THE X-RAY FILES: DAVID INGORDO

by Jessica Martini

The TDN sat down with bloodstockagent David Ingordo for this second offering in a series presented in cooperation with the Consignors and Breeders Association (CBA). Through conversations with buyers and sellers, the series looks to contribute to the discussion on radiograph findings and their impact on racetrack success.

Bloodstock agent David Ingordo, whose resume includes such superstars as Zenyatta and Flightline, has a stockpile of experience and a team of trusted veterinarians to work with when he travels the sales grounds looking for his next future champion. For Ingordo the all-important vet work is just one part of the puzzle and utilizing it properly helps him to determine when he’s getting a bargain and when it’s time to walk away.

“The radiographs are one of many tools that we use once we are deciding if we are going to buy a horse or not,” Ingordo said. “Obviously, we inspect them on physical, and then we look at the pedigrees and then we decide if they make the short list. If they make the short list and they jump through a couple other hoops--do they fit whatever trainer or owner I’m working with--then we make that decision to move forward and turn the vetting in to the vet we use.”

Ingordo has developed trusting relationships with vets like Dr. Keith Latson, Dr. Nathan Chaney and Dr. Jeff Berk. Cont. p3

MASS-BRED LEGEND DR BLARNEY WINS AT 10, BUT RETIREMENT MAY BE NEAR

by Bill Finley

It was starting to look like time had finally caught up with the old war horse Dr Blarney (Dublin). He came into an allowance race Monday at Finger Lakes having lost six straight, understandable considering the horse is 10 and made his debut in 2015 at Monmouth Park. But the pride of the Massachusetts breeding program was back on his game, winning by a length under jockey Jackie Davis. It was the ninth straight year in which he had won at least one race.

“He’s stayed relatively sound all these years,” trainer Karl Grusmark said. “We’ve had some issues with quarter cracks that pop up once in a while, but other than that he’s been a very healthy horse.”

Cont. p6

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

PADDINGTON SCORES IN ST JAMES’S PALACE

Coolmore’s Classic-winning son of Siyouni (Fr) gave Aidan O’Brien a ninth victory in the opening-day feature and record 83rd career win at Royal Ascot.
EDGAR PRADO RETIRES

Hall of Fame jockey Edgar Prado has officially announced his retirement from the saddle.
The X-Ray Files (cont. from p1)

“They are all really practical veterinarians,” Ingordo said. “They understand what these horses are going to do. One of the strengths, I feel, with our vets looking at radiographs and interpreting what they tell us is we tend to be forgiving from a practical standpoint. You have to remember, it’s a very subjective game. I try to use people that I find their observation and subjectivity is in line with mine and the clientele that I represent and what our goals are.”

At the end of the day, the vet report represents a risk-reward quotient for Ingordo and his clients.

“The X-rays are just part of the puzzle,” he explained. “You have to know how that piece fits when you are buying a horse. If people want a perfectly clean horse, that’s fine, that’s their prerogative. They’re going to pay for that because, if it’s a good-looking horse with pedigree and clean X-rays, they top the sales a lot of time. That doesn’t mean it’s a bad thing, but if you are willing to be a little more forgiving, which we try to be, and you have experience with certain issues--Dr. Latson was great. He would say, ‘David, on the racetrack, I’ve seen this issue 100 times. And my question would be, ‘How many times was it limiting in the horse’s soundness or their performance?’ And he would say, ‘Never.’ ‘Great. I’m in. I’ll buy that one.’ Or he would say, ‘This is one we saw a lot of unsoundness with.’ I would ask what is my percentile. He said, ‘60-40 to be unsound and then once we do the surgery, you have a worse chance of it recurring.’ Ok. That’s not for me. That’s what I need to know.”

Knowing what he can and cannot accept on a vet report has often allowed Ingordo to buy horses at a bargain price. Cont. p4
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“We take a lot of chips out,” he said. “At the 2-year-old sales, let’s say, they work well and they chip an ankle. It’s a garden variety P1 and they are clinical, they have a little pressure in there, and the horse should bring $300,000-$400,000, but because people don’t want to give it the time, I can get it for half-price. And the horse is never going to have any residual issue there, best I can tell going into it. For a $2,000 surgery and 60 days stall rest and turn out, which the horse probably needs anyway. What the heck? That’s not a bad thing for me.”

On other issues he deals with, Ingordo said, “A lot of sesamoiditis makes me want to scan a horse. If I scan them and that sesamoiditis isn’t causing any tears or strain or there are no problems where the ligaments and the suspensory branches attach into the sesamoid, I will probably give that horse 60 or 90 days off and have a perfectly sound horse. And I will probably get a discount. That’s ok for me. But if I scan that horse and I find tears, I am out. Because I have had bad luck with that.”

David Ingordo | Fasig-Tipton photo

Knowing what issues are acceptable risks with a racehorse prospect should, theoretically, be the same criteria used for pinhooking prospects, right?

“One of my greatest pet peeves in this business is when a vet tells me this horse is OK race, but not to pinhook,” Ingordo said. “I understand what people mean by that, but it isn’t a good way to describe it. Every horse is ultimately meant to be a racehorse. I don’t care if you buy it for $1,000 or $1 million, the goal is to get these horses to a racetrack, run them around in a circle, bet on them and hopefully get your picture taken because your horse is faster than your competitors. So when I hear that, I understand what they mean and I will call it shorthand for if you are racing this horse and there is no more scrutiny on it from potential future buyers, then these little— I call them jewelry on their X-rays—they have a little old chip that is rounded off, they
have some sclerosis here that looks like it’s healing, they have an OCD that they didn’t take out, but it’s not on a weight-bearing part of the joint or doesn’t communicate, or they have an OCD somewhere that isn’t articular—the horse has a good chance of being racing sound and he’s going to be ok. If you have to take this horse and resell it and it performs with a fast time at the 2-year-old sales or grows up to be some Adonis and everybody is going to come vet the horse, people could have differing opinions if this horse is ‘clean.’ I joke when you pinhook you have to find a horse that the most inexperienced person that has money can approve, so you get the most buyers on that horse.”

He continued, “I love a homebred that is a really good individual that you know he won’t pass the commercial market standards on X-rays. What’s wrong with him? Little B.S. stuff, but he’s never been lame a day in his life, his joints have never blown up. He’s been sound, he trains every day, he eats every day, he does everything right. Those horses usually stand up and they would have gotten killed by the scrutiny of the commercial market. Everything needs to be a racehorse and I think we need to remember that, as an industry. That’s the ultimate goal.”

For the best way to back up the accumulated experience of what issues hinder performance on the track and the anecdotal evidence of racetrack success stories who had ‘failed the vet,’ Ingordo envisioned a quixotic research project.

“We have an amazing opportunity to get all this data,” he said. “If you just took the September sale—it’s a huge population, it’s an annual event—there are 5,000 every year and if you did a 10-year study, just on September yearlings, that’s 50,000 horses that go from the most expensive horses sold in the world down to $1,000 or one bid horses and you would see all up and down the ladder. You could rate them, almost say these have a good chance of making the races, these ones we would say have super limiting X-ray findings and then follow those and classify them, these are stifle issues, these are ankle issues, these are hock issues, these are knee issues. I think you could start to draw some really good conclusions. If someone wanted to do that. But that’s a massive, massive undertaking.”

*Click to read last week’s The X-Ray Files with Tom McCrocklin.*
Dr Blarney Wins at 10, Nears Retirement
(cont. from p1)

With there being no racing in Massachusetts, the state’s breeding program is verging on extinction. In 2013, the year Dr Blarney was born, the Massachusetts foal crop consisted of 41 horses. In 2021, the latest year available through The Jockey Club Fact Book, that number was seven. In 2022, only one mare was bred in the state.

Dr Blarney is one of only five horses bred in Massachusetts who have raced this year.

But the breeding program could always depend on Dr Blarney for some needed doses of spirit-lifting good news. Bred by his owner, Joseph DiRico, he broke his maiden in his first start, a July 12, 2015 $30,000 maiden claimer at Monmouth for then trainer Thomas McCooey. He lost his next two, including a start in the Tyro S. at Monmouth, but soon found his element.

McCooey shipped him to Suffolk Downs to take on fellow Mass-breds in the Norman Hall S. He won by 10 that day, the first of 15 state-bred stakes he would win from 16 tries. His only loss against Massachusetts-breds came in a grass race.

He ran in his last Mass-bred race in 2020, a year after Suffolk Downs closed down for good. Fort Erie offered some races for Massachusetts-breds and it was there that Dr Blarney won the Rise Jim S. for the fourth time. From there, he had to run exclusively against open company and he has held his own. He’s won six more times, including a win against open stakes company in the 2020 Last Dance S. at Fort Erie, his second stakes win against open company. He also won the Governor’s Day H. in 2018 at Delaware Park.

With the win this week at Finger Lakes, he upped his career record to 27-for-44 with earnings of $787,393. That doesn’t include the $181,338 he’s taken home in Mass-bred incentives and awards.

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“It’s like having an ATM machine in the shedrow,” said Grusmark, who took over the training of Dr Blarney from McCooey at the start of the 2017 season. “When he’s right, he can compete. We won a stakes race at Delaware Park with him and we’ve run him at a lot of tracks. He’s better against Mass-breds because of the competition, but he’s a quality horse. He’s a good honest horse that can win against good horses.”

Dr Blarney’s best year earnings-wise was 2018, when he earned $188,570, but much of that was made beating up on inferior competition in state-bred races. He’s made just $22,175 so far this year from three starts, but Grusmark believes there is plenty left.

“I think right now he’s as good as he’s been in a couple of years,” he said.

DiRico attributes Dr Blarney’s longevity to how he’s been handled throughout his career.

“Every winter we send him to a training center in South Carolina for three, three-and-a-half months,” he said. “Not racing during the winters has helped. He’s also been racing in a lot of Massachusetts-bred races and in those races he really didn’t have to extend himself. We’ve taken good care of him.”

Grusmark said that Dr Blarney will likely be retired after his next win and that, win or lose, he will not race as an 11-year-old.

DiRico is already searching around to find a home for his gelding following his last race. He said one option is to give him Jessica Paquette, the announcer at Parx who worked at Suffolk in a number of roles before that track closed. She has offered him a home.

In the meantime, DiRico is making plans to say goodbye to a horse that has been so good to him.

“Since he’s been stabled at Finger Lakes, I don’t really get much of a chance to see him,” DiRico said. “I have a house at Saratoga for the summer and this year when I go up there I’m going to make sure that I go to Finger Lakes and see him and feed him carrots. When he’s retired, I’ll have to deal with that when the time comes. He’s been very special.”

So while it appears that Dr Blarney could keep going for a while, that’s not the plan. With his win Monday, he passed Ask Queenie to become the leading all time Mass-bred money earner. But there’s one more goal that DiRico wants to accomplish. Dr Blarney is tied with Ask Queenie and Rise Jim for most career wins ever by a Mass-bred at 27. Rise Jim is arguably the best Mass-bred ever and is a back-to-back winner of the Tom Fool S., winning the race in 1992 when it was a Grade II and again when it was a Grade III. A 28th win by Dr Blarney would mean that he had nothing else to prove.

“Mr. DiRico would be thrilled to see him become the leading Mass-bred winner of all time,” Grusmark said.
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HALLOF FAME JOCKEY EDGAR PRADO HAS RETIRED by Bill Finley

In a tweet sent out Tuesday afternoon, Gulfstream Park announced that Hall of Fame jockey Edgar Prado has retired. With 7,119 victories, Prado, 56, is the eighth winningest jockey in the sport’s history. He has not ridden since the Jan. 6 card at Gulfstream.

At deadline for this story, Prado had not returned a phone from the TDN, but told the Blood-Horse that he wanted to spend more time with his family.

“It was getting harder and harder and I was wasting the time that I spent with my family, with my loved ones,” he told the Blood-Horse. “I saw my kids in my house having a great time and I decided to call it off. I’ve been very blessed throughout my career.”

Prado’s decision to retire came after one of the roughest stretches of his career. He won just 15 races in 2021 and another 11 in 2022. This year, he was 0-for-2.

“They all wanted new riders,” he told said. “I totally understand that. When I was 20, I took somebody’s place and now somebody is taking my place.”

Prado was born in Lima, Peru, where he rode his first winner in 1983. He began riding in the U.S. in 1986, starting out at the Florida tracks before moving on to Suffolk Downs. He had his breakthrough at the Maryland tracks, where, in 1997, he won 536 races. He was the leading jockey in Maryland six times, 1991 through 1993 and 1997 through 1999. Prado led all riders in the nation in wins three times, in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

In 1999, Richard Migliore, who was riding regularly for trainer John Kimmel had a spill and Kimmel needed a new rider. He summoned Prado from Maryland and that began a very successful run at the NYRA tracks for the talented Peruvian jockey. He would go on to win 11 riding titles at the NYRA tracks.

He won the 2002 GI Belmont S. with Sarava (Wild Again), the longest shot ever to win the race, and the 2004 Belmont with Birdstone (Grindstone). He also won five Breeders’ Cup races. But Prado will always be best known as the rider of the ill-fated Barbaro (Dynaformer). After a rousing win by Barbaro in the 2006 GI Kentucky Derby with Prado aboard, the colt appeared ready to sweep the Triple Crown, but he broke down in the GI Preakness S. and was euthanized several months later.

Prado won an Eclipse Award in 2006 as the nation’s leading rider and he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008.

SP RESPECT THE CODE AMONG VICTIMS OF KENTUCKY TRAILER FIRE

Subsequent to a Monday morning fire where four Thoroughbreds died after the blaze consumed a transport trainer on the Bluegrass Parkway, one of the victims was identified as Respect the Code (Honor Code). Third in the Clocker’s Corner S. at Santa Anita earlier this winter, the gelding was being shipped from his California base to Kentucky to be sold at the upcoming Fasig-Tipton Horses of Racing Age Sale July 10. Owned by David A. Bernsen and Omar Aldabbagh, the 4-year-old was trained by George Papaprodromou.

An additional four Thoroughbreds were rescued from the fire while no people were reportedly injured in the blaze.

PEACOCK TO STREAM ALL FIVE DAYS OF ROYAL ASCOT; FANDUEL TV TO BROADCAST MEETING LIVE

Live coverage of the five-day Royal Ascot meeting will be exclusively streamed on Peacock, NBC Sports announced.

Their Royal Ascot coverage begins at 8:30 a.m. daily from Tuesday, June 20, through Friday, June 23 on Peacock. On Saturday, June 24, both NBC and Peacock will cover the day’s card beginning at 9 a.m., and at 1 p.m., Peacock will continue to broadcast the Royal meeting. Coverage airing on NBC will also stream live on NBCSports.com and the NBC Sports app.

NBC Sports’ Royal Ascot veterans Britney Eurton and Nick Luck host Saturday’s coverage on NBC and Peacock. NBC News’ Dylan Dreyer will be on-site with access to the Royal Enclosure. Steve Kornacki, NBC News’ national political correspondent, returns to NBC Sports’ Royal Ascot coverage as an insights analyst for the second time. In total, NBC Sports will present nearly 25 hours of coverage over the five days of racing, which is the first edition to be held under the reign of King Charles. The entire five days will also be broadcast on FanDuel TV, with FanDuel TV’s international experts Scott Hazeldon and Gabby Gaudet joined by the UK-based broadcasters Nick Luck and Jess Stafford.
TEXAS HORSE RACING NEEDS HISA

The horse...inquisitive, sensitive, totally aware, much smarter than you think, fearful, and a creature of habit. When my daughter returns to our family barn after training in Florida for six months, her retired horses greet her with a whinny. An old friend has returned.

The horse is a fabric of historical Texas. The horse represents how we all arrived here, and how we survived in the earliest days. Some horses are bred to run--that's their job. All animals need a job and thrive when working. The thoroughbred's instinct is to run as fast and as far as it can. As long as there are horses, there will be horse races, and men and women will admire the sheer determination, stamina, strength, and speed of the majestic horse.

The tragedy at Churchill Downs this past May, in which twelve horses broke down on the racetrack, fractured their lower legs and needed to be euthanized, should never be repeated. The cause of this rash of sudden breakdowns is uncertain: the current American thoroughbred may be bred too strong up top across the chest with lower legs that are relatively too thin and fragile, or changes in the surface of the track due to humidity and weather variations may increase the risk of a ligamentous injuries which can then predispose to falls and catastrophic fractures. Most horses can survive the surgery, but few can survive the confinement and partial weightbearing needed to allow these fractures to heal.

The Jockey Club, in recognizing this problem, sought relief from Congress and in one of the few truly bipartisan pieces of legislation in the past 10 years, the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) was passed. This lifesaving legislation allows the government to designate a corporate entity to unite the horse industry, to find ways in which horse tragedies can be eliminated, and drug abuse can be regulated at the Federal level.

The model is not a new one. A Federally sponsored corporate entity serves to regulate the Securities and Exchange Commission. The needs are similar. Regulation among multiple states with multiple interests are consolidated under a single governing body with superior resources and a single purpose-driven goal.

In response to the HISA act, most states have supported and endorsed this model, but a few outliers, including the State of Texas represented by the Texas Racing Commission, have sought to preserve the status quo.

The Commission’s stated rationale is that only the Texas Racing Commission may regulate parimutuel racing and simulcast wagering in Texas. Although National regulation affects all aspects of our life living in Texas, the Texas Racing Commission, due to this perceived legal technicality, has been unable to find a compromise solution. As a result, the Texas racing industry suffers, the Texas patrons who enjoy horseracing suffer, and our thoroughbred gladiators suffer the most.

A second consequence of this stalemate is that racetracks in Texas can no longer simulcast Texas races to other communities and states and receive wagers allotted for their racing program. Without the ability to simulcast, the betting handle at Sam Houston Racetrack during the winter meet fell 90% and the handle at the current Lone Star spring and summer racing meet is not significantly better. Tracks survive by taking approximately 15% of the betting handle to support their operations and purses. The current situation is unsustainable.

Having served on the Texas Racing Commission for 10 years, including four years as Chairman, I can attest that the Commission staff, stewards, and the working regulators are superb and unmatched in their quality and dedication. The political appointees of the Commission, however, have lost sight of their designated purpose.

In this one rare instance, Congress has actually provided us—and our horses—a solution. Ultimately, HISA has the resources, the regulatory power, and sophisticated lab testing that can root out illegal drug use, research track surfaces, and analyze breeding patterns. HISA has the potential to improve the sport and create a safe horseracing animal that can thrive in a newer environment.

The Texas Racing Commission needs to recognize its responsibilities and protect our animals in an ever-changing world. The consequences of the Texas Racing Commissioners’ opposition to these efforts simultaneously leaves our horses at risk and our tracks on the path to ruin.

Texas deserves better.

Robert Schmidt, MD is a Fort Worth based orthopedic surgeon specializing in joint replacement surgery of the hip and knee. He and his wife had bred and raced thoroughbreds under the colors of Oak Meadow Farm. He was appointed by Governor Perry to the Texas Racing Commission and served for 10 years, including 4 years as chairman. He currently serves as Mayor of Annetta North, Texas.
MAGE REPLICA ADDED TO DERBY MUSEUM WINNER'S CIRCLE EXHIBIT

The addition of a replica of Mage (Good Magic), the 149th Kentucky Derby champion, is among the features added to the Winner’s Circle exhibit at the Kentucky Derby Museum. A local artist, Mike Prather, produced the airbrushed the replica. Also, the exhibit provides the Mage team’s story and their journey to the Kentucky Derby stage through the self-guided panels in the exhibit.

The Museum will also feature unique artifacts:

- Two of Mage’s horseshoes worn during the Kentucky Derby
- A harness worn by Mage
- A Mage hat signed by the team

The Museum’s signature 18-minute movie, The Greatest Race, now also includes Mage’s late charge to win in Derby 149.

The Museum also updated its lobby banner with pictures of the Mage team celebrating their win. Matted prints of Mage working out and crossing the finish line, shot by photographer Ted Tarquinio, are also available. Prints are available for purchase at the Kentucky Derby Museum Store or online: www.DerbyMuseumStore.com

For more info on the museum's latest updates, visit www.derbymuseum.org/derby149

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### Saturday, Thistledown #12, post time: 6:20 p.m. EDT

**OHIO DERBY-GIII**, $500,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m

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<td>1</td>
<td>Henry Q</td>
<td>Blame</td>
<td>The Del Mar Group</td>
<td>O'Neill</td>
<td>Carmouche</td>
<td>126</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Tapiture</td>
<td>Liss, Joe and Biddinger, Tritain</td>
<td>Loudin-Smith</td>
<td>Gonzalez</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Uncle Mo</td>
<td>Spendthrift Farm, Landers, Steve, Schwartz, Martin, Dubb, Michael, Ten Strike Racing, Bakke, Jim, Titletown Racing, Kueber Racing, Big Easy Racing, Kanter, Rick, Caruso, Michael J. &amp; WinStar Farm</td>
<td>Cox</td>
<td>Geroux</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Two Phil's</td>
<td>Hard Spun</td>
<td>Patricia's Hope, Sagan, Phillip &amp; Madaket Stables</td>
<td>Rivelli</td>
<td>Loveberry</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agnello's Dream</td>
<td>Always Dreaming</td>
<td>Danielle Agnello</td>
<td>Skerrett</td>
<td>Barbaran</td>
<td>126</td>
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<td>Bernardini</td>
<td>Maria Quezada</td>
<td>Urieta</td>
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<td>126</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lord Miles</td>
<td>Curlin</td>
<td>Vegso Racing Stable</td>
<td>Joseph, Jr.</td>
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<td>126</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hayes Strike</td>
<td>Connect</td>
<td>Dixiana Farms LLC</td>
<td>McPeek</td>
<td>Torres</td>
<td>126</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding, 2-Troy Rankin, 3-WinStar Farm, LLC, 4-Phillip Sagan, 5-WinStar Farm, LLC, 6-Godolphin, 7-Vegso Racing Stable, 8-Dixiana Farms, LLC

### Saturday, Ellis #9, post time: 4:55 p.m. EDT

**CHICAGO S.-GIII**, $225,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f

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<td>Saez</td>
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<td>Pioneerof the Nile</td>
<td>Godolphin, LLC</td>
<td>Cox</td>
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<td>Be Like Water</td>
<td>Majesticperfection</td>
<td>St. George Farm Racing LLC</td>
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<td>Hernandez, Jr.</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>Stella Noir</td>
<td>Stay Thirsty</td>
<td>Rose Hill Farm, Desormeaux, J. Keith, Detmar, Wayne and Voss, Gene A.</td>
<td>Desormeaux</td>
<td>Graham</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>Society</td>
<td>Gun Runner</td>
<td>Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds LLC</td>
<td>Asmussen</td>
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<td>118</td>
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<td>Drifaros</td>
<td>Kantharos</td>
<td>My Purple Haze Stables</td>
<td>Pompay</td>
<td>Garcia</td>
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**Breeders:** 1-St. Simon Place, 2-Godolphin, 3-St. George Farm LLC, 4-Wayne Detmar, Gene Voss, Keith Desormeaux & Rose Hill Farm, 5-Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC, 6-Hidden Springs Farm
IN ORDER OF PURSE:

1st-Presque Isle Downs, $31,680, (S), Alw, 6-20, 2yo, f, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m (AWT), 1:37.17, ft, 10 3/4 lengths.

CAPTAIN COURTNEY (f, 3, Army Mule--Mareana, by Northern Afleet), third sprinting at Parx May 6, followed up with an emphatic eight-length victory going 7 1/2 panels on the turf against Pennsylvania bred s at Parx May 30. Installed the 1-2 choice to make it two straight while debuting at a route and on the synthetic, the bay stalked an languid early pace, swung out three wide to take control turning for home and drew off to score by an impressive 10 3/4-length win over R Girl Faith (Jess's Dream). Sales history: $90,000 2yo '22 EASMAY. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, $57,670. 

O-Arnold and Susan Davidov; B-Wesley R Bennett (PA); T-Michael J. Trombetta.

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

8th-Prairie Meadows, $43,150, (S), Msw, 6-19, 2yo, f, 4 1/2f, :53.68, ft, 1 1/2 lengths.

MY HEART'S ON FIRE (f, 2, Flameaway--My Heart's Love, by A.P. Indy), an 8-1 shot, zipped out to the early lead and quickly opened a clear advantage. Four lengths in front with a furlong to run, the chestnut filly stroked under the wire 1 1/2 lengths in front to become the second winner--and first in the U.S.--for her freshman sire (by Scat Daddy). Flameway was represented by Scat Lady Crown, a winner in Mexico earlier this month. My Heart's On Fire was a $23,000 IOWOCT yearling. She has a yearling half-sister by Higher Power. My Heart's Love, who sold for $23,000 with the winner in utero at the 2020 Keeneland November sale, was bred back to Gift Box last year. The mare is a daughter of graded winner Mo Cuishle (Saint Ballado). 

Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by TVG. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $25,898. O-Dick R. Clark & Otto Farms, Inc.; B-Minnehan Agg (IA); T-Dick R. Clark.
Cont.
5th-Horseshoe Indianapolis, $36,000, (S), Msw, 6-20, 2yo, 5f, 1:00.53, ft, neck.
LEO SPRINGS (g, 2, Unbridled Spring--Flatter Me Fiona, by Flatter), sent off at 7-1 in this unveiling, settled in midpack early after a slightly awkward start, and made some progress while three wide leaving the far turn and heading to the quarter pole. Fanned out wide turning for home, the gelding gradually wore down pacesetter and 5-2 chance It's Last Call (Brethren) to get up for a neck win. Sales history: $3,200 Ylg '22 INDMIX. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $21,600. Click for the Equibase.com chart. O-Haran Thoroughbreds, LLC; B-Steven West & Sharon E. Baker (IN); T-John Haran.

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 2023 Stud Fees Listed

Army Mule (Friesan Fire), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, $12,500 143 foals of racing age/47 winners/7 black-type winners 5-Cby All Turf Pick 5, 9:42 p.m. EDT, $100K Canterbury Derby CBY - R8, 1mT, One in Vermillion, 6-5 $26,000 ARZ NOV yrl

Bee Jersey (Jersey Town), Darby Dan Farm, $5,000 87 foals of racing age/13 winners/2 black-type winners 4-Horseshoe Indianapolis, 4:03 p.m. EDT, Msw 5f, Perfect Manhattan, 15-1 $70,000 KEE SEP yrl; $50,000 OBS APR 2yo

Bolt d'Oro (Medaglia d'Oro), Spendthrift Farm, $35,000 256 foals of racing age/60 winners/6 black-type winners 2-Cby All Turf Pick 5, 7:42 p.m. EDT, $75K Curtis Sampson Oaks CBY - R4, 1mT, Flashy Gem, 8-5

Buccero (Kantharos), Pleasant Acres Stallions, $5,000 157 foals of racing age/31 winners/0 black-type winners 6-Horseshoe Indianapolis, 5:05 p.m. EDT, $100K Hoosier Breeders Sophomore H., 1 1/16m, Honey Red, 20-1 $48,000 IND MIX yrl

City of Light (Quality Road), Lane's End Farm, $60,000 209 foals of racing age/30 winners/6 black-type winners 2-Cby All Turf Pick 5, 7:42 p.m. EDT, $75K Curtis Sampson Oaks CBY - R4, 1mT, Lil Miss Moonlight, 9-2 $95,000 KEE SEP yrl

Forever d'Oro (Medaglia d'Oro), Breakway Farm, $2,000 21 foals of racing age/5 winners/1 black-type winner 7-Horseshoe Indianapolis, 5:36 p.m. EDT, $100K Hoosier Breeders Sophomore H., 1 1/16m, Good Forever, 5-1

Good Samaritan (Harlan's Holiday), WinStar Farm, $7,500 172 foals of racing age/40 winners/1 black-type winner 5-Cby All Turf Pick 5, 9:42 p.m. EDT, $100K Canterbury Derby CBY - R8, 1mT, Coffee Caliente, 10-1 $62,000 KEE SEP yrl

FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 2023 Stud Fees Listed

Catalina Cruiser (Union Rags), Lane's End Farm, $15,000 110 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners 4-Horseshoe Indianapolis, 4:03 p.m. EDT, Msw 5f, Aim Higher, 8-1

Mitole (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, $15,000 159 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners 4-Horseshoe Indianapolis, 4:03 p.m. EDT, Msw 5f, April Clover, 2-1

Ten Sovereigns (Ire) (No Nay Never), Coolmore Stud, $17,500 149 foals of racing age/5 winners/0 black-type winners 4-Horseshoe Indianapolis, 4:03 p.m. EDT, Msw 5f, Affectionate, 20-1 $32,000 KEE SEP yrl

TODAY’S FEATURED REPLAY

Captain Courtney (by Army Mule) airs at Presque Isle Tuesday. (click to watch)
ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

4th-Horseshoe Indianapolis, $36,000, 6-20, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 5fT, :58.16, fm, 1 length.

BAL A KAZOO (g, 3, Bal a Bali {Brz}--Golden Sky {Ire}, by Sea The Stars {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-0, $49,840. O-Marion F. Gorham; B-Calumet Farm (KY); T-Robert M. Gorham. *$2,200 Wlg '20 KEENOV; $10,000 Ylg '21 FTKOCT.

7th-Louisiana Downs, $31,000, (S), 6-19, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m 70y, 1:45.17, ft, head.

SHES A LUCKY REBEL (f, 3, Lookin At Lucky--She's a Rebel Too (SP, $144,965), by Two Punch) Lifetime Record: 9-2-1-3, $92,455. O-Thomas L. Holyfield; B-T L Holyfield Racing Stable LLC (LA); T-Shane Wilson. *1/2 to Mo' Green (Uncle Mo), GSW, $279,420; Brother in Arms (Yes It's True), MSP, $211,305; and to She'screative (Creative Cause), SW, $103,060.

6th-Thistledown, $28,000, 6-20, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.82, ft, 1 length.

MS. THE LAW (f, 3, Constitution--My My My Maria (SW, $181,734), by Cuvee) Lifetime Record: 10-2-2-0, $44,065. O-Shawn O'Brien; B-Double O Thoroughbreds LLC (KY); T-Richard Estvanko.

1st-Finger Lakes, $25,740, 6-20, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m 70y, 1:46.87, ft, 1/2 length.

CROSS ISLAND (m, 5, Cross Traffic--Hotkittyinthecity {Ire}, by One Cool Cat) Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-0, $42,798. O-Louth Racing; B-Louth Racing (NY); T-M. Anthony Ferraro.

8th-Finger Lakes, $24,700, (S), (NW2BX)/Opt. Clm ($10,000), 6-20, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.71, ft, head.

WRITER'S REGRET (g, 5, Teuflesberg--Pencil Papers, by Doneraile Court) Lifetime Record: 32-6-10-4, $247,348. O/B-Seacoast Thoroughbreds of New England (NY); T-Ralph D'Alessandro. *$4,000 RNA Ylg '19 EASOCT.

7th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, $23,086, (S), 6-19, (C), 3yo/up, f/m, 5f, :58.94, ft, 7 1/4 lengths.

MACKENZIE'S MUSIC (m, 5, Maclean's Music--Jugni, by Colonel John) Lifetime Record: 11-4-4-1, $105,703. O/B-Coleswood Farm, Inc. (WV); T-Jeff C. Runco. *1/2 to Amidships (Midshipman), SP, $157,785.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Hottie Spottie, c, 2, National Flag--Spotshot, by Bernardini. Thistledown, 6-20, (S), 5f, :59.62. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, $23,730. B-Blazing Meadows Farm LLC (OH).

Noble Reality (Fr), g, 3, Al Wukair (Ire)--Money Time (Ire), by Arch. Horseshoe Indianapolis, 6-20, 6f, 1:10.55. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, $21,525. B-Ecurie Biraben & Antoine Gilibert (FR). *€40,000 Wlg '20 ARQDEC; €40,000 Ylg '21 ARAUG.

Sugar Loves It, f, 3, Overanalyze--Van Gogo Girl, by Van Nistelrooy. Thistledown, 6-20, (S), 6f, 1:12.60. Lifetime Record: 5-1-2-1, $38,646. B-Bolyard Investments, LLC & TC Stable LLC (OH).

Sparkling Silver, f, 3, Signature Red--Essence of Silver, by Essence of Dubai. Assiniboia Downs, 6-19, 6f, 1:14.05. Lifetime Record: 7-1-2-1, $22,532. B-Howard Walton (ON).


Wicked Sight, f, 4, Wicked Strike--Spectacular Sight, by Mr. Greeley. Parx Racing, 6-20, (C), 5 1/2f, 1:05.97. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, $21,000. B-Y-Lo Racing Stables, LLC (FL). *1ST-TIME STARTER.
Al Wukair (Ire), Noble Reality (Fr), g, 3, o/o Money Time (Ire), by Arch. MSW, 6-20, Horseshoe Indianapolis
Army Mule, Captain Courtney, f, 3, o/o Mareana, by Northern Afleet. ALW, 6-20, Presque Isle Downs
Bal a Bali (Brz), Bal a Kazoo, g, 3, o/o Golden Sky (Ire), by Sea The Stars (Ire). ALW, 6-20, Horseshoe Indianapolis
Constitution, Ms. the Law, f, 3, o/o My My My Maria, by Cuvee. ALW, 6-20, Thistledown
Cross Traffic, Cross Island, m, 5, o/o Hotkittyinthecity (Ire), by One Cool Cat. ALW, 6-20, Finger Lakes
Firing Line, My Firing Line, f, 4, o/o Baby It's Mine, by Fusaichi Pegasus. MSW, 6-19, Prairie Meadows
Flameaway, My Heart's On Fire, f, 2, o/o My Heart's Love, by A.P. Indy. MSW, 6-19, Prairie Meadows
Lookin At Lucky, Shes a Lucky Rebel, f, 3, o/o She's a Rebel Too, by Two Punch. ALW, 6-19, Louisiana Downs
Maclean's Music, Mackenzie's Music, m, 5, o/o Jugni, by Colonel John. ALW, 6-19, Thistledown
National Flag, Hottie Spottie, c, 2, o/o Spotshot, by Bernardini. MSW, 6-20, Thistledown
Overanalyze, Sugar Loves It, f, 3, o/o Van Gogo Girl, by Van Nistelrooy. MSW, 6-20, Thistledown
Signature Red, Sparkling Silver, f, 3, o/o Essence of Silver, by Essence of Dubai. MSW, 6-19, Assiniboia
Teuflesberg, Writer's Regret, g, 5, o/o Pencil Papers, by Doneraile Court. AOC, 6-20, Finger Lakes
Unbridled Spring, Leo Springs, g, 2, o/o Flatter Me Fiona, by Flatter. MSW, 6-20, Horseshoe Indianapolis
Wicked Strike, Wicked Sight, f, 4, o/o Spectacular Sight, by Mr. Greeley. MCL, 6-20, Parx Racing

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IN TDN AMERICA TODAY
THE X-RAY FILES: DAVID INGORDO
Jessica Martini sits down with bloodstock agent David Ingordo to learn more about his take on radiographs when selecting horses.

by Tom Frary

In the battle of the 2000 Guineas winners in Tuesday's G1 St James's Palace S., it was the Irish Classic victor Paddington (GB) (Siyouni {Fr}--Modern Eagle {Ger}, by Montjeu {Ire}) who proved much the best as he overwhelmed the Newmarket hero Chaldean (GB) (Frankel {GB}) to make Aidan O'Brien Royal Ascot's winningmost trainer on 83.

Settled behind the leaders from his wide draw by Ryan Moore as Frankie took the Juddmonte representative to the front, the 11-5 second favourite moved to his chief rival with 1 1/2 furlongs remaining and was cajoled clear to score by an impressive 3 3/4 lengths. Chaldean finished like a non-stayer, but the 13-8 market-leader held on for second by a neck from Charyn (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}).

“He’s a very good colt who is improving and improving and has a big engine and a lot of class,” Moore said after registering his 75th Royal success. “Maybe I should have ridden him colder, as he quickened up past them and then probably shut down. He took me there quite easy and, when he put his foot down, he found plenty." Cont. p3
In Royal Ascot’s first race of the meet, the 4-year-old finished a length ahead of Inspiral (GB) to earn a first career Group 1 victory.

‘THE BEST THING ON THE PLANET’

Emma Berry reflects on the initial day of racing action at Royal Ascot.

ROYAL ASCOT TALKING POINTS

With the first day of Ascot’s Royal meeting in the books, Brian Sheerin offers a deeper dive into several of the afternoon’s highlights.

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Paddington was Ryan Moore’s 75th Royal Ascot winner

G1 St James’s Palace S. Cont. from p1

Delivered to the Irish 2000 Guineas via Naas’s Madrid H. and The Curragh’s Listed Tetrarch S., Paddington came into the Curragh Classic with a lower profile than usual for his stable only to emerge very much the real deal en route to this moment of truth. Forced to travel wide from his outside post, he fortunately proved more tractable than he had in the initial stages of the Irish Guineas and was at least granted a true pace with Frankie going out to put the gun to the heads of his rivals.

Heading to the three pole, Chaldean looked strong but a furlong later the writing was already on the wall with Frankie at work and Ryan looming large to his right. Whereas Andrew Balding’s charge tended to tread water from there, Paddington was hands and heels to the line to win with comfort.

Intriguingly, the winner was faster than the runner-up for six of the eight furlongs and for all of the last five in a race that ended up being run too fast too early.

O’Brien, who now boasts nine St James’s Palace S., was opening the door to a program over more than a mile in time.

“He is able to quicken very well—that is his big thing,” he said. “John [Magnier] said to me that this horse would get further than a mile if you wanted him to, no problem.”
WORLD-CLASS SIRE

Group winners, from €4,000 to €40,000 nominations!

ALMANZOR
Triple Gr.1-winning European Champion

AUDARYA
Dual Gr.1 winner inc. Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Turf-Gr.1

WOODED
Prix de l’Abbaye-Gr.1 (over 5f.)

ZELLIE
Prix Marcel Boussac Gr.1 (at 2)

INCARVILLE
Prix Saint-Alary-Gr.1

AL RIFFA
National S.-Gr.1 (at 2)

RIVER TIBER
Coventry S.-Gr.2 (at 2)

CHINDIT
Dual Gr.2 winner, 2nd Lockinge Stakes-Gr.1

ROYAL PATRONAGE
Royal Lodge S.-Gr.2 (at 2), Acomb S.-Gr.3 (at 2)

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL
Gr.2 winner, 2nd Poule d'Essai des Pouliches-Gr.1

TAMAHERE
Gr.2 winner, 2nd Jenny Wiley S.-Gr.1

ATOMIC JONES
Champions Juvenile S.-Gr.2 (at 2)

THE BLACK ALBUM
Prix la Rochette-Gr.3 (at 2)

WOOTTON
Gr.3 winner, 3rd St James’s Palace S.-Gr.1

THE SUMMIT
Gr.3 winner, 2nd French 2,000 Guineas-Gr.1

TOPGEAR
Prix Eclipse-Gr.3 (at 2)

KING OF STEEL
2nd Epsom Derby-Gr.1

River Tiber wins the Coventry Stakes-Gr.2 at Royal Ascot yesterday to remain unbeaten. Bucanero Fuerte, also by Wootton Bassett, was third.

Unbeaten Gr.1-winning Champion 2YO with the ability to significantly upgrade his mares

Remember his biggest and best crops are in the pipeline!
He added, “The lads will have to think about whether they want to go to Goodwood [for the Sussex S]. He has all the options, because he has the speed to be a top miler as we see, so it’s very exciting.”

Andrew Balding said of Chaldean, “Frankie has felt he probably just overdid it a little early, but I’m not sure whether that would have made a difference to the result. They are two very high-class horses.”

Roger Varian said of Charyn, who put up a personal best in third, “I am delighted with how he ran--he seems to be improving. He was beaten the same distance today by Paddington as he was at The Curragh. He’s versatile, tough and genuine. I don’t think he’s out of place in this company and I think he’ll keep improving all year.”

**Pedigree Notes**

Bred and raised at Monceaux for the Wildensteins, Paddington who was the joint-second highest-priced lot when realising €420,000 at the 2021 Arqana October Sale is currently the last known foal out of the Listed Prix Belle de Nuit winner Modern Eagle (Ger) (Montjeu (Ire)). Her first progeny was Masterpiece (Fr) (Mastercraftsman (Ire)), who was twice listed-placed in France while she is a daughter of the G1 Prix de Diane runner-up Millionaia (Ire) (Peintre Celebre) and a half to the Listed Vintage Tipple S. winner and G3 Loughbrown S.-placed Mighty Blue (Fr) by Montjeu’s son Authorized (Ire). Millionaia is out of the G1 Prix Saint-Alary heroine Moonlight Dance (Alysheba), who is also the second dam of the G2 Prix du Conseil de Paris scorer Ming Dynasty (Fr) (King’s Best) while the fourth dam Madelia (Fr) (Caro) scored three times at the highest level including in the Diane.
FRANKEL ONE TWO IN THE QUEEN ANNE AS TRIPLE TIME PREVAILS by Tom Frary

Royal Ascot began with a one-two for Frankel (GB), but it was the 33-1 shot Triple Time (Ire) and not the higher-profile Inspiral (GB) who came out on top after a thrilling finale to Tuesday’s opening G1 Queen Anne S. Remarkably, both were having their seasonal debuts but were able to shake off any rustiness to ensure that Juddmonte’s giant dominated proceedings in this qualifier for the $2-million GI FanDuel Breeders’ Cup Mile at Santa Anita in November.

Denied a run in the G1 Lockinge S. due to a bout of colic, Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum’s homebred son of his sensational broodmare Reem Three (GB) (Mark Of Esteem {Ire}) was understandably fresh and keen on the front end alongside Light Infantry (Fr) (Fast Company {Ire}) initially. Committed by Neil Callan approaching the two-furlong marker, Triple Time looked a sitting duck as Frankie loomed on the Cheveley Park filly but kept finding late to deny the Italian his ideal start by a neck.

Winners By Sire (alphabetical/win)

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<tr>
<th>Sire</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cacique (Ire)</td>
<td>1 (Hcp.)</td>
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<td>Frankel (GB)</td>
<td>1 (G1)</td>
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<td>Galiway (GB)</td>
<td>1 (Hcp.)</td>
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<td>Shamardal</td>
<td>1 (Listed)</td>
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<td>Siyouni (Fr)</td>
<td>1 (G1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasleet (GB)</td>
<td>1 (G1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wootton Bassett (GB)</td>
<td>1 (G2)</td>
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STALLION SUCCESS by design

PADDINGTON

Stars at Royal Ascot, as the Classic hero completes a Group 1 double to take the St James’s Palace Stakes by 3 3/4 lengths, building on his scintillating success in the Irish 2000 Guineas.

by SIYOUJNI

THE AGA KHAN STUDS
Success Breeds Success
Congratulations to all connections of
PADDINGTON - c.2020 SIYOUNI x MODERN EAGLE
Winner of the St James's Palace Stakes, Gr.1

2021 October Yearling Sale
Buyers: Broadhurst Agency & MV Magnier
Vendor: Écurie des Monceaux
Breeder: Dayton Investments

Owners: Tabor, Smith, Magnier, Westerberg & Brant
Trainer: Aidan O'Brien
Habitual Group 1 place-getter Light Infantry stuck to his guns to be 2 1/2 lengths away in third, with the 7-4 favourite Modern Games (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) another 3/4 of a length away in fourth.

“Kevin [Ryan] gave me so much confidence, as he said he was the best horse he’s ever trained,” Callan said. “That’s quite a big call to make, because he’s had a lot of good horses and Umar, who rides him every day, said to me going out of the chute, just ride him like his dad.”

Successful in Haydock’s Listed Ascendant S. in September 2021 and G3 Superior Mile 12 months on, Triple Time owed his odds to his latest public viewing when seventh sinking into ParisLongchamp’s sapping ground in the G2 Prix Daniel Wildenstein. On this showing, he would have been a major player in the Lockinge given how the winner of that Newbury feature fared here, but connections had no complaints as the fates played the cards at the right time.

“He wasn’t really keen today, he’s just a bit sensitive in his mouth and was throwing his head up a bit,” added his rider, who was enjoying a landmark moment on his own personal journey.

“The more rein I was giving him, the more he was racing on his own and I just let him relax. When I came back from riding in Hong Kong, I didn’t really know what to expect. You are not guaranteed anything in this game and you have to work for what you get. I was lucky that when I came back Kevin Ryan gave me some support.”

Ryan was keen to stress that the odds failed to reflect their view of the winner. “It’s not a surprise to us, as we’ve always had a lot of faith in him,” he said. “Sheikh Mohammed Obaid has been very patient and he’s only had one ordinary run in France in October on deep ground. Now hopefully we will have a full season with him. He’s got a massive stride and he’s not the type that you can break the stride of. He’s very tough. We had a plan in our head and Neil carried it out to a tee.”

John Gosden said of Inspiral, “She switched off and did everything right. She just hit the front and the other one came back, but they are two very nice ones and there are a lot of nice horses behind them. She will come on for the race, it’s not often you come to a Group 1 and say they’ll come on for the race.”

G 1 WINNER

Frankel

Triple Time

Won Queen Anne Stakes Gr1, 8f, Royal Ascot
Owned by Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum
Bred by Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum
Trained by Kevin Ryan
He added, “We would look at races like the Sussex or the Jacques le Marois that she won in Deauville last year, but she’s back on song—that’s the main thing.”

**Pedigree Notes**

Remarkably, this was a third Royal Ascot winner for Triple Time’s aforementioned listed-placed dam Reem Three, following the 2018 Britannia H. success of winner Ostilio (GB) (New Approach {Ire}) and 2019 Wokingham H. win of Cape Byron (GB) (Shamardal). Ostilio went on to annex the Prix Daniel Wildenstein that this winner floundered in last year, while Cape Byron was back here later for his career-best success in the G3 Bengough S. and they are just two of a total of six who scored at black-type level for her. Other than this colt, the others are the G1 Prix Jean Romanet heroine Ajman Princess (Ire) (Teofilo {Ire}), the Listed Lingfield Derby Trial scorer Third Realm (GB) (Sea The Stars {Ire}) and recent Listed Heron S. winner Captain Winters (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}). Another of her progeny is Imperial Charm (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), who didn’t score in black-type company but was third in the G1 Prix Saint Alary.

Reem Three is a half to the owner-bred’s smart Afsare (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), who took the G2 Celebration Mile and G3 Sovereign S. and was runner-up in the G1 Arlington Million and G1 Premio Presidente della Repubblica. She has the 2-year-old filly Bolsena (Ire) (Kingman {GB}) and yearling filly by Night Of Thunder (Ire).
2--Inspiral (GB), 125, f, 4, Frankel (GB)--Starscope (GB), by Selkirk. O/B-Cheveley Park Stud Ltd (GB); T-John & Thady Gosden. £161,250.

3--Light Infantry (Fr), 128, c, 4, Fast Company (Ire)--Lights On Me (GB), by Kyllachy (GB). (£25,000 Ylg ‘20 ARQDOY; £82,000 2yo ‘21 GOFTY). O-­NeverSayDie & Light Infantry Partnership; B-Barbara Moser (FR); T-David Simcock. £80,700.

Margins: NK, 2HF, 3/4. Odds: 33.00, 2.75, 14.00.

Also Ran: Modern Games (Ire), Berkshire Shadow (GB), Chindit (Ire), Angel Bleu (Fr), Native Trail (GB), Cash (Ire), Pogo (Ire), Mutasaabeq (GB), Lusail (Ire). VIDEO.

TDN RISING STAR BRADSELL WINS THE KING’S STAND by Tom Frary

Bouncing back to the form which saw him win last year’s G2 Coventry S., Victorious Racing’s TDN Rising Star Bradsell (GB) (Tasleet {GB}--Russian Punch {GB}, by Archipenko) survived an inquiry to capture the G1 King’s Stand S. to reward Archie Watson’s supplementary entry. Always travelling strongly for Hollie Doyle tracking the 7-4 favourite Highfield Princess (Fr) (Night Of Thunder {Ire}) throughout, the 14-1 shot mastered that mare inside the final furlong en route to a length verdict. There was significant interference for the stewards to analyse, as the winner drifted across the runner-up in the closing stages, but the 3-year-old’s authority at the line ultimately proved decisive. The 50-1 shot Annaf (Ire) (Muhaarar {GB}) was 1 3/4 lengths away in third. The King’s Stand is a “Win And You’re In’ GI Breeders’ Cup Turf Sprint qualifying race.

“Well done to Archie for supplementing him and stepping him back in trip, which he’s really relished today," Doyle said. “All credit to Mick Murphy, who rides him every day because he’s really turned a corner in the last few weeks. You can tell. The way he travelled into it was unbelievable and he quickened up nicely.”
Having beaten Persian Force (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}), Royal Scotsman (Ire) (Gleneagles {Ire}) and Blackbeard (Ire) (No Nay Never) in a star-studded Coventry, Bradsell’s career went briefly South as he injured himself when fourth in the G1 Phoenix S. at The Curragh and he many have needed his comeback when third in the G3 Commonwealth Cup Trial S. here in April. Beaten 9 1/4 lengths by the Phoenix hero Little Big Bear (Ire) (No Nay Never) when third again in Haydock’s G2 Sandy Lane S., this was his first try at five and the early signs showed why connections had come to that decision.

Whereas Jason Hart was moving on the eventual runner-up two out, Hollie still sat motionless as they pulled away from the rest up the centre with the speed dying out on both wings. Soon in command, Bradsell drifted left to intimidate Highfield Princess and while there was definite interference, the officials saw enough to let Archie Watson’s colt keep the race and banish memories of his heartbreaking loss of the 2021 G1 Commonwealth Cup with Dragon Symbol (GB) (Cable Bay {Ire}) in the stewards’ room.

“When Dragon Symbol had the race taken away, it was terrible and I know we’re seen as a big yard, but to be winning a Group 1 here is the best thing on the planet,” the trainer said. “There was dread when that bing-bong happened, especially having just been chinned in the Coventry, but it’s amazing and I’m so pleased for everyone involved. This horse was like a bull in a china shop over the winter and Michael Murphy had to trot for months and Michael does a fantastic job with him, day in, day out.”
We just felt this year he was showing a lot more speed in his races and not getting home over six," Watson added. "I thought we’d get a proper tow into the race today and I didn’t want to sound arrogant, but nothing could take us off the bridle until deep into the race and it was kind of what we really felt with him. I thought he showed up best of the horses in the Commonwealth Trial and got a bit tired late, but I knew it couldn’t have been tiredness in the Sandy Lane so it was an easy decision to pull back to five. I imagine the Nunthorpe will be the plan."

John Quinn is considering coming back on Saturday for the G1 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee S. "Jason thought she was getting going again and he’s certainly got a case," he said. "The only thing that’s holding us back is--and I don’t make excuses, whatever the result is, well done to whoever--when you can run her and run her, she’s better. If she ran well today, Saturday was always right in mind. We are leaving her down tonight and I’ll go and have a look at her--if she’s okay, she will run."

**Pedigree Notes**

Bradsell’s Listed Radley S.-winning dam Russian Punch, whose 2-year-old colt Tribal Rhythm (GB) (Ulysses {Ire}) was a £150,000 purchase by Manor House Farm at the Goffs UK Premier Yearling Sale. From the extended family of the G1 Phoenix S. runner-up Run To Jenny (Ire) (Runnett {GB}), her 2022 foal by Twilight Son (GB) unfortunately died.

**Tuesday, Royal Ascot, Britain**

**KING'S STAND S.-G1**, £627,500, Ascot, 6-20, 3yo/up, 5fT, 1:00.91, gd.

1--**BRADSELL (GB)**, 127, c, 3, by Tasleet (GB)
1st Dam: Russian Punch (GB) (SW-Eng), by Archipenko
2nd Dam: Punch Drunk (GB), by Beat Hollow (GB)
3rd Dam: Bebe De Cham (GB), by Tragic Role
1ST GROUP 1 WIN. ‘TDN Rising Star’. (12,000gns Ylg ’21 TATSOI; £47,000 2yo ’22 GOFTY), O-Victorious Racing; B-Mrs D O’Brien (GB); T-Archie Watson; J-Hollie Doyle. £355,855.
Lifetime Record: 6-3-0-2, $612,660. Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree, or the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.

Purchased by Blandford Bloodstock

2--Highfield Princess (Fr), 130, m, 6, Night Of Thunder (Ire)--
Pure Illusion (Ire), by Danehill. (29,000gns RNA Ylg '18 TATDEY), O/B-Traines House Enterprises Ltd (FR); T-John Quinn. £134,913.
3--Annaf (Ire), 133, c, 4, Muhaarar (GB)--Shimah, by Storm Cat.
1ST GROUP 1 BLACK TYPE. (16,000gns 2yo ’21 TATAHI), O-Fosnic Racing; B-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd (IRE); T-Michael Appleby. £67,519.
Margins: 1, 1 3/4, HF. Odds: 14.00, 1.75, 50.00.
Also Ran: Twilight Calls (GB), Equilateral (GB), Desert Cop (GB), Marshman (GB), Mitbaahy (Ire), Existent (GB), Raasel (GB), Coolangatta (Aus), Vadream (GB), Mooneista (Ire), Happy Romance (Ire), Dramatised (Ire), Twilight Gleaming (Ire), Cannonball (Aus). Scratched: Chipstead (GB), Manaccan (GB).

‘THE BEST THING ON THE PLANET’: WHO ARE WE TO DISAGREE? By Emma Berry

ASCOT, UK--Some of us get slower as we get older. Bradsell (GB) is getting faster. So much so that, instead of treading the more obvious three-year-old sprinter route to the Commonwealth Cup, trainer Archie Watson talked the colt’s owner Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa into supplementing him for the King’s Stand S., and what an inspired move that turned out to be.

It takes a good horse to win at Royal Ascot once, but a proper horse to return triumphant, dropped back in trip to the minimum and with a little to prove as his comeback from the injury that curtailed his juvenile season gathered momentum.

Watson will have dreaded the sound of stewards’ klaxon not long after Bradsell passed the post in front after he drifted a little towards the runner-up and last season’s crack sprinter Highfield Princess (Fr). The trainer had the 2021 Commonwealth Cup all but snatched from his clutches when Dragon Symbol (GB) bumped Campanelle (Ire) in running and was demoted to second. Tension was writ large on Watson’s face as he awaited the outcome of a prolonged stewards’ enquiry, already in the winner’s circle but reluctant to say too much in interviews being conducted as if he had won. Just half an hour earlier, Watson, his stable jockey Hollie Doyle, and Shaikh Nasser had had to settle for second with Army Ethos (GB) in the Coventry, a great run in itself for the Shalaa (Ire) colt who had made just one previous winning start.

Finally able to relax when it was confirmed that Bradsell had given him his third Royal Ascot victory and, more importantly, a second Group 1, he said, “I know we’re seen as a big yard, but for a yard like us to be winning a Group 1 here is the best thing on the planet. There was dread when that bing-bong happened, especially having just been chinned in the Coventry.”

When Watson spoke to TDN last week, he was effusive in his praise of bloodstock agent Tom Biggs, the youngest member of the Blandford Bloodstock team with whom he has formed a strong partnership.
Biggs, who appears far too self-effacing for his chosen profession, was another one blowing his cheeks out with relief as the trainer went to collect his trophy.

“We don’t have huge budgets, we work hard at the sales and these days don’t come along very often. He’s just a very fast horse,” he said.

Biggs and Watson bought Bradsell, who became the first Group 1 winner for his Shadwell sire Tasleet (GB), from last year’s Goffs UK Breeze-up Sale from Mark Grant for £47,000. He then changed hands privately following his nine-length debut success to make his first start in the Victorious Racing colours in the Coventry S. One run later a mid-race stumble in the Phoenix S. and subsequent leg fracture put paid to the rest of his juvenile campaign.

“It was quite a nasty injury but his temperament is so fantastic,” Biggs added. “When he breezed I loved his action and the way he got his head down and he got better the further he went. He’s just a great horse to be involved with.”

Bradsell was bred by Deborah O’Brien, who has moved up two generations in the sire-line for this year’s mating for his dam Russian Punch (GB) (Archipenko). The mare is now in foal to Oasis Dream (GB).

Bradsell’s successor in the Coventry roll of honour, River Tiber (Ire), was a member of the final French crop of Wootton Bassett (GB) conceived at €40,000 before he joined the Coolmore ranks. It is hard to imagine that there are not bigger and better things to come from this stallion given the line-up of mares he has covered since moving to Coolmore, where his fee has jumped to €100,000 then €150,000. As an extra vote of confidence in Wootton Bassett, MV Magnier and Peter Brant paid 480,000gnS last year for the subsequent Coventry winner at Tattersalls October Book 1. His breeder Ger Morrin of Pier House Stud would have been celebrating then, but this is where it’s really at, and Morrin was all smiles as he accepted congratulations from the Coolmore camp and many others alongside the winner’s circle.

“Fabulous,” he said. “He was always a fabulous-looking horse. He nearly died as a foal and thankfully we were able to save him. These are great people and he was good-looking yearling so they came and bought him.”

Morrin added that River Tiber’s dam Transcendence (Ire) (Arcano (Ire)) is now back in foal to Wootton Bassett.

The Tabor colours carried by River Tiber were soon back in action aboard Paddington (GB), who made it a memorable day for the group of Coolmore owners by handing out a comprehensive defeat to Juddmonte’s Chaldean (GB) (Frankel {GB}) in the battle of the Guineas winners in the St James’s Palace S. Relatively rarely for these two superpowers of the breeding world, neither colt is a homebred.

For Aidan O’Brien, Paddington’s victory was particularly significant as it took him past Sir Michael Stoute as the most successful trainer at Royal Ascot with 83 wins to his credit, nine of which have come in the St James’s Palace S.

While Ryan Moore, with three winners on the day, stole the limelight from the retiring (eventually) Frankie Dettori, the leading owner-breeder honours unquestionably went to Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum. His Triple Time (Ire) (Frankel {GB}) got the meeting off to a great start with victory in the Queen Anne S. for Kevin Ryan and Neil Callan, and a double was completed in the Wolferton with the Roger Varian-trained Royal Champion (Ire) (Shamardal).

The importance of a royal champion to British horseracing cannot be understated and it can only be hoped that the sport now has two. We have grown accustomed over many decades to the welcome message in the front of the racecard being in the name of ’Elizabeth R’. This year, for the first time, a joint message was signed ‘Charles R’ and ‘Camilla R’.

King Charles & Queen Camilla arrive at Royal Ascot | Racingfotos.com
Significantly, the new King and Queen led the royal procession for the first day of the meeting and will do so throughout. Joining them in the carriages, perhaps symbolically, was Ralph Beckett, their first trainer back in 2008 of a homebred filly bred in the January after they married. Fittingly, she was a daughter of King’s Best, named Royal Superlative (GB). The colours of the royal couple have changed now to those distinguished purple and red silks made famous in the modern era by the runners of Queen Elizabeth II.

This year’s royal welcome message was concluded by acknowledging the owners, breeders and trainers who make this meeting possible. The King and Queen said, "It is a huge and rare achievement to have a runner at Royal Ascot and we very much hope that you all enjoy the experience."

Judging by the scenes of revelry around the bandstand and in the car parks post-racing, a good day was had by many. One down, four to go.

**COVENTRY GLORY FOR TDN RISING STAR**

**RIVER TIBER** by Tom Frary

Significantly-supported into 11-8 favouritism for Tuesday’s G2 Coventry S., **TDN Rising Star River Tiber (Ire)** (Wootton Bassett (GB)—Transcendence (Ire), by Arcano (Ire)) justified that confidence to provide Aidan O’Brien with a landmark 10th renewal of the juvenile feature which had announced his arrival back in 1997. Successful by a cumulative margin of 12 1/2 lengths in two starts at Navan and Naas, the 480,000gns Book 1 graduate could be spotted cruising near the front of the far-side group led by Bronsan Racing’s oven-ready purchase Givemethebeatboys (Ire) (Bungle Inthefjungle (GB)).

Students of Ryan Moore’s body language would have noted that he sat motionless for the first four furlongs and as he asked the question two out River Tiber picked up as expected to wear down Monday night’s Goffs London sensation with just over half a furlong to race. From there the sense of inevitability became reality as he found the line a neck ahead of the Archie Watson-trained **Army Ethos (GB)** (Shalaa (Ire)), who was a few horse-widths away up the centre with another son of Wootton Bassett in Bucanero Fuerte (GB) 3/4 of a length behind him in third.

There had been trouble in the stalls, with the outsider Buyin Buyin (Ire) (Bungle Inthefjungle (GB) becoming upset and affecting his next-door neighbour Chief Mankato (GB) (Sioux Nation) in the process, leading to their withdrawal.

"It was a tricky start, with those horses getting upset and he didn’t settle like he usually does in the stalls,” commented Moore, who was riding the first winner of an afternoon treble which would ultimately take him to 76 at Royal Ascot. “He travelled really well in the race and I probably put him to sleep a bit too much. I had to wake him up to get to them and I think he had a bit more in hand. We’ve always loved him and he’ll probably go on to be a Dewhurst horse I’d have thought. For me, he stood over all of these—he looked different class.”

Aidan O’Brien, who was about to become the most successful trainer in Royal Ascot history, was not holding back as to his regard for the winner, who probably ranks up with the likes of Fasliyev, Landseer (Ire), Henrythenavigator, Power (GB) and Caravaggio. “He always looked very good,” he said. “He was never disappointing in any of his work and the stronger the work got, the stronger he became. His last piece of work he was almost doing too well, so that was my worry. We knew when he went over five last time that he was going to get six and seven comfortably.”
“You need the best horse to win the Coventry,” O’Brien added of the winner, whose inherent stamina probably made the difference off a hot early pace. “He has matured a lot, put on a lot of weight and just finds it very easy. We always thought he was a Guineas horse. If you think you have a Coventry horse, you almost know you have.”

Archie Watson, who was soon to have his moment in the sun with last year’s Coventry winner Bradsell, was delighted with another big performance for a Victorious Racing colour-bearer in Army Ethos. “He’s always had so much class from the moment Oliver [St Lawrence] bought him at the Somerville Yearling Sale,” he said. “Hollie [Doyle] felt Ryan got a better tow into the race and she had to do it all herself when they started falling away on our side of the track. For a horse on his second run, it was a massive effort and I’m very proud of him.”

**Pedigree Notes**

The second TDN Rising Star to win the Coventry in successive years and the fourth to win a Royal Ascot juvenile contest since the start of the 2022 meeting, River Tiber is the second foal and first winner for the unraced dam, a daughter of the Swedish listed winner Cover Girl (Ire) (Common Grounds {GB}) who produced the Listed Harry Rosebery S. scorer and G2 Flying Childers S. and G3 Molecomb S.-placed Mister Manannan (Ire) (Desert Style {Ire}) and his Luther Burbank H.-winning and G3 Cornwallis S. and GIII Senorita S.-placed full-sister Shermeen (Ire).

Shermeen is responsible for a trio who represented Coolmore in some form in the G1 Phoenix S. and G2 Railway S. winner and G1 Vincent O’Brien National S. runner-up Sudirman (Henrythenavigator), the G3 Hampton Court S. runner-up Roman Empire (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and the latter’s full-brother Star Of India (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), who captured last year’s Listed Dee S. and has gone on to add Australia’s Listed Rosehill Gold Cup to his tally. Transcendence’s yearling colt is by Mehmas (Ire).

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Only fifth on his return in the G2 Huxley S. on similarly testing ground at Chester last month, he traded at 16-1 for this but travelled notably strongly back on a surface with some bounce even allowing for the 10mm of rain that had fallen in the morning.

Settled wide by Jack Mitchell around three lengths off the pace set by the front-running Bolshoi Ballet (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), he was able to close the gap on Ballydoyle’s former great Derby hope with ease in early straight and after gaining the advantage 1 1/2 furlongs out was in command for a 1 1/4-length success. One of the last Royal winners for Shamardal, whose progeny have always excelled at this meeting as he did, Royal Champion was providing his rider with his breakthrough at this meeting.

“T's a rhythm horse. Although I was three wide, I had a bit of cover and he relaxed straight away,” Mitchell said. “Everyone says it and it’s probably a cliché, but this is our Olympics and where everyone wants to be riding. I am very fortunate to get on a horse I know very well and he delivered for me today, which was the best he has felt. The ground is probably key and the fact that he’s a rhythm horse. Although I was three wide, I had a bit of cover and he relaxed straight away.”

“He actually came alive with me at the four and the more I was holding on to him, the more he was grabbing the bit off me. Up at Ayr, when he won the Doonside Cup, he got there three out and was pulling a cart, so I knew he had it in the engine.”

Varian added, “He’s a bit in-and-out, but we knew there was a big day in him. He needed a run in the heavy ground at Chester but he’s trained really well in the last couple of weeks.”

Aidan O’Brien said of Bolshoi Ballet, who was running his best race for some time and kept finding despite setting a strong early tempo, “He won’t mind stepping up to a mile and a half again.”

Pedigree Notes

Royal Champion is the second live foal out of the G2 Lancashire Oaks winner Emirates Queen (GB) (Street Cry {Ire}), whose first was the dual listed-winning and multiple group-placed stayer Outbox (GB) (Frankel {GB}). The second dam Zomaradah (GB) (Deploy {GB}), whose four pattern-race wins included the Oaks d’Italia when it carried Group 1 status and who was third in the GI Breeders’ Cup Filly & Mare Turf, is the dam of the incredible Dubawi (Ire) who needs no introduction, especially at this meeting. From the dynasty of In The Wings (GB) and the Derby hero High-Rise (Ire), Emirates Queen’s 2-year-old colt by Kingman (GB) is named Temple City (GB), while she also has a yearling filly by Pinatubo (Ire).

WOLFERTON S.-Listed, £110,000, Ascot, 6-20, 4yo/up, 9f 212yT, 2:07.55, gd.

1--ROYAL CHAMPION (IRE), 134, g, 5, Shamardal--Emirates Queen (GB) (GSW & GSP-Fr, $115,027), by Street Cry (Ire). O/B-Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum (IRE); T-Roger Varian; J-Jack Mitchell. £62,381. Lifetime Record: GSP-Eng, 11-4-0-2, $206,893. *1/2 to Outbox (GB) (Frankel {GB}), SW & MGSP-Eng, SW-Qat, MGSP-Swe & SP-Fr, $887,252. 2--Bolshoi Ballet (Ire), 131, h, 5, Galileo (Ire)--Alta Anna (Fr), by Anabaa. O-Mrs J Magnier, M Tabor, D Smith & Westerberg; B-Lynch-Bages & Rhinestone Bloodstock (IRE); T-Aidan O’Brien. £23,650. 3--Buckaroo (GB), 134, c, 4, Fastnet Rock (Aus)--Roheryn (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). O-Qatar Racing Ltd; B-The Roheryn Partnership (GB); T-Joseph O’Brien. £11,836.

Margins: 1 1/4, 3/4, NK. Odds: 16.00, 7.00, 3.00.

Also Ran: Highland Avenue (Ire), Saga (GB), King Of Conquest (GB), Checkandchallenge (GB), Solid Stone (Ire), Raadobarg (Ire), Foxes Tales (Ire), Notre Belle Bete (GB), Francesco Clemente (Ire), Certain Lad (GB), Poker Face (Ire), Cadillac (Ire), Savvy Victory (Ire).

7th-Ascot, £100,000, Hcp, 6-20, 4yo/up, 14f 34yT, 3:05.28, gd. VAUBAN (FR) (g, 5, Galway {GB}--Waldfest (GB), by Hurricane Run {Ire}) snagged three Grade 1 victories over jumps, including a win in last year’s Triumph Hurdle, and was making his first start on the Flat since annexing 2021’s Listed Prix Frederic de Lagrange at Vichy. Holding sway throughout this Copper Horse H., the even-money favourite was committed at the top of the straight and powered clear of toiling rivals inside the final quarter-mile to easily outpoint stablemate Absurde (Fr) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) by an impressive 7 1/2 lengths. “I didn’t expect to be in front, but I got him out okay and nobody else wanted to be in front,” said Moore after registering his 76th Royal winner.
He added, “They told me he stays very well and I felt I had to keep building the pace. He got into a good rhythm and stretched all the way to the line. He’s a very smart horse, he won a Listed race on the flat in France and he’s done what he’s done jumping. I’d say today was a bit of a shock to him making the running, but he got the job done very well.” Indicating a trip Down Under is on the cards, owner Rich Ricci added, “I know [trainer] Willie Mullins thinks the world of this horse and I was wondering if he was working back from the [G1] Melbourne Cup rather than the Champion Hurdle. We have unfinished business in Melbourne with a second, third and a sixth. Max Dynamite was second, it was a great experience and I would love to go back to try and win it.” Vauban, kin to the unraced yearling filly Waldtimes (GB) (Jimmy Two Times (Fr)), is the first of four foals and lone performer out of a half-sister to Listed Prix Delahante runner-up Maki Maki (Fr) (Makfi {GB}). Descendants of the March-foaled chestnut’s third dam Waldmark (Ger) (Mark Of Esteem {Ire}), who ran second in the G2 Falmouth S., are headed by Arc hero and MG1SW sire Waldgeist (GB) (Galileo {Ire}), G1 St Leger victor Masked Marvel (GB) (Montjeu {Ire}) and G1 St Leger runner-up New London (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}). Lifetime Record: SW-Fr, 5-3-0-0, $118,054.

O-Mrs S Ricci; B-Philippe Decouz & SCEA du Bas Bugey (FR); T-Willie Mullins.

5th-Ascot, £100,000, Hcp, 6-20, 4yo/up, 19f 210yT, 4:32.05, gd. AHORSEWITHNONAME (GB) (m, 8, Cacique {Ire}--Sea of Galilee {GB}, by Galileo {Ire}), in foal to Cracksman (GB) and making her final start coming back off a 255-day break, was positioned within range of the leaders in seventh for most of this Ascot S. marathon. Shuffled back through the pack rounding the home turn, the 7-1 chance made relentless headway along the far-side rail in the straight to launch his challenge passing the furlong marker and was driven out from there to assert by 1 3/4 lengths from Calling The Wind (Ire) (Authorized {Ire}). “William [Buick] gave her a beautiful ride, she had a dream run and the rain last night helped her,” said trainer Nicky Henderson. “[The covering by] Cracksman probably helped more than anything, it definitely changed her and she’s much sharper. She was a laid-back filly but, since her visit to him at Dalham Hall Stud, it has woken her up a bit. It’s been a tried-and-tested route, but you can only do it once and you have just 90 days in which to do it. On some mares it might have the opposite effect and they go all dreamy and mummy, but not her.”
Buick added, “The filly gave me a beautiful ride and Nicky was very confident beforehand. She came here in great shape and throughout the race it was just a case of staying with them. I needed a bit of luck from where I was [on the rail], but when I asked her to quicken, she picked up. Not many horses can do that over this trip. I got the gaps when I needed them and had a bit of luck.” Ahorsewithnoname is the third of four foals and one of two winners from as many runners for her dam, who hails from the family of multiple Group 1-placed Oaks runner-up Gazelle Royale (Fr) (Garde Royale {Ire}). Lifetime Record: 19-7-4-3, $201,960.
O-D J Burke & P Alderson; B-Whitley Stud (GB); T-Nicky Henderson.

ROYAL ASCOT TALKING POINTS:

RECORD-BREAKING O’BRIEN STEAL S SHOW

By Brian Sheerin

Day one done and dusted and it's hard to imagine that there will be a more impressive Group 1 winner than Paddington (GB) (Siyouni {Fr}) at Royal Ascot this week.

The manner in which he swept aside the Guineas hero Chaldean (GB) (Frankel {GB}) in the St James’s Palace S. was something to behold. So, too, has been the progression the colt has put in this season.

Paddington reappeared to win the prestigious Madrid Handicap at Naas off just 97 and shares something in common with fellow Aidan O’Brien-trained Group 1 winners Homecoming Queen (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}) and Treasure Beach (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) in that he cut his teeth in handicaps before recording top-notch successes.

It’s fascinating to see how far Paddington has come in such a short space of time and it will be even more interesting to predict where he might end up this season.

He has given a strong indication that he will be even better over further and his pedigree would back that up being by Siyouni and out of a Montjeu (Ire) mare.

Connections must be thinking about stepping Paddington up to 10 furlongs in time, with races like the Coral-Eclipse and possibly even the Irish Champion S. the most obvious races for him if they lean that way.

His success on Tuesday carried added significance given O’Brien became the most successful trainer in Royal Ascot history after he crossed the winning line.

O’Brien’s tally at the royal meeting now stands at 83 winners. He is just 53 years old. Like Paddington, there will be a lot more to come.

River Tiber An Important Winner

The Coventry has a tendency to throw up the odd forgettable winner every now and again. In fact, no winner of the race has gone on to land a Classic since the 2012 scorer Dawn Approach (Ire) (New Approach {Ire}), who remained unbeaten at two and landed the following year’s 2,000 Guineas for Jim Bolger.

Few would bet against River Tiber (Ire) (Wootton Bassett {GB}) charting a similar path and he could be the horse to bridge that Classic gap for the Coventry and something like the Dewhurst would look to be an obvious target for the colt this term.

“Different class,” is how Ryan Moore described the winner, and that is as good a summary as any for a horse who took over from long-time leader Givemethebeatboys (Ire) (Bungle Inthejungle {GB}) deep inside the last furlong before putting almost two lengths between that rival and then holding the late flourish of the runner-up [Army Ethos (GB) (Shalaa {Ire})].

It was a performance of some substance, and one that earned River Tiber his position at the head of the betting for next year’s 2,000 Guineas, for which he can be backed at odds of 10-1.
The win provided Aidan O’Brien with a record-extending 10th Coventry success, which makes the master of Ballydoyle the most successful trainer in the race’s history, but an even bigger subplot to emerge from River Tiber winning was how Coolmore’s investment in Wootton Bassett is beginning to pay off.

The Coventry was a big race for the stallion given Amo Racing’s Bucanero Fuerte (GB) also ran a huge race to fill the placings back in third on just his second career start.

O’Brien touched on how excited he is about the progeny of the stallion, and rightly so, judging by the early accomplishments of Wootton Bassett at Coolmore.

**Bradsell Pays Big Compliment To Bear**

Speaking of the Coventry, last year’s winner Bradsell (GB) (Tasleet (GB)) ensured that the words forgettable will never apply to him when he clung on to land a dramatic edition of the G1 King’s Stand S.

Much of the chat about Friday’s Commonwealth Cup has revolved around Little Big Bear (Ire) (No Nay Never), who had Bradson confined to the rear-view mirror at Haydock last month.

Between O’Brien’s fantastic start to the royal meeting and Bradson providing the form with a major boost, one should expect that Little Big Bear won’t go off the colour of the 13-8 that is on offer right now.

**Worth Forgiving Sub-Par Efforts Of Australian Sprinters**

For a nation that supposedly doesn’t have any good sprinters, Britain didn’t do too badly by sending out the first 10 home in the King’s Stand.

Indeed, there were genuine excuses for the Australian runners Coolangatta (Aus) (Written Tycoon (Aus)) and Cannonball (Aus) (Capitalist (Aus)) given the rain that fell beforehand would not have played to their strengths.

It should also be noted that Dramatised (Ire) (Showcasing (GB)), last year’s Queen Mary winner and a well-backed 7-2 chance before the off, can be forgiven for failing to get involved after racing alone on the stand’s side rail with Cannonball.

**Melbourne Cup Could Be Calling For Vauban**

Willie Mullins has been talking about the Melbourne Cup for Vauban (Fr) (Galiway (GB)) even before the gelding won the Triumph Hurdle last year.

Connections came desperately close to winning the race in 2015 with Max Dynamite (Fr) (Great Journey (Jpn)) and in Vauban, hugely impressive in landing the Copper Horse Handicap, they could well realise the dream.

**Three Cheers For Brilliant Broodmare Reem Three**

How good is Reem Three (GB) (Mark Of Esteem (Ire))? A three-time winner and listed placed when in training with Luca Cumani, she now boasts three Royal Ascot winners as a broodmare after the success of the aptly-named Triple Time (Ire) (Frankel (GB)) in the G1 Queen Anne S.

Reem Three had already supplied Wokingham winner Cape Byron and Britannia scorer Ostilio, not to mention Ajman Princess finishing second in the Ribblesdale. A tremendous record.

**A Mare In Foal An Unstoppable Force?**

Henderson Thinks So

Ascot Stakes winner Ahorsewithnoname (GB) (Cacique (Ire)) will soon be off to the paddocks after connections of the Nicky Henderson-trained mare revealed that she was in foal to Cracksman (GB).

There are some who swear that mares running in foal improve their performance, but it’s almost impossible to prove it makes that much of a difference if any at all.
One thing’s for certain, Ahorsewithnonaname's career-best performance was a timely one, and Henderson was left convinced that getting the mare covered in the spring played an integral part in the Royal Ascot success.

He explained, “It definitely changed her. She’s just much sharper. She used to be much more relaxed at home but when she came back from [being covered in] Newmarket, it certainly woke her up a bit. It’s been a tried and tested route but you can only do it once. You've got 90 days--so, as I say, you can only do it once.

“We’re pretty sure it had an effect. Now, with some, it might have the opposite effect. They might go all dreamy and sleepy and mummy. There’s no doubt [it worked].”

Of course, Ahorsewithnonaname is not the only mare to have recorded successes at the royal meeting whilst in foal. Credit to Kevin Blake on Sky Sports Racing for the knowledge, but Indian Queen (GB) (Electric I {GB}) was also in foal when storming to her Gold Cup win in 1991.

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**RACE PREVIEWS**

Wednesday Previews Cont. from p1

Aidan O’Brien and his collective have had to endure as much disappointment as joy with Luxembourg so far, with physical ailments taking him out of last year’s Derby picture and leading to his no-show in the Arc. With the master of Ballydoyle, the real story is usually read between the lines of his comments, particularly post-race, and significantly this colt was described as “not for kids” by him following his courageous all-the-way Tattersalls Gold Cup triumph last time. That brought up his stable’s 400th top-level winner since it started in motion in June 1993 and you get the sense that this is the latest in a line of those to emanate from Rosegreen with a disposition of granite.

Adayar, who provided Frankel with his first Derby winner before bringing the King George back into the Classic-crop conversation here two years ago, has had his own spell in the wilderness only to bounce back from adversity. So close to winning the Champion here in October, this mighty thoroughbred has enjoyed a far smoother preparation in 2023 and will carry the aspirations of all those Derby worshippers out there.

Bay Bridge, who can be seen as at least a moral dead-heater of this 12 months ago once study of the sectionals is carried out, probably needs more rain for this race to breach a tipping point away from the others. That said, even on a sound surface this is a valid member of a list of rarities cultivated down the decades by racing’s ace horticulturalist Sir Michael Stoute. Despite losing Desert Crown (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}) out of the picture, the trainer’s assistant trainer James Savage is under no illusions as to what is required on Wednesday afternoon. “The mile-and-a-quarter division is as strong as I have seen," he stated.

Wednesday opens customarily with the G2 Queen Mary S., where the Karl Burke stable responsible for last year’s tour de force Dramatised (Ire) (Showcasing {GB}) is the most feared once again by bookies and opponents alike thanks to the Nottingham effort of Beautiful Diamond (GB) (Twilight Son {GB}). “I’m hoping she will be there in a ding-dong," commented Bruce Raymond, racing manager for her owner Sheikh Rashid Dalmook Al Maktoum. “The timing of the race is tight from her run at Nottingham, but really that’s an after-the-race excuse.”

One of Royal Ascot’s top sires Dark Angel supplies the yard’s other key hope, the Listed Marygate Fillies’ S. winner Got To Love A Grey (GB), as well as the Richard Fahey-trained Hilary Needler Trophy scorer Midnight Affair (Ire) as England’s re-emerging North maintains its high standards.

This is no ordinary Queen Mary, with added spice provided by a big US presence not just about Wesley Ward but also George Weaver and Thomas Morley. The good news for all is that we get to see Johnny Velazquez, Joel Rosario and Javier Castellano and possibly Irad Ortiz, Jr. too if he gets over the ill-timed bout of food poisoning that ruled him out of Tuesday’s action. Flying the TDN Rising Star standard is Laurence Holder’s Yarmouth winner Born To Rock (Ire) (Soldier’s Call {GB}).

In the G2 Duke of Cambridge S., Frankie renews his partnership with Andrew Rosen and Marc Chani’s G3 Princess Elizabeth S. winner Prosperous Voyage (Ire) (Zoffany {Ire}), despite the Gosdens saddling last year’s G1 Sun Chariot S. third Grande Dame (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}).
Cynane represents the Tom Morley barn | Coglianese Photography

Is that a clue? Chan’s racing manager Jamie McCalmont said of Prosperous Voyage, who upset Inspiral (GB) (Frankel {GB}) in the G1 Falmouth S. last July. “It’s a bit different competition to Epsom here, but she didn’t have a hard race there and that should set her up for a good performance.” Grande Dame gives Doreen Tabor a strong hand, with the G3 Valiant S. scorer Jumbly (GB) (Gleneagles {Ire}) sporting the first colours from Owning Hill having cost 1.25million gns at Tatts December.

Frankie’s unbeaten Listed Cocked Hat S.-winning mount Gregory (GB) (Golden Horn {GB}) is a big deal for Wathnan Racing in the G2 Queen’s Vase, where the Royal colours are carried by the Stoute runner Circle Of Fire (GB) (Almanzor {Fr}). This race also marks a landmark moment for the Crisfords as they saddle their first runner for Godolphin after the operation acquired the well-touted Chesspiece (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}).

GUINEAS HEROINE MAWJ WITHDRAWN FROM CORONATION

Godolphin homebred Mawj (Ire) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), who won the G1 QIPCO 1000 Guineas at Newmarket in May, has been withdrawn from Friday’s G1 Coronation S. at Royal Ascot due to a cough, trainer Saeed bin Suroor announced.

Successful in the G2 Duchess Of Cambridge S. and third in the G1 Cheveley Park S. at two, the daughter of Modern Ideals (GB) (New Approach {Ire}) has won all three of her 3-year-old starts. The ‘TDN Rising Star’ appeared twice at Meydan in conditions races and won the Jumeirah Fillies Classic over seven furlongs and the Jumeirah Fillies Guineas going a mile this winter.

“Mawj appeared quiet after exercising this morning and produced a dirty scope,” said bin Suroor. “She is coughing at moment, so won’t be able to run in the Coronation S.

“It’s disappointing to miss Royal Ascot, but we will give her time to recover and we can hopefully look forward to the rest of the season.”

DETTORI COPS NINE-DAY BAN; WILL MISS PLUM ECLIPSE RIDE

Frankie Dettori will miss the ride on likely G1 Coral-Eclipse favourite Emily Upjohn (GB) (Sea The Stars {Ire}) after being banned nine days for careless riding by the Royal Ascot stewards.

The Italian, whose ban runs from July 4-12, picked up the suspension after causing interference to multiple horses aboard King Charles and Queen Camilla’s runner Saga (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) in the Listed Wolferton S. The John and Thady Gosden-trained Emily Upjohn takes her chance at Sandown on July 8.

During the first day of Royal Ascot, Dettori was second three times—with Inspiral (GB) (Frankel {GB}) in the G1 Queen Anne S., with Chaldean (GB) (Frankel {GB}) in the G1 St James’s Palace S. and with Absurde (Fr) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) in the Copper Horse H.
€155,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale 2022
17:26-RIPON, 5f, Specific Times (GB)

**Calyx (GB)** (Kingman {GB}), Coolmore Stud
103 foals of racing age
19:20-NEWCASTLE, 5f, Moonstone Boy (Ire)
23,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2021; €39,000 RNA
Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022

**Inns of Court (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Tally-Ho Stud
168 foals of racing age
14:30-ASCOT, 115K GII The Queen Mary Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2)5f, Tallulabelle (Ire)
€135,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale 2022

**Invincible Army (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Yeomanstown Stud
95 foals of racing age
14:30-ASCOT, 115K GII The Queen Mary Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2)5f, Callianassa (Ire)
€23,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; €14,000 RNA Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022

**Magna Grecia (Ire)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Coolmore Stud
109 foals of racing age
14:20-HAMILTON PARK, 5f, Indication Spirit (Ire)
€10,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling 2022
18:10-ASCOT, 100K The Windsor Castle Stakes (Class 1) (Listed Race)5f, Myconian (Ire)
€27,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling 2022

**Omaha Beach (War Front),** Spendthrift Farm
138 foals of racing age
14:30-ASCOT, 115K GII The Queen Mary Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2)5f, Cynane
$250,000 Keeneland Association September Yearling Sale 2022
14:30-ASCOT, 115K GII The Queen Mary Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2)5f, Launch
$50,000 Keeneland Association September Yearling Sale 2022

**Soldier’s Call (GB)** (Showcasing {GB}), Ballyhane Stud
121 foals of racing age
14:30-ASCOT, 115K GII The Queen Mary Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2)5f, Born To Rock (Ire)
€17,000 Goffs Sportsman’s Yearling Sale 2022; 110,000gns Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up & HIT Sale 2023
14:30-ASCOT, 115K GII The Queen Mary Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2)5f, Hot Front (Ire)
18:10-ASCOT, 100K The Windsor Castle Stakes (Class 1) (Listed Race)5f, Muqtahem (Ire)

£27,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022; £60,000 Goffs UK 2yo Breeze Up Sale 2023
19:20-NEWCASTLE, 5f, Sergeant Mayer (Ire)
€50,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2021; £40,000 Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022
18:10-ASCOT, 100K The Windsor Castle Stakes (Class 1) (Listed Race)5f, Up The Manor (GB)
17,000gns RNA Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2021; £8,000 RNA Goffs UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022; £20,000 Goffs UK 2yo Breeze Up Sale 2023
14:20-HAMILTON PARK, 5f, Whogoesthere (Ire)
€30,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling 2022
18:10-ASCOT, 100K The Windsor Castle Stakes (Class 1) (Listed Race)5f, World of Darcy (Ire)
€42,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling 2022

**Ten Sovereigns (Ire)** (No Nay Never), Coolmore Stud
149 foals of racing age
17:26-RIPON, 5f, Indispensable (GB)
18:10-ASCOT, 100K The Windsor Castle Stakes (Class 1) (Listed Race)5f, Inquisitively (GB)
45,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2021; 40,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2022
14:30-ASCOT, 115K GII The Queen Mary Stakes (Class 1) (Group 2)5f, Thanksbutnothanks (Ire)
€30,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale 2022; £30,000 Goffs UK 2yo Breeze Up Sale 2023

**FRANCE**

**Taj Mahal (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}), Haras de la Haie Neuve
46 foals of racing age
3-SALON PROVENCE, 1100m, Demi Traou Land (Fr)
€3,000 Arqana Deauville September Yearling Sale 2022
OBSERVATIONS
on the European racing scene

600K CRAVEN BREEZER SET FOR NEWCASTLE DEBUT

19.20 Newcastle, Nov, £15,000, 2yo, f, 6f (AWT)
Having skipped a six-furlong test at Thirsk yesterday, Kevin Ryan trainee NARIKO (IRE) (Night Of Thunder {IRE}) is rerouted further North for her debut over this shorter trip. She was the highest-priced filly at Tattersalls’ Craven Breeze-Up Sale when selling for 600,000gns and is a half-sister to G3 Molecomb S. winner Rumble Inthejungle (IRE) (Bungle Inthejungle {GB}). The May-foaled bay faces five rivals in this straight dash.

HOW THEY FARED

13.50 Thirsk, Nov, £6,500, 2yo, f, 6fT
Kevin Ryan representative NARIKO (IRE) (Night Of Thunder {IRE}), who was the highest-priced filly at Tattersalls’ Craven Breeze-Up sale when knocked down for 600,000gns, was scratched from a contest won last year by ‘TDN Rising Star’ Glenlaurel (IRE) (Lope De Vega {IRE}).

BRITAIN

Tuesday’s Results:
1st-Thirsk, £6,500, Nov, 6-20, 2yo, f, 6fT, 1:15.24, gd.
LUNAR SHINE (IRE) (f, 2, Kodiac {GB}--African Moonlight {UAE}, by Halling) brushed the gate upon departure and raced in a midfield seventh after the initial strides of a contest won last year by ‘TDN Rising Star’ Glenlaurel (IRE) (Lope De Vega {IRE}).

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:
Search (GB), c, 2, Pearl Secret (GB)--Midnight (IRE), by Galileo (IRE). Brighton, 6-20, 5f 215yT, 1:13.58. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, $4,698. B-Andrew Davis (GB). *4,000gns Wlg ’21TADEWE; 19,000gns Ylg ’22 TATOCT.

Merry Minister (IRE), g, 3, Churchill (IRE)--Merry Me (IRE) (GSP-Ger & MSP-Eng), by Invincible Spirit (IRE). Thirsk, 6-20, 7fT, 1:32.88. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, $7,269. B-Mrs Fitri Hay (IRE).

Cori Glory (IRE), f, 3, Cotai Glory (GB)--Sakaka (GB), by Tobougg (IRE). Beverley, 6-20, 7f 96yT, 1:36.13. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, $7,235. B-Philip Gilligan & Anne Gilligan (IRE). *4,000gns Wlg ’20 GOFNOV.

Arkendale (GB), c, 3, Pivotal (GB)--Paris Rooftops (IRE), by Galileo (IRE). Thirsk, 6-20, 7f 218yT, 1:46.94. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-0, $12,567. B-Branton Court Stud (GB).

FRANCE

Tuesday’s Results:

Grand Prix Anjou Bretagne - Haras du Saiz-Listed, €52,000, Nantes, 6-20, 4yo/up, 8fT, 1:36.26, g/s.

1–Fast Raaaj (FR), 126, g, 5, Ifhraaj (GB)--Interesting (Ire) (GSP-Fr), by Raven’s Pass. O-Alain Jathiere, Ecurie du Parc Monceau, Haras d’Etreham, Yann Barberot & Riviera Equine SARL; B-Haras d’Etreham, Riviera Equine SARL & Ecurie du Parc Monceau (FR); T-Yann Barberot; J-Alexis Pouchin. Lifetime Record: GSW-Fr, 18-7-1-0, €169,978. *1/2 to Le Boss (Fr) (Almanzor {Fr}), SP-Fr.
The March-foaled bay is a half-brother to Listed Prix du Pont Neuf runner-up and a weanling colt by No Nay Never. Video, sponsored by TVG.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:
1st-Nantes, €27,000, Cond, 6-20, 2yo, 7fT, 1:26.19, g/s.
AQUILA VOLANTE (Fr) (c, 2, Gleneagles {Ire})--Hunza Dancer {Ire}, by Danehill Dancer {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 5-2-2-1, €37,650. O-Mike Pietrangelo & Mme Natalie d'Amato; B-Haras de Montaigu (FR); T-Gianluca Bietolini. *€32,000 Ylg '22 ARQAUG. **1/2 to Samothrace (Fr) (Iffraaj {GB}), SP-Fr.

Fast Raaj, winner of the 2021 G3 Prix Djebel and last term’s Listed Prix Luther, lined up for this 11th black-type start coming back off last-of-14 effort in a Feb. 17 conditions heat at Meydan. Restrained in rear before moving forward into third at halfway, he was shaken up to challenge with 300 metres remaining and kept on strongly to assert superiority for a third stakes triumph.

Fast Raaj is the second of five foals and one of four scorers from as many runners produced by G3 Prix Eclipse runner-up Interesting (Ire) (Raven’s Pass), herself a half-sister to Listed James Seymour S. victor With Interest (GB) (Selkirk) and to the dam of Listed Prix Yacowlef third Diabolo James (Fr) (Manduro {Ger}). The March-foaled bay’s second dam, MG1SP G3 Prix de Cabourg victrix With Fascination (Dayjur), is out of MGISW millionaire Fran’s Valentine (Saros {GB}) and thus kin to five-time Grade I hero With Anticipation (Relaunch). Descendants of Fran’s Valentine also include MGISW speedster Mr Stunning (Aus) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}).
### Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 16:20

**PRINCE OF WALES’S S.-G1**, £1,100,000, 4yo/up, 9f 212y

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<td>Richard Kingscote</td>
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<td>Julien Leparoux</td>
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<td>Ryan Moore</td>
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<td>Iffraaj (GB)</td>
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<td>Tom Marquand</td>
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Breeders: 1-Godolphin, 2-London Thoroughbred Services Ltd, 3-Kentucky West Racing LLC & Clarke M. Cooper Family Living Trust, 4-B V Sangster, 5-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd, 6-Sunderland Holding Inc.

### Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 14:30

**QUEEN MARY S.-G2**, £115,000, 2yo, f, 5f 0y

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<tr>
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<td>Omaha Beach</td>
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Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 15:40

DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE S.-G2, £235,875, 4yo/up, 8f 0y

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Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 17:35

QUEEN’S VASE-G2, £265,000, 3yo, 14f 34y

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Breeders: 1-China Horse Club International Ltd, 2-Ammerland GmbH & Co KG, 3-The Queen, 4-Pat McCarthy, 5-Normandie Stud Ltd, 6-C O P Hanbury, 7-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd, 8-A O’Brien, M Al Monsour & K Al Attiyah, 9-Premier Bloodstock, 10-The Lady Dragon Partnership, 11-Graham Smith-Bernal, 12-Michael Ryan, 13-Lynn Lodge Stud, 14-Arbib Bloodstock Partnership

TDN Rising Stars
A signature TDN product. [click here] to view the designated Rising Stars
**Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 16:20**

**GOLD CUP-G1**, £600,000, 4yo/up, 19f 210y

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Breeders: 1-Spruce Lane Farm, Copper Beach Stables, Grand Crue Farm, et al, 2-Epona Bloodstock Ltd, 3-Rockfield Farm, 4-Ballyllynch Stud, 5-Mildmay Bloodstock & D H Caslon, 6-Mascalls Stud, 7-H The Aga Khan's Studs SC, 8-Didier Blot, 9-John Costello & Irish National Stud, 10-Godolphin, 11-Hascombe & Valiant Stud Ltd, 12-Kirsten Raising, 13-Thierry Storme, 14-Chicquita Syndicate

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**Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 15:40**

**RIBBLESDALE S.-G2**, £235,875, 3yo, f, 11f 211y

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[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLG633525F9D06AEBF) Check out TDN videos on "Coolmore’s Mark Byrne on Blackbeard"
**Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 14:30**

**NORFOLK S.-G2, £110,000, 2yo, 5f 0y**

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<td>Malibu Moon</td>
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<td>Rossa Ryan</td>
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**Thursday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 17:35**

**HAMPTON COURT S.-G3, £150,000, 3yo, 9f 212y**

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*All posts displayed in local time.*
**Wednesday, Royal Ascot, Britain, post time: 18:10**

**WINDSOR CASTLE S.-Listed**, £100,000, 2yo, 5f 0y

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*All posts listed in local time.*