HANDLE FALLS SHARPLY AGAIN IN FEBRUARY... WHAT’S GOING ON?

The Week in Review, by Bill Finley

Figures released last week by Equibase showed that U.S. handle declined by 5.21% in February. This comes after handle declined by 7.19% in January. For the year, that's a drop off of 6.22% and, if those numbers hold up throughout the year, total handle will be off by $750 million and the year-over-year percentage decline will be the worst the sport has suffered since 2010.

And it's not just that racing has gotten off to a slow, reversible start this year when it comes to wagering. Whatever is going on, it started in October. Handle was up 2.68% in September and up 1.78% through the third quarter of 2022. Then the numbers took off in another direction and they haven't stopped falling since. Handle was off 4.93% in October, 4.47% in November and 7.52% in December.

Taking a look at the usual factors that affect handle doesn't yield any obvious answers. The average field size so far this year has been 7.66 horses per race, almost identical to the 2022 number, which was 7.67. The total number of races run has actually gone up, from 4,345 to 4,508. But the average amount wagered per racing day is off 8.35%.

Cont. p3

ARABIAN KNIGHT OUT OF DERBY CONSIDERATION

Arabian Knight (Uncle Mo) has been withdrawn from consideration for the GI Kentucky Derby, according to a statement tweeted by the colt's owner, Zedan Racing, Saturday night. The statement read, "Arabian Knight is no longer under consideration for the KY Derby. Trainer Tim Yakteen wasn't happy with his last work and we feel it's in Arabian Knight's best interest not to rush and allow him more time to develop. We know he's a superior talent and our plan is to point him toward a summer and fall campaign."

Purchased for $2.3 million at last year's OBS April sale, Arabian Knight debuted with a 'TDN Rising Star'-worthy performance at Keeneland last November. He returned this year to win the Jan. 28 GIII Southwest S. by 5 1/2 lengths for trainer Bob Baffert. He was transferred to Yakteen's barn following that effort and most recently worked six furlongs in 1:13.60 (3/4) at Santa Anita Mar. 9.

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

A CLOSER LOOK AT KATIE WALSH

Katie Walsh on everything from selling big-money breeze-up horses to the heady days at the Cheltenham Festival
Pierre Jean Amestoy, Jr. and his wife Leslie are dreaming of a trip to the GI Kentucky Derby following Practical Move (Practical Joke)’s win in the GII San Felipe S.

After coming close three times last year, Hunter Valley Farm got its first Grade I win when A Mo Reay (Uncle Mo) got her head in front on the line in the GI Beholder Mile Saturday.

Ballet Dancing (Medaglia d’Oro) proved much the best when stretched to 1 1/4 miles in the GII Santa Ana S. Sunday.
The Week in Review (cont. from p1)

This is a mystery not easily solved, but the best guess is that it has something to do with the amount being bet by the Computer Assisted Wagering (CAW) players who received huge rebates from betting outlets like Elite Turf Club, which caters to the biggest bettors in the world. Had something happened to impact the amount they wager that would explain the recent declines?

Maury Wolff, who was a professional horseplayer before retiring and studies betting trends, speculated that some tracks may have raised the host fees they charge Elite and other ADWs. The signal fee is the percentage of every dollar of handle that an ADW or simulcast outlet must pay the host track for the right to wager on that track’s races. If host fees go up, the rebates the ADW can offer its players will likely have to drop. A smaller rebate would lead to a CAW player betting less. Information on how much is bet at places like Elite and how much they pay in host fees is a carefully guarded secret.

"There is a possible explanation, but you’ll never get to the bottom of it," Wolff said. "What are racetracks doing when it comes to signal fees? An unreal amount of the total amount bet is driven by Elite and if there have been changes to signal fees, that would reduce handle at Elite. Have signal fees gone up to the shops, and when you are talking about the shops you are talking about Elite? I would be very suspicious of that. They are so much the driver now. Anything that affects them is going to be an earthquake to the business. That strikes me as a possibility."

But Wolff admitted that his theory amounts to only an educated guess.

“But these are suspicions and suspicions are not facts,” he said. What’s the answer? We’re not sure. Neither were a handful of other experts I consulted. But this is something to keep an eye on. One of the good news stories in racing over the last few years is that handle has more than held its own and done so despite the advent of legalized sports betting outside of Nevada. Handle was up by 11.8% in 2021 and, despite the decline over the last three months, down less than 1% in 2022. It looks like that’s not going to be the case in 2023, which is off to an inauspicious start.

Why You Should Bet on Hawthorne

It’s not easy being Hawthorne Race Course. Though a casino is on its way, as of now, they get no additional funding from slots, etc., and offer purses that are far lower than those found at the top-tier tracks. Because they are obligated to run a harness meet, Hawthorne can offer only a 68-day Thoroughbred meet that ends Sept. 3. Illinois racing misses Arlington Park.
But you can’t say that Hawthorne isn’t trying. Hoping to attract more business at the current meet, which began Mar. 5, the takeout on win, place and show bets has been slashed to 12%. When it comes to straight wagers, there’s no better deal in the sport.

“You have to be aggressive with takeout sometimes,” said Hawthorne Racing Analyst Jim Miller. “Minor drops are always welcome, but we wanted to be really aggressive. Our takeout in the past on these wagers was 17%, so to drop five percentage points to 12% is very significant. We wanted to make a splash and we want to put out a product that people will want to bet on. We want people to focus on our races. We know handle will have to increase to cover what we are losing in commissions with the lower takeout, but in first couple of days of racing we have seen that handle has increased and we are hopeful we will have a very good year.”

Hawthorne is also thinking out of the box when it comes to its racing schedule. They will not race on Saturdays in March, April or May, going with a two-day week that includes racing only on Thursdays and Sundays.

“What we’re doing is smart,” Miller said. “Here’s a great example. Normally, our opening day would have been last Saturday. That happened to be the same day that you had three major racetracks with Derby preps and three or four other stakes on the card. These are great circuits that people want to watch. You want to see what’s going on at Aqueduct, Gulfstream, Santa Anita. We knew that if we threw our card out on that day, we wouldn’t handle anymore than $600,000. By shifting that card to Thursday, we handled $1.2 million and that’s because there’s not as much competition and there is more exposure.”
Miller continued, “We want to put our product out there where the gamblers can see it and see all that we have to offer and see that we are offering a 12% takeout on win, place and show wagers.”

For good reason, horseplayers love to complain about how high the takeout is in racing. The best way to fight back is to support tracks like Hawthorne when they go out of their way to offer the customer a better deal.

**Tapit Trice Did Just Fine in the Tampa Bay Derby**

Perhaps you were expecting Tapit Trice (Tapit) to win the GII Tampa Bay Derby in a cakewalk. The expectations were high for the grey 3-year-old and they should have been. By Tapit, trained by Todd Pletcher and a $1.3-million yearling purchase at Keeneland September, he forced his way into the conversation for the GI Kentucky Derby with an impressive eight-length win in an allowance race at Gulfstream. He was sent off at 1-2 in the Tampa Bay Derby for a reason, because he looked much better than everyone else on paper.

But nothing came easily for Tapit Trice in his two-length win. He was 11th of 12 down the backstretch and looked beaten when he was still ninth on the far turn and was being hard ridden by Luis Saez. But he kept grinding away and managed to draw clear in the final sixteenth. His Beyer figure, an 88, was nothing to get excited about.

Was his Tampa Bay Derby performance good enough to win the Derby? No. But that doesn’t mean he can’t win the Derby. At Tampa, he ran like a horse who is still figuring things out. There’s one more race to go, the GI Toyota Blue Grass S., and eight weeks to go before he’ll get into the starting gate for the Derby for the Hall of Famer Pletcher. Look for a better, more focused horse next time. He should be fine.

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1st Florida Derby [G1], 1½m, by 4¾ lengths
Three of the previous four winners finished first in the Kentucky Derby on their next start
1st Holy Bull Stakes [G3], 1½m, by 3 lengths
2nd Kentucky Derby [G1], 1½m on September 5th
Tiz The Law was the shortest-priced Derby favorite since Spectacular Bid in 1979 despite drawing post 17

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"It was disappointing after he won the Florida Derby not having the Kentucky Derby five weeks later. Barclay had him ready to peak on the first Saturday in May."

Owner Jack Knowlton of Sackatoga Stable
The weekend also included a big win by GI Kentucky Oaks winner Secret Oath (Arrogate) in the GII Azeri S. at Oaklawn. Beating a quality filly in Clairiere (Curlin) by 2 3/4 lengths, she couldn’t have looked better. It was her first win since the Oaks.

Before the race, trainer Wayne Lukas said his goal for the year was to win an Eclipse Award with Secret Oath. With Nest (Curlin), last year’s 3-year-old filly champion, back for another year, that won’t be easy. But Secret Oath could not have gotten the year off to a better start.

OBS GRAD PRACTICAL MOVE LOOKING FOR ROSES by Christina Bossinakis

Pierre Jean Amestoy, Jr. has never been to the Kentucky Derby. Not even as a spectator. However, the 2023 renewal may very well change that fact after Practical Move (Practical Joke), who he owns in partnership with his wife Leslie and Roger Beasley, stamped himself a major Classic contender with a victory in the Mar. 4 GII San Felipe S. at Santa Anita.

“My wife and I were very emotional after the win,” said Pierre Amestoy. “It was phenomenal. It was exhilarating. We’re just elated.”

“I guess we’re heading to the Kentucky Derby!” he added with a laugh.

The silver-tailed Practical Move streaking to a win in the GII San Felipe S. | Benoit

Adding some dramatic flavor to the story, the Amestoys trainer, Tim Yakteen, had just taken over several of Bob Baffert’s Classic contenders, including three colts that would make it into the San Felipe line-up on race day.

Was Amestoy worried?

“It was all about the trip,” he said. “As long as we didn’t get stopped, or bumped or fall down out of the gate. It was more about something silly happening rather than fearing any of the other horses.”
He added, “Tim told us that this horse has been maturing and coming along, getting stronger and better. We were really confident in our horse going into the race.

“He will point him toward the [Apr. 8 GI] Santa Anita Derby, that is the right progression. Hopefully, everything goes good there and then on to the Kentucky Derby. And if we can get a good trip there and get up to the top third of the pack, then I think we have a real chance. I think our style has been working and I think it often works in the Kentucky Derby, too.”

Coming up Aces in the First Sales Foray

Up until last year, the Amestoys bred their own state-foaled runners at their five-acre farm in Albuquerque, New Mexico. However, once they determined they wanted to dive into the 2-year-olds in training sales scene, and branch out beyond the New Mexico racing scene, it didn't take long to hit paydirt.

Teaming up with Beasley last spring at the OBS Spring Sale, the Amestoys extended to $230,000 for the son of Practical Joke, who was represented by his first 3-year-olds in 2022. The final price represented the second highest-priced offspring by his sire at that venue. Offered as Hip 97 by Eisaman Equine, the Apr. 30 foal covered an eighth of a mile in :10 1/5 during the breeze show.

“That was the only box we could not check,” Amestoy said of the late foaling date. “We much would have preferred to have had a Feb. 30 colt than an April foal. But physically, he didn’t look behind. Yes, it was a concern at first, but Tim said, ‘let him take us there.’ If we needed to, we were prepared to back off and wait. We let him tell us.” Extolling the colt's virtues, Amestoy continued, “He was never undersized and we could see the maturity in him even at that point. He was big enough, he had enough bone and a great foot. He had the scope and the walk. Most importantly, he had the mentality. We went and saw him every day we were there. We watched him and we thought there would be room to improve being that he was young.”
Adding some nuance to the colt's page, New York-based Ack Naughty had amassed over $300,000 during her racing career while competing mainly on the turf for Sol Kumin and partners and trainer Chad Brown, who had Practical Joke in the barn at the same time. Later combining their resources when both sire and dam had retired, Brown and Kumin are registered as the colt’s breeders.

After producing a Complexity colt in 2022, Ack Naughty sold for $500,000 at this year’s Keeneland January sale, however, the foal she was carrying at the time was stillborn. Practical Move is from the family of champion Vino Rosso.

“We liked his sire because he was a speed sire,” he said. “He was a good miler and a three-time Grade I winner and by one of the hottest horses in the world, Into Mischief. So the top side was strong. On the bottom, we liked that the mare was stakes placed and earned over $300,000. She is by Afleet Alex, so there was distance there. We were hoping that the top side would bring the speed and the bottom side the stamina. So this time, it looks like it worked out.”

Once hitting the racetrack, Practical Move showed talent early, finishing second behind the Bob Baffert-trained Cave Rock (Arrogate)—a subsequent dual Grade I winner—going 6 1/2 furlongs in his debut at Del Mar before finishing third next time over that same track and distance.

Second under the wire, but later promoted to first after the disqualification of Baffert trainee Fort Bragg (Tapit), while stretching to a mile at Santa Anita last October, he was third behind two more Baffert runners—Havnameltdown (Uncaptured) and Newgate (Into Mischief)—in the seven-panel GII Bob Hope S. at Del Mar Nov. 20. Given one more start at two, the bay proved an easy winner of the 1 1/16-mile GII Los Alamitos Futurity Dec. 17.

“After the Los Alamitos Futurity we gave him a little time off, and he actually blossomed over that time,” said Amestoy. “He put on 45 pounds and he kept it. He is all muscle and has turned into an absolute specimen.”

“We’ve always been Thoroughbred people”

Following their latest win, much has been made of the Amestoy’s involvement in Quarter Horse racing. Indeed, they have held a significant stake in the Quarter Horse industry over the past two decades, having campaigned the likes of champions First to Flash (2002) and First Moonflash (2009). However, Amestoy is quick to point out that Thoroughbreds were always the main attraction.

“Even when my wife trained in the ’70s and ’80s, she trained Thoroughbreds. And even today, we probably have 3 to 1 more Thoroughbreds than Quarter Horses,” said Amestoy.
He continued, "We have done very well in the Quarter Horse industry. We’ve had two champions, lots of graded and Grade I wins, but Thoroughbreds have always been our first play."

Explaining the decision to venture into Quarter Horses over a decade ago, he explained, "When you race in New Mexico, there is a lot of Quarter Horse racing. So even though we were winning Thoroughbred races in New Mexico, there were still four to five races a day for Quarter Horses. So, we thought, 'Heck, why don't we play in there?' There are a lot of races and money we can be playing for and it's right at home."

Following the Amestoys marriage in 1988, the couple purchased Lobo Farm in Paris, Kentucky, while choosing to reside in New Mexico, where Pierre operated his construction and development company.

“We stood stallions, had broodmares and pinhooked yearlings, we just about did it all,” Amestoy said of his Kentucky-based operation.

Despite all their success with Quarter Horses, it was their Thoroughbred operation that yielded one of the couple’s biggest coups in either industry. In 2008, Irish Cherry (Irish Open) sold for $2.7 million at the Keeneland January sale. Sold in partnership with Mike Abraham, the then 14-year-old mare was best known for producing MGISW Spun Sugar and GSW Daaher.

“We bought Irish Cherry in foal to Storm Cat [for $800,000 at KEENOV in 2006] and we bred her back to Ghostzapper. We had a very nice pinhook there. We did very well at the sales. We also sold several high-dollar yearlings in Kentucky as well,” Amestoy said.

After selling Lobo Farm in 2011, the Amestoys opted to focus on their Quarter Horse operation as well as their small group of New Mexico-based Thoroughbred mares, usually numbering about five to six. The resulting yearlings were sent to the Amestoys' training center next to Sunland Park, and from there, the youngsters would either go to the sales or remain in training with the Amestoys' New Mexico-based trainer, Todd Fincher.

When asked why much of the post San Felipe news led with the narrative describing the Amestoys as 'Quarter Horse owners,' he said, "We had the farm in Kentucky for 12 years. We bred there, we raced there. We've done it all there. We have a substantial background with Thoroughbreds. It's probably because this is the first time that we got to this level [in Thoroughbred racing]. But we've been doing this a long time and have been good at it."

**Sales Savvy**

While all roads lead to Thoroughbreds, the Amestoys most important Thoroughbred to date was derived through a connection made via their Quarter Horse dealings. And that important alliance spearheaded the decision to take a swing at the Thoroughbred sales in search of a Classic horse.

"After we sold our farm, we concentrated on racing in New Mexico because the purses were very good. That's when I met my current partner, Roger Beasley, through a mutual friend and we bought some Quarter Horses together. We did really well together. [Early last year, we were just talking and [Beasley] said, 'Pierre, why don't we get a couple of Thoroughbreds and let's try and go for the big races.' So I said, 'I have the experience and I'll do the work.' There was a sale coming up in Florida and Leslie and I said we would go down for a week and find a couple."

And the venture proved fruitful. "We went out there, and found Practical Move and we found another, Blessed Touch [Girvin], who ran third [in the GII Santa Ysabel S.] last Sunday."

The $140,000 OBS Spring buy, who won second time out at Santa Anita last October, subsequently finished runner-up in the Desi Arnaz S., in November. Additionally, the partnership purchased a colt by Valiant Minister for $38,000 and, in conjunction with Mike Abraham, secured a $50,000 colt by Munnings, who had been slated to run on the San Felipe undercard and was scratched because of a minor issue, but is expected to return.

“He appears to have some talent,” Amestoy said of the Munnings colt.

While breeding to race had been the Amestoys' M.O. for much of their past involvement in the Thoroughbred game, the sparkling success of their first foray into public sales last season makes it a safe bet that they will be returning to the well this year.

“Roger and I were just talking the other day and he asked, 'Partner, do you want to go back [to OBS]?' In order to find another one, we would have to go back!” he said with a laugh. "We might go back to OBS and sniff around and see what we can find.”
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FAYETTE FOX BEATEN A NECK IN HER STAKES DEBUT IN THE ARIZONA OAKS
A MO REAY GIVES HUNTER VALLEY FIRST TOP-LEVEL VICTORY by Jessica Martini

When Hunter Valley Farm's Adrian Regan and Fergus Galvin purchased A Mo Reay (Uncle Mo) for $400,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton November sale, the plan was to add the filly to the farm's broodmare band, but a string of three straight victories in the Hunter Valley colors has postponed that trip to the breeding shed and had the operation celebrating its first Grade I triumph when A Mo Reay scored a dramatic last-gasp victory in the GI Beholder Mile at Santa Anita Saturday.

"Adrian and another partner on the farm, John Wade, they both went out," Galvin, who enjoyed Saturday's victory from his home in Kentucky, said. "But it was great. It was fantastic. We had a couple of near-misses with Family Way (Uncle Mo), she had a great campaign with Brendan Walsh for two years, showed up in a lot of the Grade I races, but to actually have one get a head in front in our own colors is fantastic. And it was made even better with Adrian and John out there to enjoy it all. Really at the end of the day, that's what it's all about, to be able to enjoy the big days. Everybody works hard in the business and you've got to be able to enjoy the big days."

A Mo Reay was third in the 2021 GI Frizette S., but had yet to win a stakes race when she went through the ring at Fasig-Tipton last fall. Having spent most of her career on the main track, she came into the sale off a pair of efforts over the turf, finishing third in the Aug. 25 Riskaverse S. and fifth in the Sept. 18 GIII Pebbles S.

"She is a lovely physical," Galvin said. "Adrian and I were talking and we were saying if she could just win a listed race to go along with her Grade I-placing, it would help her broodmare value down the road."

A Mo Reay was sent to trainer Brad Cox's Fair Grounds base and duly delivered for the team with a three-length victory in the Dec. 31 Pago Hop S.

"Not long after she went down there, Brad was starting to speak in pretty glowing terms about her," Galvin said. "So we were getting more and more confident with her as time went on."

The group's optimism in the filly continued to grow when a trip to Oaklawn Park resulted in a late-closing half-length victory in the Feb. 4 GIII Bayakoa S. Shipped across the country, A Mo Reay was sent off at 7-1 in the Beholder Mile. She rolled up to engage Fun to Dream (Arrogate) at the top of the stretch, only to have the even-money favorite scamper clear. Undeterred, A Mo Reay closed relentlessly to just get her head in front on the line.

Of the dramatic stretch run, Galvin said, "I can't say I was confident, but the way she has finished in her two prior races with Brad, she has done her best work in the last furlong. So I knew she would definitely finish up. It was just a matter of if she could catch Baffert's filly and it was really nail-biting as she just kind of got her at the final jump."

Hunter Valley came close to Grade I glory a few times last year with Family Way, a filly Galvin purchased on behalf of the farm, Marc Detampel and Debra O'Connor for €150,000 at the 2020 Arqana December sale. The mare was on the board in three Grade I races last term, including a runner-up effort in the GI Rodeo Drive S. in October before selling for $1.45 million at the 2022 Fasig November sale.

Could A Mo Reay's Grade I victory mean a return to the sales ring this coming November?

"It's a bit too early to say," Galvin said. "She has obviously become a very valuable proposition. We do know that she will definitely race this year and we haven't really discussed anything beyond that. Everything is open at this stage."

We just want to enjoy her racing career this year and come up with a plan later on."

Hunter Valley has been involved in several high-profile purchases of racing age fillies who succeed for their partners both at the track and then again in the sales ring. In addition to Family Way, the operation purchased Caravel (Mizzen Mast), who went on to win last year's GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, for $500,000 at the 2021 Fasig November sale, as well as Shedaresthedevil (Daredevil), who was purchased for $5 million at that same auction before adding another graded victory and a pair of Grade I placings to her resume before reselling for that same figure last year.

"If you do get lucky enough to stumble across the likes of an A Mo Reay or a Family Way, the prize money structure if they are good enough to compete at that level is really fantastic," Galvin said. "Especially with fillies, you have the residual value."
Galvin continued, “Whether or not she succeeded for us back at the racetrack, we knew A Mo Reay had plenty of broodmare value. It's nice to have a fallback when you buy them with black-type, or Grade I-placing, in her case. She wasn’t cheap at $400,000, but at the same time, she had already X amount of broodmare value as it was. There is less risk involved with fillies, and certainly well-bred fillies.”

As for where A Mo Reay may start next, Galvin said, “She came out of [the Beholder] good and she will fly back to her Fair Grounds base the middle of the week. I haven’t really had much time to chat with him, but you really don't have to get in Brad's way too much as far as race planning. He is always about two steps ahead of everybody.”
SANTA ANA S.-GIII, $101,000, Santa Anita, 3-12, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/4mT, 2:01.25, gd.

1--BALLET DANCING, 120, f, 4, by Medaglia d'Oro
   1st Dam: Fully Living (GSP, $172,417), by Unbridled's Song
   2nd Dam: Half A. P., by Pulpit
   3rd Dam: Half Queen, by Deputy Minister

1ST BLACK TYPE WIN, 1ST GRADED STAKES WIN. ($800,000 Ylg '20 KEES). O-Westerberg, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor, & Derrick Smith; B-Ashview Farm & Old Oak Farm (KY); T-Simon Callaghan; J-Flavien Prat. $60,000. Lifetime Record: MGSP, 9-3-1-2, $191,060. *1/2 to Untreated (Nyquist), MGSP, $291,433. Werk Nick Rating: B+. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree. Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

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2--Queen Ofthe Temple, 120, m, 5, Temple City--Queenameina, by Read the Footnotes. ($3,500 Ylg '19 FTKFEB; $14,000 RNA Ylg '19 FTKOCT). O-Radley Equine, Inc., Roger Featherston, Rick Gold & Tony Maslowski; B-Erv Woolsey & Ralph Kinder (KY); T-Dan Blacker. $20,000.

3--Duvet Day (Ire), 122, f, 4, Starspangledbanner (Aus)--Je T'Adore (Ire), by Montjeu (Ire). 1ST GRADED BLACK TYPE.
   (47,000gns Wlg '19 TATFOA; £45,000 Ylg '20 GOFOR; $72,000 3yo '22 KEEAPR). O-Jane Bacharach & Richard Schatz;
   B-John Yarr (Ire); T-Michael W. McCarthy. $12,000. Margins: 3HF, HD, NO. Odds: 4.70, 5.10, 5.70.
   Also Ran: Buzz of New York (Ire), Ascendancy, Annaghlasa (Ire), Australia Mia. Scratched: Harper's Gallop, Myfavoritedaughter. Click for the Equibase.com chart or the TJCIS.com PP's. VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

Ballet Dancing earned her first stakes victory in style, skipping clear to an authoritative victory in the GIII Santa Ana S. at Santa Anita Sunday. Stretching out to a 1 1/4 mile for the first time, the bay filly was away well and was in hand while stalking pacesetting longshot Annaghlasa (Ire) (Estidhkaar {Ire}) through fractions of :24.01, :47.22 and 1:12.07. Finally let loose into the far turn, she ricocheted to the lead off the turn and was quickly beyond the reach of all pursuers. Favorited Australia Mia (Street Sense), making her second North American start, was stalking the pace, but fell back on the far turn before being eased at the top of the lane.

“This was certainly the distance we’ve been waiting for,” said winning trainer Simon Callaghan. “During her 3-year-old career, they pretty much kept the races at a mile and an eighth and that was just the bare minimum, so I think now as an older mare she’s just going to flourish and I think these longer distances, a mile and a quarter and a mile and a half, they are going to be right in her wheelhouse.”

An $800,000 Keeneland September yearling, Ballet Dancing graduated going one mile of the Santa Anita turf last spring before finishing third in the GIII Honeymoon S. in May. She returned to the winner’s circle with a 2 1/2-length victory in a Dec. 29 allowance and she was coming off a fourth-place effort in a nine-furlong optional claim Feb. 3.

Pedigree Notes:

Ballet Dancing, the 90th worldwide graded winner for her sire, Medaglia d’Oro, is the fourth foal out of Fully Living, who was purchased by Ashview Farm for $425,000 at the 2011 Keeneland September sale and finished third for Ashview and Old Oak Farm in the 2012 GII Adirondack S. The mare, who is also the dam of last year’s GII Suburban S. third-place finisher Untreated (Nyquist), produced a filly by Justify in 2021 and a filly by Tiz the Law in 2022 before being bred back to Constitution.

Richard Knight signed for the Justify filly for $1.05 million at last year’s Keeneland September sale and she was one of six being reoffered by the sales company due to non-payment. The mare’s once-raced 6-year-old daughter Night on the Town (Street Sense), in foal to Essential Quality, sold to Siena Farms for $450,000 at last year’s Keeneland November sale.

The winner’s third dam, Half Queen, produced champion Halfbridled (Unbridled).
NINETYPRCENTMADDIE POSSIBLE FOR WOOD MEMORIAL

LC Racing's Ninetyprcentmaddie (Weigelia), who romped home by 9 3/4 lengths in last Monday's City of Brotherly Love S. at Parx, could make a return trip to New York for the Apr. 8 GII Wood Memorial. The bay colt was eased when making his graded stakes debut—and first start away from Parx—in the Feb. 11 GIII Withers S.

“He came out of [the City of Brotherly Love S.] really well and happy,” trainer Butch Reid, Jr. said. “I was happy to see him come back after that effort in the Withers and be no worse for wear. The jockey [Abner Adorno] said he was kind of choking up down the backside last time and maybe he flipped his pallet, but he didn’t show any signs of that this time.”

Of a potential start in the Wood, Reid added, “It’s possible. “There are several races around that time and we wonder if he handled that surface there, so we’ve got some questions to think about. But we’ll see how the races shape up and make our decision from there. I don’t think shipping is his best thing, but he’ll probably have to go on the road again for his next start. We will probably ship him in a little earlier to get him used to his surroundings.”

O’CONNELL MOVES AHEAD AS WINNINGEST FEMALE THOROUGHBRED TRAINER

With her victory in the fifth race at Tampa Bay Downs Sunday, Kathleen O’Connell surpassed Kim Hammond to become the winningest female trainer in North America. My Eagle Soars (Khozan) became O’Connell’s 2,386th winner when he crossed the line first in the six-furlong maiden claimer.

“It’s just been a wonderful ride,” O’Connell said of her training career. “It’s not only about the destination, it’s the journey getting there.”

O’Connell, who began training on her own in 1981, has twice been the leading trainer at Tampa Bay Downs. She also won a title at Calder. She currently trains about 60 horses between Tampa Bay Downs and Gulfstream Park.

She has won nine graded stakes, three from 1997-2000 by Blazing Sword, as well as the 2011 GII Tampa Bay Derby with Watch Me Go; the 2003 GII Bonnie Miss S. with Ivanavinalot; the 2019 GII Sam F. Davis S. with Well Defined; and back-to-back runnings of the GII Princess Rooney in 2018 and 2019 with Stormy Embrace.

Hammond, who has yet to win a race in 2023 from 16 starts, will have a chance to go back into a tie with O’Connell when she saddles a runner in the fifth race at Turfway Park Friday.
IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**BIOGIO’S ROSE S.,** $97,000, Aqueduct, 3-12, (S), 4yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:37.42, gd.

1—**TIMELESS JOURNEY, 120, m, 6, Verrazano—** Matchmadeinheaven (MSW, $206,217), by Utopia (Jpn). 1ST BLACK TYPE WIN. O-Merrylegs Farm; B-Merrylegs Farm North LLC (NY); T-Raymond Handal; J-Dylan Davis. $55,000. Lifetime Record: 18-7-1-3, $378,483.

2—**Know It All Audrey, 118, f, 4, Shackleford—Know It All Anna,** by Midnight Lute. O-Three Player’s Stable and Barrera, Ill., Oscar S.; B-Geraldine Mazza (NY); T-Oscar S. Barrera, Ill. $20,000.

3—**Impazible Donna, 122, m, 6, Mission Impazible—Pink Lollipops,** by Silver Deputy. ($14,000 RNA Ylg ’18 SARAUG). O-Flying P Stable; B-Twin Creeks Farm (NY); T-Bruce N. Levine. $12,000.

Margins: 1HF, 1HF, 3HF. Odds: 0.70, 2.25, 8.90.

Also Ran: Mia Bea Star, Captainsdaughter.

**BIG DADDY S.,** $93,500, Turfway, 3-11, 4yo/up, 6f (AWT), 1:09.14, ft.

1—**NOBODY LISTENS, 120, g, 5, Conveyance—Royalesque,** by Chapel Royal. ($39,000 RNA Ylg ’19 FTKOCT; $40,000 2yo ’20 OBSAPR). O-Matt Kwiatkowski, Jason Kaylor, and Roger D. Browning; B-Southern Chase Farm, Inc., Karen & Greg Dodd (IN); T-Tim Eggleston; J-Joseph D. Ramos. $47,616. Lifetime Record: 20-10-6-1, $422,806.

2—**Night Time, 120, h, 6, Majesticperfection—Silent Joy,** by Kitten’s Joy. ($210,000 Ylg ’18 KEESEP). O-Blue Devil Racing Stable (Holliday); B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-Dale L. Romans. $24,360.

3—**Candy Overload, 124, g, 5, Reload—Mini Candy,** by Candy Ride (Arg). O-Pantofel Stable, LLC, Wachtel Stable and Gary Barber; B-Northern Dawn Stables Inc. & Denny Andrews (ON); T-Mark E. Casse. $7,680.


Also Ran: Anaconda, Bad Beat Brian, Here Mi Song, Gun It, Pole Setter, Detroit City.

The gates break, everything changes. But Dylan [Davis] knows her well and has great hands. He got her to switch off and she was right there for him the whole race. When he gave her daylight, she took off. “

Timeless Journey is out of MSW Matchmadeinheaven (Utopia {Jpn}), who is a half-sister to New York-bred MSW Chasin Wimmin (Belong to Me). The mare is also responsible for the unraced 3-year-old filly Watch Over Me (Palace Malice), the 2-year-old Til There Was You (Palace Malice) and was bred to Dialed In for a foal this spring. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
Remarkably only ever off the board three times in his now 20-race career, Nobody Listens was the center of attention as the big grey powered home to a second stakes victory, under the lights at Turfway, in the Big Daddy S.

Capping a successful 2022 season with a 9 1/2-length victory against an outmatched Indiana allowance group Nov. 23 on that main track for new trainer Tim Eggleston, he started his 5-year-old campaign at Oaklawn Jan. 6, where he tried to wire the field as per his usual style, but just got caught late by MSW Tejano Twist (Practical Joke) and MSW Tut’s Revenge (Eskendereya).

Holding to the sage wisdom of ‘don’t fix what isn’t broken,’ Nobody Listens rebounded from that third place effort here and would not be caught this time. The grey was quick to the front, was clear of his rivals every step of the way ahead of :22.38 and :44.60 splits, and held on gamely as Night Time took one last lunge nearing the wire, but ultimately falling a neck short. Candy Overload rallied from last to pick up the final trifecta spot.

The most accomplished of Royalesque’s winning offspring, Nobody Listens has a 2-year-old half-brother by Bucchero, who is also the final registered foal for his dam thus far. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

Shotgun Hottie hails from the family of MGISW Pure Clan (Pure Prize) and is out half-sister to GISW Sky Diva (Sky Mesa). Re Entry also produced the 2-year-old filly Hurricane Hottie (Palace Malice), a yearling colt by Echo Town last year and visited Irish Surf for a foal this year. Sales History: $45,000 2yo ’21 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: MGSP, 11-3-4-1, $391,720. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O-Aldabbagh, Omar and Ganje, Jeff; B-Vincent Colbert (KY); T-Cherie DeVaux.

Shotgun Hottie (3) | Coady Photography

IN ORDER OF PURSE:
9th-Gulfstream, $74,400, Alw (NW2$X)/Opt. Clm ($50,000), 3-12, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:42.55, ft, 3/4 length.

MILLIKEN (g, 5, Into Mischief--Ivory Empress {GSP, $189,402}, by Seeking the Gold) had to share his win the last time he ran on Jan. 20, but was all alone in the winner's circle after his victory here by three-quarters of a length. Breaking from the farthest outside in the gate, he was hustled up to contest the early pace around the first turn and then sat comfortably stalking Mish (Field Commission), who showed the way through a half in :47.88 and three-quarters in 1:11.77. As the frontrunner began tiring on the far turn, Milliken challenged just past the three eighths and took command, powering home to win and safely holding off the late charge from Cooke Creek (Uncle Mo) in deep stretch. The winner is a half-brother to MGSP Bondurant (War Front), MGSW & GISP Four Graces (Majesticperfection), MGSW & GISP McCraken (Ghostzapper) and GSP With Dignity (Declaration of War). Ivory Empress also produced the 3-year-old full-sister to McCraken named Mattie May, the 2-year-old filly Aunt Fannie (Uncle Mo) and a yearling Street Sense filly. Cont. p3
9th-Gulfstream, Cont.
She was bred to Authentic for a foal this year. Lifetime Record: 9-3-2-2, $165,590. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O/B-Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Ian R. Wilkes.

9th-Santa Anita, $73,152, Alw, 3-11, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m (off turf), 1:51.49, gd, 13 lengths.

**VERY SCARY** (f, 4, Connect—Summer Reading {MSP, $238,217}, by Hard Spun) got the 7-5 nod Saturday when entered off a two-race win streak including a career-best 85 Beyer Speed Figure last time out when tackling a mile over the Santa Anita grass as a 7-1 shot Feb. 4. Pressured on the front end early in a scratched-down field of just four, the bay raced two wide with Implosion (Not This Time) just to her inside. As that rival began to grow weary into the far turn, Very Scary found another gear and kicked on for home, sprinting away from the pack down the stretch to hit the wire an easy 13 lengths ahead of Pop Pop’s Dream (Paynter), who led in the rest of the strung-out field. The first foal out of a half-sister to GSP Heart of Paradise (More Than Ready), Very Scary has a placed 3-year-old half-brother, Pinfire (Bolt d’Oro), a 2-year-old Flatt half-sister, and a newborn half-brother by Knicks Go. Sales History: $40,000 Ylg ’20 KEESEP; $80,000 2yo ’21 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: 14-3-4-2, $143,090. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O-Walter Luedtke, Robert Oracheff and Robert Scott Oracheff; B-Windways Farm (KY); T-Ian Kruljac.

8th-Gulfstream, $72,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm ($75,000), 3-12, 3yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:41.99, fm, 2 1/4 lengths.

**WELL INTO** (f, 3, Into Mischief—Well Acquainted {SP}, by Distorted Humor) debuted over this course Dec. 11 in a mile maiden contest won by MGSP Alpha Bella (Justify) in her first voyage on a turf track. Rebounding well from that sixth place effort last out Jan. 23 on seasonal debut at course and this distance, she donned cap and gown as the favorite to win by 2 1/2 lengths. Again the post-time betting choice at 2-1 here on the step up into optional claiming company, she set the pace right from the jump rolling two off the fence and opened up in the stretch under right-hand urging while three wide. Tipping in passing the eighth pole, she held sway over a hard-charging Be My Sunshine (Frosted) by 2 1/4 lengths. The victress has a 2-year-old half-brother Transcendental (Ghostzapper) and a yearling half-brother by War Front). Her dam is a half-sister to GSW Fugitive Angel (Alphabet Soup), who herself produced GSW Utmost (Giant’s Causeway), and GSW Anthony’s Cross (Indian Charlie).
8th-Gulfstream, Cont.
This is the female family of MGISP Smart Bid (Smart Strike).
Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, $85,800. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O-Augustin Stable; B-George Strawbridge (KY); T-Jonathan Thomas.

3rd-Sunland, $35,200, Alw, 3-12, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.87, ft, 6 lengths.
FOOLISH DELIGHT (f, 3, Carpe Diem--More Than Folly, by More Than Ready), never off the board in six prior starts, entered off a third-place finish just behind Saturday’s Arizona Oaks winner Una Palabra (McCracken) in Turf Paradise’s Princess of Palm S. Feb. 18 while two starts back she took second by a half-length in the Borderplex S. over this same track Jan. 29. A popular choice at 1-5 Sunday, the chestnut trailed the field out of the gate and took her time getting into stride while racing last. Once she had her feet under her into the far turn, Foolish Delight posed a challenge while racing six wide around the bend and easily dispatched of early pacesetter Zanarazzi (Khozan), drawing off for the six-length win. Out of a full-sister to the dam of both champion turf female Regal Glory (Animal Kingdom) and G1SW Cafe Pharoah (American Pharoah), Foolish Delight is her dam's youngest offspring after More Than Folly lost her 2021 Into Mischief foal and did not catch to Volatile in 2022. She was bred to American Pharoah for a 2023 foal. Sales History: $40,000 Ylg ’21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 7-2-3-2, $81,341. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O-Christa Utt, Greg Green, M.C.M Stables, LLC and Corie O’Connor; B-E. H. Beau Lane (KY); T-Greg Green.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

9th-Turfway, $70,000, Msw, 3-11, 3yo, 6f (AWT), 1:09.80, ft, 3 1/4 lengths.
TALKIN’ CASH (c, 3, Not This Time--Cash In, by Tapit) showed his quick early speed on this unveiling and made his 11 other rivals chase him the way around, handily cruising home by 3 1/4 lengths in 1:09.80 for the six panels. Out of a young daughter of GSW Hidden Assets (Mt. Livermore), dam Cash In is a half-sister to four graded performers, including MGSP Cash Control (Pioneerof the Nile); MGSP & MSW Country Day (Speightstown); GSP & MSW Good Deed (Broken Vow), herself dam to SW Goin’ Good (Congrats); MGSP Due Date (El Prado {Ire}); and MSW Cash Back (Congrats).

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9th-Turfway, Cont.
This is the deep female family of 16-time winner, MGSW Eminency; GISP Katonka; and MGISW Codex. Talkin' Cash is Cash In's first to the races and has a 2-year-old half-brother Send Cash (Mendelssohn) as well as a yearling half-brother by Violence. The mare is due to Omaha Beach for 2023. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $42,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O/B-Klein Racing (KY); T-Brad H. Cox.

5th-Gulfstream, $70,000, Msw, 3-12, 3yo, 7 1/2fT, 1:29.34, fm, 2 1/2 lengths.
FEARLESS SOLDIER (c, 3, City of Light—Hessie's Girl, by Giant's Causeway) had something of a rough debut Feb. 16 when he tossed his head at the jump and hopped coming out of the stall. Racing all over the synthetic track from there, as far as seven wide in the stretch before lugging in through the final furlong, he finished a very green fourth but producing a field-best Beyer Speed Figure of 74. Cutting back from that 1m70 contest and flopped onto the turf course, the 5-2 second choice broke considerably better but ended up steadied nearing the first bend, settling to track from fifth. Edging closer from three wide around the far turn, he tipped out farther for the homeward drive and closed under left-hand urging to draw clear of long-time leader and 57-1 shocker Checkitup (Curlin), who was a first-time gelding.

Fearless Soldier commanded a princely sum of $700,000 at KEESEP from the titan partnership that is Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable. They would later bring Gainesway Stable into the fold before the Triple Crown-nominated colt's first start. Dam Hessie's Girl's 2021 colt by Liam's Map died last year but she did have a 2022 colt by Game Winner. A young half-sister to GISW Bullsbay (Tiznow); GISW Our Khrysty (Newfoundland)—herself claiming GISW Grace Adler (Curlin) and GSP Virginia Key (Distorted Humor) to her broodmare tally; GSP Vegas No Show (Hard Spun); and SW Hidden Expression (Yonaguska), dam of SW Mask (Tapit), Hessie's Girl is due to Charlatan for 2023. This is the extended female family of GISW Grecian Flight. Sales history: $700,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $45,500. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O-Repole Stable, St. Elias Stable and Gainesway Stable (Antony Beck); B-Farfellow Farms Ltd. (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

3rd-Gulfstream, $70,000, Msw, 3-12, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09.79, ft, 1 1/2 lengths.
A LA CARTE (g, 5, Uncle Mo--Leigh Court (Ch. 3-year-old Filly-Can, GSW-USA, MGSW-Can, $778,793), by Grand Slam) was slammed into 1-5 favoritism after leading late only to be nailed on the line for a half-length defeat on debut over this same surface and distance Feb. 3. Always close to the front Sunday, the gelding kept pressure on Mr. Peeks (California Chrome) as the top pair tracked the field through an opening quarter in :22.58. First-time starter Last Shift (Hard Spun) came with a big move around the far turn to join the pair but never kicked on while failing to switch leads as A La Carte and Mr. Peeks continued to battle past the furlong marker. It was only close to home that A La Carte began to edge ahead of his rival, handing him a 1 1/2-length defeat.

Leigh Court, herself a successful race mare and Canada's 2013 Champion 3-year-old filly, is a half-sister to GSW King of Sydney (Diesis {GB}), GSW Flying Scotsman (English Channel), and MGSP Star Hill (Elusive Quality). Her 3-year-old son by Medaglia d'Oro has yet to win in two starts while her 2-year-old Constitution filly brought a final bid of $250,000 from Medallion/Omar Aldabbagh/ Commonwealth at Keeneland September. She foaled a colt by Nyquist last year and visited Darley's Street Sense for the 2023 season. Escalation (Violence) was a vet scratch prior to the start of the race. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, $57,400. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.
O/B-Speedway Stables, LLC (KY); T-William I. Mott.
10th-Gulfstream, $70,000, Msw, 3-12, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT, 1:35.01, fm, 1 1/4 lengths.

FOR THE FLAG (f, 4, Uncle Mo—Battle Flag, by War Front) was seen Sunday for the first time since Dec. 2021 when she last posted a pair of off-the-board efforts on the turf at Belmont and Aqueduct respectively. After missing her entire 3-year-old season, she returned to the races out of the James Toner barn having previously raced for Claude McGaughey. With blinkers off and utilizing Lasix for the first time, For the Flag, given a 7-1 shot off the layoff, hustled to the front to set the pace while skimming the rail just ahead of War Princess (War Front). Kept under a hold around the far turn, she was let out to run when challenged on the outside by Sahlabiya (Medaglia d’Oro) at the top of the lane. Despite drifting out through the final furlong, For the Flag out-kicked her rival to win by 1 1/4 lengths. Out of a half-sister to the dam of GSW & G1SP War Dispatch (War Front) and GISW Civil Union (War Front). This is the family of late leading sire Dynaformer (Roberto), G1SW Lines of Battle (War Front) and GISW War Flag (War Front). Battle Flag has a 2-year-old filly, This Country (Constitution), and a yearling filly by Tapit still to race. She foaled a colt by Liam’s Map this year. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, $51,500. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.**

O-Andrew N. and Rania Warren; B-St. Elias Stables, LLC (FR); T-Michael W. McCarthy.

1st-Santa Anita, $69,000, Msw, 3-12, 3yo, 1mT, 1:36.55, gd, 1/2 length.

PHOSPHORESCENCE (FR) (c, 3, City of Light—Create a Dream (GB)) proved that speed on the rail at Santa Anita was key and used it to his advantage to break his maiden in his fourth try. Beginning his career in the care of trainer Ben Colebrook, and after a single seventh-place finish over the Keeneland main track last fall, he was shipped West to the care of Michael McCarthy for a turf campaign. A third sprinting behind recent Baffle S. winner Johannes (Nyquist) on New Year’s Eve and a fifth behind Baffle also-ran Hawker (Justify) in mid-January followed before the successful stretch out to a mile here. Phosphorescence had shown the way in his previous three races, and didn’t have much choice but to take the lead after breaking from the inside here. Battling for command around the first turn with Storm the Night (Midnight Storm) and Zihuatanejo (Collected), he never gave up his pressured advantage despite the moderate half-mile in :46.92. With his early chasers retreating as others were rallying from behind, he shrugged off runner-up Calm Sea (Mendelssohn) in mid-stretch, and continued on to the wire to post a half-length victory at odds of 3-1. Phosphorescence was bred in France by prominent American owner St. Elias Stable, who purchased his granddam, MGSP Anabaa’s Creation (Ire) (Anabaa), for 450,000gns at TATDEC in 2013 while in foal to his dam. St. Elias campaigned Create a Dream and bred her to City of Light before exporting her to France in 2019. Returned to the U.S., he was purchased at Keeneland by his current owners as a short yearling for $200,000 at KEEJAN. Create a Dream has since produced 2-year-old filly Louise Procter (Fr) (Siyouni (FR)) and an unnamed yearling French-bred full-sister to that one. Sales History: $200,000 Ylg ’21 KEEJAN. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, $50,417. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.**

O-Eduardo Terrazas; B-CaliforniaChrome Syndicate & Terrazas Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY); T-Cirilo Gorostieta.

She’s On the Rocks | Coady Photography

5th-Turfway, $62,885, Msw, 3-11, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (AWT), 1:09.94, ft, 3 1/2 lengths.

SHE’S ON THE ROCKS (f, 3, California Chrome—Nothing But Heart, by Officer) was just shy of 17-1 Feb. 1 at track and trip on her unveiling and she came within a nose of nailing the favorite for the win at first-asking. Better received here, she stuck to the three path into the turn and was making up ground on the leaders coming into the stretch. Eye-to-eye with a more experienced--and two years her senior--American Heights (American Pharoah), She’s On the Rocks finally shook that one off late to win by a clear 3 1/2 lengths. A half-sister to Heart Rhythm (Flat Out), MSP, $496,015 and She Takes Heart (Wilburn), SP, $228,390, the victress is the most recent to get her picture taken. Nothing but Heart’s 2021 Always Dreaming foal was stillborn, but she did deliver a now yearling colt by Instagrand last year. She is due to Tacitus for 2023. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, $56,000. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.**

O-Eduardo Terrazas; B-CaliforniaChrome Syndicate & Terrazas Thoroughbreds, LLC. (KY); T-Cirilo Gorostieta.
7th-Fair Grounds, $50,000, Msw, 3-12, 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2fT, 1:06.95, fm, 2 3/4 lengths.

LURE’EM IN (f, 3, Tapit--Bet She Wins {SW}, by First Samurai) showed no affinity for the main track in her first two career starts, finishing in the rear half of the field in a six furlong maiden dash at Colonial last season and last out Jan. 21 trying a 1 1/16-mile maiden contest over this venue’s main track in addition to shedding blinkers from that unveiling. Trying turf sprints for the first-time here, she cruised in fifth from three wide before ranging up nearing the lane and driving clear entering the stretch. She started to wander out soon after striking the lead but was kept to task through the final sixteenth to win by 2 3/4 lengths as firster Jade d’Amore (Central Banker) had to settle for second. The flag bearer for her dam, Lure’em In has a pair of brothers—a 2-year-old full-sibling and a yearling half by Candy Ride (Arg). Dam Bet She Wins is due to Gun Runner for 2023. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, $31,000. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O/B-Lothenbach Stables, Inc. (Bob Lothenbach) (KY); T-Chris M. Block.

9th-Tampa Bay Downs, $24,000, Msw, 3-12, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:36.33, fm, 1 length.

TAKE A BREAK (f, 3, Quality Road--On Leave (MGSW, $1,073,470), by War Front) was given a chilly 9-1 chance off a 25-length defeat at first asking over Gulfstream's main track Jan. 29. Trying the grass for the first time, she rated towards the back of the field into the opening turn, comfortably mid pack in sixth through a half mile in :46.87. She settled there before making a sustained run around the turn, gaining position several paths off the rail to join Our Dotsie (Oscar Performance) on the front end. The pair became a trio with the addition of a closing Pedigee (Arrogate) but Take a Break had the first jump and was able to gain separation on her rivals through the final sixteenth to win by a length. Pedigee edged out Our Dotsie by a half-length for second. The first foal for her MGSW dam, Take a Break is out of a half-sister to MGSW & MGISP Ironicus (Distorted Humor), GSW Norumbega (Tiznow), and GSW Hunting (Coronado’s Quest). On Leave is responsible for a 2-year-old colt, Garden Leave (Curlin), a yearling Uncle Mo filly, and a newborn colt by Street Sense. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, $14,860. Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG.

O/B-Stuart S. Janney, III LLC (KY); T-Claude R. McGaughey III.

IN DUBAI:
Dubai Vision, g, 5, Medaglia d'Oro–Velvety, by Bernardini. Sharjah, 3-12, Hcp, 2000m, 2:09.16. B-Godolphin (KY). *1/2 to Maxfield (Street Sense), MGISW, $2,001,812. VIDEO

ITALY:
Big Musquetier, h, 7, Musketier (Ger)--Highgate Park (SP), by A.P. Indy. Rome, 3-12, Hcp, 2300m (AWT), 2:33.07. B-Calumet Farm (KY). *$2,000 ylr ’17 FTKOCT. VIDEO

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: MONDAY, MARCH 13 2023 Stud Fees Listed

Eastwood (Speightstown), Blackstone Farm 17 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Parx Racing, 3:49 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Go East, 2-1

Good Samaritan (Harlan’s Holiday), WinStar Farm, $7,500 172 foals of racing age/27 winners/1 black-type winner
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:35 p.m. EDT, Alw 6f, Holiday Decision, 2-1
$35,000 KEE NOV wnl; $105,000 KEE SEP yrl

West Coast (Flatter), Lane’s End Farm, $10,000 198 foals of racing age/15 winners/2 black-type winners
10-Will Rogers Downs, 6:35 p.m. EDT, Msw 5 1/2f, Westcoast Breeze, 8-1
STAKES RESULTS:

MT. CRISTO REY H., (NB) $100,000, Sunland, 3-12, (S), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:03.81, ft.
1--EVACUEE, 119, g, 6, Abstraction--Thibodaux (MSP), by Early Flyer. ($30,000 Ylg '18 RUIAUG). O-B4 Farms, LLC; B-Fred Alexander, Brad King & Todd Fincher (NM); T-Todd W. Fincher; J-Felipe Valdez. $60,000. Lifetime Record: 25-4-8-3, $329,154.
2--Massive Roar, 120, g, 4, Sway Away--Kiki Chacer, by Stormello. O/B-The Quarter Company LLC (NM); T-Todd W. Fincher. $20,000.
3--Delbert Too, 120, g, 5, Marking--On Stride, by Ghostly Moves. ($25,000 Ylg '19 RUIAUG). O/T-Filiberto Quiroz; B-Fred Alexander (NM). $10,000.

Margins: 1 1/4, HF, 1. Odds: 30.70, 3.20, 12.50.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-Santa Anita, $80,150, 3-12, 4yo/up, 6 1/2fT, 1:13.38, gd, head.
VANTASTIC (g, 7, Dialed In--Lemon Secretary, by Lemon Drop Kid) Lifetime Record: MGSP, 25-6-4-4, $291,911. O-Ciaglia Racing LLC and SAF Racing; B-David Berman (FL); T-Peter Eurton. *$45,000 RNA Ylg '17 KEESEP.

7th-Aqueduct, $74,000, 3-12, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:09.83, ft, 7 1/4 lengths.
EXCELLENT TIMING (g, 5, Not This Time--Explicable, by Pioneerof the Nile) Lifetime Record: SW, 12-3-3-1, $215,760. O-Michael Dubb, Madaket Stables LLC, Wonfer Stables and Michael J Caruso.; B-Sequel Stallions New York, LLC & Lakland Farm (NY); T-Rob Atras.

8th-Laurel, $38,146, 3-12, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.64, ft, 1/2 length.
LMLOOKNFORMISCHIEF (c, 4, Curlin to Mischief--Just Lookn Again, by Tizbud) Lifetime Record: 17-3-4-3, $130,062. O-Terri Oyarzun and Faith Taylor; B-West 12 Ranch (CA); T-Faith Taylor.

9th-Sam Houston Race, $37,000, (NW2X)/Opt. Clm ($30,000), 3-12, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:44.15, fm, 1 3/4 lengths.
SILVERSCAPE (f, 4, Twirling Candy--Manahil, by Mr. Greeley) Lifetime Record: 24-6-5-5, $246,636. O-Robert D. Bone and Edward J. Brown Jr.; B-Bowman & Higgins Stable (MD); T-Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon. *$37,000 Ylg '20 EASOCT.

8th-Charles Town, $38,700, (S), (C),Opt. Clm ($20,000), 3-11, 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:19.65, ft, nose.
NO CHANGE (g, 5, Fiber Sonde--Looks Like Trouble, by Indian Charlie) Lifetime Record: 15-3-2-3, $82,920. O/B-Jason R. Litt (KY); T-Steve M. Sherman. *1/2 to Kingpin Ryno (In Excess {Ire}), SP, $279,384; 1/2 to Lucky Primo (Atticus), MSW & GSP, $494,400.

4th-Fair Grounds, $53,000, (S), 3-12, (C), 4yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:44.50, ft, head.
BLUE CHEESE (g, 4, Midshipman--Lemondropkisses, by Lemon Drop Kid) Lifetime Record: 11-5-1-1, $164,420. O-Mark Necaise; B-Markkim Farms (LA); T-Samuel Breaux.

7th-Laurel, $48,600, 3-12, (C), 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:45.70, ft, nose.
RUSTYS GIVEFIFTY (g, 4, Divining Rod--Sticky (MSW, $381,650), by Concern) Lifetime Record: 24-6-5-5, $246,636. O-Robert D. Bone and Edward J. Brown Jr.; B-Bowman & Higgins Stable (MD); T-Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon. *$37,000 Ylg '20 EASOCT.

3rd-Golden Gate Fields, $38,146, 3-12, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.64, ft, 1/2 length.

8th-Gulfstream, $54,000, (S), (NW1X)/Opt. Clm ($20,000), 3-12, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m (AWT), 1:42.33, ft, 3 1/2 lengths.
SOUPER COHIBA (g, 6, Super Saver--Lady Cohiba (MSW, $331,725), by Broken Vow) Lifetime Record: 26-6-4-5, $136,242. O-Karen Lee McCleave; B-Live Oak Stud (FL); T-Katerina Vassilieva.

4th-Gulfstream, $54,000, (S), 3-12, (S), 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:44.50, ft, head.

9th-Golden Gate Fields, $35,884, 3-11, (NW1$X), 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:46.95, ft, 3/4 length.
WORK TO LIVE (f, 4, Outwork--Live Free Or Die, by Personal Flag) Lifetime Record: 12-3-2-3, $82,920. O/B-Jason R. Litt (KY); T-Steve M. Sherman. *1/2 to Kingpin Ryno (In Excess {Ire}), SP, $279,384; 1/2 to Lucky Primo (Atticus), MSW & GSP, $494,400.

◊ ◇ ◆
6th-Charles Town, $33,900, 3-11, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 7f, 1:27.44, ft, nose. LATE IN THE GAME (g, 4, Denis of Cork--Charitable Carly (MSP), by Charitable Man) Lifetime Record: 22-6-8-4, $211,738. O/B-Taylor Mountain Farm (WV); T-Ronald G. Sigler.

7th-Charles Town, $33,900, (S), 3-11, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 4 1/2f, :53.69, ft, 1 length. CASTLE TOY (f, 3, Windsor Castle--Toy Queen, by Dance With Ravens) Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-1, $53,740. O/B-Anne C Southard (WV); T-Keturah E. Obed-Letts.

6th-Hawthorne, $33,390, 3-12, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 5f, :57.63, sy, 3 lengths. ICY RIVER (f, 4, Keen Ice--Voyage Beyond, by Tapit) Lifetime Record: 13-3-4-0, $106,645. O-Charles W. Ritter & Scott Becker; B-Calumet Farm (KY); T-Scott Becker. *$5,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP.

6th-Tampa Bay Downs, $27,250, 3-12, 4yo/up, 5fT, :55.12, fm, head. THEALLIGATORHUNTER (g, 5, Overanalyze--Garden Gloves, by Stormy Atlantic) Lifetime Record: MSW, 19-10-1-2, $282,805. O/B-Pete Mattson & Tim Padilla (MN); T-Tim P. Padilla. *1/2 to She's My Warrior (Warrior's Reward), SW, $123,585.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Artful Critic, g, 3, Artful Run--Lamonster Majestic, by To Teras. Sunland, 3-12, (S), 6f, 1:12.17. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-2, $37,590. B-Dwain Yarber (NM).

Lorraine's Legacy, f, 3, Include--Loving Lorraine, by Bernstein.

Axton, g, 3, Mshawish--Ghost Locket (MSW, $405,172), by Ghostzapper. Oaklawn, 3-12, (C), 6f, 1:11.72. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $30,000. B-Dream Walkin' Farms, Inc. (KY). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Just a Little Luck, f, 3, Straight Fire--Who Said Lucky, by Lucky Pulpit. Golden Gate Fields, 3-11, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.44. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-2, $38,336. B-Terry Knight, Jean & Mel Annuzzi (CA).

Entitlement, f, 3, Takeover Target--Spring Mambo, by Kingmambo. Fair Grounds, 3-12, (S), 1m, 1:41.50. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-1, $46,940. B-Cloyce C. Clark Jr. & Daniel R Chicola (LA). *$5,000 Ylg '21 TTAYHR.

Lauchi, f, 4, Laoban--Saichi Sweepin (SP, $178,956), by Fusaichi Pegasus. Aqueduct, 3-12, (S), (C), 6f, 1:13.00. Lifetime Record: SP, 12-1-3-4, $162,530. B-Purple Haze Stables, LLC (NY).

Lil Bro Coop, g, 4, War Envoy--Awesome Broad, by Mr. Broad Blade. Oaklawn, 3-12, (C), 1 1/16m, 1:45.27. Lifetime Record: 11-1-1-2, $49,500. B-Ruis Racing LLC (KY). *1/2 to Awesome Return (Decarchy), MSW & GSP, $480,998; 1/2 to One Fast Broad (Decarchy), MSW, $390,823.

Morolicious, g, 5, Moro Tap--Gorgelicious, by More Than Ready. Sam Houston Race, 3-12, (S), 1m, 1:42.62. Lifetime Record: 10-1-2-0, $37,411. B-Wesley Melcher (TX). *1/2 to Gorgeous Kitten (Kitten's Joy), MGSP, $220,287.

Abstraction, Evacuee, g, 6, o/o Thibodaux, by Early Flyer. Mt. Cristo Rey H., 3-12, Sunland

Artful Run, Artful Critic, g, 3, o/o Lamonster Majestic, by To Teras. MSW, 3-12, Sunland

Bucchero, Sherlyn Go Go, f, 3, o/o Cute and Beautiful, by Warrior's Reward. ALW, 3-12, Gulfstream

California Chrome, She's On the Rocks, f, 3, o/o Nothing But Heart, by Officer. MSW, 3-11, Turfway

Carpe Diem, Foolish Delight, f, 3, o/o More Than Folly, by More Than Ready. ALW, 3-12, Sunland

City of Light, Fearless Soldier, c, 3, o/o Hessie's Girl, by Giant's Causeway. MSW, 3-12, Gulfstream

City of Light, Phosphorescence (Fr), c, 3, o/o Create a Dream, by Oasis Dream (GB). MSW, 3-12, Santa Anita

Connect, Very Scary, f, 4, o/o Summer Reading, by Hard Spun. ALW, 3-11, Santa Anita

Conveyance, Nobody Listens, g, 5, o/o Royalsque, by Chapel Royal. Big Daddy S., 3-11, Turfway

Curlin to Mischief, Lmlooknforme, c, 4, o/o Just Loomn Again, by Tizbud. ALW, 3-12, Golden Gate
Denis of Cork, Late in the Game, g, 4, o/o Charitable Carly, by Charitable Man. ALW, 3-11, Charles Town
Dialed In, Vantastic, g, 7, o/o Lemon Secretary, by Lemon Drop Kid. AOC, 3-12, Santa Anita
Divining Rod, Rustys Givefifty, g, 4, o/o Sticky, by Concern. ALW, 3-12, Laurel
Fiber Sonde, No Change, g, 5, o/o Looks Like Trouble, by Indian Charlie. AOC, 3-11, Charles Town
Great Notion, Fuhgeddaboudit, f, 4, o/o Outwithbigdaddy, by Outflanker. AOC, 3-12, Laurel
Gun Runner, Shotgun Hottie, f, 4, o/o Re Entry, by Malibu Moon. AOC, 3-12, Oaklawn
Include, Lorraine’s Legacy, f, 3, o/o Loving Lorraine, by Bernstein. MSW, 3-12, Hawthorne
Into Mischief, Milliken, g, 5, o/o Ivory Empress, by Seeking the Gold. AOC, 3-12, Gulfstream
Into Mischief, Well Into, f, 3, o/o Well Acquainted, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 3-12, Gulfstream
Keen Ice, Icy River, f, 4, o/o Voyage Beyond, by Tapit. ALW, 3-12, Hawthorne
Laoban, Laochi, f, 4, o/o Saichi Sweepin, by Fusaichi Pegasus. MCL, 3-12, Aqueduct
Medaglia d’Oro, Ballet Dancing, f, 4, o/o Fully Living, by Unbridled’s Song. GIII Santa Ana S., 3-12, Santa Anita
Midshipman, Blue Cheese, g, 4, o/o Lemondropkisses, by Lemon Drop Kid. ALW, 3-12, Fair Grounds
Moro Tap, Morolicious, g, 5, o/o Gorgelicious, by More Than Ready. MSW, 3-12, Sam Houston
Mshawish, Axton, g, 3, o/o Ghost Locket, by Ghostzapper. MCL, 3-12, Oaklawn
Not This Time, Excellent Timing, g, 5, o/o Explicable, by Pioneerof the Nile. AOC, 3-12, Aqueduct
Not This Time, Talkin’ Cash, c, 3, o/o Cash In, by Tapit. MSW, 3-11, Turfway
Outwork, Work to Live, f, 4, o/o Live Free Or Die, by Personal Flag. ALW, 3-11, Golden Gate
Overanalyze, Thealligatorhunter, g, 5, o/o Garden Gloves, by Stormy Atlantic. AOC, 3-12, Tampa Bay
Quality Road, Take a Break, f, 3, o/o On Leave, by War Front. MSW, 3-12, Tampa Bay
Straight Fire, Just a Little Luck, f, 3, o/o Who Said Lucky, by Lucky Pulpit. MSW, 3-11, Golden Gate
Super Saver, Souper Cohiba, g, 6, o/o Lady Cohiba, by Broken Vow. AOC, 3-12, Gulfstream
Takeover Target, Entitlement, f, 3, o/o Spring Mambo, by Kingmambo. MSW, 3-12, Fair Grounds
Tapit, Lure'em In, f, 3, o/o Bet She Wins, by First Samurai. MSW, 3-12, Fair Grounds
Twirling Candy, Silverscape, f, 4, o/o Manaahil, by Mr. Greeley. AOC, 3-12, Sam Houston

Uncle Mo, A La Carte, g, 5, o/o Leigh Court, by Grand Slam. MSW, 3-12, Gulfstream
Uncle Mo, A Mo Reay, f, 4, o/o Margaret Reay, by Pioneerof the Nile. G1 Beholder Mile S., 3-11, Santa Anita
Uncle Mo, For the Flag, f, 4, o/o Battle Flag, by War Front. MSW, 3-12, Gulfstream
Verrazano, Timeless Journey, m, 6, o/o Matchmadeinheaven, by Utopia (Jpn). Biogio’s Rose S., 3-12, Aqueduct
War Envoy, Lil Bro Coop, g, 4, o/o Awesome Broad, by Mr. Broad Blade. MCL, 3-12, Oaklawn
Windsor Castle, Castle Toy, f, 3, o/o Toy Queen, by Dance With Ravens. ALW, 3-11, Charles Town
'I GET A KICK OUT OF THE BREEZERS - BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME AS RIDING WINNERS'

By Brian Sheerin

Five years ago this week, Katie Walsh took Relegate (Ire) from going nowhere to the Cheltenham Festival winner's enclosure when galvanising the mare to come from last to first to take the Champion Bumper in pulsating fashion.

Little did we know at the time, but that Cheltenham success was to be Walsh's last, as she bowed out on a winner at her beloved Punchestown Festival the following month.

A lot has changed in those five years since. Along with her husband Ross O'Sullivan, a prominent trainer in his own right and just about the friendliest person you could meet in any walk of life, Walsh welcomed daughter Stevie [three] and son Ted [one] into the world.

Like her own father Ted and more recently her brother Ruby, Katie has proved to be a dab hand as a broadcaster and is now a regular contributor--along with her 2010 County Hurdle hero Thousand Stars (Fr) --on RTE's television coverage of all the major festivals. And then there are the breeze-ups. That same competitive spirit that saw Walsh win the Irish Grand National and three Cheltenham Festival races in total has been channeled into producing belters of breezers.

There was a time where Walsh hummed to a very different tune. A helter-skelter soundtrack that came to a crescendo in the second week of March for over a decade. The buzz that comes with riding a Cheltenham winner will never be replaced but new dreams abound for the 39-year-old who will swap the Cotswolds for preparing her horses for the Dubai Breeze Up Sale this week.

“It was crazy at one time,” says Walsh on a morning borrowed from the depths of winter at the family yard in Kill, County Kildare.

“When I was riding and doing the breezers, I would be riding at Cheltenham this week for example and then try and manage everything that was going on at home with the breezers.

“Or, if I was riding at Aintree, you’d be straight into the car and driving down to Newmarket to the Craven afterwards. I’m still working at the big festivals but it’s different to what it was.”

Cont. p3

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

ARABIAN KNIGHT OFF DERBY TRAIL

TDN Rising Star Arabian Knight, a $2.3-million OBS April purchase, will not make the Kentucky Derby and will instead point for a summer/fall campaign.
Monday, March 13, 2023

A PAIR OF ZOFFANY COLTS WIN IN FRANCE
Zoffany (Ire) had a pair of winners in France on Sunday including Grimaud, hailing from the family of G1SW heroine Germance.

SIOUX NATION FILLY RAISES MAIDEN BANNER
The Coolmore sire celebrated a maiden victory with a 3-year-old half-sister of GSW War Envoy at Compiegne Sunday.

DURAMENTE FILLY SCORES FIRST GROUP WIN
A 3-year-old daughter of Duramente, from the female family that includes HOTY Alysheba, collected her first group victory at Hanshin on Sunday.

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Cont. from p1

She added, “Back five or six years ago, the breeze-up business at home was getting going and the whole thing was getting bigger. I came to a stage where it made sense to retire. “Part of me wasn’t ready to stop but it made sense. I wanted to have a family and it came to a choice between this or keeping on riding. And for what? Another two or three years at best? Driving all over the country to ride was great craic when you were younger. But that went.”

One chapter closes and another begins. Stevie, who was named after Nicks, not Wonder, and inspired Jamie Osborne to name a horse he bought off Walsh precisely that, arrived just in time for the yearling sale season in 2019. Not ideal timing you could say. But typical of Walsh, she made it all work regardless.

“I had Stevie in September and obviously missed a lot of sales that year. I went to Doncaster and then Arqana in October that year and even that was hard. Stevie is used to it now but, at the start, I did find it quite difficult to leave her. But that’s the way this industry is and that’s the business I am in.”

She added, “The great thing about this job is that it’s seasonal. I am gone from a lot of September through to October but then I’m at home for the rest of the year. Okay, Dubai is next week, but that’s only a couple of days.

“It’s definitely more challenging with two small kids around. At night you find that your work is never done but I’m not the only mother in the country who is trying to organise kids and work. It can be difficult at times but I have great help and support. Mam, Dad and my sister Jennifer are brilliant.”

Concentrating fully on the breezers must be made easier when you have a track record like Walsh does. From these famous gallops, where Ted’s war horses Commanche Court (Ire), Papillon (Ire), Rince Ri (Ire) and this year’s Grand National contender Any Second Now (Ire) have all been trained off, Walsh has also blooded her own big names.
Eyes on the prize

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

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Cont.

Casper Netscher (GB) was the first to put Greenhills Farm in lights and, according to Ted, it was his sale that underpinned the success that followed.

"I'll tell ya how things turn around," he started. "A good few years ago, we had what I thought was a nice horse and he worked well. We weren't getting enough for him at the sales so we brought him home. He ended up being a grand horse but he didn't go on and be a good horse. We'd have been as well off to have sold him.

"The following year, we had a nice horse and I said to Katie, 'unless you get a good price for him, don't sell him because he's a good horse.' She says, 'we're selling him no matter what because I'm in the business of buying and selling. I'm not keeping any of them.'

"We arrived at the sales anyway with this little bay horse that I thought was too small but who Katie liked. By God he could fly. She got 65,000gns for him. Who did he turn out to be? Casper Netscher.

He won the Gimcrack, the Mill Reef and the German Guineas. He was a great little horse and while she only got 65,000gns for him, she did the right thing in selling him, as it got the word out that she was a seller."

After Casper Netscher there was Breeders' Cup runner-up East (GB) (Frankel {GB}), G2 Richmond S. winner Asymmetric (Ire) (Showcasing {GB}) and last year Walsh broke the record for the highest price ever achieved at the Tattersalls Ireland Goresbridge Breeze-up Sale when her Saxon Warrior (Jpn) filly sold on behalf of James Hanly to Stephen Hillen for €520,000.

But for all the smiles this game generates, Walsh knows that the scowls can be just as plentiful, given the unpredictable nature of working with horses.
Cont.

“I’m realistic,” she says. “I have been in this game for so long and I know the disappointments. Between horses getting injured, breezers going wrong and different things, that’s just the way it is and I’m okay with that. I don’t lose sleep at night over it. I understand the game and know the way things go. I’ve seen it my whole life with racehorses not going the right way or not working out as you hoped they would. Breezing horses is very easy compared to training them.”

She added, “I always had an interest in the breeze-ups. I just got the bug for this from the start and loved it. Okay, the next few weeks will be crazy again, but then I am at home with the kids for the summer. Ross won’t be. He’ll be heading off to Kilbeggan and Ballinrobe. That’s why I said, training horses is much harder than doing the breeze-ups.

“There’s absolutely no let up as a trainer. You need to be a certain type of person to make a trainer. Ross is a very likeable fella and has a good bunch of owners there. I’m not saying I wouldn’t handle it, but I do know that I wouldn’t have the same patience as other trainers. I have built up a reputation with the breeze-up horses and have a good bunch of people here and some great staff as well. I have no problem calling a spade a spade and owners either like that or they don’t. If a horse isn’t good enough I’ll tell the owners and I wouldn’t be putting cherries on top of it either.”

What you see is what you get with the Walshes. They don’t suffer fools nor do they care too much about what other people think. It might not be everyone’s cup of tea but they’ve gotten this far just fine and Katie is a chip off the block.

“I’ll never come out and say that I think I’ve an aeroplane. That sort of talk rubs me totally up the wrong way. I’ll never really believe it until they go and do it on the track. When you think a horse is going to breeze well and it doesn’t, nine times out of 10, that horse will always let you down. But when a horse breezes better than you expected, that’s the one who will always deliver for you.

“I think it’s so much easier to keep expectations lower than start calling horses good before they have done anything. At the back of my mind, I might be thinking, ‘this can bloody rubber,’ but I’ll never say it. You are on a hiding to nothing if you go telling people a horse is good until it goes and breezes well. If it clocks, well then you can say, he’s after breezing like I thought he would, he’s a good horse. It’s only then that you can stand behind them because you know they are a good horse.”

With that in mind, it might be best to concentrate on what Walsh doesn’t say about her Dubai Breeze Up Sale horses, colts by Into Mischief and Tonalist. She got well-paid for an Exceed And Excel (Aus) colt at the inaugural running of this sale 12 months ago and this year’s representatives were bought specifically to go back to Dubai.
“They are very big horses so you are just giving them every chance you can. But you are not under as much pressure in Dubai because there are no clocks. The season finishes out there the following week at the Dubai World Cup meeting so that makes it easier. You want them to look the part and go up there in a nice style and, off the back of John Cullinan’s Tapiture colt [Go Soldier Go] winning a Listed race at Meydan last week, he only cantered up the straight at the breeze-up. He is a fine big colt and clearly needed all that time. They are the types of horses that they seem to want over there. Obviously, you can bring a bigger, scopier horse to Arqana but you wouldn’t be bringing a Craven or a Donny type of horse out to Dubai. I don’t think anyone goes to the Craven with a horse for next year. The Craven is where you try to sell the Royal Ascot dream and Doncaster is the same.”

Regardless of how well this year’s batch of breezers sell, nothing will come close to the days of Poker De Sivola (Fr), Thousand Stars, Relegate and Thunder And Roses, horses Walsh will forever be associated with.

“It’s very hard to replace the kick you get riding winners. If you have never experienced it, you don’t know what you are missing. To ride a winner, wherever that may be, that buzz is unbelievable. When that stops, you look for something to replace it. I’m not saying it’s the same buzz but I do get a great kick out of the breezers. I love finding out which ones are good and bringing him to the sales and for them to behave and breeze the way they should. Regardless of their ability, I take pride in the fact that it’s professional. That means a lot to me. Listen, I’d love one of those horses of my own to go and make €500,000. That’s the dream and who knows? Maybe some day it will happen. She added, “I always hoped and envisioned that it would grow to be as big as it is. I hope it gets bigger. I’d like more horses of my own. This week revolved around Cheltenham for a long time. I was lucky enough to be riding as an amateur for Willie [Mullins] and the whole thing snowballed from there really.

“Every year, it was all about Cheltenham and trying to get a ride in the bumper and the amateur races over there. I was lucky enough to ride a few winners there, I’d great luck, but now it’s different and things change. It’s the same for Ruby, who’s flat to the boards now with ITV and Racing TV, so it’s been a big change for us all over the past few years.”

For all of the change the Walshes have seen in recent times, the results Katie has achieved through her Greenhills Farm operation remains a constant.
Sunday’s Results:  
5th-Toulouse, €21,000, Mdn, 3-12, unraced 3yo, 10 1/2f (AWT), 2:14.70, vsf.  
GRIMAUD (FR) (c, 3, Zoffany {Ire}--Garance {Fr} {MSP-Fr}, by Teofilo {Ire}) raced in third passing the judge first time and went to the front before turning into the backstraight. In command for the most part, the 87-10 chance was hustled along off the home turn, and stayed on well under continued urging inside the final 300 metres to comfortably hold Vazirpour (GB) (Camelot (GB)) by 1 1/4 lengths. Grimaud is the second of four foals and first scorer out of Listed Prix La Sorellina, Listed Prix Casimir Delamarre and Listed Prix Petite Etoile placegetter Garance (Fr) (Teofilo {Ire}), herself the leading performer produced by G1 Prix Saint-Alary victrix and G1 Prix de Diane runner-up Germance (Silver Hawk). The February-foaled bay is kin to a 2-year-old colt by Almanzor (Fr) and a yearling colt by Sea The Moon (Ger). The February-foaled bay is expected to be a contender in the future. 

SALES HISTORY:  
ARQOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €10,500. Video, sponsored by TVG. 
O-Riviera Equine SARL, Francois Rohaut & Haras d’Etreham; B-Haras d’Etreham & Riviera Equine SARL (FR); T-Francois Rohaut. 

CONDITIONS RESULTS:  
1st-Compiegne, €35,000, Cond, 3-12, 3yo, 7fT, 1:31.89, hy.  
LE TABOU (GB) (c, 3, Charm Spirit {Ire}--Having A Blast, by Exchange Rate) Lifetime Record: 4-2-2-0, €42,000. O-Mlle Claire Stephenson; B-The Having A Blast Partnership (GB); T-Georges Doleuze. *€8,000 RNA Wlg ’20 ARQDEC; €17,000 Ylg ’21 ARQOCT. 

2nd-Compiegne, €27,000, Cond, 3-12, 4yo, 12fT, 2:59.71, hy.  
GOLDEN CALL (FR) (c, 4, Havana Gold {Ire}--Bugle Call {Ire}, by Shamardal) Lifetime Record: 13-5-1-0, €90,250. O/T-Henri-Alex Pantall; B-Henri-Alex Pantall & Mme Yvette Pantall (FR). 

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:  
French Atoll (Fr), g, 3, French Fifteen (Fr)--Kendala (FR), by Kendargent (Fr). Machedoul, 3-12, 8 1/4fT, 1:44.01. B-Henri-Alex Pantall & Mme Yvette Pantall (FR). 
Oujda (Fr), f, 3, Sioux Nation--La Conseillante (SW-Fr), by Elusive Quality. Compiegne, 3-12, 8fT, 1:48.21. B-SCEA du Grand Chene (FR). *€25,000 Wlg ’20 ARQDEC. **1/2 to War Envoy (War Front), GSW-Eng, SW & MGSP-Ire, $494,781. 
Taybet (Fr), c, 3, Zoffany (Ire)--Saladine (Ire), by Dalakhani (Ire). Compiegne, 3-12, 8fT, 1:48.71. B-Ecurie Serval (FR). *€14,000 Wlg ’20 ARQDEC; €34,000 Ylg ’21 ARQOCT. 

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:  
Booze Cruise (Ire), c, 3, Gutaifan (Ire)--Last Mojito, by Mizzen Mast. Dortmund, 3-12, 9f (AWT), 1:57.51. B-Con & Amy Marnane (IRE). *€9,000 2yo ’22 BBAGM. 

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IN ITALY:
Fontebranda (Ire), f, 3, National Defense (GB)—Art Of Persuasion (GB), by Makfi (GB). Rome, 3-12, Hcp, 1600mT, 1:39.27. B-Fontstown Stud Ltd. (Ire). *€4,000 ylr ‘21 GOFJAN.

Cats Kiss (Fr), f, 3, Pedro the Great—Cat Nova (Fr) (SW-Fr), by Hurricane Cat. Rome, 3-12, Hcp, 2000mT, 2:07.02. B-Mell Elevages & Ecurie Artsam (Fr). *€8,500 ylr ‘21 ARQOCT.

Pure Circle (Ire), f, 3, Saxon Warrior (Jpn)—Power Dream (Ire), by Power (GB). Pisa, 3-12, Mdn Cond., 1200m, 1:09.2. B-Kilfeacle Stud (Ire). *


Baroc De L’Alguer (Ire), h, 6, Battle of Marengo (Ire)—Rose Buck (GB), by Acclamation (GB). Pisa, 3-12, Hdp., 2000m, 2:07.1. B-Golden Vale Stud (IRE). *

Sunday, Chukyo, Japan
KINKO SHO-G2, ¥128,920,000, Chukyo, 3-12, 4yo/up, 2000mT, 1:59.80, fm.

1--PROGNOSIS (Jpn), 126, h, 5, Deep Impact (Jpn)
1st Dam: Velda (GB), by Observatory
2nd Dam: Viavignon (GB), by Mark of Esteem (Ire)
3rd Dam: Val d’Erica (Ire), by Ashmore (Fr)
1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN; 1ST GROUP WIN. O-Shadai Race Horse; B-Shiraoi Farm (Jpn); T-Tomokazu Takano; J-Hayato Yoshida; ¥53,372,000. Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-1. Werk Nick Rating: First SW from this cross. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.

2--Moon Probe (Jpn), 119, f, 3, by Maurice (Jpn)—Smiling Moon (Jpn), by Fuji Kiseki (Jpn). O-Haruya Yoshida; B-Oiwake Farm (Jpn); ¥21,392,000.

3--June Orange (Jpn), 119, f, 3, Just a Way (Jpn)—Admire Sabrina (Jpn), by Symboli Kris S. O-Jun Yoshikawa; B-Hidaka Farm (Jpn); ¥13,196,000.

Margins: NK, NK, 1/2; Odds: 3.80, 13.80, 26.60. 
Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree. 
Click for the JRA chart and video.