IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

CONVERSATIONS WITH JOE BANAHAN

In this week’s Q&A, Official Starter for the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board Joe Banahan talks about his passion for breeding.

FAIZA STAYS PERFECT IN SANTA YSABEL

Michael Lund Peterson’s Faiza (Girvin) kept her record perfect in tact—and gave her sire his second graded win of the weekend—with a stylish victory in the GIII Santa Ysabel S. at Santa Anita Sunday. Sent off the 4-5 favorite, the bay filly tracked pacesetting longshot Blessed Touch (Girvin) through moderate fractions of :24.00 and :48.32. She stuck a head in front into the far turn, but Blessed Touch, proving surprisingly determined, battled back and those two rivals turned for home together with And Tell Me Nolies (Arrogate) joining the fray with a three-wide move at the top of the lane. Blessed Touch finally gave way with a furlong to run and Faiza strode clear as And Tell Me Nolies never threatened the winner while coming home second best. In addition to his one-three in the Santa Ysabel, Girvin was represented over the weekend by Dorth Vader, who captured the GII Davona Dale S. at Gulfstream Park Saturday. Cont. p6

FORTE'S DOMINANCE WAS EXPECTED, BUT PRACTICAL MOVE TRULY IMPRESSED

The Week in Review, by T.D. Thornton

'TDN Rising Star' Forte (Violence)'s dominant sophomore debut in Saturday's GII Fountain of Youth S. at Gulfstream is understandably going to generate glowing headlines because of his kingpin status as the comebacking divisional champion. But that sharp win shouldn't overshadow the thoroughly convincing GII San Felipe S. score by Practical Move (Practical Joke) t Santa Anita, which on its own terms was emphatic enough to merit a significant reshuffling of the deck of GI Kentucky Derby contenders.

The Fountain of Youth S. has evolved into somewhat of a “trap” race for high-profile 3-year-olds, with 12 of the last 16 favorites going down to defeat prior to this year’s running. In fact, 10 years ago, one of those odds-on losers was Forte's sire, the then-undefeated Violence. He lost the 2013 edition by a half-length to eventual Kentucky Derby winner Orb, but Violence sustained a right front sesamoid fracture that necessitated his retirement after only four races.

Forte, of course, had no idea he was up against a historical trend that featured a familial plot twist when the starter sprung the latch Saturday. He had a clean break and tracked the action fifth into the first turn, racing while into the bit and eager to close gaps on the heels of the frontrunners through opening quarter-mile splits of :24.05 and :23.60. Cont. p3
MOTORIOUS ON TOP IN SAN SIMEON
Motorious (GB) (Muhaarar {GB}) powered home a much-the-best winner of the GIII San Simeon S. at Santa Anita Sunday.

GOTHAM RUNNERS LOOK AHEAD
The GII Wood Memorial and GI Toyota Blue Grass S. are possible next targets for Raise Cain (Violence) following his win in Saturday's GIII Gotham S.

NYRA OFFERS SHIPPER BONUS
The New York Racing Association will offer a bonus to connections of horses shipped in to race at Aqueduct in March and April.

BREED TO A PA STALLION IN 2023
50% BREEDER AWARDS
ELIGIBLE FOR 2YO PA-Sired PA-Bred
$1 MILLION STALLION SERIES
The Week in Review (cont. from p1)

Irad Ortiz, Jr., was able to dial back Forte’s enthusiasm a touch while settling into a rhythmic stride down the back straight, and true to the tactics this colt displayed at age two, Forte asserted his presence while giving the impression he was sizing up the leaders and had them well within his striking sights.

Entering the far bend, Ortiz mulled his options for about a sixteenth of a mile, which is a tactical luxury a jockey enjoys only when he knows he has a willing partner who can take off like a rocket with just a subtle flick of the wrists.

As the 15-1 pacemaker Cyclone Mischief (Into Mischief) got softened up by first and second runs from two stalkers through a third-quarter split of :24.19, Forte inhaled the three of them at the head of the lane with an all-in move that left him only three-sixteenths of a mile to fully unwind over Gulfstream’s short-stretch configuration.

Forte responded to Ortiz’s rousing, but the jockey quickly sensed his mount didn’t need much in the way of aggressive encouragement. Under his own power, Forte leveled off with a brief but discernible burst of late-race acceleration that put him 4 1/2 lengths clear of the leaders at the wire. The final-quarter split was :24.90 and the last sixteenth was :6.38 for a 1:43.12 finish and a 98 Beyer Speed Figure.

That Beyer represents a two-point regression from the 100 Forte earned when winning last November’s GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile for trainer Todd Pletcher and owners Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable.

But Forte was geared down in the late stages of the Fountain of Youth when it was obvious that a winning outcome had been assured, and his more-in-the-tank performance was visually strong enough that it doesn’t make sense to quibble over numbers in this instance.

Cont. p4
Meanwhile, on the Left Coast...

Practical Move had already done a little avenging on behalf of his sire, Practical Joke, by winning the GI Los Alamitos Futurity back in December. That’s because, despite being a top contender on the 2017 Derby trail, Practical Joke never won a two-turn race (although he did rack up a trio of Grade I victories up to one mile around one turn).

Yet bettors weren’t too keen Saturday that his son, Practical Move, could win again over 1 1/16 miles in the San Felipe, letting this Tim Yakteen trainee go off as the 4-1 fourth choice coming off a three-month layoff. But a heady ride by Ramon Vazquez drove home the fact that this colt is swiftly rising through the ranks as a dangerous Derby commodity.

Breaking from post two, Practical Move brushed the gate, then absorbed some minor bumping from the horse down to his inside. Unfazed, he took up the chase while fourth through the first turn, hugging the rail. He remained unruffled with a rank rival to his outside, then willingly accepted a rating hold by Vazquez as the field cornered onto the backstretch.

Once the field hit the back straightaway, the riders avoided the rail like it was strung with barbed wire. Of the nine, Practical Move was closest to the inside, in the three path. The pace was honest, with quarter-mile splits of :23.14 and :23.98 for the first half mile. Vazquez edged his mount up incrementally—a nice display of grace under pressure—and Practical Move was jointly second 3 1/2 furlongs out.

But then the inside passage tightened up, and Vazquez had to take hold of Practical Move for a few crucial strides. The leader, Hejazi (Bernardini), still looked strong at that point, and two other horses were launching bids in the clear on the outside.
HANCOCK’S LAW

The late ‘Bull’ Hancock of Claiborne Farm was one of the most successful of all stallion selectors; he laid down five criteria for selecting a stallion...

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

2. **He must have demonstrated his ability to stay 1¼ miles as a 3YO.**
   Won the *Travers Stakes-Gr.1* by 5½ lengths (faster than *Bernardini, Medaglia d’Oro* etc.) and runner-up in the *Kentucky Derby-Gr.1*, both over 1¼m.
   He also won the *Belmont Stakes-Gr.1 (1¼m)* by 3¾ lengths and *Florida Derby-Gr.1 (1¼m)* by 4½ lengths (previous winners include *Scat Daddy, Quality Road, Constitution and Nyquist*).

3. **He must be sound.**
   9 runs at 2 and 3 years, 6 wins, once second, once third.
   4 Gr.1 wins by 17½ lengths.

4. **He must look masculine.**

5. **He must have the right kind of pedigree.**
   A better racehorse than his sire *Constitution* (by *Tapit*).
   His dam Tizfiz (by *Tiznow*) was a Grade 2 winner at Santa Anita and is a full-sister to Fury Kapcori (Gr.3 winner & runner-up in the *CashCall Futurity-Gr.1*).

TIZ THE LAW

First crop weanlings/short yearlings have sold for $270,000, $215,000, $190,000, $160,000, $140,000, $140,000 etc.
In an instant, Practical Move got relegated back to fourth. It was the type of positioning misfortune that costs races, and when you’re trying to make the cut in a crucial Derby qualifying stakes, it can cost you an entire campaign.

Yet Vazquez never panicked, nor did Practical Move shy from his tight inside spot. Hejazi was soon spent, and he showed it by drifting out to the four path at the head of the lane after a robust third-quarter split in :23.96.

Practical Move deftly cut the corner when that seam opened, and he was as good as gone, kicking home under light encouragement to win with purpose by 2 1/2 lengths. The final-quarter split was :24.59 and his final sixteenth was clocked in :6.34.

Owned in partnership by Leslie Amestoy, Jean Pierre Amestoy, Jr., and Roger Beasley, Practical Move earned a 100 on the Beyer scale, upping his Los Al Futurity number by 12 points.

There have now been 15 points-earning Derby qualifying stakes at 1 1/16 miles on dirt in 2022-23, and Practical Move owns the two fastest final clockings: 1:41.65 in the Los Al Futurity and 1:42.10 in the San Felipe.

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**Also Noteworthy...**

Now that favorites have won the Fountain of Youth S. the past three years, the companion filly stakes on the same afternoon, the GII Davona Dale S., has become the “bombs away” race on the first Saturday in March. The $95.40 win by **Dorth Vader** (Girvin) in this season’s renewal was preceded by upset winners who paid $107.60 and $105.00 in 2021 and 2019...Interesting that Davona Dale herself only raced twice at Gulfstream. But the champion 3-year-old filly of 1979 did start her eight-race sophomore win streak there in the Bonnie Miss S., a run that included five Grade I victories before she lost at 1-5 odds in the GI Alabama S. at Saratoga.
In a training move filed under the “you’ll never see this again” category, Davona Dale then gallantly wheeled right back against colts in the GI Travers S. one week later, only to finish fourth.

The 2022 GI Kentucky Oaks winner, Secret Oath (Arrogate) will have a new jockey for her 4-year-old debut in Oaklawn's GII Azeri S. Saturday. Luis Saez, who has been aboard Secret Oath in her last six starts, is committed to pilot ‘TDN Rising Star’ Tapit Trice (Tapit) in the GIII Tampa Bay Derby, so trainer D. Wayne Lukas has named Tyler Gaffalione to ride. “Luis has got a [Kentucky] Derby prospect that he’s really high on and didn’t want to give it up. He really agonized over that decision, but he’s afraid that he might lose [the call on Tapit Trice]. He’s going to try to talk me into putting him back on. If Tyler rides a big race, he’ll have a little trouble getting back on,” Lukas said.

Here’s wishing Hawthorne Race Course good luck with trying out a nationwide-low 12% takeout on win, place and show bets at the six-month meet that started Sunday. During the first three months of the season, Hawthorne will be racing on Sundays and Thursdays with a 2:30 p.m. Central first post.

“By shifting Saturday racing to Thursday in the spring, we will face less competition on the national scene while being able to make Hawthorne a more visible track to the wagering public,” said the track's racing director, Jim Miller.

Yes, it’s the first week of March, and we already have two North American horses with perfect 5-for-5 records on the new season. Dulcimer Dame (Mineshaft), a 6-year-old Charles Town-based mare who races at the starter-allowance level, roared home by 5 1/2 lengths as the 1-5 fave in Saturday's eighth race at the West Virginia oval. She races for owner Richard Burnsworth and trainer Anthony Farrior. Earlier on Mar. 4, the Arizona-stabled Metarose (Metaboss) necked out a 3-2 favored win in a Turf Paradise starter-allowance. The 5-year-old mare is campaigned by owner Miguel Gallegos and trainer Miguel Hernandez.

Faiza Stays Perfect

“Faiza was travelling well all the way around,” said winning rider Flavien Prat. “I felt that the pace was quite easy, so I could get myself going around the turn and she stretched her legs down the lane really well.”

With the Santa Ysabel and Starlet victories, Faiza now has two victories at 1 1/16 miles.

“It seems like she is getting better, race after race,” Prat said. “I think the distance is not a problem for her. She’s a filly that has stamina so there is definitely improvement.”

While trained by Bob Baffert, Faiza was ineligible to earn the Santa Ysabel’s 50 qualifying points to the GI Kentucky Oaks, but race’s second through fifth-place finishers received 20, 15, 10 and five points.
The second-highest priced offering at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale after selling to Peterson for $725,000, Faiza was tabbed a ‘TDN Rising Star’ following her 3 1/2-length debut victory going six furlongs at Del Mar Nov. 12. She had a head in front of Pride of the Nile (Pioneerof the Nile) while winning the Dec. 10 GI Starlet S. and defeated that rival by a half-length to win the Jan. 28 GIII Las Virgenes S. last time out.

“She’s got a great mind and she’s by one of the hottest sires Girvin who is just unbelievable,” said Baffert. “We are just lucky and fortunate to have her. Michael Lund Petersen has been very excited about her. She wins but she is still learning how to win. Flavien told me that she wasn’t going to win by a lot. She does just enough. All the jockeys that have ridden her have said that there’s more in the tank and she gets it done. She’s got a beautiful mind, nothing bothers her and she’s sweet. She’s got a great personality.”

Peterson’s success buying out of the Midlantic May sale includes champion Gamine (Into Mischief), who he picked up for $1.8 million in Timonium in 2019.

Pedigree Notes:

From his first crop to race, Girvin now has three graded winners. In addition to Faiza and Dorth Vader, he was represented last year by GI Saratoga Special winner Damon’s Mound. His daughter Atomically was third in the Feb. 4 GIII Forward Gal S.

Sweet Pistol, a daughter of multiple graded stakes winner Pomeroy’s Pistol (Pomeroy) and half-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Thousand Words (Pioneerof the Nile), has a 2-year-old filly by Cairo Prince—who sold to Bill Parcell’s August Dawn Farm for $160,000 at last year’s Keeneland September sale—and a yearling filly by Complexity. She was bred back to Complexity last year.
Pomeroy’s Pistol, who sold not in foal for $475,000 at the 2020 Keeneland January sale, produced a colt by Authentic last year and was bred back to Curlin.

Sunday, Santa Anita Park

SANTA YSABEL S.-GIII, $100,000, Santa Anita, 3-5, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:44.66, ft.

1--FAIZA, 124, f, 3, by Girvin
   1st Dam: Sweet Pistol, by Smart Strike
   2nd Dam: Pomeroys Pistol, by Pomeroy
   3rd Dam: Prettyatthetable, by Point Given
   ‘TDN Rising Star’. ($90,000 Ylg ’21 FTKJUL; $725,000 2yo ’22 EASMAY). O-Michael Lund Petersen; B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-Bob Baffert; J-Flavien Prat. $60,000. Lifetime Record: MGSW, 4-4-0-0, $402,000.

Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: B+. or free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

2--And Tell Me Nolies, 124, f, 3, Arrogate--Be Fair, by Exchange Rate. ($70,000 Ylg ’21 KEEJAN; $230,000 2yo ’22 OBSAPR). O-Peter Redekop B.C., Ltd.; B-Lara Run, LLC (KY); T-Peter Miller. $20,000.

3--Blessed Touch, 120, f, 3, Girvin--Blushing Touch, by Street Boss. 1ST GRADED BLACK TYPE. ($32,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP; $140,000 2yo ’22 OBSAPR). O-Leslie A. Amestoy, Pierre Jean Amestoy, Jr. and Roger K. Beasley; B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-Tim Yakteen. $12,000.

Motorious powered home a much-the-best victor of the GIII San Simeon S. at Santa Anita Sunday. The 3-2 favorite stalked Brickyard Ride through fractions of :21.46 and :43.01. He struck quickly into the stretch, surging up and taking command at the top of the lane and was never threatened to the wire.

A He broke well, and I was able to get myself right behind Brickyard Ride, so I was pleased with that, said Flavien Prat who rode the winners of both graded races at Santa Anita Sunday.

A Obviously, I can’t let Brickyard Ride do this own thing in the first part, but I kind of wanted to get the jump on him and kind of surprise him. From that point my horse was really brave and got to the wire.

Brickyard Ride, who was the morning-line favorite, was making his first start since last May.

A Brickyard Ride is a very nice horse,” winning trainer Phil D’Amato said. “I thought maybe if we were going to have a chance to beat him it would be off the layoff. We had a really nice post last time we had the one hole, and we were stuck inside. Flavien got him in the race and in the right position to get the job done, and he did a masterful job.”

Cont. p9
SUNDAY STAKES TREBLE!

**PRACTICAL MOVE** won the G2 San Felipe Stakes, earning 50 points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

Owned by Leslie A. Amestoy, Pierre Jean Amestoy, Jr. and Roger K. Beasley, bred by Chad Brown & Head of Plains Partners and trained by Tim Yakteen.

“He is a phenomenally gifted horse”

TIM YAKTEEN

**LITTLE VIC** won the G3 Tom Fool Handicap.

Owned by Victoria’s Ranch, bred by Stride Sales and Syndicate and trained by Juan Carlos Avila.

“This horse is a real athlete”

VICTOR MARTINEZ OF VICTORIA’S RANCH.

**SHIDABHUTI** won the Busher Stakes to remain unbeaten and earn 50 points on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks.

Owned by Peter M. Brant, bred by Gabriel Duignan & Gerry Dilger and trained by Chad Brown.

PRACTICAL JOKE

Triple Grade 1 winner by INTO MISCHIEF

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Purchased for 220,000gns out of the 2021 Tattersalls October Horses of Racing Age sale, Motorious opened his stateside campaign with D’Amato with a runner-up effort at Santa Anita last March, but went to the sidelines following a third-place effort down the hill in an Apr. 30 allowance. The bay gelding returned with a win going five furlongs over the Del Mar lawn in a Nov. 27 optional claimer and added a victory down the hill Jan. 2 before finishing a late-rallying second over that course in the Jan. 29 Clocker’s Corner S. last time out.

**Pedigree Notes:**
Motorious is Muhaarar’s ninth worldwide graded stakes winner. In addition to Group 1-winning Eshaada, he has been represented by North American graded winners Bran and Evening Sun.

Multiple group placed Squash has a 2-year-old colt by Advertise (GB) and a yearling colt by Sergei Prokofiev, who sold for 82,000gns at last year’s Tattersalls December sale. Bloodstock agent Richard Knight signed for the 2-year-old, who was a 135,000gns purchase at the 2021 Tattersalls December sale, for 500,000gns at last year’s Tattersalls October sale, but he was one of 17 that were reoffered by the sales company due to non-payment earlier this year.
GOTHAM RUNNERS LOOK AHEAD
Andrew and Rania Warren's Raise Cain (Violence) exited his 7 1/2-length victory in Saturday's GIII Gotham S. in fine shape, according to trainer Ben Colebrook. The colt, who earned 50 qualifying points for the GI Kentucky Derby with his win in the Gotham, could return to New York for the Apr. 8 GI Wood Memorial or run in the GI Toyota Blue Grass S. at Colebrook's home base at Keeneland that same day.

"We're based at Keeneland and if it wasn't for that, the Wood would be circled. I guess we'll just sit back and see how the nominations are," Colebrook said. "If one is significantly easier than the other, that would change our thinking. If you don't have to ship, why do it? But the Blue Grass could come up significantly tougher. In which case, we would go to the Wood."

Colebrook had a quick turnaround Saturday. The Gotham field left the gate at 5:01 p.m. and the trainer was back in Kentucky in time to saddle Scoobie Quando (Uncle Mo)—owned by the same connections—to a runner-up effort in the $150,000 John Battaglia Memorial at Turfway Park, which went off at 9:29 p.m.

"Luckily, it worked out. Going to JFK you pass the chute, so I got the Uber driver to stop and I watched them run down the backside," Colebrook said. "I switched on to my phone and watched the rest of the race, so I got to the airport in plenty of time, luckily. The plane was on time, so I made it to Turfway as they were walking over to saddle, so everything worked out. I didn't really consider doing that until the overnights came out and they carded that race late at Turfway. So, I figured why not try it? I always really liked Scoobie, so I wanted to be there for that race."

Scoobie Quando, who graduated on debut in the Jan. 7 Turfway Preview S. and was making his third lifetime start in the Battaglia, was behind a wall of horses late in the turn before angling out and rallying to finish second in the 1 1/16-mile test. He earned eight points on the Derby trail and could make his next start in the Mar. 25 GII Jeff Ruby Steaks, which is a 100-40-30-20-10 Kentucky Derby qualifier.

"The timing isn't great, but he didn't really get to run last night. I don't think it was a tough race, so I'm leaning towards the Jeff Ruby," Colebrook said. "If the race took a lot out of him, we would probably skip it and look for something on the dirt or the turf with him, eventually. When I had him on the main track at Keeneland, he worked really well on it. I still think the dirt is within his wheelhouse. But if not, we have synthetic and turf to fall back on. The way he ran last night, we have to at least consider the Ruby."

Trainer Brad Cox said the Wood Memorial was the next likely start for Gotham runner-up Slip Mahoney (Arrogate). The gray colt, who was coming off a maiden-breaking score at Aqueduct Jan. 21, broke a step slow from post 10 in the 14-horse Gotham field and trailed in 13th through the first half-mile. He improved to eighth at the top of the stretch while racing eight wide in pursuit of stablemate Eyeing Clover (Lookin At Lucky) and Raise Cain, who made an inside rally from 11th and showed an impressive turn of foot down the center lane under Jose Lezcano. Slip Mahoney gained with each stride down the stretch and surged past Eyeing Clover, but could not collar Raise Cain.

"Overall, I thought for the first time facing winners, it was a positive race," Cox said. "I never expected him to be that far back. Hopefully he gets a little better trip and a little better position in the Wood."

Eyeing Clover, who came into his stakes debut off a dominant six-furlong optional-claiming victory at Fair Grounds Jan. 28, finished fourth in the Gotham.

"I'm not sure what we're going to do with him yet," Cox said. "I'm not certain how far he wants to go, so we'll just regroup and come up with a game plan here in the near future."

Cont. p11
Of possible next starts for Howgreatisnate, Simoff said, “If he had run fifth or sixth yesterday, I could deal with it and say he’s not what we thought. We were trying to get a line on him to see if he could compete with the bigger horses. Now that I didn’t get that opportunity, it’s hard to figure out what to do next. Had he run second or third, the Wood would be a no brainer.”

**NYRA OFFERS SHIPPER BONUS**

The New York Racing Association will offer bonuses to horses shipping in to race at Aqueduct in March and April. Trainers of horses that are not stabled at a NYRA track will see a bonus of $1,000 credited to the owner’s account towards shipping expenses. This bonus excludes steeplechase races. The horse must be declared an official starter to be eligible. In addition, the horse will not be eligible if placed on a poor performance or veterinarian list.
**Saturday, Gulfstream #8, post time: 4:07 p.m. EST**

**HURRICANE BERTIE S.-GIII, $125,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f**

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**Breeders:** 1-Diamond 100 Racing Club LLC, 2-Clearsky Farms, 3-Jorge S. Wagner Jr., 4-Frank Fletcher, 5-Hidden Springs Farm, 6-Ocala Stud & J. Michael O'Farrell Jr.
IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**BAFFLE S.**, $102,000, Santa Anita, 3-5, 3yo, 6 1/2fT, 1:13.07, fm.

1--JOHANNES, 120, c, 3, by Nyquist
   1st Dam: Cuyathy (SP, $107,923), by Congrats
   2nd Dam: Dance Darling, by Devil’s Bag
   3rd Dam: Danzig Darling, by Danzig
   1ST BLACK TYPE WIN. O/B-Cuyathy, Llc (KY); T-Tim Yakteen;
   J-Umberto Rispoli. $60,000. Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-1, $110,059.

2--Wizard of Westwood, 120, c, 3, Tu Brutus (Chi)--Figrare, by Purge. ($20,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP). 1ST BLACK TYPE. O-Andew N. Warren and Rania Warren; B-Pope McLean (KY); T-Michael W. McCarthy. $20,000.

3--Helladic, 120, g, 3, Kantharos--Gal About Town, by City Zip. ($50,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP). O-Robin D. Dunn, Richard Gardner and Ryan Hanson; B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY); T-Ryan Hanson. $12,000.

**CRESTWOOD FARM** BRED | FOALED | RAISED | SOLD

3--Helladic, 120, g, 3, Kantharos--Gal About Town, by City Zip. ($50,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP). O-Robin D. Dunn, Richard Gardner and Ryan Hanson; B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY); T-Ryan Hanson. $12,000.

Facing the turf slalom at Santa Anita for the first time, Johannes swerved with alacrity in victory to win the Baffle S. The bay colt made it two-for-two over this surface, the last coming in what was an impressive maiden-breaking score at fourth-asking by 9-lengths at ‘The Great Race Place’ on New Year’s Eve. Prior to that, he spent his juvenile season, first with the Morey barn, when he was tenth at Churchill Downs June 9 out of the blocks, and then transferring to the Yakteen shedrow, was third at Santa Anita Oct. 30 and fifth Nov. 26 at Del Mar, while sprinting on the dirt.

Graduating to face eight others here, the 3-2 favorite took up a position along the rail towards the back of the field. Past the quarter pole and crossing over the dirt, Johannes appeared hemmed in, as he looked for running room before tapping the brakes. Facing the stretch, the chalk showed his mettle by splitting foes and once clear, made a beeline for the wire to win by 1 1/4-lengths over 26-1 shot, Wizard of Westwood (Tu Brutus (Chi)).

The winner’s dam has a 2-year-old filly named Sea Dancer (Mastery) and also a yearling filly by Gun Runner. She is in foal to Knicks Go for this year. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

**CURRIBOT H.**, $75,000, Sunland, 3-5, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:42.75, ft.

1--SEÑOR BUSCADOR, 126, h, 5, Mineshaft--Rose’s Desert (MSW, $626,035), by Desert God. O-Joe R. Peacock, Jr.; B-Joe R. Peacock Sr. & Joe R. Peacock Jr. (KY); T-Todd W. Fincher; J-Alfredo J. Juarez, Jr.. $45,000. Lifetime Record: GSW, 9-5-0-1, $431,677. *1/2 to Sheriff Brown (Curlin), MSW, $513,921; 1/2 to Our Iris Rose (Ghostzapper), SW, $307,880; 1/2 to Runaway Ghost (Ghostzapper), GSW, $783,509.

2--Limonite, 122, h, 7, Lemon Drop Kid--Colina Verde (Brz), by Know Heights (Ire). ($115,000 Ylg ’17 KEESEP; $100,000 3yo ’19 KEENOV; $70,000 6yo ’22 FTKFEB). O-Jeremy Ramsland; B-Andres Gonzalez. $15,000.

3--Goddard, 122, g, 5, Tapit--Jackpot Joanie, by Giant’s Causeway. ($200,000 Ylg ’19 FTKOCT; $250,000 2yo ’20 EASMAY). O-B. Ray Willis; B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Todd W. Fincher. $7,500.

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VINERY SALES GRADUATE

Consigned by GAINESWAY

3--Goddard, 122, g, 5, Tapit--Jackpot Joanie, by Giant’s Causeway. ($200,000 Ylg ’19 FTKOCT; $250,000 2yo ’20 EASMAY). O-B. Ray Willis; B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Todd W. Fincher. $7,500.

**Kip Elser’s KIRKWOOD STABLES**

Margins: 4, 5, 3 1/4. Odds: 0.10, 14.60, 20.50.

Also Ran: Sheriff Brown, Magic Is Flying, Dubronsky. Scratched: Clayton Delaney.
For the first time in his career, Senor Buscador was rewarded at the windows with favoritism and he did not disappoint his backers as he easily won the opening salvo of his 5-year-old campaign for owner Joey Peacock.

Shutdown on a pair of occasions due to injuries after a fifth place finish in the GII Risen S., the Todd Fincher trainee returned last year for a western swing at Del Mar where he was eighth July 30 in the GII San Diego H. and a much-improved third Aug. 27 in the GII Pat O’Brien S. Submitting his Breeders’ Cup resume in the GIII Ack Ack S. at Churchill Downs Oct. 1 with a win, he looked to take on Cody’s Wish (Curlin) and Cyberknife (Gun Runner) in the GI Big Ass Fans Dirt Mile. Washed out before entering the gate, he ended up a distant eighth.

Returning to his New Mexico base, Buscador looked to kick off his season with a romp in this stakes spot at odds of 1-9. Typically a late bloomer, he was uncharacteristically forward as he took up a position four-wide around the first turn. With little pace, Limonite showed the way down the backstretch, but rounding the far turn, the Breeders’ Cup alum began to gain ground. Winding up at the top of the lane and clearly full of run, Senor Buscador uncorked his class to clear by 4-lengths in the end.

Out of one of the best mares to come out of Land of Enchantment, the winner is a half-brother to GIII Sunland Park Derby winner Runaway Ghost (Ghostzapper). Their mare, who was bred and campaigned by Joe Peacock Sr., also has an unraced 2-year-old filly named Aye Candy (Candy Ride {Arg}) and a yearling filly named Rose A by Hard Spun. She visited Authentic last year.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:
8th-Oaklawn, $104,000, Alw (NW1$X)/Opt. Clm ($100,000), 3-5, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:43.80, ft, 4 1/4 lengths.

PUNCHBOWL (f, 3, Uncle Mo--Devilish Lady {GSW, $400,318}, by Sweet Southern S.) splashed home in victory to break her maiden at first-asking in Hot Springs on Feb. 11. Looking to traverse two turns and clear the next condition, the even-money favorite split runners around the hotel turn and wrestled the lead away from a longshot down the backstretch. Pressured rounding the far turn, the homebred began to extend her slim margin at the top of the lane and with a burst of energy won under confident handling by 4 1/4-lengths over her nearest pursuer, She’s Lookin Lucky (Lookin At Lucky). Out of a stakes-winning mare, Punchbowl has a pair of unnamed colt half-brothers by West Coast and her dam visited Goldencents last year. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, $116,400. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

4th-Oaklawn, $103,000, Alw, 3-5, (C), 3/4yo, 6f, 1:09.41, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

CORONA BOLT (c, 3, Bolt d’Oro--Storm Before The Calm, by Quiet American) bounced back from his sixth-place finish Jan. 28 in the GII Southwest S. behind Arabian Knight (Uncle Mo) to return to the winner’s circle here as the 4-5 favorite.

Cont. p3
4th-Oaklawn, Cont.

That Triple Crown prep has yielded GII Rebel S. runner-up Red Route One (Gun Runner) this season. Away in good order after the jump, last season's Sugar Bowl S. winner cruised up the backstretch in front through :21.75, :45.23 splits and kept Favorite Outlaw (Maclean’s Music) safely at bay in the lane to score by 1 1/4 lengths under firm right-hand reminders. The Crown-nominated colt claims Proven Strategies (Sky Mesa), SW & GSP-Can, GSP-USA, $356,527 as his most accomplished older half-sibling. He has a 2-year-old half-sister by Flatter as well as a yearling half-brother by War of Will. Their dam is due to Yaupon this season. Sales history: $225,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, $175,050. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Stonestreet Stables LLC; B-Summerfield Sales Agency, Inc. & Etarip Stables (FL); T-Brad H. Cox.

10th-Gulfstream, $72,000, Alw (NW1$X)/Opt. Clm ($35,000), 3-5, 4yo/up, 1 3/8mT, 2:13.85, fm, 2 1/2 lengths.

MY SWEET AFFAIR (f, 3, Twirling Candy--Illlicit Affair, by Midnight Lute) drew in from the also-eligibles and made the most of her chance here. Sent off the 9-5 favorite, she settled in a stalking position three off the rail in third as Oolong Hai (Ire) (No Nay Never) put up fractions of :21.91 and :43.95 splits. Rolling into the final bend, she was widest of the top trio turning into the lane, seized command nearing the sixteenth pole and strode away easily as the early leader kept on for second. The third winner from only as many to survive, the victress has a yearling half-sister by McKinzie. Illicit Affair is due to Frosted for 2023. Sales history: $72,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $42,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-R. A. Hill Stable and Gatsas Stables; B-Highclere Inc. (KY); T-George Weaver.

11th-Gulfstream, $70,000, Msw, 3-5, 3yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:41.10, fm, 1/2 length.

QUEEN PICASSO (GB) (f, 3, Kingman {GB}--Arís {Ire} {SP-Ire}, by Danroad {Aus}) was given only a mild 7-1 shot for her afternoon debut despite being a half-sister to successful turf runner Aclaim (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}), GISW-Fr, MGSW-Eng, GSP-Ire, $595,666. Kept close up front just off Soviet Excess (Uncle Mo), she rated under a hold behind that pacesetter through opening fractions of :24.01 and :48.75. Initially angled in for a run around the far turn, Queen Picasso wound up fanned out wide at the top of the lane but was able to sustain her run down the lane. Soviet Excess would not give in but was outrun in the final yards as Queen Picasso just edged by late for the half-length win.

Cont. p4
11th-Gulfstream, Cont.
Out of a half-sister to MG1SW Again (Ire) (Danehill Dancer (Ire)), the winner traces back to European champion 3-year-old colt Montjeu (Ire) (Sadler’s Wells). Her 2-year-old half-sister, the most recent foal out of Aria, RNA’d for $336,728 at last year’s Tattersalls October Yearling Sale. Sales History: 200,000gns Ylg ’21 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 1:1-0-0, $42,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Siena Farm LLC, Michael E. Kisber, Peter Deutsch and The Elkstone Group, LLC (Stuart Grant); B-D. Farrington And Canning Downs (GB); T-Christophe Clement.

7th-Oaklawn, $65,000, Msw, 3-5, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:10.34, ft, 4 lengths.
SACRED WISH (f, 3, Not This Time--Indian Wish, by Indian Charlie) was making her second career start off a rough debut Feb. 11 and with a clean trip here cruised to the four-length victory as the 9-5 favorite. After a smooth break from the innermost slot, the dark bay filly was forwardly placed and closest to the rail early, shadowing the pacesetting Boogie Woogie Gal (Mo Town) for most of the run up the backstretch. As the early leader began to round the far bend, the eventual winner was guided off the rail and out into the three path for clear running room. Boogie Woogie Gal was still full of run as she straightened out for the drive and passed a half-mile in :45.65, but Sacred Wish refused to give up and ran down her tiring rival in mid-stretch and pulled away to the win, safely holding off the late challenge from Divinia Dulce (Sharp Azteca) a dozen lengths for the first quarter mile. Zippin Pippin (Runhappy) took over the front in time to post the half-mile split in :46.32, and though the winner was gaining ground from the back, she still had a lot of work to do. As the leaders rounded the far bend, Goodbye Kyle was launching an impressive move and by the time the field in front of her hit the top of the lane, she had closed the gap and was only a couple lengths back. To avoid a traffic jam in front of her, she was swung wide into the center of the track and by the time she reached the eighth pole, had reached even terms with four rivals to her inside. Under a strong ride, the New York-bred daughter of Summer Front slowly began to pull away in deep stretch, easily crossing the wire 1 3/4 lengths in front of runner-up Hammerdonhappiness (American Freedom). Her dam, She Can Cope, also produced the 2-year-old colt Happenstance (World of Trouble), and visited Knicks Go (Runhappy) for a foal this year. Sales history: $80,000 Wlg ’20 KEESE; $70,000 RNA Ylg ’21 KEESE; $50,000 2yo ’22 EASMAY. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, $48,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Anthony Spinazzola; B-John R. Penn (KY); T-Lynn Chleborad.

6th-Santa Anita, $42,500, (C), Moc (50,000-562,500), 3-5, (C), 3yo, f, 6f, 1:11.11, ft, 9 lengths.
CLIQUISH (f, 3, Bernardini--Back Road Bellamy, by Bellamy Road), fourth in her Feb. 5 debut, bounced back here in style as the 6-5 favorite. Stumbling slightly leaving the gate, and forced to drop back to sixth to find her feet, she was on the move shortly after and gaining rapidly on Anybody’s Choice (Tapwrit) through the turn. Taking over at the top of the stretch, she left her rival in her wake as she powered home to widening nine-length advantage under easy urging. The first winner for her young dam, Cliquish has a 2-year-old half-brother by West Coast as well as a 2023 half-brother by Cairo Prince. Sales history: $55,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP; $80,000 2yo ’22 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $29,220. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-H and E Ranch, Inc.; B-Pope McLean, Marc McLean & Pope McLean Jr. & Godolphin (KY); T-Philip D’Amato.

5th-Fair Grounds, $35,000, Msw, 3-5, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12.08, ft, 1 3/4 lengths.
GOODBYE KYLE (f, 3, Summer Front--She Can Cope, by Stevie Wonderboy) made her debut an eventful one and despite completely breaking in a tangle and hopping out of the gate at the start, logged an impressive last-to-first victory at odds of 5-1. The filly had no choice but to trail the field in the early going and spot the early pacesetter Divinia Dulce (Sharp Azteca) a dozen lengths for the first quarter mile. Zippin Pippin (Runhappy) took over the front in time to post the half-mile split in :46.32, and though the winner was gaining ground from the back, she still had a lot of work to do. As the leaders rounded the far bend, Goodbye Kyle was launching an impressive move and by the time the field in front of her hit the top of the lane, she had closed the gap and was only a couple lengths back. To avoid a traffic jam in front of her, she was swung wide into the center of the track and by the time she reached the eighth pole, had reached even terms with four rivals to her inside. Under a strong ride, the New York-bred daughter of Summer Front slowly began to pull away in deep stretch, easily crossing the wire 1 3/4 lengths in front of runner-up Hammerdonhappiness (American Freedom). Her dam, She Can Cope, also produced the 2-year-old colt Stalislao (Laoban), who was exported to Panama last year, a yearling colt by Demarchelier (GB) and was bred to Royal Artillery for a foal this year. Sales History: $11,000 Ylg ’21 FTKOCT; $35,000 2yo ’22 OBSOPN. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $21,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-David A Bernsen LLC and Lambert, Jeffrey; B-Peter Moore (NY); T-Kenneth G. McPeek.
7th-Golden Gate Fields, $34,500, Msw, 3-4, 3yo, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.63, ft, nose. WELTON (c, 3, Creative Cause—ladorakid, by Lemon Drop Kid) had just a single rival beat from the blocks at odds of 3-1, taking his time getting into stride as Curvy Curls (Vronsky) handled the pace-making duties. Tipped out three wide around the turn, he began to rally, carrying his momentum down the lane despite hanging on his left lead to just gain the winning edge in a blanket finish, defeating Rodrigoknows (Cat Burglar) by a nose with Bob's Blue Moon (Richard's Kid) another half-length back in third. Out of a half-sister to champion turf male in Canada El Tormenta (Stormy Atlantic), Welton has a 2-year-old half-brother by Justify and a newborn half-brother by Vekoma. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $18,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-A. Jason Hall Stables, Custom Truck Accessories and MJVET Stables; B-BCS Thoroughbreds & Jason Hall (KY); T-Jonathan Wong.

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: MONDAY, MARCH 6 2023 Stud Fees Listed

Army Mule (Friesan Fire), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, $12,500 142 foals of racing age/31 winners/7 black-type winners 8-Parx Racing, 3:53 p.m. EST, $75K Society Hill S., 6 1/2f, Hot Little Thing, 9-2 $35,000 FTK OCT yrl; $80,000 OBS MAR 2yo 9-Parx Racing, 4:22 p.m. EST, $75K Rittenhouse Square S., 6 1/2f, Recruiter, 4-5 $60,000 OBS WIN wnl; $102,000 RNA FTK JUL yrl; $125,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Code West (Lemon Drop Kid), Westwin Farms 40 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners 3-Will Rogers Downs, 3:00 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Grandsonsam, 3-1 $17,000 FTK OCT yrl

Eastwood (Speightstown), Blackstone Farm 17 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners 8-Parx Racing, 3:53 p.m. EST, $75K Society Hill S., 6 1/2f, Broadwaycharlyrose, 5-1 9-Parx Racing, 4:22 p.m. EST, $75K Rittenhouse Square S., 6 1/2f, John Dutton, 5-1

Good Magic (Curlin), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, $50,000 237 foals of racing age/33 winners/7 black-type winners 10-Parx Racing, 4:51 p.m. EST, $75K City of Brotherly Love S., 1m, Jackson Road, 6-1 $47,000 EAS OCT yrl; $62,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo; $49,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Justify (Scat Daddy), Coolmore Ashford, $100,000 343 foals of racing age/34 winners/7 black-type winners 9-Parx Racing, 4:22 p.m. EST, $75K Rittenhouse Square S., 6 1/2f, Prove Right, 6-1 $15,000 KEE SEP yrl

Mendelssohn (Scat Daddy), Coolmore Ashford, $25,000 348 foals of racing age/38 winners/3 black-type winners 9-Parx Racing, 4:22 p.m. EST, $75K Rittenhouse Square S., 6 1/2f, Belt Parkway, 12-1 $160,000 SAR AUG yrl; $30,000 EAS MAY 2yo

National Flag (Speightstown), Blazing Meadows Farm 38 foals of racing age/5 winners/0 black-type winners 2-Mahoning Valley, 1:05 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Flag Raiser, 8-5

West Coast (Flatter), Lane's End Farm, $10,000 198 foals of racing age/14 winners/2 black-type winners 7-Parx Racing, 3:24 p.m. EST, $75K Main Line S., 1m, Sally's Sassy, 5-1 $67,000 FTK JUL yrl; $190,000 OBS APR 2yo 3-Will Rogers Downs, 3:00 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Treasure Coast, 8-5 $47,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; $60,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo; $25,000 OBS OPN 2yo

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STAKES RESULTS:

**PEPPERS PRIDE H., (NB) $100,000, Sunland, 3-5, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:37.43, ft.**

1--**CORRINA CORRINA, 124, f, 4, Mr. Trieste--Scared Money, by Carson City.** O/B-Derrick W. Jenkins (NM); T-Gary W. Cross; J-Ken S. Tohill. $60,000. Lifetime Record: 17-6-8-2, $435,870.

2--**Bye Bye Brandi, 123, f, 4, Marking--Ringback, by Gone Hollywood.** O/B4 Farms, LLC; B-Fred Alexander (NM); T-Todd W. Fincher. $20,000.

3--**Our Time to Shine, 124, m, 5, Laugh Track--Shinestein, by Premeditation. ($7,000 Ylg '19 RUIAUG).** O-Nancy Summers, Scott R. Bean, and James D. Masek; B-Roger K. Beasley (NM); T-Nancy Summers. $10,000.

Margins: HF, 1 3/4, 4HF. Odds: 0.30, 4.20, 5.40.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

1st-Santa Anita, $80,000, 3-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT, 1:35.91, fm, 1 1/2 lengths.

BUZZ OF NEW YORK (IRE) (m, 5, Toronado {Ire}--Buzz Off Barroso {Ire}, by Big Bad Bob {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 17-3-5-3, $222,677. O-Red Baron's Barn LLC and Rancho Temescal LLC; B-Mr Ronan Fitzpatrick (Ire); T-Philip D'Amato.

6th-Gulfstream, $74,800, 3-5, 4yo/u, f/m, 1 3/8mT, 1:18.51, ft, 3/4 length.

SWOT ANALYSIS (h, 5, Anchor Down--Solo Buena, by Half Ours) Lifetime Record: 18-5-5-1, $240,123. O-D. J. Stable LLC, Cash is King LLC and West Point Thoroughbreds; B-Clear Creek Stud LLC (LA); T-Mark E. Casse. *1/2 to Free Drop Maddy (Free Drop Billy), MSW, $272,800

4th-Fair Grounds, $52,000, (S), (NW2X)/Opt. Clm ($20,000), 3-5, 4yo/u, 1m 70y, 1:44.51, ft, neck.

BALLINONABUDJET (g, 5, Sky Kingdom--Heir to Glory, by Wildcat Heir) Lifetime Record: MSP, 14-4-5-1, $145,441. O-Forge Ahead Stables LLC; B-Tea Party Stable Inc. (NY); T-Wayne M. Catalano. *$15,000 Ylg '19 KEESEP; $57,000 2yo '20 OBSMAR.

7th-Fair Grounds, $51,240, 3-5, 4yo/u, 5fT, :58.51, fm, 6 1/2 lengths.

MISTER MMMMM (g, 5, Speightster--Celebrated, by Songandaprayer) Lifetime Record: 14-4-5-1, $15,414. O-Forge Ahead Stables LLC; B-Woods Edge Farm, LLC (KY); T-Saffie A. Joseph, Jr. *$170,000 RNA Ylg '20 KEESEP.

8th-Golden Gate Fields, $39,154, (NW1$X)/Opt. Clm ($50,000), 3-4, 3yo, 1m (AWT), 1:38.13, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

MOTHER'S PRAYER (g, 3, Rousing Sermon--Mother Luck, by Street Sense) Lifetime Record: 10-4-1-3, $84,140. O-Larry D. and Marianne Williams; B-Larry D. Williams (CA); T-Steven Specht.

8th-Sam Houston Race, $38,000, 3-5, 4yo/u, 1mT, 1:37.08, fm, neck.

RISK MANAGER (h, 5, Lookin At Lucky--Katura, by Kitten's Joy) Lifetime Record: 19-6-2-1, $235,680. O-Case Chambers; B-Kenneth L. & Sarah K. Ramsey (KY); T-Sarah Nicole Davidson.

7th-Sam Houston Race, $36,000, 3-5, (NW1X), 4yo/u, 1m, 1:39.18, ft, 6 1/2 lengths.

HERN (c, 4, Gun Runner--Sweet Opportunity {MSP}, $244,204, by Distorted Humor) Lifetime Record: 12-3-2-2, $88,636. O-L and N Racing LLC; B-Charles Chu (KY); T-Steven M. Asmussen. *$155,000 Ylg '20 FTKOCT.
4th-Sam Houston Race, $36,000, (S), (NW2L)/Opt. Clm ($50,000), 3-5, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:13.95, ft, 6 1/2 lengths.

WAVING BYE (f, 3, The Hunk--Making Waves, by Stormy Atlantic) Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, $72,439. O-Michael Grossman; B-Eureka Thoroughbred Farm (TX); T-Francisco Bravo.

2nd-Turf Paradise, $26,900, 3-5, 4yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:15.17, ft, 1 length.

TIZ A MACHO GIRL (f, 4, Mucho Macho Man--Courtizanna, by Tiznow) Lifetime Record: SW, 13-5-0-0, $116,463. O-Saratoga West, Steve Haahr, Christina and Joshua Miyakawa; B-Adena Springs (KY); T-Jeffrey Metz. *$5,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP.

7th-Turf Paradise, $23,400, 3-5, 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:14.69, ft, 2 1/4 lengths.

COASTAL KID (g, 5, Coast Guard--Creme {Chi}, by Somersham) Lifetime Record: SW, 24-4-8-3, $150,766. O-Steve Haahr; B-Nina & Ron Hagen (WA); T-Jeffrey Metz. *$9,000 Ylg '19 WASSEP.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Red Summerbird, c, 3, Bradester--Pinetop, by Summer Bird. Sam Houston Race Park, 3-5, (S), 6f, 1:13.69. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $20,580. B-John W Wilke (TX). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Left Hand Man, c, 3, Cat Burglar--Moonie, by Square Eddie. Santa Anita, 3-5, (S), 6f, 1:10.25. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $40,200. B-Richard Barton Enterprises (CA). *$39,000 RNA Ylg '21 FTCAYR. **1ST-TIME STARTER.

Leonas Girl, f, 3, Marking--Roll On Matilda (SW, $155,836), by Roll Hennessy Roll. Sunland, 3-5, (S), 6f, 1:11.16. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $22,080. B-Raymond Gilder (NM). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Act a Fool, c, 3, Oscar Performance--Post Script, by Quality Road. Hawthorne, 3-5, 1m 70y, 1:42.12. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $18,448. B-Brook T. Smith Investments, LLC (KY). *$10,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV; $100,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP.

Classy Socks, g, 4, Northern Affect--Classy Corinthian, by Corinthian. Oaklawn, 3-5, (S), 6f, 1:11.77. Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-0, $92,186. B-Michael Mazoch (AR).

Delta Ridge, g, 4, Will Take Charge--Mind, by Flatter. Tampa Bay Downs, 3-5, (C), 1 1/16m, 1:46.39. Lifetime Record: 16-1-1-3, $36,880. B-Newtown Anner Stud (NY). *$5,000 Ylg '20 FTKOCT.

Seeing RED? Click on a stallion’s name to learn more about them on their page on the farm’s website.
Lookin At Lucky, Risk Manager, h, 5, o/o Katura, by Kitten’s Joy. AOC, 3-5, Sam Houston
Marking, Leonas Girl, f, 3, o/o Roll On Matilda, by Roll Hennessy Roll. MSW, 3-5, Sunland
Mineshaft, Senor Buscador, h, 5, o/o Rose’s Desert, by Desert God. Curribot H., 3-5, Sunland
Mr. Trieste, Corrina Corrina, f, 4, o/o Scared Money, by Carson City. Peppers Pride H., 3-5, Sunland
Mucho Macho Man, Tiz a Macho Girl, f, 4, o/o Courtizanna, by Tiznow. AOC, 3-5, Turf Paradise
Muhaarar (GB), Motorious (GB), g, 5, o/o Squash (GB), by Pastoral Pursuits (GB). GIII San Simeon S., 3-5, Santa Anita
Northern Afleet, Classy Socks, g, 4, o/o Classy Corinthian, by Corinthian. MSW, 3-5, Oaklawn
Not This Time, Sacred Wish, f, 3, o/o Indian Wish, by Indian Charlie. MSW, 3-5, Oaklawn
Nyquist, Johannes, c, 3, o/o Cuyathy, by Congrats. Baffle S., 3-5, Santa Anita
Oscar Performance, Act a Fool, c, 3, o/o Post Script, by Quality Road. MSW, 3-5, Hawthorne
Rousing Sermon, Mother’s Prayer, g, 3, o/o Mother Luck, by Street Sense. AOC, 3-4, Golden Gate
Sky Kingdom, Ballinonabudjet, g, 5, o/o Heir to Glory, by Wildcat Heir. AOC, 3-5, Fair Grounds
Speightster, Mister Mmmmm, g, 5, o/o Celebrated, by Songandaprayer. AOC, 3-5, Fair Grounds
Summer Front, Goodbye Kyle, f, 3, o/o She Can Cope, by Stevie Wonderboy. MSW, 3-5, Fair Grounds
The Hunk, Waving Bye, f, 3, o/o Making Waves, by Stormy Atlantic. AOC, 3-5, Sam Houston
Tiznow, For Love Not Money, m, 5, o/o Last Dance for Me, by General Meeting. ALW, 3-5, Sunland
Toronado (Ire), Buzz of New York (Ire), m, 5, o/o Buzz Off Barroso (Ire), by Big Bad Bob (Ire). AOC, 3-5, Santa Anita
Twirling Candy, My Sweet Affair, f, 3, o/o Illicit Affair, by Midnight Lute. MSW, 3-5, Gulfstream
Uncle Mo, Punchbowl, f, 3, o/o Devilish Lady, by Sweetsouthernsaint. AOC, 3-5, Oaklawn
Will Take Charge, Delta Ridge, g, 4, o/o Mind, by Flatter. MCL, 3-5, Tampa Bay

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JOE BANAHAN Q&A: THE IHRB’S STARTER ON HIS PASSION FOR BREEDING

By Brian Sheerin

Official Starter for the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board, Joe Banahan is hugely passionate about breeding, and from a small but select broodmare band, his family have enjoyed notable success on the Flat from their Moortown House Stud base near Navan.

Joe’s parents Percy and Elaine have recently passed away but, along with his wife Edel, he has carried on the proud family tradition in breeding.

In this week’s Starfield Stud-sponsored Q&A, Banahan, a former jockey, reveals how he became infatuated with breeding, what he aims to achieve from Moortown House Stud in the coming years and much more.

Brian Sheerin: You are not long home from the Saudi Cup where you have been working as the chief starter since its inception in 2019. How did that come about?

Joe Banahan: Tom Ryan was keen to find an English-speaking starter because of the amount of international runners at the Saudi Cup and he approached Denis Egan who was the chief executive of the IHRB at the time. When Denis mentioned it to me, I told him that I would be delighted to do it. Tom would have known me from his time in Naas and was aware that I would have been starting all of the big races over here. They were looking for someone with experience of starting the big races so that’s how it came about. We got through the first year okay, although it didn’t go like clockwork, but we got through it anyway and it was a good learning curve for everyone involved. I have been asked back every year since and Tom has assembled a good team. He has Michael Prosser, the clerk of the course at Newmarket, who brings a wealth of experience, stewards secretary Adrian Sharpe and Phil Tuck, the resident stewards secretary who knows all the locals and how the system works.

What has been the biggest challenge? As you said yourself, it hasn’t all been smooth sailing and, like anything new, there are always going to be teething problems.

The language. Without question. The biggest barrier is the language. We would have different sets of requests coming through right throughout the week from different connections of horses all over the world. Cont. p3
WILDCARD ENTRY ADDED TO TATTERSALLS ONLINE

Recent Lingfield maiden winner Nasser (Ire) was added to the Tattersalls Online March Sale, which runs Mar. 8-9.

ZARAK FILLY WINS DEBUT AT PORNICHET-LA BAULE

Lofsongur Islande (Fr) is the first scorer produced by a half-sister to the stakes-placed duo Ellerslie Lace (Fr) and Baha Mar (Fr).

A €240,000 purchase by Oceanic Bloodstock at the 2020 Arqana September sale, the Chad Brown trainee Faith In Humanity won Saturday’s GIII Honey Fox S. at Gulfstream Park. The 4-year-old filly is by Ballylinch Stud’s Lope De Vega, also the sire of the Brown-trained Breeder’s Cup winning duo Aunt Pearl (Ire) and Newspaperofrecord (Ire). | Nicole Thomas
Eyes on the prize

The brilliant 2YO who progressed to Royal Ascot and Breeders’ Cup glory

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Maybe it’s to do with a horse being blindfolded at the start, going in early or late, that sort of thing. That needs to be communicated to all of the stalls handlers, who don’t have a lot of English, but the two starters who are out there on a regular basis are a great help in getting the right information across. It’s a huge challenge and it’s not comfortable, I have to say, as I don’t have an English-speaking assistant who is fluent in Arabic. That’s one thing I mentioned to Tom when I was leaving this year that, if we could get someone who could speak both languages going forward, it would be a massive help.

Horses have been a constant in your life. Your late parents enjoyed a lot of success from Moortown House Stud and you are keeping the legacy going.

I don’t think my father ever had more than three mares at one time. He was rooting away at the bargain end of things but I took a big interest when I bought a mare the time I was working down with Dessie Hughes on the Curragh. She was lucky enough for me, in that I got a few quid for the first foals, but I was seeing more and more that you needed a bit of quality to be going to war at the sales. When you are dealing with basement mares, it’s never going to happen for you, so I suggested to my father that we go over to the December Sales at Newmarket and look for something. We spent the three days going around looking at all of these mares with beautiful pedigrees and our mouths were open.

I suppose, back in those days, forty or fifty thousand would get you something decent, but now it wouldn’t get you a ticket in the door. We came across a filly with a great pedigree but she was quite refined and light. Her name was Almaaseh (Ire) and she was a first foal out of Al Bahathri (Blushing Groom {Fr}) by Dancing Brave. Tom Jones had trained her but she wasn’t much good—I think she was third in a four-horse race. She’d a fantastic pedigree and a good friend of my father’s, Joe Clarke, a renowned breeder and vet, had a look at her to see if she’d enough bone to breed from. He felt that she did so we got her bought. Our maximum was forty thousand but Philip Myerscough bid the forty thousand for the mare. Not to be outdone, my father put up the hand and bid one more, and he got her.

And she became a notable breeder for him.

My father had bought a share to Dancing Dissident, who’d just retired to the Irish National Stud and, given they had burned up all their money on the mare, they sent her to him and got a colt foal [Almaty]. They sold him as a yearling and he ended up being the top-rated Irish 2-year-old for Con Collins in 1995. He won the Molecomb S. and another Group 3 at the Curragh—it was enough to make him the highest-rated 2-year-old in Ireland that year. That was the start of it and we subsequently sold some high-priced stock out of the mare. Now, he got foal-shares to some of the best stallions who were standing at that time, but it never really worked out for him. She actually had a Galileo (Ire) filly who died roughly six weeks before what is now Book 1 but was called the Houghton Sale back in those days. As a result of that Galileo filly dying, Coolmore let my father into Oratorio (Ire) at a reduced fee and the resulting colt didn’t make that much money but he turned out to be a good racehorse. He turned out to be Military Attack (Ire) and Amanda Skiffington bought him on behalf of John Hills at the Orby Sale. He won at Ascot and, as a result of that, got sold to Hong Kong for major money. He became a champion out there.
There was another filly out of the mare, Artisia (Ire) (Peintre Celebre), who went to William Muir, and while she wasn't much good as a racemare, she ended up breeding Red Cadeaux (GB) (Cadeaux Genereux [GB]). He was a brilliant globetrotter. Then there was another filly out of the mare, Miss Brown To You (Ire) (Fasliyev), who again was no superstar, but she ended up breeding Big Orange (GB) (Duke Of Marmalade [Ire]).

You retain an interest in the family with Empowermentofwomen (Ire) (Manduro [Ger]).

I bought back into the family through Empowermentofwomen, a half-sister to Big Orange. Bill Gredley bred Big Orange and, a year or two before that horse had come on the scene, I bought the mare. Listen, she hasn’t been that lucky for us in that there was a nice Teofilo (Ire) filly in France who broke her leg the week before she was supposed to run. Tina Rau was the agent who bought that particular filly off me and she told me that she was held in good regard. Noel Meade has had a couple out of the mare, Zoffman (Ire) (Zoffany [Ire]) and Sheishybrid (Ire) (Mastercraftsman [Ire]), and they have won their races. Hopefully, one of them will bag a little bit of black-type this season. We lost a Churchill (Ire) colt out of the mare last year but she has a nice Saxon Warrior (Jpn) yearling this year. All didn’t go according to plan with her foaling this year and, while the foal is alive, it’s an ongoing situation. It’s been a little bit up and down with her so far so, hopefully, we can have a bit more luck with her going forward.

Have you got mating plans done for your mares yet?

Empowermentofwomen could go to Gleneagles (Ire). I think he’s an underestimated sire and gives you a fair chance of getting a black-type horse. He was an exceptional racehorse himself and I think he could represent value. He has had 11 black-type horses and Royal Scotsman (Ire), who is in training with Paul Cole, could be deemed a slightly unlucky loser in the Dewhurst so who’s to say what he might achieve this year. That’s the way we’re thinking anyway but, it’s just in the past few days I started to entertain the idea of something like Sioux Nation or even Magna Grecia (Ire). We have gone back to the drawing board a little bit but it’s in situations like this where you are probably better off going with your gut. I have a daughter of Empowermentofwomen by Cape Cross (Ire) and she is only starting off. She has a very nice Ten Sovereigns (Ire) yearling and is in foal to Gleneagles. She’s going to go to Minzaal (Ire) this year.

What else have you got on the farm?

There are two other mares who I own in partnership with a guy; one is a Shamardal half-sister to Jacqueline Quest (Ire) (Rock Of Gibraltar [Ire]), who won the 1000 Guineas but lost it in the stewards room. She’s been a bit of a slow burner but we have a nice Starspangledbanner (Aus) filly out of her called You Send Me (Ire), who is in training with Fozzy Stack. She ran very well on debut at the Curragh and they think she is quite nice. We’re hoping that she will do okay this year and bring the mare into a different level because she has a nice New Bay (GB) yearling filly this year.
She's in foal to Space Blues (Ire) but is not due to foal until April. The other mare is called Lisanor (GB) and she's by Raven's Pass. We bought all of these fillies out of training and she was owned by Anthony Oppenheimer and in training with John Gosden. She is a lovely-looking filly and cost 26,000gns, which we hoped would represent a bit of value at the time. We bought her the same time that Olympic Glory (Ire) was retired to stud and I liked the idea of a son of Choisir (Aus) so we flew over to Al Shaqab in France to have a look at him. We liked what we saw and the mare to him in her first year and she produced a decent filly in Mintd (Ire). She might not have been your typical sales filly but Willie McCreery loved her and he bought her. She was a smart 2-year-old--finished second to Fairyland (Ire) (Kodiac {GB}), won her maiden at Listowel and finished second to Land Force (Ire) in a listed race at Tipperary. After she finished second to Land Force, Willie got her sold to America, where she won a Grade 3 for Brendan Walsh. Lisanor has had a few foals since and, while they've all won, there are no superstars. She has a Calyx (GB) with Yeomanstown and that is going to the Doncaster breeze-up sale so I am hoping that can do something. She has a nice Lope De Vega foal on the ground and I dropped her down to Starspangledbanner there last week. Obviously, Olympic Glory is by Choisir so we're trying to pick up that link by going to Starspangledbanner. We were very impressed by her Lope De Vega foal so we said we'd take a chance with Starspangledbanner. We also have a daughter of Lisanor by Oasis Dream (GB) who turned out to be disappointing. She ran a few times but never managed to do anything--I think she had a mind of her own. We believe that she had a level of ability and are going to send her to Arizona (Ire) this year. He's by No Nay Never and won his maiden by eight lengths and won the Coventry as well. At a relatively small fee, he should give us a chance.

What is it that drives you?

I suppose I had a little bit of luck from day one. I used to rent a flat off Mrs Cuddy on the Curragh when I was working for Dessie Hughes. Her husband Mick had a good bit of success with fillies who were all trained by Liam Browne. Daness and Ridaness won the Moyglare S. for him in the '70s. When Mrs Cuddy's husband died, she got fed up with the horses and happened to say to me that she wanted to get rid of them. Knowing the pedigrees, I bought one of the mares [Royaltess (GB) (Royal And Regal)] off her for five thousand and sent her to Fairy King. Her first foal [Makbul (Ire)] was very nice and I brought him to Goffs that November. I'll never forget, Philip Myerscough came down to look at the foal and he was very impressed with him. About a half an hour later, he comes down with another gentleman, none other than Vincent O'Brien! Well, Vincent spent 20 minutes looking at this foal. He gave him an awful lot of time.
They bought the foal for €18,000. For me, it was like winning the lotto. I bought the mare for five, spent the same on the nomination and had eight grand left over. I was addicted after that.

That’s a dream start.

It planted the seed firmly in my mind. Around the same time, we bought a mare [Chaturanga (GB) (Night Shift)] from the Godolphin dispersal, a mare out of Game Plan, who was second in the Oaks. Game Plan was a half-sister to Shahtoush (Ire) (Alzao), who went on and won the Oaks a couple of years later. The best Chaturanga bred was probably Mooretown Lady (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}), who was very temperamental but had loads of ability. I sold her to a friend of mine, Michael Smith, who still has her today and, while she wasn’t a successful broodmare, she did breed a good broodmare by Fastnet Rock (Aus) called Fastnet Lady (Ire). Michael has bred I Am Superman (Footstepsinthesand (GB)) and Fastnet Crown (Hallowed Crown {Aus}) out of that mare. It’s hard to breed any sort of a winner and then to get a black-type winner, it’s not an easy thing to do. When you do achieve it, you really have to enjoy it, and it gives you huge confidence going forward because you think that, if you’ve done it once, you can do it again, and maybe even at a higher level. I spend ages on the matings plans for the few mares I have. You’d swear I have hundreds of them! You just lose hours and hours going through pedigrees to see what might work and what is coming through. It’s a real passion.

And what would be your aim when you set out about choosing a stallion?

The first thing I try to do is find a horse who I think will be popular at the yearling sales. Now, that’s 2 ½ years down the line and a lot of things can change after you cover your mare. Obviously you try to eliminate as many risks as possible. I suppose, by going to a proven sire, it gives you a good chance of getting a racehorse on the ground.

The thing about that is, the proven sire is normally pretty expensive so, for a lesser mare, it doesn’t justify spending that sort of money. I try to find something that has got off to a good start and, hopefully, it can build on it. For us, it’s a balancing act. You need to try and make money out of it but you also want to try and breed a horse of some note. The first-season sire is a safe bet in that nobody knows what they are going to be like and they can’t judge them apart from the fact that their foals or yearlings are nice because they haven’t done it on the track. If in general they are nice, and the pinhookers latch onto them, that’s normally the first hurdle crossed. There are other sires that you can get at good value in their third year but it’s a very tricky year because, if their first 2-year-olds are no good, your foal is written off before it arrives on the ground. That can be rather sickening. But, equally, if they are successful, and for example we took a chance on Saxon Warrior last year, it can work out well. Obviously, in the case of Saxon Warrior, his fee has jumped up dramatically off the back of the success he enjoyed with his 2-year-olds. But it’s a gamble and the whole thing is a gamble. Breeding horses is a gamble.

What would your main philosophy be?

I like a stallion with a bit of quality, a good mover, but he doesn’t have to be an extravagant mover. The majority of horses, they’re not the best walkers in the world, but they are good racehorses and you see that when they come out of training and retire to stud. You like to see a horse with movement. At the same time, I’m not looking for a horse with a big lopy walk because that’s nearly a sign that they are a bit on the slow side. You see all these big bumper and maiden hurdle horses and they’d walk for Ireland but sure they’d be as slow as a boat. A nice athletic horse with a good shape, good back end, good hip and nice short cannons with a good quality head. That’s what I like. I also like them to be Group 1 winners. Indian Ridge (Ire) had no pedigree at all and he turned out to be a very good sire so there’s always an outlier but I like using horses who were Group 1 winners themselves.
And I was interested to learn that you consign all of your own horses as well as breeding them.

Having a nice foal or yearling, it gives me great satisfaction working with that horse and bringing it along. Even if it’s not the best model in the world, I would try and have it looking better than anyone else’s going to the sales and we have always been complimented by how well our animals look at the sales. I’d go overboard and try and have a skin on them that you’d nearly shave through. Pristine condition. I get great satisfaction out of preparing them like that and, while a lot of people like to use a big name, at the end of the day, the majority of the horses the big consignors bring to the sales are prepared by the owner. Some are done poorly and some exceptionally well but, for whatever reason, they like to use these people to consign their horses. I’m not saying these consignors don’t do a good job, because they do an exceptional job, but I do all the hard work with these horses and I know their quirks or their personalities so it doesn’t make sense for me to hand it over to a big name for the sale after doing the majority of the work the whole way through.

You clearly have a huge passion for it all.

Some people are interested in golf or whatever but breeding is what fascinates me. Another reason why we like consigning our own horses is because we like to promote Moortown House Stud and I think we have done. I get tremendous satisfaction out of it. The other thing is, if you do it yourself and something goes wrong, well then you can blame nobody other than yourself. I spent a little time working with the big consignors in America when I was younger and learned the right way to show a horse. It’s all about presentation. Again, if you’re handing it over to someone else, you’d be looking on from the sidelines. That would drive me mad. One thing that I love about the sales, you get to meet new people the whole time, depending where you are stationed around the complex. We’ve become great friends with some of the people we have been stationed beside and there’s a great social element to the thing. The buzz when you have a good foal or a yearling, it happened us a few years ago when we had a foal who got 15 vets, and we barely had time to eat all day. You’re just completely revved up over the potential of what might happen. That doesn’t happen very often so it’s a great place to be when it goes well. But it wouldn’t be possible without the help of my wife Edel who does a lot of the hard work at home while I am working at the races. I get to do a lot of work in the mornings but Edel is with them most days and it’s very much a joint effort.

Recent Lingfield maiden winner **Nasser (Ire)** (New Bay {GB}) has been added as a wildcard for the Tattersalls Online March Sale, which will take place from Mar. 8-9. The digital auction will offer 28 lots and includes 17 horses in/out of training, three mares, six 2-year-olds and two point-to-pointers.

Consigned by George Boughey’s Saffron House Stables, Naaser won in just his second start on Mar. 1 by a dominating 3 3/4 lengths. The gelding is out of L’Ambre Gris (Ire) (Iffraaj {GB}), a half-sister to dual Group 3 winner Fontanelice (Ire) (Vale of York {Ire}) and from a top-class international family that includes Japanese Grade 1 performers That’s the Plenty (Jpn) (Dance in the Dark (Jpn)) and Shonan Achieve (Jpn) (Shonan Kampf {Jpn}), Champion Japanese 2-year-old Shonan Peintre (Jpn) (Sunday Silence) and U.S. Grade I performers Flip Flop (Fr) (Zieten) and Qurbaan (Speightstown).

Details of all available lots can be found at Tattersalls Online.
CHARITY RAISES MONEY THROUGH NAMESAKE

The Little Edi Foundation, the Chelmsford-based charity named after the Richard Spencer-trained Little Edi (GB) (Rajasinghe), collected €3,000 after the 3-year-old gelding won the Unibet Support Safer Gambling H. by a 1 3/4 length at Kempton Park on Feb. 22. Last year, Little Edi raised over €10,000 for the charity, which included a novice contest at Chepstow on Aug. 29 under Group 1-winning rider Hollie Doyle. Owner Phil Cunningham, who donates every penny the gelding earns from his share of the prize money to the foundation hopes this is the start of another successful campaign.

“The charity have a little annual get together and last year we gave them a cheque for just under €11,000, so I’m delighted that the horse has been able to win a few thousand pounds more for the kids the charity helps support,” said Cunningham.

Set up in 2016 by Tess Griggs, the Little Edi Foundation aims to help disadvantaged young people through the distribution of aid including fresh food, school uniforms and the opportunity to attend things like summer events that are run during the school holidays.

“We call him the little horse with the heart of a lion and, hopefully, he is not done yet winning prize money,” said the owner.

Click here, for further information about the charity.

FRANCE

Sunday’s Results:
5th-Pornichet-La Baule, €21,000, Mdn, 3-5, 3yo, f, 10 1/2 (AWT), 2:11.62, st. LOFSONGUR ISLANDE (FR) (f, 3, Zarak (Fr)--Irlanda (Ire), by Dansili (GB)) raced along the rail behind the leaders in fourth for most of this unveiling. Angled outside for a clear passage off the home turn, the 36-5 chance quickened to go second entering the final furlong and powered clear in hand once hitting the front with 100 metres remaining to easily outclass Dschingis Grace (Fr) (Dschingis Secret (Ger)) by an impressive 4 1/2 lengths. Lofsongur Islande is the latest of three foals and first scorer produced by a half-sister to the stakes-placed duo Ellerslie Lace (Fr) (Siyouni (Fr)) and Baha Mar (Fr) (Siyouni (Fr)). The March-foaled homebred bay’s second dam Indiana Wells (Fr) (Sadler’s Wells) is a half-sister to G1 Prix Jean Prat-winning sire Turtle Bowl (Ire) (Dhyim Diamond (Ire)), GSW G1 Grand Prix de Paris and G1 Gold Cup runner-up Age Of Aquarius (Ire) (Galileo (Ire)), MGSW GI Flower Bowl Invitational second Turtle Bow (Fr) (Turtle Island (Ire)) and the dual stakes-placed Whitton Court (Ire) (Cardoun (Fr)). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €10,500. Video, sponsored by TVG.

O/B-Berend van Dalfsen (FR); T-Mathieu Brasme.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:
4th-Pornichet-La Baule, €22,000, Cond, 3-5, 3yo, 8 1/2f (AWT), 1:43.69, st. JANARA (FR) (f, 3, Oasis Dream (GB)--Turaya (GB), by Teofilo (Ire)) Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-1, €21,400. O-Nurlan Bizakov; B-Sumbe (FR); T-Stephane Wattel.

French results cont. p9

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DUKE WAI SEEKS DUBAI PASSAGE

Duke Wai (NZ) (Per Incanto)’s victory in the Devon H. at Sha Tin Sunday could trigger a start in the G1 Al Quoz Sprint on the Dubai World Cup undercard, trainer Pierre Ng confirmed following the race.

“If we get an invitation from Dubai, we’ll go to Dubai. I would love to see him run in a straight 1200m race because, in the past, he’s run very well in straight 1000m races here, but there’s no straight 1200m races here,” Ng said of the 7-year-old, who took his career earnings to beyond HK$18 million with his ninth career win. “If he doesn’t [go to Japan], we’ll go through the motions again, going for the Group 2 and the Group 1 races here because he wasn’t invited to Japan.”

In the Devon H. given an uncomplicated run from barrier one under Jerry Chau, Duke Wai claimed leader Nervous Witness (Aus) (Star Witness {Aus}) in the last 100m before fending off Courier Wonder (NZ) (Sacred Falls {NZ}) to win by half a length.

“He got the inside draw this time. Jerry knows him well. He just had to wake him up in the early stages and let him travel. Around the bend until the 300m, he was travelling quite strongly, and he finished off very well. After the race, Jerry told me Courier Wonder was never going to get past him,” Ng said.

In the Al Quoz Sprint, the veteran turf sprinter might clash with fellow Hong Kong speedsters Sky Field (Aus) (Deep Field {Aus}) and Sight Success (Aus) (Magnus {Aus}).

Swiss Money (Fr), g, 3, Anodin (Ire)--Love Money (Fr), by Muhtathir (GB). Pornichet-La Baule, 3-5, 10 1/2f (AWT), 2:12:01. B-Ecurie des Monnaies & Yann Barberot (FR).

Makanao (GB), c, 3, Postponed (Ire)--Maywish (Fr), by Soldier Of Fortune (Ire). Hyeres, 3-5, 12 1/2fT, 2:47:15. B-Mme Waltraut Spanner (GB). *€45,000 RNA Ylg `21 ARQOCT.

La Pelemoise (Fr), f, 4, Magneticijim (Ire)--Meshadora Pelem (Fr), by Meshaheer. Pornichet-La Baule, 3-5, 8 1/2f (AWT), 1:40:01. B-Joel Juillet, Mme Fanny Gregoire Juillet (FR).

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In the Al Quoz Sprint, the veteran turf sprinter might clash with fellow Hong Kong speedsters Sky Field (Aus) (Deep Field {Aus}) and Sight Success (Aus) (Magnus {Aus}).
$1.1 MILLION Vinnie Filly Tops Inglis Premier

Lot 159, I Am Invincible--Special Lover (NZ) (Pins) filly--$1,100,000

The opening day of the 2023 Inglis Premier Yearling Sale produced a slice of history as Lot 159 became the highest-priced yearling filly ever sold at Oaklands Junction.

by Richard Edmunds

At A Glance:
• The aggregate for Day 1 (as at 7pm AEDT) was $26,375,000. Last year's Day 1 figure finished up at $33,745,000, while in 2021, it was $29,120,500.
• The clearance rate of 76% was down on the remarkable 90% in 2022 (82% at day's end) and the 89% in 2021. It is expected the aggregate and clearance rate will continue to lift as passed in lots are sold.
• The average price of $142,568 was below last year’s figure of $156,227, but above 2021 ($140,002).
• The Day 1 median was $110,000, which is less than last year ($130,000), but the same as 2021.
• The top lot on Day 1 was a filly by I Am Invincible from the stakes performer Special Lover (NZ) (Pins), consigned by Noorilim Park and bought by TFI. She is the equal-second highest price ever and the most expensive filly sold at Inglis Premier.
• The top-priced colt was an Exceed And Excel sold by B2B Thoroughbreds from stakes-winning mare Scarlet Billows (Street Boss {USA}), purchased by China Horse Club, Newgate, Go Bloodstock and Trilogy for $600,000.
• Not surprisingly, I Am Invincible was the leading sire, with all 10 of his yearlings selling for an aggregate of $3,680,000 (an average of $368,000).

• TFI’s $1.1 million purchase of Lot 159 makes them the leading buyer. Mick Price Racing and Breeding spent $980,000 on five yearlings, while Clinton McDonald Racing spent $720,000 on four yearlings.
• Yulong is the leading vendor by aggregate after they sold 13 yearlings on Day 1 for a combined $2,620,000.

The Inglis Premier Yearling Sale broke new ground when it kicked off in Melbourne on Sunday afternoon, with a daughter of I Am Invincible becoming the first filly in the history of the sale to fetch more than $1 million.

Inglis Bloodstock CEO Sebastian Hutch said some of the horses offered on Day 1 were of the highest quality. He singled out the Day 1 sale-topper, the $1.1 million filly by I Am Invincible out of Special Lover (NZ) (Pins), saying she wouldn’t have been out of place at the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale.

“She’s a pretty special filly and sold accordingly,” Hutch said. “There was tremendous competition on her. We’re also grateful for the support of the sale by Mr Zhang and the team at Yulong. There’s a fantastic appetite for those quality fillies, so we expect them to sell well and they did.”

Lot 159, I Am Invincible x Special Lover (NZ), filly--$1,100,000

TFI's $1.1 million purchase of Lot 159 makes them the leading buyer. Mick Price Racing and Breeding spent $980,000 on five yearlings, while Clinton McDonald Racing spent $720,000 on four yearlings.

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Lot 159, I Am Invincible x Special Lover (NZ), filly--$1,100,000

The opening day of the 2023 Inglis Premier Yearling Sale produced a slice of history as Lot 159 became the highest-priced yearling filly ever sold at Oaklands Junction.
Offered by Noorilim Park, the daughter of I Am Invincible was sold to Tony Fung Investments, who secured the filly with a single knockout bid of $1.1 million.

“We had only one bid and waited right till the end,” Tony Fung Investments’ racing and bloodstock manager Sally Williams said. “We were debating, and I said, ‘If this filly was in the Easter Sale, we’d be paying more for her.’ She’d be a standout anywhere she went, and she was kind of a must-have. We love her, and we’re delighted to have her.

“Mr Fung thinks it’s very important to buy fillies like this with serious pedigrees to add to the racing team. We’re having a great season with our 2-year-old fillies, and the Fung family are getting a lot of enjoyment out of it.

“This filly is everything we look for with sensational looks, by a champion stallion, a world-class pedigree, and she looks sure to be up and winning early. I’d like to think she’ll be our Slipper filly for next year.”

Sunday’s sale-topping filly is out of the stakes-placed mare Special Lover (NZ) (Pins), which makes her a half-sister to G3 Blue Diamond Preview (Fillies) winner Miss Roseiano (Exceed And Excel).

“The pedigree goes back to Eight Carat, and this is one of the best families in the Australian Stud Book,” Williams said. “Fillies like this don’t come along all that often. She’s a collector’s item, and we can’t wait to race her.”

Lot 210, I Am Invincible x Unforgotten, filly--$650,000

Three years after paying $2.75 million to add G1 Australian Oaks winner Unforgotten (Fastnet Rock) to their broodmare band, Yulong reaped the rewards on Sunday with one of the highest-priced fillies of the Premier Sale’s opening day.

Unforgotten’s yearling filly by I Am Invincible—her first foal—was knocked down to Sheamus Mills Bloodstock (FBAA) for $650,000.

“We’re very excited, and particularly to have someone like Sheamus Mills purchase her,” said Harry King from Yulong’s sales and marketing team.

“We purchased the mare for $2.7 million, so when you’re playing with that sort of money, you need these results to come back. We’re just thrilled with this result.

“Every horse that we offer is one that we would race ourselves, but we’d have too many horses if we kept them all. We’re keen to get them out to different stables and different parts of the country. When you’re offered this sort of amount of money for a quality filly, you’re always going to be pretty keen to take it.”

Unforgotten herself was bought for NZ$360,000 as a yearling at the 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Karaka Yearling Sale. Her impressive racetrack credentials would have made this filly a prized addition to any catalogue in this year’s sale season, but Yulong were more than happy to offer her in Melbourne.

“She could have gone to any sale,” King said. “We don’t have an Easter draft this year, but we’ve offered plenty of horses here that could have made the Easter Sale.

“In this day and age, the world’s getting smaller, and particularly the bloodstock world. When you offer a quality filly or colt anywhere, the buyers will come. We’ve seen that today with the results of the Premier Sale – they are Easter results. So we’re very keen on this sale, and we’re fortunate that it’s only an hour and a half from the farm.”

Lot 105, Exceed And Excel--Scarlet Billows (Street Boss) colt | Inglis

Lot 105, Exceed And Excel x Scarlet Billows, colt--$600,000

B2B Thoroughbreds equalled their personal best with Sunday’s $600,000 price-tag for a colt they had always seen as a clear standout among their 2023 Premier Sale draft.

Bought by the China Horse Club, Newgate, Go Bloodstock and Trilogy Bloodstock, the Exceed And Excel colt fetched the same price as a Fastnet Rock filly that B2B Thoroughbreds sold to Cambridge Stud at last year’s Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale.

“It’s unreal, very surreal,” B2B owner Ricky Surace said. “We put in so much work, sending our mares to these really good stallions, and we’ve spent five years building up a good broodmare band, so this means the world to us.”

The dam of Lot 105 is Scarlet Billows (Street Boss (USA)), who won the G3 Hong Kong Jockey Club S. at Flemington and whose first foal to race is the Group 2-placed Glenegales (Capitalist).

“This is a fantastic colt, and all of the right judges were on him today, which was extremely lucky,” Surace said. Cont. p3
“But, you know what, he’s been an outstanding colt since the moment he was born. “I’m not going to say that we expected that much money, but we did know that he was very popular. Just a big thank you to Henry Field and his team. Hopefully he can be a star on the racetrack.”

**Lot 27, I Am Invincible x Petty Cury, colt--$500,000**

Anthony Mithen secured a well-related new recruit for the Rosemont Alliance with his $500,000 purchase of Lot 27 from the draft of Yarraman Park Stud.

The I Am Invincible colt is out of the Group 3-winning mare Petty Cury (Not A Single Doubt), whose four foals to race have all been winners. The most significant of those is Solar Star (Zoustar), the winner of eight races up to Listed level. “This is a lovely colt that ticked the boxes for what we were looking for with the Rosemont Alliance,” said Mithen, who bought the colt in partnership with Suman Hedge Bloodstock (FBAA) and Moody Racing. “We’re a big fan of the stallion and a shareholder in the stallion. And when he grows up at a great farm and gets presented in great fashion, you hit the ‘go’ button.

“That price was about where we had him pegged. I don’t know that we had that much more to go on – we want to save some bickies for Easter – but we always said that if we found a nice colt in Melbourne, we wouldn’t be afraid to have a play here, because it’s been such a successful sale over many years.

“We’ve always got to play the statistics in this game. With I Am Invincible, the Melbourne sale, a good farm, a good family and a nice horse, we’ve got quite a few boxes ticked.

“It was interesting looking at him parade – you wouldn’t pick that he’d be a November foal, which I think is a good thing. I can’t wait to see him once he’s gone through the breaking process and we get to April and May. He’ll be a lovely horse. Although he is a November foal, he still might be a chance to be an early horse, by the look of him and by his disposition.

“Moods (Peter Moody) liked the horse as well. You often swap a few notes on the phone, and we landed on this horse. We said, ‘Well, listen, we may as well do this together, rather than two bulls banging heads in the paddock.’ We’ll save that for our podcast, rather than the sale ring.”