the Cornerstone Unreserved Reduction Sale. The mare is a half-sister to the stakes-winner Shared Ambition (Ire) (Born To Sea {Ire}) and was sold in foal to Night Of Thunder (Ire), to Victoria's A List Stud. Empress Ali won six races and is from the family of multiple Group 1 winner and sire Alamshar (Ire). More than \$1 million was traded in the first auction held on the recently launched Magic Millions Online

sales platform.

"We must thank Sam Hayes and all of the Cornerstone Stud team for providing the perfect launch sale for Magic Millions Online," Magic Millions Managing Director Barry Bowditch said.

"Since the sale was launched we've received so much great feedback on the site and all of the digital assets and information supplied, from photos to videos and agent assessments, it was truly first class.

"It was great to see so many different bidders participating and we are sure they will be delighted with their purchases."

A List Stud's Chris Lee said Empress Ali's pedigree would provide an ideal complement to his bloodstock portfolio.

"I love the page of the mare and she will enrich my broodmare band as a lot of those I have are sprinting bred types. She is a half-sister to a good horse who is trained by Chris Waller and he believes the horse will achieve good things in the future for connections and the family.


"I am looking forward to the special foal the mare produces and we may see that foal at the sales in the future."

Shane Nichols Racing went to \$105,000 to secure the top-priced weanling, a son of Capitalist and the King Of Danes mare Oridane who was successful on four occasions and the extended family of the dual European Group 1 winner and sire King Of Kings (Ire).

"The unreserved format is truly nerve-racking as a vendor, but overall we are delighted with the results," Cornerstone Stud's Managing Director Sam Hayes said. "There was some spirited bidding and some great buying.

"The sale generated a great amount of interest and there was bidding from every corner of the country. It was a whirlwind of activity and the site all worked seamlessly. It was a privilege to have partnered with Magic Millions on the launch of their online platform."

More than \$1 million was traded in the first auction held on the recently launched platform.

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## MISCHIEF CURRENCY CONVERTING TO GOLDEN STANDARDS



By My Standards | Coady

by Chris McGrath

All that glitters is not gold. Certainly we shouldn't get too carried away: Goldencents has been launched by mares in such volume that there would be something badly amiss if he didn't come up with the occasional smart racehorse. In fact, a suitably brisk start made by his first juveniles in 2018 saw him entertain a staggering 239 mares last spring. That put him in the company of seven other stallions in the 200 club (five at Ashford, the other two alongside Goldencents at Spendthrift) and onto an aggregate 929 coverings in his first five seasons.

At the same time, his flagbearer **By My Standards** is now flourishing in such a way--his defeat of a hot field for the GII Oaklawn H. Saturday surely anticipated a Grade I breakthrough sooner rather than later--that we can wonder whether Into Mischief's ability to upgrade mares is already proving a heritable asset.

Goldencents, of course, was one of the earliest to draw attention to a sire who last year sealed his rags-to-riches rise with a first general sires' championship. A member of Into Mischief's debut crop, his pedigree appeared so plain that he made just \$5,500 as a Fasig-Tipton October yearling in 2011 (much to the delight of Webb Carroll, who moved him up to \$62,000 at OBS the following June). **Cont. p3**

## A BARGAIN BUY, BOERNE PROVES WORTH THE WAIT FOR DE LUCA

by Jessica Martini

Aldo De Luca and his wife Kelley purchased a 30-acre farm in Williston, Florida two years ago to have a place to retire to where they could enjoy breeding Thoroughbreds and raising foals. One of the first yearlings to grow up on the couple's new farm was a Texas-bred daughter of Fed Biz they purchased for \$10,000 at that year's Fasig-Tipton October Sale. Now named Boerne, the speedy filly won her third straight race in dominating fashion with a 4 1/4-length allowance victory at Gulfstream Park Sunday ([video](#)). After over two decades in the sport, De Luca, a native of Curacao, is reveling in the success of a filly who might be the best he's ever had.

When he first saw her as a yearling at the Fasig October sale ([hip 1251](#)), Boerne made an immediate impression on De Luca.

"She was a very attractive and correct, big black filly," he recalled Tuesday. "She stood out from all of them." **Cont. p7**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### AGE GAP NO PROBLEM FOR EUROPEAN YEARLINGS

Australian trainer Danny O'Brien has a Group 1 contender from his first intake of European-bred yearlings. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.](#)

## YOU'VE BEEN SPOT-ON, JOSH.



**GOLDENCENTS**



# THE GOLDEN BOY

SIRE OF LEADING OLDER HORSE  
**BY MY STANDARDS**

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OAKLAWN HANDICAP-G2

*"WE'VE BELIEVED HE'S A BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC-G1  
HORSE FROM THE START OF THE YEAR"*

-JOSH STEVENS

## GOLDENCENTS

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**Wednesday, May 6, 2020**



**Behind the lens.** In the TDN's first installment of a series highlighting racetrack photographers, T.D. Thornton interviews Horsephotos founder Harold Roth and discusses the history and creative process behind the images in the Horsephotos library, such as this photo of trainer Bobby Dotter at Saratoga in 1977. See page 8 for story. *Horsephotos*

**KEENELAND TO OFFER DIGITAL INSPECTIONS**

**11**

Keeneland will offer digital inspection videos of yearlings in Book 1 and 2 of the Keeneland September sale to aid buyers who cannot travel to Lexington due to the coronavirus.

**HANDLE FALLS 24.42% IN APRIL**

**11**

With only five tracks running the United States, handle fell 24.42% for April 2020 compared to April fo 2019.



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**Mischief Currency Converting to Golden Standards cont. from p1**

His dam Golden Works (Banker's Gold) had herself been sold for just \$7,000 after winning two claimers in a career confined to Assiniboia Downs; and was by a forgotten son of Forty Niner who ended his days in Cyprus. But while her own mother Body Works (Bold Ruckus) also spent most of her career in Manitoba, she did become something of a local legend in winning 18 times in 45 starts across five seasons, including five black-type prizes. And while the next dam Kinto was by another faded name, Kinsman Hope, she had at least also proved her hardiness with 13 wins in 46 starts.

To be fair, there is some mainstream quality loitering hereabouts, too, as Kinto shared a granddam with 1983 GI Kentucky Derby winner Sunny's Halo (Halo). But if that's still a pretty remote thread to support a talent as considerable as Goldcents, then it's also a perfect example of the dash Into Mischief imparted to his early mares, most of whom had only faint claims to making a positive genetic contribution of their own.

Goldcents was quick to light up the path ahead. He started with a seven-length success at Del Mar, before chasing home champion Shanghai Bobby (Harlan's Holiday) when fast-tracked to the GI Champagne S. on the opposite coast. At three, he put himself in the Classic picture by winning the GI Santa Anita Derby, only to disappoint in the first two legs of the Triple Crown, after which he dropped back in distance. That, too, has become a familiar step with the stock of Into Mischief, and Goldcents duly showed speed to be his forte when breaking 1:21 in the GII Pat O'Brien S. as a 4-year-old; albeit his ultimate branding was as a miler, running Palace Malice (Curlin) to a length in the GI Metropolitan H. and finishing up as a dual winner of the GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.

**Cont. p4**



Goldcents | Horsephotos

# PRESERVATIONIST

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*Chris McGrath's*

# #1

## FIRST-YEAR VALUE SIRE



*“You can judge his build from a \$485,000 yearling tag... and you could see that come through in the dash with which he deployed his brawn... dishing out a 4 1/2-length thrashing to Catholic Boy in the GII Suburban S. before gaining his Grade I laurels in the Woodward S.”*

— Chris McGrath, TDN 12/27/19 —

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**Mischief Currency Converting to Golden Standards cont.**



**Into Mischief** | Sarah Andrew

Into Mischief was still available at \$35,000 when Goldencents joined him at Spendthrift, but his giddy elevation since—to \$175,000 this year—has quickly vindicated the farm's commitment to his first star. For those of their clients left behind by Into Mischief, there would still be an affordable alternative. Initially offered at \$15,000, Goldencents had eased to \$12,500 by the time his first crop reached the track in 2018. By My Standards was not among the 29 more precocious animals who advertised their sire in the winner's circle that year—putting Goldencents clear top of the intake, by winners; and by earnings behind only studmate Cross Traffic, who was boosted by GI Breeders' Cup Fillies' Juvenile winner Jaywalk.

In fact, By My Standards didn't surface until Nov. 24 and would require four attempts to break his maiden. That was consistent with his profile as a young horse: scratched from the Keeneland November Sale as a weanling, he had ended up being prepped for OBS April by David Scanlon; and even on joining trainer Bret Calhoun evidently remained a big, raw horse who still needed time to fill his frame.

On the face of it, the subsequent achievements of By My Standards might suggest his sire to have powers of alchemy resembling those of Into Mischief. His dam A Jealous Woman, after all, was by another left-field sire in Muqtarib (Gone West) and the page overall is rather scanty in terms of black type. But it does include one or two solid footholds of quality.

A Jealous Woman was herself a pretty useful turf runner in California, winning a couple of stakes besides once running second in Grade II company. Actually, she developed quite a following in her day. She ran in the silks of Three Cent Stable, which included a couple of retired mailmen; and, after a miraculous recovery from a bowed tendon, she was trained by the wife of the Del Mar backstretch chaplain. **Cont. p5**

# OSCAR PERFORMANCE

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— Headley Bell



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# #44

**COMPETITIVE SAINT** made a winning debut in a MSW at Gulfstream Park on Sunday for George Weaver becoming the 44th winner from his sire's first crop.

## Edgeway Gets Easy Win in Oaklawn Allowance Test

*Bloodhorse.com*

**EDGEWAY** earned a **94 Beyer** for her debut win and scored easily again on April 26 for John Sadler.

## Kentucky Derby Radar: Shooters Shoot lives up to Eurton's hopes

*Trainer Peter Eurton has fostered high hopes for Shooters Shoot since last summer when the son of Competitive Edge was working heads up with stablemate Storm the Court, who went on to win the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and be named Champion 2YO Male.*

*horseracingnation.com, April 12th*

**SHOOTERS SHOOT** won a MSW at Santa Anita by 3¼ lengths (pictured) and an allowance at Oaklawn Park on April 11.

# COMPETITIVE EDGE

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**Mischief Currency Converting to Golden Standards cont.**

One way or another, anyhow, she qualified—for the little it may be worth—as probably the most competent performer by her sire, who failed to progress after winning a Group 2 sprint as a juvenile in Britain but did at least represent a distinguished family: his fourth dam was the Nuckols foundation mare Little Hut, whose sons Habitat and Northfields were both influential broodmare sires in Europe. In that capacity, incidentally, Muqtarib does have one other recent credit, having sired the dam of GIII Sweet Life S. winner Laura's Light (Constitution).

A Jealous Woman's dam, Miss Free Bird (Fly So Free), had limited opportunity in either her first or second career: on the track, she won her one and only start; she was then bred to mediocre stallions, nonetheless producing five winners from five starters. That figured, as she was a half-sister to Devils Disciple (Devil His Due), a sharp juvenile who had won three times at Calder before being caught late by Afleet Alex (Northern Afleet) in the GI Hopeful S.

Devils Disciple and Miss Free Bird were out of a Storm Bird mare whose own dam had very distinguished parents: Secretariat and Miss Musket, who won seven of her first eight including the GI Hollywood Oaks, but was then thrashed by 50 lengths in her own backyard after luring the East Coast darling

Chris Evert to a \$350,000 winner-takes-all match. (The Hollywood Park crowd, according to William Johnson in *Sports Illustrated*, included "Greer Garson in a splendid white hat, Walter Matthau in shades, the 70-year-old Cary Grant cleverly disguised as a 50-year-old.")

A Jealous Woman's first foal, by Ghostzapper, has won only a couple of modest prizes; her third, by Tapizar, remains unraced. But in between, breeder Don Ladd had sent her to the rookie Goldencents, and the resulting colt, leggy and immature as he was, managed a :10 3/5 breeze at OBS.

Josh Stevens saw enough to pay \$150,000 on behalf of Allied Racing Stable. The agent and his patron, Chester Thomas, had doubtlessly been encouraged by early vibes about another colt from the first crop of Goldencents they had acquired for \$130,000 at Keeneland the previous September.

This turned out to be Mr. Money, who went on that lucrative streak for the Calhoun barn last summer, winning four consecutive Grade IIIs and only foiled by a neck in the GI Pennsylvania Derby. His endeavors helped Goldencents see off Cairo Prince as leading second-crop sire by both winners and prize money (albeit the Airdrie sire, along with WinStar's underrated Fed Biz, scored higher in black-type winners/performers).



By My Standards (center) | Coady



**Mischief Currency Converting to Golden Standards cont.**



**By My Standards | Coady**

In the meantime, unfortunately, By My Standards himself was derailed just as he began to thrive. He had followed up his maiden success with a breakout score in the GII Louisiana Derby, but then finished midfield in the GI Kentucky Derby and disappeared for the rest of the year with nagging hoof issues. After a stylish return in a Fair Grounds allowance in February, a decisive success in the GII New Orleans Classic set him up for last--where he clocked a career-best Beyer of 102 (fastest time for the race since Medaglia d'Oro in 2003) and sealed millionaire status.

Much like Global Campaign (Curlin), who was featured in *TDN last week*, By My Standards looks eager to make up for time lost as a sophomore. As such, it looks like our own frustrations, as a community, might be redressed by a classy bunch of older horses, once we get out of lockdown.

It's certainly encouraging for Goldencents (and unsurprising, when you think back to those hardy second and third dams in Canada) that the best runners in his first crop are thriving with maturity, another case in point being Wildman Jack, who won a Group 3 on turf at Meydan this spring. Incidentally, grass might conceivably prove a promising angle for By My Standards, as he seeks that Grade I, bearing in mind not only the turf profile of his dam, but also that Goldencents was a Grade II winner on synthetic. But those questions can absolutely be left to the skills of Calhoun, who has already put the apparently turf-bred Mr. Big News (Giant's Causeway)--who's out of a Galileo (Ire) mare--on the Derby trail this spring, also for Allied Racing Stable.

Though Stevens and Calhoun generally sieve out the sales shortlist for Thomas, they evidently give their patron the credit for landing on Mr. Big News, who has a genuine stallion's pedigree for a \$95,000 yearling. But both men are certainly doing their part, having between them put a wholly unproven

sire on the map, and Thomas has gratefully taken his cue to buy a couple of lifetime breeding rights in Goldencents.

He is now up to \$25,000--and Spendthrift have quickly doubled down on the sire-line, securing Mr. Money's future place alongside sire and grandsire.

Whether or not Into Mischief can establish a lasting dynasty, he already symbolizes the transformative influence of B. Wayne Hughes on the bloodstock industry since his acquisition of the farm. It's amazing to reflect that, when Goldencents and company were about to get him started, in 2012, Into Mischief was down to \$7,500 and 50 mares.

With his classier books only now coming into play, everyone is waiting to see whether Into Mischief--still only 15--can meet his final challenge as a consistent sire of Classic types. For now, admittedly, it seems quite hard to picture Goldencents himself breaking the initial speed mold. But while his first three dams are by sprinter-milers, the other thing they have in common is that he has brought them back from oblivion.

So perhaps something of the Leslie's Lady (Tricky Creek) miracle is also going to percolate through Goldencents. As we've detailed before, after all, her own family--neglected as it somehow remains, for all her celebrity--must be the root of the prowess credited to her son Into Mischief, in that she has also given us Beholder (Henny Hughes) and Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy).

In principle, these remain early days for Goldencents. That said, he has such a huge cavalry coming over the horizon that he cannot justifiably slacken off. For the time being, at any rate, it does at least remain conceivable that Into Mischief will also be setting his own 'Standards' as a sire of sires.

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**A Bargain Buy, Boerne Proves Worth the Wait for De Luca cont.****Boerne** | Ryan Thompson

Of the filly's bargain price at the auction, he added, "We think she was overlooked by all the buyers because she was a Texas-bred. A lot of people think it's only Kentucky and Florida where they breed the good horses. But that is all baloney because whenever a horse is born with a big heart like Boerne, she can be born anywhere."

De Luca named his new filly after his wife's hometown in Texas and only later found some intriguing coincidences.

"Her name comes from a beautiful city in the Hill Country north of San Antonio, Texas," De Luca explained. "Boerne was established by German colonists in the 1800s and was named after the German poet Ludwig Borne. This is where my wife and her family come from, so that's why of course we used that name."

The filly's dam Seeking the Jewel (Seeking the Gold) died shortly after giving birth in 2017, leaving breeders Randi and Eric Moreau-Sipiere to find a nurse mare for the new foal.

"They found a first-time foaling mare by the stallion Bernstein that had foaled two days before and this mother gave Boerne milk the first hours of her life," De Luca said. "That mare's nickname was Bernie."

A few days later, Boerne finally had a nurse mare of her own in a mare named Amiga.

"Amiga was a little plain buckskin Quarter Horse," De Luca said with a chuckle. "Isn't that cute? Boerne, being a big black filly, even as a weanling, was almost as big as Amiga."

He continued, "After we bought her--we go to all these auctions in Florida and Kentucky--we met the breeders and told them we had bought Boerne and they were very pleased. Then we heard all of the stories. We've stayed in contact with them and they are very proud, she's like their horse every time she runs."

While Boerne has impressed Gulfstream watchers with her turn of foot—she's won her last three starts by a combined 15 lengths—it was something the De Lucas saw even before she got to the track.

"Boerne has always been special," De Luca said. "When she arrived at our farm as a yearling, she immediately became the alpha of the group. She was very bossy. It was amazing to see how she never lost a single race in the paddock against her fellow yearlings. When they run up and down the fence, she was never ever second, she was always in front. Always. She'd be in front by one or two lengths and then the group comes close to her, she looks back and when she sees, 'Oh, you guys are here?' She puts it into second gear and she is gone again."

That trend continued when Boerne joined trainer Juan Avila's Gulfstream stable.

"When she started training at Gulfstream, we noticed she was doing the same with every horse she trained with," he said. "She never lost a breeze with any other horse. She does the same thing, when they get close to her, she changes gear and she's gone."

Despite the early optimism, Boerne never made the lead in her debut at Gulfstream Park West last November and checked in a well-beaten fifth. She put it all together for her second start however, with a wire-to-wire 3 1/2-length victory in Hallandale Mar. 15 ([video](#)), and was even more untouchable with a 7 1/4-length triumph Apr. 11 ([video](#)). **Cont. p8**

**De Luca and Boerne** | photo courtesy Aldo De Luca



**Boerne cont.**

**Aldo and Kelley De Luca** | photo courtesy Aldo De Luca

“We laugh about it,” De Luca said. “In the first race that she won, she went in front by four lengths. Then everybody came close to her and we were laughing, ‘Wait a minute. Wait until she notices they are coming.’ And she did. Her ears goes up and she hears them coming and she’s gone. The second race the same. She goes and wins by seven. She has done that in all the three races that she’s won. The same pattern. She goes in front, she relaxes and the jockey says she does all this by herself. She is a very, very special horse and we are very honored and happy to have her. I’ve been 25 years in horse racing and I have had, here and there, a couple good ones, but it is so hard to find a Boerne.”

De Luca and his wife were traveling as restrictions were being put up around the world due to the pandemic in late March and have been at their Curacao home watching remotely, not only Boerne’s success, but also foalings at their farm in Williston.

“I always wanted to have a farm in Florida where I can retire and also do breeding,” De Luca said. “We love babies. I am here [in Curacao] because we had to travel in March and a couple of days later they closed all the flights. So I am here in the island, but I would rather be in Florida because all of these babies are being born.”

De Luca currently has seven broodmares at his Florida farm, with the star of the band being the 10-year-old Lateen (Henrythenavigator). He purchased the mare, in foal to Commissioner, for \$5,500 at the 2019 Keeneland January sale. Months after the auction, her first foal Great Winner (Karakontie {Jpn}) won a Russian Group 1 event in Moscow.

“We have a beautiful colt by Commissioner now who is a yearling,” De Luca said. “But the bigger story is Great Winner. We are following him and we are very excited to have the mother.”

Lateen is currently in Kentucky and booked again to Gainesway’s Karakontie. The resulting foal, De Luca notes, will be bred on the same cross as this year’s GIII Sam F. Davis S. winner Sole Volante (Karakontie), who is also out of a Kingmambo mare.

De Luca said his breeding operation will include a mixture of racing and sales prospects.

“We are planning to sell, of course you cannot keep them all,” he said. “I have 11 yearlings--seven of them were bred by me at the farm, but five I bought as weanlings at auction. I cannot bring 11 horses to the racetrack--you now how expensive that is to maintain them? We will try to sell them at a good price. The same happened with Boerne. At a certain time, I put a price on her, but people thought she was a Texas-bred and it was a little too much. I think I asked \$70,000 for her and no one took her, so I kept her. So I am going to do the same with the ones that I have. I will put a reserve on them where I can make some money.”

After Boerne’s effortless trio of victories, would he consider selling his star filly?

“You can hardly put a price on her. She is a special animal for us, we waited so long,” De Luca said. “But as they say, for everything there is a price. Because of all that is going on in the world, there is not so much attention now on the horses. So I am not getting as overwhelmed like if it was a normal world. Let’s put it this way, if the price is right, we might consider, but we are not thinking about it right now.”

De Luca expects Boerne’s next start will be in stakes company at Gulfstream Park.

“There are a couple of stakes coming up in the next months at Gulfstream,” De Luca said. “So we said, ‘You know what, why do we need to go out there and find races for her now to prove something? No, we will stay and try to enter in one of those stakes or maybe both in the coming months. And then she will be the one telling us, ‘I’ve had enough of these, let’s go and find some better horses.’ We will see where she goes.”

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## BEHIND THE LENS: HAROLD ROTH

By T.D. Thornton

Today TDN launches the first installment in a multi-part series highlighting racetrack photographers. We’ll be profiling the unique relationships between cameras and Thoroughbreds, asking about the most memorable horses, races and people they’ve viewed through the lens, and talking about how the craft of equine imagery has evolved. Each time that we profile a photographer, TDN will also be featuring their hand-selected favorite shots in multiple editions throughout the week. **Cont. p9**

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*Racing Fotos*



**Behind the Lens cont.**

After colliding with Scrappy T at the top of the stretch, Afleet Alex goes on to win the 2005 Preakness. | *Horsephotos*

First up is Harold Roth. A 1973 racetrack photojournalism assignment for his Queens College student newspaper led to Roth's eventual founding of Horsephotos, the world's preeminent equine photo library. More than four decades later, Roth and his longtime team of 20 or so photographers have compiled more than four million digital images of Thoroughbreds, major races, the Eclipse Awards, sales and the backstretch.

After developing a taste for racing with that first photo shoot, Roth freelanced for *Turf and Sport Digest* during the Secretariat era while pursuing work as a commercial photographer. One of his early ad agency assignments involved Belmont Park, which dovetailed into his getting hired by the New York Racing Association (NYRA) to shoot everything from billboards to program covers through the early 1980s. Along the way, Roth separately helped create images for 30 children's books, including Harold Roth's *Big Book of Horses*.

In the mid-1980s, Roth got the idea to create the horse industry's first stock photo agency. In 1995, Roth rebranded the company as Horsephotos. The California-based firm's clients include international media outlets like *TDN*, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and TVG. In addition, Horsephotos is routinely called upon for special assignments, like providing still shots for the films *Seabiscuit* and *Dreamer*. An edited transcript of a recent phone interview with Roth follows.

**TDN: You have a reputation as an old-school photographer in terms of fundamentals, but it's well known you don't exactly pine for the "good old days" of film and darkrooms. Is that a fair description?**

**HR:** I think you hit that pretty close to being on the head. Although I liked darkrooms, it was slow, tedious and not as

rewarding as the digital format. As soon as the digital format presented itself shooting-wise, editing-wise and retouching-wise, it was just perfect for what I thought I needed to be doing moving forward. And the viewer is probably the greatest authority [of which format delivers better results].

**TDN: Beyond the 21st Century transition to digital photography, what was another game-changing breakthrough during your time behind the camera?**

**HR:** The changing of the technology from manual focus to auto-focus, and from manual advancing of the film one frame at a time to automatic, rapid advancing, were very big in the 1970s. In the 1971 Belmont S., Canonero II was going for the Triple Crown and Pass Catcher beat him. But the jockey of Pass Catcher dropped his whip and somebody got a shot. That was an award-winning photo. He was only able to get that by either getting lucky or by being able to advance the camera rapidly enough to take multiple shots. If you don't have to manage the technology because the technology manages itself due to the automation, that is an advancement that I am all for. The craft has nothing to do with technology. Real craft has to do with vision.



Forego drifts wide and hits the wire just in time to win the 1976 Marlboro Cup, shot with a single frame manual focus Minolta | *Horsephotos*

**TDN: You're a minimalist. Tell us about your preferred setup.**

**HR:** I enjoy using my cell phone more than anything. You don't have to carry anything else with you. Here's a quick story how I gravitated more to a point-and-shoot camera as opposed to the Nikon F2 that I was using: My wife was working as publicity director at Random House in New York City, and she would invite me to photograph book launch parties. And about every other party, a fellow named Andy Warhol would appear. I would take my large F2 with a potato-masher flash on it and I would point it at him. **Cont. p10**



Personal Ensign catches Winning Colors at the wire in the 1988 Breeders' Cup Distaff. | Horsephotos

**Behind the Lens cont.**

**HR:** One day he came up to me and said, “You know, I see you around, and I want you to consider this Canon Sure Shot that I have because people will be less affected by that than this big thing coming in their face.” From then on, I started shooting everything with [a small-format] Olympus XA camera. I even shot boxing matches ringside with that. It was just the most brilliant mental segue--from a being a wannabe photographer to being somebody that doesn’t get in your face. And Andy Warhol was the one who set me straight.

**TDN:** How did your years shooting ads for NYRA affect your style?

**HR:** [Ad designers] never wanted a standard shot. “Shoot it from an angle that I haven’t seen,” was their mandate for billboards and posters. If you came to them with a standard shot, they would beat you up. Advertising people have a whole different breed of consciousness. They’re keyed up a little higher than editorial people. So for the first 20 years I didn’t shoot as much editorial.

**TDN:** Today with Horsephotos, how much of your energy goes into managing the business versus actually getting out to shoot horses?

**HR:** Managing would be in the 90%-plus range, and shooting horses would be 5% or less. Generally, when I go to the racetrack with my photographers, I will be in charge of designating and directing camera locations and equipment, and also editing their shots. Basically, I’m relieving them of everything other than making things look as good as they can from their position.

**TDN:** Do you miss the shooting aspect or do those directive challenges satisfy your creative appetite?

**HR:** When I was shooting, I was only able to be in one location. If the action occurred where you were, you got lucky. Now I’m able to designate multiple people at multiple locations and realize a vision for multiple places. When they bring back their digital files for me to edit, I will always ask, “What happened in your position that I need to look at really carefully?” I’m in a more exciting position. I’m very lucky to be in a position like this. Other people might have the anxiety of wanting to be in a different part of the action. They don’t know the value or enjoyment of this action.

**TDN:** Last week was supposed to be GI Kentucky Derby week, but it’s been postponed because of the pandemic. How would you have deployed your Horsephotos team to shoot Derby Day?

**HR:** Derbies are pretty much a standard procedure. We try to get six to eight players. We will have a person shooting two finishes from the finish line; one would be with a 200 mm lens, and one with a 300 mm. We would shoot a head-on with a 600 or 800 mm. We would put down two cameras under the rail shooting the winner with the spires in the background, and one of them head-on. We would have a person on the inside [rail] on a ladder, and we would have someone on the turn and also on the roof. After the race, we would have two people shooting the winner’s circle. Derby Days we have to keep everybody calm and focused on what they’re supposed to be doing.

**Cont. p11**



Steve Cauthen at Aqueduct in 1978 | Horsephotos



**Behind the Lens cont.****TDN: Beyond action shots, you also photograph backstretch scenes. What stands out for you when shooting there?**

**HR:** Light. I will go to a barn where the shot that I want is conducive to light. If a horse is being bathed, and I were able to get backlight that radiates behind the horse and lets the “smoke” come off of a horse’s body going up in the air, I would look for that. Since most horses look the same and most barns follow similar routines, you have to figure out how to make it unique. And the only thing that can do that is the light.

**TDN: For fun, what other subjects do you like to shoot?**

**HR:** Everything in this world! I just finished a multimedia project called “Billboards.” I’ve been shooting them for 30 or 40 years. I do street lights. I do street signs, murals and buildings. I do food trucks. I do diners, clouds, flowers and any pop art that I can. I do cars, airplanes and boats, and I like to find unique ones. I recently found a 1954 Hudson in somebody’s front yard. The day before we photographed a purple McLaren, which we found out the guy paid \$270,000 for. But it’s so purple! I mean, you would not believe how purple-y it is! And I take a lot of pictures of my family and my grandchild.

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**KEENELAND TO OFFER DIGITAL INSPECTIONS**

Keeneland will offer digital inspections for all Book 1 and Book 2 yearlings in its upcoming September Yearling Sale. Footage will be captured at the farms during the yearling preparation period and will be available online for all remote buyers, including those whose travel will be prevented by COVID-19. Keeneland will also aid consignors and breeders with yearlings in Books 3-6, who would like to photograph or video their horses.

“Keeneland’s award-winning Broadcast Services team will coordinate ‘digital inspections’ for all Book 1 and Book 2 yearlings as an enhanced service to our breeders and consignors,” Keeneland’s Vice President of Racing and Sales Bob Elliston said in a letter to the industry released by Keeneland Tuesday. “These professionally produced videos will also enable remote buyers to access quality video representations of yearlings on offer.

“Footage will be captured at the farms during the yearling preparation period, as we work closely with every seller to deliver a consistent and quality presentation for your yearlings. These assets will be accessible online for prospective buyers, particularly those whose attendance at the sale may be compromised by limitations due to COVID-19.

“Additionally, Keeneland Broadcast Services will provide support to consignors and owners of yearlings in Books 3-6 who wish to record videos or capture photos of yearlings

independently. Keeneland will contact you as we confirm yearling placement in sales catalogs.”

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**HANDLE FALLS 24.42% IN APRIL**

by Bill Finley

With the majority of U.S. tracks unable to race in April, total pari-mutuel handle during the month fell by 24.42%. Bettors wagered \$639 million during the month after wagering \$845 million during April 2019. The numbers were provided by Equibase.

It has been a roller coaster year for betting on U.S. racing. After posting an 11.8% increase over the months of January and February, handle fell by 22.8% in March when most tracks were forced to close. For most of April, there were only five Thoroughbred tracks racing, but several are set to reopen this month. That should mean that May figures will show a sharp rebound. For the year, handle is off 6.87%.

The coronavirus shutdowns also caused purses to fall sharply during the month. After \$85.9 million was paid out in 2019, total purses paid out last April were just \$17.4 million. That represents a 79.64% decrease, a decline that reflects how few races were run during April. The five open racetracks--Tampa Bay Downs, Gulfstream Park, Fonner Park, Will Rogers and Oaklawn--ran a total of 746 races, down from 2,612 in April, 2019. For the year, purses are down 28.85%.

With so little competition for the betting dollar, the tracks that did run saw record handle numbers, including the \$41 million wagered at Oaklawn Park on the day of the GI Arkansas Derby. Entering this year, Oaklawn’s record daily handle had been just \$16 million. Those numbers helped inflate the figure for the average amount wagered per card. That went from \$2.7 million in 2019 to \$7.5 million in April, 2020, for an increase of 176%.

The lack of opportunities to race also helped the tracks that were open bolster their fields. The average field size last month was 9.13. In April 2019, the number was 7.55.

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**TDN CRITERIA**

*The races covered in the TDN are as follows:*

- Stakes: purses of \$50,000/up
- Allowance Races: purses of \$20,000/up
- Optional Claiming Races: purses of \$20,000/up
- Maiden Special Weight Races: purses of \$18,000/up
- Maiden Claiming Races: purses of \$18,000/up & a minimum claiming price of \$40,000

## WITH CASINOS CLOSED, MARYLAND HORSEMEN BRACING FOR MAJOR CHANGES WHEN RACING RESUMES

by Bill Finley

While eager to see the return of live racing at Laurel, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association President Tim Keefe knows that the belt-tightening may not end any time soon. Casino revenues account for a large portion of the purse money for the Maryland tracks and its likely that the state's casinos will be closed for several more months.

"It certainly is a concern and something on our minds," Keefe said. "Nearly 70% of our purse revenues are derived from the casinos. With them being closed down, obviously it is a big concern for us."

Maryland racing is not alone. Tracks in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Louisiana and Delaware are among those where betting handle only makes up a small percentage of the total amount available for purses. The worry is that the tracks will be allowed to race well before the casinos are able to reopen and, if that happens, purses could fall sharply.

Keefe said his expectations were that the Maryland tracks would open sometime between May 15 and May 31. The final decision is up to Governor Larry Hogan, who has said he will reopen the state in a "safe, gradual way." As of Tuesday, there had been 27,117 cases of the coronavirus in Maryland and 1,390 deaths.

Keefe has no inside knowledge regarding when the Maryland casinos will be allowed to operate again, but he knows their opening is not something Hogan will rush.

In a Q & A Keefe did that was sent out to members of the horsemen's group, he said, "We think it is safe to assume that we will not derive any revenue for purses from the casinos for many months."

"In Maryland, our governors have taken a very conservative, very tactful approach to opening things up," he said. "He is listening to the medical experts and has been judicious in what he's doing and how he is opening things up. All these governors have a lot of pressure on them to get their economies going again. The bottom line is our governor will do it when he feels it is the right time."

The horsemen do have a cushion, a \$3.2-million surplus in the purse account, that can be dipped into once racing resumes.

Keefe said it has yet to be decided how best to spend that money, whether the surplus should be paid out right away to keep purses at pre-coronavirus levels or if it should be spent cautiously so that it can last. If the money was used at the start of the resumption of racing and if the goal is to maintain purse levels as they were, the surplus would last for about 19 racing days.

With less purse money available, Keefe said the stakes schedule will have to be cut and said there would be no stakes races at Laurel in the weeks and months after the track reopens.

"For the immediate future, as far as the stakes program goes, we won't have one," he said. "That's unfortunate. The thought behind that is the purse monies we do have we want to get it into the hands of the Marylanders, the guys that are here and have supported Maryland racing and are struggling. To us, that makes the most sense."

If not for the coronavirus, the GI Preakness S., plus the many supporting stakes run Preakness Week, would be less than two weeks away. With a \$1.5 million purse for the Preakness alone, there might some temptation on the part of horsemen to lower the purse or, perhaps, put the race off for a year. Keefe said that is not something that has come up.

"I haven't had that discussion," said Keefe, who speculated that the Preakness may be rescheduled for October. "There may be talk of that among the horsemen; I know there has been some discussion about that. We would listen to whatever The Stronach Group proposes and, hopefully, will make the right decision."

Realizing that there will have to be a new normal once racing resumes, the horsemen and management have agreed on a number of changes. In the initial

stages after racing begins again, only Maryland-based horses will be allowed to run. No ship-ins will be permitted from out of state and jockeys who are not Maryland regulars will not be permitted to ride. With claiming horses making their first starts since the shut down began at Laurel March 15, owners may waive the claiming price, as long as the horse isn't dropping in class. Should a horse start in a \$20,000 claimer after last racing in a \$20,000 claimer, they will be eligible for the waiver rule. Bonus payments for Maryland-breds may be temporarily discontinued once the meet resumes.



Laurel Park | Maryland Jockey Club



## DELAYED LOUISIANA DOWNS MEET TO CUT 20 DATES, DROP SUPER DERBY

By T.D. Thornton

Louisiana Downs will push back the opening of its spring/summer meet by one month, drop 20 dates from its schedule, and cancel the running of the GIII Super Derby because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) voted 11-0 at an emergency meeting Tuesday to approve the track's request. The decision was the only agenda item scheduled and none of the scores of participants on the conference call spoke in opposition to the changes.

Louisiana Downs had been slated to start racing May 2. The 20 dates will be lopped off the front end of the schedule and will not be reallocated after the new June 6 start date.

The Super Derby, originally scheduled for Sep. 12, is traditionally the signature stakes race at the meet. The season will end Sep. 23 as previously planned.

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## FURTHER TRIBUTES TO DENNIS LYNCH

*Editor's note: We continue to receive tributes to Dennis Lynch, who passed away Friday. If you would like to submit yours for consideration for publication, email [suefinley@thetdn](mailto:suefinley@thetdn).*

### ANDREA GREATHOUSE

I didn't know Dennis as well and as long as most, but the years I did know him will forever be memorable. The first time I met Dennis, I was young, green and new to the sales side. He welcomed me with open arms (literally) and every time after that. He gave the BEST hugs. I'm not sure if that had anything to do with my 4-foot-11-inch frame, but every time I saw him, no matter how busy we were, he always had time to give a hug. I loved to give him a hard time as well, claiming he "cheated" on me, as I saw him giving others hugs, but that just shows you what a kind, personable man he was. His undeniable sense of humor is the next thing I will always remember about him. I could sit and listen to him tell me the funniest stories for hours so that my face hurt from laughing so hard. He (as well as Snitch Jr.) were my partners in crime many times as well, always helping come up with a funny joke to play on my boss. In the end though, I will always remember Dennis's magnanimous spirit. That is what carried him above others and what I see in the outpouring of amazing stories everyone has to tell. And he was right, as he wrote in one of his blogs, "Realizing and appreciating lifelong friendships can't be outdone for lifting

one's spirits." Dennis, you lifted mine in so many ways. I will hold onto those hugs until I can eventually get another.

–Much love always, Shorty

### TIM KENT, Managing Director, Goffs UK

I was lucky enough to spend six wonderful months as an intern at Fasig-Tipton in 2006 and I was fortunate that my desk was situated in the walkway between the offices of Bill Graves and Dennis Lynch. Well what an education that turned out to be! Two wonderful men who taught me so much about the horse business. Not just great horsemen, but great with people and their wonderful ability to liaise with clients has had a lasting impact on me. I still chuckle at some of their expressions, many of which are not repeatable, but they taught me so much and I will forever be grateful to them both. Two great men. Thank you, Bill. Thank you, Dennis. May you both rest in peace.

### ANN BANKS

I have known Dennis since our college days at UK. As we both spent our post-graduate years in the company of Thoroughbred horses, our paths continued to cross, but my most cherished memories of Dennis will be the years we both sat on the board of the North Lexington YMCA together. We planned and schemed and gave money and raised money for the outreach of our very diversified and beloved "North Side" of Lexington, which I have always referred affectionately to as my neighborHOOD--my HOOD being the north Lexington farm community. "Hey, what's happening in the HOOD today?" he would always ask, knowing how a HOOD-raised-and-grazed rooting-interest horse had just distinguished itself in some big race somewhere. We'd talk horses for a bit, but more importantly we'd talk community outreach to "our" people of the north end of Lexington. Dennis's quiet common sense, his interest and his involvement in the betterment of the people of the North Lexington community will be irreplaceable on many fronts. Dennis Lynch cut through life with a broad swath.

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# MAKING BETTING MORE FRIENDLY



*With racing's temporary opportunity as the only game in town, the TDN's Katie Ritz took a poll of some industry insiders known to like a good bet and asked them: what is one simple way that tracks could make betting more friendly for existing horseplayers and/or more effective at bringing in new players? As you'll see, none of them could stop at just one.*

## JOE MIGLIORE, West Point Thoroughbreds



Joe Migliore | West Point Thoroughbreds

I think the one answer you are going to hear from everyone will be to focus on lowering takeout. While I agree that is a must for the longevity of the game going forward, I'd like to highlight another area that I've always felt was a major roadblock to attracting new players and retaining existing ones. The easiest thing tracks can do is to provide new and existing players with free access to accurate, clear, and concise data and information. Past performances, replays, workouts, trainer and jockey statistics, track biases and trends, interviews with connections pre- and post-race, stewards' decisions and race charts, all of this information should be made readily available and FREE to access for patrons.

There are countless times I find myself at the track with people who are having one of their first racetrack experiences. Whether it's through my role as a syndicator with West Point Thoroughbreds or simply with close childhood friends from the Long Island and NYC area, I always end up trying to explain what must look like hieroglyphics to beginners in a *Racing Form* or program they probably purchased on the way in for \$10. With beginners, this challenge is at most times insurmountable

without a guide who can put things in familiar terms. A few tracks have made well-intentioned moves and employed people to help newbies learn how to bet while at the races, but only so much can be learned in short conversations in person as horses approach the gate. Comprehensive online tutorials should be created and made readily available to newer players.

The few that do get over the hump and really begin to grasp the handicapping concept are often turned off after seeing how inadequate, antiquated, and expensive it is to continue playing. How can we expect gamblers to choose a sport they know little about, with complexities that often take much trial and error to grasp, over a football game on Sunday without providing them every tool necessary to comprehend a race? If we don't start doing so, I'm afraid they won't.

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## KEENELAND, PARTNERS EXPAND COVID-19 SUPPORT WITH INTRODUCTION OF NOURISH THE BACKSTRETCH

A new program, Nourish the Backstretch, powered by Keeneland, Nourish Lexington and Blue Grass Farms Charities (BGFC), will provide weekly meals and groceries to stable area workers at Keeneland and The Thoroughbred Center (TTC), Keeneland announced Tuesday. More than 500 people are employed by trainers to care of horses at the two locations. Proceeds from wagers placed through Keeneland Select, Keeneland's online ADW, during May will be donated to Nourish the Backstretch.

"Keeneland is forever grateful to the industry's front-line heroes, the men and women on the backstretch who are out there every day taking care of the horses," Keeneland President and CEO Bill Thomason said. "We recognize and appreciate your hard work and dedication, and we are committed to support you during this challenging time when resources are scarce. You are vital to this industry and an important part of the Keeneland family."

Nourish the Backstretch is a further **extension of Nourish Lexington**, an initiative Keeneland co-founded with VisitLEX, FoodChain and other community partners in April. Nourish Lexington provides complimentary meals five days a week to anyone in the Lexington community who is affected by the COVID-19 crisis. More than 22,000 meals were distributed in the first month of operation. **Cont. p15**



**Nourish the Backstretch cont.**

Keeneland Hospitality, whose staff already has cooked nearly 3,000 meals for Nourish Lexington, will prepare all meals for the Nourish the Backstretch initiative and distribute them every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in May and June at Keeneland and TTC, which is on Paris Pike. At Keeneland, distribution will take place in the parking lot of the Rice Road barn area and in the open-air pavilion near the barns numbered in the 40s in the track's main stable area. At TTC, distribution will be at the parking lot by Building A, which is to the left after you enter the security gate.

People who would like to support Nourish the Backstretch also may donate directly to [Nourish Lexington](#) or [Blue Grass Farms Charities](#).

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**ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN APPLICATION PROCESS RESUMES FOR BREEDING FARMS**

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has reopened the application process for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)-COVID-19 related assistance program after a short delay. Farms with fewer than 500 employees whose primary activity is breeding horses may now apply for these loans offered to businesses that have suffered economic hardship as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

"This is welcome news and a terrific opportunity for horse farms that are currently facing a number of daunting challenges," said NTRA President and CEO Alex Waldrop. "The NTRA encourages quick action by those interested, as the loans are processed on a first-come, first-served basis."

NTRA partner Dean Dorton, one of the nation's leading experts on equine tax matters, posted an update to the COVID-19 microsite on NTRA.com that outlines the new provisions that will positively impact horse breeding farms. That PowerPoint can be found [here](#).

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**THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COALITION LAUNCHES ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKER**

The Thoroughbred Safety Coalition launched a [new online tool](#) to mark the progress its members have made in implementing and advocating for a uniform set of reforms to make racing safer. The new "[Accountability Tracker](#)" details the status of individual tracks' efforts to implement the Coalition's reform platform, which is made up of a series of increased medication restrictions, enhanced reporting and transparency requirements and other operational safety and integrity protocols to ensure equine athletes are fit to train and race.

"Protecting our athletes requires an industry-wide effort that touches on every facet of the Thoroughbred racing community, from breeding and sales to training and racing to the emergency policies we have in place for a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic. Our sport is only as healthy as its athletes, and strengthening accountability is necessary step towards making their safety and well-being everyone's top priority," said Donna Brothers, the Coalition's Strategic Adviser. "This new tool is an important way for our members to continue to hold themselves, and each other, accountable while encouraging other organizations to join us in our pursuit of increased transparency."

The tracker lists reforms in two categories: track-level, which are implemented by Coalition tracks and their respective state racing commissions, and Coalition-level, which are implemented through Coalition-wide efforts. These include:

- Medical Reforms:

- Phase out the use of Furosemide (Lasix)
- Increase the withdrawal time for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to 48 hours pre-race
- Prohibit concurrent use of multiple NSAIDs
- Establish a 14-day minimum pre-race withdrawal time for corticosteroid joint injections
- Prohibit concurrent usage of multiple corticosteroids
- Prohibit the use of bisphosphonates on horses in training or racing, with a penalty of 12 months on the vets' list if detected
- Increase the stand-down period after the administration of extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT)

- Operational Reforms:

- Adopt "voided claim" rules to deter the entry of horses that are unfit for competition
- Mandate direct daily reporting by vets to regulatory officials
- Perform random, out-of-competition testing on horses without limitation
- Adopt a uniform riding-crop rule, limiting crop use and defining crop specifications
- Mandate necropsies for all equine fatalities
- Enforce minimum timed thoroughbred workout requirements

- Organizational Reforms:

- Create an electronic veterinary reporting system and centralized database
- Collect racing surface data and merge information with existing databases
- Standardize protocols for ensuring jockey health and wellness
- Develop a proficiency system for exercise riders **Cont.**

**Thoroughbred Safety Coalition cont.**

- Create a safety steward position in all jurisdictions
- Establish cross-functional safety committees at all participating race tracks
- Mandate increased licensing requirements for trainers

The tracker will be updated on a regular basis as implementation efforts continue to progress and new reforms are developed.

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**R.A.C.E. FUND ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER STARTS MAY 22**

The Retirement Assistance and Care for Equines Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 2004 and TAA accredited, will launch its 2020 fund drive with an online auction on eBay starting May 22 at 8 p.m. EST and ending May 29 to help raise funds for racehorse retirement and rescue.

Featured items include: halters of the following: 2003 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide, 2012 and 2013 American Champion Female Sprinter Groupie Doll, 2013 Breeders' Cup Classic winner Mucho Macho Man, 2014 Florida Derby winner Constitution, 2014 Holy Bull S. winner Cairo Prince, 2015 Whitney S. and Metropolitan H. winner Honor Code, 2016 Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist, 2016 Fountain of Youth S. winner Mohaymen, 2017 Dubai and Pegasus World Cup winner Arrogate, Littleprincessemma, dam of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah and Hall of Famer Serena's Song. Horseshoes worn by War Front, Afleet Alex and Bird Song are also available. Other items to be auctioned are a farm tour

donated by Three Chimneys and Stonestreet posters.

"We have some very exciting auction items again this year. We would like to especially thank volunteer Roxanne Campbell for her tireless efforts as well as Adena Springs, Airdrie Stud, Inc. Claiborne, Darley-Godolphin, Denali Stud, Gainesway, Juddmonte Farms, Kentucky Horse Park, Lane's End, Shadwell, Stonestreet, Summer Wind Farm, Three Chimneys, Timber Town Stables and WinStar for their generous support by donating such valuable items of racing champions to help us raise funds," said Marlene Murray, President of the R.A.C.E. Fund.

All proceeds raised will be used to help Thoroughbred racehorses in need of retirement and rescue from slaughter.

More information about the R.A.C.E. Fund can be found at [www.racefund.org](http://www.racefund.org). Any questions about the auction or items can be sent to [info@racefund.org](mailto:info@racefund.org).

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## WEDNESDAY'S INSIGHTS: DREAMING OF ANNA HOMEBRED DEBUTS AT TAMPA



Dreaming of Anna | Horsephotos

### 8th-TAM, \$20K, Msw, 3yo, 1mT, post time: 4:30 p.m. ET

Frank Calabrese homebred **BIG DREAMING (Declaration of War)** makes his debut for conditioner Mike Stidham here. He will be the sixth foal to race out of 2006's champion 2-year-old filly Dreaming of Anna (Rahy), who is already responsible for GSW Dreamologist (Tapit); speedy GISP young sire Fast Anna (Medaglia d'Oro); and SP All Her Class (Street Cry {Ire}), who in turn produced turf SW and dirt GISP With Honors (War Front). Out of MSW and GSP Justenuffheart (Broad Brush), Dreaming of Anna is a full to MGSW Lewis Michael and a half to MGSW and GISP Justenuffhumor (Distorted Humor). Further down Big Dreaming's crowded page is champion, MGISW and top turf sire Kitten's Joy (El Prado {Ire}). Juddmonte homebred **Juror (Tapit)**, from the extended female family of Danehill, will need a scratch to draw into the field. He is trained by Chad Brown. **TJCIS PPs**

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### SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

**Bahamian Squall** (Gone West), Double Diamond Farm, \$3,000  
55 foals of racing age/10 winners/0 black-type winners  
4-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 7f, LOVIELEE, 30-1  
8-Tampa Bay Downs, Msw 1mT, STORM TRACKER, 20-1  
\$12,000 RNA OBS OCT yrl

**Bayern** (Offlee Wild), Hill 'n' Dale Farms, \$15,000  
157 foals of racing age/37 winners/0 black-type winners  
4-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 7f, JUDY'S WAY, 4-1  
\$90,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$35,000 OBS OPN 2yo

**Carpe Diem** (Giant's Causeway), WinStar Farm, \$15,000  
231 foals of racing age/29 winners/2 black-type winners  
4-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 7f, GOGO SHOES, 5-2  
\$70,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$25,000 OBS WIN 2yo

**Commissioner** (A.P. Indy), WinStar Farm, \$7,500  
163 foals of racing age/21 winners/3 black-type winners  
8-Tampa Bay Downs, Msw 1mT, SAFE AND SOUND, 6-1  
\$25,000 FTK OCT yrl

**Karakontie (Jpn)** (Bernstein), Gainesway Farm, \$10,000  
130 foals of racing age/17 winners/3 black-type winners  
8-Tampa Bay Downs, Msw 1mT, TALAKO, 10-1  
\$37,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl



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**Second-Crop Starters cont.**

**Seek Again** (Speightstown), Stroud's Lane Farm  
 17 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners  
 4-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 7f, CHICK'S SHADOW, 12-1  
 \$34,000 RNA OBS OPN 2yo

**Tapiture** (Tapit), Darby Dan Farm, \$7,500  
 246 foals of racing age/41 winners/3 black-type winners  
 4-Tampa Bay Downs, Aoc 7f, HOPEFUL GROWTH, 9-5  
 \$160,000 KEE SEP yrl

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**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

**3rd-Will Rogers Downs, \$25,080, (S), 5-5, (NW2L), 3yo/up,**  
 5 1/2f, 1:05.61, gd.

**SPEAKER VAN (g, 4, Oratory--Embers Glowing, by Woodman)**

Lifetime Record: 8-2-0-1, \$47,172. O/B-Margie French & Van French (OK); T-Donnie K. Von Hemel.



**ORATORY**, Speaker Van, g, 4, o/o Embers Glowing, by Woodman. ALW, 5-5, Will Rogers



**Carpe Diem, sire of new 'TDN Rising Star' Scolding at Oaklawn Saturday, will be represented by Gogo Shoes at Tampa Bay Downs Wednesday | Horsephotos**