



## \$700,000 SEBAGO LAKE CHARGES KEENELAND JANUARY TUESDAY



Sebago Lake | Keeneland

by Jessica Martini & Stefanie Grimm

LEXINGTON, KY - During a session dominated for much of the day by the short yearlings, the supplemented broodmare **Sebago Lake** (Tapit) jumped to the lead in the final hips when selling for \$700,000 to Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm. Overall, through two days of the four-day auction, 430 head have grossed \$31,596,700 for an average of \$73,481 and a median of \$30,500. With continued strength at the top of the market, the Book 1 average dipped just 3.39% from a year ago, but the median is down 23.75%.

"It started off very healthy," Keeneland's Vice President of Sales Tony Lacy said of Tuesday's session. "Through the day, there were some spots where it got a little slower, but it ended up really strong. Again, quality was to the fore. You saw some of those young mares, bred to some exciting new stallions were selling extremely well. Farms are reloading again. We saw the same pattern that we saw yesterday."

The two-day buy-back rate is 27.97%. It was 26.92% a year ago.

Three short yearlings sold for \$400,000 or over during Tuesday's session, with a colt by **Not This Time** and a filly by **Candy Ride** (Arg) sharing the day's top price of \$430,000.

Cont. p3

## TDN DERBY TOP 12: DREAMS OF ROSES TAKE THE CHILL OUT OF JANUARY

by T.D. Thornton

We're inside the 120-day mark for the 150th GI Kentucky Derby, and the pecking order is hazily taking shape. There's a speculative, forward-thinking element (read: lots of guesswork) built into the equation, with the goal of projecting how these still-developing horses will blossom over the next four months. Get tied on and enjoy the ride.

**1) NYSOS (c, Nyquist--Zetta Z, by Bernardini) 'TDN Rising Star'**  
O-Baoma Corp; B-Susie Atkins (KY); T-Bob Baffert. Sales history: \$130,000 Wlg '21 KEENOV; \$150,000 Ylg '22 FTKOCT; \$550,000 2yo '23 OBSAPR. Lifetime Record: GSW, 2-2-0-0, \$96,600. Last start: WON Nov. 19 GIII Bob Hope S.

Cont. p10



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# TIME IS MONEY

**Hip 685**

**\$430,000** colt

**Buyer:** Cherry Knoll Farm, Inc.

**Breeder:** Petaluma Bloodstock

**Consigner:** Warrendale Sales, agent XXXI



2024 FEE: \$150,000

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suefinley@thetdn.com

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Gary King @garykingTDN  
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**EDITORIAL**

editor@thetdn.com

**Editor-in-Chief**

Jessica Martini @JessMartiniTDN

**Senior Contributing Editor**

Alan Carasso @EquinealTDN

**Senior Racing Editor**

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J.N. Campbell @campbellparlay

**Contributor**

Brian DiDonato @BDiDonatoTDN

**News and Features Editor**

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**ADVERTISING**

advertising@thetdn.com

**Director of Advertising**

Alycia Borer

**Advertising Manager**

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**Advertising Designers**

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**Photographer/Photo Editor**

Sarah K. Andrew @SarahKAndrew  
photos@thetdn.com

**Associate Producer**

Katie Petrunyak

**Social Media Manager**

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Vicki Forbes | customerservice@thetdn.com

**Business Development Manager**

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**Chief Financial Officer**

Ray Villa  
rayvilla@thetdn.com | accounting@thetdn.com

**WORLDWIDE INFORMATION****European Editor**

Emma Berry | emmaberry@thetdn.com

**Associate International Editor**

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

**Associate European Editor**

Brian Sheerin @BrianSheerin91

**Cafe Racing**

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary  
caferacing@thetdn.com

60 Broad Street, Suite 105

Red Bank, NJ 07701

732-747-8060 | www.TheTDN.com

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**



*Looking for a copy of the TDN? Printed editions are available each day of the Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale. | Keeneland*

## ACROSS THE BOARD PURSE INCREASES AT FAIR GROUNDS 17

*Strong handle during the first seven weeks of the 152nd racing season has prompted a 10% purse increase across the board, in addition to \$25,000 added to the purses of 10 stakes, at Fair Grounds.*

## PURSE SUBSIDIES EXTENDED THROUGH 2029 IN NJ 17

*Assembly Bill 5893, which called for an extension of annual purse subsidies given to New Jersey's Thoroughbred and Standardbred Industries through 2029, was passed Monday by the New Jersey Senate by a 35-1 margin.*




## CHURCHILL AND SPORTS ILLUSTRATED PARTNER 18

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**Keeneland Tuesday, cont. from p1**

"Foals that were by the right stallions, had the right physicals, vetted, there was a very strong, competitive environment for them," Lacy said. "There is a lot of confidence out there.

Speaking to the sellers, they felt like it was a really good market.

The buyers found it to be very competitive to try to buy the stock they were interested in. I don't think it's inflated at all, I don't think it's depressed in any way. I think it feels like a very healthy, fair environment. If you bring the right stock to market, you are going to get rewarded for it. Today was just a continuation of the momentum we saw yesterday."

With 424 head catalogued for Tuesday's session, only 275 went through the ring.

"It's sort of a factor of the time of year we are in," Keeneland's Director of Sales Operations Cormac Breathnach said of the large number of outs. "It's a time of year when weanlings-into-

yearlings are changing a lot. They don't always vet the way people intend them to vet and they are happy to wait until September in some cases. We did have more outs than we were expecting. They kind of came in early, though, so going into

yesterday, we already had a lot of outs, and more than we would have had last year, and we had a couple dozen more during the session."

With close to 130 outs coming Monday evening, and not during Tuesday's session, Lacy said the scratches might not reflect a lack of interest from would-be buyers.

"A lot of people don't have to sell," Lacy said. "If they have something they think is in sort of an awkward stage or if they are sitting on an update, if there is

something active in the family potentially, they hit pause. That's the time of year we are in. People weren't scratching, necessarily, for lack of action. They were scratching a little earlier for various reasons." **Cont.**



Sebago Lake in the ring | Keeneland

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### Keeneland Tuesday, cont.

Lacy continued: "It didn't feel in any way that there was concern from sellers."

Breathnach admitted the decrease in median during the January sale's two-session Book 1 could be a reflection of the polarization of the market.

"The average is fairly close [to the 2023 figure]," Breathnach said. "The median is down 20+% and that's what we watch. That maybe reflects some of the polarization in the market. The top of it is doing well, keeping the average up, but there is some selectivity in the middle to lower levels. It might reflect what brings a premium and what is tougher to sell."

The Keeneland January sale continues through Thursday with sessions beginning daily at 10 a.m.

### Sebago Lake a Late Highlight at Keeneland

**Sebago Lake** (**Tapit**) (hip 831), in foal to **Justify**, sparked a bidding battle late in Tuesday's second session of the Keeneland January sale when selling for \$700,000 to the phone bid of Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm.

The 5-year-old mare, a half-sister to graded winner Family Way (**Uncle Mo**) and from the family of Caravaggio, was well beaten in a pair of racetrack appearances in September of 2021 for her co-breeder, Adam Bowden's Diamond Creek Farm.



Reiley McDonald | Keeneland

Eaton Sales consigned the gray mare to the sale on behalf of Diamond Creek.

"She was probably one of the best mares in the sale, in my opinion," said Eaton's Reiley McDonald. "She's a beautiful mare in foal to the right horse. She's by **Tapit** and looks like a **Tapit**. And I also think it helped that there is limited supply at the upper level."

Sebago Lake, whose first foal is now a short yearling colt by **Uncle Mo**, was a supplemental entry to the auction. **Cont.**

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**Keeneland Tuesday, cont.**

"I think it was a late decision just to put her in," McDonald said. "She was the real thing and that's why she sold well. They didn't pay too much and everybody came out of it with a win."

@JessMartiniTDN

**Pugh Strikes for Not This Time Colt**

Peter Pugh went to \$430,000 to acquire a short yearling by **Not This Time** (hip 685) from the Warrendale Sales consignment Tuesday at Keeneland.

"All of the top people were on the horse coming up here," said Warrendale's Hunter Simms. "He was very well received. We are honored to sell a horse like that and wish the connections the best of luck."

Simms continued, "The horse was very straightforward. Good bone on him, very correct, walked well. He was a very nice horse."



Peter Pugh | Keeneland

Bred by Petaluma Bloodstock, the bay colt is out of Dalsaros (Unbridled's Song), a daughter of Grade I winner Ask the Moon (Malibu Moon).

Bloodstock agent Kerri Radcliffe signed the ticket at \$325,000 to acquire Dalsaros, in foal to **City of Light**, at the 2020 Keeneland November sale. The in utero **City of Light** colt went on to sell for \$300,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton November sale. The mare's **Tiz the Law** filly sold for \$300,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

Of the colt's placement in the January sale, Simms explained,

"There were a lot of foals in November and we figured he would stand out here. He is probably the second-highest priced foal that is going to sell at this sale, so we always try to concentrate on placement with horses and finding the right sale and finding the right book to put them in. Whether it's November, January, February, wherever, we try to find the right spot where they will stand out."

After initial confusion about who had actually purchased the colt, who had already been led out of the ring, bidding was opened again and ended at \$430,000 with Pugh, signing under the Cherry Knoll Farm banner, as the winning bidder.

"It's always confusing," Simms said. "There are a lot of people in every doorway and every nook and cranny and trying to be secretive. And it happens. They opened it back up and we were able to get \$430,000, which is a nice price for that horse. It all worked out in the end." @JessMartiniTDN

**Candy Ride Filly to Stewart**

John Stewart, active at the top level at the auctions last fall, got back into action at Keeneland Tuesday, purchasing a short yearling by **Candy Ride** (Arg) (hip 497) for \$430,000 under his operation's new name, Resolute Bloodstock. The filly was consigned by Stone Farm.



Hip 497 | Keeneland

"She was absolutely stunning," said Stewart's advisor Gavin O'Connor. "She had great size. She just ticked all the boxes for a **Candy Ride**, especially being a May foal. She was balanced with great conformation and she was squeaky clean." **Cont.**

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### Keeneland Tuesday, cont.

O'Connor continued: "Just a high quality, classy filly. We will probably keep her and play the long game with her. She screams race horse. She is just a fabulous filly."

The chestnut filly is out of Rags Pauline (**Union Rags**), a half-sister to graded winner Keen Pauline (Pulpit).

"She came up here and showed great," said Stone Farm's Lynn Hancock. "She didn't turn a hair and was very popular. She has a great walk and moved well and showed well. I think she got all the right people on her."

Rags Pauline, with the filly in utero, sold for \$80,000 to Jack Hirsch at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton December Digital sale. The yearling was bred by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Spearmaco.

"A client of ours bought her," Hancock said of Rags Pauline. "I haven't spoken to them yet, but I assume they are happy. It's hard not to be happy with that result."

The 8-year-old broodmare was bred back to **Army Mule** last year.

Through two sessions of the four-day auction, Resolute Bloodstock has purchased seven horses for \$905,000. In addition to hip 497, the operation acquired stakes-placed 4-year-old filly Smokie Eyes (**Nyquist**) (hip 134) for \$140,000 and Indian Mound (**Medaglia d'Oro**) (hip 768) for \$250,000.



John Stewart | Keeneland

O'Connor said the move of horses into Stewart's new farm in Midway was well under way.

"So far, so good," he said. "We are over there now. Some of the big girls are over there--[newly acquired broodmares] Puca, Pizza Bianca, and Lenni Girl--and we have a few more coming there this week. We have eight babies over there as well. So we are slowly transitioning the stock from where they are at the moment and getting established." @JessMartiniTDN

## Value Sires (the breeders have their say)

"Talk about racehorses! Tiz the Law won FOUR Grade 1s as a 2-year-old and 3-year-old! He is by a rising top-tier stallion in Constitution and the reception and physical attributes of his babies reminded me of the early crops of Constitution."

**Carrie Brogden** of **Machmer Hall**, TDN, 1/3/24



A better racehorse than his sire **Constitution** (fee \$110,000), grandsire **Tapit** and great-grandsire **Pulpit**.

# TIZ THE LAW

First yearlings in 2023 made **\$550,000, \$550,000, \$375,000, \$375,000, \$335,000, \$300,000** etc.

Fee **\$20,000**

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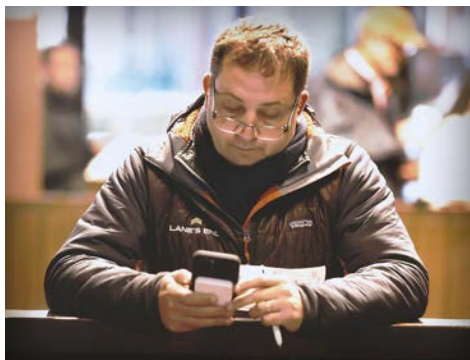
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# KEENELAND JANUARY BOOK 1



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*Bernie Sams*



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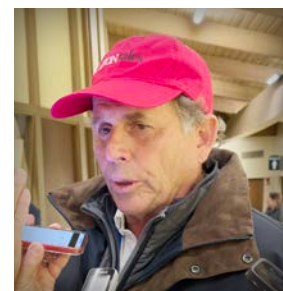
*Martin O'Dowd*



*Allaire Ryan*



*Tomoyuki Nakamura*



*Reiley McDonald*



*Pat Hayes and Padraig Campion*

Photography by Richie Wireman & Photos by Z



## O'Callaghan Goes to \$400,000 for **Justify** Colt

A strong opening bid of \$275,000 from the back wasn't enough to scare off P B Bloodstock and Jenny O'Callaghan, who went to \$400,000 to purchase **Hip 594**, the only yearling son of **Justify** in the sale.

"He's a beautiful horse from the first time we saw him at the barn," said O'Callaghan. "We knew we had to have him—he was our star horse for the day."



Jenny O'Callaghan | Keeneland

The colt, bred in Kentucky by Justice Stables, is a half to GSP Conquest Babayaga (**Uncle Mo**) and to SP Sorrentina Lemon (Lemon Drop Kid) and out of a half-sister to Canadian champion 2-year-old filly Neligee (Northern Afleet).

"He's by **Justify** who is an exceptional stallion on turf, dirt, with colts and fillies. We're hoping there will be a big market for him next year. That's the most expensive horse that we bought but we have full confidence in the stallion and he's just a natural horse that possesses so much natural athletic ability. We'll bring him back [to Keeneland] again as a yearling next year."

@SGrimmTDN

## Music Street Brings \$210,000 Off Falls City Second

Music Street (**Street Sense**) (**hip 449**) brought a final bid of \$210,000 from Blanco Bloodstock early in the session Tuesday at

the Keeneland January Horses of all Ages Sale, capping a racing career for Kim Valerio who initially bought the mare as a yearling at Keeneland in 2020. Campaigned for Valerio along with partners Prakash Sham Masand and Grandview Equine, Music Street finished her career with a second to Xigera (**Nyquist**) in the GIII Falls City S. at Churchill Downs Nov. 23.

"I love **Street Sense** and I love [second dam] Xtra Heat," said Valerio on buying the filly as a yearling. "And she's so pretty. She's such a sweetheart. It's bittersweet really, I didn't want to sell her but I had partners and she's turning five. But I just love her and I'm super happy with where she's going. They take great care of their mares."

After earning over \$295,000 on the track, Music Street sold as a broodmare prospect only to Blanco Bloodstock Tuesday.

@SGrimmTDN

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#### KEENELAND JANUARY SALE

| SESSION TOTALS       | 2024                   | 2023         |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| • Catalogued         | 424                    | 426          |
| • No. Offered        | 275                    | 324          |
| • No. Sold           | 205                    | 251          |
| • RNAs               | 70                     | 73           |
| • % RNAs             | 25.45%                 | 22.53%       |
| • High Price         | \$700,000              | \$650,000    |
| • No. Over \$200k    | 22                     | 26           |
| • Gross              | \$14,049,200           | \$19,865,000 |
| • Average (% change) | \$68,533 (-13.41%)     | \$79,143     |
| • Median (% change)  | \$30,000 (-25%)        | \$40,000     |
| CUMULATIVE TOTALS    | 2024                   | 2023         |
| • Catalogued         | 844                    | 852          |
| • No. Offered        | 597                    | 650          |
| • No. Sold           | 430                    | 475          |
| • RNAs               | 167                    | 175          |
| • % RNAs             | 27.97%                 | 26.92%       |
| • Gross              | \$31,596,700 (-12.54%) | \$36,126,900 |
| • Average (% change) | \$73,481 (-3.39%)      | \$76,057     |
| • Median (% change)  | \$30,500 (-23.75%)     | \$40,000     |

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## SESSION TOPPERS

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TUESDAY'S TOP MARES

| Hip        | Name  | Status                    | Price (\$)     |
|------------|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>831</b> | <b>Sebago Lake</b>  | <b>i/f to Justify</b>     | <b>700,000</b> |
|            | (5, <b>Tapit</b> --Susie's Baby, by Giant's Causeway)<br>Consigned by Eaton Sales, Agent<br>Purchased by Whisper Hill Farm  |                           |                |
| <b>839</b> | <b>Dolce Zel (Fr)</b>   | <b>Broodmare Prospect</b> | <b>400,000</b> |
|            | (5, Zelzal (Fr)--Dolce Attesa (GB), by Dr Fong)<br>Consigned by Mill Ridge Sales, Agent X<br>Purchased by Shadai Farm   |                           |                |
| <b>582</b> | <b>Tiz an Edventure i/f to Epicenter</b>  | <b>310,000</b>            |                |
|            | (6, Tiznow--Triune, by E Dubai)<br>Consigned by Grovendale Sales, Agent XII<br>Purchased by Parks Investment Group  |                           |                |
| <b>439</b> | <b>Mo Champagne i/f to Justify</b>  | <b>300,000</b>            |                |
|            | (7, <b>Uncle Mo</b> --Champagne Royale, by French Deputy<br>Consigned by Blandford Stud (Padraig Campion, Agent)<br>Purchased by Rodolphe Brisset, Agent for Ann Harrison |                           |                |

## TUESDAY'S TOP SHORT YEARLINGS

| HIP        | SEX  | SIRE   DAM                            | PRICE (\$)     |
|------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>497</b> | <b>Filly</b>   | <b>Candy Ride (Arg)--Rags Pauline</b> | <b>430,000</b> |
|            | (\$80,000 i/u FTDAUG '22)<br>Breeder: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Spearmaco (KY)<br>Consigner: Stone Farm, Agent<br>Purchaser: Resolute Bloodstock LLC |                                       |                |
| <b>685</b> | <b>Colt</b>  | <b>Not This Time--Dalsaros</b>        | <b>430,000</b> |
|            | Breeder: Petaluma Bloodstock (KY)<br>Consigner: Warrendale Sales, Agent XXXI<br>Purchaser: Cherry Knoll Farm, Inc.   |                                       |                |
| <b>594</b> | <b>Colt</b>  | <b>Justify--Undercover Justice</b>    | <b>400,000</b> |
|            | Breeder: Justice Stables (KY)<br>Consigner: Conley Bloodstock LLC (Carolyn Conley), Agent<br>Purchaser: P B Bloodstock                                       |                                       |                |
| <b>715</b> | <b>Colt</b>  | <b>Quality Road--Evocative</b>        | <b>385,000</b> |
|            | (\$550,000 i/u '23 KEEJAN)<br>Breeder: Lynch Bages LTD & Camas Park Stud (KY)<br>Consigner: Paramount Sales, Agent III<br>Purchaser: Joseph DiRico           |                                       |                |

**833 Filly Quality Road--Miss Spot On** **260,000**  
 Breeder: Susan Moulton & W.S. Farish (KY)  
 Consigner: Lane's End, Agent  
 Purchaser: First Finds

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KEENELAND JANUARY  
TUESDAY'S MARES

| Hip        | Name  | Status                | Price          |
|------------|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>478</b> | <b>Preposterous</b>   | <b>i/f Good Magic</b> | <b>200,000</b> |
|            | Consigned by Indian Creek, agent<br>Purchased by Sinclair Thoroughbreds   |                       |                |
|            | Preposterous was claimed by Darryl Abramowitz for \$40,000 at Aqueduct last March and put in foal to <b>Good Magic</b> (\$50k). |                       |                |

**553 Street Lute** **b'mare prospect** **200,000**  
 Consigned by Hidden Brook, Agent III  
 Purchased by R Larry Johnson  
 Trainer John Robb purchased Street Lute for \$10,500 at the 2019 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling Sale. The hard-knocking mare went on to win six stakes and earn \$671,530 while winning 10 of 27 starts in the colors of Lucky 7 Stables.

**582 Tiz An Edventure i/f Epicenter** **310,000**  
 Consigned by Grovendale Sales, Agent XII  
 Purchased by Parks Investment Group  
 Tiz an Edventure was claimed for \$62,500 by MJVET Stables at Golden Gate last March and was put in foal to GI Travers S. winner **Epicenter** (\$45k).

**821 Union Lake** **i/f Epicenter** **220,000**  
 Consigned by Mulholland Springs, agent  
 Purchased by Coteau Grove Farms/Cary Bloodstock, agent  
 Mulholland Springs purchased Union Lake for \$100,000 just two months ago at the Keeneland November sale.

**HIP 1318**  
**Catalog Update**

**ASKEW (i/f to INSTAGRAND)**  
 Half sister to **SAFFRON MOON**  
 2nd in the **Cardinal S. (G3)**  
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- John Stewart, who was such a major presence at the sales last fall, returned to action at the Keeneland January sale. Under his Resolute Bloodstock, Stewart purchased the \$430,000 co-topping short yearling by **Candy Ride (Arg)** and was the session's leading buyer. Through two days, Stewart purchased seven horses for \$905,000.
- While the co-top-priced short yearling on the day was a filly by **Candy Ride (Arg)** (hip 497), the other three yearlings that earned spots in the top six costliest hips were all colts by well-established sires. Perennial leading sire **Quality Road** saw three of his short yearlings appear in the top eight.
- **Epicenter**, who will see his first foals this year, was the only first-crop sire represented in the top 15 hips with a pair of in-foal mares selling for \$310,000 (hip 582) and \$220,000 (hip 821), respectively. Jackie's Warrior also saw three of his in-foal mares sell for an average of \$155,000.
- Steve Young, who was the leading buyer during Monday's session with the purchase of three mares acquired on behalf of Ramona Bass, added one more mare to support Bass's recently retired stallion **Annapolis**. He went to \$160,000 to purchase Pure Pauline (**Curlin**) from the Taylor Made Sales Agency consignment.
- Mares in foal to Triple Crown champion **Justify** continued to be in high demand, including the session-topper Sebago Lake (**Tapit**) (hip 831). Two of the top three in-foal mares were sold in foal to Coolmore's young stallion during Tuesday's session. Youth was also at a premium for broodmares as the top four hips were all mares between the ages of five and seven.
- During Tuesday's session, 205 horses sold for \$14,049,200. The average of \$68,533 dropped 13.4% from a year ago, while the median fell 25% to \$30,000. The number of RNAs dropped from 73 last year to 70 on Tuesday, a 4.1% dip.



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# TOP KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDERS



## Nysos, cont. from p1

Nysos has won two **West Coast** sprints with devastating ease by a combined 19 1/4 lengths while pairing Beyer Speed Figures of 96 and 97, earning '**TDN Rising Star**' accolades, and giving off the impression he has the mental makeup and physical prowess to handle tougher competition at longer distances.



Nysos | Benoit

This **Nyquist** colt out of a Bernardini mare went through the auction ring three times (\$130,000 KEENOV, \$150,000 FTKOCT, \$550,000 OBSAPR) before debuting over six furlongs Oct. 21 at Santa Anita. Seeing a Bob Baffert trainee win at first asking by 10 1/2 lengths isn't exactly a shocker, but not too many colts from that barn run up the score by such a gaudy margin while going off at 6-1 in the betting.

Start number two was the seven-eighths GIII Bob Hope S. at Del Mar Nov. 19, and that four-horse race ended up being more

or less a schooling session for 2-5 fave Nysos, who, racing with blinkers off, broke alertly and settled in last while always in touch with the leaders behind brisk splits. His sustained move enabled him to power past overmatched rivals while well in hand and never being asked for maximum effort, scoring by 8 3/4 lengths.

Nysos has since recorded four regularly spaced workouts at Santa Anita and seems certain to next surface in a two-turn stakes, perhaps the Jan. 27 GIII Southwest S. over 1 1/16 miles or the Feb. 3 GIII Lewis S. at a mile.

For the third straight year, Churchill Downs has banished Baffert related to Medina Spirit's drug DQ from the 2021 Derby, and his trainees are prohibited from earning qualifying points. However, the focus for *TDN's* Top 12 writeups will be on where Baffert's horses fit in the overall Derby picture and not the trainer's eligibility status.

## 2) FIERCENESS (c, **City of Light**--Nonna Bella, by Stay Thirsty)

'**TDN Rising Star**' O/B-Repole Stable (KY); T-Todd Pletcher.

Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$1,102,750. Last start: WON Nov. 4 GI FanDuel Breeders Cup Juvenile.



LANE'S END FOALD & RAISED



A two-prep path to Louisville--the Feb. 3 GIII Holy Bull S. and Mar. 30 GI Florida Derby--is trainer Todd Pletcher's plan for GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile victor and likely 2-year-old champ Fierceness.

This '**TDN Rising Star**' and Repole Stable homebred by **City of Light** powered home by 11 1/4 lengths (95 Beyer) as the 11-10 winner of his debut sprint at Saratoga over a sealed, muddy track. **Cont.**

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### Derby Top 12 (Fierceness), cont.

That wet-track fondness didn't carry over to the sloppy GI Champagne S. at Aqueduct, when the odds-on Fierceness lunged and got bumped at the break, loomed boldly with a four-wide move, then splashed home punchless in the stretch.

Off that seventh-place drubbing, the betting public abandoned Fierceness at 16-1 in the Breeders' Cup. He responded by trouncing the Juvenile field by 6 1/4 lengths en route to a 105 Beyer victory.

This colt checked a lot of boxes that day by showing speed in hand from the gate, a willingness to latch onto a pacemaker, good responsiveness to cues to quicken, and an ability to ratchet into a higher gear without appearing fully torqued before galloping out well ahead of everyone else.

Fierceness only had to repel one single bid in upper stretch before cruising home in the Juvenile, a race in which the top

three betting choices all failed to fire without obvious excuse. The fizzling of the faves might have indicated that the race wasn't that deep.



Fierceness | Benoit

But now, two months in the rear-view mirror, the Juvenile looks like it could be shaping into a key race, with its strength on paper solidifying after two of the four horses to run back won stakes in their next-out starts.

The biggest hurdle for Fierceness might end up being historical: Since the advent of the Breeders' Cup in 1984, Juvenile winners have accounted for only two Kentucky Derby wins from 39 runnings (**Street Sense** in 2007 and **Nyquist** in 2016).

Even some of the most electrifying 2-year-olds who excelled over 1 1/16 miles on the first Saturday of November have had trouble outrunning that daunting metric going 10 furlongs on the first Saturday in May.

**Cont.**

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**Derby Top 12, cont.**

**3) MUTH (c, Good Magic--Hoppa, by Uncle Mo) 'TDN Rising Star'** O-Zedan Racing Stables Inc; B-Don Alberto Corporation (KY); T-Bob Baffert. Sales history: \$190,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP; \$2,000,000 2yo '23 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 5-3-2-0, \$716,600. Last start: WON Jan. 6 GII San Vicente S.

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Muth (**Good Magic**) was named a 'TDN Rising Star' June 18 when he uncorked an 8 3/4-length debut win. With four total races at age two that included two routes and a Grade I win in the **American Pharoah** S., trainer Bob Baffert opted to sharpen this colt's speed by picking the Jan. 6 GIII San Vicente S. at seven furlongs for Muth's first start at three.



Muth | Benoit

This \$190,000 KEESEP and \$2 million OBSMAR colt earned a no-nonsense win by assertively stalking two pacemakers and breaking away at will to earn a 91 Beyer in the San Vicente, meaning Muth has now run at least a 90 Beyer in all five lifetime races.

"This horse has a lot of class. He's learning a lot," said jockey Juan Hernandez, who has been aboard Muth for all three wins

and two seconds. "I think he finally learned to run by himself because he broke really quick, and he saw the other two horses in front of me and he just relaxed really well behind them."

Muth ran second behind Fierceness in the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita. He enjoyed a primo stalking trip over his home track, and seemed poised to take off in tandem with that rival on the far turn. But by the quarter pole Muth was already being driven hard, and he had no response to match Fierceness's full-flight winning move.

Fierceness holds the head-to-head edge. But Muth owns the broader body of work, and I wouldn't bet against him the next time he hooks up with Fierceness.

Given that these two colts are based on opposite coasts, that rematch is unlikely to happen until the Kentucky Derby itself.

**4) BORN NOBLE (c, Constitution--Zapperkat, by Ghostzapper) 'TDN Rising Star'** O-St Elias Stable & West Point Thoroughbreds; B-WinStar Farm LLC (KY); T-Todd Pletcher. Sales history: \$725,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$36,000. Last start: WON Dec. 30 Gulfstream MdSpWt

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Bet to 13-10 favoritism first time out going seven furlongs at Gulfstream, Born Noble (**Constitution**) immediately put himself into the race, pressing the pacemaking second-fave from the outside.

Irad Ortiz Jr. nudged this \$725,000 KEESEP colt forward, got on even terms with the leader through the turn, and by the quarter pole forced his foe into submission while still being hand-ridden.

But once alone on the lead and set down for the drive, Born Noble came unglued, veering sharply inward despite left-handed stick work and a right-handed yank of the reins. He remained on his left lead until just prior to the sixteenth pole, but Ortiz's rousing did spark a noticeable uptick in acceleration through mid-stretch before Born Noble got geared down while 5 1/2 lengths clear under the wire. **Cont.**

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**Derby Top 12 (Born Noble), cont.**

The post-race focus might be on this firster's obvious greenness. But a glimmer of gravitas also shone through, and in the long view, Born Noble's zig-zagging antics didn't resonate as anything that can't be smoothed out with experience.

He earned **'TDN Rising Star'** status and a 93 Beyer--although precise figure-making can get tricky on a day like Dec. 30, when a "good" Gulfstream surface was drying out to "fast" and there were only three total dirt races (all at different distances) for comparison on the card.

**5) SIERRA LEONE (c, Gun Runner--Heavenly Love, by Malibu Moon) 'TDN Rising Star'** O-Mrs John Magnier, Michael B Tabor, Derrick Smith Westerberg, Rocket Ship Racing LLC & Peter M Brant; B-Debby M Oxley (KY); T-Chad Brown. Sales history: \$2,300,000 Ylg '22 FTSAUG. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$96,750. Last start: 2nd Dec. 2 GII Remsen S.

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Sierra Leone (**Gun Runner**), the FTSAUG \$2.3 million sales topper, in some ways ran a better race than winner Dornoch (**Good Magic**) when on the losing end of a nose photo in the nine-furlong GII Remsen S. Dec. 2.

That's because this Chad Brown trainee built up serious back-of-the-pack momentum when rallying from last over a sealed, muddy track. His big, sweeping, seven-wide move was notable on a day when speed was so dominant in 10 races at Aqueduct that five winners wired their fields and the remaining five were either right up on the pace or re-rallied after losing their leads.

Sierra Leone sling-shotted to the lead but lugged in once it looked like he'd blow past Dornoch, who resiliently clawed back command while pinned near the inside rail. The two co-earned 91 Beyers.

It was a costly lack of late-race focus in terms of the race outcome, but still, it's the type of lapse you'd rather see in December than in the spring. It was only Sierra Leone's second lifetime start, and two turns against stakes company is never a slam-dunk for a first try off a debut maiden win, even one that stamped him as a **'TDN Rising Star'**.

Brown told DRF.com post-win that Sierra Leone reminds him a bit of Early Voting, another **Gun Runner** colt he trained to a win in the 2022 GI Preakness S.

"Now that he's lugged in [twice], I'll fool around with a little equipment to straighten him out," Brown told DRF. "He's got a world of ability so we'll take him down [to Florida], regroup a little bit, and map out a campaign that hopefully gets him to the first Saturday in May."



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**6) PARCHMENT PARTY (c, Constitution--Life Well Lived, by Tiznow) 'TDN Rising Star'** O-Pin Oak Stud LLC; B-B Flay Thoroughbreds (KY); T-Bill Mott. Sales history: \$450,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$141,960. Last start: WON Nov. 9 Churchill AOC.

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**'TDN Rising Star'** Parchment Party, a large-framed June 5 foal, rallied stoutly up the rail from last and determinedly churned his way through traffic when winning a two-turn Churchill allowance Nov. 9 with a four-wide sweep. This son of **Constitution** wasn't fully dialed in and a looked touch unfocused through the final furlong, but he also wasn't even close to scraping bottom effort-wise, either.

The third- and fourth-place horses in that race won allowance and stakes engagements in their next-out starts.

Parchment Party is bred on the same cross that produced **Tiz the Law**, who won multiple Grade I stakes in 2020 (Travers, Florida Derby, the nine-furlong Belmont S.), plus fellow 'Rising Star' and 2022 GIII Peter Pan S. victor We the People.

A \$450,000 KEESEP colt out of trainer Bill Mott's barn, Parchment Party got sent to Payson Park following his 2-for-2 start, but he hasn't had a published workout since Dec. 16. **Cont.**



**Derby Top 12, cont.**

**7) TRACK PHANTOM (c, *Quality Road*--Miss Sunset, by Into Mischief)** O-L & N Racing LLC, Clark O Brewster, Jerry Caroom & Breeze Easy LLC; B-Breeze Easy LLC (KY); T-Steve Asmussen. Sales history: \$500,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-1, \$165,000. Last start: WON Dec. 23 *Gun Runner* S.

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Track Phantom, a \$500,000 KEESEP colt by *Quality Road*, doesn't leap out as a no-brainer Derby prospect. But the speed-centric winner of the *Gun Runner* S. does have upside appeal when you read between the lines of his past performances.

Trainer Steve Asmussen has started him four times, twice in one-turn miles and twice at 1 1/16 miles, with a Beyer progression of 74, 81, 88 and 89. Yet one intangible that doesn't come across on paper is how level-headedly Track Phantom has dealt with keyed-up rivals to his inside in both of his two-turn races.

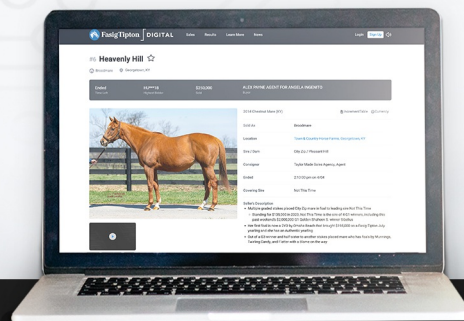


Track Phantom | Hodges Photography

In his Nov. 25 maiden-breaker, he forced the fractions with a rank runner pinned down at the fence from the entrance of the first turn to the start of the second, then repulsed a challenge from the only other horse to draw within a half-length on the turn. Roused for run three-sixteenths out, this colt showed a hint of another gear a furlong from the wire before being wrapped up late.

Facing winners for the first time against stakes company at Fair Grounds, Track Phantom was keen to make the lead from his outside post in the *Gun Runner* S., but a 36-1 speedster slipped up the open rail. The duo sparred down the backstretch before Track Phantom seized the lead three-eighths out and held off bids from two fresh challengers, including the 1-2 favorite. **Cont.**

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### Derby Top 12 (Track Phantom), cont.

"It's impressive that both of his two turn races have been victories," Asmussen said post-win. "I actually thought they went too fast in the middle [of the **Gun Runner**]. You know, [a :46.93 half] here in a two-turn race, you don't see horses see it out very often."

The Jan. 20 GII Lecomte S. is next.

**8) DORNOCH (c, **Good Magic**--Puca, by Big Brown)** O-West Paces Racing LLC, R A Hill Stable, Belmar Racing and Breeding LLC, Two Eight Racing LLC & Pine Racing Stables; B-Grandview Equine (KY); T-Danny Gargan. Sales history: \$325,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 4-2-2-0, \$257,400. Last start: WON Dec. 2 GII Remsen S.

Dornoch (**Good Magic**) figures to be one of the more intriguing story lines as Derby 150 approaches because he's a full brother to last year's Derby winner, **Mage**.

This \$325,000 KEESEP colt started off his career for trainer Danny Gargan with a pair of seconds, one in a Saratoga maiden sprint and another in the Sapling S. going a mile at Monmouth. He then wired a 1 1/16-mile maiden field at Keeneland Oct. 14, running up the score by 6 1/2 lengths.

Dornoch won the Remsen S. at Aqueduct by outsprinting five other rivals for the lead into the first turn over a speed-favoring



**Dornoch (inside)** | Sarah Andrew

track. Settling at the fence while pressured by a 27-1 shot, he knocked back bids from a couple of new challengers on the far turn, then fought gamely to surge back in front after seemingly being passed for good by Sierra Leone.

He also brushed the rail in upper stretch, yet somehow overcame that too.

"It's crazy. Usually when a horse hits the rail at the eighth pole like he did, they just stop running altogether," Gargan said. **Cont.**

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**Derby Top 12 (Dornoch), cont.**

Post-win, Gargan continued: "I can't believe he re-rallied after that. He did see the other horse and get running back at him, but hitting the rail knocked him off stride and then it took him a few jumps to get back going."

Gargan mentioned the Mar. 2 GII Fountain of Youth S. over 1 1/16 miles at Gulfstream as a possible next start, with the Feb. 3 GIII Withers S. at Aqueduct in the mix (which would be a second straight nine-furlong race for Dornoch).

**9) CATCHING FREEDOM (c, Constitution--Catch My Drift, by Pioneer of the Nile)** O-Albaugh Family Stables LLC; B-WinStar Farm LLC (KY); T-Brad Cox. Sales history: \$575,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$237,350. Last start: WON Jan. 1 Smarty Jones S.



Catching Freedom (**Constitution**) broke his maiden in a one-turn mile at Churchill, ran a credible fourth behind Parchment Party in a 1 1/16-mile allowance, then annexed the Jan. 1 Smarty Jones S. at Oaklawn with a long, grind-'em-down rally (87 Beyer).

This \$575,000 KEESEP colt rode the rail near the back in his stakes debut, sliced between rivals entering the far turn, got second run at a dueling duo, spun widest in the five path, then finished in workmanlike fashion with his head cocked to the grandstand before widening the winning margin to 2 1/2 lengths.

"Very proud of the horse," trainer Brad Cox said post-win. "I think he's still learning. I think he was a little green there down the lane, but overall showed that he does have a lot of stamina and talent."

Catching Freedom is a half-brother to Bishops Bay (**Uncle Mo**), a stakes-placed sophomore who raced four times for Cox (different owners) in 2023. That colt had the distinction of posting Beyers of 97, 88, 97 and 96, and in one of those races Bishops Bay was beaten only a head by subsequent Belmont S. and Travers S. winner **Arcangelo** (Arrogate).

**10) CHANGE OF COMMAND (c, Into Mischief--Moi, by Medaglia d'Oro)** O-Courtlandt Farms (Donald Adam); B-OXO Equine LLC (KY); T-Shug McGaughey. Sales history: \$570,000 Wlg

'21 FTKNOV; \$1,050,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-1, \$113,300. Last start: WON Jan. 5 Gulfstream AOC.

**TAYLOR MADE FOR YOU!**

It took four well-spaced starts for this son of Into Mischief (\$570,000 FTKNOV, \$1.05 million KEESEP) to bust out of the maiden ranks at 2-5 odds at Gulfstream. But he's now won two in a row in Florida after an 83-Beyer allowance score Jan. 5 over 1 1/16 miles, capitalizing on a trouble-free stalking trip to wear down a pesky pacesetter.

Despite winning by a neck, trainer Shug McGaughey said Change of Command "didn't want to finish as well as I'd like. I've got to do some work to figure things out. I hope this moves him forward. He had to kind of belly down and run, so that should help him. We'll take him back to Payson and find out."

Change of Command had previously compiled a robust set of company lines while finishing respectably behind well-regarded juveniles in New York.

**11) ETHAN ENERGY (c, Uncle Mo--Sass and Class, by Harlan's Holiday)** O-Stonestreet Stables LLC; B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY); T-Brad Cox. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$34,250. Last start: Won Dec. 23 FG MdSpWt

**STONESTREET BRED & RAISED**

This Fair Grounds maiden-breaker for trainer Brad Cox hit the winner's circle in start number two Dec. 23, adding Lasix. removing blinkers, and stretching to 1 1/16 miles for a 5 1/4-length tally (83 Beyer).

Under a light hold on the outside while midpack behind a tepid tempo, Ethan Energy was encouraged to loop the group on the far turn. This Stonestreet homebred son of **Uncle Mo** stayed on and opened up under mild rousing through the lane, then got pushed out late under a steady hand ride before being geared down for the final stages.

His debut at Keeneland, in which Ethan Energy was off last and allowed to lag with only mild progress inside, has thus far yielded three next-out maiden winners. One of them, Legalize (**Constitution**), also won the Sugar Bowl S., which was two races later on the same card as Ethan Energy's maiden score.

**12) CARBONE (c, Mitole--Treasure in Heaven, by Street Sense)** 'TDN Rising Star' O/B-L William & Corinne Heiligbrodt (KY); T-Steve Asmussen. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$153,000. Last start: WON Dec. 31 OP AOC. **Cont.**



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**Derby Top 12 (Carbone), cont.**

This 'TDN Rising Star's sire, Mitole, was the blitzingly fast 2019 champion male sprinter. But there are enough longer-distance influences in Carbone's pedigree (Giant's Causeway and Seattle Slew up top, **Street Sense** for a damsire) to think he might stay on as a horse of interest as the prep season progresses.

Carbone has been in front at every call in his 2-for-2 career for trainer Steve Asmussen, and this homebred for William and Corinne Heiligbrodt has paired 85 and 86 Beyers while stretching out from six furlongs to a mile.

In his Oaklawn allowance win, Carbone effortlessly controlled the tempo and really only faced one serious challenge on the far turn, opening up under his own power and toying with that rival whenever he edged closer.

His run into the stretch provided a nice visual, with jockey Ricardo Santana, Jr. sitting chilly atop this colt while every other horse in his wake was being driven. Carbone won by four, but it could have been more had the race not finished at the sixteenth pole under Oaklawn's short-stretch configuration for the mile distance.

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## FAIR GROUNDS ANNOUNCES ACROSS THE BOARD PURSE INCREASE

*Edited Press Release*

Strong handle during the first seven weeks of the 152nd racing season has prompted a 10% purse increase across the board, in addition to \$25,000 added to the purses of 10 stakes, announced Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots Tuesday.

"We're extremely excited to announce a 10% increase to our daily purse structure along with the \$25,000 boost to 10 stakes," Fair Grounds' racing secretary Scott Jones said. "Based on the strong early handle returns and continued support from our owners, horsemen, and horseplayers, we are in a position to raise purses."

The 10% across the board purse increase will go in effect with Condition Book 4, which begins with the Thursday, Jan. 25 card (drawn Thursday, Jan. 18).

The purse increase includes both open races and Louisiana-bred races. Maiden special weight races will rise to \$57,000. The seven remaining stakes--listed at \$75,000--have been increased to \$100,000: Louisiana Broodmare of the Year, Louisiana Stallion of the Year, Allen "Black Cat" Lacombe Memorial, Black Gold, Edward J. Johnston Memorial, Red Camelia and Page Cortez.

Additionally, three stakes slated for Louisiana Derby Day (Mar. 23) have been boosted by \$25,000. The Tom Benson Memorial will now be run for a \$150,000 purse, and both the Crescent City Derby and Oaks will now be run for \$125,000.

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## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE PASSES BILL TO EXTEND PURSE SUBSIDIES THROUGH 2029



Monmouth Park | Sarah Andrew

by Bill Finley

Assembly Bill 5893, which called for an extension of annual purse subsidies given to New Jersey's Thoroughbred and Standardbred Industries through 2029, was passed Monday by the New Jersey Senate by a 35-1 margin. The bill had earlier been passed by the Assembly, by a margin of 73-0, and will now head to the desk of Governor Phil Murphy, who is expected to sign the legislation into law.

The bill calls for a \$20-million subsidy to be split evenly among the two breeds.

The money is seen as a critical lifeline as New Jersey's tracks do not receive revenue from any outside sources, namely from the Atlantic City casinos. Without the subsidy, Monmouth purses would fall behind those offered in nearby states like Pennsylvania and Maryland.

"What it does is give our breeders, owners and trainers opportunities through 2029," said New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Executive Director Michael Musto. "It establishes a continuation of the stability we have now in New Jersey. Thanks to Dennis Drazin [the chairman and CEO of Darby Development, operator of Monmouth Park], 100% of our money goes to overnight purses and that's the heart of what makes racing in New Jersey. It's really encouraging. It's really Dennis Drazin who makes this all possible."

Earlier bills had already guaranteed the subsidy for 2024. The extension will now keep the subsidy in place through 2029.

According to the *Daily Racing Form*, last year, Monmouth distributed \$31 million in purses over 56 live racing days, for an average of \$553,000 a day, the highest in its history, with one-third of that money coming from the subsidy.

**Cont.**



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**\$5,000 LFSN**



**New Jersey subsidies, cont.**

As a condition of receiving the subsidy, Monmouth, which is run by the state's horsemen, must issue a report to the legislature, the governor and the New Jersey Racing Commission on how the funds were appropriated.

The subsidies appear to be helping as Monmouth has recorded increases in average total handle and average on-track handle three straight years. The average total handle in 2023 was \$4,032,648, an 11.4% increase over last year's average of \$3,620,719.

Monmouth is scheduled to open on May 11 and run a 51-day meet. A 10 day meet of all-turf racing at the Meadowlands will commence when Monmouth closes.

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## CHURCHILL DOWNS, SPORTS ILLUSTRATED PARTNER WITH NEW SI CLUB



SI Club | CDI

A multi-year partnership between Churchill Downs Racetrack and Sports Illustrated for exclusive naming rights of a new luxury dining experience, Club SI, ahead of the 150th running of the May 4 Kentucky Derby has been established, Churchill Downs Incorporated announced Tuesday. Originally planned as the 1895 Club, Club SI will be unveiled opening night of Derby Week.

Club SI is part of the \$200-million renovated Paddock Project at Churchill Downs, offering a new luxury equine-focused dining experience with a view of the all-new paddock and paddock runway giving guests behind-the-scenes experiences. The interior design of Club SI will showcase iconic Sports Illustrated magazine covers, editorial featuring past Kentucky Derby races, and a sneak peek into Sports Illustrated's new SI Resorts vertical art.

Each year, celebrity ambassadors will act as hosts for Club SI

during the Kentucky Derby and the Kentucky Oaks for a premium race day experience.

Open on premium race days, the club will include dining tables to accommodate parties of two, four, six or eight guests who will enjoy gourmet dishes from the curated Chef's Table Buffet, designated wagering windows, private bars and outdoor trackside viewing for live races. Steps from the club, guests will be treated to the SI Enclosure which will deliver a front-row experience of the paddock with covered outdoor dining tables to accommodate parties of four.

"Sports Illustrated shares our goal of combining exciting sports moments with upscale entertainment, and Club SI will provide the perfect space to achieve this," said Mike Anderson, President of Churchill Downs Racetrack.

Michael Sherman, SVP Media Brands at Authentic Brands Group, owner of the Sports Illustrated brand, added, "It is an honor to bring Club SI to Churchill Downs Racetrack, which has such a rich history that we've showcased through the pages of Sports Illustrated for decades. Club SI will celebrate iconic elements of the brand, while hosting celebrity talent and offering guests gourmet cuisine and cocktails, a unique vantage point of the new Paddock, and a once-in-a-lifetime horse racing experience for Derby 150."

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## FIRST FOAL FOR GISW GOLDEN PAL



Golden Pal | Coolmore

The first foal by Grade I-winning sprinter **Golden Pal** (Uncle Mo) was born early Tuesday morning at Keith and Ginger Myers' Coteau Grove Farms in Louisiana. The bay is the second foal out of Multi Strategy (Scat Daddy), a daughter of graded winner Freefourracing (French Deputy). The Coolmore stallion will stand the 2024 season at \$25,000. **Cont.**





"Fulsome was a **very sound, very intelligent**, and a **very talented** horse with a huge heart. He was absolutely a G1 talent."

- **Brad Cox**, Trainer

"There is no question Fulsome is an **incredible value** from a commercial prospective, but from a breed-to-race prospective, an Into Mischief son, from a **classic Juddmonte family**, that could really run is a great long-term bet. **We are sending multiple mares** to him."

- **Hanzly Albina**, Newtown Anner Stud Farm

"I was planning on sending a mare to him, but then I saw him and **bought a share in him** instead. Big, good-looking son of Into Mischief, with a big family and giant walk. **It was a no brainer.**"

- **John Greathouse**, Glencrest Farm

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**First foal for *Golden Pal*, cont.**

"This is a strong colt with great bone and muscle," said Coteau Grove Broodmare Manager Jacob Cyprian. "He has a beautiful head with quality. We sold his half-brother for good money so hopefully this colt will do the same."

Out of Grade III-winning Lady Shipman (*Midshipman*), *Golden Pal* won seven graded stakes from five to 5 1/2 furlongs, including the GII Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint followed by the GI Turf Sprint in 2021. He also annexed consecutive editions of the GII Woodford S. at Keeneland, in addition to the 2022 GII Shakertown S.

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## 2024 MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED CAREER PROGRAM DATES ANNOUNCED

The 2024 Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program (MTCP) has been scheduled for June 3-7, according to the Maryland Horse Foundation. The [online application](#) can be completed by Apr. 19. Interviews will take place in the two weeks after the application deadline and selected participants will be notified in early May.

"The Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program offers a great opportunity to see behind the scenes in the various components of the industry from reproduction to racetrack operations," said Cricket Goodall, Executive Director. "We hope to show these young people that love horses that you can make a career out of that passion."

Graduates of the MTCP are eligible to apply for Career Development Funds, one-time funding that can be used to further career pursuits within two years after the program ends.

For more information on the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program, click [here](#) or contact Jeanne Schnell at [jeanne@marylandthoroughbred.com](mailto:jeanne@marylandthoroughbred.com).

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# NORTH AMERICAN RACING



**SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10**



**Coal Front** | Horsephotos

## 2024 Stud Fees Listed

**Coal Front** (Stay Thirsty), Spendthrift Farm, \$5,000

79 foals of racing age/10 winners/2 black-type winners

4-Parx Racing, 1:26 p.m. EST, Aoc 6f, Dewey Doit, 4-1

\$9,000 FTI DEC wnl; \$25,000 OBS OCT yrl; \$85,000 OBS OPN 2yo

**Dreamliner** (More Than Ready), CI-The Speedhorse Farm

9 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners

8-Mahoning Valley, 4:02 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Living the Dream, 3-1

**Maximus Mischief** (Into Mischief), Spendthrift Farm, \$25,000

231 foals of racing age/33 winners/3 black-type winners

8-Gulfstream, 3:40 p.m. EST, Aoc 5fT, Madness, 12-1

\$15,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$75,000 OBS OCT yrl

**Mitole** (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, \$15,000

293 foals of racing age/37 winners/2 black-type winners

4-Parx Racing, 1:26 p.m. EST, Aoc 6f, For Sale, 2-1

Cont. p2

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**World of Trouble** | Sarah Andrew

**Vino Rosso (Curlin)**, Spendthrift Farm, \$20,000  
 309 foals of racing age/24 winners/2 black-type winners  
 5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Shiloh's Mistress, 5-2  
 \$235,000 KEE SEP yrl  
 5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Vino Rosato, 15-1  
 \$37,000 RNA KEE JAN wnl; \$62,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$100,000 OBS  
 APR 2yo

**World of Trouble (Kantharos)**, Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, \$5,000  
 129 foals of racing age/17 winners/1 black-type winner  
 8-Gulfstream, 3:40 p.m. EST, Aoc 5ft, Happy World, 12-1  
 \$25,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$60,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$5,000 EAS MAY 2yo;  
 \$27,000 E '23 KEE NOV




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#### IN JAPAN:

**Pat Junior**, c, 3, **St Patrick's Day**--Desoto First Lady, by Colonel John. Kyoto, 1-7, Novice Race, 7f. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$38,194. O-Takuya Katagiri; B-Jorge Wagner (FL); T-Ken Kozaki.  
 \*Yutaka Take said, "He is still green but has lots of power. I think dirt should suit him." \*\*\$115,000 2yo '23 OBSMAR.



#### STAKES RESULTS:

**EUGENIO MARIA DE HOSTOS S.**, \$56,200, Camarero, 1-7, (S), 3yo, f, 1m, 1:41.05, ft.

1--**CENTINELA**, 118, f, 3, by Console--Metro Gal, by Afleet Alex.

**1ST BLACK TYPE WIN.** O-Sonata Stable; B-Potrero Los Llanos Inc. (PR); T-Ramon Morales; J-Juan C. Diaz. \$32,596. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$35,996. \*1/2 to Don Cheo (Don Paco), Ch. 2-year-old Colt-PR, MSW-PR, \$248,102.

2--**Anaila Mariel**, 118, f, 3, Console--Porte Cochere, by **Street Sense**. **1ST BLACK TYPE.** O-Antonio Llavona; B-Jose A Llavona (PR); T-Jason Lisboa. \$11,240.



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**TALE OF THE CAT - SILENCE BEAUTY (JPN), by SUNDAY SILENCE**

Contact Stuart Fitzgibbon: (859) 254-0424

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3--**Sola Bella**, 118, f, 3, **Tapwrit**--Danceinthemoment, by Tiznow.  
O-Sonata Stable; B-Potrero Los Llanos Inc. (PR); T-Ramon  
Morales. \$5,620.  
Margins: 3 3/4, NK, 3HF. Odds: 3.25, 7.75, 0.90.

#### ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**8th-Mahoning Valley, \$33,700, (S), 1-9, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 1m,**  
1:44.06, sy, 7 1/4 lengths.

**HARTSTEIN (g, 4, Snag--Chain Yanker, by Delta Miner) Lifetime**  
Record: 4-2-1-0, \$46,652. O-Maria Quezada; B-Hurst Racing  
Stables LLC (OH); T-Jose Atala.

**7th-Mahoning Valley, \$33,700, (S), 1-9, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m,**  
1m, 1:45.97, sy, 1 3/4 lengths.

**HERE COMES DOLLY (f, 4, Honor Code--Starship Spirit, by**  
**Grand Slam) Lifetime Record:** 18-2-3-1, \$71,226. O-David Fitch;  
B-Susan King (OH); T-Richard Zielinski.

#### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Gamblers Tail**, c, 3, **Hightail**--Gamblers Rose, by Pulpit.  
Mahoning Valley, 1-9, 1m, 1:43.08. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1,  
\$18,466. B-Calumet Farm (KY).

**Modern Era**, c, 4, **Honor Code**--Top Performance, by City Zip.  
Parx Racing, 1-9, 1m 70y, 1:48.07. Lifetime Record: 13-1-1-1,  
\$72,275. B-Lee McMillin & Anita Cauley Breeding (KY).  
\*\$18,000 Ylg '21 FTKOCT; \$50,000 2yo '22 EASMAY. \*\*1/2 to  
Violent Runner (**Violence**), GSP, \$212,420.



#### THIS DATE IN HISTORY...

**January 11, 1950...**Five-year-old Citation returned after more  
than a year off to win an allowance race at Santa Anita.  
Sidelined after taking his 15th straight race, the Tanforan H.  
December 11, 1948, he claimed his 16th in a row at odds of 3-20  
by a length and a half.

**January 14, 1932...**Jockey Eddie Arcaro rode his first career  
winner at Agua Caliente.

**January 14, 1953...**Pimlico's Preakness S., originally slated for  
May 16, was put back to May 23, allowing a three-week layover  
after the Kentucky Derby for the first time.

**January 14, 1989...**Jockey Kent Desormeaux scored his 1,000th  
career win in the 10th race at Laurel Racecourse, aboard Eesee's  
Taw, in the Francis Scott Key H.

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**Console**, Centinela, f, 3, o/o Metro Gal, by Afleet Alex. Eugenio  
Maria de Hostos S., 1-7, Camarero

**Hightail**, Gamblers Tail, c, 3, o/o Gamblers Rose, by Pulpit.  
MSW, 1-9, Mahoning Valley

**Honor Code**, Here Comes Dolly, f, 4, o/o Starship Spirit, by  
Grand Slam. ALW, 1-9, Mahoning Valley

**Honor Code**, Modern Era, c, 4, o/o Top Performance, by City Zip.  
MSW, 1-9, Parx Racing

**Snag**, Hartstein, g, 4, o/o Chain Yanker, by Delta Miner. ALW,  
1-9, Mahoning Valley

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## VALUE SIRES FOR 2024 PART I: NEW STALLIONS



Modern Games on show at Dalham Hall Stud on Tuesday | Emma Berry

By Emma Berry

Who would be a stallion master, eh? Sure it's fine if you have a new horse to show off, or one of the elite few who has truly made it, but pity the owner of the stallion who has just faded from fashion through no real fault of his own, merely overlooked as the stampede rushes on to the next new thing.

One can't blame breeders either for showing such interest in the new stallions at stud, for they have yet to be judged (though they will be, just as soon as their first foals hit the sales grounds) and have therefore "done nothing wrong".

Let's not forget that in almost all cases, for a stallion to be at stud in the first place he was a decent racehorse. But there are degrees of decency, from the downright jaw-dropping bred-in-the-purple Classic winner to the Group 3 winner whose precocity and speed are really all he has going for him unless he can throw a nice type in the first place, and then those nice types can go on to do as their father did. That can be enough these days, and there's a separate and lengthy debate to be had about whether that really should be enough. But for breeders trying to sustain their business through a commercial approach, the first thing that matters is how likely you are to be able to sell a foal or yearling well, no matter how much we all know that breeding for the racecourse is what really counts in the long run, as long as that run isn't too long a run, if you know what I mean.

Cont. p3

## MAGNIER & ELLIS BUY A\$1.3 MILLION

**TOPPER ON DAY 1** by Lewis Lesbirel & Jesse Dart/TTR AusNZ

Buyers jumped into the highest end of the market just minutes into Day 1 of the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale, with all the early attention shining on two lots by I Am Invincible (Aus) that extricated feverish bidding across the auditorium.

### At A Glance:

- Four horses fetched seven-figure sums on Day 1, one more than last year's opening session, with last year's leading vendor, Newgate Farm, top of the vendors' standings by gross after selling nine horses for a total of A\$4,205,000.
- The opening session recorded a best Day 1 average on record of A\$281,767, up marginally from last year's average of A\$271,343 for the corresponding session, while the median held steady at A\$210,000. **Cont. p12**

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### TAPIT MARE TOPS SECOND DAY OF KEENELAND

**Sebago Lake** (Tapit) (hip 831), in foal to **Justify**, sparked a bidding battle late in Tuesday's second session of the Keeneland January sale when selling for \$700,000 to the phone bid of Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm.

Contact the Thoroughbred Office, Tel: +44 (0) 1488 73 456 or visit [www.saracenhorsefeeds.com/thoroughbred](http://www.saracenhorsefeeds.com/thoroughbred)





**PUBLISHER & CEO**

Sue Morris Finley @suefinley  
suefinley@thetdn.com

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Gary King @garykingTDN  
garyking@thetdn.com

**European Editor**

Emma Berry @collingsberry  
emmaberry@thetdn.com

**Associate International Editor**

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

**Business Development Manager**

Alayna Cullen Birkett @AlaynaCullen  
alaynacullen@thetdn.com

**Associate European Editor**

Brian Sheerin @BrianSheerin91

**Cafe Racing**

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary  
caferacing@thetdn.com

**Contributing Editors**

Alan Carasso  
Christina Bossinakis

**Regular Columnists**

Chris McGrath | John Berry

**ADVERTISING**

advertising@thetdn.com

**Director of Advertising**

Alycia Borer

**Advertising Manager**

Lia Best

**Advertising Designers**

Amanda Crelin  
Amie Newcomb

**Advertising Assistant/Dir. of Distribution**

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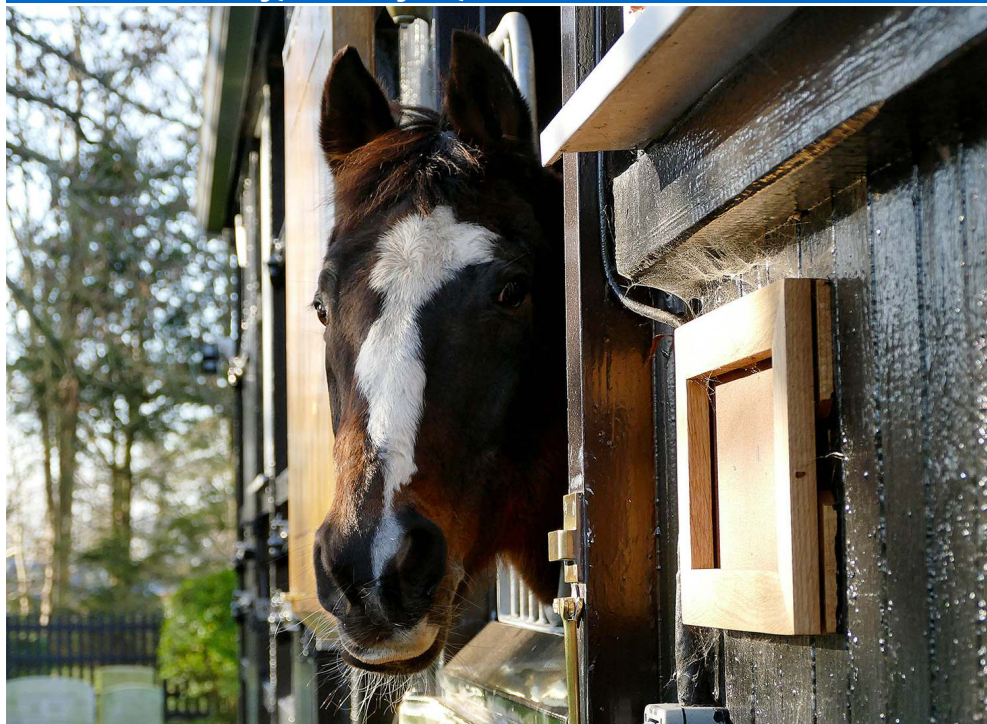
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60 Broad Street, Suite 105

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**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**



*During the Darley open morning at Dalham Hall Stud a special old boy looks on as the younger stallions are paraded: the brilliant Fantastic Light, now 28, his eye still bright.* | Emma Berry

## **MORE PRIZE-MONEY FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB IN 2024 10**

*Total prize-money across all The Jockey Club 2024 fixtures has been increased to £60.1 million.*

## **PRICY SALES GRAD RETURNS AT KEMPTON 11**

*El Cordobes (Ire) (Frankel {GB}), a 2-million gns October Book 1 alum, will make his second racecourse appearance on Wednesday.*

## **ANOTHER HORSE OF THE YEAR TITLE FOR EQUINOX 15**

*Equinox (Jpn) was awarded his second consecutive Horse of the Year title, as the Japanese champions were announced on Tuesday.*

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**Value Sires Part 1 Cont. from p1**

Aye, there's the rub. The long-term view can be rewarded with the greatest riches. Breeding a 'Cup horse', for example. Big prizes on big days, or perhaps a big offer from another nation that has already lost its way on the stamina front, or indeed from a major jumps owner if things haven't quite worked out on the Flat. Increasingly, through, few breeders can or want to wait that long. And as one breeder remarked at the recent foal sales, "At least if you have a horse by a first-season sire you know that every pinhooker is going to look at him."

So as we begin our Value Sires series in Europe for the season ahead, we will tackle the newcomers first before we head on, in price brackets, to those stallions who may or may not be suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, which in the bloodstock business often merely means they are no longer this year's 'it boy'.

How anyone can base a business plan on such an unpredictable collective whim is beyond me, but that's the challenge faced by breeders when deciding on matings each year. If you are using a currently popular stallion who will cover a large book then you'd better pray extra hard for a corker of an individual if there are any holes in your mare's pedigree or production record.

From **Paddington (GB)** at €55,000 to a handful of sires at

€5,000, with just about everything in between, there is a huge range in both price and talent of this year's intake. We are not including a full list of new sires here, and the three which we consider to represent the best value in this division feature on the podium at the conclusion of this piece.

Value is relative, of course, and the fee for **Paddington** is punchy enough but then he was superb last year in his somewhat unusual progression from the Madrid Handicap in a bog at Naas through to that string of four Group 1 victories on summer ground at the Curragh, Ascot and Sandown and then back to more give at Goodwood. You can't really argue with a record that includes the Irish 2,000 Guineas, St James' Palace S. (beating **Chaldean**), Eclipse S. and Sussex S. Mostahdaf (Ire) and Nashwa (GB) had his measure at York in the International but by then **Paddington** had won six on the bounce, at a rate of a race pretty much every month since late March.

His first three dams all earned black type on the track, and we like to see a bit of Montjeu (Ire) on the page, through his Listed-winning dam Modern Eagle (Ger), providing a variation on a theme of Coolmore's other two sons of **Siyouni (Fr)**, **Sottsass (Fr)** and **St Mark's Basilica (Fr)**, who are both out of Galileo (Ire) mares. **Paddington's** granddam Millionaia (Ire) (Peintre Celebre) was runner-up in the G1 Prix de Diane and great granddam Moonlight Dance (Alysheba) was third in the G1 Saint-Alary.

Cont. p4

# MINZAAL

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**SHADWELL**



# "The next big thing"

Julian Muscat, RACING POST

## SCAT DADDY's proven sire sons at COOLMORE

### NO NAY NEVER

Europe's Champion 2YO Sire of 2022, and again in 2023

### JUSTIFY\*

Global sire sensation with 6 Group/Grade 1 winners in 2023 - all from his first two crops

### SIoux NATION

7 new Group winners in 2023 putting him well ahead of fellow second crop sire Havana Grey

### MENDELSSOHN\*

Ranked sixth on the 2023 North American 2YO Sire table

\*Stands at Coolmore America

## Bodes extremely well for NO NAY NEVER's brilliant sons

### TEN SOVEREIGNS

11 blacktype performers in 2023 from his first 2YO crop - more than any other first crop sire!

### ARIZONA

Coventry Stakes winner, first 2YO runners hit the track this year

### BLACKBEARD

The only 2YO to win two Group 1 races in Europe in 2022. First foals arriving now

### LITTLE BIG BEAR

European Champion 2YO, rated upwards of 5lbs superior to all his contemporaries. New for 2024

### 2023 LEADING SIRES OF 2YOs IN EUROPE

| Rk | STALLION            | SIRE       | GWs | TOTAL €   |
|----|---------------------|------------|-----|-----------|
| 1  | <b>NO NAY NEVER</b> | Scat Daddy | 5   | 1,910,382 |

Source: Stallionguide.com

### 2023 LEADING SIRES OF 2YOs IN NORTH AMERICA

| Rk | STALLION       | SIRE       | GSWs | TOTAL \$  |
|----|----------------|------------|------|-----------|
| 1  | <b>JUSTIFY</b> | Scat Daddy | 6    | 4,987,920 |

Source: TheTDN.com



# COOLMORE



## Value Sires Part 1 Cont.

But his fourth dam Madelia (Fr) (Caro {Ire}) outpointed them both by winning the Diane, Saint-Alary and the G1 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches, so there is plenty on the page to reinforce his claim to future greatness.

It is up to each breeder to decide whether or not €55,000 is a price they can swallow, but it is a pretty safe bet that **Paddington**, himself a €420,000 yearling, will already have plenty of takers.

Coolmore is big on bears this year, and in fact **Paddington** and his fellow new recruit **Little Big Bear (Ire)** both hail from Wildenstein families, with the latter being a great grandson of the Hall-of-Famer All Along (Fr) (Targowice). Reinforcing the **No Nay Never** blood in Tipperary, he did as he was expected and was fast and early. At three, he added the G2 Sandy Lane to the previous year's win in the G1 Phoenix S. in which he was injured. He was then beaten by

Shaquille (GB) in the G1 Commonwealth Cup and a further injury incurred in the July Cup brought about his early retirement.

**Little Big Bear** starts out at €27,500.



**Little Big Bear** | Racingfotos.com

## Putting On The Rizz

The Oxford English Dictionary's word of the year for 2023 was 'Rizz'. No, me neither, but apparently if you're a regular TikTokker, you will already know that this means "style, charm, or attractiveness, and the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner", or put more simply is a shortened version of charisma.

I don't know the French translation of rizz, but let's go with 'ooh la la', and it's something which **Ace Impact (Ire)** has in spades. Who among us did not marvel at the way he

chewed up and spat out the otherwise brilliant Big Rock (Ire) down the Chantilly straight in the Prix du Jockey Club? Could he stay a mile and a half? **Cont. p5**

## Richard Forristal looks at star miler **Paddington**

...It was Paddington, though, who captured hearts and minds. His inexorable progress saw him obliterate Chaldean, the Newmarket Guineas hero, when they went head-to-head in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot. His name helped endear him to the broader public, but cold racing aficionados loved him as well. Here was a top-quality colt who had pace, was tactically versatile, went in all sorts of ground, possessed devastating acceleration and a terrier-like racing attitude.

...he left an indelible mark on 2023. And given his pedigree, the son of Siyouni has the potential to leave an even more significant impact on the breed.

**RACING POST**, January 3, 2024

# PADDINGTON

Brilliant winner of 4 consecutive Gr.1 races in just 68 days. Fee €55,000

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## Value Sires Part 1 Cont.

Could he ever, just as soon as the afterburners were engaged to propel him past Westover (GB) and Onesto (Ire) in the Arc.

Jean-Claude Rouget told *TDN* in October that he watched Ace Impact's six races through again after he was retired, perhaps to remind himself that, though brief, his career really did burn brightly. Always leave them wanting more, they say, and he certainly did after six perfect races. It's a shame but understandable, as when it comes to launching a Prix du Jockey Club and Arc winner at an almost brand new stallion operation, the time to strike is when he is unbeaten and his last sensational run is still emblazoned on breeders' memories.

In contrast, we saw plenty of **Modern Games (Ire)**, who holds that rare bragging right of being a Group 1 winner at two, three and four, and a dual Breeders' Cup winner to boot. He's a proper milner, a Classic-winning one,

and it'll cost £30,000 to send him a mare, but good luck if you've been dawdling as it was reported at Darley's open morning on Tuesday that he was full before Christmas.

It's not hard to see why as Modern Games is a lovely individual with balance and scope, who joins his sire Dubawi (Ire) on the Dalham Hall Stud roster. His family is one which is increasingly repaying Sheikh Mohammed, who bought his granddam Epitome (Ire) (Nashwan) from her breeder Gerald Leigh. She has given the Godolphin operation the G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere winner Ultra (Ire) (Manduro {Ger}) among her 10 winning offspring. Modern Ideals (GB) (New Approach (Ire)) did not make that list of winners, running only twice unsuccessfully in France, but she has more than atoned in her second job as the dam of not just Modern Games but also his fellow Classic winner Mawj (Ire) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}) and Listed winner Modern News (GB) (Shamardal).

Cont. p6



Ace Impact | Scoop Dyga

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**Darley**

# PERFECT POWER



Won the four stallion-making races that the likes of **No Nay Never, Blue Point, Sioux Nation and Havana Grey** won – or failed to win.

**£10,000** Oct 1, SLF  
Dalham Hall Stud, UK



### Value Sires Part 1 Cont.

Son has also followed father in the case of **Chaldean (GB)**, who is now at Banstead Manor Stud alongside **Frankel (GB)** and, like his sire, won the 2,000 Guineas and G1 Dewhurst S. If there were two buzz names during the December Sales among those touring the stallion studs of Newmarket then they were **Chaldean** and Shaquille (GB), whom we will come on to a bit later. **Chaldean** is at £25,000, which is significantly more than two other sons of **Frankel** retiring to Newmarket studs with higher ratings this year but, as **Patrick Cooper pointed out** in yesterday's *TDN*, he has plenty going for him on the commercial front. **Chaldean** was a relatively early two-year-old, carrying decent form through wins at Newbury then the G3 Acomb S., G2 Champagne S. and finally that year's Dewhurst before claiming his Classic laurels on his return to Newmarket.

We wait to see what his Group 2-winning half-brother Alkumait (GB) (Showcasing {GB}) can achieve with his first runners this year, but certainly **Chaldean's** family has been much in the news for his breeder Whitsbury Manor Stud. Five of his dam's offspring have now earned black type, including the Group 1-placed Get Ahead (GB) (Showcasing {GB}), who sold for 2.5 million gns at Tattersalls in December. It's a family going places, and Juddmonte will doubtless lend the might of its broodmare band to help **Chaldean** get off to the best possible start at stud.

### France Blessed with Enticing Names

Had **Vadeni (Fr)**, who was **featured last week**, been retired after his impressive three-year-old season, it is easy to imagine that he would be standing for more than €18,000 but that is his opening mark now at Haras de Bonneval which could well represent value about a horse who romped to victory in the "stallion-making" Prix du Jockey Club before also landing the Eclipse against his elders. **Cont. p7**



Mishriff | Scoop Dyga

# DARK ANGEL

**GROUP 1 CHAMPION  
SPRINTER / MILER SIRE  
THE BEST VALUE PROVEN SIRE  
IN EUROPE**

## LEADING SIRES IN GB & IRE 2023

by prizemoney

| Sire                | Wnrs | BT Wnrs | GP Wnrs | Total £   |
|---------------------|------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1 FRANKEL           | 87   | 23      | 16      | 7,066,134 |
| 2 <b>DARK ANGEL</b> | 109  | 11      | 7       | 4,192,404 |
| 3 DUBAWI            | 81   | 20      | 14      | 4,114,799 |
| 4 SEA THE STARS     | 78   | 10      | 8       | 3,939,379 |
| 5 GALILEO           | 55   | 15      | 8       | 3,923,038 |

\*Statistics by [www.stallionguide.com](http://www.stallionguide.com) to 31.12.23



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## Value Sires Part 1 Cont.

His fellow Aga Khan Studs newcomer **Erevann (Fr)** can't match **Vadeni** on performance but he can on pedigree and this son of two Classic winners, with a good helping of 'rizz', really does look excellent value at €8,000.

France is not short of new and enticing stallion prospects this year and three worthy of mention here are **Mishriff (Ire)** at €17,500, **Onesto** at €12,500 and **Bay Bridge (GB)** at €6,000.

In some respects Mishriff is both fortunate and unfortunate. A badly-placed kick to the wall of his stable last winter meant that he missed all of what should have been his debut covering season. His price has been trimmed from what was his planned opening fee of €20,000, and you get an awful lot of performance and physique for the price he is now. He was a terrific racehorse who moves like a dream. Then of course there's his family, which includes those not insignificant stallions Invincible Spirit

(Ire) and Kodiak (GB). Go and have another look at Mishriff at Haras de Montfort & Preaux if you're in France for the Route des Etalons. You won't be disappointed, especially as that extra year of letting down before embarking on his stud duties means that

he now looks like a man among boys when compared to fellow new recruits.

Onesto is a new **Frankel** for France at Haras d'Etreham. A compact horse whose breeze-up fractions at Ocala belied his middle-distance pedigree, he sent agent Hubert Guy into a similar rush to buy him for \$535,000 and bring him back to Europe where he duly won the G1 Grand Prix de Paris.

After winning the G1 Champion S. of 2022, Bay Bridge had a frustrating time of it last year. He did win the G3 September S. to

bring his tally to seven victories from 16 starts, giving a solidity to his record, which included a close second to Luxembourg (Ire) in the G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup. **Cont. p8**



Onesto | Scoop Dyga

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### Value Sires Part 1 Cont.

A later-maturing and powerful individual, the son of New Bay (GB) joins Haras du Mesnil, a stud with an excellent track record. He really should be given some consideration at his bargain fee.

### Your Guess is as Good as Ours

If Mehmas (Ire) is the next Kodiak for Tally-Ho Stud, then who will be the next Mehmas? Could it be a son of Kodiak in the farm's latest stallion, **Good Guess (GB)**? His trainer Fabrice Chappet thought plenty of him from his earliest days in training, and it wasn't just because he was an expensive yearling at 420,000gns. He won his first two races as a juvenile but it wasn't until his three-year-old season that we really saw him flourish when Good Guess won the G1 Prix Jean Prat and G3 Prix Djebel, both over seven furlongs. Bred by Cheveley Park Stud, he's a grandson of their 1,000 Guineas winner Russian Rhythm (Kingmambo) and he's a well-made individual. At €17,500, he will have the Tally-Ho faithful, not to mention a decent number of the home mares, in his corner.

**Triple Time (Ire)** very nearly made the podium below, but I'm only allowed three spots and it was a competitive field in this division. At £10,000, he has been fairly priced for his opening season at Dalham Hall Stud. Like **Chaldean**, he is a Group 1-winning miler by **Frankel** from a family that is clearly going places. Triple Time, winner of the Queen Anne S. last season, was actually rated 2lbs higher than **Chaldean** but his significantly lower fee reflects the fact that his top-level win didn't come until he was a four-year-old, though he was a Listed winner at two. He was lightly raced, making only two appearances in each of his last two seasons, but he was clearly no slouch and is one of two Group 1 winners from his dam Reem Three (GB) (Mark Of Esteem {Ire}), who has so far produced seven black-type runners. The family could be boosted further still this year by Classic prospect Rosallion (GB) (Blue Point {Ire}).

Like Tally-Ho Stud in Ireland, England's Whitsbury Manor Stud has a loyal following of commercial clientele along with its own sizeable band of mostly speedily-bred broodmares. With Showcasing and Havana Grey (GB) the stud has had two of the most talked-about stallions in Britain in recent years, which is why one can't overlook the farm's latest recruit **Dragon Symbol**

(GB), who was also bred at Whitsbury Manor. By Cable Bay, he appeared to be a Group 1 winner for a few agonising moments when finishing first past the post in the Commonwealth Cup. The race was awarded to Campanelle (Ire) in the stewards' room and he was demoted to second. Dragon Symbol has won five sprints in total as well as finishing second in the G1 July Cup and third in the G1 Nunthorpe. Could this bridesmaid become the bride, or even better the groom, in his next career, which he starts at a fee of £8,000?

There has been a lot going on at the National Stud stallion yard in recent years with the arrival of Lope Y Fernandez (Ire) in 2022 being followed the next year by Stradivarius (Ire). Now comes the Shadwell-bred **Mutasaabeq (GB)**, a son of Invincible Spirit from a solid stallion family which includes Nashwan, Unfuwain and Deep Impact (Jpn), with Baaeed (GB) in the wings.

Mutasaabeq, a treble Group 2 winner whose pedigree was discussed in more detail in these pages recently, is introduced at a very reasonable £6,500.

The shuffling of the pack which has brought Soldier's Call (GB) to Dullingham Park for his first season in England has meant that there was room for another son of Showcasing at Ballyhane Stud in Ireland. Step forward **Asymmetric (Ire)**, the G2 Richmond S. winner and Morny third of 2021, who returned from a stint in America to win a Listed contest at Deauville last year on the same card that his half-brother Mill Stream (Ire) (**Gleneagles {Ire}**) claimed his

first stakes victory. Speed is what it says on his tin, and there will doubtless be plenty of breeders signing up for that at €7,000.



Triple Time | Emma Berry

### TDN Value Podium

**Bronze: Mostahdaf (Ire), Beech House Stud, £15,000**

As a good-looking winner of both the G1 Prince of Wales's S. and G1 Juddmonte International and a well-bred son of **Frankel**, it's hard not to think that Mostahdaf is a snip at £15,000. His dam Handassa (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) is a Listed winner who has already bred another dual Group 1-winning miler in Nazeef (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) while granddam Starstone (GB) (Diktat {GB}) is a half-sister to Goodricke (GB) and Pastoral Pursuits (GB), who were both Group 1-winning sprinters by Bahamian Bounty (GB). It's a classy pedigree which really should be pretty commercial. **Cont. p9**





Shaquille | Megan Ridgwell

### Value Sires Part 1 Cont.

Perhaps the fact that Mostahdaf didn't race at two has moderated his fee, and he was undoubtedly at his best at five, but if durability and soundness count against horses these days then we are in the fast lane of the highway to disaster.

#### **Silver: Angel Bleu (Fr), Sumbe, €9,000**

Sumbe has a trio of Group 1-winning newcomers, with the aforementioned Mishriff as well as Belbek (Fr), who should not be overlooked at €7,000. But Angel Bleu at his opening price of €9,000 really smacks of value. On the track he was an extremely likeable individual. Fast, early, but most importantly, hardy. He ran eight times at two for five wins from five furlongs to a mile, including the G2 Vintage S., G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere and G1 Criterium International. He may have been written off when a setback curtailed his three-year-old season, but the son of Dark Angel (Ire) was back at four to win the G2 Celebration Mile and Listed Spring Trophy.

He's a strong and bonny individual with an international pedigree of broad appeal. His dam, by Galileo, is a sister to Group 1 winners Highland Reel (Ire) and Idaho (Ire), while the achievements of his Australian third dam Circles Of Gold (Aus) (Marsday {Aus}), on the racecourse and at stud, are worthy of their own book.

#### **Gold: Shaquille (GB), Dullingham Park, £15,000**

Of course none of this matters until we can see what their runners are capable of, but it was hard not to fall for Shaquille when he sauntered out to the new stallion showing ring at Dullingham Park during the December Sales. He was one of the talking points of that week, with many favourable comments from a range of breeders from all over Europe and he thus

receives our first gold medal of this series.

Shaquille doesn't really look like a sprinter, but that's what he was, and a very good one at that, winning the G1 Commonwealth Cup and then downing the colours of his older rivals in the G1 July Cup. He too can call on Galileo as his broodmare sire, and he is by a long way the best son of Charm Spirit (Ire), who was a multiple Group 1-winning miler himself. Grand-dam Danehurst (GB) (Danehill) was more than useful for Cheveley Park Stud and also very fast, as was the G1 Cheveley Park S. winner Hooray (GB) who is from the same family and, being by Invincible Spirit, bred on a similar pattern.

If Shaquille's youngsters look and move like him then he'll be off to a good start in the sales ring, and that, as we know, is a first important marker which can then determine his level of support down the line.

### New Stallions: Breeder Selections

Leon Carrick, Leon Carrick Bloodstock

#### **Gold Medal: Native Trail (GB)**

Native Trail was precocious enough to make 210,000gns at the Tattersalls Craven Breeze-Up Sale when consigned by Norman Williamson's Oak Tree Farm. He went on to become top-class two-year-old and also trained on to win an Irish 2,000 Guineas. Out of a full-sister to the Group 1 Sprint Cup winner African Rose and the Group 1-placed two-year-old Helleborine, his pedigree stacks up well. The prospect of using an undefeated two-year-old who went on and won a Classic for €17,500 would appear to be very appealing and there is no doubt that he will be well-supported by breeders. [Cont. p10](#)



Leon Carrick (right) gives his picks | Emma Berry



**Value Sires Part 1 Cont.****Silver Medal: Lusail (Ire)**

Lusail is a bit more left field but I think he makes a lot of sense. A Group 2-winning son of sire sensation Mehmas, he was quite a sharp two-year-old who was beaten just a head in the Group 1 St James's Palace S., where he earned a Timeform rating of 116. That proves he clearly trained on and, if he gets enough support from breeders, there's every chance that Lusail could prove a hidden gem at only €6,000. He's affordable for smaller breeding operations and he suits the current market with his precocity.

**Bronze Medal: Chaldean (GB)**

A son of the mighty Frankel, he boasts similar credentials to Native Trail given he is a Group 1-winning two-year-old who also went on to become a Classic winner at three. Crucially, though, he is considerably more expensive, which swings things for me. Chaldean is a high-class horse with an excellent pedigree behind him and he should do very well. For those who cannot afford him, his half-brother Alkumait, winner of the G2 Mill Reef S. at Newbury, could prove an interesting option.

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**SHAQUILLE (GB)**  
Dullingham Park | £15,000



**ANGEL BLEU (FR)**  
Sumbe | €9,000



**MOSTAHDAF (IRE)**  
Beech House Stud | £15,000

## EUROPEAN NEWS

### TRANSPARENCY PLEDGE FROM JOCKEY CLUB AS IT BOOSTS PRIZE-MONEY TO £60.1M

The Jockey Club has pledged to extend its "commitment to openness" in sharing figures relating to media rights payments to each of its 15 racecourses and other revenues.

The news came on the back of an announcement of increased

prize-money of £60.1 million across the 334 fixtures due to be staged by the Jockey Club in 2024. Of that, £31.8 million will come from Jockey Club funds, referred to as "executive contribution", representing a 66.5% increase across the last decade.

In 2023, the Jockey Club's executive contribution was projected to be £31.1 million with total prize-money of £59 million for 342 scheduled fixtures, subject to abandonments.

As well as prize-money, a total of £11.7 million has been included in the budget for the next 12 months for the upgrading of facilities.

"It's really important to us at The Jockey Club to continue to be transparent in sharing details of our business performance with industry participants and stakeholders," said the Jockey Club's chief executive Nevin Truesdale in announcing the intention to share financial information with the Thoroughbred Group, which represents breeders, owners, trainers, stable staff and jockeys.

"By agreeing to extend this commitment to provide the Thoroughbred Group with more information around our revenues and costs, we are seeking to drive critical industry collaboration to work together to grow the sport, while also providing a clearer picture of the challenges we face as a racecourse operator."

He added, "Given the unprecedented financial headwinds the horseracing industry is currently facing, we are pleased to be able to announce today that the Jockey Club's executive contribution to prize-money will be increased to £31.8 million in 2024, taking our overall prize-money past the £60-million mark for the first time.

"Our mission is to power racing's future and to ensure that our sport thrives for generations to come. That would not be possible without our participants and all those whose jobs not only help British racing prosper but rely on the industry.

"So, while we continue to take important steps to improve our business efficiency in the face of significant and unprecedented economic challenges, there is also an ongoing focus on investing across our estate and in participants, which includes a commitment to prize money. This has led us to some very difficult decisions in our financial planning for 2024 and we are pleased to be able to deliver an increase in prize-money investment in these very challenging circumstances."

The Jockey Club's attempts to improve communication regarding its business decisions with the wider industry includes having conducted 39 "transparency meetings" in the last two and a half years with 120 individuals, including owners and trainers. This stance was welcomed by the chair of the Thoroughbred Group, Julian Richmond-Watson, and also by Paul Johnson, chief executive of the National Trainers' Federation.

**Cont. p11**



### Prize-Money Boost From TJC Cont.

Johnson said, "The announcement from the Jockey Club is most welcome on two fronts. Firstly, amid concerns that the sport's financial headwinds could see prize-money fall from 2023 levels, it is very positive to see that the Jockey Club has been able to deliver an increase. Secondly, and looking further forwards, we are delighted to be able to have agreed on a commitment to greater transparency over finances. We believe that this is an enormously important step in being able to agree commercial partnerships with racecourses, something that we see as a foundation stone for working together to improve the sport's future."

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## DONCASTER JANUARY SALE TO FEATURE ELLMARIE HOLDEN DISPERSAL



Lime Avenue | Racingfotos.com

A total of 149 lots, including dispersals from Irish point-to-point trainer Ellmarie Holden and from Whitewall Stables, were catalogued for the Goffs January Sale at Doncaster on Jan. 23. Featuring 81 NH weanlings, 20 NH mares and 48 horses-in-training, yearlings and 2-year-olds, the sale will begin at 10 a.m.

Some of the lots on offer are lot 84, a Nathaniel (Ire) half-brother to Grade 1 winner Athena Du Berlais (Fr) (Martaline {GB}); a son of that Newsells Park Stud-based sire and the Grade 1 winner Black Tears (GB) (Jeremy) (lot 92); debut pointer winner **Frisby (Ire)** (Flemensfirth) (lot 34) from Holden's draft; and lot 158, the two-time winner **Lime Avenue (Ire)** (Walk In The Park {Ire}), who is a half-sister to G1 Irish Grand National winner Rogue Angel (Ire) (Presenting {GB}).

Goffs UK managing director Tim Kent said, "It was with great satisfaction that we launched the inaugural British NH Breeders Showcase for NH foals in November last year and it was always our goal to ensure we kept a high standard of entries at this

sale's long serving NH weanling session--thus providing two vibrant outlets for the category.

"So, to see us catalogue 81 NH weanlings, which feature some outstanding pedigrees and sires, is a great result for the sale and we once again applaud breeders for sending their best to Doncaster. The sale will also host the TBA's NH Stallion Showcase, which will see 12 UK NH sires on show at Doncaster during the sale, providing an extra reason that the January Sale is one not to be missed."

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## OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

### TWO-MILLION GUINEAS BOOK 1 GRADUATE SET FOR KEMPTON RETURN

**18.30 Kempton, £8,000, Nov, 3yo, 8f (AWT)**

Godolphin's once-raced **EL CORDOBES (IRE)** (**Frankel {GB}**), a 2-million guineas Tattersalls October Book 1 graduate, is out of a half-sister to G1 Haydock Sprint Cup heroine Tante Rose (Ire) (Barathea {Ire}) and returns off a debut sixth over course and distance last month. Opposition to the Charlie Appleby trainee includes Qatar Racing's hitherto untried **West Hollywood (Uncle Mo)**, who is a half-brother to G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf heroine Pizza Bianca (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), from the Roger Varian stable.

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## BRITAIN

### CONDITIONS RESULTS:

**7th-Southwell, £5,700, Cond, 1-9, 4yo/up, 8f 13y (AWT), 1:41.49, st.**

**TWISTALINE (GB) (m, 5, Showcasing {GB}--Tongue Twista {GB} {GSP-Eng}, by Stimulation {Ire})** Lifetime Record: 37-4-5-5, \$37,642. O-Mick Appleby Racing; B-Whitsbury Manor Stud (GB); T-Michael Appleby. \*21,000gns RNA Ylg '20 TATOCT; 7,000gns 2yo '21 TATAHI; 1,000gns 4yo '23 TATFEB.

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Encomiare (Ire)**, g, 3, **Caravaggio**--Shirley Blade (Ire), by Dylan Thomas (Ire). Southwell, 1-9, 11f 23y (AWT), 2:28.35. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$7,228. B-Shirley Blade Partnership (IRE). \*125,000gns Ylg '22 TATOCT.



**Noble Captain (GB)**, g, 4, **Territories (Ire)**--Captain Secret (GB), by Captain Gerrard (Ire). Newcastle, 1-8, 6f (AWT), 1:13.28. Lifetime Record: 13-1-1-2, \$9,949. B-Old Buckenham Stud Ltd (GB). \*7,500gns Wlg '20 TATFOA; 32,000gns Ylg '21 TATOCT; 8,000gns 3yo '23 TATFEB.

**Bonito Cavalo (GB)**, g, 5, **Oriente (GB)**--Eternal Instinct (GB), by Exceed And Excel (Aus). Newcastle, 1-8, 6f (AWT), 1:12.98. Lifetime Record: 23-1-2-6, \$16,495. B-Goldie Racing Ltd (GB).

## FRANCE

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Make A Wish (Fr)**, f, 3, **Morandi (Fr)**--Adhere, by Mizzen Mast. Marseille-Pont de Vivaux, 1-9, 10f (AWT), 2:06.90. B-Hugues Rousseau (FR).



## EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS

### IN JAPAN:

**Spirit Guide (Ire)**, c, 3, **Invincible Spirit (Ire)**--Easy Victory (GB), by Dubawi (Ire). Nakayama, 1-6, Plate Race, 6fT. Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, \$134,236. O-HH Sheikh Hamdan; B-Godolphin (Ire); T-Takahisa Tezuka.

**Emerald Beach (Ire)**, c, 4, **Gleneagles (Ire)**--Sea Chanter (GSW & GISP-US, \$506,188), by War Chant. Kyoto, 1-7, Plate Race, 6f. Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-1, \$152,292. O-Godolphin; B-Roland H. Alder (Ire); T-Ryuji Okubo. \*38,000gns Wlg '20 TATNOV.

**Schwarz Kaiser (Ire)**, g, 6, **Dark Angel (Ire)**--Fashionable (GB), by Nashwan. Nakayama, 1-8, Caruncle S., 6fT. Lifetime Record: 19-6-2-0, \$853,056. O-Godolphin; B-Ross Moorhead (Ire); T-Masahiro Otake. \*€250,000 Wlg '18 GOFNOV. \*\*1/2 to Jack Naylor (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}), MGSW & G1SP-Ire, G1SP-Fr, \$273,005.



## WINNERS BY EUROPEAN SIRE

### IN JAPAN:

**Erato (Jpn)**, f, 3, **Saxon Warrior (Jpn)**--Elaya (Fr), by Siyouni (Fr). Kyoto, 1-6, Novice Race, 9fT. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-1, \$70,833. O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm (Jpn); T-Hiroyuki Uemura.

## WORLDWIDE NEWS

### Magic Millions Cont. from p1

- The total gross of A\$45,928,000 was up markedly from last year's Day 1 figure of A\$36,360,000, much of which can be accounted for by the additional 30 lots offered through the ring during this year's opening session.
- In a positive early indication of the strength of the middle market, Tuesday's clearance rate sat at a healthy 84.9%, up from last year's opening session clearance rate of 82.72%.
- The top lot was secured by Te Akau Racing's David Ellis in conjunction with Coolmore's Tom Magnier, with the duo going to A\$1.3 million to secure the I Am Invincible colt out of the blue hen mare Palace Talk (NZ) (Street Cry {Aus}), who was offered by Yarraman Park Stud.
- The highest-priced filly of the opening session, and the second-most expensive of all the offerings on Day 1, was the Snitzel (Aus) filly out of Serena Bay (Aus) (Sebring {Aus}), who went the way of Sheamus Mills Bloodstock (FBAA) for a cool A\$1.25 million.
- Last year's overall leading buyers by gross, the Newgate-China Horse Club colts partnership, were once again to the fore signing for five lots at a total spend of A\$2,670,000. Only Te Akau's David Ellis spent more when taking into account the colt he purchased in conjunction with Coolmore, taking his total spend to A\$3.59 million.
- Snitzel, I Am Invincible and Zoustar (Aus) lead the way as the leading sires by gross, with the former coming out on top with 11 lots sold for a total of A\$5,205,000, while first-season sires Farnan (Aus) and Bivouac (Aus) made it into the top 10 sires by gross with totals of A\$2,035,000 and A\$1,785,000 respectively.
- Coolmore's King's Legacy (Aus) was the first-season sire to record the biggest individual windfall of the opening day, however, when the James Harron Bloodstock Colt Partnership parted with A\$775,000 to secure Lot 164 from the draft of Bhima Thoroughbreds.

Cont. p13





Lot 19: Tuesday's topper, a colt by I Am Invincible | Magic Millions

### Lot 19 - I Am Invincible (Aus) x Palace Talk (NZ) (Street Cry {Ire}), colt, A\$1.3 million

One of the most anticipated colts of the opening day had the price-tag to match his hype, with David Ellis CNZM (BANZ) and Tom Magnier collaborating to secure the striking colt for A\$1.3 million, less than an hour into the sale.

The full-brother to the G2 Angus Armanasco S. winner Shuffle Dancer (Aus) (I Am Invincible {Aus}), Lot 19 was met with a flurry of interest, with the winning bid of Ellis and Magnier delivering a second seven-figure result for Yarraman Park's draft in a matter of minutes.

His dam, Palace Talk (NZ) (Street Cry {Ire}) has built a golden record as a producer, alongside Shuffle Dancer she has produced another full-sibling to this colt, Forbidden City (Aus) (I Am Invincible {Aus}), as well as Never Talk (Aus) (No Nay Never), both of whom have recorded placings in black-type races.

Speaking to *The Thoroughbred Report* following the purchase, Ellis lauded his new purchase and said, "We thought he was a beautiful colt, we're just delighted that we can train these sort of horses in Australia at our Cranbourne stable, so it's a very exciting day for us, to be able to buy a colt of his quality, and have him to train for Coolmore Stud."

### Lot 163 - Snitzel (Aus) x Serena Bay (Aus) (Sebring {Aus}), filly, A\$1.25 million

Bloodstock agent Sheamus Mills, working under his banner Sheamus Mills Bloodstock (FBAA), emerged victorious from an impassioned bidding war for Lot 163, with the well-related colt by Snitzel being knocked down to him for A\$1.25 million, the biggest result of the day for Newgate Farm as vendors.

She is out of the Sebring mare Serena Bay, Lot 163 comes from a family of early 2-year-old speedsters, with his half-siblings being Summer Loving (Aus) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), Alinea

(Aus) (Written Tycoon {Aus}) and West Of Africa (Aus) (Not A Single Doubt {Aus}), all three having shown ability in their juvenile year.

"That was like death by 1,000 paper cuts, I never thought that was going to end to be honest," Mills said following the bidding frenzy.

"But you've got to be staunch with the good ones, don't you? They stand out and everyone seems to want them.

"I got a little bit of extra incentive when I realised that Gai [Waterhouse] was on it. I think she's got the last two [out of Serena Bay], including the one that trialled this morning (Alinea), so she's got to think something of them if she's punching us along this far.

"Thanks to Gai for that last little bit of incentive."

Asked what qualities he saw in the colt that saw him stretch all the way to the final purchase price, Mills said, "Just her size and athleticism. We kept knocking the catalogue down more and more and more, I think we ended up with five horses through the week as the horses we identified as the five we thought were must-haves, and I'd be surprised if the other four are viable.

"She was definitely at the upper echelon, but I suspect that the other four are going to be hard to beat so we had to be a little but staunch there."



Tom Magnier & David Ellis | Magic Millions

### Lot 16 - I Am Invincible (Aus) x Outback Barbie (Aus) (Spirit Of Boom {Aus}), filly, A\$1.2 million

Leading Queensland-based trainer Tony Gollan continued a long-standing collaboration with the Acton family, with the first foal from their champion mare Outback Barbie (Aus) (Spirit Of Boom {Aus}) being knocked down to them for A\$1.2 million when going through the ring as Lot 16 when offered by Yarraman Park. [Cont. p14](#)



## Magic Millions Cont.

Alan Acton, a Central Queensland racing legend, tragically died in a helicopter accident last April, missing the chance to see his prized mare, Outback Barbie, debut her first foal at the sales.

Outback Barbie, trained by Gollan, shone in her racing career, notably in the Magic Millions events and winning the A\$1 million QTIS in 2020. Acton was also key in founding The Archer, Rockhampton's celebrated annual slot race.

Speaking to *The Thoroughbred Report* minutes after securing her, Gollan was glowing on the seven-figure filly's qualities.

"I actually bought Outback Barbie's mother, Pure Purrfection (Aus), many years ago now, and then Outback Barbie came along, she was her first foal, she did a great job for the stable and for the Acton family, and now in conjunction with them I was able to secure her [Outback Barbie's] first foal.

"We're hoping history can repeat itself again, she's a beautiful filly, she reminded me an awful lot of her mother, a dead ringer of her actually.

"She's a very nice first foal, very athletic, the type of filly you buy with the hope to get back here next year [for the R. Listed Magic Millions Gold Coast 2YO Classic].

"We'll try and get her back here and race for the riches on Magic Millions day, her mother was able to race in three or four Magic Millions days in her career, starting as a 2-year-old, hopefully this filly can do the same."

"I think she is [my most expensive yearling purchase], she's a very obvious filly, the type of I Am Invincible filly people queue up to buy, she was always going to bring the price-tag, but I was lucky enough to have the support of the Acton family behind me, it made my job a lot easier.

"She's the biggest lot I'll buy at this sale."



Tony Gollan & Jennifer Acton | Magic Millions

## Lot 84 - Zoustar (Aus) x Ready To Soar (Aus) (More Than Ready), colt, A\$1.1 million

Having partnered with Coolmore earlier in the day to secure Lot 16, Te Akau Racing went it on their own on Lot 84, with David Ellis CNZM (BANZ) going to A\$1.1 million to stave off interest from a cavalcade of prospective buyers.

By leading sire Zoustar (Aus), Lot 84, who was offered by Segenhoe Stud, he is out of More Than Ready mare Ready To Soar (Aus), a three-time victress on the racetrack, and a full sister to the G1 Queensland Derby winner Eagle Way (Aus) (More Than Ready).

Also a part of the family is the dual-Listed winner Impressive Eagle (Aus) (Rubiton {Aus}) and the G3 Black Opal S. winner Kalashnikov (Aus) (Capitalist {Aus}), both winners of juvenile races.

Ellis is bullish about the level this colt can get to, telling *The Thoroughbred Report* of his desire to see him across the road in 12 months' time, competing in the A\$3 million R. Listed Magic Millions Gold Coast 2YO Classic, and even bigger targets beyond.

"Our aim would be to have him back here this time next year for the Magic Millions race, and then for a race like the (G1) Golden Slipper. We see him being an early maturing horse, a lot of class, he's correct and we loved him from the moment we saw him.

"This Zoustar colt is out of a More Than Ready mare, we bought the colt from Segenhoe Stud, we loved the pedigree and thought he had a terrific attitude."

Solely bought for the Te Akau Racing colt syndicate, Ellis explained what the future may look like for the flashy chestnut.

"He'll finish up in Cranbourne, but we'll take him home to New Zealand to break [race educate] him in first.

"He's a classy colt, very athletic, you can just see him on a racecourse, he just looked the goods to us."

## Lot 47 - Written Tycoon (Aus) x Piping Hot (Aus) (More Than Ready), filly, A\$800,000

Highclere Australia secured sole ownership of Lot 47, a filly by Written Tycoon (Aus) who is a full-sister to the G1 VRC Lightning S. and the G1 Moir S. winning heroine Coolangatta (Aus) (Written Tycoon {Aus}), with the striking filly recording the biggest result of the day for vendor Milburn Creek.

Initially a foal share, breeder John Warren decided late into the bidding to take her outright, telling *The Thoroughbred Report*, "We're excited to have been able to buy the partner out and enjoy racing her here in Australia.

"She's a completely different physical to Coolangatta, she's much more [like] Written Tycoon, but none of us know what the engine is like inside, so how can you compare apples and oranges?" **Cont. p15**



## Magic Millions Cont.

He added, “In my experience, in the past, I’ve seen plenty of full-brothers and full-sisters look completely different, and were equally as good as one another.”

Speaking minutes after the hammer crashed down, Warren confessed that the decision to go all-in on her wasn’t pre-planned, revealing that it was a last-minute move to keep and race her.

“We haven’t thought it through yet [who will train the filly], because quite frankly that was a little bit of a spontaneous purchase at the end, so we weren’t geared up to have it thought out.

“She’s a ball of muscle, hopefully she’ll slot well into the program that she’s bred for here, and be a very good racehorse along the way to becoming a broodmare.

Away from the Coolangatta connection, there is plenty of strength on the page of the filly, being related to the G1 Blue Diamond S. winner Reaan (Aus) (Hussonet), who was foaled by Ribe (Aus) (Danehill), the victress of the G2 Moonee Valley Oaks, the latter being this filly’s granddam.



John Warren | Magic Millions

## SECOND CONSECUTIVE HORSE OF THE YEAR CROWN FOR EQUINOX

**Equinox (Jpn)** (Kitasan Black {Jpn}), the Longines World’s Best Racehorse for 2023, has been named the Japanese Horse of the Year for the second consecutive year, the Japanese Racing Association (JRA) Award Winner Selection Committee announced on Tuesday.

The Silk Racing Company-owned 4-year-old received 293 votes out of a total 295 votes cast by reporters. A flawless four-for-four last term, Equinox equaled his sire’s achievement of two Horse of the Year titles in 2016/2017. Beginning his campaign at

Meydan in March, the Tetsuya Kimura trainee won the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic, and returned to his native land with a thrilling score in the G1 Takarazuka Kinen in late June. Benched until the autumn, Equinox won both the G1 Tenno Sho (Autumn) in October and the G1 Japan Cup a month later and retired in style.

Another dual award winner is the 2023 Japanese Champion Miler **Songline (Jpn)** (Kizuna {Jpn}), who claimed the Champion Older Female title and the Champion Miler award. A representative of Sunday Racing Company and trainer Toru Hayashi, the 5-year-old won both the G1 Vitoria Mile and the G1 Yasuda Kinen last spring.

**Liberty Island (Jpn)** (Duramente {Jpn}), who was also in the running for Horse of the Year, won the Japanese Fillies’ Triple Crown and was second in Equinox’s Japan Cup. Already the champion juvenile filly in 2023, the Sunday Racing Company silksbearer was awarded the champion 3-year-old filly title. Her male counterpart, **Tastiera (Jpn)** (Satono Crown {Jpn}), won both the G1 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) and the G2 Deep Impact Kinen, and was runner up in the other two legs of the Japanese Triple Crown for Carrot Farm Company.

G1 Asahi Hai Futurity S. and G2 Daily Hai Nisai S. winner **Jantar Mantar (Jpn)** (Palace Malice) was named the top juvenile colt, and the award is timely, as it was **announced last year that his sire would stand at Darley Japan**. The Shadai Race Horse Company colourbearer won all three of his starts in 2023.

Sunday Racing’s **Ascoli Piceno (Jpn)** (Daiwa Major {Jpn}) was best of the juvenile fillies with victories in the G1 Hanshin Juvenile Fillies and G3 Niigata Nisai S. in a similarly undefeated campaign.

Tops for the sprinters was G1 Sprinters S. heroine **Mama Cocha (Jpn)** (Kurofune) for Kaneko Makoto Holdings, while the dependable **Lemon Pop** (Lemon Drop Kid) led in the dirt horse category for Godolphin after wins in the G1 February S. and G1 Champions Cup. **Cont. p16**



Equinox | Horsephotos

## Japanese Champions Cont.

The complete list of award winners is as follows:  
 Horse of the Year/Champion Older Male: Equinox  
 Champion 2-Year-Old Colt: Jantar Mantar  
 Champion 2-Year-Old Filly: Ascoli Piceno  
 Champion 3-Year-Old Colt: Tastiera  
 Champion 3-Year-Old Filly: Liberty Island  
 Champion Sprinter: Mama Cocha  
 Champion Miler/Champion Older Female: Songline  
 Champion Dirt Horse: Lemon Pop  
 Champion Steeplechaser: Meiner Grand (Jpn) (Gold Ship {Jpn})  
 Special Award: Ushba Tesoro (Jpn) (Orfevre {Jpn})

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