MUNNY SPUNT BRINGS $340,000 TO TOP SOLID FASIG FEBRUARY OPENER

by Jessica Martini
LEXINGTON, KY - The Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed Sale got off to a solid start Monday in Lexington, with graded-stakes winner Munny Spunt (Munnings), in foal to Triple Crown winner Justify, bringing the day’s top price of $340,000. In all, 182 horses sold during the day for a gross of $5,524,300. The average of $30,353 dipped 8.9% from last year’s opening session, while the median of $10,500 was down 27.6%. The buy-back rate was 20.5%. It was 16.1% a year ago.

“I thought there was fair trade and there was lots of activity, certainly on the short yearlings,” said Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning. “There was lots of vetting and activity on those that were perceived to be of higher quality. The mares in foal and the broodmare prospects that you would turn down the page when you went through the catalogue sold well.”

Still there remained a fall-off for offerings that did not meet the criteria of the buyers.

“There are some horses that the marketplace is extremely critical of,” Browning said. “It is not as robust as some people would like, but that’s a sign and a trend that we’ve seen for many, many years. I think we’ve seen a continuation of the marketplace that we saw for much of 2022.

Cont. p3

TDN DERBY TOP 12: THE STRONG GET STRONGER

Several contenders at the top of this week’s rankings solidified their status, but one new shooter debuted at No. 4 to add some intrigue as we edge past the 90-day mark to the GI Kentucky Derby.

1) ARABIAN KNIGHT (c, Uncle Mo--Borealis Night, by Astrology) ‘TDN Rising Star’. O-Zedan Racing Stables, Inc.; B-Corser Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Bob Baffert. Sales history: $250,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP; $2,300,000 2yo ’22 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, $544,275 Last start: 1st GIII Southwest S. at Oaklawn Park, Jan. 28. KY Derby Points: 0.

Arabian Knight’s thorough ransacking of the GIII Southwest S. at Oaklawn Jan. 28 effectively slammed the door on any early-season debate about whether or not this ‘TDN Rising Star’ would live up to the outsized hype heaped upon him after just a single sprint win three months ago. Cont. p10

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

NEW LOOK AT RINGFORT STUD

Derek Veitch outlines the 2023 mating plans for Ringfort Stud’s broodmare band as well as plans to scale back the overall operation.
2023 STALLIONS

ALWAYS DREAMING $10,000
NASHVILLE — NEW $15,000

AUDIBLE $25,000
SESSION-TOPPERS all over the place and Bolt’s killing it

CONSTITUTION $10,000

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN $25,000

GOOD SAMARITAN $7,000

IMPROBABLE $25,000
Higher median than Vekoma, Tiz the Law, War of Will, etc.

INDEPENDENCE HALL $10,000

PROMISES FULFILLED $3,000

PAYNTER $7,500
Is there better PROVEN VALUE?

SPEIGHTSTOWN* $90,000

TAKE CHARGE INDIY $10,000
The MOST PROVEN first-crop sire EVER

TOM’S D’ETAT $10,000

YOSHIDA $10,000
First 2YO’s this year — it’s Yo Time!

NEW – LIFE IS GOOD $100,000

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*A TAYLOR MADE, WINSTAR VENTURE
All fees SR/N
2023 STALLIONS

ALWAYS DREAMING
$10,000

AUDIBLE
$25,000

NASHVILLE — NEW
$15,000

CONSTITUTION
$10,000

OUTWORK
$10,000

PAYNTER
$7,500

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN
$10,000

PROMISES FULFILLED
$5,000

GOOD SAMARITAN
$7,500

SPEIGHTSTOWN
$80,000

IMPROBABLE
$25,000

TAKE CHARGE INDIY
$10,000

INDEPENDENCE HALL
$10,000

TOM'S D'ETAT
$10,000

NEW — LIFE IS GOOD
$100,000

Bred202

YOSHIDA
$10,000

& last year...

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2023 Stallions

* A TAYLOR MADE/WINSTAR VENTURE
All Fees SEN

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PURSES UP, WAGERING DOWN IN JANUARY

Total purses for the month of January totaled better than $90 million, a 9.7% increase over 2022, but worldwide commingled wagering fell by 7.19%, according to statistics released Monday by Equibase.

FOUR NEW STAKES WINNERS FOR INTO MISCHIEF

Four new stakes winners--three at the graded level--for the all-conquering Into Mischief takes him to 126 black-type winners overall.

'BREED SMART' INCENTIVE FOR MORETTI

Moretti (Medaglia d’Oro) will enter stud for the current breeding season at Chesapeake Farm, and his owners are offering incentives to those breeders who inspect him prior to the opening of the shed Feb. 14.
Fasig-Tipton February cont.

Browning continued, “It’s healthy, it’s not exuberant, it’s rational, but you better also have an understanding of what you’re offering and how the market is going to receive your horse.”

That polarization was also evident to Matt Bowling, who was active both as a buyer and as a seller through his Vinery Sales.

“We are getting a ton of views,” Bowling said. “The people are here. I think if you are bringing the right stuff over, they are paying you a fair value for it. But if you’ve got some dings or you don’t have the pedigree, or a bad produce record, it’s definitely a lonely place. But the right horses are bringing the right money.”

A total of 13 horses sold for six figures Monday, compared to 15 hitting that mark during the opening session in 2022. Leading the way was Munny Spunt, who was purchased by Nebraska native Judy Pryor from the Hunter Valley Farm consignment.

Browning expects activity to pick up during Tuesday's second session of the auction, which will feature an offering of supplemental entries with plenty of current form.

“The quality and composition of the catalogue in a sale like this changes from year to year,” he said. “And I think we’ve got a little stronger catalogue tomorrow as opposed to today just the way it flows with the supplemental entries in the addendum.”

Bidding for Tuesday's second and final session of the sale begins at 10 a.m.
Pryor Strikes Late for Munny Spunt

Following the legalization of casino gaming at racetracks in Nebraska in 2020, Nebraska native Judy Pryor is determined to build up the breeding and racing program in the Cornhusker State. She started by acquiring stallions Court Vision and Giant Expectations ahead of the 2021 breeding season and has now turned her focus to acquiring broodmares. She made her biggest splash in the Thoroughbred auction scene Monday at Fasig-Tipton when going to a session-topping $340,000 for Munny Spunt (Munnings) (hip 293). The 9-year-old mare, in foal to Triple Crown winner Justify, was consigned by Hunter Valley Farm on behalf of David Fennelly’s Mountmellick Farm.

“I purchased Court Vision and Giant Expectations a couple of years ago,” Pryor said after signing the ticket alongside Martha Jane Mullholand and Lexis Hennings. “We want to help Nebraska grow in racing to get back to the Ak-Sar-Ben days. I am brand new in racing. I don’t know what I am doing. But I love a good horse.”

Pryor does have plenty of experience in the Quarter Horse show world and maintains the 400-acre Pryor Ranch.

“In the Quarter Horse world, we have raised many, many world champions,” Pryor said. “This is a brand new thing for me and I am kind of doing it because my aunt and uncle were race trainers and they have always wanted me to do racehorses. But I thought it was for the Sport of Kings, not for peanut butter lovers. So I ate enough peanut butters to do this today.”

Munny Spunt won the Gill Torrey Pines S. during her racing career. Her filly by Mendelssohn sold for $425,000 at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale. She also has a yearling colt by Authentic.

Cont. p5
Fasig-Tipton Winter Mixed cont.

“She’s a little taller than most Munnings,” Pryor said of the mare's appeal. “She is perfectly smooth and correct for breeding purposes. She has a nice walk and she’s in foal to Justify. And I wanted to go home with a famous horse.”

Asked if she thought the in utero foal might become the Triple Crown winner's first Nebraska-bred, Pryor said, “I hope to hell it is.”

With Munny Spunt’s expected foaling date fast approaching, the Nebraska-bred designation might have to wait. Pryor purchased Ardita (Bernardini) for $92,000 at the Keeneland January sale. That mare recently foaled at Mulholland Springs.

“Nobody thought I should haul her home because she was due to foal,” Pryor said of Ardita.

Of Monday’s session-topping bid, Pryor said, “I have no idea what I was thinking. I was just going to buy that damn horse.”

Of her client, Mulholland said, “Judy has been playing at the top of the Quarter Horse show industry for decades. We are lucky to have her join us here in the Thoroughbred industry. We are going to have fun. We either going to sell them well or we’re going to run them. But we’re going to have fun.”

Hunter Valley Farm’s Fergus Galvin admitted Munny Spunt’s session-topping price exceeded the team’s expectations.

“We knew she was probably one of the highlights of the day,” Galvin said. “She’s graded stakes winner by Munnings and in foal to the right stallion. And her produce, we’re still waiting for that runner, but she’s got a good sales history. I think they got a good buy. She’s a really good mare.”

Mountmellick Farm purchased Munny Spunt for $325,000 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton November sale.

“David Fennelly is just downsizing a little bit,” Galvin said of the decision to sell the mare this year. “He’s not getting out of the business, he’s just cutting down his numbers. Justify is looking like he’s the real deal. So he thought this was just a good opportunity to sell.”

Bolt D’oro, Into Mischief, Olympiad, Omaha Beach, Nashville, Violence…

Cont. p6
**Juvenile Brilliance**

**Only Two Renewals of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Have Been Run at Del Mar**

**Corniche**

2021

1m 42.50s

**Good Magic**

2017

1m 43.34s

“He's fast, fast... He's just dynamite.”

Jockey Mike Smith

**Corniche**

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- By Quality Road & out of multiple GSW Wasted Tears
- $1.5-million OBS April sale topper

New for 2023: $30,000

Click to view him at Ashford
Montanye said the team's initial interest was in the yearling. “We looked at the yearling first,” Montanye said. “And credit to Bill, I didn't even pick out that the mare was in the sale. He had me go back and look at the mare. That's what started the whole process.”

On plans for the yearling, Montanye said, “We'll see. There is no rush. We will see what he wants to do with him. They will be both go on to Taylor Made for now. We will take it over from there.”

The Heiligbrodts added another mare to their band a little later in Monday’s session, going to $130,000 to acquire Fly on Angel (Palace Malice) (hip 159). The 6-year-old mare, consigned by Bluewater Sales, sold in foal to Yaupon, who won the 2021 GI Forego S. in the couple’s colors.

**Hits Pricey Legacy to Clearsky Farm**

Graded-stakes winner Hits Pricey Legacy (Den’s Legacy) (hip 202) will be joining the broodmare band at the Cleary family’s Clearsky Farm after selling for $230,000 to the bid of Vinery Sale’s Matt Bowling. The 4-year-old, who sold as a racing or broodmare prospect, was consigned by Zach Madden’s Buckland Sales on behalf of her owner/breeder and trainer C.R. Trout.

Cont. p7
Fasig-Tipton February cont.

“We bought her for Clearsky Farm, so she’ll join their broodmare band,” said Bowling. “We haven’t made any mating plans yet, we’re just glad to have her. She’s a pretty, big-walking filly and a very good racehorse. She’s the kind of filly they like to add to the broodmare band there.”

Hits Pricey Legacy is a four-time stakes winner who captured the GIII Remington Park Oaks last September. She hit the board in all but one of her 10 starts and won five times. She retires with earnings of $339,935.

“Any time you get a graded stakes winner on the market, they are hard to find, so we tend to find over them,” Bowling said of the mare’s final price tag.

Hits Pricey Legacy is out of High Price Hit (Concord Point), who is a half-sister to multiple stakes winners Imahit (Whywhywhy) and Hallelujah Hit (Mr. Nightlinger), all of whom were also bred, raced and trained by Trout.

“I am just trying to cut back on the amount of broodmares I have,” Trout said. “I breed primarily in Oklahoma and I just thought this was a good time to sell this filly while she was still in good, peak form. She is fit and sound as a dollar.”

Asked if it was an emotional decision to sell the graded stakes winner, Trout said, “It is. But I just turned 78 and it’s time to start doing some estate planning.”

This isn’t the first time Clearsky has added a member of the family to its broodmare band.

“Clearsky Farm had bought a mare from me before from the same family,” Trout said. “They had called and wanted to buy her privately, but I already had her in the sale.”

Cont. p8

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High Price Hit, who is one of 12 mares currently in Trout’s broodmare band, has produced fillies that last two years, a daughter of Flat Out in 2021 and a daughter of Cloud Computing this year. The 13-year-old mare is in foal to Volatile.

“We will make up our mind whether we will breed [High Price Hit] back in Oklahoma and sell her baby,” Trout said. “We are kind of up in the air right now.”

Of what Monday’s results for Oklahoma’s breeding industry, Trout said, “It means so much for Oklahoma. We don’t have a big breeding program, but it’s building.”

SESSION TOPPERS

FASIG-TIPTON WINTER MIXED SALE
MONDAY’S TOP BROODMARES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HIP</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>293</td>
<td>Munny Spunt i/f Justify</td>
<td>340,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(9, Munnings--Spin the Blues, by Hard Spun)</td>
<td>Consigned by Hunter Valley Farm, agent</td>
<td>Purchased by Family Friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>061</td>
<td>Bubala i/f Not This Time</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(7, Candy Ride {Arg}--Cat Fight, by Storm Cat)</td>
<td>Consigned by Trackside Farm (Tom Evans), agent</td>
<td>Purchased by Bill &amp; Corinne Heiligbrodt</td>
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<tr>
<td>060</td>
<td>Brooke and Emory Twirling Candy colt at foot</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(6, Speightstown--Hard Not to Like, by Hard Spun)</td>
<td>Consignor: Stuart Morris, Agent VI</td>
<td>Purchaser: Blackridge Stables LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Hits Pricey Legacy racing/b’mare prospect</td>
<td>230,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4, Den’s Legacy--High Price Hit, by Concord Point)</td>
<td>Consigned by Buckland Sales (Zach Madden), Agent VII</td>
<td>Purchased by Bowling Bloodstock, Agent for Clearsky Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>Mamie Van D racing/b’mare prospect</td>
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<td>(5, Curlin--Overandabeauty, by Grand Slam)</td>
<td>Consigned by Gainesway, Agent VII</td>
<td>Purchased by Catherine Parke</td>
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BOOKMARK

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Fasig-Tipton Winter Mixed Sale

**Monday's Top Yearlings**

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<td>Audible</td>
<td>Bubala</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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*Breeder: Arapahoe Thoroughbreds (Ky)*
*Consignor: Trackside Farm (Tom Evans), agent*
*Purchaser: Blackridge Stables LLC*

**Filly** McKinzie--Moneybru 130,000
*Breeder: Highclere*
*Consignor: Stuart Morris, Agent for Highclere*
*Purchaser: Deer Creek Stables*

**Filly** Nyquist--Brand New Game 100,000
*Breeder: Spruce Lane, Becker, Hidden Brook, Conley, Gibson, Hartman (NY)*
*Consignor: Hidden Brook, Agent VIII*
*Purchaser: Ramon Tallaj, C & S TBS, agent*

**Filly** Tiz the Law--Dothraki Queen 87,000
*Breeder: CHC (Ky)*
*Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent III*
*Purchaser: Love Equine, agent for B and B Stables*

**Colt** Munnings--My Dixie Doodle 90,000
*Breeder: Dr. Jerry Bilinski & Harry Patten (NY)*
*Consignor: Stuart Morris, Agent for Waldorf Farm*
*Purchaser: Ramon Tallaj, C & S TBS, agent*

**FASIG-TIPTON WINTER MIXED SALE**

**SESSION TOTALS**

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**SESSION TOTALS 2023 vs 2022**

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   SWALE S. (G3)
   ADIRONDACK S. (G3)
   UNTAPABLE S.
   RAGS TO RICHES S.
   DEBUTANTE S.
   BUSANDA S.
   RUTHLESS S.
   LETELLIER MEMORIAL S.

INTO Mischief
The Modern-Day Northern Dancer

$250,000 S&N
This speed-centric, sales-topping son of Uncle Mo ($250,000 KEESEP, $2.3 million OBSAPR) not only wired the field with aplomb, but he checked a lot of boxes on the Derby intangibles list, including shipping away from his home base, handling both a sloppy racing surface and two turns, and showing that being confronted with multiple tactical in-race challenges didn’t faze him in the least.

Arabian Knight broke fluidly and willingly, then effortlessly cleared the pesky 46-1 Frosted Departure (Frosted), who had inside position. Splashing onto the backstretch, Arabian Knight was looking around “a lot” according to jockey John Velazquez, who moved him off the rail to relax, maintaining a steady leading margin of 1 1/2 lengths into the far turn. The second and third favorites launched one-punch bids that soon flattened out, but the overachieving Frosted Departure was still gamely shadowing the 2-5 fave, having whittled down the lead to half a length at the head of the homestretch.

Velazquez then got after his colt, but Arabian Knight only needed two cracks of the crop and some mild hand-urging to mesh into an unmatchable deep-stretch gear that surely did not come close to scraping the bottom of his stamina reserves. "Going to the wire I was like, 'Okay, that's what I wanted to see," Velazquez said post-win.

It's tough to tease out any "cons" to go along with all these gushing "pros" about Arabian Knight's sophomore unveiling. If there is one, it might be a very mild quibble about the Beyer Speed Figure he earned (96), which marked a slight regression from his 97 debut in a MSW on the Breeders' Cup undercard back in November.

2) FORTE (c, Violence--Queen Caroline, by Blame) 'TDN Rising Star'. O-Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable; B-South Gate Farm (KY); T-Todd Pletcher. Sales history: $80,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV; $110,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MGISW, 5-4-0-0, $1,595,150. Last start: 1st GI FanDuel Breeders’ Cup Juvenile presented by TAA, Nov. 4. KY Derby Points: 40.

Divisional champ Forte (Violence) is three workouts into his training for the Mar. 4 GII Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream. Even though this 'TDN Rising Star' ($80,000 KEENOV; $110,000 KEESEP) capped his 2-year-old season with a definitive win in the Breeders’ Cup, proponents of key races have long since locked in on Forte's other Grade I route victory, the Oct. 8 Breeders' Futurity S., as the defining stakes race on the Derby trail so far.

In addition to Forte's next-out tally in the GI Juvenile, that Keeneland race also yielded back-to-back next-out Grade II and III stakes winner Instant Coffee (Bolt d'Oro); the next-out Grade III winner Two Phil's (Hard Spun); the eventual Grade III winner and 'TDN Rising Star' Newgate (Into Mischief); one other next-out listed stakes winner, and a next-out allowance winner. In addition, the runner-up in that race, the highly acclaimed Loggins (Ghostzapper), who has yet to have a published workout in 2023, rates highly on many "wiseguy" lists as the juvenile who ran the best losing effort in a Grade I stakes last season.

There have now been 11 Kentucky Derby qualifying points races run at 1 1/16 miles. No Derby prospect since has eclipsed Forte’s 100 Beyer from that race (although two have tied it), and his closing final-sixteenth fraction of :6.19 in the stretch run of the Juvenile is still fastest among the 1 1/16-mile preps.
Derby Top 12 cont.

3) TAPIT TRICE (c, Tapit--Danzatrice, by Dunkirk) ’TDN Rising Star’ O-Whisper Hill Farm LLC and Gainesway Stable (Antony Beck); B-Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. (KY); T-Todd Pletcher.
Sales history: $1,300,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, $100,150. Last start: 1st GP Allowance/Optional Claiming, Feb, 4. KY Derby Points: 0

Trainer Todd Pletcher has been known to make judicious use of Florida allowance races in prepping his Derby prospects, and Saturday’s eight-length blowout in a one-turn mile at Gulfstream left the impression this $1.3-million KEESEP colt by Tapit has the athleticism and confidence to be a major player when assigned a two-turn stakes task.

Breaking from the rail as a first-time Lasix user Feb. 4, Tapit Trice (again) was a touch slow leaving the gate. Luis Saez swooped him out to the five path, and this assertive gray picked off half the pack to carve out a sweet stalking spot, gaining incrementally down the long backstretch run. Tapit Trice built up serious momentum by the five-sixteenths pole, and when he accosted his favored stablemate for the lead, he managed to dispatch him without serious tussle.

Slicing into the home stretch with no rivals left to conquer, Tapit Trice got to gawking a bit, but Saez refocused him with one stern right-handed swat nearing the furlong marker before finishing under a moderate drive.

The 92-Beyer win generated no shortage of speculation about how Tapit Trice might have prevailed had he instead been entered in the GIII Holy Bull S. over 1 1/16 miles that same afternoon. But his first-level allowance win will prove useful in the long run considering this colt still needs to work on alertness out of the gate, a minor issue that up to this point has been overcome by raw ability and prime positioning in one-turn miles.

Cont. p12
Derby Top 12 cont.

4) ROCKET CAN (c, Into Mischief--Tension, by Tapit) O-Frank Fletcher Racing Operations Inc.; B-Woodford Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Bill Mott. Sales history: $245,000 RNA Ylg '21 FTSAUG. Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-0, $249,738. Last Start: 1st GIII Holy Bull S., Feb. 4. KY Derby Points: 20.

Rocket Can (Into Mischief), a $245,000 FTSAUG RNA, is a good example of a Derby prospect whose visual impressions rate quite a bit higher than the speed numbers he’s earned in those races.

The 82-Beyer victor of Saturday's Holy Bull S. gave up considerable ground on both turns while always being within three lengths of striking distance from the leaders. Urged five-sixteenths out by Junior Alvarado, Rocket Can responded on cue, seizing the lead off the turn and remaining mentally intent throughout the stretch, maintaining a three-quarter length winning margin with a bearing-down stablemate hot on his heels.

Starting with a switch to routes in his third start, trainer Bill Mott has developed an efficient gray who now comes out running to establish key positioning, knows how to pounce off the far turn, and without hesitation throws himself headlong into deep-stretch showdowns.

Rocket Can's mid-pack tactics in the Holy Bull were also against the grain of Gulfstream's short-stretch track layout for 1 1/16 miles, which had him starting from the outermost post very close to the first turn in a race that ends at the sixteenth pole. And he did his job while overcoming a moderate tempo that did no pace favors to aid his stalking style.

Cont. p13
Derby Top 12 cont.

5) BANISHING (c, Ghostzapper--Dowager, by A.P. Indy)
O/B-Godolphin (KY); T-Brendan Walsh. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $42,000. Last start: 1st Fair Grounds Maiden Special Weight, Dec. 26. KY Derby Points: 0.

Banishing has resumed training after getting cast in his stall Jan. 20, requiring sutures to close a hind-leg cut.

Trainer Brendan Walsh told Daily Racing Form last week that "nothing has been ruled out or ruled in" as far as the next race for this Godolphin homebred. He had been slated to start favored in allowance/optional claimer at Fair Grounds the day after his accident, but had to scratch.

With a pedigree that looks more tantalizing the closer we get to 10 furlongs on the first Saturday in May (by Ghostzapper out of an A.P. Indy mare), this chestnut with a distinctive white blaze won at second asking on Dec. 26 over 1 1/16 miles in New Orleans, bounding home by 8 1/2 lengths and earning a 90 Beyer for the effort.

He was a front-running force in that race, displaying measured speed while edging away under pressure before cracking open the race late. His final time of 1:44.80 was .05 seconds faster than the same-distance Gun Runner S. for more experienced juveniles four races later on that card.

6) CAVE ROCK (c, Arrogate--Georgie's Angel, by Bellamy Road)
'TDN Rising Star'. O-Michael E. Pegram, Karl Watson, and Paul Weitman; B-Anne and Ronnie Sheffer Racing LLC (KY); T-Bob Baffert. Sales history: $210,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV; $550,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MGISW, 4-3-1-0, $748,000. Last start: 2nd GI FanDuel Breeders' Cup Juvenile presented by TAA, Nov. 4. KY Derby Points: 0.

Cave Rock himself ($210,000 KEENOV; $550,000 KEESEP) uncorked a 101 Beyer in his 6 1/2-furlong sprint debut last summer at Del Mar, and he upped the ante to 104 with a dominant win in the GI American Pharoah S. at Santa Anita.

He was then a beaten favorite with reasonable excuses in the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile (hot and bothered pre-race, worked too hard through quick opening quarter).

But those imposing stats all start to fade in relevancy the longer this ‘TDN Rising Star’ remains without a published workout. As of Monday morning, he’s the only Top 12 contender yet to hit the worktab this year, and trainer Bob Baffert now faces a race against the clock to launch a campaign that includes at least one prep race between now and May 6.
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On the face of it, ‘TDN Rising Star’ Faustin's second-place finish in the four-horse, seven-furlong Jan. 29 GII San Vicente S. was only a so-so effort. But from a longer-term developmental perspective, the race could still end up being a useful stepping-stone.

The winner was his stablemate, Havnameltdown (Uncaptured), who looks, acts, and performs like a true one-turn stakes colt. Havnameltdown also had everything his own way on the front end, and while Faustin did show some flashes of interest--like diving into an opening at the rail when jockey Ramon Vazquez shook the reins to cue him three-eighths out--this son of Curlin (out of a Hard Spun mare) clearly needs more real estate to uncoil effectively.

Trainer Bob Baffert said post-race that Havnameltdown "will stay one turn. Faustin, he was kind of a grinding slow, he wants to go longer. [But] you try to get outs into them so they'll learn and you'll figure [them out]. The problem is that if you break your maiden first time out, you have to run in stakes.

It is that way all over the country. Just getting these races into them it is important. Faustin, you can tell he is not there yet. [But] once he goes two turns, you'll see a big difference in him. He was trying to get there, but he was running against a top-class sprinter."


Signator, a $1.7-million OBSAPR son of Tapit, is gearing up for his 2023 campaign after being sidelined late last fall with a wrenched ankle.

His professional, stalking score while driving through at the rail in an Oct. 14 MSW mile at Aqueduct was eye-catching enough to earn 'TDN Rising Star' status, and he's now three breezes into his work pattern at Payson Park.

"I haven't really picked out a place to run him yet, but it won't be long," trainer Shug McGuaghey said on Friday, adding that Gulfstream or Tampa are the two likely comeback spots. "He's grown, gotten bigger, and filled out the way we want him to."
Victory Formation is quite familiar with the female side of Signator’s pedigree, having trained the dam (Pension), the second dam (Furlough), and great-grandsire Easy Goer.

“Signator is a lot different than Pension. She was very high-strung, and just broke her maiden. But some of the others were fairly nice,” he added with understatement.

9) VICTORY FORMATION (c, Tapwrit--Smart N Soft, by Smart Strike) 'TDN Rising Star' O-Spendthrift Farm & Frank Fletcher Racing Operations. B-Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. (Ky). T-Brad Cox. Sales history: $100,000 wnlg '20 KEENOV; $150,000 yrl '21 FTKJUL; $340,000 2yo '22 FTMMAY. Lifetime Record: SW, 3-3-0-0, $282,285. Last Start: 1st Smarty Jones S., Jan.1 at OP. Kentucky Derby Points: 10.

This son of 2017 Belmont S. victor Tapwrit ($100,00 KEENOV; $150,000 FTKJUL; EASMAY $340,000) has compiled a 3-for-3 record, but he'll be due for a dive into the graded end of the stakes pool in his next outing, which is likely to come at either Fair Grounds or Oaklawn.

A 'TDN Rising Star', Victory Formation sports a decent MSW-allowance-ungraded stakes progression, with ascending winning Beyer figures of 81-85-91.

Trainer Brad Cox has described him as an intelligent colt who "doesn't overdo it," which he believes will only be a plus as the distances increase along with the demands of tougher competition.

Victory Formation’s current company lines could use some beefing up: The three horses who ran 3-4-5 behind him in the Jan. 1, short-stretch Smarty Jones S. all failed to win in next-out stakes, with all three of them regressing on the Beyer scale.

10) HEJAZI (c, Bernardini--G Note, by Medaglia d'Oro) O-Zedan Racing Stables Inc.; B-Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman (Ky); T-Bob Baffert. Sales history: $3,550,000 2yo '22 FTMMAY. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, $108,200. Last Start: 1st SA Maiden Special Weight, Jan. 15. Kentucky Derby Points: 0.

When a Bob Baffert-trained colt requires four starts to break his maiden, that usually relegates him to the "B" list within a stable of sophomores that annually fields a pretty deep bench.

I wouldn't count Hejazi out of the mix based on that profile, though. The $3.55-million FTMMAY sale topper, this New York-bred son of Bernardini ran better in his trio of defeats than those races might seem on paper.

A step slow out of the gate in his Aug. 20 Del Mar sprint debut, Hejazi rushed up to lead between calls, backed off, then fired again to land second behind an eventual grass stakes winner.

Start No. 2 saw Hejazi drawn way out in post 10 sprinting 5 ½ furlongs, and he flashed wide speed behind wire-to-wire stablemate Speed Boat Beach (Bayern), who established a track-record clocking and has subsequently gone on to win two turf stakes.

Start No. 3 was an ambitious push to try and get Hejazi to the Breeders' Cup, and as a maiden against winners in the American Pharoah S. he managed third behind stablemate Cave Rock, the eventual favorite and runner-up in the Juvenile.

A three-month freshening did Hejazi a world of good, and he finally hit the winner’s circle going 6 ½ furlongs at Santa Anita Jan. 15, swatting away two challengers inside the final half a furlong (97 Beyer).

11) INSTANT COFFEE (c, Bolt d'Oro--Follow No One, by Uncle Mo) O-Gold Square LLC. B-Sagamore Farm (Ky). T-Brad Cox. Sales history: $200,000 yrl '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: GSW, 3-2-0-0, $322,815. Last Start: Won Jan. 21 GIII Lecomte S. Kentucky Derby Points: 32.

Instant Coffee, who just hit his third birthday Feb. 6, was a surprising sort straight out of the gate, winning over seven furlongs in his Sept. 3 Saratoga debut at 14-1 odds.

In three 1 1/16 miles since then, he’s overachieved without being overwhelming, winning the GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. on Nov. 26 and the GIII Lecomte S. on Jan. 21 by rallying off the tailgate with wide, steady drives.

The only loss to date for this $200,000 KEESEP grad came in start No. 2, and considering Instant Coffee was making the jump straight into Grade I company while going around two turns for the first time in the key-race Breeders' Futurity S., he actually managed a decent fourth behind eventual divisional champ Forte.
Derby Top 12 cont.

Instant Coffee's race spacing and foundation both leave room for continued improvement, with trainer Brad Cox indicating that one or two additional stakes in the Fair Grounds prep series are on his radar.

12) DISARM (c, Gun Runner--Easy Tap, by Tapit) 'TDN Rising Star' O/B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (Ky); T-Steve Asmussen. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, $69,750. Last Start: Won Sar Maiden Special Weight, Aug. 8. Kentucky Derby Points: 0.

It's now been half a year since Disarm (Gun Runner) has been in the entries. This 'TDN Rising Star' (based on his 6 1/4-length, 86-Beyer Saratoga sprint score Aug. 6) has been breezing somewhat under the radar at Fair Grounds, but he's now four works in and up to five furlongs.

"He's training with anticipation of him making it back to the Derby trail," owner/breeder Ron Winchell texted to TDN over the weekend. As for a target race, Winchell wrote that he and trainer Steve Asmussen "will know more after his next work."

Last summer, Asmussen said he had "high expectations" for Disarm, adding that in a June 19 third-place debut at Churchill, the colt "didn't do much correctly first time out, just because he's a big boy. Looks like he's gonna stretch out beautifully. We will definitely get to dream with him for a while."

Disarm was shelved in September for undisclosed reasons, and at the time, Asmussen predicted a return sometime during the New Orleans winter/spring meet.

RACING ECONOMIC INDICATORS: PURSES UP, WAGERING DOWN

On Monday Equibase released its January figures for the Thoroughbred industry’s economic indicators, which showed increases in purses and number of races, but downturns in total daily wagering, average wagering per race day on U.S. races, and field size.

Overall, total purses of $90,069,945 in the first month of 2023 increased by 9.7% over the figure of $82,102,162 reported a year ago. However, January’s $874,180,855 in worldwide commingled wagering on U.S. races showed a 7.19% drop in total wagering, and the average wagering per race day number of $3,298,796 represented a drop of 9.29% compared to the figure of $3,646,813 reported for the first month of 2022.

Field size remained relatively the same with January figures showing average field size at 7.73 starters, which is a decline of just .33% from a year ago.

The total number of races increased by 4.3% to 2,280 in January, up from 2,185 in 2022.

RMTC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES DEVELOPMENT OF WITHDRAWAL GUIDANCE Edited Press Release

The Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTC) announced Monday that its Executive Committee has approved the RMTC’s Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to develop withdrawal guidance for the Screening Limits set forth in the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority’s (HISA) proposed Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) regulations. This work will be limited to the RMTC-studied medications on its Schedule of Therapeutic Substances, which represents a subset of HISA’s Controlled Medication Substances (CMS) and is subject to approval by the full Board of Directors in mid-February.

Assuming approval by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of HISA’s ADMC Program, starting on March 27, attending veterinarians and Responsible Persons, (e.g., trainers) will be responsible for determining appropriate withdrawal intervals for CMS administered to Covered Horses.

The SAC is undertaking a rigorous analysis of existing administration data on these therapeutic substances. This data, which was previously produced by the RMTC through its Controlled Therapeutic Substance monograph series, will be applied to ADMC screening limits and detection times recently published by the FTC. Dr Michael Hardy, RMTC Executive Director explained, “this analysis will meet the industry’s need for scientifically derived information to aid attending veterinarians and horsemen in making medication decisions and to avoid preventable errors. The RMTC’s guidance is intended to promote compliance and will not contravene HISA’s regulations.”

Cont. p17
Hopkins completed an outstanding weekend for Lane’s End’s Quality Road in the GIII Palos Verdes S. | Benoit

RMTC cont.
Alan Foreman, Chairman and CEO of the Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (THA) and RMTC Co-Vice Chair added, “The RMTC has been a trusted and valued industry resource when dealing with the scientific challenges of the proper therapeutic treatment of our horses combined with the need for regulatory controls to protect the integrity of the sport and the safety and welfare of the horse. We have been urging the RMTC to undertake this effort and are pleased that it has agreed to do so. The information to be provided by the RMTC is critical guidance to assist our horsemen and veterinarians in complying with the new regulatory limits imposed by HISA.”

Given the current date of March 27, 2023 for the implementation of the FTC-approved ADMC regulations, the SAC is working diligently to be able to provide any and all available information well in advance of this date.

The RMTC is a 501(c) 3 organization comprised of 23 industry stakeholder organizations with a shared commitment to engage in research, education, and advocacy for science-based initiatives that promote the health and safety of the racehorse and the integrity of competition. More information can be found at RMTCnet.com.

Sire (Sire’s Sire) #SWs #GSW
Cairo Prince (Pioneerof the Nile) 24 7
(Cairo Consort--Sweetest Chant S.-GIII)
Into Mischief (Harlan’s Holiday) 126 61
(General Jim--Claiborne Farm Swale S.-GIII;
Interpolate--Ruthless S.;
Newgate--Robert B. Lewis S.-GIII;
Rocket Can--Holy Bull S.-GIII)
Mastery (Candy Ride [Arg]) 2 2
(Surprisingly--Endeavour S.-GIII)

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NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL BERNIE SAMS

Oscar Performance (Kitten’s Joy) 2 2
(Red Carpet Ready--Forward Gal S.-GIII)
Oxbow (Awesome Again) 13 6
(Tuz--Al Shindagha Sprint Presented By Emaar-G3)
Quality Road (Elusive Quality) 68 33
(Hopkins--Palos Verdes S.-GIII)

STANDING AT LANE’S END • CLICK HERE FOR MORE
NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL CHRIS KNEHR
Uncle Mo (Indian Charlie) 89 47
(A Mo Reay--Bayakoa S.-GIII)

STANDING AT ASHFORD STUD • CLICK HERE FOR MORE
NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL CHARLIE O’CONNOR

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SANTA ANITA JOCKEYS RENEW RIVALRY WITH HOLY ANGELS MIDDLE SCHOOL
After a two-year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Santa Anita’s 53rd annual Charity Basketball Game versus Holy Angels Middle School will return to La Salle High School in Pasadena Thursday, Feb. 16.

A distinguished group of Hall of Fame Jockeys will be on-hand beginning at 6:30 p.m. to sign posters and other memorabilia in the La Salle gym. Retired legends Laffit Pincay, Jr. and Gary Stevens will be available, as well as active Hall of Famers Kent Desormeaux, Victor Espinoza, Mike Smith and John Velazquez.
Charity Basketball cont.

Admission to the game is $5, with proceeds going to benefit the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund and Holy Angels Athletics. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or in advance via Jockey.givesmart.com. Jockey game T-shirts may also be purchased in advance via this link up until Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. PDT.

CHESPEAKE FARM ANNOUNCES 'BREED SMART' INCENTIVE FOR MORETTI

Moretti (Medaglia d'Oro--Rigoletta, by Concerto), a two-time stakes winner at marathon trips and twice placed at the Grade II level, will begin covering mares at Chesapeake Farm over the coming weeks, and breeders who come to the farm before the shed opens Feb. 14 will be afforded incentives to patronize the beautifully bred 7-year-old.

Moretti is standing as the property of Erik and Pavla Nygaard's Thor-Bred Stables, who bred and sold the colt for $900,000 as a Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling before reacquiring him for $30,000 at last year’s Fasig-Tipton July Horses of Racing Age Sale.

For a limited time, breeders who come to inspect Moretti will receive a free written report that analyzes their chosen mare with Moretti and three other stallions of the breeder's choice, as well as an assessment of family racing propensities, pedigree blends and physical matches.

“We want to provide breeders with all the information they need to make the best choice for their mare,” said Pavla Nygaard. “By offering these reports, we are confident that breeders will see the advantages of breeding to Moretti, who has a unique blend of proven talent and stamina, a gorgeous appearance and pedigree.”
Saturday, Gulfstream #11, post time: 5:06 p.m. EST

**GULFSTREAM PARK TURF SPRINT S.-GIII**, $100,000, 4yo/up, 5fT

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**Breeders:** 1-Northern Dawn Stables Inc, 2-Calumet Farm, 3-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 4-Tom Evans & Pam Clark, 5-Sherry R. Mansfield & Kenneth H. Davis, 6-Michele Rodriguez, 7-Shadybrook Farm Inc., 8-Ashford Stud, Tammy Barnes & Dr. Bernard Vertuca, 9-Blackstone Farm LLC, 10-Lakland Farm
IN ORDER OF PURSE:
9th-Santa Anita, $82,500, Alw (NW2$X)/Opt. Clm ($80,000), 2-5, 4yo/up, 1mT, 1:34.10, fm, 1 3/4 lengths.

EXAULTED (h, 6, Twirling Candy--Gilded Miracle, by Gilded Time) has seen the bay go up against tough company including the likes of GISW Nadal (Blame), GISW American Theorem (American Pharoah), and GISW & MGISP Get Her Number (Dialed In). After 11 prior starts on the dirt including thirds in the 2021 GIII Triple Bend and GII San Carlos S., Exaulted seems to have reinvented himself as a turf horse with a win against allowance company at course and distance in his seasonal bow Jan. 2, and another strong performance here. Stalking from the fence early after the jump, he rolled through the far turn in third and on the outside, taking aim on the leaders from three wide coming into the stretch. With a furlong remaining, the 8-5 favorite assumed command and drove clear to a 1 3/4-length margin as Carmelita's Man (Mucho Macho Man) nailed Lincoln Hawk (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}) for third by a nose. The most accomplished for his dam, Exaulted has a placed half-brother Pray for Me Ray (Vancouver {Aus}) as well as a winning half-brother Creative Miracle (Creative Cause), who is the final registered foal for Gilded Miracle. Sales history: $77,000 Wlg '17 KEENOV; $200,000 Ylg '18 FTSAUG. Lifetime Record: MGSP, 13-3-3-4, $243,660.

MOOZU GOLD BARREL, f, 4, Optimizer--Sweeter Still (Ire) (GSW, $311,603), by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire). Kokura, 2-5, Allowance, 1800mT, 1:47. Lifetime Record: 9-2-1-0, $185,385. O-Capital System Co Ltd; B-Timothy Lesley Thompson (KY); T-Kenichi Fujioka. *1/2 to Kameko (Kitten's Joy), MG1SW-Eng, $530,817. **$190,000 Ylg ’20 KEESEP.

La La Chandon, h, 5, Street Sense--Divine Praises, by Medaglia d'Oro. Kokura, 2-4, Allowance, 1000m, 1:08.9. Lifetime Record: 8-3-0-1, $262,049. O-Fujii Kosan Inc; B-Three Chimneys Farm LLC (KY); T-Tomoyasu Sakaguchi. *$260,000 Ylg ’19 KEESEP.

IN SOUTH KOREA:
Yamujin Jaesu, g, 4, Connect--Luxurious, by Awesome Again. Seoul, 2-5, Hcp. (C4), 1600m. B-Parkland Farm (KY). *Won in dead heat. **$70,000 Ylg ’20 FTKFEB; $37,000 RNA Ylg ’20 FTKOCT. VIDEO (SC 4)

Legend Day, h, 5, Race Day--Sakra, by Buddha. Seoul, 2-5, Hcp. (C1), 1400m. B-Terry Phillips (IN). *$4,200 Ylg ’19 KEEJAN; $17,000 Ylg ’19 FTKOCT. VIDEO (SC 10)

Saturday’s Results:
3rd-Kokura, ¥10,480,000 ($78,893), Maiden, 3yo, 1000m, :59.2, gd.

JASPER ROYAL (c, 3, Violence) placed in each of his three previous starts, all over the metric six furlongs, and was the 9-10 favorite off a near-miss in the Chukyo slop last month. Able to make the lead after 100 meters, the chestnut skipped over the surface while maintaining a clear advantage throughout and went on to score by a five-length margin that belies the ease with which victory was accomplished. The winner is a half-brother to Lady Shipman (Midshipman), GSW & GISP, $902,387, the dam of GISW and new Coolmore stallion Golden Pal (Uncle Mo); and Just Talkin (Midshipman), MSP, $221,220. Including Jasper Royal, this owner campaigns three of the seven Japanese winners (nine starters) for Violence, including two-time stakes winner Jasper Prince. Sumthingtotalkabt is the dam of a yearling filly by G1 Haydock Sprint Cup and G1 Diamond Jubilee S. hero Hello Youmzain (Fr) (Kodiac {GB}) and is set to be bred back to Violence this season.
Army Mule has a debuter at Parx

Sarah Andrew

3rd-Kokura Cont.
Sales history: $140,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV; $170,000 RNA Ylg '21 FTKJUL; $140,000 2yo '22 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 4-1-2-1, $85,558. VIDEO (SC 4)
O-Kazuo Kato; B SF Bloodstock LLC (KY); T Hideyuki Mori.

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023 Stud Fees Listed
Army Mule (Friesan Fire), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, $12,500 142 foals of racing age/26 winners/6 black-type winners 7-Parx Racing, 2:37 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Navy Rules, 5-1 $52,000 KEE NOV wnl; $180,000 KEE SEP yrl

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:
8th-Santa Anita, $76,296, 2-5, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, 6 1/2fT, 1:13.00, fm, head.
TULSA TORNADO (h, 5, Overanalyze--Dancing Raven {MSW, $396,338}, by Tomahawk) Lifetime Record: 9-2-1-0, $88,830. O-Michael McCarthy Racing Stable, Inc. and Andrew N. Warren; B-Southern Oak Farm (KY); T-Michael W. McCarthy. *$10,000 RNA Ylg '19 KEJEAN; $40,000 Ylg '19 KESEP. **2/1 to Breeze Rider (Paynter), MSW, $511,744.

10th-Parx Racing, $53,500, (S), 2-6, (NW1BX), 4yo/up, 7f, 1:29.54, ft, neck.
ONE MORE SCOOP (g, 4, Uncle Lino--Single Scoop {MSP, $254,190}, by Scrimshaw) Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, $98,520. O-Shooting Star Stable (Anspach); B-Michael Anspach (PA); T-Kathleen A. Demasi.

1st-Mahoning Valley, $37,400, 2-6, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:42.37, ft, 3/4 length.
PERFECTINGTHEVIEW (m, 6, William's Kitten--Vicki Jo, by Mercer Mill) Lifetime Record: 26-5-3-3, $147,698. O-Rivera Racing Stables (Nestor R. Rivera); B-Eyes of a Child Stable (OH); T-Nestor Rivera.

8th-Mahoning Valley, $36,200, (S), 2-6, (NW4L), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:42.63, ft, 1/2 length.
SUSHI Q (m, 5, Palace--Sushi Girl, by Orientate) Lifetime Record: 11-4-1-1, $93,051. O-N and E Racing Stables; B-Sheltowee Farm & Mariah Thoroughbreds LLC (OH); T-Saul M. Morales.

9th-Golden Gate Fields, $34,876, 2-5, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, 1m (AWT), 1:38.04, ft, 3/4 length.
SHOTGUN EXPRESS (IRE) (g, 5, No Nay Never--Hot Legs {Ire}, by Galileo {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 13-5-1-1, $69,493. O-Colin Murray; B-Mrs Michelle Collins (IRE); T-Victor M. Trujillo. *€90,000 Wlg '18 GOFNOV; $210,000 Ylg '19 KESEP.

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4th-Mahoning Valley, $28,400, 2-6, (NW2X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:40.69, ft, 3/4 length.

HAPPY BEE (m, 6, Distorted Humor--Flying Colors {Ire}, by Teofilo {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 29-8-6-8, $127,019. O-Michael Dohar; B-International Equities Holding, Inc. (KY); T-Julie A. Pappada. *$6,000 3yo '20 KEENOV.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Hop On Me, f, 3, Hoppertunity--Socially Driven, by Overdriven. Parx Racing, 2-6, (S), 1m, 1:49.24. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-3, $51,150. B-Richard R. Malouf (PA).


Distorted Humor, Happy Bee, m, 6, o/o Flying Colors (Ire), by Teofilo (Ire). ALW, 2-6, Mahoning Valley
Hoppertunity, Hop On Me, f, 3, o/o Socially Driven, by Overdriven. MSW, 2-6, Parx Racing
Kettle Corn, Creme de Mais, m, 5, o/o Van Gogo Girl, by Van Nistelrooy. MSW, 2-6, Mahoning Valley
No Nay Never, Shotgun Express (Ire), g, 5, o/o Hot Legs (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). ALW, 2-5, Golden Gate
Overanalyze, Tulsa Tornado, h, 5, o/o Dancing Raven, by Tomahawk. ALW, 2-5, Santa Anita
Palace, Sushi Q, m, 5, o/o Sushi Girl, by Orientate. ALW, 2-6, Mahoning Valley
Twirling Candy, Exaulted, h, 6, o/o Gilded Miracle, by Gilded Time. AOC, 2-5, Santa Anita
Uncle Lino, One More Scoop, g, 4, o/o Single Scoop, by Scrimshaw. ALW, 2-6, Parx Racing
William’s Kitten, Perfectingtheview, m, 6, o/o Vicki Jo, by Mercer Mill. ALW, 2-6, Mahoning Valley
NEW LOOK RINGFORT STUD?  
DEREK VEITCH ANNOUNCES  
MATING PLANS

Brian Sheerin  
Derek Veitch, famous for producing Group 1-winning sprinter Minzaal (Ire) and high-class runners Threat (Ire), Miss Amulet (Ire), Ubettabeilieveit (Ire) and Indigo Lady (Ire), has outlined his intention to dramatically scale back his broodmare band to 15 or less at his Ringfort Stud base in County Offaly this year.

The move will come as a surprise to many, given the Rhode-based Veitch has just enjoyed his greatest year as a breeder after Minzaal scorched the Haydock turf when landing the G1 Sprint Cup, not least his wife Gay, who is taking a ‘believe it when she sees it’ approach to the decision.

However, Veitch is concentrating on diversifying the Ringfort Stud brand, and explained how his decision has been made in the knowledge that none of his three kids have any desire to continue the famous breeding operation.

He explained, “This year is slightly different for us because we've had a transition of assets over the past four years and it finishes this year in December 2023. I was 65 last weekend and the plan has been to cut back a lot. We started this plan five years ago so, what we will be doing this year will be the same as every other, in that we will foal down a good number of mares and get them back in foal.”

Cont. p3

MURPHY CONFIRMED TO RIDE BOUGHEY'S  
MISSED THE CUT ON SAUDI CUP CARD

Jockey Oisin Murphy will have a classy horse to look forward to when his 14-month suspension comes to a close on Feb. 16 with trainer George Boughey confirming that Missed The Cut (Quality Road), on course for a tilt at the G3 Neom Turf Cup in Saudi Arabia on Feb. 25, will be partnered by the Irishman.

Murphy was banned for breaking Covid rules, misleading the regulator and prejudicial conduct, plus two alcohol breaches. However, Boughey has explained that the rider has been busy putting in the groundwork with his Royal Ascot scorer Missed The Cut behind the scenes in recent weeks, with the Newmarket operator hoping Murphy can develop a good bond with the colt this season.

Cont. p6

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

FASIG-TIPTON WINTER MIXED KICKS OFF

The Munnings mare Munny Spunt brought top price of $340,000 to top the opening session of the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Winter Mixed Sale in Lexington.
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

GSW SIR BUSKER TO TURF
Group 2 winner Sir Busker (Ire) (Sir Prancealot {Ire}) will make his next start in the G3 Neom Turf Cup on the Saudi World Cup undercard Feb. 25.

LOPE DE VEGA'S GLEN BUCK UNDEFEATED
Late bloomer Glen Buck (Ire) (Lope de Vega {Ire}) remains perfect in two starts with a win at Wolverhampton Monday.

NEW APPROACH FILLY TAKES DEBUT AT CHANTILLY
Godolphin homebred Forelsket (Ire) (New Approach {Ire}) marks her career debut with a victory at Chantilly.

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Derek Veitch cont.

He continued, "But, in June or July, things will be very different in that we are going to aim a lot of mares at sales and we will have a big reduction in the size of the farm and try to take things a little bit easier."

"We have three kids and none of them have any interest in the farm. We have to plan for the next 20 to 25 years without the kids coming in as a support structure on the farm. There’s no point structuring the place so that it stays the same or possibly gets even bigger. We are trying to restructure and get to a point where we’d probably sell the farm to get to a small acreage. We could retire into that and not be what we are for the past 20 years. That’s a big change. We’ve been here 22 years and have done nothing but expand since we got here."

Many of the Ringfort mares are owned in partnership, meaning they will be offered at public auction, although no concrete plans have been made as to what sales they will be entered up at. While revealing mating plans to TDN Europe ahead of what promises to be another busy breeding season, Veitch explained how he could turn his hand to pinhooking foals or possibly racing horses in the future.

He said, "I don’t know if you can time a group of mares to be at their best to go to the sales but it’s a necessary evil so that we can get to where we want to go and not still be killing myself working when I’m 75. The plan is to make things more manageable. In a way, that affords us to consolidate and concentrate on quality. It’s also an opportunity to diversify into racing ownership a little bit more and to foal pinhooking rather than just breeding.”
### TOP COLTS

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### TOP FILLIES

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<td>111</td>
<td>THE PLATINUM QUEEN, Cotai Glory</td>
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ROYAL SCOTSMAN (Gleneagles) and CHALDEAN (Frankel) fight out the finish of the Dewhurst Stakes.

Europe’s only dual Group 1-winning 2YO of 2022 is BLACKBEARD (No Nay Never).

France’s Champion 2YO BLUE ROSE CEN (Churchill)
A
We could run a slightly different business model and reinvent the Ringfort image. That’s what we’re trying to do this year. It will be more of a surprise to people, even Gay, if I actually do it. They don’t think it’s in my nature.

“They think I need to work to live. The plan is to try and balance the rest and relaxation element of life and emphasise that a lot more than the work end of it, which has been a necessity to get three kids through college and through private school. We had to work hard but we don’t have to do that anymore if we reduce our number. Our partnership mares will go to the sales to be sold and there’s a bunch who can’t be sold because they’re too old or if they have veterinary issues. Then there’s younger mares who are unexposed and are maybe starting to breed this year. They could stay around for the next few years. That’s the plan anyway.”

Asked how he feels stepping off the wheel, Veitch said, “I’d loved to have stepped off it at 21 and lived the high life but you can’t do that. The idea of getting up at half six in the morning having been up all night foaling mares and then working all day, it’s not appealing anymore, the whole novelty of that has worn off. As I said, we don’t need to do it anymore because the kids have got their own jobs.”

The important milestone achieved with Minzaal, who Veitch intends to support with three or four mares during his debut season at Derrinstown Stud, helped fulfil a lifelong ambition for the breeder which Gay believes will help with the decision to scale back on the operation.

She said, “You have to remember, Derek has to be doing something different otherwise he’s bored. He’s bred his Group 1 winner and he always said that he would breed until he got a Group 1 winner. Now that he has it, I suppose he can turn his hand to something else. He reinvents himself.”

Derek added, “Winning the race was a big thing but, being there on that particular day was unique because, nine times out of 10, it happens to be when we’re sitting at home watching it on the television. It was lovely to be there on the day.”

And they have their daughter to thank for being there. With no intention of making the trip to Haydock for the race, a last-minute plan was hatched to support their superstar graduate, and boy was it worth it.

Gay explained, “We were just lucky because our daughter lives in Manchester and she phoned to ask us what we were doing at the weekend. Derek was going to Newmarket for the Somerville Sale anyway, and my daughter asked did we know that Manchester was only half an hour away. She told us to get on a flight and come racing. It was pure fluke and was literally organised at the last minute.”

Derek added, “It was a nice fluke. It’s a wee memory that is important about the whole thing and justifies getting up at night, rearing and bringing a foal to auction. It’s an interesting journey and the story continues 50 minutes away from here at Derrinstown Stud. He seems to be popular and he’s going to get plenty of mares so, if he is fertile, he could be a successful sire. He’s had over 300 mare applications but they are limiting him to 175. We have three mares that will visit him.

“Rocana (GB) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), the dam of Youth Spirit (Ire) (Camelot {GB}), who won the Chester Vase will visit Minzaal. She is the dam of a nice Australia (GB) colt who is in training with James Ferguson as well. I’d say that Australia horse is a dark one for this year and we’re looking forward to seeing him run. I’d say he’s a group horse. He was one of the nicest foals we’ve sold for a long time. He could be a Derby or St Leger type of horse. That’s what he was bred to be and the vibes that I am getting back on him are really good.”

He continued, “The other mares booked in to Minzaal are Shenoya (Fr) (Zoffany {Ire}) and Aunt Bee (Ire) (Australia {GB}). Shenoya is a young mare and her first foal was by Gleneagles (Ire) and we sold her to Cathy Grassick and she is gone into training with Joseph O’Brien. The second foal was by Ghaiyyath (Ire) and we sold her to Tally-Ho Stud for €130,000. We liked her a lot. She could be an Oaks filly. Aunt Bee is a stakes-placed mare and in foal to Bated Breath (GB). That will be her first foal. We’ve a mare in partnership with Corduff Stud, Boo Boo Bear (Ire) (Almutawakel I {GB}), and she will go to him as well.”
Along with Minzaal, Ringfort will support a nice blend of up-and-coming and proven stallions, with Baaeed, Sea The Stars, Ghaiyyath and Mehmas featuring on the list.

Veitch said, “Coolminx (Ire) (One Cool Cat) will go to Baaeed (GB). She has a very nice Cracksman (GB) called Madly Truly (Ire), who I sold to Brendan Holland of Grove Stud for 95,000gns, but she subsequently sold to Joseph O’Brien and Justin Casse at Book 1 for 410,000gns. She’s won her maiden at Naas and is well-regarded. She’s a big filly and is very much a 3-year-old. David Redvers bought the 2-year-old by Profitable (Ire) for 65,000gns and she’s one who could rock and roll in early June. She was bought to be a fast, precocious 2-year-old and that’s what she is. Coolminx is the dam of Fearby (Ire) (Havana Gold {Ire}), a nice horse we bred.

“We haven’t made any plan for the dam of Minzaal, Pardoven (Ire) (Clodovil {Ire}), who is in foal to Mehmas {Ire}). She is not due until April so we are going to see how she foals down. If everything is okay, we’ll consider something for her rather than resting her for the year.

“There’s a very nice mare called Daring Diva (GB) (Dansili {GB}), who has a big page. We sold the Violence filly out of her for €190,000 to Niall Brennan, who is a very good breeze-up man, so she could be a lovely breeze-up filly. He will do well with her. Daring Diva is the dam of Brooch (Empire Maker), who is the dam of Mandaloun (Into Mischief), the new Juddmonte stallion. It’s a classy pedigree and Violence is an exciting stallion in America. We haven’t organised who she will visit yet.”

Cont. p6
He added, “Woven Lace (GB) (Hard Spun) is in foal to Ghaiyyath and is almost ready to foal. She’s going to Camelot. Like A Charm (Fr) (Charm Spirit {Ire}) is in foal to Zarak (Fr) and will go to Mehmans. La Australiana (Australia), the dam of the Kitten’s Joy colt we sold to WH Bloodstock for 130,000gns last year, is in foal to Starman (GB) and is going to Kodiak (GB). We’ve a breeding right in Kodiak.

African Moonlight is also worth a mention. She is the dam of Anmaat (Ire) (Awtaad {Ire}), a good horse for Owen Burrows last year, and her yearling filly by Kodiak was bought by John Dance for 300,000gns. She’s a nice filly and we’re looking forward to her. That mare is in foal to Palace Pier and will go to Sea The Stars (Ire). There’s another mare in foal to Violence, who we bought in America, and her name is Air Cavalry (Air Force Blue). She’s going to see Earthlight (Ire). I think that will be a good covering for her.

Indigo Lady (GB) (Sir Percy {GB}) has been very lucky for us in partnership with our friend Paul Hancock. She produced Indie Angel (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}), a winner at Royal Ascot. Indigo Lady is in foal to Dark Angel so she is carrying a full brother or sister to Indie Angel. She’s going to Ghaiyyath this year.”

Not only is Ringfort’s faith in Ghaiyyath notable, but the fact that the majority of the mares breeding on the farm were sourced for relatively small fees is another trend to emerge. The best example of that is Flare Of Firelight (Birdstone), the dam of Threat, who Veitch picked up for just 9,000gns in 2014 before selling privately to Juddmonte for a great deal more. Veitch may be winding down his operation this year, but he is not afraid to share some of the advice that has helped him grow his empire.

He explained, “A workable number is 10 mares. There’s always two or three barren mares and you might only get four or five foals. Of those foals, you’d be lucky to get one or two that would ring a bell at the sales so, to make it pay, year on year, you need that sort of number. If you go below that number, it’s never practical. You’d do better out of it by just buying the foals that you want at the sales.

He added, “For me, it’s never about the produce record of the dam at the time, but more about where she is. If she’s in a good hotel and has been well-covered, then something will happen. I wouldn’t buy a filly unless she has a very good third and fourth dam. It has to have great depth. But I would rather buy the 54-rated or the unraced filly out of a nice mare who was rated 100 plus or had minor black-type. That’s the sort of thing that turns me on when I open the page.”

Murphy to partner Missed The Cut, cont. from p1

"Oisin Murphy will ride him," Boughey said on Monday. "It’s taken quite a lot of brainpower throughout his career so far, he’s had a number of jockeys and I think a horse like him probably deserves to have a jockey that’s going to try and ride him wherever possible.

"I had a long chat with Oisin at the back end of last year when we were trying to make a plan for him. William Buick and Ryan Moore traditionally ride mine whenever they can but I think, at their own admission, they won’t be able to ride him come the summer."
"They were available to ride him in Saudi but we're just prolonging the inevitable and I want someone who is going to be able to create a bond with the horse."

Murphy has ridden Missed The Cut at home and in a racecourse gallop at Chelmsford in a newly-established alliance between trainer and jockey.

Boughey added, "He's done plenty of work, he's been to Chelmsford to ride him the other morning and he's delighted with him. It's a bit of a new thing, Oisin has only ridden one winner for me so it's not really a relationship that's had much to go at so far.

"He's obviously a fantastic rider and I'm delighted to have him on board. He's ridden at Newmarket and he went to Chelmsford the other morning, his work has been pretty good and there are few better men to know what a top-class horse looks like than Oisin."

"I just feel now that the trip will really suit him. We know he goes well on the turf, just looking at the entries for both races, I think we have a better chance of being in the first three in the Neom than we would on the dirt."

Enjoying his best season in 2022, Sir Busker concluded the year with a victory in the G2 York S. and a third behind Baaeed in the G1 Juddmonte at the same track last August. The Irish-bred finished second under Ryan Moore in the Feb. 4 Listed Tandridge S.

**SIR BUSKER HEADS TO TURF AT SAUDI CUP FIXTURE**

Trainer William Knight confirmed GSW Sir Busker (Ire) (Sir Prancealot {Ire}) will bypass the Saudi World Cup in favor of the 10-furlong G3 Neom Turf Cup in Riyadh Feb. 25.

According to Knight, keeping the 7-year-old on the turf was the main deciding factor in settling on the gelding’s next appearance.

“We have talked long and hard about this, which one to go for? I promise you it has changed daily!” said Knight.

“I’ve spoken to a couple of the jockeys about the dirt out there and taken advice from a few people. It’s a really hard one because it is such an amazing opportunity to run for that sort of money in the Saudi Cup.”
“Ryan will ride Sir Busker,” confirmed Knight. “Ben Curtis has done very well on him but we didn’t know if he was going to be back and riding fit in time for him, he’s out for a long time with a shoulder injury.”

He added, “This is why Ryan rode him at Lingfield the other day, to get a feel of him because he’s never ridden him before and with a view to riding him in the Neom.”

Another factor in the decision to keep Sir Busker on the turf is his recent propensity for tardy exits from the stalls.

“He has been slowly away and though we are doing stalls work with him, if he does face the kickback on the dirt, he’ll have never really encountered that,” he said. “As much as the money is very, very tempting, I think we’ve sided with the turf.”

He continued, “We need to address it, I purposely hadn’t over the winter because I just thought it was something he had got into at the end of the season.

“His last couple of runs he was just slightly slowly away. I’m glad we ran him at Lingfield the other day, we just needed to blow the cobwebs out but you wouldn’t want that to happen at the meeting in the three weeks time.”

“We’re going to address it this week–we’ve got [stalls specialist] Craig Witheford booked [this week] to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”
Monday’s Results:
2nd-CHANTILLY, €27,000, Debutantes, 2-6, 3yo, f, 8f (AWT), 1:39.79, st.
FORELSKET (IRE) (f, 3, New Approach (Ire)–Expressiy (Fr) {SW-Fr, GSP-UAE, SP-Eng, $156,139}, by Siyouni (Fr)), sent off the 13-5 second favourite, was anchored in mid-division following a tardy start. Staying on to take the advantage with 1 1/2 furlongs to race, the homebred asserted to score by three lengths from Terredeguerre (Fr) (Al Wukair (Ire)). The winner is the first foal out of the dam, who captured the Listed Prix Occitanie and was second in the G3 UAE Oaks. Descended from the G1 Poule d’Essai des Pouliches-winning champion Baiser Vole (Foolish Pleasure), the dam who is also connected to the dual grade GIII-placed Bis Repetitas (Red Ransom) has a 2-year-old colt by Sea The Stars (Ire) and a yearling filly by Masar (Ire). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €13,500. Video, sponsored by TVG. O-Godolphin SNC; B-Godolphin (IRE); T-Andre Fabre.
MR MOLIERE (GB) (g, 3, Kingman {GB}--Armande {Ire} {GSW & G1SP-Fr, $222,116}, by Sea The Stars {Ire}), sent off the 9-10 favourite, tanked his way to the front after the first three furlongs. In front before two out, the bay was soon clear and was heavily eased as he hit the line with nine lengths to spare over Highland Archer (Fr) (Recolletos {Fr}). The winner is the second foal and first runner for the dam, who captured the G2 Prix Corrida and was third in the G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud. She is a daughter of Alpine Snow (Ire) (Verglas {Ire}), who was successful in the Listed Prix Urban Sea named after her famous relative and who was also third in the G3 Prix Fille de l’Air. Armande, who is through Urban Sea related to her sire Sea The Stars, also has a 2-year-old full-sister to the winner named Mlle Moliere (Ire) and the yearling filly Mme De Pompadour (Ire) (No Nay Never). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €13,500. Video, sponsored by TVG.

O-Baron Edouard de Rothschild & Lady O’Reilly; B-SC Ecurie de Meautry & Petra Bloodstock Agency Ltd (GB); T-Andre Fabre.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:
2nd-Chantilly, €27,000, 2-6, 4yo/up, 13 1/2f (AWT), 3:04.29, st. BERKANE (FR) (h, 5, Adlerflug {Ger}--Mexicali {Ire}, by Tiger Hill {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 18-4-1-1, €87,810. O-Ecurie Pandora Racing & Mme Isabelle Corbani; B-H Gritscher (FR); T-Mauricio Delcher Sanchez. *€32,000 Ylg ’19 ARQCT.

5th-Chantilly, €27,000, 2-6, 4yo/up, 8f (AWT), 1:37.26, st. TWIST (FR) (g, 6, Pivotal {GB}--Distortion {GB}, by Distorted Humor) Lifetime Record: SP-Fr, 14-5-4-1, €115,162. O/B-Wertheimer et Frere (FR); T-Carlos Laffon-Parias. *1/2 to Kertez (GB) (Intello {Ger}), MGSP-Fr, $121,788.