KEENELAND REOFFER OF SIX TWO-YEAR-OLD 'COLLECTOR'S ITEMS' OPENS MONDAY

The 2021 colt by Constitution—Cozze Up Lady at Keeneland September last year | Keeneland photo

by Sue Finley

Keeneland will accept offers Monday at 9 a.m. for the six now 2-year-olds previously purchased at Keeneland September for which the company was never paid. The six, purchased for a collective $4.875 million in September through bloodstock agent Richard Knight, have been in training in Ocala with Niall Brennan and David Scanlon since they shipped from the September sale. Their pedigrees, videos are photos have all been posted by Keeneland, here.

Interested parties have the opportunity, as do their veterinarians, to inspect the horses in-person or virtually. Radiographs and endoscopic videos are in the Keeneland Repository. Interested parties will submit one offer on each horse they are interested in, with the highest acceptable offer taking the horse. There is no public or online live auction that will take place, and buyers must pay for the horses in full by Mar. 8 at 5 p.m., with buyers being responsible for the horses' training, treatment and other fees as of Mar. 1.

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KEITH DESORMEAUX HAS ANOTHER BARGAIN BASEMENT STAR

The Week in Review, by Bill Finley

Had he done this once, maybe twice, the easy conclusion would be that trainer Keith Desormeaux is just lucky. Anyone can stumble onto a good horse that slipped through the cracks at the sales and was bought for a song. But with Desormeaux there’s obviously a lot more to it than that. He keeps finding these good horses that most everyone else overlooks, the latest example being Confidence Game (Candy Ride {Arg}), the $25,000 buy at Keeneland September who won Saturday’s $1-million GII Rebel S. at Oaklawn, securing a spot in the starting gate for the GI Kentucky Derby.

You can add him to a list that includes Exaggerator (Curlin), the $110,000 purchase who won the GI Preakness S. in 2016, and Texas Red (Afleet Alex), a $17,000 buy as a yearling at Keeneland September who won the 2014 GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile.

Cont. p6

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

OVERNIGHT SENSATION BUILT ON ROCK

Chris McGrath features the up-and-coming rider Billy Loughnane.

SUREFIRE WINNERS

FASTEST HORSE OF 2023 REPO ROCKS captured Saturday’s $125,000 Stymie S. at Aqueduct by 1 14 lengths, his fourth consecutive stakes victory, including a TII Beyer last out in the Toboggan S. (63).

Cont. p6
Another group of Kentucky Derby hopefuls, including Arabian Knight (Uncle Mo), have been transferred from trainer Bob Baffert to Tim Yakteen.

Slip Mahoney (Arrogate) tuned up for his stakes debut in the GIII Gotham S. with a work at Belmont Park Saturday.

After days of heavy rain, the Santa Anita main track and training track were open for light training Sunday.
Keeneland Reoffer Opens Monday
(cont. from p1)

The most expensive of the group and the eighth-most expensive horse to sell at Keeneland September 2022 was hip 192, a Constitution--Cozze Up Lady colt, who brought $1.3 million. (See his video.)

"He is a nice, big, tall, leggy colt," said David Scanlon. "He has a great walk to him, a really nice step, and good length to him. He really attracts your attention on the racetrack. I think you can see on his videos that he moves really well. He really covers the ground effortlessly. He's a very good-moving horse."

Scanlon has seen significant development in the colt in the five months he has had him, he said. "He was always a big-framed colt, had all the right angles and all the right things. He was a little taller, maybe a little leaner version of what he is now. And over time and training, he's really filled out and muscled up. He's just matured and filled out more."

The second-most expensive September yearling of the group is a filly with Niall Brennan, by Gun Runner--Just Wicked, a full-sister to the multiple graded stakes winning Wicked Halo, who brought $1.1 million at Keeneland September. Since the sale, Wicked Halo has padded her resume with her second Grade II stakes win in the Lexus Raven Run S., and was third in the GI Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint. (See her video).

"The Gun Runner filly, she speaks for herself," said Brennan. "Her sister won a Grade II after they bought her, when she won the Raven Run at Keeneland. The mare is a producer, so it's a fabulous Winchell family. She's a lovely specimen for Gun Runner. She's done very well since September. She's grown some, and she's filled out tremendously. She's a very substantial filly. She's a good size with great substance, a beautiful head on her, very intelligent eye, and she trains that way."

He continued, "She's very laid back and very smart. She just does what she has to do. She's very easy on herself. Again, they've been doing easy stuff, just nice, easy gallops every day, but she could go on at any time. She's got the strength and maturity physically and mentally to be a nice late-summer two-year-old. And she has speed because she's a very strong filly and an efficient mover on the track. But I also think she's built and bred to stretch out a bit. The Gun Runners have got great minds. I'd say she's quite typical of the Gun Runners, except she's probably got a little bit more substance than many of them at this stage."

He also has a filly by Justify-Fully Living, who brought $1.05 million as a yearling. (See her video).

"It's funny, because obviously there are a lot of inquiries on these fillies right now and people who say, 'Which one do you prefer, Niall?' Or, 'Which one is better Niall?'" said Brennan.
Brennan continued, “And my answer to them is that you can’t compare. These are kids in second grade. You’re asking what they’re going to be like in college. And that’s the fact. The two fillies that I have are both beautiful fillies, but they’re very different. The Justify filly is a tall, scopey, growthy filly right now. She’s really gone through a growing stage. She’s another one that’s got a lovely demeanor. And again, you could see on the gallop video, she’s a lovely mover on the racetrack. She’s very light on her feet, doing things effortlessly. She’s a stretchy filly. She’s growing again right now, and if you give her a little bit of time, this filly could be really nice in the fall. And again, she’s another that’s bred to be a really good three-year old. She’s bred to run long, as in a mile-plus. “She very athletic. She’ll come to hand easily, in my opinion. And there’s something about her that’s really, really nice that’s not obvious. She’s got a lovely mind and is very professional. The frame is there, but she’ll benefit with more time.”

In training with Scanlon is the Street Sense-Bambalina colt who brought a final bid of $725,000 in September. (See his video).

"The Street Sense is a very strong horse. He has a really nice hip and high leg, a very good, strong shoulder on him, and a wide chest. He’s another horse you can just see is a very powerful horse. And he actually gets over the ground really nicely,” said Scanlon. "Street Sense over a Bernardini mare is a beautiful cross that has done very well. He’s a very classy horse with a lot of presence."

Scanlon also has an Omaha Beach colt out of Daisy, who brought $400,000 in September. (See his video).

"The Omaha Beach is a really nice, strong horse," said Scanlon. "He’s a very fleshy type. He gets that from the War Front side. But then he’s got some nice refinement, too. He’s got a beautiful head and nice angles, a good bit of leg under him. He’s got a really good hindquarter and shoulder on him, gets over the ground really nicely, and just has a nice presence to him."

And finally, Brennan is training the Twirling Candy—Danceforthecause colt who brought $300,000. (See his video).

"This colt has done extremely well since September and he’s grown at least a good two inches," said Brennan. "He’s 16.1 now. He’s put on about 150 pounds. He’s a big boy now, but he’s a gentle giant. He’s got a great temperament, very professional. He’s a beautiful mover on the racetrack. For his size, he’s very light on his feet, and as you can see in the gallop videos, he’s just a very smooth horse. He’s obviously got a lovely pedigree."

The colt is a half-brother to Say the Word (More Than Ready), a multiple-Grade II and Grade I stakes-placed runner; and Rideforthecause (Candy Ride {Arg}), also a Grade II winner.

Cont. p5
Don’t get lost in the shuffle...

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"His brothers were stakes winners on the turf," said Brennan. "He does move very well on the dirt, but we’re in the early stages. We’re doing second, third grade stuff right now. So they’re just kids going through the learning process. But he does everything right and he’s got a tremendous temperament."

"I think he’s going to be a better later developer," he continued. "He’ll be a fall two-year old and a better three-year old. That’s what he’s bred to do and that’s what he physically looks like. He’s going to be a lovely horse for the future. He does everything right. He’s just a big baby right now."

Globally, said Scanlon, the six on offer are of a very high quality. "My three, and I’ve actually heard of the others as well, they all justified their purchase prices. They’re beautiful. They did a great job buying the horses. They’re all very quality, high-end quality horses.

"The situation is a shame. But the one good thing is you’ve got a very good product to have to reoffer to the public. It’s not like the gentleman didn’t do a good job. It’s a very nice product to put out there. The horses are all standout horses."

Brennan said he agreed.

"I do think they were well-bought," he said. "They’re horses that are very nice, and obviously the fillies sold accordingly back in September. It was a very competitive bidding market, and these fillies had pedigree and presence, and they were desirable. People wanted them. The way this bidding process is, it’s a sealed bid, so it’s just one bid. And so people are a bit confused about this because obviously human nature has you wanting to bid against somebody else. In this process, it’s important for them to know it’s one bid. You make your best bid."

He said a lot of potential buyers had been inquiring about how much they will bring.

"People ask me, ‘How do you value them?’ I said, ‘This is how you value them. These are top-quality prospects. In three weeks’ time, we’re going to start the two-year-old sales process at OBS, and there will be horses over there with no pedigree that breeze exceptionally fast, and people will be battling each other to buy them, and they’ll be bringing double what they’re worth. And these horses here now are horses that brought the prices legitimately in the market back in September, walking on the end of a shank. Now you’ve got the benefit of seeing them six months later, galloping beautifully on the racetrack, where their vet work is done and clean and they’re ready to go on. How can they not be worth what they brought in a competitive market back in September?’"

He points out that potential buyers’ have now saved on five months of training bills.

Cont. p6

DUBAI BREEZE UP SALE
TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2023
MEYDAN RACECOURSE, DUBAI

FEATURING 2YOS BY THE WORLD’S LEADING SIRES INCLUDING:
American Pharoah • Bolt d’Oro • Constitution • Curlin • Ghostzapper • Good Magic • Gun Runner
Hard Spun • Into Mischief • Justify • Kingman • Medaglia D’Oro • No Nay Never • Not This Time
Sea The Stars • Speightstown • Tapit • War Front • Zoustar
as well as exciting first season sires such as Catholic Boy, Masar, Too Darn Hot, Ten Sovereigns, Yoshida...

BREEZE: 7:45am on Monday 20 March, Dubai Racing Club Training Track
SALE: 5:00pm on Tuesday 21 March, Parade Ring at Meydan Racecourse

Catalogue online at Goffs.com
“And that's really how people need to value it right now,” he said. “This (2-year-old) sales market is about to start and it's going to be hot and you're going to regret not buying these. By the time April comes around, people are going to look back and regret not taking the opportunity to buy these horses with their best offer. Because these are collector's items.”

The Week in Review (cont. from p1)

Then there's My Boy Jack (Creative Cause), a $20,000 purchase who won the GIII Southwest S. and earned $776,887, and Grade III winner Dalmore (Colonel John), who cost $47,000. Desormeaux bought Swipe (Birdstone) for $5,000. He earned $622,630.

How does he do it?

“The easiest way to explain it is that these horses have conformational flaws or maybe some issues on the X-rays that I can live with as a horseman but commercial sales people can’t,” Desormeaux said. “All I know is that I am buying athletes. Pedigree comes second to me. Conformational issues are secondary to me. I am buying balanced, athletic horses who are conformationally correct according to my standards. I look for innate things that make me think the horse is an athlete, things that I associate with class. Those are things that are hard to explain. I know that sounds more complicated than it should, but there you go.”

The first thing Desormeaux noticed about Confidence Game was that the yearling was selling later on in the sale, listed as hip number 1462, despite a strong pedigree. Not only is he by Candy Ride, but the dam is Eblouissante (Bernadini), who is a half-sister to Zenyatta (Street Cry {Ire}). Desormeaux figured there had to be a flaw somewhere, but he preferred not to know what it was because he didn’t want anything to interfere with his gut instincts that told him this was a horse worth buying.
“I do not know what the issue was,” he said. “The horse was late in the sale. I knew that, with his pedigree, he didn’t belong that late in the sale. I assumed there was something on the X-rays. I judged him on his athleticism. It didn’t matter to me what the X-rays said. I knew I had a nice horse. I did not even look at his X-rays. I did not call a vet. I did not call anyone. I bought him because I knew I was buying an athlete.”

It’s a different approach, but it’s working, and Desormeaux admits he gets a great deal of satisfaction in winning with horses that the deep-pocketed owners and their trainers didn’t want.

“I’m basically doing this with horses other people believe didn’t belong in their first string,” he said. “I know it’s a strong word, but they are castoffs. I take a lot of pride in using horsemanship and developing the horses. It’s not all me. We send them to April Mayberry in Florida and I have a hell of a crew at the track that does the grunt work. It all comes together to reach this goal. I take a lot of pride in it and that’s mainly because we are buying horses off the radar.”

Keith Desormeaux | Horsephotos

Having had so much success with bargain buys, what could Desormeaux do if an owner ever sent him to the sales and let him buy expensive horses? After so many years when no one would give him that chance, Desormeaux has found an owner in Ben Gase who is willing to spend good money. At last year’s OBS Spring Sale, Gase and Desormeaux bought a Cairo Prince colt for $90,000, a Twirling Candy filly for $400,000 and a Bolt d’Oro filly for $650,000. They were back at it at the OBS June sale, buying a Munnings colt for $300,000. Gase is the founder and CEO of the shipping technology company R2 Logistics.

“Has it been frustrating? No. But maybe if I was a little bit better at marketing myself or was more of a people person, I’d have those kinds of owners,” Desormeaux said. “But I do have a new guy, Ben Gase. He’s letting me spend in that higher realm. I respect him for giving me a chance.”
Desormeaux continued, “I think we will see big things happening with this guy very soon. I’ve had to change my m.o. I wouldn’t pay that kind of money for a horse without looking at the X-rays. I have too much sense for that.”

As for Confidence Game, he took a while to reward Desormeaux. He broke his maiden in his second career start, but followed that up with a fifth-place finish in the GIII Iroquois S. in which he never threatened. He turned a corner two starts later when winning a Churchill allowance and then ran third in the GIII Lecomte S. In the Rebel, he put it all together to win by a length at 18-1.

The GI Arkansas Derby could be next for him, but Desormeaux said he will also consider the GI Toyota Blue Grass S. and the GI Louisiana Derby. If he makes the Derby, he will be Desormeaux’s fourth starter in the race. If there, he will meet horses from the biggest stables in the sport, horses that cost in the high six figures or, in the case of possible Derby favorite Arabian Knight (Uncle Mo), $2.3 million. But you can count on Confidence Game being up to the task. Desormeaux’s horses, no matter what they cost, usually are.

Will Asmussen’s Records Ever Be Broken?

Steve Asmussen entered Sunday’s races with 10,006 career winners, a remarkable number that will only grow for some time to come. At age 57, Asmussen is a long way away from the end of his career and could eventually make it to win 15,000. That would take him staying active as a trainer until he is 72 while averaging 333 wins a year. Considering that he has averaged 419 wins a year since 2020, he might even soar well past 15,000.

Jerry Hollendorfer, who had only 47 wins last year, has the second most wins among active trainers with 7,759. He’s not going to catch him and neither will anyone else training today. Even in the era of the super trainers, there’s no one that operates the way Asmussen does. He wins at the highest levels of the sport yet still maintains strings at tracks like Sam Houston and Remington Park. Eighty-five of Asmussen’s 382 wins last year came in claiming races.

In 2022, Asmussen made 2,155 starts, 358 more than Karl Broberg, who was second in the category. By way of comparison, Asmussen sent out more than twice as many starters in 2022 as did Todd Pletcher, who had only 10 wins during the year in claiming races.

There’s no one else like Asmussen and that may always be the case. It’s hard to imagine anyone new coming around who has his appetite for winning and will operate at five or six tracks at once, with stakes horses and with claimers.

But that’s not what makes Asmussen virtually unpassable when it comes, not just to most career wins, but also to wins in a single year. With 650 wins in 2009, he also holds that record.
For a large chunk of his career, Asmussen operated before foal crop numbers plummeted and so many tracks were forced to go to three and four-day weeks. In 2000, the first year in which Asmussen surpassed 200 wins on the year, there were 55,846 races run in the U.S. In 2009, his record year, there were 49,368. In 2021, the most recent years for which numbers are available, there were 33,567 races, a decline of nearly 40% since 2000.

Even Asmussen can’t keep up with his numbers from the early 2000s. In the record year of 2009, he made 2,944 starts. With 2,155 in 2022, that’s a drop off 26.8%.

They say records are meant to broken, a lesson reinforced recently in the NBA when Lebron James went past Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to become the leading scorer in the history of the league. But in racing there is no Lebron coming after Asmussen. When it comes to winning races there’s Asmussen and no one else. His place in racing history seems secure.

REPORT: MORE BAFFERT HORSES, INCLUDING ARABIAN KNIGHT, MOVED TO YAKTEEN BARN by Bill Finley

According to a report in the Los Angeles Times, four more possible GI Kentucky Derby starters made the move Sunday from the Bob Baffert barn to the stable of Tim Yakteen. The four are possible Derby favorite Arabian Knight (Uncle Mo), National Treasure (Quality Road), Fort Bragg (Tapit) and Mr. Fisk (Arrogate). They join Arabian Lion (Justify), Carmel Road (Quality Road), Hejazi (Bernardini) and Reincarnate (Good Magic) who landed in the Yakteen barn earlier this month. Reincarnate finished a troubled third in Saturday’s GI Rebel S. for Yakteen, Baffert’s former assistant.

In addition, Fort Warren (Curlin) was sent from Baffert’s stable to Brittany Russell and Harlocap (Justify), who broke his maiden for Baffert, ran for Steve Asmussen when sixth in the GI Risen Star S.

Because of a suspension put in place by Churchill Downs, Baffert is not eligible to enter horses in the Derby and any horse still in his barn after Tuesday will not be eligible to accrue points for the Derby.

“I was trying to set up as smooth a transition as I could for the horses and the owners and still allow them to get Derby points,” Baffert told the Times. “It’s hard on the grooms that have been working with the horses for a year or so. We’ve all been around these horses and in some cases we found them [at sales]. Our whole program is based on 3-year-olds and the Kentucky Derby. It’s tough to give them up. We thought we had a good chance to get an injunction, but we didn’t. So, we’ve got to move forward, we’ve got to move on.”

Yakteen told the Times he will have five horses in the field for Saturday’s GI San Felipe S. at Santa Anita: Hejazi, Mr. Fisk, Fort Bragg, National Treasure and Practical Move (Practical Joke). Practical Move, the winner of the GI Los Alamitos Futurity, has been in the Yakteen barn from the start.

According to the Times, Arabian Knight’s next start will likely come in either the GI Santa Anita Derby or the GI Arkansas Derby. His most recent workout was Feb. 13 when he went three furlongs in :35.60.

ARKANSAS DERBY COULD BE NEXT FOR CONFIDENCE GAME

Don’t Tell My Wife Stables’ Confidence Game (Candy Ride {Arg}) exited his upset win in Saturday’s GII Rebel S. in fine shape, according to trainer Keith Desormeaux.

“He’s happy,” Desormeaux said Sunday. “He looks a lot more calm and happy than he was in that damn [indoor] paddock.”

The Rebel victory propelled Confidence Game to the top of the Kentucky Derby leaderboard with 57 points.
Confidence Game shipped back to Desormeaux's Fair Grounds base Sunday afternoon, but could return to Oaklawn Park for the GI Arkansas Derby Apr. 1.

“For sure, TBA—depending on how he returns and it will give us a couple of weeks to let him rest and see how he bounces back, but all options are open,” Desormeaux said of the colt’s next start. “It could be in Arkansas, Louisiana, maybe even the Blue Grass, I don’t know. Obviously, with our success here and the way we were treated, our first option is going to be the Arkansas Derby.”

A maiden winner at Churchill Downs last August, Confidence Game entered the Rebel off a third-place effort in the Jan. 21 GIII Lecomte S.

Confidence Game opened a 1 1/2-length advantage in midstretches and held late-running Red Route One (Gun Runner) safe in the final 100 yards.

“Everything worked in his favor,” Desormeaux said. “I was telling the ownership group last night that pace, I’ve watched races there for two days, and that pace was about two seconds faster than anything I had seen. So, it set up great for him. I don’t know how many people buy into this, but as far as the pedigree was concerned, as far as propensity for the off track, he had the highest number. The off track probably helped us. Perfect trip. Here we are.”

Trainer Brad Cox was looking for his fifth win in the Rebel, but instead watched 3-2 favorite Verifying (Justify) and 2-1 second choice Giant Mischief (Into Mischief) finish fourth and sixth, respectively, after chasing the fast pace.
I was hoping to learn a good bit from yesterday’s race,” Cox said Sunday morning. “I’m not sure I learned as much as I was looking or hoping to. That would be the best way to sum that up. That’s the honest to God way I looked at the race. I really thought I was going to find out something yesterday and I don’t know what I found out.”

Verifying was making his first start since a powerful Jan. 14 one-mile allowance victory at Oaklawn, while the Rebel marked the 3-year-old debut of Giant Mischief, who concluded 2022 with a runner-up finish in the Remington Park Springboard Mile Dec. 17.

Verifying was bottled up turning for home under Florent Geroux in the Rebel and was beaten 5 1/4 lengths by Confidence Game. Giant Mischief was beaten 6 1/2 lengths.

“Verifying lost a lot of position from the quarter pole to the eighth pole,” Cox said. “He went from basically being fourth to eighth or ninth. You can’t do that in these type of races with these good horses. In my eyes he remains on the Derby trail and is a contender. Giant Mischief was in contention turning for home. He hadn’t raced in a while. He may have needed the race. I wouldn’t say he’s off the trail at all. We’ll regroup with the team and come up with a plan here in the near future.”

Cox has six of the top 17 horses on the latest Kentucky Derby leaderboard released by Churchill Downs.

“We’re going to be there,” Cox said. “I don’t know with who.”

SLIP MAHONEY WORKS FOR GOTHAM

Gold Square LLC’s Slip Mahoney (Arrogate) tuned up for the Mar. 4 GIII Gotham S. with a four-furlong work in :48.87 (6/54) over the Belmont training track Saturday. The gray colt worked in company with unraced stablemate Global Image (Liam’s Map).

“It wasn’t as quick to watch it, but they moved pretty well,” said Dustin Dugas, trainer Brad Cox’s Belmont-based assistant. “It was really good and he came out of it in great shape and we’re all systems go. Trevor [McCarthy] was happy with him and he’s going to ride him Saturday.”

Slip Mahoney will be making his fourth lifetime start and his stakes debut in the Gotham. He broke his maiden by a determined head at Aqueduct over the Gotham’s one-mile distance last time out Jan. 21.

“He showed personal growth and mentally and physically, he’s one that’s still figuring things out,” Dugas said of his progression between starts. “He plays around a lot and still needs to mature, but right now, he’s just doing it off of raw talent. He’s getting there, and with each breeze, you can see him mature. He’s not regressing and doing things proper.”
Cox is also expected to be represented in the Gotham by Ten Strike Racing’s *Eyeing Clover* (*Lookin At Lucky*), who is unbeaten in two starts and is coming off a 9 3/4-length optional-claiming victory at Fair Grounds Jan. 28. The chestnut colt worked five furlongs at Fair Grounds in :59.80 (2/35) Saturday and is expected to ship into Belmont Park Tuesday.

The Gotham awards the top-five finishers 50-20-15-10-5 qualifying points to the GI Kentucky Derby.

**SANTA ANITA TRACKS OPEN FOR LIGHT TRAINING SUNDAY**

After being closed for training Friday and Saturday, Santa Anita’s main track and training track were open for light training Sunday. According to Santa Anita officials, a total of 6.5 inches of rain fell in Arcadia from Thursday through Saturday, closing the track to both racing and training into the weekend.

Horses were able to jog on both tracks under partly cloudy skies Sunday. There have been no timed workouts at Santa Anita since Thursday.

More rain is forecast for the first half of next week, but the amount projected is much lighter than the recent deluge that saturated the area. Jason Egan, Santa Anita Director of Racing and Racing Secretary, said he expects both tracks to remain open for training with time workouts to resume Tuesday.

Live racing is expected to return to Santa Anita next Friday. As a result of last week’s cancellations, Santa Anita has added a card for Mar. 9 and plans to run more overnight races than were originally scheduled next week.

**2022 WASHINGTON CHAMPIONS HONORED**

Darlyne Krieg’s homebred *Slew’s Tiz Whiz* (*Slew’s Tiznow*) was named Richard Wright Memorial Horse of the Year and Scatter Training Center champion older horse during a ceremony honoring 2022 Washington-bred champions held Saturday at Emerald Downs. Tom Wenzel, who trained the now 5-year-old gelding to wins in the Longacres Mile and Governor’s S., received the Backstretch Chaplaincy Special Training Achievement Award. Also Saturday, *Blazingbellablu* (*Grazen*) was named champion older filly or mare; *Anthonys Cleopatra* (*Constitution*) was named champion 3-year-old filly.
Itsallabouttheride (Harbor the Gold) was named champion 3-year-old male; The Big Wam (Mr. Big) was named champion 2-year-old male; and Miss Dynamic (Dynamic Impact) was named champion 2-year-old filly. Papa’s Golden Boy (Harbor the Gold) was named the state’s top sprinter. Conveyance (Indian Charlie) won the leading sire award and Gold Rush Dancer (Private Gold) was tabbed the leading freshman sire. Holy Rose (Touch Gold) was named Broodmare of the Year.

“Samantha Smith named TAA Director of Marketing and Communications

Samantha Smith has been named the new director of marketing and communications for the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, effective Monday. A graduate of the University of Kentucky’s animal science program, Smith has marketing and communications experience with a variety of equine associations, including TOBA, The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation, and the Horse Racing Women’s Summit.

Smith will be responsible for leading and overseeing all marketing initiatives at the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance. She will work closely with the executive team, the communications committee, and TAA’s accredited organizations to develop and implement marketing strategies that align with the company’s overall goals and objectives.

“We are excited to have Samantha Smith join the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance as our Marketing and Communications Director,” said TAA President Jeff Bloom. “As the TAA has grown over the years our demand for professional communications and marketing has expanded. Her wealth of experience in addition to her passion for aftercare will be a great asset to our team.”
Smith added, “In my professional career I have a keen interest in the sport of Thoroughbred racing, particularly in any area where I can support efforts to promote and grow the sport, educate others, or improve safety, welfare, and aftercare initiatives. In my personal life, with my own former racehorse, I especially have a passion for Thoroughbred aftercare. I look forward to joining the team at TAA and promoting all the Thoroughbred has to offer after racing.”

OLD COLONY INSURANCE WELCOMES JOHN DAVID CHRISTMAN

Old Colony Insurance, a leading farm and equine Insurance Agency for over 50 years, welcomes John David Christman to its organization.

With over 15 years’ experience, Christman continues momentum as one of the top insurance producers in the equine industry.

Christman was born and raised in Lexington, KY, and is a graduate of Transylvania University. He grew up working summers and sales for Taylor Made before beginning his career in the bloodstock insurance business with Equus/Standardbred Station, Inc. in 2008.

“It is very exciting to begin this chapter of my career with Old Colony Insurance,” said Christman. “I am eternally grateful to the Jones family and Equus for 15 fantastic years together. I aim to continue the legacies and standards of Old Colony’s late founder Mr. Bill Carl and Nick Strong in my new role. My goal has always been, and will remain, to be the most responsive, attentive and accessible insurance agent in the business.”
### Saturday, Gulfstream #14, post time: 5:43 p.m. EST
**FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH S.-GII**, $400,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PP</th>
<th>HORSE</th>
<th>SIRE</th>
<th>OWNER</th>
<th>TRAINER</th>
<th>JOCKEY</th>
<th>WT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>General Jim</td>
<td>Into Mischief</td>
<td>Courtlandt Farms</td>
<td>McGaughey III</td>
<td>Saez</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Legacy Isle</td>
<td>Shackleford</td>
<td>Walters, D, Smith, D, Smith, A &amp; Crichton, R</td>
<td>Crichton</td>
<td>Jaramillo</td>
<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shadow Dragon</td>
<td>Army Mule</td>
<td>Peachtree Stable</td>
<td>Mott</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Forte</td>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Ortiz, Jr.</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Il Miracolo</td>
<td>Gun Runner</td>
<td>Alexandres, LLC</td>
<td>Sano</td>
<td>Perez</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Blazing Sevens</td>
<td>Good Magic</td>
<td>Rodeo Creek Racing, LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mage</td>
<td>Good Magic</td>
<td>OGMA Investments, LLC, Restrepo, Ramiro, Sterling Racing LLC and CMNWLTH</td>
<td>Delgado</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rocket Can</td>
<td>Into Mischief</td>
<td>Frank Fletcher Racing Operations, Inc.</td>
<td>Mott</td>
<td>Alvarado</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cyclone Mischief</td>
<td>Into Mischief</td>
<td>Albaugh Family Stables LLC and Castleton Lyons</td>
<td>Romans</td>
<td>Gaffalione</td>
<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dangerous Ride</td>
<td>Lord Nelson</td>
<td>Palm Beach Racing V LLC</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Vasquez</td>
<td>121</td>
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</table>

**Breeders:** 1-Fifth Avenue Bloodstock & CenterlineBreeding, 2-Erv Woolsey & Ralph Kinder, 3-AJ Suited, 4-South Gate Farm, 5-Willow Oaks Stable LLC, 6-Tracy Farmer, 7-Grandview Equine, 8-Woodford Thoroughbreds, LLC, 9-Castleton Lyons & Kilboy Estate, 10-Palm Beach Racing III, LLC

### Saturday, Gulfstream #10, post time: 3:33 p.m. EST
**WINSTAR GULFSTREAM PARK MILE S.-GII**, $200,000, 4yo/up, 1m

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dean Delivers</td>
<td>Cajun Breeze</td>
<td>Stonehedge LLC</td>
<td>Yates</td>
<td>Vasquez</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Steal Sunshine</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>Carrie L. Brogden</td>
<td>Dibona</td>
<td>Reyes</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Noble Drama</td>
<td>Gone Astray</td>
<td>David Fawkes Racing, Inc.</td>
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<td>Jaramillo</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Simplification</td>
<td>Not This Time</td>
<td>Bobo, Tami and De Merc, Tristan</td>
<td>Sano</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Octane</td>
<td>Brethren</td>
<td>Arindel</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Zayas</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Endorsed</td>
<td>Medaglia d'Oro</td>
<td>Mark D. Breen</td>
<td>Maker</td>
<td>Gaffalione</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Charge It</td>
<td>Tapit</td>
<td>Whisper Hill Farm, LLC</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Saez</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>O Captain</td>
<td>Carpe Diem</td>
<td>OGMA Investments, laverone, Michael &amp; Jules, Marquee Bloodstock and Tollow, Jr., Jack Hardin</td>
<td>Delgado</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nitrous Channel</td>
<td>Nyquist</td>
<td>R. A. Hill Stable, Reeves Thoroughbred Racing &amp; and Spedale Family Racing, LLC</td>
<td>Weaver</td>
<td>Ortiz, Jr.</td>
<td>118</td>
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</table>

**Breeders:** 1-Stonehedge LLC, 2-Machmer Hall, 3-Harold L. Queen, 4-France Weiner & Irwin Weiner, 5-Arindel, 6-Godolphin, 7-Whisper Hill Farm, LLC, 8-WinStar Farm, LLC, 9-VinLaur Racing Stable, LLC
### Saturday, Gulfstream #12, post time: 4:37 p.m. EST

**DAVONA DALE S.-GII**, $200,000, 3yo, f, 1m

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Atomically</td>
<td>Girvin</td>
<td>Eclipse Tbred Partners, Bernard, M &amp; Colburn, H</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Perez</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Infinite Diamond</td>
<td>Bee Jersey</td>
<td>Diamond 100 Racing Club, Madaket Stbils &amp; Silva, F</td>
<td>Biancone</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Red Carpet Ready</td>
<td>Oscar Performance</td>
<td>Ashbrook Farm and Upland Flats Racing</td>
<td>Arnold, Il</td>
<td>Saez</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Positano Sunset</td>
<td>Goldencents</td>
<td>Six Column Stables, Bloch, R., Seiler, J &amp; Hall, D</td>
<td>Wilkes</td>
<td>Leparoux</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Undervalued Asset</td>
<td>Speightstown</td>
<td>Klaravich Stables, Inc.</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Ortiz, Jr.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Guns n’ Graces</td>
<td>Gun Runner</td>
<td>CHP Racing</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lynx</td>
<td>Brethren</td>
<td>R.T Racing Stable</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Zayas</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Adelisee’s Smile</td>
<td>Uncle Mo</td>
<td>John Ropes</td>
<td>Yates</td>
<td>Vasquez</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dorth Vader</td>
<td>Girvin</td>
<td>WellSpring Stables</td>
<td>Serpe</td>
<td>Gaffalione</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Leave No Trace</td>
<td>Outwork</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Breeders:** 1-Tracy Pinchin & Michael Bernard, 2-Charles Fipke, 3-Lynn B. Schiff, 4-John Seiler, Randy Bloch, Trish Henson, Brad Stephens & Dave Hall, 5-Speightstown Syndicate & Cloyce C. Clark, Jr., 6-Coffee Pot Stable, 7-Arindel, 8-Breeze Easy, LLC, 9-John Ropes, 10-Red Cloak Farm, LLC

### Saturday, Gulfstream #13, post time: 5:09 p.m. EST

**MAC DIARMIDA S.-GII**, $200,000, 4yo/up, 1 3/8mT

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Highest Honors</td>
<td>Tapit</td>
<td>W.S. Farish</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Ortiz, Jr.</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Master Piece (Chi)</td>
<td>Mastercraftsmans (Ire)</td>
<td>Iavarone, Michael &amp; Julia, Zoumas, Nicholas, Vapewh, Argano, Frank and Ten Twenty Racing</td>
<td>Joseph, Jr.</td>
<td>Gaffalione</td>
<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Value Proposition (GB)</td>
<td>Dansili (GB)</td>
<td>RORE Champion Racing</td>
<td>Goodman</td>
<td>Reyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Time for Trouble</td>
<td>English Channel</td>
<td>Hiles, Jeff A. and Thordnastle Stable LLC</td>
<td>Hiles</td>
<td>Alvarado</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Henley’s Joy</td>
<td>Kitten’s Joy</td>
<td>Bloom Racing Stable LLC</td>
<td>Casse</td>
<td>Leparoux</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bemma’s Boy</td>
<td>Into Mischief</td>
<td>Paradise Farms Corp.</td>
<td>Maker</td>
<td>Vasquez</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Astronaut</td>
<td>Quality Road</td>
<td>John M. B. O’Connor</td>
<td>Albertrani</td>
<td>Saez</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Barberini</td>
<td>Flintshire (GB)</td>
<td>Rhianon Farms, Inc.</td>
<td>Delacour</td>
<td>Ruiz</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Shawdyshawdshawdwyw</td>
<td>Summer Front</td>
<td>Goichman, Lawrence and Goichman, Jennifer</td>
<td>Abreu</td>
<td>Lopez</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Value Engineering</td>
<td>Lemon Drop Kid</td>
<td>Hui, Michael M. and Forte, Phil</td>
<td>Maker</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Abaan</td>
<td>Will Take Charge</td>
<td>Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Daigneault, Alex Fletcher</td>
<td>Rosario</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Wicked Fast</td>
<td>Tourist</td>
<td>Jordan V. Wycoff</td>
<td>Maker</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Marwad (GB)</td>
<td>Intello (Ger)</td>
<td>Rachid Racing Inc.</td>
<td>Moubarak</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
<td>118</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-W.S. Farish, 2-Haras Don Alberto, 3-Meon Valley Stud, 4-Calumet Farm, 5-Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey, 6-Lochlow Farm, 7-Anastasie Astrid Christiansen-Croy, 8-Rhianon Farm, Inc., 9-Larry Goichman, 10-J. Stabile, LLC, 11-Rosilyn Polan, 12-Wachtel Stable, 13-Shadwell Estate Company Limited

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**Keeneland Sales**

**2-YEAR-OLD REOFFER**

Keeneland will reoffer six 2-year-olds previously purchased as yearlings at last year’s September Sale which are actively in training in Ocala.

**COLTS BY** Constitution, Omaha Beach, Street Sense, Twirling Candy

**FILLIES BY** Gun Runner, Justify
### Saturday, Gulfstream #9, post time: 3:01 p.m. EST
**HERECOMESTHEBRIDE S.-GIII**, $200,000, 3yo, f, 1mT

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<th>OWNER</th>
<th>TRAINER</th>
<th>JOCKEY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anna Karenine (Fr)</td>
<td>Toronado (Ire)</td>
<td>Madaket Stables, Dubb, M, Seventh Sense Stables and E5 Racing Thoroughbreds LLC</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Gaffalione</td>
<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>American Rockette</td>
<td>American Pharoah</td>
<td>Frank Fletcher Racing Operations, Inc.</td>
<td>Mott</td>
<td>Alvarado</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Malley moo</td>
<td>English Channel</td>
<td>Rockingham Ranch, David A. Bernsen, LLC, Tallia Racing and JWS Racing LLC</td>
<td>Sisterson</td>
<td>Rosario</td>
<td>119</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Riding Pretty</td>
<td>Jack Milton</td>
<td>Holly Crest Farm</td>
<td>Owens, Jr</td>
<td>Lopez</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Blind Spot</td>
<td>Cross Traffic</td>
<td>C2 Racing Stable LLC and Stefania Farms, LLC</td>
<td>Joseph, Jr</td>
<td>Zayas</td>
<td>121</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Revalita (Fr)</td>
<td>Recoletos (Fr)</td>
<td>Wise Racing LLC</td>
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<td>Cairo Consort</td>
<td>Cairo Prince</td>
<td>Repole Stable and Town and Country Racing, LLC</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Ortiz, Jr</td>
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<td>Papilio (Ire)</td>
<td>Starspangledbanner (Aus)</td>
<td>D. J. Stable LLC, Medallion Racing, Fowler, Barry &amp; Parkland Thoroughbreds</td>
<td>Casse</td>
<td>Saez</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Danse Macabre</td>
<td>Army Mule</td>
<td>NBS Stable and Elements Racing, LLC</td>
<td>Danner</td>
<td>Beschizza</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Moonage Daydream</td>
<td>Candy Ride (Arg)</td>
<td>Chris Larsen</td>
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<td>Perez</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tituba</td>
<td>Good Magic</td>
<td>Three Diamonds Farm</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Leparoux</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sweetlou'sgotaces</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>Barber, Gary, Wachtel Stable &amp; Twin Sports Racing</td>
<td>Handal</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
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</table>

**Breeders:** 1-Ecurie Haras du Cadran & SCEA Haras du Ma, 2-Frank Fletcher, 3-Calumet Farm, 4-Holly Crest Farm, 5-Country Life Farm & Your Flame in Me LLC, 6-Sarl Darpat France, 7-Frankfort Park Farm, 8-SCEA Marmion & Mr A. Jathiere, 9-St. Elias Stables LLC, 10-3C Stable, LLC, 11-LNJ Foxwoods, 12-Town & Country Horse Farms, LLC & George Saufley

### Saturday, Gulfstream #6, post time: 1:27 p.m. EST
**THE VERY ONE S.-GIII**, $150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 3/8mT

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<th>TRAINER</th>
<th>JOCKEY</th>
<th>WT</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Libretto (Ire)</td>
<td>Fastnet Rock (Aus)</td>
<td>Lawrence Goichman</td>
<td>Abreu</td>
<td>Perez</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beside Herself</td>
<td>Uncle Mo</td>
<td>Michael B. Tabor</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Saez</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lady Rockstar (GB)</td>
<td>Frankel (GB)</td>
<td>Steven Parkin</td>
<td>Walsh</td>
<td>Rosario</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mylady (Ger)</td>
<td>The Grey Gatsby (Ire)</td>
<td>Michaela Faust</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Zayas</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Broadway Boogie</td>
<td>Uncle Mo</td>
<td>Joseph Allen LLC</td>
<td>Toner</td>
<td>Ruiz</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Transient (GB)</td>
<td>Sea The Stars (Ire)</td>
<td>e Five Racing Thoroughbreds</td>
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<td>Gaffalione</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Higher Truth (Ire)</td>
<td>Galileo (Ire)</td>
<td>Team Hanley, Drown, Jeff, and Ryan, Michael J.</td>
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<td>Ortiz</td>
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<td>Ensemble (Ire)</td>
<td>Nayef</td>
<td>Clipper Logistics</td>
<td>Walsh</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Flying Fortress</td>
<td>Uncle Mo</td>
<td>Joseph Allen LLC</td>
<td>McGaughey III</td>
<td>Alvarado</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Virginia Joy (Ger)</td>
<td>Soldier Hollow (GB)</td>
<td>Peter M. Brant</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Ortiz, Jr</td>
<td>123</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Gestut Hof Ittlingen, 2-Chelston, 3-Branton Court Stud, 4-Gestut Karishof, 5-Mr. Joseph Allen LLC, 6-B. Sangster & Freynestown Stud, 7-Churchtown House Stud, 8-Mrs T. Mahon, 9-Mr. Joseph Allen, LLC, 10-Gestut Auenquelle

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**2023 Keeneland Sales Dates**

- April Selected Horses of Racing Age Sale | Apr. 30
- September Yearling Sale | Sept. 11-23
- November Breeding Stock Sale | Nov. 7-16
- November Horses of Racing Age Sale | Nov. 17

[LEARN MORE](#)
### Saturday, Gulfstream #8, post time: 2:29 p.m. EST
**CANADIAN TURF S.-GIII, $150,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16mT**

<table>
<thead>
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<td>English Channel</td>
<td>Calumet Farm</td>
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<td>California Frolic</td>
<td>California Chrome</td>
<td>Julian J. De Mora Jr.</td>
<td>De La Cerda</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Emmanuel</td>
<td>More Than Ready</td>
<td>WinStar Farm LLC and Siena Farm LLC</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Castellano</td>
<td>124</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fort Washington</td>
<td>War Front</td>
<td>Brant, Peter M. and Joseph Allen LLC</td>
<td>McGaughey III</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good Governance (GB)</td>
<td>Kingman (GB)</td>
<td>Foxbrook Farm, LLC</td>
<td>Meah</td>
<td>Leparoux</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Shadow Sphinx</td>
<td>Pioneerof the Nile</td>
<td>Paradise Farms Corp. and Staudacher, David</td>
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<td>Into Mischief</td>
<td>Bruno Schickedanz</td>
<td>Drexler</td>
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<td>Safe Conduct</td>
<td>Bodemeister</td>
<td>Wellspring Stables</td>
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<td>Dakota Gold</td>
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<td>Reeves Thoroughbred Racing</td>
<td>Gargan</td>
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<td>Steady On</td>
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<td>Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable</td>
<td>Pletcher</td>
<td>Ortiz, Jr.</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Calumet Farm, 2-Steven Friedfertig & Taylor Made SalesAgency, 3-Helen K. Groves Revocable Trust, 4-Joseph Allen, LLC & White Birch Farm, Inc., 5-Michael E. Wates, 6-Grade 1 Bloodstock & Halcyon Farm & Equine Equity Partners, LLC, 7-Newtown Anner Stud, 8-Mitchell H. Kursner, 9-SEQUEL Thoroughbreds & Ron Bowden, 10-Springhouse Farm

### Saturday, Gulfstream #11, post time: 4:05 p.m. EST
**HONEY FOX S.-GIII, $150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT**

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<td>Faith in Humanity (Fr)</td>
<td>Lope de Vega (Ire)</td>
<td>Klaravich Stables, Inc.</td>
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<td>Lope de Vega (Ire)</td>
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<td>Gainesway Stable</td>
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<td>California Chrome</td>
<td>Hibiscus Stables LLC and Dig That Mine, LLC</td>
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<td>Princess Theorem</td>
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<td>Dewberry Thoroughbred LLC</td>
<td>Walsh</td>
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<td>Will Take Charge</td>
<td>Roger Keith Long</td>
<td>Wilkes</td>
<td>Panici</td>
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<td>Touch of Class</td>
<td>Mizzen Mast</td>
<td>L. T. B., Inc. and Hillerich Racing, Inc.</td>
<td>Fawkes</td>
<td>Leparoux</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Fast as Flight</td>
<td>Air Force Blue</td>
<td>Hill, Jim and Susan</td>
<td>Lynch</td>
<td>Ortiz</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Sweet Dani Girl</td>
<td>Jess's Dream</td>
<td>J &amp; J Stables, LLC and Vaccarezza, Nicholas</td>
<td>Vaccarezza</td>
<td>Saez</td>
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**A Year for Us All to Be Proud Of**

**HIP 235 PREGNANT**

**5,500,000 SOLD**

**Watch the Video**

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**KEENELAND**
IN ORDER OF PURSE:
6th-Gulfstream, $70,000, Msw, 2-26, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:45.91, ft, 2 1/4 lengths.

**AFFIRMATIVE LADY** (f, 3, Arrogate--Stiffed (MSW & MGSP, $256,559), by Stephen Got Even) made a successful return to maiden company after two strong finishes in stakes company—a second by a neck to 'TDN Rising Star' Julia Shining (Curlin) in Aqueduct's GII Demoiselle S. in December and a third in the Busanda S. last month—and graduated here by a widening 2 1/4 lengths as the 8-5 favorite. The gray filly broke smartly from her inside post and was sent early, but dropped back a bit to stalk the pace and sat in third, saving ground while Ocean Club (Curlin) showed the way with Just My Own (Justify) right on her heels and to the outside. The early leader passed a half-mile in :49.61, but as soon as she made her way around the far bend, the eventual winner was being guided off the rail and looking for room before straightening out for the drive. Despite having to steady slightly as the hole between the two tiring rivals in front of her closed up at the head of the lane, the Arrogate filly successfully split those two with about a furlong left to run and drew away with each stride to claim the victory over a hard-trying Just My Own. Stiffed, who is a half-sister to MSW Speaking (Mr. Speaker), also has an unnamed 2-year-old filly by Nyquist and was bred to Connect for a foal this year. Sales History: $210,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP; $400,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: GSP, 5-1-1-2, $120,218. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-AMO Racing USA; B-Alastar Thoroughbred Co, LLC (KY); T-H. Graham Motion.

9th-Aqueduct, $70,000, (S), Msw, 2-26, 3yo, m, 1:39.75, ft, 1 3/4 lengths.

**VICTORY MONEY** (c, 3, Constitution--Transaction Tax, by Gemologist) appreciated the added quarter-mile in distance off a third in his debut at six furlongs Nov. 26 and cruised to a wire-to-wire victory here as the public's 6-5 favorite. The New York-bred colt broke smartly from the gate and with pressure from the stalking Scaramanga (Munnings), maintained at least a head advantage through a half-mile in :46.52. As he rounded the bend, he dug in along the inside and, under a strong ride, slowly started to pull away down the lane, safely holding off the closing Wanna Winna (Blame) to earn the 1 3/4-length win. Victory Money is the first foal from his dam, who also has an unnamed yearling colt by Outwork and was bred to Central Banker for a foal this year. Sales History: $50,000 Ylg '21 SARAUG; $140,000 2yo '22 EASMAY. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $41,300. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Repole Stable; B-Peter Tournas (NY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

IN JEBEL ALI:
5th-Jebel Ali, AED100,000, FUTURE CHAMPIONS CUP (Sponsored by Shadwell), 2-26, 3yo, 1400m, 1:25.06, ft.

**SOUTHERN ARTIST** (g, 3, Munnings--Winnie Dixie, by Dixie Union) was fast on the jump and took up a comfortable spot drifting between second and third at the head of the chasing pack as the filly My Verse (West Coast) put up all the early fractions from the rail. Three across the track as Al Hajaj (Ire) (War Command) kept them company up front, the race was largely over as the leaders entered the final furlongs and the flashy son of Munnings took command—albeit, very greenly on this debut. Kept to his task as the filly faded to third and Al Hajaj tried to make a race of it in second, the winner spurted clear to an open-length advantage and held safely to the wire. His dam's fifth to get a picture from as many to the races, Winnie Dixie is a half to GSP Your Flame In Me (Boundary), who herself produced SW Blind Spot (Cross Traffic) and SP Bodyguard Hero (Lonhro {Aus}).
Southern Artist is thus far the dam’s last registered offspring after her 2022 Tiz the Law filly died. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, AED60,000. VIDEO.

O/B-Mrs Fitriani Hay (KY); T-Bhupat Seemar.


*$52,000 wlg ‘20 KEEJAN; $62,000 ylg ‘20 KEESEP. VIDEO

Broken and Trained by Julie Davies

Ghost Of The Mambo, g, 6, Ghostzapper--Much Obliged (MGSP, $422,371), by Kingmambo. Jebel Ali, 2-26, Hcp., AED72,000, 1800m, 1:51.24, ft. O-Prince Sultan bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz. B-Pin Oak Stud LLC (KY). T-Bhupat Seemar. *Half to Syphax (Arch), GSW-GB, $102,960; Es’hail (Giant’s Causeway), SP-Qa, $145,872. **$145,000 RNA ylg ’18 KEESEP; $300,000 2yo ’19 OBSMAR. VIDEO

Hidden Brook Sales Graduate

FIRST & SECOND-CROP RUNNERS

sponsored by JUSTICE REAL ESTATE

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 2023 Stud Fees Listed

Dosificado (Chi) (Scat Daddy), Milky Way Farm 25 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners 1-Mahoning Valley, 12:35 p.m. EST, Msw 5 1/2f, Sister Code, 20-1

Mor Spirit (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, $5,000 190 foals of racing age/24 winners/1 black-type winner 3-Turf Paradise, 3:55 p.m. EST, Aoc 6 1/2f, Mohamad, 6-1 CAN$8,000 ALB MIX yrl

Sharp Azteca (Freud), Three Chimneys Farm, $15,000 200 foals of racing age/44 winners/4 black-type winners 3-Turf Paradise, 3:55 p.m. EST, Aoc 6 1/2f, Justin Azteca, 5-1

West Coast (Flatter), Lane’s End Farm, $10,000 198 foals of racing age/14 winners/2 black-type winners 7-Parx Racing, 2:37 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Back East, 6-1

STAKES RESULTS:

WINTERGREEN S., $124,699, Turfway, 2-25, 4yo/up, f/m, 1m (AWT), 1:37.12, ft.

1--GRAND AVE GIRL, 120, m, 5, Runhappy--One More (GSP, $162,884), by Holy Bull. ($300,000 Ylg ’19 KEESEP; $75,000 4yo ’22 KEENOV). O-Dixiana Farms LLC; B-SF Bloodstock LLC (KY); T-Kenneth G. McPeek; J-Luan Machado. $73,624. Lifetime Record: 16-6-2-4, $325,356.

2--Kate’s Kingdom, 124, m, 5, Animal Kingdom--Don’t get mad Alexis, by Don’t Get Mad. ($400,000 4yo ’22 KKDGF). O-Screnci, Stephen, Deters Company, Taylor, Frank, et al; B-Midwest Thoroughbreds (KY); T-W. Walden. $24,040.

3--Purrfect, 120, f, 4, Medaglia d’Oro--Felini, by Bernardini. **$35,000 2yo ’21 EASMAY.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-Oaklawn, $104,000, (S), 2-26, (NW1$X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.50, sy, 1/2 length.

MAHOMEY (g, 5, Run Away and Hide--Never Ends, by Successful Appeal) Lifetime Record: 11-3-1-2, $167,100. O-Randy Patterson; B-Cedar Run Farm (AR); T-Randy L. Morse.

8th-Aqueduct, $82,000, 2-26, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, 1 1/4m, 2:04.33, ft, 5 1/2 lengths.

GOOD SKATE (g, 4, American Freedom--Keep Crossing {MSW, $213,920}, by Istan) Lifetime Record: 16-4-5-1, $199,910. O-Jordan Wycoff; B-Brereton Jones (KY); T-Michael Maker.


ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-Oaklawn, $104,000, (S), 2-26, (NW1$X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.50, sy, 1/2 length.

MAHOMEY (g, 5, Run Away and Hide--Never Ends, by Successful Appeal) Lifetime Record: 11-3-1-2, $167,100. O-Randy Patterson; B-Cedar Run Farm (AR); T-Randy L. Morse.

8th-Aqueduct, $82,000, 2-26, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, 1 1/4m, 2:04.33, ft, 5 1/2 lengths.

GOOD SKATE (g, 4, American Freedom--Keep Crossing {MSW, $213,920}, by Istan) Lifetime Record: 16-4-5-1, $199,910. O-Jordan Wycoff; B-Brereton Jones (KY); T-Michael Maker.

*$35,000 2yo ’21 EASMAY.
8th-Laurel, $77,650, 2-26, 4yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:04.95, ft, 2 1/2 lengths.

BACKTHTHEWOODS (g, 4, Flashback--Kiss in the Forest (MSP, $170,408), by Forest Wildcat) Lifetime Record: SP, 17-4-1-4, $190,607. O-Barak Farm; B-Barak Farm & Sharon Dodgen (MD); T-Jose Corrales.

8th-Gulfstream, $76,200, (NW1$X)/Opt. Clm ($25,000), 2-26, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.50, ft, 5 1/4 lengths.

YOU LOOK COLD (f, 4, Frosted--Lucky Draw, by Lookin At Lucky) Lifetime Record: SW, 12-3-1-0, $177,490. O-Kinsman Stable; B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA); T-William I. Mott. *$70,000 RNA Ylg ’20 KEEJAN; $37,000 RNA 2yo ’21 OBSAPR.

9th-Gulfstream, $73,400, (NW1$X)/Opt. Clm ($25,000), 2-26, 4yo/up, f/m, 7 1/2fT, 1:28.14, fm, 2 1/4 lengths.

REGAL REALM (f, 4, Animal Kingdom--Sky Willow (SW, $114,979), by Empire Maker) Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-2, $98,997. O-Augustin Stable; B-George Strawbridge (KY); T-Jonathan Thomas.

7th-Delta Downs, $45,000, (S), 2-25, (C), 4yo/up, 7f, 1:26.66, ft, 3 3/4 lengths.

SCARLETTSBLACKJACK (g, 8, Malibu Wesley--Mardi Gras Lady, by Leestown) Lifetime Record: MSP, 36-10-6-1, $247,898. O-Kirk Rovinsky; B-J R Stables LLC (LA); T-Sarah Delany.

2nd-Sunland, $42,200, (S), 2-26, (NW2L), 3yo, f, 5 1/2f, 1:06.77, ft, 5 3/4 lengths.

TIZ A JOURNEY (f, 3, Punctuate--J Dreamer, by Stellar Rain) Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, $47,400. O/B-Lonnie Huseman (NM); T-Joel H. Marr.

8th-Delta Downs, $39,800, 2-25, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:39.71, ft, head.

PIPES AND DRUMS (g, 5, Maclean’s Music--Shovunda, by Saratoga Six) Lifetime Record: 16-6-3-3, $247,898. O/B-John McCulloch (KY); T-Victor Arceneaux.

3rd-Charles Town, $36,300, (C)/Opt. Clm ($25,000), 2-25, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:28.55, ft, 1 length.

DYZ WEL (f, 4, Divining Rod--Perverse, by Distorted Humor) Lifetime Record: 17-4-0-1, $114,678. O-AJ Will Win Stables, LLC; B-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman & Rebecca Davis (MD); T-T-Henry Walters. *$7,000 Ylg ’20 FTKOCT; $45,000 2yo ’21 OBSOPN.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
- Dave’s Enchantment, g, 3, Attila’s Storm--Crafty Joi, by Mr. Grouch. Sunland, 2-26, (S), 6f, 1:13.72. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $23,920. B-Allen James Kincaid (NM).
- Reason Over Riches, f, 3, Brody’s Cause--Tut’s Treasure, by Untuttable. Sam Houston, 2-26, (S), 1m, 1:42.20. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, $31,446. B-Jerry Erickson (TX). *$32,000 Ylg ’21 TTAYHR. **1/2 to Mr. Kisses (Big Drama), MSP, $358,072.
- Bohemian Bo, c, 3, Gentlemen’s Bet--Sadie Be Mine, by Valid Expectations. Sam Houston Race, 2-26, 5f, :59.08. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $20,820. B-Michael Mazoch (AR). *1ST-TIME STARTER.
Kidman Kerry, c, 3, Irish War Cry--Starsonhershoulder, by Quiet American. Charles Town, 2-25, 4 1/2f, f, 1:43.09. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-0, $20,539. B-Dark Hollow Farm (MD). *$9,000 Ylg '21 EASOCT.


Midnight Taxes, g, 3, Midnight Lute--Include Katherine, by Include. Oaklawn, 2-25, (S), 6f, 1:11.06. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-0, $62,680. B-McDowell Farm (AR). *$170,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR. **1/2 to La Australiana (Australia {GB}), SW,$107,686; and to Chris' Brew (Milwaukee Brew), MGP, $233,391.

Summer Cause, c, 3, Summer Front--Our Cause, by Arch. Gulfstream, 2-26, 1 1/8m, 1:51.51. Lifetime Record: 4-1-2-1, $74,450. B-Waterford Stables, Inc. (KY).


Joeybignose, f, 3, Union Jackson--Entrustment (GSP), by Forestry. Aqueduct, 2-26, (S), (C), 7f, 1:27.43. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, $25,695. B-Sequel Stallions NY & Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings, LLC (NY). *$12,000 Ylg '21 OBSOCT; $24,000 2yo '22 OBSOPN.

Parkerness, g, 3, Warrior's Reward--Shrewsbury Park, by Speightstown. Laurel, 2-26, (C), 6f, 1:12.32. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $30,360. B-Jagger Inc (MD). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Uncle Berley, c, 4, Uncle Mo--Sunlit Forest, by Bernardini. Fair Grounds, 2-26, (C), 1m 70y, 1:44.52. Lifetime Record: 12-1-3-3, $60,226. B-Hunter Valley Farm, Keith Lazarz & Ashford Stud (KY). *$70,000 RNA Ylg '20 FTKOCT.

Infinite Empire, f, 4, Empire Maker--Tapitry (GSP, $223,200), by Tapit. Charles Town, 2-25, 6 1/2f, 1:22.71. Lifetime Record: 9-1-1-1, $56,060. B-Gainesway & A. R. Enterprises (KY). *$360,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP; $92,000 4yo '23 FTKFEB.
Forever d’Oro

MEDAGLIA D’ORO – LEMONS FOREVER, BY LEMON DROP KID

His 2YO multiple stakes performer GOOD FOREVER draws off by 2 ¾ lengths over a 12-horse field in the $100,000 Circle City S.

Leading Indiana Freshman Sire 2022

At 3, won Belmont MSW and third in Saratoga’s Curlin S. to millionaires CONNECT [G1] and GIFT BOX [G1].

Son of MEDAGLIA D’ORO, whose sons at stud include VIOLENCE (sire of 2022 Eclipse Champion 2YO FORTE), and 2022 Leading Freshman Sire sensation BOLT D’ORO.

Half-brother to Eclipse Champion FOREVER UNBRIDLED [G1] ($3,186,880) and UNBRIDLED FOREVER [G1] ($805,257), out of Broodmare of the Year LEMONS FOREVER [G1].

[ 2023 Stud Fee: $2,000 Live Foal | Owner Charles Fipke ]
Quiet American. MSW, 2-25, Charles Town

Laoban, Camp Akeela, f, 3, o/o Tree Chopper, by Woodman. MSW, 2-26, Fair Grounds

Limehouse, Timmy, g, 4, o/o Temily, by Tenpins. ALW, 2-25, Charles Town

Maclean’s Music, Pipes and Drums, g, 5, o/o Shovunda, by Saratoga Six. ALW, 2-25, Delta Downs

Madefromlucky, Mighty Minion, c, 3, o/o Robbinette, by Eavesdropper. MSW, 2-25, Charles Town

Malibu Wesley, Scarlettsblackjack, g, 8, o/o Mardi Gras Lady, by Leestown. ALW, 2-25, Delta Downs

Midnight Lute, Midnight Taxes, g, 3, o/o Include Katherine, by Include. MSW, 2-25, Oaklawn

More Than Ready, Ronstadt, g, 4, o/o Lophorina (GB), by King’s Best. ALW, 2-26, Tampa Bay

New Year’s Day, Clockstrikewineteen, m, 7, o/o Timezone, by Pulpit. AOC, 2-25, Golden Gate

Palace Malice, Noise Complaint, g, 3, o/o Waters Fine, by Paynter. MSW, 2-26, Sam Houston

Punctuate, Tiz a Journey, f, 3, o/o J Dreamer, by Stellar Rain. ALW, 2-26, Sunland

Run Away and Hide, Mahomey, g, 5, o/o Never Ends, by Successful Appeal. ALW, 2-26, Oaklawn

Runhappy, Grand Ave Girl, m, 5, o/o One More, by Holy Bull. Wintergreen S., 2-25, Turfway

Sky Mesa, Lucylou Who, f, 4, o/o R C’s Daisyduke, by Yes It’s True. ALW, 2-25, Charles Town

Summer Front, Summer Cause, c, 3, o/o Our Cause, by Arch. MSW, 2-26, Gulfstream

The Factor, Manly Deeds, g, 3, o/o Molly Moon, by Malibu Moon. MSW, 2-25, Delta Downs

Uncle Mo, Uncle Berley, c, 4, o/o Sunlit Forest, by Bernardini. MCL, 2-26, Fair Grounds

Union Jackson, Joeybignose, f, 3, o/o Entrustment, by Forestry. MCL, 2-26, Aqueduct

Warrior's Reward, Parkerness, g, 3, o/o Shrewsbury Park, by Speightstown. MCL, 2-26, Laurel
AN OVERNIGHT SENSATION BUILT ON ROCK

by Chris McGrath

They’re calling him Billy The Kid. He only got his licence in October but when he left the all-weather circuit last month, for a three-week stint in Florida, he was Britain’s leading jockey with 23 wins from 98 mounts in January. And, for another week anyway, he’s just 16 years old.

It’s so extraordinary that Billy Loughnane has even been featured on the evening news by the BBC, a gratifying departure from the indifference of mainstream media to all but the least flattering tales of the Turf.

On the face of it, he has risen without trace. But actually this implausibly compressed breakout has been a long time in the making—and not merely in terms of the proportion of Billy’s young life fanatically dedicated to a precocious sense of vocation. Because before Mark Loughnane suddenly found himself being described as Billy’s father, Billy was Mark Loughnane’s son. And you can be certain of one thing: whatever Billy’s future may hold, his prospects are immeasurably enhanced by the decades of unsung daily endeavour that have taken a whole family to this point.

Naturally Mark is proud to see the blossoming of a talent he has long known to be out of the ordinary.

Cont. p3

AN 'UNDERDOG' YET AGAIN, GOLDEN SIXTY CLAIMS SECOND HK GOLD CUP by Alan Carasso

For the third time in four starts this season, this time in Sunday’s G1 Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup, two-time Hong Kong Horse of the Year Golden Sixty (Aus) (Medaglia d’Oro) jumped at a quote of even-money or better, not insignificant given that his highest starting price in his 14 appearances prior to that was $1.80 (4-5). That he offered his backers $2.30 was only logical, as he was facing off with Romantic Warrior (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}), perfect in four starts over the course and 2000-metre distance, which was supposed to be the great equaliser and level the playing field. Romantic Warrior, off as the $1.50 jolly Sunday, got first run and turned for home with every conceivable chance, but Golden Sixty was all guts when push came to shove and was home a head to the good to win for the 24th time from 28 starts, including a narrow success in this event two years ago. Cont. p9

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY
KEENELAND REOFFERS SIX YEARLINGS
Beginning at 9am (EST) Monday Feb. 27, Keeneland will accept offers on six horses purchased at last fall’s September sale for which the company was never paid.
In the new series Making Waves, the TDN takes a look at the success of European-based sires in North America, commencing with the victory of Godolphin homebred Lake Lucerne (Dubawi {Ire}) in the Albert M. Stall Memorial S. at Fair Grounds on Feb. 18. (see page 6) | Hodges Photography

**MARSHMAN TO RETURN IN PRIX SIGY**

Group 2 placed Marshman (GB) will mark his 2023 return in the Apr. 17 G3 Prix Sigy at Chantilly.

**TEOFILO’S ETERNAL HOPE WINS AT CHELMSFORD**

From the family of Group 1-winning Rio De La Plata, Godolphin homebred Eternal Hope (Ire) celebrates her graduation at Chelmsford Sunday.

**BLACK-TYPE WIN FOR CARAVAGGIO**

Caravaggio’s Aguri (Jpn) records his first group victory in Sunday’s G3 Hankyu Hai at Hanshin.
But it has not just been Billy’s apprentice claim that has driven the stable’s prolific start to 2023, with 17 winners already from only 76 runners. (Other jockeys have ridden seven of those, from 41 starters.) To put that in context, Mark’s best campaign to date comprised 41 wins in 2021.

And if you come and visit Rock Farm Stables, in a glorious bowl of undulating Worcestershire countryside, it all stands to reason. After a long education in old-school jumping yards, both sides of the Irish Sea, Mark has had to make several fresh starts since going solo in 2002. And it is only in coming to this sumptuous, purpose-built facility, five years ago, that he has finally been able to give full rein to the talent and passion so immediately apparent in his adolescent son.

"It’s taken me 30, 40 years in the industry to get to where I am today," Mark acknowledges. "This place is a five-star hotel for these horses and we’re very, very lucky. We’ve got everything here and in the last couple of years we’re just starting to build to a better grade of a horse.

"It’s a slow burn. I wish I had all this 20 years ago. But when you start with zero, and have to make your own way, you can only build gradually. When the recession hit, I was coming over from Ireland to Wolverhampton with a 50% strike-rate, win and place. And Clare said, ‘Why don’t we come over?’ So we started again. That was just 10 years ago. We got in the truck, there were 10 horses, an Alsatian and our two boys."

Mark had five years in Staffordshire but the game-changer was the chance to move into a yard established by Steve and Anita Mares. Every facility was tailormade in consultation with Mark--including uphill and round gallops, and copious turnout paddocks--and now 60 heads peer from stalls in the American barn. Mark has been in the game too long to think that he will have the Guineas favourite this time next year, but nor should his climbing graph-lines be neglected as incidental to the explosive start made by Billy to his own career.

"People kind of put me down as an all-weather trainer," Mark says with a shrug. "That doesn’t annoy me or anything. But you have to cut your cloth according to the horses you get. It’s very hard to get to the next level, but hopefully we’ll have a few more grass horses this year. We’ve a very loyal bunch of owners, I have a lot of good people around me, and I’m sure a good one will come in the door. You just have to say to yourself that every horse that comes into this yard could be the one."

Father and son could not have taken more contrasting routes into the racing game. Billy is the ultimate example of nature and nurture combining to make his career feel inevitable from boyhood. Mark, however, had no background whatsoever in the sport, beyond his father replacing flattened hurdles and treading down turf at their local track, Thurles.

"And we’d go up the next day and muck out all the boxes and put back all the divots," Mark recalls. "Then I went into a stable one day and rubbed one on the head, and that was it. I never went back to school. I had my first job with Tommy Stack when I was 15 and have never been away from them since."
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For Billy to prove such a natural, presumably there was always something latent in Mark too. After all, his wife Clare knew nothing at all about horses albeit they happened to meet at Cheltenham races (and he now credits her with a huge role in the operation of the yard). But it’s hard to identify the nature or source of that flair for the horse, somehow discovered by Mark and so obviously inherited by Billy.

"Since Billy was born he was on my heels and, for him, there was no way out," Mark reflects. "He always wanted it. For me, when I was young, I suppose it was that no matter what sport I tried, I’d try to be the best. If I was no good, I’d try something else. I was lucky enough to ride a few winners, not many, but also to work for a lot of good men. And back in the day, if you were interested, you’d learn. Every yard I went into, I went in as an ordinary lad and most of the time ended up probably running it, or assistant."

He had a key role, for instance, in Terry Casey’s preparation of 1996 Grand National winner Rough Quest. Casey had his troubles in too short a life, but Mark learned a lot from him, as from other mentors Edward O’Grady, Enda Bolger and, above all, Pat Doyle.

"Pat’s attention to detail was unreal," he says. "I did three and a half years with him. If you got something wrong, he let you know! Those days are gone now. The kids coming into it now, I don’t think it’s the same. So I feel I’ve very lucky in that sphere, and I’m still very friendly with a lot of the trainers I worked for."

When setting up on his own, Mark had two winners at the Galway Festival in his first week. If that instant success proved rather a mirage, nor was it an obvious turning point when, sitting in Ron Harris’s kitchen 19 years ago, one of his fellow trainer’s owners drove up. When Mark moved over the water, Steve Mares supported him with a couple of horses before one day approaching him, out of the blue, about running a new stable.

After rejecting another site, they drove into a farm in the hamlet of Rock and Mark was immediately excited by its potential.

"I was able to come in and design the whole place," Mark says gratefully. "Steve took a year out of work and oversaw the whole thing. When you’ve been in different yards all your life, you see good things and bad things everywhere. And I’ve tried to take the best points and this is the result."

Now Billy is helping to put the place on the map, too. But all his father’s experience certainly told in the seasoned decision to put the brakes on a runaway train: his claim is already down to 5lbs, and needed conserving for the turf season. Already, after all, their careful strategy has required constant revision.

"We just planned that he’d get his license in October and move him into the all-weather season with me, because that’s when my horses have tended to thrive," Mark explains. "We thought he could ride eight or 10 winners through the winter and tip away, nice and steady, and then we’d get him onto the grass.

"But then it just took off. We were going to stop him after 15 but then two days later he was at 20. So we said, okay, 25. But even, in that week he rode nine winners. So I rang Rodi and his agent [Sashi Righton] and said, 'Lads, that's it, we have to stop.' I'm glad we did keep him going, because that meant he could ride a winner for Mr. Appleby in the Godolphin colours.

"But [otherwise] it has all happened very quickly, too quickly. And that's why we decided to stop. And instead of Billy being here, grafting and being driven mad watching horses he could be winning on, to send him over to America."

Though Billy always stood out on the pony circuit, crucially he was first obliged to master principles of equitation in the show ring. He was always eager for the next step; Mark was always making him wait. Naturally there are benefits and burdens for both, when your principal counsellor and critic is also your father.
Mark does remember shouting at Billy after he let one up the inside in a pony race at Nottingham, but Clare and Billy’s brother Jack (himself a gifted footballer) ensure they all remain family first. And if Billy were to win the Derby itself, that won’t beat the feeling they shared when he won his first pony race at Cocklebarrow point-to-point, in the mud, the little pony led in proudly by Mark’s long-serving assistant Steve Davies.

“You couldn’t buy that feeling for millions,” Mark says. “All along, I knew his talent. And I kept saying to Clare, ’I’m not letting him do it until he’s ready.’ But when we did start, we hit the ground running: he stood out from the first day.”

Now Billy has completed another valuable module in his education with this stint in Florida, riding trackwork at Palm Meadows for Anna Meah—whose husband David, the bloodstock agent, is an old collaborator of Mark’s.

“A massive learning experience,” Billy confirms. “The way they do everything out there is completely different. So it was an amazing opportunity and I feel like I’ve learned loads. Obviously dirt’s completely different to work on, and they probably don’t do as much as we would, here, because it’s a much more tiring surface.”

He admits that riding against the clock was a challenge. “For the first couple of days anyway!” he says. “The first day I was able to watch their riders doing it for an hour but then David [Meah] just fired me straight on a horse. But I think I got the hang of it in the end.”

Mark doesn’t allow that modesty to pass, revealing that Billy’s services were soon being requested by several other barns. On the day of our visit, the family had only just got back from their trip to Miami to collect Billy. Despite the long flight, Billy had leaped from the car to work five horses and now, following a gym session, here he was on the equicizer, taking remote tuition from instructor Rodi Greene.

Such is his dedication. But that’s standard to the whole environment. Greene himself, for instance, recently drove from Devon to set up the simulator in the Wolverhampton car park, so that they could have a session before the meeting—before naturally staying to observe his protégé to the last race.

“To be the best, you need to be all that, don’t you?” he says. “But it’s the same for us trainers, down the yard at six every morning. And my head man’s there before me, feeding. And at midnight you’re coming back from Newcastle without a winner. Then up again. Eat, sleep, race, repeat.

“With Billy, this is 16 years in the making. He’s been watching his weight since he’s 13. You ask a kid not to eat chocolate at 13! I’d say, ’Go on, have a milkshake.’ But no, he doesn’t want it. So he’s not pushed into it. He was just hungry for it. He’s a million times better than I was, at that age. And he’s hungrier, too.”

Which is saying plenty, because here is a man whose ambition is undiminished by all the familiar ups and downs of his calling.

“We’ve grafted, me and my wife, and there’d be days we had nothing,” Mark says. “But the minute we get a winner, be it a seller at Wolverhampton, we come back on cloud nine. And then we’re back into it next day, hungry to do it again. It’s been a long slog. But looking at what we’re reaping now—where we live, and the place we’re in, and watching Billy—makes all the struggles feel worthwhile.”

But nobody will be complacent, nor losing perspective.

“When there’s an ambulance following you around every day, everything can change very quickly,” Mark says. “So we just take each day as it comes. Listen, I’ve been very lucky and I’ve met good people on my way. And Billy is lucky now that he’s got my contacts, and a lot of people supporting him. Obviously, he has to be talented as well. So it’s one step at a time. But yes, at the minute, we’re living the dream.”
Exciting times ahead!

He's a lovely colt. He has plenty of scope, a very good action, and a bombproof temperament. It is early days, but he looks very much to have all the attributes that you like to see in a racehorse. Roger Varian on the colt ex Rio Festival

“The Magna Grecia filly we have has a lovely attitude and has taken everything in her stride so far. She is a big filly with plenty of scope.” Karl Burke on the filly ex Four's Company

“Looks forward and been professional in everything he has done so far.” Andrew Balding on the colt ex Temerity

“Going nicely, he is doing everything that we ask him so far, a lovely mind, nice and laid-back. Doing well and very happy with him at the moment.” Aidan O’Brien on the colt ex Twitch

“He's a quality colt, very strong and looks like will be out in the first half of the season.” Jessica Harrington on the colt ex Prosper

“A gorgeous horse that's doing everything nicely. Strong, moves very well and with a sharp mind. He's one of my favourite 2YOs. The Loulwa is another lovely horse, moves well with plenty of strength. He has a good laid-back attitude and will make a lovely horse for the middle of the season.” Donnacha O'Brien on the colts ex Litting and ex Loulwa respectively

“He’s a very good actioned, big scopey colt with a great mind and is pleasing us at the moment” James Horton on the colt ex Maria Lee

“Very pleased with the Magna Grecias. The Fasnela is a 7f/mile horse for later on and the Byron Bay is a very forward type, looking forward to his prospects hopefully in the first part of the season” Joseph O’Brien

“The Magna Grecia filly out of New Terms has ticked every box so far. I'm looking forward to the season ahead with her.” Edward Lynam

“She eats sleeps and works, has a very good attitude and is a filly to look forward to.” Paddy Twomey on the filly ex Quick Chat

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MAKING WAVES: MILESTONE WEEK FOR DUBAWI

Dubawi recently collected his 250th stakes winner

Darley

by Heather Anderson

In this new series, the TDN takes a look at the success of European-based sires in North America, on a semi-weekly basis. This week’s column (Feb. 18-Feb. 25) is highlighted by the victory of Godolphin homebred Lake Lucerne (Dubawi {Ire}) in the Albert M. Stall Memorial S. at Fair Grounds on Feb. 18.

A worldwide influence for class, Dubawi celebrated his 250th stakes winner with Lake Lucerne’s two-length victory for Brendan Walsh and Tyler Gaffalione in an 1 1/16-mile turf stakes in New Orleans eight days previously. The 6-year-old mare was previously placed in Belmont’s GIII Athenia S. and five other black-type races.

Part of the extensive international breeding programme of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Lake Lucerne is a daughter of GI Breeders’ Cup Distaff and GI Acorn S. heroine Round Pond (Awesome Again), who joined the Darley broodmare band after selling for $5.75 million out of the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Mixed Sale of 2007. Lake Lucerne’s half-brother Long River (A.P. Indy) won the G1 Al Maktoum Challenge Round 3, while another half-sister produced GI Carter H. victor and new Darley American stallion Speaker’s Corner (Street Sense). Classic winners and subsequent sires Black Minnaloushe (Storm Cat) and Pennekamp (Bering {GB}) are under the third dam.

Looking at the stakes success and winners by Dubawi in North America, of his 69 runners, 35 (51%) have won, with 18 of those 69 (26%) winning at least one black-type race.

Leading the charge are Grade I winners In Italian (GB), Dubawi Heights (GB), last year’s American Champion Turf Male Modern Games (Ire), Almanaar (GB), Yibir (GB), Mubtaahij (Ire), Wuheida (GB), Rebel’s Romance (Ire), and Space Blues (Ire). The last-named is standing his first season at Kildangan Stud in Ireland.

Sharing Is ‘Caring’ Down In Florida

Coolmore Stud’s Australia (GB) celebrated a new maiden winner in Florida on Feb. 18 in the form of Ashbrook Farm, Matthew O’Connor, Upland Flats Racing and Amy E. Dunne’s Just A Care (Ire). A 1 1/2-length winner of a five-furlong turf maiden for trainer Rusty Arnold (video), the filly was making her second start. From just 19 North American runners, Australia has 10 winners (53%) and five stakes winners (26%) led by GI Breeders’ Cup Mile hero Order Of Australia (Ire), GI Gamely S. victress Ocean Road (Ire) and GIII Endeavour S. heroine Counterparty Risk (Ire).

Bred by China Horse Club International, Ltd. in Ireland and consigned by David Cox’s Baroda Stud, the bay went through the Tattersalls October Book 1 ring in 2021, where Kerri Radcliffe snapped her up for 105,000gns. Just A Care made her racetrack debut with a fifth-place effort in a six-furlong turf affair for Dew Sweepers and Arnold at Belmont Park last June. Sent back through the sales ring at the Fasig-Tipton July Sale last year as a member of the Grovendale Sales draft, Just A Care was picked up by Bo Bramagen, agent, for $150,000.

Out of the one-time winner Greater Good (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), Just A Care is a half-sister to a 2-year-old filly by first-season sire Ten Sovereigns (Ire) and a full-sister to a yearling colt. Second dam is GIII Hollywood Juvenile Championship S. heroine Necessary Evil (Harlan’s Holiday), and young sire Sergei Prokofiev (Scat Daddy), who won the G3 Cornwallis S., is under the third dam.
Synthetic The Answer For Thunder Love

One day before Profitable (Ire)’s Kimgrace (Ire) became his newest stakes winner (number seven) in Lingfield’s Listed Betuk Hever Sprint going just over five furlongs on the all-weather, Turfway Park in Kentucky hosted AMO Racing USA’s Thunder Love (GB), who managed to take a six-furlong synthetic allowance optional claimer by a half-length on Feb. 24. It was the daughter of G2 Mill Reef S. third Nantyglo (GB) (Mark Of Esteem {Ire})’s second consecutive win at the northern Kentucky track for Paulo Lobo, although she has been based in America for some time.

Bred by Richard Kent and Clare Lloyd’s Mickley Stud, the now-4-year-old filly was offered by her breeder at the Tattersalls December Foal Sale and caught the eye of Joanna Morgan for £13,000. Re-offered during the 2020 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling Sale by Bill Dwan’s The Castlebridge Consignment, the Apr. 30 foal was knocked down to Robson Aguiar for £18,000. Bearing the deep purple Amo Racing silks of Kia Joorabchian, Thunder Love made her first pair of starts winning ones over the Kempton synthetic in the spring of 2021 for trainer George Boughey, and was transferred to Lobo after several stakes attempt in the UK.

Thunder Love’s dam has a 3-year-old colt named Alfil (GB), an 11,000gns purchased by Wallhouse at the 2020 Tattersalls December Foal Sale and a juvenile filly, who was acquired by Rabbah Bloodstock for 20,000gns out of the Tattersalls Somerville Yearling Sale last September, both by Massaat (Ire). Her extended family features the Classic heroine Moonstone (GB) (Dalakhani {Ire}).

Lope De Vega Colt Shines At Gulfstream

As chronicled extensively in Sunday’s edition of the TDN, Lope De Vega (Ire) sired his ninth ‘TDN Rising Star’ and third in America with the success of Bob and Kristine Edwards of e Five Racing’s Carl Spackler (Ire) in a one-mile turf maiden special weight at Gulfstream Park (video). Previous American ‘Rising Star’ s by the Ballylinch Stud resident include GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf and GI Just a Game S. victress Newspaperofrecord (Ire), and fellow Juvenile Fillies Turf heroine Aunt Pearl (Ire), trained by Chad Brown and Brad Cox, respectively. His rate of runners to winners in America and Canada sits at 46% (28 winners from 61 runners), and four of his five stakes winners (8.2% from runners) are graded winners Stateside.

The Fifth Avenue Bloodstock-bred was making his second start after finishing runner-up there when unveiled on Jan. 21. He was a 350,000gns buyback out of the 2021 Tattersalls October Yearling Sale Book 1 when offered by Ballylinch. His dam joined the e Five fold for $550,000 at the 2015 Keeneland November Sale and went on to take the GII Goldikova S. later that year. A half-sister to Grade I winner Western Aristocrat (Mr. Greeley), she foaled a Frankel (GB) half-sister to the winner that made 450,000gns at the 2022 edition of the October Sale and she also has a yearling filly by Lope De Vega.

GSP MARSHMAN TO RETURN IN PRIX SIGY

Group 2 placed Marshman (GB) (Harry Angel {Ire}) is expected to mark his seasonal return in Chantilly’s G3 Prix Sigy over 5 1/2 furlongs Apr. 17. Victorious in his first two starts, including an 8 1/2-length score at Thirsk last August, the Karl Burke trainee finished runner-up in York’s G2 Gimcrack S. before checking in fifth behind Blackbeard (Ire) in the G1 Middle Park S. at Newmarket in September.

“He came out of the [Middle Park] lame in front,” explained Nick Bradley, managing director of owner Nick Bradley Racing. “He was suffering with sore shins throughout his 2-year-old campaign, which is just something that can happen with 2-year-olds, particularly ones which come from the breeze-ups. So, when he went downhill in the Middle Park, I expected him to hang but he hung more than I thought he would. He was keen at the beginning of the race as well and everything went wrong, but we still managed to finish [fifth] in a Group 1.”
According to Bradley, the sophomore is approaching his first official work of the season.

“He’s been back in since December time,” Bradley continued. “Karl was raving about the horses in general and Marshman was kind of top of the pile. He has not done any serious work as yet though.”

Bradley added that Marshman will be targeted at many of the top sprints this season.

“We’re not going to be drawn into stepping him up in trip for the Guineas or anything like that, we very much see him as a sprinter. I find a lot of those breeze-up horses run over a shorter distance than their pedigrees suggest due to the way they have been trained early in their careers. But, hopefully, we are going to win the [Sigy] then we can look at races like the G2 Sandy Lane [Haydock], G1 Commonwealth Cup [Royal Ascot] and the G1 July Cup [Newmarket]. Those sorts of races will be his targets and the aim is to win as many group races as we can.”

The dam is kin to the operation’s G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere-winning Rio De La Plata (Rahy) and fellow sire El Expresivo (Arg) (Candy Stripes). Her 2-year-old filly is by Blue Point (Ire), while she also has a yearling full-sister to the winner. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, $8,623.

O/B-Godolphin (IRE); T-Charlie Appleby.

FRANCE

Friday’s Results:
GRAND PRIX DU DEPARTEMENT 06 - DEFI DU GALOP 2023-Listed, €70,000, Cagnes-sur-Mer, 2-26, 4yo/up, 12 1/2fT, 2:49.58, vs.

1--MIKA D’O (FR), 125, g, 5, Martinborough (Jpn)--Allez Hongkong (Ger), by Sakhee. 1ST BLACK TYPE WIN. (€3,000 Ylg ‘19 OSASEP). O-Frau Karin Brieskorn; B-C Jouandou (FR); T-Stefan Richter; J-Alexis Pouchin. €35,000. Lifetime Record: 28-5-7-1, €152,802.

2--Always Welcome (Fr), 125, g, 6, Manduro (Ger)--Around Me (Ire), by Johannesburg. 1ST BLACK TYPE. O/T-Louis Baudron; B-Herald Bloodstock Ltd (FR). €14,000.

3--Pendulum Valley (Fr), 122, c, 4, Attendu (Fr)--Galilee (Fr), by Mr Sidney. 1ST BLACK TYPE. (€47,000 Ylg ‘20 ARQOCT). O/SARL Groupe KR; B-Haras du Quesnay (FR); T-Edouard Monfort. €10,500.

Margins: 4, 4, SNK. Odds: 15.10, 4.40, 11.00.

Also Ran: Pouvoir Royal (Ire), Olympie (Ire), Aude (Fr), Laos (Fr), Byford (Fr), Chichen Itza (GB), Bukhara (Ger), Belgian Prince (Fr).

Video, sponsored by TVG.

Conditions had become attritional by the time this valuable contest was staged and it was Mika D’O who thrived in the deep ground to break through in black-type company with authority. Runner-up over this course and distance on his last two starts, the chestnut followed the leading quartet throughout the early stages and after finding himself in front over five furlongs from the finish continued to plough through the conditions best to assert his superiority.

The unraced dam is kin to the Scandinavian champion Amie Noire (Ger) (Soldier Of Fortune {Ire}) and the G2 Lonsdale Cup and G2 Doncaster Cup scorer Askar Tau (Fr) (Montjeu {Ire}). She has the unraced 3-year-old colt Ascot Way (Fr) (Galiway {GB}), the 2-year-old colt King Ascot (Fr) (Dariyan {Fr}) and a yearling filly by Stunning Spirit (GB) named Ascot In (Fr).
Golden Sixty repeats, cont. from p1

Sunday's game plan was a pretty straight-forward one--don't let Romantic Warrior out of your sights--and Vincent Ho followed those instructions to the letter, even having to get after Golden Sixty through demanding middle sectionals. Karis Teetan aboard the favourite tried to win the race 600 metres from home and the duo struck to the lead, even as Golden Sixty was poised to tackle him. While his customary turn of acceleration was noticeably and understandably less electric given the distance of the Gold Cup, Golden Sixty continued to knuckle down and grabbed Romantic Warrior a handful of strides before the winning post. Money Catcher (NZ) (Ferlax {NZ}) made the running into the straight and held gamely for third.

4th-Cagnes-sur-Mer, €30,000, Cond, 2-26, 3yo, 10f (AWT), 2:01.24, st.

DUC DE KENT (FR) (g, 3, Zeljal {Fr})--Public Ransom (Ire), by Red Ransom), who scored over 7 1/2 furlongs here last time Feb. 7, raced in third early in this Prix Policeman of former listed status. Gradually angled off the rail from early straight, the 17-1 outsider had the lead passing the furlong pole and stayed on to deny Al Barq (Fr) (Al Wukair {Ire}) by 3/4 of a length. The winner is currently the last known foal out of a daughter of En Public (Fr) (Rainbow Quest), whose nine stakes performers included the G1 Grand Prix de Paris and GI Gulfstream Park Breeders’ Cup H.-placed Sardaukar (GB) (Royal Academy). Other top-level runners from the dynasty are Seville (Ger) (Galileo {Ire}), Six Sense (Jpn) (Sunday Silence) and Spotify (Fr) (Redoute’s Choice {Aus}). Sales history: i18,000 Vlg ‘21 ARQOCT. Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-2, i42,250. Video, sponsored by TVG.

O-Gerard Augustin-Normand, Bernard Giraudon, Eric Puerari, Ecurie Ades Hazan & Mme Geraldine Henochsberg; B-E Puerari, Mme G Henochsberg & Ecurie Ades Hazan (FR); T-Fabrice Vermeulen.

CONDITIONS RESULT:

2nd-Cagnes-sur-Mer, €26,000, 2-26, 3yo, 7 1/2fT, 1:32.89, vs. RISING UP (FR) (c, 3, Showcasing {GB}--Red Line (Fr) (SW-Fr, $113,195), by Sageburg (Ire)) Lifetime Record: 10-3-1-2, i51,760. O-Jean-Pierre-Joseph Dubois; B-Mme L Lemiere Dubois (FR); T-Patrice Cottier.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Zelina (Fr), f, 3, Cat Junior --Savannah (Fr), by Sunday Break (Jpn). Machecoul, 2-26, 2350mT, 2:38.86. B-Mlle L Metayer (Fr).

Cool Heart (Fr), c, 3, Kendargent (Fr)--Heart Sprinkled (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). Machecoul, 2-26, 2350mT, 2:33.97. B-T Yoshida (Fr).

IN JEBEL ALI:


Imprison (Fr), g, 10, Sea The Stars (Ire)--Lockup (Ire), by Inchinor (GB). Jebel Ali, 2-26, Hcp., AED64,000, 1200m, 1:13.48, ft. O-Bouresly Racing Syndicate. B-SCEA Elevage De Tourgeville (Fr). T-Rashed Bouresly. *Half to Loi (Ire) (Lawman {Fr}), GSW-Fr, $134,644. **350,000gns ylg ‘14 TAOOCT; 12,500gns HRA ‘17 TATFEB. Video
“He was very relaxed today, I even had to ask him a little to keep up today in the back straight and, of course, I had another great horse to follow through and ask for the full effort at the 200-[metre mark],” said Ho. “I just had to stay close with him and don’t let him get away too far.”

Ho added, “To be honest, I expected the other horse would have beaten us but, of course, I just do my best on Golden Sixty without hurting him too much for the Champions Mile or if we go to Japan, so it’s going to take time for him to recover, aged seven now. I just don’t want to overdo it, but doing my best to help him perform at that level.”

It was an eighth Group 1 conquest for Golden Sixty, equaling the number achieved by Beauty Generation (NZ) (Road To Rock (Aus)) and his earnings now exceed an eye-watering HK$136 million. Next up could be the G2 Chairman’s Trophy back over a mile on Apr. 9 into either the G1 Champions’ Mile or the G1 FWD QE II Cup (2000m) Apr. 30. Though the G1 Yasuda Kinen in early June remains an option, Golden Sixty remains an outside chance to shoot for the older horse Triple Crown in the G1 Champions and Chater Cup over 12 furlongs May 28.

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong
CITI HONG KONG GOLD CUP-G1, HK$12,000,000, Sha Tin, 2-26, 2000mT, 1:59.98, gd/fm.

1--GOLDEN SIXTY (AUS), 126, g, 7, by Medaglia d’Oro
1st Dam: Gaudeamus (GSW-Ire, $179,846), by Distorted Humor
2nd Dam: Leo’s Lucky Lady, by Seattle Slew
3rd Dam: Konafa, by Damascus

(A$120,000 Ylg ‘17 MMGCYS; NZ$300,000 ’17 NZBRTR).
O-Stanley Chan Ka Leung; B-Asco International Pty Ltd (Qld);
T-Francis Lui Kin-wai; J-Vincent Ho Chak-yiu; HK$6,840,000.
Lifetime Record: 2x Horse of the Year, Ch. Middle Distance
Horse & Ch. 4yo-HK, 28-24-2-1, HK$136,530,600. *1/2 to Igitur
(Aus) (Helmet {Aus}), SP-Aus; and Rainbow Connection (Aus)
(Choisir {Aus}), GSP-Aus. Werk Nick Rating: A+++ *Triple
Plus*. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.

Click for the free Equineline.com catalog-style pedigree.

2--Romantic Warrior (Ire), 126, g, 5, Acclamation (GB)--Folk Melody (Ire), by Street Cry (Ire). (300,000gns Ylg ’19 TATOCT;
HK$4,800,000 HRA ’21 HKJUN). O-Peter Lau Pak Fai; B-Corduff
Stud & T J Rooney; T-Danny Shum Chap-shing; J-Karis Teetan;
HK$2,640,000.

3--Money Catcher (NZ), 126, g, 5, Ferlax (NZ)--Warren’s Sister
(NZ), by Savabeel (Aus). (NZ$13,000 Wlg ‘18 NZBMAY;
NZ$60,000 2yo ‘19 NZBRTR). O-The Sunflower Syndicate;
B-Haunui Bloodstock Ltd; T-Frankie Lor Fu-chuen;
HK$1,200,000.

Also Ran: Glorious Dragon (Ire), Panfield (Chi), Tourbillon
Diamond (Aus), Ka Ying Star (GB). Click for the HKJC.com chart,
PPs and sectional timing. VIDEO.

So-Ho Team To Take Out the Classic Cup

Trainer Chris So celebrated the most important victory of his career when Super Sunny Sing (Aus) (Nicconi {Aus}), ridden by Ho about 70 minutes after the Gold Cup, swept past Sword Point (Aus) (American Pharoah) in the dying stages to scoop the Hong Kong Classic Cup, the final local lead-up to the BMW Hong Kong Derby three weeks down the road.

Settled with about four rivals behind as Sword Point dropped over from his high draw to apply some pressure to all-the-way Classic Mile winner Voyage Bubble (Aus) (Deep Field {Aus}) and Jamie Kah, the 12-5 favourite was swung out wide and into the clear approaching the stretch. Sword Point, Group 2-placed in Australia for Chris Waller, claimed Voyage Bubble with about a furlong to race, but Super Sunny Sing was motoring home down the centre of the track and did his best running through the line with a final 400 metres in a slick :22.70. Galaxy Witness (Aus) (Star Witness {Aus}) earned a photo for third over Classic Mile runner-up Tuchel (NZ) (Redwood {GB}).

Super Sunny Sing is reportedly the first to win the Classic Cup while making his Classic series debut since the legendary Ambitious Dragon (NZ) (Pins {Aus}) a dozen years ago.

“To get a horse to win this race makes me very happy and it relieves a lot of pressure now,” said So, who was an assistant to Caspar Fownes before going out on his own in 2013. “Today has proven that he should handle further distance, but let’s see how he pulls up—if he’s sound and happy, we target the Derby. We won’t change too much on the programme and just keep him happy.”
A 26th stakes winner for Nicconi and first in Hong Kong, Super Sunny Sing was purchased by John Foote Bloodstock for A$48,000 at the 2020 Inglis Classic Sale. Foote also bought Galaxy Witness for A$160,000 at the Magic Millions Gold Coast Sale that year. Red Centre’s last listed produce is the 3-year-old Press Statement (Aus) filly Altrove (Aus), odds-on winner of a Class 1 handicap at Albury Feb. 2 and runner-up in a Class 2 this past Saturday.

Sunday, Sha Tin, Hong Kong
HONG KONG CLASSIC CUP-LR, HK$12,000,000, Sha Tin, 2-26, NH/SH4yo, 1800mT, 1:46.26, gd/fm.

1--SUPER SUNNY SING (AUS), 126, g, 4, by Nicconi (Aus)
   1st Dam: Red Centre (Aus), by Rubiton (Aus)
   2nd Dam: Land of Dreams (Aus), by Kenvain (Aus)
   3rd Dam: Holograph (Aus), by Bletchingly (Aus)
   1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. (A$48,000 Ylg ’20 INGFEB). O-Janice Wong Oi Ying; B-Miss J Henderson, Etak Thoroughbreds (NSW); T-Chris So Way-yin; J-Vincent Ho Chak-yiu; HK$6,840,000. Lifetime Record: 9-5-1-1, HK$10,908,900.
   *Formerly Axe Atkins (Aus). **1/2 to Too Many Reds (Aus) (Magic Albert {Aus}), MSP-Aus, $293,613.

2--Sword Point (Aus), 126, g, 4, American Pharoah--Jazz Song (Aus), by Fastnet Rock (Aus). (A$750,000 Ylg ’20 MMGCYS). O-Li Chi Pong; B-Morning Rise Stud (Vic); T-Frankie Lor Fuchuen; J-Hugh Bowman; HK$2,640,000.

3--Galaxy Witness (Aus), 126, g, 4, Star Witness (Aus)--Black Tulip (Aus), by Lonhro (Aus). (A$160,000 Ylg ’20 MMGCYS). O-Winnie Law Wing Yin; B-Bird Rock Thoroughbreds (Vic); T-Caspar Fownes; J-Blake Shinn; HK$1,200,000.

Margins: HF, 2 1/4, NO. Odds: 12-5, 9-1, 17-1.

Click for the HKJC.com chart, PPs and sectional timing. VIDEO.

Sunday, Nakayama, Japan
NAKAYAMA KINEN-G2, ¥129,120,000, Nakayama, 2-26, 4yo/up, 1800mT, 1:47.10, fm.

1--HISHI IGUAZU (JPN), 126, h, 7, Heart’s Cry (Jpn)
   1st Dam: La Liz (Arg), by Bernstein
   2nd Dam: La Marlene (Arg), by Rainbow Corner (GB)
   3rd Dam: La Cardinale (Arg), by Southern Halo
   (¥97,000,000 ylg ’16 JRHAUL) O-Masahide Abe; B-Northern Farm; T-Noriyuki Hori; J-Kohei Matsuyama; ¥67,994,000. Lifetime Record: G1SP-Jpn, G1SP-HK, 16-7-5-0. Werk Nick Rating: C+. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.