WILL THE ROAD TO LOUISVILLE RUN THROUGH NEW ORLEANS?

The Week in Review, by T.D. Thornton

After Saturday’s GIII Lecomte S., one thing’s for certain: the offspring of broodmare Catch the Moon have a strong affinity for that main track in New Orleans.

Three of the four graded stakes winners the Malibu Moon mare has produced are now a collective 5-for-6 over the Fair Grounds dirt after the one-length wire job by Midnight Bourbon (Tiznow) in the first leg of the track’s Road to the GI Kentucky Derby series.

Trainer Steve Asmussen’s job will now involve trying to build upon that home-track advantage as Midnight Bourbon stretches out (likely in the next two sophomore preps at Fair Grounds) while making sure this $525,000 KEESEP colt saves a little something for Louisville on the first Saturday in May.

Midnight Bourbon’s first stakes and two-turn win Jan. 16 came one year to the date that his older half-brother, Pirate’s Punch (Shanghai Bobby), ran roughshod over a NW2X allowance field by 11 1/2 lengths at Fair Grounds prior to peaking as a two-time Grade III stakes winner deeper in the season.

And Midnight Bourbon’s 7-2 win Saturday for Winchell Thoroughbreds has echoes of the 2017 Fair Grounds campaign of half-brother Girvin (Tale of Ekati).

Cont. p3

SPENDTHRIFT WELCOMES A THIRD MET MILE WINNER by Katie Ritz

While there’s never one fool-proof indicator for determining stallion potential, Spendthrift Farm has found one race that they feel consistently produces winners who draw their attention.

In the past four years, they’ve welcomed a trio of GI Metropolitan H. victors to their stud barn.

First was Mor Spirit (Eskendereya), the first Grade I-winning 2-year-old to later win the Met Mile since Holy Bull in 1994. Then came Mitole, another son of Eskendereya who would go on to be named the 2019 Eclipse Champion Male Sprinter. This year, they welcome a third winner in five-time stakes-winning millionaire Vekoma (Candy Ride {Arg}).

“The Met Mile, every year, seems to be one of the most competitive races that is run,” said Spendthrift’s Stallion Sales Manager Mark Toothaker. “Everybody seems to point to that race. It just is a race that everybody has circled on their calendars.” Cont. p5

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

VALUE SIRES PART 4: FIRST 2-YEAR-OLDS Kelsey Riley takes a look at European sires set to be represented by their first runners in 2021.

Click or tap here to go straight to TDN Europe.
Monday, January 18, 2021

Leading jockey Irad Ortiz, Jr. rode five winners Sunday at Gulfstream Park, booting home Templet (Temple City), Snackster (Speightster), Traffic Pattern (Temple City), Zanno (Verrazano) and Bohemian Boy (Twirling Candy). Ortiz also scored a five-bagger at the Hallandale oval Jan. 2. | Ryan Thompson

QUICK HOLDS ON IN ASTRA STAKES
Quick (GB) (Olympic Glory {Ire}) just held off stablemate Hermaphrodite (Fr) (La Havre {Ire}) to give Hronis Racing the one-two in Sunday’s GIII Astra S. at Santa Anita.

MIDNIGHT BOURBON ON TO RISEN STAR
Winchell Thoroughbreds’ Midnight Bourbon (Tiznow) exited his front-running win in the GII Lecomte S. at Santa Anita.

TODAY’S GRADED STAKES

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The Week in Review (cont. from p1)

For separate connections, Girvin parlayed victories in the GII Risen Star S. and GII Louisiana Derby into a starting spot in the first leg of the Triple Crown. An untimely quarter crack two weeks prior to the Kentucky Derby and trip woes in the race itself contributed to a 13th-place finish, but Girvin rebounded smartly later in the season to win the GI Haskell Invitational S.

Trainers plan meticulous seasonal unveilings for their top-tier sophomores, but this doesn’t stop fate from intervening on a routine basis. Last Saturday’s 1 1/16-miles Lecomte is a prime example.

The race was initially drawn up on the overnight as being glutted with early speed, but three of the five projected pacemakers ended up scratching. Then Ricardo Santana, Jr., who is Asmussen’s go-to rider, couldn’t travel to New Orleans because of a family medical situation, so Joe Talamo picked up the mount on Midnight Bourbon. When the gates finally opened, Santa Cruiser (Daled In), who figured to be the top remaining Lecomte speed threat, got bumped and shuffled back, leaving him last in the field of eight.

Midnight Bourbon and Talamo took advantage of this unexpected pace vacuum, popping right on top from the rail and assuming command through moderate splits of :24.68 and :48.99.

The two horses closest in pursuit—the 8-1 Proxy (Tapit) and 4-5 favorite ‘TDN Rising Star’ Mandaloun (Into Mischief)—are no slouches, ranked at numbers five and nine, respectively, in the most recent edition of the TDN Derby Top 12. Proxy loomed boldly and got first run five-sixteenths out while Mandaloun appeared primed to pounce past them both at the quarter pole after going three wide on both turns.

Cont. p4
Yet neither colt unleashed enough next-gear torque to seal the deal in the upper stretch, and Proxy and Mandaloun sparred back and forth for second while the freewheeling Midnight Bourbon cruised home in businesslike fashion.

His final time of 1:44.41 (0.14 seconds shy of the same-distance clocking by older horses in the GIII Louisiana S. three races earlier) translates to a very respectable 91 Beyer Speed Figure.

Midnight Bourbon’s win also indirectly buoyed the stock of Jackie’s Warrior (Maclean’s Music), another top sophomore in the Asmussen barn who was announced Saturday as an Eclipse Award finalist for the 2-year-old male award. The Lecomte was Midnight Bourbon’s first start since Oct. 10, when he ran a distant third in the GI Champagne S. behind Jackie’s Warrior.

Although both of those colts are wintering at Fair Grounds, Asmussen is targeting the 1 1/16-mile GIII Southwest S. Feb. 15 at Oaklawn for Jackie’s Warrior’s 2021 debut. He indicated post-race Saturday that Midnight Bourbon would remain on a separate path, taking aim at the nine-furlong GII Risen Star S. Feb. 13 and then probably the 1 3/16-mile GII Louisiana Derby Mar. 20, both at Fair Grounds.

Those latter two preps mirror the path taken by half-brother Girvin four years ago. Although Midnight Bourbon belongs to the foal crop known for coming of age during the COVID-19 pandemic, Girvin’s sophomore season was also affected by a disease outbreak.

Girvin broke his maiden sprinting at Fair Grounds in December 2016, then shipped out to train at the Evangeline Downs training center. A quarantine to try and contain equine herpesvirus prevented Girvin from returning to New Orleans to run in the January 2017 Lecomte S., although he was able to make it back to win both the Risen Star and the Louisiana Derby later that spring.

Girvin had the benefit of cuffing around fairly weak fields in both of his Fair Grounds prep victories. But one trait that became more apparent the more he raced for trainer Joe Sharp and owner Brad Grady was his rounding into an unflappable, professional sort of racehorse who could handle varying pace scenarios and multiple levels of in-race pressure.

After his 13th place Derby effort (that necessitated the wearing of a bar shoe to help his quarter crack), I wrote in a TDN Derby recap that, “Despite being caught in tight at the break and losing all momentum on the far turn when boxed and blocked, one thing about Girvin’s Derby that was true to his earlier efforts was that he maintained his composure despite those multiple adversities.”

If the ability to keep a level head under duress also runs in the family, that would be a powerful attribute for Midnight Bourbon to share with his older brother as the Derby pressure intensifies.

Cont. p5
He must have shown good form as a 2YO.
Won the Champagne Stakes-Gr.1 by 4 lengths (previous winners include Coolmore America’s outstanding sires Scat Daddy & Uncle Mo).

He must have demonstrated his ability to stay 1¼ miles as a 3YO.
Won the Travers Stakes-Gr.1 by 5½ lengths (fifth fastest time ever, faster than top sires Bernardini, Medaglia d’Oro etc.) and runner-up in the Kentucky Derby-Gr.1, both over 10f.
He also won the Belmont Stakes-Gr.1 (9f.) by 3¾ lengths and Florida Derby-Gr.1 (9f.) by 4¼ lengths (leading sires to win it include Scat Daddy, Quality Road, Constitution and Nyquist).

He must be sound.
9 runs at 2 and 3 years, 6 wins, once second, once third.
6 runs in Gr.1s, 4 very impressive wins and once second.

He must look masculine.
Come and see him for yourself.

He must have the right kind of pedigree.
A better racehorse than his leading young sire Constitution (by Tapit).
His dam Tizfiz (by Tiznow) won the San Gorgonio H.-Gr.2 (now the Robert J. Frankel Stakes) at Santa Anita and is a full-sister to Fury Kapcori (Gr.3 winner & runner-up in the CashCall Futurity-Gr.1).

New for 2021 | Fee $40,000.
The distances of the Fair Grounds preps have been elongated since Girvin's campaign, but seeing two-time GI Breeders’ Cup Classic winner Tiznow parked atop Midnight Bourbon’s pedigree suggests that the added sixteenth of a mile in both the Risen Star and the Louisiana Derby shouldn’t be outside of his scope.

Remember, last year was the first season that Fair Grounds extended the distances within the prep series, but because of the pandemic-necessitated switch of the Kentucky Derby from May to September, we never got a chance to see what impact those longer preps had on the rescheduled Triple Crown.

In addition to Midnight Bourbon, Girvin and Pirate's Punch, Catch the Moon also produced Grade III winner Cocked and Loaded (Colonel John). She is also the dam of a now 2-year-old Curlin colt that fetched $500,000 at KEESEP and a yearling colt by Quality Road. Perhaps those two unraced prospects will one day surface in New Orleans to further solidify the family tradition of excelling over the Fair Grounds main track.

Spendthrift Welcomes Third Met Mile Winner (cont. from p1)
Toothaker continued, “To have three Met Mile winners here at Spendthrift, they’ve all been supported very well and all have gotten really big books of mares, so now they just have to go do the deal on the racetrack.”

This most recent Met Mile hero was a 2017 $135,000 Keeneland September purchase for R.A. Hill Stable. The late-May foal made his winning debut in September of his 2-year-old year before taking the GIII Nashua S. at Aqueduct to complete an undefeated juvenile season.

Campaigned by R.A. Hill Stable and Gatsas Stables, Vekoma ran third in his sophomore debut in the GII Fountain of Youth S. behind eventual dual Grade I winner Code of Honor (Noble Mission {GB}).
He became a top consideration on the Derby Trail after taking the GII Toyota Blue Grass S. in his next start.

After failing to fire in the GI Kentucky Derby and staying on the sidelines for the remainder of his sophomore year, Vekoma returned for his best season yet in 2020.

The George Weaver trainee first took the Sir Shackleton S. in March, then followed that effort with an overwhelming 7 1/4-length victory in the GI Runhappy Cater H. to register a 110 Beyer in the Belmont slop. One month later, he faced off with fellow Grade I winners Code of Honor, McKinzie (Street Sense) and Hog Creek Hustle (Overanalyze) in the GI Runhappy Metropolitan H.

“He broke well and just sat right there and waited until it was his time,” Toothaker said, recalling the race. “He got his cue in the stretch and opened up and drew off in what was a very, very dominating performance. [The Metropolitan H.] is always a very difficult race to win and this year was no different. It was a very talented field that he was able to beat that day, and he beat them pretty soundly.” Although Vekoma was set to be a top choice in the GI Breeders’ Cup Sprint, a fever days before the raced forced him to scratch.

“It was very unfortunate that Vekoma didn’t get to run in the Sprint,” Toothaker said. “He was going to be the heavy favorite against that field. No knock against anyone, but I feel like Vekoma would have had that bunch over a barrel.”

Over his three-year career, the speedy chestnut was well known for his unique way of going. Toothaker admitted that this delay Spendthrift’s consideration of the stallion prospect.

“I’ve known George Weaver for a long time and he called me one day and he said, ‘Tooth, you’ve got to come see this horse.’ I said, ‘George, he’s got to be really crooked’ but he replied, ‘How many crooked horses do you know that I buy? Listen, he walks really well. We had no idea he did that until we breezed him.’”

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**It’s Time.**

**4 First-Crop BTWs**

**SECRET LOVE**

Just-turned 3YO filly

became her sire’s newest stakes winner with a commanding win in the $100,000 Franklin Square S. at Aqueduct on Saturday.

**VACAY**

also by Not This Time, placed in the same race.

[ watch race ]

**Owner:** Nedlaw Stable and Tobey L. Morton

**Breeders:** Sequel Stallions NY & Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings, LLC

**Trainer:** John C. Kimmel

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**Not This Time**

**GIANT’S CAUSEWAY • MISS MACY SUE, BY TRIPP**

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**Taylor Made Stallions**

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Toothaker made the trip to New York to see the prospect and sure enough, he was sold at first sight.

“George picked me up at the airport and we went and looked at him and I loved him,” he recalled. “I thought he looked like a rocket ship. I’m thrilled to death to be able to have him here at Spendthrift.”

Vekoma will be the first son of Candy Ride (Arg) to join the Spendthrift stallion roster.

“Spendthrift has been looking for a son of Candy Ride for a while and we had not been able to land one that we really liked,” Toothaker said. “This horse, when we had a chance to see him, we felt like he was the one we had been looking for. Candy Ride’s sons are doing extremely well and we were very happy to land Vekoma.”

Vekoma and Javier Castellano defeat a trio of Grade I-winning rivals in the GI Metropolitan H. | Sarah Andrew

The dual Grade I winner is out of the Speightstown mare Mona de Momma, winner of the 2010 GI Humana Distaff S. and Gill Las Flores H. and a $1.55 million Keeneland November purchase for Vekoma’s breeder, Alpha Delta Stables. While Mona de Momma died soon after foaling Vekoma, his half-sister Bloody Point (War Front) earned over $100,000 and is now a producer. Big names under his third dam include influential sire Mr. Greeley (Gone West), champion juvenile, GI Kentucky Derby winner and sire Street Sense (Street Cry {Ire}) and dual Grade I winner Paradise Woods (Union Rags).

Toothaker said that Vekoma’s physical trends strongly towards his female side.

“Vekoma really looks a lot like Speightstown,” he said. “I mean, I’ve had people come out and say they see Candy Ride in him as well, but to me, he looks very much like a lot of the Speightstowns you see out there. He’s got good bone, he’s got a really strong body and a good hip.”

Cont. p8
Already, Toothaker is imagining the first foals from Vekoma. “I can foresee him having just absolutely beautiful, rocket ship-like weanlings down the road. I think he’ll be a very precocious sire--his body looks very precocious. He was so fast and hated to lose. So we’re looking forward to getting mares to him this year and then seeing what the foals look like in 2022.”

Sunday, Santa Anita
ASTRA S.-GIII, $102,000, Santa Anita, 1-17, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/2mT, 2:27.71, fm.
1--QUICK (GB), 120, m, 5, by Olympic Glory (Ire)
   1st Dam: The Giving Tree (Ire), by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire)
   2nd Dam: Starry Messenger (GB), by Galileo (Ire)
   3rd Dam: The Faraway Tree (GB), by Suave Dancer
1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN, 1ST GRADED STAKES WIN. (13,000gns Ylg '17 TAOCT; 32,000gns 3yo '19 TATAHI). O-Hronis Racing LLC; B-Brightwalton Bloodstock Ltd (GB); T-John W. Sadler; J-Umberto Rispoli. $60,000. Lifetime Record: 16-4-5-3, $170,335. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: C+.
2--Hermaphrodite (Fr), 120, m, 6, Le Havre (Ire)--Decency (Ire), by Celtic Swing (GB). (€27,000 Ylg '16 DEANOV). O-Hronis Racing LLC; B-S.A.R.L. Jedburgh Stud (FR); T-John W. Sadler. $20,000.
3--Altea (Fr), 120, m, 6, Siyouni (Fr)--Ensis (Spa), by Zieten. ($200,000 5yo ’20 KEENOV). O-MyRacehorse; B-Carlos Vazquez Gonzalez (FR); T-Michael W. McCarthy. $12,000.

Margins: NO, 2 1/4, HF. Odds: 1.90, 4.00, 5.80.
Also Ran: Lucky Peridot, Carpe Vinum, Ms Peintour, Aunt Lubie, Miss Addie Pray, Avenue de France (Fr). Click for the Equibase.com chart, the TJCIS.com PPs or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree. VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

Quick grittily held off the relentless late rally of stablemate Hermaphrodite to give Hronis Racing and trainer John Sadler the exacta in the GIII Astra S. at Santa Anita Sunday. The bay mare settled just off the pace in fourth and just to the outside of Hermaphrodite as Aunt Lubie (Uncle Mo) loped along on the early lead in this marathon contest. Hermaphrodite was inching closer along the rail, but was without running room, as Quick zipped up into contention with a three-wide move on the far turn. Quick put a head in front at the top of the lane and briefly had a clear advantage with a furlong to run, but Hermaphrodite finally found room along the rail and closed powerfully to just miss in a photo finish.

Cont. p9

THE JAKE PANUS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A memorial scholarship fund was created in Jake’s name to provide post-secondary education financial assistance to the children from Red Shirt Table on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala Lakota County, South Dakota, where Jake participated in his first church mission trip in 2019.

Jake passed away on August 9, 2020. His father, Stephen, is president of TJC Media Ventures, which promotes the America’s Best Racing brand. To support Jake’s scholarship fund, please visit southportucc.org/jake-panus-mem-fund
Quick (outside) holds off Hermaphrodite | Benoit

Pedigree Notes:
The Giving Tree, a half-sister to group placed Starbright (Ire) (Duke of Marmalade {Ire}), has a yearling colt by Adaay (Ire). She sold to Batsford Stud for 6,000gns while carrying that foal at the 2018 Tattersalls December sale. A 2,500gns Tattersalls November weanling in 2019, the colt RNA’d for 45,000gns at last year’s Tattersalls October Yearling Sale. Quick’s third dam, The Faraway Tree, produced 2010 GI Gamely s. winner Tuscan Evening (Ire) (Oasis Dream {GB}).

Quick is the fifth graded winner for her sire, Olympic Glory, who has also been represented by 2019 G1 Coronation S. and 2020 G1 Prix Rothschild winner Watch Me (Fr), 2020 G3 Prix de Flore winner Grand Glory (GB), 2020 G3 Solario S. winner Etonian (Ire), and German group winner Lucky Lycra (Ire). In the Southern Hemisphere, his son Eric the Eel (Aus) was third in last year’s G1 Australian Derby.

**MIDNIGHT BOURBON ON TO RISEN STAR**

Midnight Bourbon (Tiznow) came out of his wire-to-wire victory in Saturday’s GIII Lecomte S. in fine shape, Scott Blasi, assistant to trainer Steve Asmussen, said Sunday. The Winchell Thoroughbreds runner is expected to start next in the Feb. 13 GII Risen Star S.

Mandaloun (Into Mischief), the beaten favorite when third in the Lecomte, may get a change of equipment for his next start, according to trainer Brad Cox.

“We still think he is a very good horse,” Cox said of the Juddmonte Farm homebred. “He raced wide around both turns. I thought it was a good experience. He showed up. He ran his race. I think we are going to add blinkers. I talked it over with the Juddmonte team and [jockey] Florent [Geroux]. We kind of thought that ever since his first race. He came out it [Lecomte], so far so good. We will definitely look at coming back in the Risen Star.”

Cox also saddled Sun Path (Munnings) to a fourth-place finish in Saturday’s GIII Silverbulletday S.

“I was super disappointed with the outcome of the Silverbulletday,” Cox admitted. “We don’t see any physical issue with Sun Path. She appears to have come out of it well as of now. Obviously, we will back up a little bit. We won’t run back in four weeks. We’ll just try to train up to either the [Mar. 6 GIII] Honeybee [at Oaklawn Park] or the [Mar. 20 GII] Fair Grounds Oaks. They would really be our only options moving forward. We need a little more time between races. She’s going to be a little bit of a question mark until we run her again. She was doing so well leading up to this race [Silverbulletday].”

Silverbulletday winner Charlie’s Penny (Race Day) will now likely target the Feb. 13 GII Rachel Alexandra S. at Fair Grounds.

“So far everything looks good,” trainer Chris Block said. “She ate up last night and this morning, walked real well and she seems bright and not too knocked out. The next logical plan would be to point towards the Rachel Alexandra. What has pushed her forward is her mind and her determination. She’s not a very big filly, kind of average in size and a little bit on the narrow side, but all that is relative to what she can do herself. Yesterday she was helped by the [slow] pace, but so was everybody else, or so I would have thought. She rose to the occasion, now it’s time to see if she can take the next step forward. It was really nice to win this race at Fair Grounds. My family used to send horses here for the winter with [the late] Richie Scherer, and management has been very kind to us.”

Share this story 🌐
FASIG-TIPTON H.O.R.A. GRAD COULD BE ON WAY TO SAUDI CUP

Scars Are Cool (Malibu Moon), a $175,000 purchase at Fasig-Tipton’s 2020 July Horses of Racing Age Sale, won a US$27,000 open race for imported horses Friday at King Abdullahiz Racecourse in Riyadh, which moved him one step closer to a possible start in the $20-million Saudi Cup.

It was the second start in Saudi Arabia for the 5-year-old, who was campaigned by Sagamore Farm when racing in the U.S. He was unplaced in a Dec. 26 race before winning Friday’s 1,600-meter event by three-quarters of a length (video). He broke his maiden in 2019 at Saratoga and came back to run in the GI Travers S. in his next start. He would go on to win allowance races at Churchill Downs and Gulfstream.

According to Tom Ryan, the director of strategy and international racing for the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, whether or not Scars Are Cool qualifies for the Saudi Cup may depend on what rating he gets from the local handicapper. The ratings for last week’s races will be released mid-week. He also has the option of trying to qualify for the race in a Jan. 30 prep, the The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Cup.

Lexington-based bloodstock agent Tom Clark signed the ticket at the Fasig-Tipton sale for Saudi-based breeder Ahmad Alabdullatif, an advisor to several Saudi racing operations. His new owner is Mohammed Omar I. Alsakran.

Clark said that the horse’s main selling point was his soundness.

“He was perfectly sound when we bought him,” he said.

“That’s what drew us to him. He didn’t have a pimple on him. From the X-rays, you expect to see some wear and tear when they’ve raced for a little while, but there was no wear and tear on him at all.”

Clark said that the Saudis have been shopping at sales in Europe when looking for horses to compete in their major races.

“Traditionally, they have bought at Tattersalls in Newmarket and they have done well with those horses,” he said. “But they race on dirt primarily, so it’s not surprising that they bought one here. Why wouldn’t they want dirt horses?”

TAMPA PREVIEW DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tampa Bay Downs is offering limited general admission for its upcoming Festival Preview Day 41 Presented by Lambholm South. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Florida track will limit the number of spectators on the day to 2,500. Tickets are available online at www.tampabaydowns.com.

To be held Feb. 6, the Festival Preview Day card will feature the Gill Sam F. Davis S. and the Suncoast S.

Horsemen, box-seat holders and season-ticket holders do not need to purchase tickets, but will need to present their passes at the gate.

TODAY’S FEATURED VIDEO REPLAYS

Quick (GB) (Olympic Glory {Ire}) holds on to win GIII Astra S. at Santa Anita Sunday.

APP UPDATE

For those subscribers who have been having problems opening the TDN in the app, there is now an update in the App Store. Please update your app, which will fix the bug.

Listen to this week’s podcast January 13, 2021
Starlight Racing’s Jack Wolf
Talks Charlatan, Joust, Aftercare

Click Here to be added to our mailing list to receive the TDN in your inbox every day
Monday, Santa Anita, post time: 6:30 p.m. EST
MEGAHERTZ S.-GIII, $100,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT

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Breeders: 1-Haras Don Alberto, 2-Doug Branham & Felicia Branham, 3-Marion G. Montanari, 4-George Krikorian, 5-George Schwary, 6-Mick Ruis

When it mattered most, we came together.
IN ORDER OF PURSE:

LADIES H., $100,000, Aqueduct, 1-17, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m, 1:53.51, ft.

1--THANKFUL, 120, f, 4, American Pharoah--Beholden, by Cat Thief. 1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. ($625,000 Ylg '18 FTSAUG). O-Bass Stables, LLC; B-Profoal Partners 3, LLC (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher; J-Kendrick Carmouche. $55,000. Lifetime Record: 6-3-1-1, $155,530. *1/2 to Brazen Persuasion (Indian Charlie), GSW, $148,910; and Behold de Buy (E Dubai), SW, $160,204.

2--Miss Marissa, 122, f, 4, He's Had Enough--Ardara, by Arch. ($11,000 Ylg '18 OBSOCT). O-Cammarota Racing LLC; B-Woodford Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY); T-James T. Ryerson. $20,000.

3--Ujjayi, 120, m, 5, Smarty Jones--Ocean Road, by War Front. O/B-T. L. Wise (PA); T-Michael J. Maker. $12,000. Margins: 3/4, NK, 2. Odds: 2.95, 2.80, 6.40.

Also Ran: Lucky Move, Am Impazible, Smooth With a Kick. Scratched: Bridlewood Cat.

Thankful, a $625,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga buy, made no impact debuting on turf last May at Gulfstream, but found a home on dirt, graduating by open lengths two starts later Aug. 20 at Saratoga and repeating in a Belmont allowance Sept. 27 before running third in the Gill Comely S. over track and trip last out Nov. 27. Off as the narrow third choice looking for her first stakes victory here, the bay stalked pacesetter and GII Black-Eyed Susan S. upsetter Miss Marissa from second through splits of :25.01 and :49.96. Drawing on even terms outside the eighth pole, Thankful started to do the better work a sixteenth out and edged away to score. Miss Marissa held off Ujjayi for second.

With the victory, Thankful becomes the 14th stakes winner for American Pharoah. She has an unraced 3-year-old California Chrome half-brother named Miami Chrome and a juvenile Into Mischief half-brother named Improper. Her dam was paired with Mitole last spring. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.
IN ORDER OF PURSE:
8th-Santa Anita, $65,268, Alw, 1-17, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:36.70, ft, 9 lengths.
AS TIME GOES BY (f, 4, American Pharoah--Take Charge Lady (Broodmare of the Year & MGISW, $2,480,377), by Dehere), backed down to 4-5 debuting Aug. 23 at Del Mar, flattened out late to be third and improved a spot after breaking slowly going six furlongs locally Oct. 18. Earning her diploma with a sharp four-length graduation Dec. 13 at Los Alamitos, the dark bay was given a 7-10 repeat chance here and broke a half-step slowly. Moving up to track from second through splits of :23.34 and :47.06, the chalk took command in hand five-sixteenths from home, bounded clear in the stretch and was wrapped up late in a dominant nine-length victory. This Tea (Curlin) filled the exacta. AS TIME GOES BY is a half-sister to Will Take Charge (Unbridled's Song), Ch. 3-year-old Colt & MGISW, $3,924,648; and Take Charge Indy (A.P. Indy), GISW, $1,103,496. She is the final foal out of her dam, a three-time Grade I winner on the racetrack who was named Broodmare of the Year in 2014. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-1, $80,600.

5th-Fair Grounds, $51,000, Alw, 1-17, (NW2L), 3yo, 6f, 1:10.57, ft, 2 1/4 lengths.
O BESOS (c, 3, Orb--Snuggs and Kisses (SW, $288,020), by Soto) was slow early but finished fast when sixth debuting in the Churchill slop Nov. 22 and ran away to a sharp maiden score in a local off-the-turfer Dec. 20. Bought into by West Point Thoroughbreds since then, the chestnut was let go at 12-5 here and broke last. Caboosing a tightly-packed field through a :22.49 quarter, he split horses nearing the furlong, took charge at the sixteenth pole and kicked clear to best pacesetter Tate (Quality Road) by 2 1/4 lengths. The winner is a half to Transatlantic Kiss (Stormy Atlantic), SP, $203,516. His dam foaled colts by California Chrome each of the past two seasons and was bred to Sky Mesa last term. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-1, $80,600. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

7th-Fair Grounds, $53,000, Alw (NW2X)/Opt. Clm ($40,000), 1-17, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:43.33, ft, 2 1/4 lengths.
O BESOS (c, 3, Orb--Snuggs and Kisses (SW, $288,020), by Soto) was slow early but finished fast when sixth debuting in the Churchill slop Nov. 22 and ran away to a sharp maiden score in a local off-the-turfer Dec. 20. Bought into by West Point Thoroughbreds since then, the chestnut was let go at 12-5 here and broke last. Caboosing a tightly-packed field through a :22.49 quarter, he split horses nearing the furlong, took charge at the sixteenth pole and kicked clear to best pacesetter Tate (Quality Road) by 2 1/4 lengths. The winner is a half to Transatlantic Kiss (Stormy Atlantic), SP, $203,516. His dam foaled colts by California Chrome each of the past two seasons and was bred to Sky Mesa last term. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-1, $80,600. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:
1st-Aqueduct, $77,600, Msw, 1-17, 3yo, 7f, 1:25.05, ft, 5 1/2 lengths.
TOO BOSS (c, 3, El Padrino--Bossy Posse, by Posse), runner-up on debut going a furlong shorter here Dec. 19, was let go as a 3-2 second favorite in this spot and tracked favored firsr Khafre (American Pharoah) from second through a :23.41 quarter. Turning up the heat past a :46.95 half, the gray collared the pacesetter approaching the lane and steadily drew clear from there for a 5 1/2-length graduation. Dazzle Time (Not This Time) edged Khafre for the place. The victor has a juvenile Palace Malice half-sister named Kay Tee Gal and a yearling half-sister by Bellamy Road named Miracle Liz. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, $60,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O-B-Michael Cascio (PA); T-Todd A. Pletcher.
7th-Golden Gate Fields, $40,350, (S), Msw, 1-17, 3yo, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.59, ft, 3 1/2 lengths.

**Cristiano's Dream** (c, 3, *Tourist*--*Dances On Water, by In Excess {Ire}) showed a few upbeat local works for this unveiling, including a five-furlong move in 1:01 4/5 (11/96) Jan. 10, and was knocked down to 51-10 off a 10-1 morning-line quote. Away a beat slowly, the homebred settled in a distant fifth off of a contested :21.89 quarter, began to close in five wide approaching the lane, swept to the fore just inside the eighth pole and kicked clear from there for a 3 1/2-length triumph. The winner is a half to Gold Rush Dancer (Private Gold), GSW, $517,148. His dam has a juvenile Danzing Candy colt and produced a colt by Prospect Park last term before being bred to Hoppertunity. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $23,400.

**O/B-John E. Parker (CA); T-Michael Lenzini.**

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2nd-Sam Houston Race Park, $36,000, (S), Msw, 1-16, 3yo, 5 1/2f, 1:06.03, ft, neck.

**Mac B Quick** (c, 3, *Maclean's Music--Broadway Baby* {SP, $146,091}, by Gilded Time), given a 61-10 chance in this career bow, tracked from the pocket in third past a :22.30 quarter, angled into the two path in mid-stretch and closed steadily in the final sixteenth to nail Rush the Colors (Too Much Bling) by a neck on the wire. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $21,420.

**Click for the Equibase.com chart.**

**O-John Rigney; B-Fairytail Farms, LLP (TX); T-Mindy J. Willis.**

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**Second-Crop Starters to Watch: Monday, January 18**

2021 Stud Fees Listed

**Air Force Blue** (War Front), Ashford Stud, $10,000
178 foals of racing age/18 winners/0 black-type winners
7-Fair Grounds, Msw 5 1/2fT, ALIMONY BLUES, 12-1
$20,000 OBS OCT yrl

**Nyquist** (Uncle Mo), Darley, $75,000
214 foals of racing age/18 winners/2 black-type winners
7-Fair Grounds, Aoc 1m, MINUTE WALTZ, 3-1
$425,000 KEE SEP yrl
7-Fair Grounds, Aoc 1m, PRINCESS THEOREM, 4-1
$85,000 RNA KEE JAN wnrl; $10,000 FTK JUL yrl

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**Outwork** (Uncle Mo), WinStar Farm, $15,000
209 foals of racing age/21 winners/2 black-type winners
5-Delta Downs, Msw 1m, CAPTAIN ZIGGY, 20-1

**Runhappy** (Super Saver), Claiborne Farm, $10,000
199 foals of racing age/10 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Fair Grounds, Msw 1m, SYMPTOM, 12-1

**Tamarkuz** (Speightstown), Shadwell Farm
57 foals of racing age/5 winners/1 black-type winner
5-Delta Downs, Msw 1m, CRIMSON STORM, 6-1
$17,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Upstart** (Flatter), Airdrie Stud, $10,000
167 foals of racing age/20 winners/0 black-type winners
7-Fair Grounds, Aoc 1m, MAYSTART, 12-1
7-Fair Grounds, Aoc 1m, ROCK STAR PARKING, 8-1
$45,000 RNA KEE NOV wnrl; $37,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl
7-Fair Grounds, Aoc 1m, ZOOM UP, 4-1
$25,000 KEE SEP yrl; $75,000 OBS APR 2yo

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**New Future**, g, 4, *The Factor*. See ‘TDNAus/NZ Insert.’

**Hongkong Great** (Chi), g, 5, *Lookin At Lucky*--*La Sinverguenza* (Chi), by Scat Daddy. Sha Tin, 1-17, Hcp. ($193k), 1650m (AWT), 1:37.88. B-Haras Paso Nevado. *Formerly El Picaro (Chi). *Ch. 2yo Colt & MG1SW-Chi. **VIDEO**
ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-Aqueduct, $72,000, (S), 1-17, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:26.52, ft, nose.

COURAGEOUS GIRL (f, 4, Bourbon Courage--Focus Curiosity, by Holy Bull) Lifetime Record: SP, 16-2-4-1, $170,666. O/B-Brady Horse Racing & Rusba V Stables (NY); T-David G. Donk.

7th-Aqueduct, $72,000, (S), 1-17, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, 6f, 1:11.76, ft, 3/4 length.

DOUBLE SHOT (g, 4, Bourbon Courage--Elegant Finish, by Speightstown) Lifetime Record: 10-2-3-2, $116,325. O-David G. Donk, Michael J. McMahon, Brady Horse Racing, Timothy S. Perotti & Richard J. Carroll; B-Spruce Lane Farm, et al (NY); T-David G. Donk. *$7,500 Wlg '17 KEENOV; $32,000 RNA Ylg '18 EASOCT. **1/2 to Elegant Zip (Run Away and Hide), MSP, $276,804.

8th-Laurel, $44,646, 1-17, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.68, ft, 3 lengths.

HIBISCUS PUNCH (m, 6, Into Mischief--Bellini Sunrise, by Machiavellian) Lifetime Record: SP, 7-2-2-2, $96,561. O/B-Edward A. Seltzer & Beverly Anderson (KY); T-Justin J. Nixon.

9th-Gulfstream, $44,000, (S), (NW1$X)/Opt. Clm ($50,000), 1-16, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:39.14, fm, 3/4 length.

BECCA'S ROCKET (f, 3, Orb--Idoimtmyway, by Unbridled's Song) Lifetime Record: 6-2-3-0, $79,464. O-Mark Norman & Norman Stables LLC; B-Machmer Hall (KY); T-Scott Gelner. *$47,000 Ylg '19 KEESEP. **1/2 to Star Student (Student Council), MSW, $241,317; and Another Time (Munnings), MGSP, $163,102.

7th-Turfway, $35,946, 1-16, (NW3L), 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:20.78, ft, neck.

SHAMELESS RISK (g, 4, Limehouse--Color Vision, by Noonmark) Lifetime Record: 7-3-1-1, $53,795. O-Nicole & Ronney W. Brown; B-Ronney W. Brown & Nicole Freeland (WV); T-Ronney W. Brown.

8th-Tampa Bay Downs, $21,500, 1-17, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1 1/16mT, 1:43.01, fm, 1/2 length.

THRESHOLD (c, 4, Karakontie {Jpn}--Shyama, by Henrythenavigator) Lifetime Record: 8-4-0-0, $60,130. O/B-Gabe Grossberg (KY); T-Mark E. Casse.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Magnificent Chrome, c, 3, California Chrome--Magnificent Song (GISW, $445,732), by Unbridled's Song. Aqueduct, 1-17, (C), 6f, 1:13.18. B-Calumet Farm (KY). *$175,000 Ylg '19 FTSAUG; $37,000 2yo '20 EASMAY.

Brother Robert, g, 3, Central Banker--Janny Love, by Majestic Warrior. Sam Houston Race Park, 1-16, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:06.53. B-Charles & David Yochum (TX).

Kennebec, c, 3, Lookin At Lucky--Thisdanseistaken (SP, $258,910), by Gators N Bears. Santa Anita, 1-17, (C), 1m, 1:40.47. B-The Elkstone Group LLC (MD). *$27,000 Ylg '19 KEESEP.
Multiple Graded Stakes Performer Manny Wah, who placed in the Grade 1 Malibu behind Omaha Beach, looks impressive in his turf debut, winning the $100,000 Duncan F. Kenner Stakes at Fair Grounds Race Course, posting one of the top turf Beyers of the year. The win boosted his earnings over $500,000.
K C Tiz Moro, c, 3, Moro Tap—Winning Turn, by Tiznow. Sam Houston Race Park, 1-16, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:06.74. B-Kevin Clifton (TX).

Snackster, f, 3, Speightster—Conquesta, by Empire Maker. Gulfstream, 1-17, (C), 6f, 1:12.65. B-Hurstland Farm & Kevin McLaughlin (KY). *$52,000 Ylg '19 KEEJAN; $42,000 RNA Ylg '19 KEESEP; $65,000 Ylg '19 OBSOCT; $75,000 2yo '20 OBSOPN.

Squared Shady, f, 3, Square Eddie—Frege, by Johar. Santa Anita, 1-16, (S), 6fT, 1:08.98. B-Reddam Racing, LLC (CA). *$30,000 2yo '20 OBSAPR.

Disko Fever, f, 3, Tom's Tribute—Disko Dasko (Fr) (SW-Fr), by Country Reel. Santa Anita, 1-17, (S), 6f, 1:09.50. B-DP Racing LLC (CA). *$6,000 Ylg '19 FTCAYR.

Double Blessed, f, 3, Treasure Beach (GB)—Points of Grace (Ch. Grass Mare-Can, GSW, $502,353), by Point Given. Tampa Bay Downs, 1-17, 1 1/8mT, 1:51.70. B-Helen & Joseph Barbazon (FL). *1/2 to Victory to Victory (Exchange Rate), Ch. 2yo Filly-Can, GISW, $210,804.

Oceanic, g, 4, Constitution—Rockin Girl, by Rock Hard Ten. Tampa Bay Downs, 1-17, 5fT, :55.56. B-DP Racing, LLC (KY). *$75,000 Ylg '18 FTKJUL.

Bella D, f, 4, Decarchy—Bella Viaggia (SW, $261,360), by Good Journey. Santa Anita, 1-17, (S), 6fT, 1:10.23. B-SLO Racing Stable (CA).

Speak to Me, f, 4, Mr Speaker—Oh Whata Holiday (MSP, $157,291), by Harlan's Holiday. Fair Grounds, 1-17, (S), 6f, 1:12.96. B-World War IV Racing & Rebel Tide Racing LLC (LA).

Star Racer, g, 4, Vronsky—Honey Bee Lucky, by Bold Badgett. Golden Gate Fields, 1-17, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.20. B-Old English Rancho & Bruce Headley (CA). *$10,000 Ylg '18 NCA AUG.

CANDY RIDE (ARG), Hallawallah, m, 5, o/o Maryfield, by Elusive Quality. AOC, 1-17, Gulfstream

CENTRAL BANKER, Brother Robert, g, 3, o/o Janny Love, by Majestic Warrior. MSW, 1-16, Sam Houston

CONSTITUTION, Oceanic, g, 4, o/o Rockin Girl, by Rock Hard Ten. MSW, 1-17, Tampa Bay

DECARCHY, Bella D, f, 4, o/o Bella Viaggia, by Good Journey. MSW, 1-17, Santa Anita

EL PADRINO, Too Boss, c, 3, o/o Bossy Posse, by Posse. MSW, 1-17, Aqueduct

INTO MISCHIEF, Hibiscus Punch, m, 6, o/o Bellini Sunrise, by Machiavellian. ALW, 1-17, Laurel

KARAKONTIE (JPN), Threshold, c, 4, o/o Shyama, by Henrythenavigator. ALW, 1-17, Tampa Bay

LIMEHOUSE, Shameless Risk, g, 4, o/o Color Vision, by Noonmark. ALW, 1-16, Charles Town

LOOKIN AT LUCKY, Kennebec, c, 3, o/o Thisdanseistaken, by Gators N Bears. MCL, 1-17, Santa Anita

MACLEAN'S MUSIC, Mac B Quick, c, 3, o/o Broadway Baby, by Gilded Time. MSW, 1-16, Sam Houston

MORO TAP, K C Tiz Moro, c, 3, o/o Winning Turn, by Tiznow. MSW, 1-16, Sam Houston

MR SPEAKER, Speak to Me, f, 4, o/o Oh Whata Holiday, by Harlan's Holiday. MSW, 1-17, Fair Grounds

OLYMPIC GLORY (IRE), Quick (GB), m, 5, o/o The Giving Tree (Ire), by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire). GIII Astra S., 1-17, Santa Anita

ORB, Becca's Rocket, f, 3, o/o Idoitmyway, by Unbridled's Song. AOC, 1-16, Sam Houston

ORB, O Besos, c, 3, o/o Snuggs and Kisses, by Soto. ALW, 1-17, Fair Grounds

SOUTH AFTER, Sing in the Wind, m, 6, o/o Sing for Gold, by Candí's Gold. ALW, 1-16, Golden Gate

SPEIGHTSTER, Snackster, f, 3, o/o Conquesta, by Empire Maker. MCL, 1-17, Gulfstream

SQUARE EDDIE, Squared Shady, f, 3, o/o Frege, by Johar. MSW, 1-16, Santa Anita

TAPIT, Enforceable, c, 4, o/o Justwhistledixie, by Dixie Union. AOC, 1-17, Fair Grounds

THE FACTOR, Be Nimble, m, 5, o/o Cat Dance, by Forest Wildcat. ALW, 1-16, Turfway

TOM'S TRIBUTE, Disko Fever, f, 3, o/o Disko Dasko (Fr), by Country Reel. MSW, 1-17, Santa Anita

TOURIST, Cristiano's Dream, c, 3, o/o Dances On Water, by In Excess (Ire). MSW, 1-17, Golden Gate

TREASURE BEACH (GB), Double Blessed, f, 3, o/o Points of Grace, by Point Given. MSW, 1-17, Tampa Bay

VERRAZANO, Zanno, g, 4, o/o Heaven's Touch, by Montbrook. AOC, 1-17, Gulfstream

VRONSKY, Star Racer, g, 4, o/o Honey Bee Lucky, by Bold Badgett. MSW, 1-17, Golden Gate
VALUE SIRES PART 4: FIRST 2-YEAR-OLDS

By Kelsey Riley

The wait is very nearly over for the young pretenders we will examine in this fourth installation of our multi-part Value Sires series: stallions with their first runners in 2021. While the full verdicts must be delayed until these are given a fair shake with their first full seasons with 2- and 3-year-olds, the reality is that the first juvenile races in the coming months will be akin to a perpetual Christmas morning in the bloodstock world, with each of us eager to unwrap the packages we have been examining and investing in over the past three years and reveal what is inside.

While we will refer heavily to yearling sale averages throughout this commentary, the reality is that we can’t come close to knowing what is there until these sires’ youngsters hit the racecourses. Last year’s first-season sire sensation Mehmas (Ire) was all the way down in 10th on the 2019 first-crop yearling average table, while runner-up Adaay (Ire) was 14th and French standout Goken (Fr) in 23rd. Nonetheless, we will take one last crack at predicting who we may be applauding come season’s end.

Darley’s Profitable (Ire) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) made a strong debut at the foal sales in 2019 with an average 2.7x his stud fee, and the G1 King’s Stand S. winner continued to live up to his name last year at the yearling sales.

He led his cohort by both number offered and sold (97 and 82) yet despite those whopping numbers managed to uphold an average 3.9x his opening fee of €12,000 at Kildangan Stud: €46,428/£41,899—seventh overall on the freshman table. His median of €38,536/£34,776 (3.2x) indicated, too, that quality resonated throughout the bunch. Profitable was a winner at two, a five-furlong listed winner at three and King’s Stand scorer at four who is by the right sire in Invincible Spirit, and he remained popular with breeders last year covering 156 mares after covering 182 and 142 in his first and second seasons. Profitable was well-priced from the start at €12,000 and held his fee over his first three seasons, but in a year where most everything is being trimmed he is down to €10,000 at Kildangan Stud in 2021.

Profitable was superseded in price on the Kildangan roster in 2018 by fellow newcomer and Royal Ascot Group 1 winner Ribchester (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}), who won the 2017 Queen Anne S. among four top-level victories going a mile. Cont. p2
**Value Sires Part 4 cont.**

Ribchester started out at €30,000 but is available for €17,500 this year after covering 129 mares in 2020. Ribchester was the fourth-leading first-season sire at the yearling sales last year, with 68 sold for an average of €66,659/£60,156, 2.2x their covering fee. Ribchester won the G2 Mill Reef S. at two, the G1 Prix Jacques le Marois at three and the G1 Lockinge S., G1 Queen Anne and G1 Prix du Moulin at four and was rated 124. He has the added benefit of being by Iffraaj, whose Wootton Bassett (GB) went to a new level in 2020.

The leading first-season sire by average at the yearling sales last year was Coolmore’s dual Group 1-winning sprinter **Caravaggio** (Scat Daddy), who had 64 sell from 81 offered for an average of €108,452/£97,871 (3.1x his debut fee of €35,000) and a median of €76,003/£68,588 (2.17x). After seeing his fee rise a shade to €40,000 for 2020 after he was leading first-crop sire at the foal sales in 2019, Caravaggio was last fall packed off to Ashford Stud in Kentucky to continue his career at $25,000. With 217 mares—the highest for a new flat sire—having visited Caravaggio in 2018, however, it is likely his presence will still be keenly felt in Europe. Caravaggio was a supremely talented sprinter who won the G1 Phoenix S. at the end of an unbeaten 2-year-old campaign and added the G1 Commonwealth Cup at three over subsequent champion sprinters Harry Angel (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) and Blue Point (Ire) (Shamardal) before retiring with a rating of 120.

Caravaggio is one of two sons of Scat Daddy in this sire intake; the other is Yeomanstown’s **El Kabeir**, who was likewise popular at the yearling sales, averaging 3.3x his opening €8,000 stud fee at €26,544/£23,955 from 60 sold. El Kabeir won the 1700m GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. at two and the following spring took a pair of Kentucky Derby prep races, the GIII Jerome S. and the GIII Gotham S., over the same trip. After proving popular enough to hold his debut fee for his first three seasons, El Kabeir is down to €6,000 for 2021. **Cont. p3**

"Speed is the holy grail and he’s got it in abundance, an unbelievably talented horse. He is by this incredible stallion **Kingman** who has just set the world on fire."

Hubie De Burgh, who recommended his clients send Calyx several mares in 2020

... Calyx recorded a rating of 120p in the [Group 2] **Coventry Stakes**, matching the average performance required to win a Group 1 two-year-old race in Britain and Ireland in the last decade.

... The performance that Calyx put up in the Group 3 **Commonwealth Cup Trial** was as striking as any seen in a pattern sprint all season and marked him down, even at such an early stage, as champion sprinter material...

... Calyx has the looks to go with his fashionable pedigree.

**Timeform’s Racehorses of 2019**

Calyx defeats triple Gr.1 winner Advertise in the Coventry Stakes-Gr.2 just 10 days after bolting up on debut at Newmarket by 5 lengths!

**Fee: €16,000**

**Calyx**

First in-foal mares in 2020 sold for 150,000gns, €160,000, €160,000 etc.

**Contact**: Coolmore Stud Tel: 052-6131298. Castlehyde Stud Tel: 025-319666. E-mail: sales@coolmore.ie Website: www.coolmore.com
Checking in second to Caravaggio on average was French flagbearer **Almanzor (Fr)** (Wootton Bassett {GB}), who had 53 yearlings sell for an average of €97,960/£88,403 (2.8x his first-year fee of €35,000) and a median of €76,889/£69,388 (2.2x). Almanzor sees his fee trimmed for the first time this year to €30,000 at Haras d’Etreham. The winner of the G1 Prix du Jockey Club and the G1 Irish Champion S. and G1 Champion S. over Found (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) as a 3-year-old, Almanzor was rated 129 and named Cartier champion 3-year-old. His popularity heading into this crucial fourth season will only have been helped by the ascendant year enjoyed by his sire Wootton Bassett in 2020.

**The Galileo Gang**

Galileo (Ire) has a great shot to bolster his already prolific record as a sire of sires with six high-class sons in this class. Chief among them on the yearling averages—and the joint priciest when they retired with Caravaggio and Almanzor—is the dual Guineas and four-time Group 1 winner **Churchill (Ire)**, who had 67 yearlings sell for an average of €93,319/£84,215 (2.7x his €35,000 fee). Winner of Royal Ascot’s Listed Chesham S. in his second start, Churchill ticked off the G3 Tyros S., G2 Futurity S., G1 National S.—beating Mehmas (Ire) —and G1 Dewhurst S. to earn champion 2-year-old honours, and added the English and Irish Guineas’ the following spring. Churchill is a grandson of the G1 Cheveley Park S. winner Airwave (GB) (Air Express {Ire}) and his dam, Meow (Ire) (Storm Cat) was second in the G2 Queen Mary S. and has produced the Cheveley Park winner Clemmie (Ire) and the G3 Diamond S. scorer Blenheim Palace (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) from subsequent matings to Galileo.
**Value Sires cont.**

Dual Group 1 winner **Ulysses (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}) finished fifth on the averages table, his 39 sold averaging €60,202/£54,329—that was 2x his opening fee of £30,000 at Cheveley Park Stud, and should his first crop take off the breeders who have used him more recently stand to reap the benefits: he has dropped steadily to £17,500, £15,000, and is down to £10,000 in 2021. It us unlikely, however, that we will see the best of his offspring this season; he himself ran just once at the back end of his 2-year-old campaign and came into his own the summer of his 3-year-old year prior to winning the G1 Coral-Eclipse and the G1 Juddmonte International (the latter over Churchill) at four. Rated 126, Ulysses is by a Derby winner and out of an Oaks winner, his dam being the stoutly bred Kingmambo mare Light Shift.

Another later-developing multiple Group 1-winning son of Galileo is the Irish National Stud’s **Decorated Knight (GB)**, who is this year down to €7,500 from an opening fee of €15,000, with the INS having recently announced that breeders using the horse this year will receive a bonus nomination in 2022. Like Ulysses, it would be a surprise to see the Decorated Knights out running early this year, he having run just once at two and having done his best work at five, when he won the G1 Jebel Hatta, G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup and G1 Irish Champion S. either side of finishing unplaced behind Ulysses in both the Coral-Eclipse and Juddmonte International. It will be an interesting study in genetics, however, to see whether or where the precocity of Decorated Knight’s female family shines through; his dam, Pearling (Storm Cat), is a full-sister to Giant’s Causeway and You’resothrilling, both pattern race winners at two, with You’resothrilling having already produced the juvenile Group 1 winners Gleneagles (Ire) and Happily (Ire) by Galileo.

**Highland Reel (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}) is likely best remembered for his middle-distance Group 1 wins at the Breeders’ Cup, Royal Ascot and Hong Kong International meeting at four and five, but the whole story is that he was a supremely talented and tough top-level competitor from two onwards. Highland Reel won the G2 Vintage S. at two and the GI Secretariat S. and his first G1 Hong Kong Vase at three during a season in which he ran in six different countries. He added the G1 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. and the GI Breeders’ Cup Turf at four in addition to seconds in the G1 Juddmonte International, G1 Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe and the Hong Kong Vase. As good as ever at five, Highland Reel took the G1 Coronation Cup, G1 Prince of Wales’s S. and a second Hong Kong Vase and was placed in the Breeders’ Cup Turf and G1 Champion S. The quest to breed a horse of Highland Reel’s constitution is what the foundation of the Thoroughbred breed is built on, and a flashy pedigree indicates he was no fluke. Highland Reel’s yearling average was bolstered by the 320,000gns half-brother to Palace Pier (GB), but he nonetheless sits 10th on the table at €33,007/£29,787 for 53 sold. Like Ulysses, Highland Reel is down to €10,000 this year from a debut €17,500, so merits a hard look by breeders.

Galileo has two classy sons in France among this group. After three years at Elwick Stud at £6,000, the GI Woodbine Mile and GI Arlington Million scorer **Mondialiste (Ire)** relocates to Haras d’Annebault at €4,000. The harsh reality is that he did not even win a race until midway through his 3-year-old season and has covered small books, so stud success will be an uphill battle for Mondialiste, but nonetheless his yearlings didn’t go unnoticed last year; they sold for up to 60,000gns and 47,000gns at Tattersalls. Likewise, his pedigree says ‘sire’: he is out of the dual Group 1-winning Occupandiste (Ire) (Kaldoun {Fr}) and a half-brother to G2 Prix de Sandringham scorer **Impressionnante (GB)** (Danehill), the dam of Intello (Ger) (Galileo {Ire}). **Cont. p5**
**Value Sires cont.**

Flying the flag at Haras de Montfort et Preaux is The Queen’s **Recorder (GB)** (Galileo {Ire}), who made a solid start at the yearling sales with 31 sold from 39 offered at an average of €16,010/£14,448 off a €6,000 fee that is now down to €4,000. Recorder won the G3 Acomb S. at two and is out of the G2 Cherry Hinton S. winner Memory (Ire) (Danehill Dancer {Ire}).

**The Dubawi Trio**

While Galileo has a good chance in the coming seasons to bolster his already lofty reputation as a sire of sires, so too does Dubawi (Ire), who had three sons among the top 10 freshman sires at the yearling sales last year. The G3 Jersey S. winner **Time Test (GB)** was well priced from the outset by the National Stud at £8,500 and is one of very few horses to maintain his fee through his first four seasons. Out of the Group 1-winning Dansili (GB) mare Passage Of Time (GB), Time Test won the Jersey and the G2 Joel S. at three and the G3 Brigadier Gerard S. and G2 York S. over 2000 metres at four before relocating to America, where he was twice Grade I-placed. His 46 yearlings offered last year clearly caught the eye, with 39 sold for an average of €37,957/£34,254 that was an excellent 4.5x his stud fee and good for seventh on the first-season sires’ table.

One slot behind him was Dubawi’s four-time Group 1 winner **Postponed (Ire)**, whose 25 yearlings sold averaged €35,358/£31,909. Postponed was among the best of his generation at four and five, winning the G1 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. and the following year the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic, G1 Coronation Cup and G1 Juddmonte International consecutively, but despite the fact that he also comes from a solid pedigree, being a grandson of the G1 Moyglare Stud S. winner Bianca Nera (GB) (Salse) and a half-brother to Group 1 winner God Given (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}), his fee has been on a steady slide and is this year down to £7,500 from a debut £20,000. If he proves the next Night Of Thunder (Ire) or even New Bay (GB), however, those using him for four figures this year will doubtless get the last laugh.

Like Time Test, Haras de Bonneval’s G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud scorer **Zarak (Fr)** (Dubawi {Ire}) has held his fee steady at €12,000 since retiring to stud. Zarak’s 28 yearlings sold averaged €34,133/£30,803, 2.8x his fee, and his median was a respectable €24,704/£22,293, 2x his fee. Zarak was merely doing what was expected of him when winning a Group 1, being a much anticipated son of the Aga Khan’s unbeaten Arc winner Zarkava (Ire) (Zamindar), and the page has continued to be boosted by his stakes-winning sisters Zarkamiya (Fr) (Frankel {GB}) and Zaykava (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr}).

![Zarak](image1.jpg)

**Four-Figure Head Turners**

A horse in a lower price bracket that really turned heads with his first-crop yearlings last year was Tally-Ho Stud’s **Cotai Glory (GB)** (Exceed and Excel {Aus}), who won the G3 Molecomb S. at two, the G3 Dubai International World Trophy S. at four over Group 1 winner Alpha Delphini (GB) (Captain Gerrard {Ire}) and who was second to Profitable in the G1 King’s Stand S. Cotai Glory’s 62 yearlings sold averaged €25,345/£22,872, 4.2x his opening fee of €6,000--he has been at £5,000 since 2019. Tally-Ho will be hoping lightning can strike thrice; the stud best known as the home of Kodiac (GB) also brought us Mehmas (Ire) last year.

Mehmas is a son of Acclamation (GB), who has also provided us with Dark Angel (Ire), and Acclamation has two sons in this group: **Aclaim (Ire)** and **Attendu (Fr)**. The former stands alongside Time Test at the National Stud and, after opening at £12,500 in 2018, has been at £9,500 since. Aclaim’s 48 yearlings sold averaged €28,251/£25,495, 2.3x his fee. The G1 Prix de la Foret winner is out of the Danroad (Aus) mare Aris (Ire) and is a grandson of Cumbres (Fr) (Kahyasi {Ire}), a half-sister to Montjeu (Ire). Cont. p6

![Time Test](image2.jpg)
The Wertheimer-bred Attendu was only ninth in Aclaim’s Foret, but prior to that he had won a trio of Group 3s over seven furlongs or a mile, including when he beat Group 1 winners Esoterique (Ire) (Danehill Dancer [Ire]) and Territories (Ire) (Invincible Spirit [Ire]) in the Prix du Palais-Royal in 2016. Attendu stood for €5,000 at Haras du Quesnay his first two seasons and has since been at €3,000, and he made a strong showing with his first yearlings, they averaging 4.6x his fee at €23,135/£20,878 for 12 sold, with his median also holding up at €17,459/£15,755.

There were, in fact, a handful of young sires at the lower four figures in France who returned promising results at the yearling sales. Whitecliffsfordover (War Front) was a $1.15-million yearling who was third behind National Defense (Ire) (Invincible Spirit [Ire]) in the G1 Jean-Luc Lagardere. He remains at €3,000 at Haras De La Haie Neuve, his first yearlings having brought more than 8x his stud fee at an average of €25,126/£22,674. Those figures were of course buoyed by the lone yearling he had at the Arqana Select Yearling Sale, a colt that brought €135,000 from Jean-Claude Rouget, but a median of €12,607/£11,377 (4.2x his fee) indicated there was some quality across the board for his 12 sold.

Haras du Mezeray’s dual winner and multiple group-placed De Treville (GB) boasts a pedigree that would fit in at any stud farm around the world, being by Oasis Dream out of the multiple Group 1 winner and producer Dar Re Mi (GB) (Singspiel [Ire]). De Treville is listed as private for 2021 after starting out at €3,000, and while just two of his five yearlings through the ring last year sold, they made €90,000 and €20,000 at Arqana October.

Al Wukair (Ire) packs a fair bit of punch at Haras de Bouquetot at €6,000, down from €8,000. The son of Dream Ahead went toe to toe with the best of his generation; a listed winner at two, he beat French champion 2-year-old National Defense in the G3 Prix Djebel at three before finishing third behind Churchill (Ire) (Galileo [Ire]) in the G1 2000 Guineas. His career high came later in the summer when he bested popular young Irish sire Inns Of Court (Ire) (Invincible Spirit [Ire]) in the G1 Prix Jacques le Marois. Al Wukair had 24 of 25 sell at the sales last autumn, averaging 3x his stud fee at €24,326/£21,953.

Similarly popular was The Grey Gatsby (Ire) (Mastercraftsman [Ire]), whose 19 sold averaged 3.2x his €7,000 fee at Haras du Petit Tellier at €22,271/£20,098. The Grey Gatsby won the G1 Prix du Jockey Club before upsetting Australia (GB) in the G1 Irish Champion S. at three and placing in three Group 1s at four. The yearling sales also brought good results for Group 1 winners Ectot (GB) (Hurricane Run [Ire]) (11 sold averaged 4.2x his opening fee at €20,762/£18,736; he stands for €4,000 at Bouquetot), Ivanhowe (Ger) (Soldier Hollow [GB]) (sold for up to €25,000 and €23,000 off a €4,500 fee; he now stands for €3,300 at Haras du Cercy); Zelzal (Fr) (Sea The Stars [Ire]) (sold for up to €70,000; he started at €8,000 at Bouquetot and is down to €6,000), and Elm Park (GB) (Phoenix Reach [Ire]) (€3,000 at Haras du Saz, he had yearlings sell for €25,000 and €17,000). Former Godolphin campaigners Ultra (Ire) (Manduro [Ger]) and Birchwood (Ire) (Dark Angel [Ire]) are both available for €5,000; Ultra won the G1 Jean-Luc Lagardere and stands at Haras du Logis, while Birchwood won the G2 Superlative S. and was third in the G1 National S. and GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf before winning a listed race at three. Birchwood was well represented at the sales with 31 sold from 35 offered, and those averaged 3.4x his stud fee at €17,104/£15,435. Birchwood stands at Haras de la Huderie.

A pair of Group 1 winners are likewise available in Ireland for €5,000. Tally-Ho, the stud farm that brought us last year’s record-breaking first-season sire Mehmas (Ire) this year provides the G1 2000 Guineas winner Galileo Gold (Ire) (Paco Boy [GB]) with his first runners. The winner of the G2 Vintage S. at two before finishing third behind Ultra in the Lagardere, Galileo Gold justified his 14-1 Guineas upset with a second in the G1 Irish 2000 Guineas before beating The Gurkha (Ire) (Galileo [Ire]) in the G1 St James’s Palace S. And while there may be some question marks over his sire Paco Boy, there is little to fault elsewhere in Galileo Gold’s pedigree, his dam being by Galileo, the damsire of Night Of Thunder, and a half-sister to dual Group 1-winning sprinter Goldream (GB) (Oasis Dream [GB]). Galileo Gold’s third dam is a half-sister to Montjeu (Ire). Galileo Gold will have the numbers to give him a shot at the sire title, having covered 140 and 93 mares in his first two years at stud. He was amazingly down to just 38 mares last year, hence why his fee has dropped from €15,000 in 2018 to €5,000 this year, and even those who used him last year at €7,500 will be in line for a good payday at the sales should his first crop take off in 2021. Cont.
Value Sires cont.
Like Galileo Gold, National Defense’s fee of €5,000 is sharply down from the €12,000 at which he started at the Irish National Stud, and while more recent mare numbers will work against him down the road, he has every chance to make an impact with his first runners. By sire of sires Invincible Spirit out of the multiple stakes producing Kingmambo mare Angel Falls (GB), National Defense won two of his three starts at two including a 4 1/2 length romp in the Lagardere and was rated 118p by Timeform.

Value Sires Podium
Gold: Highland Reel (€10,000) - a runner of the highest class from two to five with the pedigree to back him up.
Silver: Profitable (€10,000) - a Group 1-winning sprinter who was well-backed at both the foal and yearling sales and who has been consistently popular with breeders.
Bronze: Al Wukair (€6,000) - among the best of his generation in all of Europe and a Marois winner. Well received at the yearling sales.

Sunday’s Result:
2nd-Southwell, £5,300, Novice, 1-17, 3yo, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:28.12, st.
GHOST RIDER (IRE) (c, 3, Dark Angel {Ire}--Priceless Jewel {GB}, by Selkirk), who was runner-up over six furlongs here on debut nine days previously, broke well to track the early pace. Driven to the front passing the two-furlong pole, the 2-7 favourite stayed on to score by four lengths from Driftwood (GB), who was restrained in the early stages and eventually finished a poor last. A half-brother to the useful sprint handicapper Swindler (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), the winner is a grandson of the G1 Cheveley Park S. and G1 Irish 1000 Guineas-placed My Branch (GB) (Distant Relative {Ire}) who in turn produced the G1 Haydock Sprint Cup scorer Tante Rose (Ire) (Baratheon {Ire}). Also connected to the G1 Poule d’Essai des Poulains and G1 Prix de la Foret-winning sire Make Believe (GB) (Makfi {GB}) and the G1 Gamely S. and G1 Yellow Ribbon S. heroine Dubawi Heights (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), the dam’s 2-year-old is a full-brother to Ghost Rider, while she also has a yearling colt by Kingman (GB). Sales history: £55,000 Ylg ’19 GOFFPR. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, £6,042. Video, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.
O-John & Jess Dance; B-Bjorn Nielsen (IRE); T-Mark Johnston.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNER:
Icemoon De Bozouls (Fr), f, 3, Jeu St Eloi (Fr)--Dance Moon (Fr), by Linda’s Lad (GB). Pau, 1-17, 10f (AWT), 2:03.60. B-EARL Mezagri (FR).

BROTHER TO BOBBY'S KITTEN STARTS AT CAGNES
11.25 Cagnes-sur-Mer, Debutantes, €23,000, 3yo, c/g, 7 1/2f (AWT)
AFKAAR (Kitten’s Joy) debuts for Shadwell and Jean-Claude Rouget and is a full-brother to the GI Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint-winning sire Bobby’s Kitten and multiple graded-stakes scorer Camelot Kitten. The March-foaled bay, who cost $500,000 at Keeneland September, meets eight rivals.
IN THE UAE:

Son of Normandy (GB), g, 5, Galileo (Ire)--Sansiwa (Ire) (SP-Ger), by Dansili (GB). Abu Dhabi, 1-17, Hcp., 2400mT, 2:30.82.
B-Ecurie des Monceaux. *€320,000 Ylg ’17 ARQAUG; €40,000 HRA ’19 ARQJUL. VIDEO

Sunday, Nakayama, Japan
KEISEI HAI-G3, ¥72,650,000, Nakayama, 1-17, 3yo, 2000mT, 2:03.10, fm.
1--GRATIAS (JPN), 123, c, 3, by Heart’s Cry (Jpn)
   1st Dam: Malacostumbrada (Arg) (G1SW-Arg, $114,550), by Lizard Island
   2nd Dam: Mapul Wells (Arg), by Poliglote (GB)
   3rd Dam: Pulma (Arg), by New Dandy (Arg)
   1ST STAKES WIN. 1ST GROUP WIN. O-Three H Racing; B-Northern Farm; T-Yukihiro Kato; J-Christophe Lemaire; ¥38,455,000. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, ¥45,455,000. *1/2 to Resistencia (Jpn) (Daiwa Major {Jpn}), Ch. 2yo Filly & G1SW-Jpn, $1,929,741.

2--Time to Heaven (Jpn), 123, c, 3, Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)--Kiss to Heaven (Jpn), by Admire Vega (Jpn). O-DMM Dream Club; B-Orion Farm; ¥15,130,000.

3--Ten Bagger (Jpn), 123, c, 3, Maurice (Jpn)--Top Seller (Jpn), by Special Week (Jpn). O-G1 Racing; B-Northern Farm; ¥9,565,000.

Margins: 2HF, 1 1/4, NK. Odds: 2.10, 3.50, 11.60. Click for the JRA chart and VIDEO. Click for the free Equineline catalog-style pedigree.

The facile winner of his lone previous trip to the races in a 2000-metre newcomers’ event at Tokyo Oct. 24, Gratias validated favoritism in this potential steppingstone to the 2021 Classics.

Settled about midfield in the run under the wire for the first time, Gratias rode the rails into a more forward position at the entry to the first turn and box-seated the race through the middle stages. Asked for a bit of acceleration leaving the three-furlong pole, the bay colt took advantage when pacesetting Time to Heaven rolled away from the inside turning for home and put the race to bed from there with relative ease.

Gratias is the 50th black-type winner and 34th GSW for the now 20-year-old Heart’s Cry and the subsequent produce from his Argentinian-bred dam has been highly coveted at public auction. One day after Gratias fetched ¥230 million ($2,120,600) as a yearling at the JRHA Select Sale, his then foal full-brother made ¥160 million ($1,472,000) from Hirotugu Inokuma, who campaigns the ‘Barows’ horses in Japan. That colt is now named Spider Barows (Jpn). The mare’s foal of 2020, a colt by Horse of the Year Kitasan Black (Jpn), was knocked down for ¥190 million ($1,770,893) at last year’s foal sale, clearly benefitting from the on-track exploits of 2019 champion 2-year-old filly Resistencia (Jpn) (Daiwa Major {Jpn}). Malacostumbrada is currently carrying a full-sibling to Resistencia.

Sunday, Chukyo, Japan
NIKKEI SHINSHUN HAI-G2, ¥110,020,000, Chukyo, 1-17, 4yo/up, 2200mT, 2:11.80, fm.
1--SHORYU IKUZO (JPN), 117, h, 5, by Orfevre (Jpn)
   1st Dam: Shoryu Moon (Jpn) (MGSW-Jpn, $2,585,445), by King Kamehameha (Jpn)
   2nd Dam: Moon the Dream (Jpn), by Dance in the Dark (Jpn)
   3rd Dam: Miyoshi Cherry (Jpn), by Mendez (Fr)
   1ST STAKES WIN. 1ST GROUP WIN. O-Wataru Ueda; B-Takamura Farm; T-Shozo Sasaki; J-Taisei Danno; ¥58,204,000. Lifetime Record: 16-4-3-3, ¥125,415,000. *Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: A++.

2--Miss Mamma Mia (Jpn), 115, m, 6, Tanino Gimlet (Jpn)--Sunday Memory (Jpn), by Sunday Silence. O-Katsutoshi Yoshida; B-Shinsei Farm; ¥23,344,000.

3--Courageux Guerrier (Jpn), 124, h, 5, King Kamehameha (Jpn)--Jumeau (Jpn), by Tanino Gimlet (Jpn). O-Carrot Farm; B-Northern Farm; ¥14,172,000.
Margins: 3/4, 1 1/4, HF. Odds: 18.60, 98.00, 6.60.
Click for the JRA chart and VIDEO. Click for the free Equineline catalog-style pedigree.

ELUSIVE STATE ON DUBAI WORLD CUP TRAJECTORY by Alan Carasso

Elusive State (Aus) (All American {Aus}) missed a crack at Dubai World Cup night in 2020 when the meeting was canceled at the 11th hour, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the 7-year-old could take his chance this year following a victory in a rare Class 1 handicap over the Sha Tin all-weather track Sunday afternoon.

Slow to start, Elusive State raced in a share of last into and around the first turn, but was asked to improve by Joao Moreira at the 1100-meter mark and by the end of the next furlong and a half, was alongside favored Kings Shield (Scat Daddy), “giving him the big eyeball,” in the words of commentator Tom Wood.

Matching strides on the second turn, Elusive State pressed by the 133-pound top-weight in upper stretch and came home a 1 3/4-length winner (video). The target now becomes Middle East riches, even if Plan A seems to have fallen apart.

“One would have liked to have gone to Saudi Arabia--the Saudi Cup would have been his race over 1800m and that would be the actual race for him,” trainer Tony Millard told the HKJC’s Leo Schlink, adding that there are significant obstacles regarding travel from Hong Kong to Riyadh.”

Originally programmed for the G2 Godolphin Mile on World Cup night, Elusive State is now likely for the marquee event following a discussion between Moreira and Millard.

“Quite clearly, he gave them a galloping lesson here today because it (the race pattern) wasn’t what we wanted,” Millard said.

“On the back of this, we’ll be definitely be going for the [G1] World Cup instead of the G2 Godolphin Mile because Joao feels that with him losing his early speed, he reckons that will be the right race for him. I don’t think he could have had a better run in than this--I’m quite excited. I think he’s going to be a big runner.

Millard added: “It’s taken a bit of time to get him back into form. Last year, we had hardly raced him and then with Dubai coming and going (traveling to Dubai before the carnival was abandoned because of COVID-19), it really upset the apple cart. “It’s just lovely to have a horse like this and also to have a dream --that’s what it’s all about.”

Hong Kong’s last runner in the World Cup was the Caspar Fownes-trained Gun Pit (Aus) (Dubawi {Ire}), who ran second in the 2016 G1 Al Maktoum Challenge - R3 with Moreira in the irons before finishing tailed off behind California Chrome in the main event.
CHANGE OF ‘AIM’ HAS MAGIC RESULT

by Bren O’Brien

When the sale of the talented but frustrating son of Star Witness, Aim, to Hong Kong fell through late last year, Henry Field and Peter and Paul Snowden had a decision to make.

A brilliant early 2-year-old who registered impressive wins at Rosehill and Randwick in the space of 10 days in December 2019, Aim started favourite in last year’s R. Listed Magic Millions 2YO Classic, only to struggle to handle the track, finishing sixth.

While he proved competitive against the best 2-year-olds of the autumn, the then colt, purchased by China Horse Club and Field’s Newgate Bloodstock for $200,000 at the 2019 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale, failed to come on in three runs as an early 3-year-old.

Less than 12 months after he was the hottest juvenile in the country, Aim was at the crossroads, and when an offer from Hong Kong came in, it was decided to move him on.

"Clearly he wasn't putting his back into it. He was a frustrating horse, and Peter and Paul were quite frustrated by him through the spring, given the potential he had shown earlier," Field told TDN AusNZ.

"We are well known as being traders. Most of the horses that we race in our group are on the market all the time for sale to Hong Kong. He was indeed sold to Hong Kong eight weeks ago. The money didn’t turn up, so we made a last-minute decision to geld him and put him back into training."

It’s a measure of Field’s composure that he was able to turn a bit of a crisis in to an opportunity and on Saturday, Aim was able to repay the faith by winning the $2-million Magic Millions 3YO Classic at odds of $31.

"It was a rushed preparation to get him to the race [Saturday], but it proved a fortunate outcome, given the $1.2-million first prizemoney was a significant multiple on the price we sold him to Hong Kong for," he said.

With such a short turnaround time between his sale falling through and the Magic Millions raceday, Field and the Snowdens plotted a path through a couple of trials and then a benchmark race at Randwick a couple of weeks ago, where he was well-beaten in sixth.

"His first-up run, they were under a bit of timing pressure to get him to the races. He had a good hit-out in that race and he was cherry ripe for yesterday. It was an excellent training performance from the Snowdens," Field said.

"Fair play to James McDonald too. He had a lot more confidence in the horse than the market did. He rode him accordingly. It takes a brave jockey to take off at the 600-metre mark on a 30-1 shot and it proved the winning move."

A Dominant Return to Form...

Set alight as the horses turned for home, Aim produced a booming finish to win by 1.75l in a stunning return to form.

"It was a dominant win. They are handy enough horses, the second and third horses, Amish Boy and Away Game is a very good horse. The good thing is that there is a fairly good chance that the horse's form will continue to trend positively from here, given he seems to have put it together now," Field said. Cont. p2
A filly by Scissor Kick topped the short first session of Book 2 at the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale with All Winners Thoroughbreds paying AU$300,000 for her from Arrowfield Stud's draft. Scissor Kick stands at Haras d’Etreham in France

IN HONG KONG:

Ping Hai Bravo, g, 4, Red Dazzler—Mountain Bluebird, by Beautiful Crown (USA). Sha Tin, 1-17, Hcp. ($251k), 1000m, :57.22. B-Eureka Cambooya Thoroughbreds Pty Ltd (Qld). *$9,000 Ylg '18 MMGCYS. VIDEO

Family Folks, g, 4, Snitzel—Miss Sharapova (NZ) (SP-NZ), by Ustinov. Sha Tin, 1-17, Hcp. ($167k), 1200m, 1:10.48. B-Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd & GSA Bloodstock Pty Ltd (NSW). *$90,000 Ylg ‘18 INGEAS; HK$4,500,000 HRA ’20 HKJUL. **1/2 to Pretty Fast (Not A Single Doubt), SW-Aus, $201,735; and Doubtland (Not A Single Doubt), MGSW-Aus, $365,250. VIDEO

New Future, g, 4, The Factor (USA)—New Moves, by Easy Rocking. Sha Tin, 1-17, Hcp. ($167k), 1200m, 1:09.97. B-Ascot Heath Pty Ltd (NSW). *$17,000 Ylg ‘18 MMFEB; $40,000 2yo ‘18 MMOCT. VIDEO

Beauty Applause, g, 5, Stratum—Easy Step, by Arena. Sha Tin, 1-17, Hcp. ($368k), 1000m, :56.74. B-F Peisah (NSW). *Formerly Warwick. **$90,000 Ylg ‘17 INGFEB. VIDEO

Elusive State, g, 7, All American—Jarada, by Redoute’s Choice. Sha Tin, 1-17, Hcp. ($502k), 1650m (AWT), 1:37.85. B-Mrs K Chrysiliou, Mr A Chrysiliou (NSW). *1/2 to Absolut Excelencia (Excellent Art (GB)), SW-NZ, US$177,196; and Fasika (So You Think {NZ}), GSW & G1SP-Aus, $559,070. **$40,000 Ylg ’15 INGEAS. VIDEO

Aim cont.

"I think what we will do, we will bring him back to Sydney and run him in a better race in the autumn in a month or so. He'll go into one of those good 3-year-old races in Sydney and we will see how he stacks up. We can make an assessment from there.

"He has always shown the potential that he could stack up with the better horses. Hopefully, now he seems to have put it together and having had that big confidence booster yesterday, he should be competitive against the better ones in the autumn carnival."

As a gelding racing for a syndicate which usually races colts, Aim's future in the China Horse Club colours is not completely assured, according to Field.

"They are all for sale. But we will just keep running him and if a deal transpires, then so be it. I'm not afraid to run him. He probably looks like he going to be in career-best form," he said.

"He's a big, sound, clean horse. He is probably 16.2 [hands]. We have never had an issue ever with him, from a limb and wind perspective. He's one of those typical Australian big, strong sort of geldings. He could go on with it and he's got plenty of scope."