



KEENELAND JANUARY SALE STAYS STEADY ON DAY THREE



Monday RNA Star Act sold post-sale Wednesday for \$1.2 million
Keeneland

by Jessica Martini & Stefanie Grimm

LEXINGTON, KY - The Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale continued into its second half Wednesday in Lexington with a session which, while significantly smaller, produced results largely in line with its 2023 counterpart.

For the session, 196 horses sold for a gross of \$4,352,900. The average of \$22,209 was down 2.54% from last year's corresponding session, while the median of \$10,000 was up 25%. From 316 catalogued horses, 242 horses were offered and 46 failed to meet their reserves for a buy-back rate of 19.01%.

During the third session of the 2023 auction, 246 horses sold for \$5,605,700. The session average was \$22,787 and the median was \$8,000. The buy-back rate was 17.45%.

Marvelous Time (Distorted Humor), who sold just minutes into Wednesday's session, brought the day's top price when selling for \$220,000 to Centofanti Thoroughbreds, as agent for Brittlyn Stables.

The session topper was one of 17 sold for \$1,103,000 during what has become an annual offering of mares from Godolphin, making Sheikh Mohammed's operation the day's leading consignor.

Cont. p3

KENTUCKY DERBY PURSE RAISED BY CHURCHILL DOWNS TO RECORD \$5 MILLION, 50-RACE STAKES SCHEDULE CUMULATIVELY WORTH \$25.6 MILLION

The 150th GI Kentucky Derby scheduled for Saturday, May 4 will be the richest in history as the purse for America's greatest race has been elevated to a guaranteed \$5 million, Churchill Downs Inc. (CDI) said in a release Wednesday.

The \$2-million increase to the race highlights a record-setting, 50-race stakes schedule cumulatively worth \$25.6 million for Churchill Downs' 2024 Spring Meet, which will be run over 43 dates from Apr. 27-June 30.

The Derby purse structure was the subject of a Chris McGrath *TDN* interview with John Sikura, where he questioned the \$3- million purse. The cause was later taken up by Mike Repole.

Cont. p8

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

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Emma Berry pens an op/ed in response to Patrick Cooper's letter in favour of shortening the G1 Irish Derby distance.



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Thursday, January 11, 2024



Keeneland photo

MATING PLANS: HINKLE FARMS

10

The TDN's popular annual series 'Mating Plans, presented by Spendthrift,' continues today in a conversation with Hinkle Farms co-owner Tom Hinkle.

EARLY VOTING TO STAND AT TAYLOR MADE FOR 2024

14

*Classic winner Early Voting (**Gun Runner**), who got 120 mares in foal during his first season at stud at Ashford before a rare condition led to his being removed from stud duties on the advice of veterinary experts, has been cured and will continue his stud career at Taylor Made Stallions in 2024.*

THE CHOSEN VRON BACK FOR MORE THIS WEEKEND

15

The California Cup Sprint S. launched The Chosen Vron's 2023 campaign and propelled him to a Grade I-winning season. He'll try for a repeat this year.

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Keeneland Wednesday, cont. from p1

A filly from the first crop of Yaupon brought the top price for a short yearling Wednesday when selling for \$150,000 to Crestwood Farm.

Through three of four sessions, 626 horses have grossed \$35,949,600 and the average of \$57,427 is just 0.79% off the 2023 figure. The median of \$22,000 is down 18.52%.

"I'm more than happy with the market," said Hunter Valley's Adrian Regan. "I think there was a bit of doom and gloom from some people coming in that it was going to be tough going, but in fairness, it was pretty good. If you had the right foal and it vetted clean and everything, you got a lot of money for it. They sold very well. Overall, it was better than expected, I would say."

Consignors agreed quality offerings continued to be in demand at Keeneland this week.



Brian Graves | Keeneland

"Horses with quality are still fairly easy to sell," said Brian Graves of Gainesway, which consigned the \$1.6-million sale-topping Prank (Into Mischief) during Monday's first session of the auction. "And then anything that even hints at not being every bit of that is correcting. Anything that is not 100% quality or top shelf, it looks like it's correcting."

Graves said he has also observed less activity than normal in the back ring.

"It seems like there is not a lot of back ring participants, so if you didn't have it done at the barn, you weren't going to get any help," he said. "There weren't a ton of people standing around here just buying horses out of the back ring for anything significant."

On the other side of the ledger, Graves has been active as a buyer in the pinhooking sphere where he admitted he was vying for that very quality, while also casting a wary eye on potential market conditions next fall. **Cont.**



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BREEDER INSIGHTS

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- Aidan O'Meara, TDN 12/28



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Keeneland Wednesday, cont.

"We focus on quality [when we buy]," Graves said. "That's what we focus on. It's a battle to get your hands on that and once you've gotten your hands on that, you have to worry a little bit wondering if these other signs that we are seeing are a hint of what is coming down the road."

Meg Levy, whose Bluewater Sales sold the \$650,000 Kaling (**Practical Joke**) Monday, said demand for quality lots significantly helped to drive up prices for those offerings.

"I feel like quality will out," Levy said. "The buyers are willing to pay more for the perceived commercial quality, particularly in the yearlings, I have noticed. We had Kaling sell very well here, which we were pleased about. But it just seems like everybody is willing to pay up to a third more for what they perceive to be the right stuff. And the middle market is still suffering. It's very difficult."

Levy speculated that some of the weakening in the foal market might be traced back to the vet reports.

"There is kind of a gap selling some of these yearlings where we are using the vet reports as a marketing tool to help the buyers," she said. "But honestly, so many of them don't understand reports and they don't use a veterinarian, so that ends up hurting things."

The Keeneland January sale concludes Thursday with a session beginning at 10 a.m.

Sikura, Dorman Team Up for Star Act

The Keeneland January sale got its third seven-figure horse when Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa's John Sikura and Determined Stud's Matt Dorman partnered up to purchase **Star Act** (Street Cry {Ire}) (**hip 144**) for \$1.2 million. The 13-year-old mare, dam of GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies winner Just F Y I (**Justify**), was originally led out unsold at \$950,000 during the auction's first session Monday. **Cont.**



Star Act | Keeneland



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- **Kelly Jackson**, Haymarket Farm

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- **Derek MacKenzie**, Vinery Sales

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- **Collier Mathes**, Chesapeake Farm

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Keeneland Wednesday, cont.

"She is a class mare," Dorman said Wednesday. "She's a Grade I producer. She has a phenomenal horse who is three-for-three and primed for next year. John Sikura has always been a great business partner. It just worked out as a good opportunity."

Dorman said the mare, who is in foal to **Life Is Good** and was consigned by Hill 'n' Dale on behalf of George Krikorian, was on his radar Monday, but after Prank (Into Mischief) sold for \$1.6 million earlier in the session, he assumed Star Act would be out of his price range.

"When I saw the horse go for \$1.6 million, I thought she would be too much," Dorman said. "I work with David Ingordo now. So Dave and I had a long conversation about the broodmare band and what we are doing. And after [Star Act] RNA'd, we decided that the horse made sense at this number. So we reached out to John and Donato [Lanni]. And we called back and forth and it evolved into John and I buying the horse. Donato and the owner have a long-standing relationship with John and respect John, so it worked out well." @JessMartiniTDN

Marvelous Time Makes Trip Worthwhile for Centofanti

Bloodstock agent Raffaele Centofanti made the trip up from Ocala to find a specific mare for Evelyn Benoit's Brittlyn Stable and, mission accomplished, he was heading back south having purchased **Marvelous Time** (Distorted Humor) (**hip 845**) for \$220,000 early in Wednesday's third session of the Keeneland January sale. Bred and consigned by Godolphin, the 4-year-old is a daughter of Grade I-placed Folk (Quiet American).

"We were looking for that Quiet American line," Centofanti said of the mare's appeal. "They are hard to find. You can't find them usually that young--she's only four. It's such a great female line. To get her that young and with that broodmare sire, she



Marvelous Time | Keeneland



checked all the boxes basically. She had everything physically, as well. She is 16.2, with a classy look and a great walk. She looks like a Distorted Humor, but she had the size. She had everything I liked physically."

Marvelous Time made just one racetrack appearance, winning her debut at Presque Isle Downs in 2022 for trainer Mike Stidham. The bay mare is a half-sister to graded-placed Captivating Lass (A.P. Indy), who produced Grade I winner Atone (Into Mischief). She sold Wednesday in foal to **Mystic Guide**.

"I probably appraised her at a little less than that, but when I came and saw her, I thought we needed around \$200,000 to buy her," Centofanti said. "I think she was worth that."

Marvelous Time will remain in Kentucky to foal and then will head south to Brittlyn Stable's Louisiana base to visit either Star Guitar or Clearly Now.

"We are debating where we will go with her," Centofanti said. "We are trying to bring some quality back to Star and Clearly Now. We've been doing it the last two years and we've got some nice babies coming up."

Centofanti said the plan has been to upgrade the Brittlyn broodmare band as mares get older and are rotated out. The results are showing up on the race track and in the sales ring.

Cont.

Keeneland Wednesday, cont.

Centofanti continued: "We've been selling the last three years," he said. "We sold a couple of Star Guitars for six figures at Keeneland that went on to win big races--one won in Dubai a couple of weeks ago out of Charged Cotton (Dehere). And we have a **Not This Time** we will sell in September and she is beautiful."

The Brittny-bred **Manama Gold** (Star Guitar), a Louisiana-bred out of Charged Cotton, sold for \$100,000 at the 2022 Keeneland September sale and resold for \$200,000 at the 2023 OBS April sale. The filly broke her maiden stylishly at Meydan Dec. 22 for Fawzi Abdulla Nass.

"We've been rotating between Kentucky and Louisiana sires," Centofanti said. "[Benoit] loves racing and she loves Louisiana. And this way we can continue and we've had success doing that. Our horses are running and doing well."

Marvelous Time was the only horse Centofanti bid on at Keeneland and he was ready to head back south.

"I have to go to Ocala," he said. "I have a bunch of horses for her that we are breaking. So I've got to get back there."

@JessMartiniTDN



Yaupon Yearling to Crestwood Farm



Hip 926 | Keeneland

Not long into the third session of the Keeneland January sale, Crestwood Farm and Robert Keck went to \$150,000 for **hip 926**, a filly from the first crop of Yaupon.

"She had an amazing body, great bones and a standout pedigree for this session," said Keck. "She'll be resold in September." **Cont.**

67% winners/runners
from his first crop (3YOs of 2023).

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Keeneland Wednesday, cont.

Spendthrift Farm's Yaupon has seen his yearlings sell well this week, all five sold going for over six figures, led by a \$190,000 colt (**hip 82**) who sold Monday to Clarmont Bloodstock Club.

"Hopefully that sire is as hot as people are predicting," Keck continued. "I knew that [Yaupons were selling well], but looked at her as an objective buyer. People don't pay enough attention sometimes to where a horse comes from and I liked that she was raised by Clarkland Farm, they raise a great horse."

Bred and consigned by Clarkland Farm, the filly is a daughter of MSW Tiz Imaginary (Tizway), who was purchased by the farm for \$180,000 out of the 2019 Keeneland November sale. This is the family of champion 2-year-old filly Flanders (Seeking the Gold) and her champion daughter Surfside (Seattle Slew).

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KEENELAND JANUARY SALE

SESSION TOTALS	2024	2023
• Catalogued	316	395
• No. Offered	242	298
• No. Sold	196	246
• RNAs	46	52
• % RNAs	19.01%	17.45%
• High Price	\$220,000	\$260,000
• No. Over \$100k	7	8
• Gross	\$4,352,900	\$5,605,700
• Average (% change)	\$22,209 (-2.54%)	\$22,787
• Median (% change)	\$10,000 (+25%)	\$8,000
CUMULATIVE TOTALS	2024	2023
• Catalogued	1157	1247
• No. Offered	839	948
• No. Sold	626	721
• RNAs	213	227
• % RNAs	25.39%	23.95%
• Gross	\$35,949,600	\$41,732,600
• Average (% change)	\$57,427 (-0.79%)	\$57,882
• Median (% change)	\$22,000 (-18.52%)	\$27,000

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SESSION TOPPERS

FIRST-CLASS SEATS ALWAYS AVAILABLEKEENELAND JANUARY
WEDNESDAY'S TOP MARES

Hip	Name	Status	Price (\$)
845	Marvelous Time	i/f to Mystic Guide	220,000
(4, <i>Distorted Humor</i> --Folk, by Quiet American)			
Property of Godolphin			
Purchased by Centofanti TB, Agent			
853	Misty Veil	Racing/B'mare Prospect	210,000
(6, <i>Tonalist</i> --Genuine Class, by Birdstone)			
Consigned by Upson Downs Farm, Agent			
Purchased by Resolute Bloodstock, LLC			
874	Pin Up	i/f to Nyquist	130,000
(12, <i>Tapit</i> --Cara Rafaela, by Quiet American)			
Property of Godolphin			
Purchased by Imagine/Donato Lanni, Agent			
967	Anabella Queen	i/f to Good Magic	120,000
(9, <i>Wildcat Heir</i> --Queen of Oz, by Silver Buck)			
Consigned by Summerfield (Francis & Barbara Vanlangendonck), Agent XVI			
Purchased by Hinkle Farms			

WEDNESDAY'S TOP SHORT YEARLINGS

HIP	SEX	SIRE DAM	PRICE (\$)
926	Filly	Yaupon--Tiz Imaginary	150,000
Breeder: Clarkland Farm (KY)			
Property of Clarkland Farm			
Purchaser: Crestwood Farm, Agent			
1107	Colt	Violence --Lady Bling	85,000
Breeder: Winner's Farm (KY)			
Consignor: Denali Stud, Agent X			
Purchaser: Sycamore Hall Farm/David Wade, Agent			
950	Filly	Bolt d'Oro--Wellington Beauty	80,000
Breeder: Clarkland Farm (KY)			
Property of Clarkland Farm			
Purchaser: Cantrell Family Partnership			
1041	Colt	Vino Rosso--E Storm	70,000
Breeder: Brookstone Farm & Lee Mauberret (KY)			
Consignor: St George Sales, Agent IX			
Purchaser: Lobo Farm, Pierre & Leslie Amestoy			

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Derby purse raised, cont. from p1

Prize money for the stakes schedule increased 25% or \$5.1 million from last year's \$20.5-million lineup which is due to historical horse racing. Prior to the debut of historical horse racing at CDI's Derby City Gaming in September 2018, that year's Spring Meet featured 32 stakes races worth \$8.8 million. There are now 18 additional Spring Meet stakes, and prize money for horsemen in those events has grown 190% or by \$16.8 million.

"These record purse increases are a symbol of the health of horse racing in Kentucky," said Bill Carstanjen, CEO of Churchill Downs Incorporated. "Churchill Downs Incorporated's over \$1-billion investment into live and historical horse racing in Kentucky over the last five years has meaningfully strengthened the entire Kentucky Derby Week and year-round racing program. It's important to acknowledge the state legislature for its commitment to working closely with private enterprise in a truly collaborative partnership to support the continued growth of Kentucky's signature industry."

Thirty-eight of the 2024 Spring Meet stakes races received significant purse hikes, including \$250,000 boosts to each of the following: the \$1.5-million GI Kentucky Oaks; \$1-million GI La Troienne S.; \$1-million GI Churchill Downs S.; \$1-million GI Derby City Distaff; and \$750,000 GII Churchill Distaff Turf Mile.

Cont.

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Derby purse raised, cont.

Each of the track's seven Grade I events, including the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic S. and Stephen Foster S., feature a minimum \$1-million purse.

With a record \$5 million in prize money now guaranteed for the Kentucky Derby, the winner will receive the event's gold trophy and a \$3.1-million payday. Also, \$1 million will be awarded to the runner-up, \$500,000 to third, \$250,000 to fourth and \$150,000 to fifth.

Previously, the Kentucky Derby purse had been worth \$3 million since 2019, and was \$2 million from 2005-18 and \$1 million from 1996-2004.

"It is truly gratifying to view the steady growth of the Churchill Downs racing product and the entire Kentucky horse racing and breeding industry, which bettors around the world have embraced," said Churchill Downs Racetrack President Mike Anderson. "Through the purses generated by the racing association and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund, Kentucky horsemen and horsewomen are reaping the benefits of Churchill Downs Incorporated's historic investment as we celebrate this year's milestone 150th Kentucky Derby."

At \$1.5 million, the 1 1/8-mile Kentucky Oaks--the Derby's sister race staged one day prior on Friday, May 3--remains the nation's most lucrative race for 3-year-old fillies. It had been worth \$1.25 million since 2019, and was \$1 million from 2011-18 and \$500,000 from 1996-2010.

All told, there will be a record 22 stakes races cumulatively worth \$17.5 million staged over Kentucky Derby Week (April 27-May 7), including nine stakes totaling \$10.8 million on Derby

Day and seven totaling \$5.3 million on Oaks Day.

Four races on Kentucky Derby Week will offer horses an entry and travel incentive to run in some of Europe's most prestigious races. The winner of the Old Forester Turf Classic will receive a berth to either the one-mile G1 Queen Anne S. or the 1 1/4-mile G1 Prince of Wales's S. at Royal Ascot in mid-June. Earlier on the Kentucky Derby Day program, the winner of the GII Twin Spires

Turf Sprint will receive an entry to the G1 King's Charles III S. (formerly known as the King's Stand), also staged at Royal Ascot.

Three-year-old turf specialists in the GII American Turf and GII Edgewood S. can receive their entry to either the G1 Betfred Derby or G1 Betfred Oaks at Epsom Downs. The winner of the American Turf on Kentucky Derby Day will receive an entry and travel stipend to compete in the Betfred Derby while the winner of the Edgewood on Kentucky Oaks Day will receive

the same benefits for the Betfred Oaks.

The first condition book of scheduled races is being finalized by Vice President of Racing Ben Huffman and is expected to be published in late January. More than \$57 million in total prize money is expected to be offered during this year's Spring Meet (pending Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund final approval). Purses for maiden races will be \$120,000 while allowance races will range from \$127,000 to \$141,000.

Spring Meet stall applications are due Friday, Mar. 1. Following its annual closure for wintertime renovations, the Churchill Downs stable area will reopen Tuesday, Mar. 19. The first day of training on the main dirt track will be Friday, Mar. 22.

Cont.



Derby first turn last year at Churchill Downs | CDI

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Derby purse raised, cont.

For the second consecutive year, Churchill Downs Incorporated's nearby Trakside Louisville, which accommodates more than 500 horses, has remained open year-round for wintertime stabling and training for racing at Turfway Park in northern Kentucky.

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MATING PLANS

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MATING PLANS, PRESENTED BY SPENDTHRIFT: HINKLE FARMS

The TDN's popular annual series 'Mating Plans, presented by Spendthrift,' continues today in a conversation with Hinkle Farms co-owner Tom Hinkle. "In determining the matings for our mares, it is a total team effort by my brother Henry, my daughter Anne Archer and me," said Hinkle. "We work hard to arrive at the best possible mating, at least in our opinions."



Seeking Gabrielle | photo courtesy Hinkle Farms

SEEKING GABRIELLE (17, Forestry--Seeking Regina, by Seeking the Gold) to be bred to **Gun Runner**

Seeking Gabrielle is the dam of **Nyquist**. She is a very special mare for us. She produces really attractive foals and they have sold well as yearlings. She just turned 17 and is in great condition, but with her advancing age we really want fillies. She has a newly turned 2-year-old filly by **Uncle Mo**, making her a full-sister to **Nyquist**. **Cont.**

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1st dam

MARION RAVENWOOD, by A.P. Indy. 4 wins at 3, \$112,598, Capades S. (AQU, \$36,000). Dam of 7 foals, 6 to race, 5 winners--

NEST (f. by Curlin). 8 wins in 14 starts, 2 to 4, 2023, \$2,172,675, Champion 3-year-old filly in U.S., Alabama S. **[G1]** (SAR, \$330,000), Central Bank Ashland S. **[G1]** (KEE, \$358,050), Coaching Club American Oaks **[G1]** (SAR, \$275,000), Demoiselle S. **[G2]** (AQU, \$137,500), Beldame S. **[G2]** (BAQ, \$137,500), Shuvee S. **[G2]** (SAR, \$110,000), Suncoast S. [L] (TAM, \$60,000), 2nd Belmont S. **[G1]** (BEL, \$280,000), etc.

LOST ARK (c. by Violence). 4 wins in 8 starts at 2 and 3, 2023, \$538,600, Jockey Club Derby Invitational S. [L] (BAQ, \$275,000), Sapling S. (MTH, \$120,000), 3rd Saranac S. **[G3]** (SAR, \$21,000).

IDOL (c. by Curlin).

Dr Jack (c. by Pioneerof the Nile). 3 wins at 3 and 4, \$156,155, 3rd TVG.com Pegasus S. [L] (MTH, \$15,000), Bourbon Trail S. (CD, \$27,050).

Ark in the Dark (g. by Midnight Lute). 5 wins, 3 to 6, \$233,373.

Total Cooperation (c. by Tiznow). Placed at 3, \$18,229.

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Hinkle Farms mating plans, cont.

We retained her to race and as a future broodmare. Her newly turned yearling is a filly by **Curlin** and we are considering keeping her too.

Seeking Gabrielle is currently pregnant to **Constitution** and is believed to be carrying a filly. In 2024 we will breed her to **Gun Runner**. Obviously he is one of the premier sires in the world. If we are fortunate enough to get a filly, we would hope to keep her. If she produces a colt, then we could have a sensational yearling sale prospect.

INDIAN BAY (13, Indian Charlie--Buy the Barrel, by E Dubai) to be bred to First Samurai

Indian Bay is a filly we bred--having bred and raced her dam Buy the Barrel. Due to an injury as a weanling, we were unable to sell or race Indian Bay. However, she has been a wonderful producer for us, being the dam of Shivaji, a graded stakes winner in Japan, and Tarabi, a stakes winner who is Grade I placed. Both are by **First Samurai**.

She is currently pregnant to **Life Is Good**. Indian Bay produces lovely foals. We have decided to breed her to **First Samurai** in 2024. While **First Samurai** is not viewed as a top-tier commercial stallion, he is a very solid stallion who gets runners and the cross has obviously worked well with Indian Bay. We hope to get a filly and keep her, but if we get a colt we believe he will be an attractive sales prospect because of the affinity Indian Bay has shown for **First Samurai**.

LADIES' PRIVILEGE (10, Harlan's Holiday--Vanquished, by Empire Maker) to be bred to Flightline

We purchased Ladies' Privilege in November of 2019 carrying her first foal by More Than Ready. That foal is More Than Looks, a Grade III winner who ran third in the GII Hall of Fame S. last year. He ran an excellent race in the Breeders' Cup Mile, beaten only two lengths by Master of the Seas (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}). He is trained by Cherie DeVaux and his connections are really excited about his prospects for 2024.

Her newly turned 3-year-old is a colt by **Uncle Mo** and her just-turned 2-year-old is a \$525,000 **American Pharoah** filly. Her 2023 yearling is a colt by **Gun Runner** and she is pregnant to **Upstart**. She will be bred to **Flightline** in 2024. We think it is a great cross and based on the foals Ladies' Privilege has produced, we are hopeful that the resulting foal will be an excellent physical.

STAVE (9, Ghostzapper--Buy the Barrel, by E Dubai) to be bred to Forte

We bred and raced Stave. She was the last filly produced from Buy the Barrel, whom we also bred and raced. Stave was a stakes-placed winner of \$285,000. Her first foal is Spirit's Mischief, a \$350,000 colt by Into Mischief. He is with Wesley Ward and won as a 2-year-old last fall. He is a fast colt.

Stave had no foal in 2022, but she has a 2023 colt by **Constitution** who we will sell at Keeneland in September. She is currently pregnant to **Not This Time** and is booked to Forte for 2024. Having previously been bred to three very well-established and proven stallions, we felt like this would be a good time to breed Stave to a younger stallion. Forte is super attractive, was a seriously good racehorse, and his offspring will be sought after when they hit the sales ring.



More Than Looks as a yearling at the 2021 Keeneland September Sale
Joe DiOrio

REMEMBERED (14, Sky Mesa--Sister Girl, by Conquistador Cielo) to be bred to Not This Time

Remembered is the dam of Bowies Hero (Artie Schiller), a multiple Grade I stakes winner. She is also the dam of Radio Days, a multiple graded stakes-placed winning filly by **Gun Runner**.

Remembered is pregnant to Jackie's Warrior and is booked to **Not This Time** for 2024. **Not This Time** has certainly proven himself to be a top-level sire and being a Grade I stakes producer, Remembered deserves to be bred to a top stallion.



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Hinkle Farms mating plans, cont.

We believe the cross is excellent and provides a real opportunity to produce a good racehorse who is physically attractive.

WIN THE WAR (9, War Front--City Sister, by Carson City) to be bred to Good Magic

Win the War is a beautiful mare and is a stakes winner. We purchased her in 2020 when she was pregnant to **Curlin**. Unfortunately that filly, now named Jane Addams, did not race but will be bred to **Practical Joke** in 2024. Win the War's second foal was a \$700,000 Into Mischief colt sold in September last year. Her 2023 foal is a colt by **Quality Road** and she is pregnant to **Flightline** for 2024.

Win the War will be bred to **Good Magic** in 2024. **Good Magic** has certainly proved himself capable of siring top-level racehorses. We think this is a great physical mating and believe he will add stamina to a speedy pedigree.

WEXX (7, Declaration of War--My Rachel, by Horse Chestnut {SAF}) to be bred to Elite Power

We bred and raced Wexx and she is the last daughter of My Rachel, who was a wonderful producer for us. My Rachel is now retired. Wexx was a stakes-placed winner. Her first foal, a colt,

was a \$400,000 Keeneland September yearling last year. She has a gorgeous 2023 Liam's Map filly and is pregnant to **Justify** for 2024.

In 2024 she will be bred to **Elite Power**. **Elite Power** was exceptionally talented and is a beautiful physical. We are delighted to have the opportunity to breed to him.

ORBOLUTION (9, Orb--My Rachel, by Horse Chestnut {SAF}) to be bred to Omaha Beach

Orbolution is a filly we bred and sold as a yearling to StarLadies Racing. She was a 2-year-old stakes winner at Saratoga. Upon retirement, we purchased her from Starlight. Her first foal is a colt by **Curlin** who sold for \$1.1 million at Keeneland in 2022. He has not yet started. She produced a **Nyquist** colt in 2022 and an Into Mischief filly in 2023. She is currently pregnant to **City of Light**.

She will be bred to Omaha Beach, who certainly got off to a great start with his 2-year-olds in 2023. The female family has a real affinity with **War Front** and we are very excited to breed her to a **War Front** son. **Cont.**

**VIDEO:****Omaha Beach
at Spendthrift Farm**

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1st dam

CLOSE HATCHES, by First Defence. 9 wins in 14 starts at 3 and 4, \$2,707,300, champion older mare, Cotillion S. **[G1]** (PRX, \$556,000), Ogden Phipps S. **[G1]** (BEL, \$535,000), Apple Blossom H. **[G1]** (OP, \$360,000), Personal Ensign S. **[G1]** (SAR, \$300,000), Mother Goose S. **[G1]** (BEL, \$180,000), Gazelle S. **[G2]** (AQU, \$150,000), Azeri S. **[G2]** (OP, \$120,000), 2nd Acorn S. **[G1]** (BEL, \$60,000), Breeders' Cup Distaff **[G1]** (SA, \$360,000). Sister to **LOCKDOWN**. Dam of 6 foals, 3 to race, 3 winners, including--

TACITUS (c. by Tapit). Black-type winner, see record.

2nd dam

RISING TORNADO, by Storm Cat. Winner at 3, €26,100, in France. (Total: \$39,366). Dam of 6 foals to race, all winners, including--

CLOSE HATCHES (f. by First Defence). Champion, above.

LOCKDOWN (f. by First Defence). Winner at 2 and 3, \$445,900, Busanda S. (AQU, \$60,000), 2nd Gazelle S. **[G2]** (AQU, \$60,000), Mother Goose S. **[G2]** (BEL, \$50,000), 3rd Cotillion S. **[G1]** (PRX, \$107,900), Longines Kentucky Oaks **[G1]** (CD, \$91,000). Dam of--

IDIOMATIC (f. by Curlin). 9 wins in 12 starts at 3 and 4, 2023, \$2,456,840, Breeders' Cup Distaff S. **[G1]** (SA, \$1,040,000), Juddmonte Spinster S. **[G1]** (KEE, \$367,350), Personal Ensign S. **[G1]** (SAR, \$275,000), Delaware H. **[G2]** (DEL, \$300,000), Shawnee S. **[G3]** (CD, \$136,520), Latonia S. (TP, \$150,210), 2nd Ruffian S. **[G2]** (BEL, \$40,000).

Hail (f. by Tapit). Winner at 2, \$76,151, 3rd Busanda S. (AQU, \$10,000).

Hinkle Farms mating plans, cont.**NEW BOSS (6, Street Boss--Denali Dreamscape, by Corinthian) to be bred to **Constitution****

New Boss is a stakes-winning filly we bred and sold to Barry and Carol Conrad. Her dam, Denali Dreamscape, had gotten off to a great start as a broodmare for us, having produced two stakes horses from her first three foals to race. Unfortunately, Denali Dreamscape died in 2022. Upon New Boss's retirement, we were fortunate enough to be able to buy her from Mr. and Mrs. Conrad.

New Boss will be bred to **Constitution** in 2024. He is certainly a well-established and proven stallion. His 2-year-old crop of 2023 had an exceptional year. Breeding New Boss to a stallion the quality of **Constitution** gives her a real opportunity to jump start her broodmare career.



Win the War's \$700,000 Into Mischief colt | *EquiSport Photo*

WHOA NESSIE (9, Square Eddie--Electric Daze, by Gilded Time) to be bred to **Nyquist**

Whoa Nessie is an interesting mare whom we purchased in November of 2022 in foal to **Union Rags**. Her sire Square Eddie, by Smart Strike, has proven to be an extremely useful stallion in California. Electric Daze is also the dam of Edwina E (Square Eddie), making Whoa Nessie a full-sister to Edwina E. Edwina E has produced two stakes winners--Slow Down Andy, a Grade I winner of \$1,276,600--and Team Merchants. Both are by **Nyquist**.

We purchased Whoa Nessie specifically to breed to **Nyquist** and she is currently pregnant to him. She is being bred back to **Nyquist** in 2024. **Nyquist** had a great 2024 and has proven himself as a quality stallion capable of siring top-level performers. The cross is a proven one and we are excited about the prospects. **Cont.**

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Hinkle Farms mating plans, cont.**MADAME DU LAC (19, Lemon Drop Kid--Geisha Girl {GB}, by Nashwan) to be bred to **Oscar Performance****

Madame Du Lac is an older mare but she has been a wonderful mare for us, being the dam of multiple Grade I stakes winner **Divisidero**, who is by Kitten's Joy. **Divisidero**'s first crop of 2-year-olds raced in 2023 and, despite only having limited numbers, they performed well.

We are breeding Madame Du Lac to **Oscar Performance** in 2024. **Oscar Performance**'s first crop has just turned four and he has proven himself to be a very capable stallion, having produced stakes winners on both dirt and turf. The cross has worked well in the past and we hope the mating will result in a filly as we will be very tempted to keep and race her, but if we get a colt he should be a nice sales prospect.

Interested in sharing your own mating plans? Email garyking@thetdn.com.

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EARLY VOTING TO STAND AT TAYLOR MADE STALLIONS FOR 2024

Early Voting | Sarah Andrew

Classic winner **Early Voting** (**Gun Runner**), who got 120 mares in foal during his first season at stud last season before a rare condition led to his being removed from stud duties on the advice of veterinary experts, has been cured and will continue his stud career at Taylor Made Stallions in 2024. He covered his first book of mares in 2023 at Ashford Stud.

Winner of the 2022 GI Preakness S. for Klaravich Stables and Chad Brown, Early Voting retired with three wins from six starts and earnings in excess of \$1.3 million. Though he successfully

stopped his mares and though his sperm were fertile, he was later found to be unable to continue his career and was subsequently diagnosed with Anejaculatory Syndrome, an inability to ejaculate.

According to a release, a member of the Early Voting management team was acquainted with the work of a New Zealand-based veterinarian and scientist named Dr. Padraig (Paddy) O'Casiagh, who had treated males of the rarest species of birds in New Zealand--the Kakapo--for precisely the same condition. O'Casiagh had developed his diagnostic and treatment protocols along with Professor Sir Graham ('Mont') Collingwood Liggins FRS, a pioneer in the research of human fetal development and birth. O'Casiagh and Liggins together formed the Mont Liggins Trust to further fertility research.

"Early Voting has a very rare condition that is difficult to diagnose and treat," said Dr. O'Casiagh. "Because of the work of the Mont Liggins Trust with the Kakapo and Tuatara (a native New Zealand reptile that is the closest living relative to the dinosaur), we have developed a very unique diagnostic suite for this exact scenario. I feel very fortunate to be involved and have had the assistance of our many international colleagues. It is such a credit to all the interested parties who have gone literally to the end of the earth for Early Voting's welfare."

Added Taylor Made's Duncan Taylor: "We were contacted by Dr. O'Casiagh to stand Early Voting and we are very happy to have the opportunity."

This story will be updated in tomorrow's edition.

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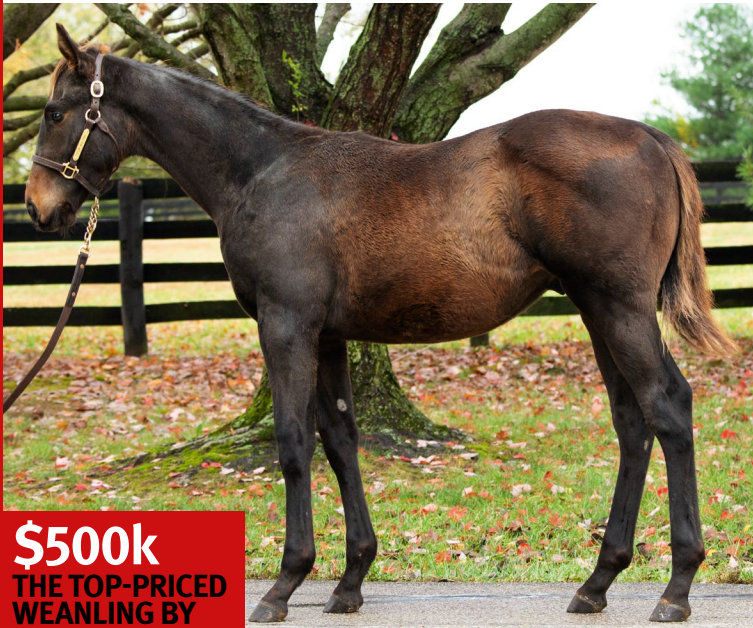
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Brian Graves

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Mike Ryan, on behalf of breeder
e Five Racing Thoroughbreds

Darley

THE CHOSEN VRON BACK FOR MORE THIS WEEKEND *by Dan Ross*



The Chosen Vron | Benoit

Don Valpredo is to Cal-breds what tungsten is to steel.

"I absolutely love the training industry and the breeding industry here," said Vapredo, 85, over the phone from Bakersfield. "In fact, I'm sitting here today with the Stallion Register on my lap, trying to find the right mix for my broodmares."

When Valpredo hasn't been producing Cal-breds--along with John Harris, he's responsible for 1994 California Horse of the Year, Soviet Problem--he's sought to popularize them through multiple warmed seats on multiple industry boards over multiple decades.

They even named a race after Valpredo, on the day he helped build to eulogize those sturdy Cal-breds he's so fond of--the Don Valpredo California Cup Sprint S., scheduled to go off again this Saturday, Cal Cup Day.

The winner of his race last year was a swanky chestnut rocket with hints of a Sequoia redwood in his coat by the name of **The Chosen Vron** (Vronsky). You might have heard of him. Lots have, thanks to a roundhouse of a campaign last year.

"Eric Kruljac has done a magnificent job with The Chosen Vron--he's one tough hombre," said the scion of a family of growers, about trainer and horse, respectively.

"The training methods and the attention he's got in Kruljac's barn all add to the horse's tremendous success," Valpredo

added, before focusing his tribute. "He's an Arizona cowboy horseman, and they know how to take their time."

The patient cowboy is pretty sweet on his runner, too.

"He's smart and he's competitive and he's got some talent," said Kruljac, laying down the gauntlet early for understatement of the year--though in fairness, the trainer appeared to be merely warming to the task.

"He's got a lot of heart," Kruljac added. "Just been a blessing for me to go into the barn and see him of a morning. He's just so cool to be around. He's all class."

Much better.

Indeed, it was this race--the California Cup Sprint S.--which launched The Chosen Vron's 2023 campaign, showcasing just how classy a sprinter he was becoming, along with his increasing flair for the dramatic. A show-boater with a lust for the camera.

In last year's race, The Chosen Vron just held off by a whisker a fast-finishing **Big City Lights** (Mr. Big). Next up was a Sunday stroll in the Tiznow S.

Then it was back to slugging it out against **Kings River Knight** (Acclamation) in the Sensational Star S, before showing his rivals another clean set of hooves in the Thor's Echo S.

Making it seven wins in a row, the Thor's Echo recalibrated The Chosen Vron's horizons, for he was then pointed toward his highest summit yet in the GI Bing Crosby S. at Del Mar--a race he claimed his own after a dogfight involving runner-up **Anarchist** (Distorted Humor) and **Dr. Schivel** (**Violence**), himself a two-time GI winner.

Kruljac, unsurprisingly, recalls the race in terms that all but mention cherries and icing.

"Well, he had to check hard along the rail and he gave up two, three lengths. And for him to dig in and come back and win the way he did was just awesome--and in Grade I company no less," said Kruljac, recalling how The Chosen Vron was on the losing end of a mid-pack skirmish heading into the turn.

"Just watching him rally that last eighth of a mile and just will his way into the winner's circle," Kruljac added, "it was the most exciting race of my career, for sure."

Next up was the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint at Santa Anita. And though the race ended the horse's win-streak--he finished a never-threatening fifth--there were excuses.

"I think I was too soft on him going into it and he just lacked a little sharpness. I think I backed off him too much after the Bing Crosby," said Kruljac. **Cont.**

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The Chosen Vron, cont.

After the Breeders' Cup, however, so full of vim and vigor was The Chosen Vron, the trainer sent him back down the salt-mines just two weeks later, in the Cary Grant S. at Del Mar. He turned out the kind of effortlessly cool performance deserving of the race's namesake.

"I looked and saw the Cary Grant. I said, 'what the heck?' And he fired a huge race," said Kruljac.

Previously, Kruljac had said about his stable star that he needed time between his races to flourish. Six weeks or more. Does the Cary Grant indicate an athlete still on the improve, one hardening into an even tougher husked antagonist?

"I think he's probably at a peak, but you never know. He's not a big horse, but extremely athletic and what's the word I'm looking for? He's just got great hinges on him. When he reaches out, he just covers so much ground so easily," said Kruljac.

"Once he figured it out, he's just pretty much been pushbutton--just a great horse to be around in the morning in the barn and just all class," Kruljac added. "He's a gelding, so that might make him a little easier, but it certainly hasn't cost him anything in his racing."

Given the tumult that California racing finds itself--the impending closure of Golden Gate Fields and the shellacking that will surely have on the state breeding industry--it's probably fair to say that for fans of the good ol' honest Cal-bred, The Chosen Vron has become something of a white knight. Or perhaps more accurately, a Saint Jude-type, inspiring perseverance in difficult times.

At the very least, The Chosen Vron--who Kruljac co-owns with Sondereker Racing, Robert S. Fetkin and Richard Thornburg--has tinged this 70-year-old's career with the sanguine glow of a glorious Indian Summer.

Kruljac has six horses in training, five of them at Los Alamitos, with The Chosen Vron stabled at Santa Anita, under the charge of Herlindo Garcia, Kruljac's foreman.

Before The Chosen Vron began his ascent through the ranks, Kruljac was down on horses--so much so, he considered retirement, perhaps to help his son, Ian, with his training operation.



Eric Kruljac | Benoit

"I was thinking, 'this might be the last year,' so that I could be semi-retired in some form. But once he started running like he did, of course I had to stay in until he goes to pasture somewhere," said Kruljac.

But is the future of Kruljac's training career really as inextricably linked with The Chosen Vron's? Might be smart to hold your bets for now.

One of the other five horses he has in training is the 3-year-old **Clubhouse Bride** (Clubhouse Ride), who made it two-for-two at Santa Anita on New Year's Day.

"We came back off of only three weeks from her debut," said Kruljac, about a filly he calls "really well-made, balanced, beautiful and classy."

"I was concerned when I saw the track, how deep they're keeping it," he said, of Santa Anita. "Sure enough, she got pretty tired. But once that horse came to her, she dug in and

finished the job. We're really excited about her."

He also has four or five 2-year-olds coming in, including a "beautiful Clubhouse Ride" half-sister to The Chosen Vron.

"She's not named yet," he said. "I don't really press on them hard early. I'd look at the earliest she would be ready to run by Del Mar or maybe in the fall. I think as a breeder, you just learn to be more patient and just enjoy the process."

Ah yes, patience--far easier to execute on paper than in practice. Into his fourth decade with a license, however, Kruljac appears to have found a rich trade-route in this noble quality.

"The very first time or two that we breezed him after we gelded him, I knew if the horse stayed sound that he was going to be more than a maiden claimer for sure," said Kruljac. "Though I'm not going to say I would know what he was going to win."

But toward the end of his 3-year-old season--and with four stakes wins already under his belt, including two GIIIs--The Chosen Vron's year was cut short with a niggling problem behind.

"We had to back off, and so we did. He had some OCD [Osteochondrosis] in a stifle, and we sent him to the right doctor up in Alamo Pintado [Equine Medical Center]," said Kruljac, singling out the work of surgeon Carter Judy. "We owe him big time." **Cont.**

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“Mandaloun is a very well balanced horse. He was a talented racehorse who has a great pedigree, is by the right sire, and is priced where breeders will likely see a significant return on their breeding dollar.”

- Frank Taylor

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Mandaloun
by Into Mischief

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The Chosen Vron, cont.

The Chosen Vron returned to action the August of his 4-year-old season. Since then, his resume has been a blueprint of carefully calibrated restraint.

Which means that now, heading into this Saturday's race, The Chosen Vron "is very sharp in his gallops and workouts, so I'm very confident he's going to run a big race," said Kruljac. "He's burning fire and ready to roll."



The Chosen Vron | Benoit

As for the broader agenda for this year--provided all goes to plan this Saturday and beyond--probably a similar run of races to last year, said Kruljac, including another Del Mar waltz with Bing.

What about a potential return to the Breeders' Cup?

"Oh, absolutely. And the fact that it would be at Del Mar is another plus," he said. "So yes, we're hopeful he comes back firing like he did last year, and with a better outcome."

One notable absentee from Santa Anita this weekend will be the man whose race bears his name--he'll be watching at home confined to a cast, nursing a broken patellar. Turns out his hinges aren't quite as sturdy as The Chosen Vron's.

"I can outlive it, it's just that I've got to give it time," said Valpredo, whose convalescence appears driven by the promise of a return to the track. "I'm so looking forward to it--you have no idea."

Valpredo has a personal interest--though several times removed--in the Kruljac runner.

His "dear old friend" Elwood "Buddy" Johnson initially stood The Chosen Vron's sire, Vronsky, at his Old English Rancho farm, near Sanger, Central California.

"He was an underrated stallion," said Valpredo, about Vronsky, who passed away in 2021. "But I've got a couple fillies by him, and I'm anxious to see them run also."

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APPRENTICE JOCKEY LUIS MARCANO DIES IN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT IN PUERTO RICO



Luis Marciano | Al Bello/Getty Images

by Bill Finley

Luis Yamil Marciano, who spent most of 2023 riding at Belterra Park before returning to his native Puerto Rico in October to ride at Camarero, died Sunday night from injuries he sustained from a motorcycle accident. He was 19.

The news was first reported on Camarero's Facebook page, which posted the following: "Camarero Racecourse regrets the sudden death of rider Luis Yamil Marciano. Luis graduated from the Agustín Mercado Reverón Equestrian Vocational School in 2022 staying active since then in races at Camarero Racecourse and several racecourses in the United States. Our deepest condolences to all his family and friends. May he rest in peace!"

According to reports, Marciano was traveling on a white 2009 Honda CRF-450 motorcycle which was hit by a Ford F-150 vehicle. That driver of that vehicle fled the scene.

Sources close to Marciano said he was planning to return to the U.S. to ride at Tampa Bay Downs.

He made his debut Jan. 1, 2023 and won on his second career mount. He raced 382 times and rode 52 winners. He also was active at Thistledown, Horseshoe Indianapolis, Ellis Park, Churchill Downs, Keeneland, Mahoning Valley and Turfway Park.

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MICHAEL BLOWEN JOINS TDN WRITERS' ROOM PODCAST

Michael Blowen had no money, no farm, no horses and no backers. But he did have an idea. He wanted to open a farm that would be a sanctuary for some of the sport's biggest names who were either gelded or no longer being used as sires or broodmares. Somehow moving mountains, he pulled it off and his Old Friends Farm became home to hundreds of Thoroughbreds and a popular tourist attraction.

But now he has decided to retire, 20 years after he opened Old Friends, and turn the reins over to John Nicholson. On this week's *TDN Writers' Room* podcast presented by [Keeneland](#), Blowen discussed why he is retiring and some of his fondest memories from a job he instantly loved.

"When you get a certain age and you can see the finish line, you know," Blowen said. "It's like you're turning for home and you go, 'Oh, there's a finish line.' So you better figure out what's going to be happening or what you can do to make everything a little better. And so I started looking for somebody a couple of years ago to take over, and I could never find the right person. Then I ran into John Nicholson. And I would probably still be doing this if I hadn't run into John, because John was the perfect person. I thought, 'boy, oh boy, if he'll do this, it would be great'. People who know John know that he ran Kentucky Horse Park for a long time. He loves the horses."

Blowen's favorite horse? Silver Charm.

"It's hard for me to explain it in one way, because it's hard to explain why you fall in love with somebody," Blowen said. "No matter who or what you fall in love with your life is going to change. When Sandy Hatfield called me in November of 2015 and said, how would you like an old gray stallion at your farm, I freaked out. The only problem was I couldn't tell anybody. They're supposed to keep it a secret. And then I did keep it a secret, which is probably the only secret I ever kept in my life. But I kept that one. And when he got here on Dec. 1, 2015, that was the greatest day of my life. I didn't even know him, because the first time I ever laid eyes on him in person is when he got off the trailer on that day, but I know I was totally enthralled."

Though retiring, Blowen plans to spend plenty of time at Old Friends.



Click to watch the podcast | Sarah Andrew photo

"You'll have to drag me out of here," he said. "I told my wife, when I die, the house where we live in, we have a great house here, and the back backyard is one of the two places where we have cemeteries. I told my wife, when I die, get me cremated, throw my ashes out the back. Just don't put my lifetime earnings on the side."

This week's look at a Coolmore sire focused on [Jack](#)

[Christopher \(Munnings\)](#). He won three Grade I races and was five-for-five around one turn. He was such a special specimen that Zoe Cadman never forgot her impressions of him when she saw him at Saratoga before he ever raced, noting that he was so perfectly put together that she knew he would be a star.

Elsewhere on the podcast, which is also sponsored by [Elite Power](#), [WinStar Farm](#), the [Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association](#), [1/ST Racing](#), the [Green Group](#), [West Point Thoroughbreds](#) and [XBTv.com](#),

the team of Randy Moss, Cadman and Bill Finley expressed their gratitude for [having earned an Eclipse Award in the Multi-Media category](#). Our interview with Wade Jost was selected as the winner. Jost is the father of Carson Jost, who, like Cody Dorman, suffers from Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome. Jost, a classmate of Terry Finley at West Point, went in with his syndicate on Carson's Run--named in his son's honor. All agreed that it was Jost who made the podcast so memorable and the team decided it will gift the Eclipse Award trophy to the family.

The team also touched on the big shakeup in Maryland, where a new entity, the Maryland Thoroughbred Operating Authority, which will be similar to NYRA, is set to take over the operation of Maryland tracks and, finally, will rebuild Pimlico. That will also mean that the GI Preakness S. will be run at Laurel in 2025, 2026 and 2027. The group also examined the 2024 economic indicators for racing, which included a 3.7% decline in total handle and a small decrease in purses.

To watch the Writers' Room, [click here](#). To view the show as a podcast, [click here](#).

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RED?

Click on a [stallion's name](#) to learn more about them on their page on the farm's website.



2024 Stud Fee: \$125,000 LFSN

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON
GOOD MAGIC - THE CLASSIC SIRE

Eclipse Award Finalists

Mage

Muth

Both Muth and
Dornoch are on the
TDN Top 12
Kentucky Derby List



FIRST FOAL ARRIVES FOR COOLMORE AMERICA'S CHAMPION CORNICHE



Corniche | Sarah Andrew

The first foal for champion 2-year-old and GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner **Corniche** (**Quality Road**) arrived at Denali Stud on Monday when Faith and Honor (Honor Code) produced a filly, Coolmore America said in a release Wednesday.

"Our **Corniche** out of Faith and Honor started off our foaling season at Denali in good order," said Conrad Bandoroff. "The filly has plenty of quality about her with good leg and bone. Very pleased with our start!"

A \$1.5-million sale topper after breezing a furlong in :10 flat at OBS April, **Corniche** earned 'TDN Rising Star' status off a debut win going 5 1/2 furlongs at Del Mar. Stepping straight into Grade I company for the two-turn **American Pharoah** S., he posted another front-end success.

Drawn widest of all in post 11 for the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile, the son of **Quality Road** sped through fractions of :23.03 and :46.15 before keeping on strongly down the lane to score. **Corniche** was a runaway winner at the Eclipse Awards with 214 votes compared with 12 for his nearest rival.

The 5-year-old stands for \$24,000 LFSN at Ashford Stud. As for Faith and Honor, who was bred by Sun Valley Farm, this is her third produce of record. She is responsible for a 2-year-old filly named **Indy's Map** (**Liam's Map**) and a yearling filly by **Runhappy**.

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WEEKLY STEWARDS AND COMMISSIONS RULINGS, JAN. 2-8 by Dan Ross



Aqueduct's first turn | Sarah Andrew

Every week, the TDN posts a roundup of the relevant Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA)-related rulings from around the country.

Among the key rulings from the last seven days, the prohibition of intra-articular injections seven days prior to timed workouts continues to catch people out, with a further two trainers each issued \$3,000 fines this past week for violations of this rule.

This brings the total rulings related to pre-workout intra-articular injection violations to 25 since HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) program went into effect last May.

NEW HISA/HIWU STEWARDS RULINGS

The following rulings were reported on HISA's "**rulings**" portal and through the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit's (HIWU) "**pending**" and "**resolved**" cases portals.

Resolved ADMC Violations

Date: 12/23/2023

Licensee: Thomas Morley, trainer

Penalty: A fine of \$3,000; imposition of 3 Penalty Points. Admission.

Explainer: A possible violation of Rule 3314-Use or Attempted Use of a Controlled Medication Substance or a Controlled Medication Method-on the horse, Missy Greer. This was also a possible violation of Rule 4222-Intra-Articular Injections Within Seven (7) Days of Timed and Reported Workout.

Date: 10/30/2023

Licensee: Robert Fiesman, trainer

Cont.



2024 Stud Fee: \$50,000 LFSN

CHAMPION SPEIGHTSTOWN'S LEADING EARNER

\$4,047,200



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LGB, LLC 2024 / Photo: Benoit

Weekly rulings, cont.

Penalty: Disqualification of Covered Horse's Race results, including forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points, and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable); a fine of \$500; imposition of 1.5 Penalty Points. Final decision by HIWU.

Explainer: For the presence of Phenylbutazone-Controlled Medication (Class C)-in a sample taken from Little Four, who was euthanized after breaking down in a race at Mahoning Valley on 10/30/23, [according to Equibase](#). This was a possible violation of Rule 3312-Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

Date: 11/21/2023

Licensee: David Meridyth, trainer

Penalty: Disqualification of Covered Horse's Race results, including forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points, and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable); a written reprimand (per 9/26/23 HISA Guidance). Admission.

Explainer: For the presence of Omeprazole-Controlled Medication (Class C)-in a sample taken from Wild Firewater, who won at Zia Park on 11/21/23. This was a possible violation of Rule 3312-Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

Date: 10/06/2023

Licensee: Luis Mendez, trainer

Penalty: Disqualification of Covered Horse's Race results, including forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points, and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable); a fine of \$500; imposition of 1.5 Penalty Points. Admission.

Explainer: For the presence of Methocarbamol-Controlled Medication (Class C)-in a sample taken from Big Celebration, who finished third at Santa Anita on 10/6/23. This is a possible violation of Rule 3312-Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

Date: 12/08/2023

Licensee: Victor Barboza, trainer

Penalty: A fine of \$3,000; imposition of 3 Penalty Points. Final decision by HIWU.

Explainer: A possible violation of Rule 3314-Use or Attempted Use of a Controlled Medication Substance or a Controlled Medication Method-on the horse, Long Range Toddy. This is also a possible violation of Rule 4222-Intra-Articular Injections Within Seven (7) Days of Timed and Reported Workout.

Pending ADMC Violations

Date: 09/13/2023

Licensee: Daniel Robles

Penalty: Provisional suspension

Alleged violation: Banned substance possession

Explainer: This is a possible violation of Rule 3214 (a)-Possession of a Banned Substance, Levothyroxine (Thyro-L).

Date: 12/12/2023

Licensee: Alfredo Velazquez, trainer

Penalty: Pending

Alleged violation: Medication violation

Explainer: For the presence of Phenylbutazone-Controlled Medication (Class C)-in a sample taken from Lucky Flush, who finished ninth at Parx Racing on 12/12/23. This is a possible violation of Rule 3312-Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

Date: 11/21/2023

Licensee: Jeffrey Englehart, trainer

Penalty: Pending

Alleged Violation: Medication violation

Explainer: For the presence of Clenbuterol-a banned substance-in a sample taken from Fast Heart. This is a possible violation of Rule 3212-Presence of a Banned Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers.

Date: 12/08/2023

Licensee: Bernard Dunham, trainer

Penalty: Pending

Alleged Violation: Medication violation

Explainer: For the potential breach of Rule 4221-Alkalinization or use/administration of an Alkalinizing Agent (TCO2)-on Shanghai Superfly, who finished fourth at Penn National on 12/8/2023. This is also a possible violation of Rule 3313-Use of a Controlled Method During the Race Period.

Date: 12/01/2023

Licensee: Jesus Romero, trainer

Penalty: Pending

Alleged violation: Medication violation

Explainer: For the presence of Diclofenac-Controlled Medication (Class C)-in a sample taken from Hang Tight, who won at Aqueduct on 12/1/23. This was a possible violation of Rule 3312-Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

Cont.

ARMY MULE

2024 Stud Fee: \$25,000 LFSN

2023 ACTIVE SIRES RANKED BY % STAKES WINNERS TO RUNNERS

Rank	Sire	2024 Stud Fee	%5W5
1	Justify	Private	8.7%
-	Girvin	\$30,000	8.7%
3	Good Magic	\$125,000	8.1%
4	Gun Runner	\$250,000	8.0%
5	ARMY MULE	\$25,000	7.7%



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*stats as of Dec. 20, 2023

Weekly rulings, cont.

Violations of Crop Rule

One important note: HISA's whip use limit is restricted to six strikes during a race.

Santa Anita

Hector Berrios - violation date Jan 5; \$414 fine, one-day suspension, one strike over the limit

Tyler Baze - violation date Jan 6; \$250 fine, one-day suspension, one strike over the limit

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QUALITY CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR NORTH AMERICAN NON-LISTED BLACK-TYPE RACES WILL INCREASE IN 2025

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, the North American International Cataloguing Standards Committee (NAICSC) will increase the minimum Race Quality Scores (RQS) for non-Listed black-type races in SITA catalogues due to the gradual growth in the ratio of those races to the total number of races run, the organization said via a release by The Jockey Club News Service.

The RQS is a composite number compiled by using speed figures for the first four finishers in each race over three years. Four speed figures are used to compile the RQS and are provided by Bloodstock Research Information Systems (BRIS), *Daily Racing Form* (Beyer), Equibase and Thoro-Graph.

The non-Listed black-type races are divided into six age/sex categories for the purpose of determining black type using the RQS. They are 2-year-old males, 2-year-old females, 3-year-old males, 3-year-old females, 3/up males, and 3/up females. Each age/sex category has a minimum RQS that must be achieved for a stakes race to be awarded the black-type designation.

The current minimum and revised RQS for each age/sex category is listed below:

<u>Age/Sex</u>	<u>Min. RQS</u>	<u>Revised RQS (2025)</u>
2-year-old males	35.0	36.8
2-year-old females	29.0	30.5
3-year-old males	54.0	56.7
3-year-old females	45.3	47.6
3/up males	63.7	66.9
3/up females	55.8	58.6

Click [here](#) for additional information.

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ROBERTS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK ACQUIRES OGN RACING KIOSK BUSINESS

Roberts Communications Network, LLC (RCN) has acquired OGN Racing, LLC, and OGN Racing--Canada ULC, which will greatly expand the network's racing information kiosk business and bring innovation to the industry, the distributor said in a Wednesday release.

OGN Racing has more than 100 program printing kiosks deployed across the United States and Canada, which RCN intends to replace with its state-of-the-art newly designed kiosk featuring added functionality and enhancements.

"We see a great opportunity to significantly improve this aspect of the racing industry," said RCN President & CEO Todd Roberts. "We intend to offer race and sports wagering information, including racing past performance information from Equibase and the *Daily Racing Form*, supplemented by video replays where requested."

The flexible kiosk solutions that this acquisition allows RCN to offer will take the risk out of printing programs for the venue and enhance the flow of information to the consumer.

RCN intends to replace all current OGN equipment in the field with its newly designed kiosks as soon as possible. In addition, the network will make the digital display of all information available to those consumers preferring to view it on smartphones, tablets and PCs.

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2024 ARCI ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

The Animal Welfare and Horseracing Integrity Conference of the Association of Racing Commissioners International Inc. (ARCI), which brings together all the senior regulatory personnel in North America and the Caribbean, has opened registration for the annual event to be held in Columbus, Ohio Mar. 6-8, the organization said in a release Wednesday.

The 2024 Conference is being held immediately prior to the annual meeting of the United States Trotting Association (USTA) and offers a unique opportunity to interact with the leaders of U.S. Standardbred Racing on the final day where existing approaches to policymaking, anti-doping, and equine health will be reexamined.

Regulatory Members of the ARCI will update Model Rules and Drug Classification documents and elect at-large members of the association's board of directors at the annual business meeting.

Click [here](#) for more information on registration and [here](#) for the event itinerary.

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KANTHAROS KAN DO

2024 Stud Fee: \$15,000 LFSN

In 2023
RANKED #11 ON GENERAL SIRE LIST
12 SWs / 23 SHs
OVER \$11M IN PROGENY EARNINGS
2YOs SOLD FOR UP TO \$500,000

Millionaire BAY STORM (inside)
winning the \$1,000,000 Ladies Turf Sprint (G2)



COBB AND TRIBBETT ELECTED TO KEEP'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) unanimously elected to their board Shannon Cobb to serve as chair and Rob Tribbett to serve as vice chair, the non-profit said in a release Wednesday.

The pair will replace Case Clay and David Ingordo, who will both continue their service on the KEEP Board. Cobb, the Chief Operating and Financial Officer at Red Mile Racing and Gaming, and Tribbett, Vice President of the Consignors and Commercial Breeders Association in Lexington, Kentucky, and General Manager of Watercress Farm in Paris, Kentucky, bring a wealth of experience to KEEP's strategic direction.

"It's an honor to be entrusted with the position of Chairman at KEEP," said Cobb. "I am eager to collaborate with our Board of Directors and the entire equine community to drive further growth and prosperity for Kentucky's vibrant equine industry. I am committed to upholding KEEP's mission and ensuring its success."

Will Glasscock, KEEP's executive director said, "The appointments of Shannon Cobb as Chairman and Rob Tribbett to these roles reinforce KEEP's commitment to fostering industry expertise and leadership within our board. Their combined experience and dedication will undoubtedly steer us toward continued success in promoting and advancing Kentucky's thriving equine economy."

Click [here](#) for more information about KEEP.

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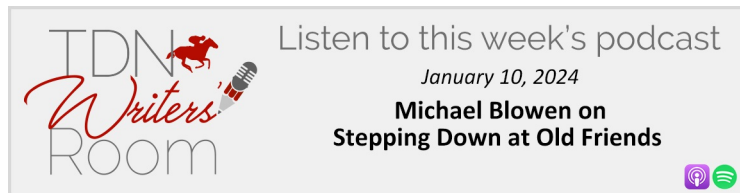
THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE ALLIANCE THANKS SUPPORTERS OF THE HOLIDAY GIVING CAMPAIGN

From Nov. 28 through Dec. 31, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) collected over \$200,000 in donations from its 2023 Holiday Giving Campaign to raise funds to support thousands of Thoroughbreds at 86 TAA-accredited organizations, the non-profit said in a release Wednesday.

The Holiday Giving Campaign highlighted a different match sponsor each day, offering single-day sponsorships ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. 2023 Match Sponsors included: Mike Rogers, Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Yvonne Schwabe, National HBPA, Denali Stud, Siena Farm, Donna Barton Brothers, Jack Damico, West Point Thoroughbreds, Rick Schosberg, Simon Bray, Dan and Denny Piazza and Matt and Amy Webber, Ramiro Restrepo, Dr. Bonnie Comerford, Three Diamonds Farm, Kurtis Coady and Megan Devine, Donato Lanni, Chad Brown, Springhouse Farm, Bloom Racing Stable, StarLadies Racing, The Honorable Earle I. Mack, Jen Roytz and Dr. Stuart Brown, St. Elias Stables, David Anderson, Matthew DeSantis, and Bob and Jill Baffert.

"Your support during our campaign has been truly incredible," said TAA's Emily Dresen. "Thank you for joining us in championing the well-being of off-the-track Thoroughbreds. Your generosity is making a huge difference in their lives, and we are immensely grateful for your kindness and dedication."

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Thirty Three

The percentage less it costs to buy a
leading yearling filly in Australia

Despite the riches on offer in prizemoney, the cost of buying a leading yearling filly is 33 per cent less expensive than in America and 31 per cent less than Europe.

Average Price For The Top
50 Fillies At Auction

5 YEAR AVERAGE FILLIES
(2019-2023) \$USD

\$ 834,250
USA

\$ 858,045
UK & EU

\$ 573,976
AUSTRALIA



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'RISING STAR' LESLIE'S ROSE RETURNS AT GULFSTREAM *by Alan Carasso*



Leslie's Rose | *Coglianese*

6th-GP, \$91k, AOC, 3yo, f, 7f, post time 2:39 p.m. ET

LESLIE'S ROSE (Into Mischief) cost Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm \$1.15 million at the 2022 Keeneland September yearling sale, and despite going off at a somewhat lukewarm 9-2 facing five others at Aqueduct Nov. 19, graduated by better than nine lengths over 6 1/2 furlongs en route to **'TDN Rising Star'** honors. The St. Patrick's Day foal is out of a daughter of SW & MGSP Wildwood Flower (Langfuhr), the dam of GI Florida Derby-winning **'Rising Star'** Materiality (Afleet Alex) and of GSW/GISW My Miss Sophia (Unbridled's Song), whose **'Rising Star'** son **Annapolis (War Front)** is the newest addition to the stallion roster at Claiborne Farm. **TJCIS PPs**

5th-GP, \$89k, Msw, 3yo, f, 5fT, post time: 2:09 p.m. ET

St Elias Stable elected to take home its homebred **PRETTY LIAM (Liam's Map)** when bidding on her stalled out at \$240,000 at the 2022 Keeneland September sal. That looks to have been a shrewd call, as the filly's year-old half-sister Danse Macabre (**Army Mule**) proved to be arguably the best turf sprinter of her generation in 2023, with victories in the GIII Herecomesthebride S. over this course and the Glen Cove S. in New York. Dam Sylphide (**Blame**) is a half-sister to MGSW/MGISP Cambodia (**War Front**) and the third dam includes South African champion Overarching (Arch) and GISW Abscond (**Blame**). **Justified Strategy (Justify)** is a daughter of GISW Cry and Catch Me (Street Cry {Ire}), also the dam of Sovereign Award winner Souper Escape (**Medaglia d'Oro**) and a half-sister to Group 1-winning European champion Certify (Elusive Quality).

Dixie Mischief (Into Mischief) is a John Oxley homebred half-sister to last year's Ontario Damsel S. winner Forever Dixie (**Quality Road**) and her Grade III-winning dam Dixie Strike (Dixie Union) is a half-sister to champion Inglorious (Henny Hughes), who beat the boys in the 2011 Queen's Plate. **TJCIS PPs**

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

8th-Gulfstream, \$74,090, Alw (NW1X), Opt. Clm (\$75,000), 1-10, 3yo, f, 5fT, :55.07, fm, 1 length.

FIELD LASS (f, 3, Munnings--Moanin {Fr}, by Medicean {GB})

took an off-turf maiden sprint by 7 1/2 lengths at Churchill Sept. 28, good for a towering 92 Beyer, but could do no better than fifth to Youalmostshadme (Oxbow) in the Oct. 27 Myrtlewood S. at Keeneland and in the Fern Creek S. in Louisville Nov. 25. Back on the grass for this seasonal debut, the dark bay was bet into 27-10 from an 8-1 morning line and soon led from her wide draw, covering the opening quarter-mile in a strong :21.54 with outside pressure from Madness (Maximus Mischief). Field Lass repelled a midstretch test from the quietly ridden Fairhopecurly (**Bucchero**) and kept on gamely to best a resurgent Madness by a tight length. A \$100,000 KEESEP yearling, Field Lass has a 2-year-old half-sister by **Mendelssohn**, a yearling half-brother by **Tiz the Law** and visited the latter for her most recent covering. Sales history: \$100,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 6-2-0-0, \$125,569. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** O-Glen S Bromagen II & Patrick Lewis; B-Cobra Bloodstock & Lynch Bages Ltd (KY); T-George R Arnold II.



THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

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LOGGINS

Ghostzapper - Beyond Blame, by Blame

2024 Stud Fee: \$7,500 LFSN

‘A TRUE GRADE 1 TALENT’

On the heels of an 8 1/2 lengths debut maiden romp which earned Loggins TDN Rising Star Status, his next start was at Keeneland in the Grade 1 Claiborne Breeders’ Futurity. Against eventual Eclipse Champion Juvenile Forte who came into the race off a three lengths win in the Hopeful Stakes at Saratoga, it was the maiden winner Loggins who was sent off the less than even money favorite with Grade 1 winner Forte sent postward at 4 to 1.

LOGGINS WAS AWARDED THE SAME SPEED FIGURE AS FORTE
‘BRAD COX COMMENTED LOGGINS IS MY DERBY HORSE.’



LOGGINS

ECLIPSE CHAMPION
2YO FORTE

X
HILL 'N' DALE
www.hillndalefarms.com

LGB, LLC 2024 / Photo: Rick Samuels



IN AUSTRALIA:

Heaven Forbid, f, 4, **Violence**--Taste of Heaven (Aus), by Encosta de Lago (Aus). Sandown (Hillside), 1-10, Maiden, 1500mT, 1:31.20. B-Glen Hill Farm & LNJ Foxwoods (KY). *First Australian winner (only starter) for sire. **\$200,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. ***1/2 to Heavenly **Curlin** (Curlin), GSW-Can, \$138,599.

IN QATAR:

Super Mo, c, 4, **Uncle Mo**--Sweet Connie, by Giant's Causeway. Al Rayyan, 1-10, Hcp., 1700m. B-Aaron Sones (KY). *\$45,000 Wlg '20 KEENOV; 28,000gns Ylg '21 TATOCT; 32,000gns HRA '23 TATMAY. **First winner in Qatar for sire. **VIDEO (SC 12)**



IN AUSTRALIA:

Jamaican Gold (Aus), g, 3, **Bolt d'Oro**--Sworn Revenge (Aus) (SP-Aus), by Stratum (Aus). Port Lincoln, 1-10, Maiden, 1000mT, 1:00.70. B-Spendthrift Australia Pty Ltd (Vic). *A\$20,000 Ylg '22 INGFEF.

IN NEW ZEALAND:

Pax Mundi (Aus), f, 3, **Mendelssohn**--Ujjayyi (NZ), by Iffraaj (GB). Matamata, 1-10, Maiden, 1600mT, 1:37.19. B-Haunui Farm (NSW). **VIDEO (SC 6)**

TODAY'S FEATURED REPLAY



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Field Lass (**Munnings**) makes a successful 3yo debut in Florida
(click to watch)



SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 2023 Stud Fees Listed

One Sided (**Quality Road**), R. A. Rowe Farms

13 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners

2-Mahoning Valley, 1:12 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, My Daniela, 7-2

\$2,500 OTB OMX yrl



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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-Parx Racing, \$57,800, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$16,000), 1-10, 4yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:45.01, gd, 3 1/4 lengths.

LAYTOWN (g, 5, Nyquist--Beach Day, by A.P. Indy) Lifetime Record: 18-3-7-2, \$124,419. O/T-Jacinto Solis; B-Godolphin (KY).

4th-Parx Racing, \$56,200, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$75,000), 1-10, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:15.40, gd, 3/4 length.

KISS FOR LUCK (f, 3, Accelerate--Vero Amore {GSP, \$252,255}, by Mineshaft) Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-0, \$82,025. O/B-Swilcan Stable LLC (KY); T-Robert E Reid Jr. *1/2 to Vequist (Nyquist), Ch. 2yo Filly, MGISW, \$1,237,500; Vedareo (Daredevil), SW, \$168,450; and Mainstay (Astern {Aus}), 'TDN Rising Star', GSP.

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9th-Tampa Bay Downs, \$48,900, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$16,000), 1-10, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:24.95, ft, 5 1/4 lengths.

TIZ HERSELF (m, 6, Tizway--Dancing Rage {MSP, \$140,865}, by Sligo Bay {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 45-15-4-6, \$250,433.

O-Manfred & Barry Roos; B-Mr & Mrs Annuncio Stanchieri & Farm III Enterprises (FL); T-John Rigattieri. *\$20,000 2yo '20 OBSAPR. **1/2 to Sweet Candy Dance (**Twirling Candy**), GSP, \$144,340.

6th-Mahoning Valley, \$35,100, (S), 1-10, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:14.44, my, head.

QUEENIE ROSE (m, 5, Mr Speaker--Runaway's Vision, by Pollard's Vision) Lifetime Record: 12-3-3-2, \$90,753. O/B-Bryan Allen Metz (OH); T-Robert C Cline.

7th-Mahoning Valley, \$35,100, (S), 1-10, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:14.19, my, 8 1/4 lengths.

QUEEN OF THE BUCKEYE (m, 5, Dark Kestrel--Buckler, by Concerto) Lifetime Record: 7-3-1-1, \$73,308. O-Ruberto Racing Stable Inc; B-Louis V Ruberto (OH); T-Louis V Ruberto Jr. *Full to Buckeye Bullet, MSP, \$414,459; and Midnight Mikey, MSP, \$350,796.

2nd-Mahoning Valley, \$33,400, 1-10, (NW2X), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:41.93, my, 4 1/2 lengths.

RAVEN MOON (g, 7, Langfuhr--Coco's Mountain, by Runto the Mountain) Lifetime Record: SP, 22-7-2-7, \$194,468. O-Rivera Racing Stables (Nestor R Rivera); B-Doug & Cathie Hobson (OH); T-Nestor Rivera.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Living the Dream, g, 3, Dreamliner--Pyrite Blue Magna (SW), by Magna Graduate. Mahoning Valley, 1-10, (S), 1m, 1:43.31. Lifetime Record: 6-1-0-3, \$30,549. B-Jack Cannon (OH).

*Second winner for second-crop sire (by More Than Ready).

Palace Flirt, f, 4, Uncle Lino--Duchess of Rokeby (SP, \$112,499), by City Zip. Gulfstream, 1-10, (C), 1 1/16mT, 1:41.29. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$32,930. B-Howard T Whitbred & Christine Brennan (FL).

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Accelerate, Kiss for Luck, f, 3, o/o Vero Amore, by **Mineshaft.** AOC, 1-10, Parx Racing

Dark Kestrel, Queenofthebuckeye, m, 5, o/o Buckler, by Concerto. ALW, 1-10, Mahoning Valley

Dreamliner, Living the Dream, g, 3, o/o Pyrite Blue Magna, by Magna Graduate. MSW, 1-10, Mahoning Valley

Langfuhr, Raven Moon, g, 7, o/o Coco's Mountain, by Runto the Mountain. ALW, 1-10, Mahoning Valley

Mr Speaker, Queenie Rose, m, 5, o/o Runaway's Vision, by Pollard's Vision. ALW, 1-10, Mahoning Valley

Munnings, Field Lass, f, 3, o/o Moanin (Fr), by Medicean (GB). AOC, 1-10, Gulfstream

Nyquist, Laytown, g, 5, o/o Beach Day, by A.P. Indy. AOC, 1-10, Parx Racing

Tizway, Tiz Herself, m, 6, o/o Dancing Rage, by Sligo Bay (Ire). AOC, 1-10, Tampa Bay

Uncle Lino, Palace Flirt, f, 4, o/o Duchess of Rokeby, by City Zip. MOC, 1-10, Gulfstream

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DEAR PATRICK: WITH RESPECT, I DISAGREE



Irish Derby winner **Auguste Rodin** also won the Derby, Irish Champion Stakes and Breeders' Cup Turf | [Racingphotos.com](https://www.racingphotos.com)

By Emma Berry

Since the publication of Patrick Cooper's letter suggesting that the Irish Derby should be shortened in distance we have had a predictably mixed response in correspondence on the subject.

You can find Cooper's letter [in full here](#). In essence, it highlights the fortunes of two **Frankel** colts, the Irish Derby and Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud winner and Arc runner-up Westover and the Dewhurst and 2,000 Guineas winner **Chaldean**, both of whom raced for Juddmonte. The latter is now a Juddmonte stallion at Banstead Manor Stud, while Westover is about to embark on his first season for the Yushun Stallion Company in Japan.

It is worth pointing out that another son of **Frankel**, the Derby and King George winner Adayar, plus his fellow King George winner Hukum, have both also been exported to Japan. This lack of a Flat stud berth in Europe is not a problem solely affecting Irish Derby winners, though admittedly the last three winners prior to Auguste Rodin are all now at Coolmore's National Hunt division, along with another King George winner, Pyledriver.

In the cases of Westover, Adayar and Hukum, however, there are also extenuating circumstances, up to a point. It is easy to understand that neither Darley nor Juddmonte want to retire two new sons of **Frankel** to their stallion units for the forthcoming season. [Cont. p3](#)

\$1.9 MILLION TOO DARN HOT COLT TOPS MAGICS by Lewis Lesbirel & Jesse Dart/TTR AusNZ

Across the second day of selling at the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale, eight high-class yearlings broke the seven-figure barrier, with a number of buyers attempting to source their next sensational runner going head to head in an attempt to buy at the top end of the market.

Day Two Takeaways:

- A staggering eight horses sold for A\$1 million or more on Day 2, with Ciaran Maher Bloodstock coming out on top in a protracted bidding dual for Lot 392, a colt by Darley shuttler Too Darn Hot (GB) from the Group 3-winning Redoute's Choice (Aus) mare A Time For Julia (Aus).
- The average crept up from yesterday's Day 1 record of A\$281,767 to A\$290,951 on Day 2, a figure which is marginally below the A\$293,781 average at the same point during last year's sale. The median climbed a point to A\$220,000, A\$10,000 below last year's corresponding figure at the same stage.

[Cont. p9](#)



Lot 392, Wednesday's topper | Magic Millions

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

STAR ACT BRINGS \$1.2M POST-SALE AT KEENELAND

Star Act (Street Cry {Ire}) was led out unsold at \$950,000, but eventually brought \$1.2 million post-sale as Keeneland January continues in Lexington.

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TODAY in TDN EUROPE

Thursday, January 11, 2024



Too Darn Hot, with a Group 1 winner in his first European crop and a session-topping A\$1.9 million yearling at Magic Millions on Wednesday, has been parading for breeders at Dalham Hall Stud this week following his recent return from Australia. | Emma Berry

LYNAM FORCED TO PAUSE ON TRAINING CAREER

5

Trainer Sarah Lynam will cease training for the time being as she recovers from injury. Brian Sheerin has the details.

IN THE HOT SEAT: LUKE LILLINGSTON

6

Mount Coote Stud's Luke Lillingston is the latest European industry personality In The Hot Seat in this ongoing series.

COLT HONOURING DE BROMHEAD BRINGS A\$1.6M

7

A colt nicknamed "Jack" for the late Jack de Bromhead, made A\$1.6 million during Wednesday's Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale.

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Irish Derby Op/Ed Cont. from p1

Juddmonte, after all, has the goose who lays the golden eggs, **Frankel** himself, while Darley has Cracksman, who has recently been joined by Triple Time.

Like **Chaldean**, the latter is a Group 1-winning miler and therefore, in the current climate, deemed to be an easier sell to breeders. It is a depressing fact, but I can see that it makes business sense.

Hukum is of course a son of **Sea The Stars** and, had his full-brother Baaed not retired to Shadwell's roster the year before him, then it is hard to imagine that homebred Hukum would have joined Adayar on the plane to Darley Japan, despite the retirement of Mostahdaf--yet another **Frankel**--this year.

Cooper ended his letter with the plea: "Shorten the Irish Derby."

He is not alone in considering this the best option. John Hammond, trainer of one of the best Irish Derby winners of the modern era in Montjeu, agrees with him, and said, "I was always in favour of the Prix du Jockey Club being reduced to 2,100m, even though it wasn't unanimously popular at the time."

The difference then though was that the shortening of the Jockey Club coincided with the extending of the G1 Grand Prix de Paris, which is also only open to three-year-olds and has been run over 2,400m since 2005 (having also been run at up to 3,100m in its history, and at 2,000m from 1987 until the most recent change).



John Hammond, the trainer of Montjeu | Scoop Dyga

Hammond added of the Prix du Jockey Club, "It was silly having two 2,400m Derbys so close to each other while the only 2,000m Group 1 for three-year-olds only was the Lupin which was effectively a Derby trial and frequently a weak race. The Jockey Club is a better race now and I would imagine the average field size has increased too. Everyone has a crack now, the milers, mile-and-a-quarter horses and mile-and-a-half horses. Last year a champion 2,400m horse won and a top miler was second." **Cont. p4**

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€245,000, €220,000, €200,000, €200,000 etc.

COOLMORE

Irish Derby Op/Ed Cont.

Ireland has no such option to alternate between Group 1 races for three-year-olds. If the Irish Derby is shortened the only Group 1 race beyond 10 furlongs and available to three-year-old colts would be the Irish St Leger in September, which is also open to older horses. How can Ireland pride itself on being the cradle of the Thoroughbred if this becomes the case?

Hammond is not the only supporter of Cooper's argument. Charlie Murless also got in touch to say, "I hate to say it because I grew up on the Curragh, and all my life Irish Derby Day was a very special day and a very special race. Sadly no longer, for a number of reasons (a large number!) in addition to Patrick's excellent breeding rationale. The distance must be changed."

We can count Hammond as Irish-assimilated despite being English-born and a long-term resident of France because he spent many of his formative years in Ireland. Cooper and Murless, too, have longstanding ties to the race and feel that it must be shortened. Is that the answer though? I do not believe so, but then I live on the other side of the Irish Sea.

Another Brit, Gerard West, contacted us with a strongly-worded email. "This would be catastrophic for Irish and European racing," he said.

"The very foundations of our racing are based on our variety of race distances, something that has attracted breeders from all over the world. Breeders are no longer breeding to race, they're breeding for the yearling and foal sales ring. Stallion masters are recruiting colts for that purpose too.

"For some years now come Derby time it's not a matter of who's going to win but more a matter of who's going to stay. We not only need staying types for the Flat but National Hunt too."

We all have a metaphorical hill on which we would die, and mine is that if it ever comes to pass that the Derby is shortened from a mile and a half I would find it hard to continue my association with racing, notwithstanding the fact that it was a mile race for its first four runnings. Of course Derby Day is now nothing like Frith's great painting of the 1850s depicting all manner of human life on the Epsom Downs.

The painter described in his autobiography his first visit to Epsom in 1856: "My first Derby had no interest for me as a race, but as giving me the opportunity of studying life and character it is ever to be gratefully remembered. Gambling-tents and thimble-rigging, prick in the garter and the three-card trick, had not then been stopped by the police."

Whether or not we are to be grateful that the police are now more preoccupied with animal rights protesters is a moot point, but Derby Day was always a great occasion for all walks of society. It is less so now, but in England the day and the race still feel special. **Cont. p5**

SUPREMACY



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Peter Kelly on the colt ex Wild Mix, consigned by The Castlebridge Consignment and sold for €180,000



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Alamshar (right) defeats Dalakhani in the Irish Derby
Racingfotos.com

Irish Derby Op/Ed Cont.

Is that the same in Ireland? I have been at the Curragh for the Irish Derby too infrequently to know, though Alamshar's downing of Dalakhani is a race that will stay with me for as long as I retain my memory. But that was two decades ago, and straight after some truly special years of the race being won by Montjeu, Sinndar, Galileo, and High Chaparral.

If Irish Derby Day no longer feels special, surely it is the occasion that needs work as much as the race itself. The recent switching of days and times can't have helped it to retain its identity and importance for racegoers.

Since Montjeu's time the resurgence of Ballydoyle in the Aidan O'Brien years has also occurred. The trainer won his first Irish Derby in 1997 with Desert King and has claimed another 14 victories since then. Has this domination aided the race's demise, or without the support of Coolmore would it have dwindled further? It is worth noting that between 1980 and 2000, the race was won by 14 non-Irish trained horses from 11 different stables. This century, that number has been reduced to four: Hurricane Run (trained in France), and Jack Hobbs, Hurricane Lane and Westover (from Britain). A reduction in overseas challengers is certainly an issue, but then there are not too many stables beyond Ballydoyle which regularly field a runner in the Derby at Epsom either.

There are implications beyond Ireland for the race being shortened, including what effect it may have on the Eclipse, which last year was run six days after the Irish Derby. Admittedly, in 2023, both races were won by colts from Ballydoyle who would have been kept apart anyway. In Westover's year, he would surely have won the Irish Derby had it been over 10 furlongs, but would that have increased his

commercial appeal enough to have pushed **Chaldean** aside? I don't believe so.

We are venturing towards a situation of the tail wagging the dog. We need a balance in our breeding because we need sprinters, we need milers, we need middle-distance horses and we need stayers. That is the beauty and the allure of racing in Europe: the variety, underpinned by Classic bloodlines in order to achieve the pinnacle of producing that rare horse who has the class and turn of foot to race over a mile and a half at the top level. Don't think for a moment that that's a slow horse.

It is a self-fulfilling prophesy that if we stop standing and using Derby winners and their like at stud, then sooner or later we won't be able to breed horses to run over that range of distances. In fact, it is easy to envisage the day when horses can barely stay the mile of the Guineas. Good luck then trying to sell our racing product overseas. Why would they want to buy the same horses they can breed at home?

The two best horses in the world last year, Equinox (Jpn) and Ace Impact (Ire), both won major Group 1 races over 10 furlongs, but it hurt neither of their careers to win over a mile and a half. In fact, the Japan Cup and the Arc were respectively their crowning glories.

Ireland has a long way to go to return its once-special race to its halcyon days but it should try, whether through a different approach to race programming for budding middle-distance colts, breeder incentives, or a significant bonus connected to the Irish Derby for horses who have won a Classic elsewhere. But whatever else happens, do not shorten the Irish Derby.

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'IT'S TAKEN ITS TOLL' - SARAH LYNAM FORCED TO PRESS PAUSE ON TRAINING CAREER *By Brian Sheerin*

Sarah Lynam has been forced to press pause on her training career after a number of serious falls and concussions has left her with no other option but to take time out from the profession in order to recuperate fully.

Daughter of Eddie Lynam, who earned the nickname of 'Fast Eddie' through his handling of superstar sprinters Sole Power (GB), Slade Power (Ire) and more, Sarah took out her licence in 2017 and sent out 25 winners from the same Dunshaughlin base as her father.

Winning a valuable Curragh handicap with Additional (Ire) (Night Of Thunder {Ire}), owned by her uncle John Lynam, was put forward as a career highlight by Sarah, whose handling of Tyrconnell (Ire) (**Bated Breath** {GB}) and Juyush (GB) (**Frankel** {GB}) also earned plenty of plaudits.



Tyrconnell: won six times for Lynam | *Racingfotos.com*

Sarah Lynam Cont.

Lynam said, "I don't really want to stop. I've had a good few concussions over the years and in 2023 alone I had three. I haven't been able to take time off to let the brain heal and, basically, I can't heal properly unless I take time out. A smaller operation like mine, I have to work all day every day in order to keep the whole thing going. I don't mind doing it but the neurologist told me that perhaps I should think about taking some time out.

"I am lucky that I have the facilities here and Horse Racing Ireland have told me that the licence can lie dormant for up to three years should I decide to take it back out. I would have liked to have achieved more, and I hope I will still, but it's just been difficult recently."

Additional bagged a €25,000 handicap at the Curragh on just his second start for Lynam while Juyush racked up a three-timer at Dundalk in the winter of 2020 and climbed 24lbs in the process. Stable stalwart Tyrconnell also flourished under the Lynam banner by winning six times at Dundalk and Laytown respectively. Nevertheless, Lynam says she feels as though she still has unfinished business as a trainer and is not ruling out a return to the game in time.

She said, "I'm proud of what I did but nothing I did captured the imagination. Horses like Additional and Juyush, I got them from other yards and managed to sweeten them up a bit. Juyush won three-in-a-row and Additional won a premier handicap on his second start for me. It's a pity they didn't get a bit more attention at the time and I was hoping they might bring more people into the yard.

"I was always hoping to entice more young people to come and work for me because I had worked in so many other yards

and had an idea of the kind of boss I wanted to be and the kind of atmosphere I wanted to create but it has been very hard to attract staff. It's understandable, a lot of the stable staff want to work in the bigger yards."

She added, "Most of the time I have had the licence, I have been working by myself and that couldn't continue after I had the concussions. I suppose it's just taken its toll. I feel like I am still well able to do the job and it's still a huge passion of mine. It's going to be hard to see the horses on Dad's side of the yard but I will be keeping a close eye on them all and my owners have been very understanding about it."

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IN THE HOT SEAT

Luke Lillingston

Breeder, agent and syndicate manager **Luke Lillingston** of Mount Coote Stud is next in line to face the questions.

What are your goals for 2024?

Trying to figure out opportunities that will arise from the downturn in the bloodstock market, while trying to keep our heads above water.

Give us a horse to follow...

Dragon Leader (Ire) (El Kabeir) did us proud in 2023 winning over £300,000 as a two-year-old and should give his Kennet Valley owners plenty more fun.

And a young person in the industry to keep an eye on...

Charlie Dee works with me in Lillingston Bloodstock and is steadily building a good reputation both at home and around the world which will stand him in good stead for a bright future.

Who do you think will be champion first-season sire in 2024?

Hello Youmzain (Fr).

And the best value stallion in Ireland, England, and France?

Naval Crown (GB), Mostahdaf (Ire) and **Vadeni (Fr)**.

Your best buy/sale of 2023?

I was excited to buy True Scarlet (Ire) (Make Believe {GB}) at the Tattersalls December sales as her half-sister Shuwari (Ire) (New Bay {GB}) was second in the G1 Fillies' Mile and could be a contender for the 1,000 Guineas. On the yearling front I couldn't pick one but I think the group of five yearlings we bought for Kennett Valley are the most exciting ever.

Cont. p7



Luke Lillingston | Tattersalls

In The Hot Seat: Luke Lillingston Cont.

The best yearling/weanling you saw at the 2023 sales (that someone else bought)?

The **St Mark's Basilica (Fr)** filly out of Talent (GB), bought by Jill Lamb, was a deserving sale-topper at Tattersalls, and I believe still good value at 575,000gns.

Who is or was the perfect Thoroughbred?

We have been and are all very lucky to witness the almighty **Frankel (GB)**.

Biggest professional regret?

Not taking the opportunity to buy and bring back Sir Prancealot (Ire) from America to Ireland. He would have been an excellent sire for small breeders looking to afford a proven stallion.

If you could be someone else in the industry for a day who would it be, and why?

Nick Luck, but I might need four days to get through what he regularly achieves in one. His work rate is quite extraordinary.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

SEVEN-FIGURE EXTREME CHOICE COLT 'LIFE-CHANGING' FOR LUKE WILKINSON, AS HE HONOURS JACK DE BROMHEAD

A colt by Extreme Choice (Aus) (lot 349), nicknamed "Jack" in honour of the late Jack de Bromhead, brought A\$1.6 million on the bid of James Harron Bloodstock Colt Partnership during the second day of the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale.

Jack de Bromhead was a son of leading Irish NH trainer Henry de Bromhead who died in a pony racing accident at the age of 13 in 2022. The colt, bred by Kia Ora Stud racing manager Luke Wilkinson who also was involved in the purchase of his sire and dam, is out of Wanted Lady (Aus) (Wanted {Aus}).

"We met young Jack de Bromhead at Jessica Harrington's place and spent a week with him," breeder Luke Wilkinson told *The Thoroughbred Report AusNZ* of his 'life-changing' yearling and the reason behind his nickname. "I said to my wife that this kid was an absolute star and no matter what he did in life he was going to be good at it.

"That's why this horse got the name Jack. He's been a special horse to me and every time I think of this horse I think of young Jack de Bromhead. He was a great kid."

"I purchased Extreme Choice and then got a lifetime breeding right, so he changed my career," added Wilkinson. "I've always supported him and when he was subfertile I sent extra mares to help him, which nearly killed me financially." [Cont. p8](#)



The late Jack de Bromhead pictured with his father Henry
Racingfotos.com



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Extreme Choice Colt Cont.

He said, "This mare was injured when I bought her off some stable clients when I worked for Mick Price, I think I paid around \$9,000 for her. As soon as this horse was born Peter Orton said to me straight away within 10 minutes that this was a cracking colt, then everyone from Vinery seemed to ring me to say the same thing.

"This is life changing. I've got a young daughter who wants to go further in her equestrian career and now I'll be able to put a deposit on a farm and help her. It means a lot."

[Share this story](#) 

LINE-UP CONFIRMED FOR TBA NH STALLION SHOW

Twelve sires will be on show in Doncaster during the Goffs UK January Sale on Tuesday, January 23 for the TBA National Hunt Stallion Showcase. The stallions will be available for viewing between 9am and 3pm.

Ascot Gold Cup winner Subjectivist (GB) is new to Alne Park Stud this year and he will be joined at Doncaster by his stud-mates Dink (Fr), Ocovango (GB) and Midnights Legacy (GB). Also in attendance will be Ito (Ger), who is about to undertake his second season at Yorton Farm, and his fellow recent recruit Postponed (Ire).

Capri (Ire) is new to Britain and Willow Wood Farm for this season, and he is one of three St Leger winners who will be returning to Doncaster, along with Logician (GB) and Kingston Hill (GB). Completing the line-up are Telescope (Ire) and Dragon Dancer (GB).

"We look forward to welcoming breeding and bloodstock enthusiasts to this ever-popular event in the TBA hospitality space," said TBA National Hunt Committee chairman Simon Cox.



Dragon Dancer will once again join the TBA National Hunt Stallion Showcase | Emma Berry

"We are thankful to Goffs and the participating stallion studs for their ongoing support of this important event for National Hunt breeders."

Grace Skelton of Alne Park Stud added, "Getting a new stallion like Subjectivist in front of breeders is vitally important and this event provides a well-timed opportunity to do this."

A nomination to each of the stallions which have been submitted to the 2024 Elite NH Mares' Scheme and those on show at the sale have been donated by their owners for an online silent auction between January 19 and 25. Funds raised will support the TBA's National Hunt activities in 2024.

The TBA will also be holding its annual Flat stallion parade at Tattersalls on February 1.

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OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

HOW THEY FARED

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

Godolphin's **El Cordobes (Ire) (Frankel {GB})**, a 2-million guineas Book 1 graduate out of a half-sister to G1 Haydock Sprint Cup heroine Tante Rose (Ire) (Barathea {Ire}), seized control entering the final eighth and powered home to shed maiden status with a two-length triumph.

BRITAIN

Wednesday's Results:

5th-Kempton, £8,000, Nov, 1-10, 3yo, 8f (AWT), 1:39.58, st/sl.

EL CORDOBES (IRE) (c, 3, Frankel {GB})--Bold Lass {Ire}, by Sea The Stars {Ire}), a Dec. 6 debut sixth over course and distance in his only prior start, broke well and raced under a firm hold along the rail after the initial strides of this return. Nudged forward passing the quarter-mile marker, the 6-5 favourite quickened to the front approaching the furlong pole and was ridden clear to defeat Morning Light (Ire) (**No Nay Never**) with a two-length winning cushion. "It's nice to ride the first winner of the year in these [Godolphin] colours," said jockey James Doyle. "He had a bad draw and no cover on debut, but it was much more straight forward today. I was happy enough with him and he did it nicely. He's big enough and should develop into his frame, so that's something to look forward to." El Cordobes, a 2-million guineas Tattersalls October Book 1 buy, is the fourth of five foals and third scorer from as many runners out of a multiple-winning half to a trio of black-type performers headed by G1 Haydock Sprint Cup heroine Tante Rose (Ire) (Barathea {Ire}). [Cont. p9](#)

5th-Kempton Cont.

Descendants of his dual Group 1-placed second dam My Branch (GB) (Distant Relative {Ire}) include dual top-level winners Make Believe (GB) (Makfi {GB}) and Dubawi Heights (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) and G1 Prix d'Ispahan runner-up Almodovar (Ire) (**Sea The Stars {Ire}**). The March-foaled bay is a half-brother to Listed Snowdrop Fillies' S. third Amniarix (Speightstown) and a yearling filly by **Camelot (GB)**. Sales history: 2,000,000gns Ylg '22 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$5,491. O-Godolphin; B-Bjorn Nielsen (IRE); T-Charlie Appleby.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

8th-Kempton, £8,000, Cond, 1-10, 4yo/up, 10f 219y (AWT), 2:19.76, st/sl.

COMPOSITE (GB) (g, 4, Cracksman {GB})--Photographic {GB}, by Oasis Dream {GB} Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-1, \$12,224. O-Edward Babington & Phil Cunningham; B-Juddmonte Farms Ltd (GB); T-George Boughey. *5,000gns 3yo '23 TATHRA. **1/2 to Shutter Speed (GB) (Dansili {GB}), GSW-Eng, \$172,930.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Running The Game (Fr), g, 4, Almanzor (Fr)--Cool Esprit (Ire), by Invincible Spirit (Ire). Kempton, 1-10, 10f 219y (AWT), 2:22.36. Lifetime Record: 6-1-0-2, \$12,099. B-SAS Haras Voltaire (FR). *€45,000 3yo '23 ARQJUL.

Warrior Square (GB), g, 5, Adaay (Ire)--Ziefhd (GB), by Haafhd (GB). Kempton, 1-10, 7f (AWT), 1:27.44. Lifetime Record: 8-1-0-0, \$4,579. B-Llety Farms (GB). *9,000gns Ylg '20 TATASY.

Ballybaymoonshiner (Fr), h, 6, Dandy Man (Ire)--Haven's Wave (Ire), by Whipper. Kempton, 1-10, 7f (AWT), 1:26.92. Lifetime Record: 17-1-3-3, \$15,600. B-Silfield Bloodstock Ltd (FR). *5,000gns Wlg '18 TATFOA.

**IN HONG KONG:**

Happy Together (Ire), g, 5, Dragon Pulse (Ire). See 'Worldwide News'

IN AUSTRALIA:

Age of Sail (GB), g, 5, Frankel (GB)--Concordia (GB), by Pivotal (GB). Warwick Farm, 1-10, Hcp., 1600mT, 1:37.57. B-Godolphin. *First start in Australia. **1/2 to Polarisation (GB) (Echo of Light {GB}), G1SW-Aus, \$1,204,228; and Clearly (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), SW & GSP-Aus, SP-Ger.

***60,000gns HRA '22 TATFEB; 40,000gns HRA '23 TATJUL.

IN QATAR:

X Force (Ire), g, 7, Bungle Inthejungle (GB)--Nafa (Ire), by Shamardal. Al Rayyan, 1-10, Cond., 1100m. B-Maurice Burns (Ire). *Hwt. 3yo-Qat at 5-7f. **€90,000 Ylg '18 GOFORB; 98,000gns HRA '19 TATAUT. **VIDEO (SC 8).**

WORLDWIDE NEWS

Magic Millions Day 2 Cont. from p1

- Magic Millions is currently sitting on a record gross of A\$101,833,000 for this stage of the Gold Coast Yearling Sale, part of which can be attributed to the additional 30 or so lots offered through the ring during the first two sessions.
- Building on Tuesday's positive early indication of the strength of the middle market, the clearance rate rose slightly to 85.57% at the close of Day 2, down marginally on the 86.96% figure recorded at this stage 12 months ago.
- Segenhoe Stud had an afternoon to remember on Wednesday, selling a trio of million-dollar colts on behalf of leviathan breeder John Camilleri. The first was by Zoustar (Aus), the second was by Snitzel (Aus) and the third was the sale-topping Too Darn Hot colt, who became the most expensive horse by his sire to sell anywhere in the world at A\$1.9 million.
- Arrowfield Stud's four-time champion sire Snitzel leads the way at the close of play on Day 2, having sold 17 lots for a gross of A\$9,865,000. He sits ahead of his old adversaries I Am Invincible (Aus) and Zoustar, who have grossed A\$9,150,000 and A\$8,790,000 respectively thus far.
- Vinery Stud's first-season sire Ole Kirk (Aus) recorded a landmark result on Day 2, selling his first seven-figure yearling when the filly out of Supara (Aus) sold to Griffiths de Kock Racing, Peter Ford Thoroughbreds (FBAA) and Brookdale Racing for an even A\$1 million.
- Last year's leading buyers, the Newgate, China Horse Club, Go Bloodstock and Trilogy partnership, only purchased one lot on Day 2, with their current total spend of A\$2,945,000 down markedly on the A\$4,875,000 figure at the same stage last year. That has paved the way for Te Akau's David Ellis CNZM (BANZ) to assume the top spot, having spent A\$4,715,000 on eight yearlings to date. **Cont. p10**

**Lot 392 - Too Darn Hot (GB) x A Time For Julia (Aus)
(Redoute's Choice {Aus}), colt, A\$1.9 million**



Barry Bowditch, Will Bourne, John O'Neill and Ciaran Maher
Magic Millions

Whispers made their way around the auditorium most of Wednesday that a colt by Too Darn Hot (GB) was going to end up cracking seven-figures, with some of the most powerful operations in Australian racing queuing up to enter their bids on the Segenhoe Stud-consigned colt.

After a slow start, with a stagnation around A\$450,000, an explosion of bids rocketed him past A\$700,000, then A\$800,000, before a renewed interest saw the price push towards the A\$2 million mark for the first time in this sale so far this year.

Speaking following the successful purchase, Ciaran Maher, who purchased the colt under his Ciaran Maher Bloodstock banner, revealed that although the price exceeded his initial expectations, he is very happy to be taking him home.

"With the nice colts they always do [cost you], [we] probably had to go a little bit more than what we thought but very competitive.

"He's a great physical, he's got a really good mind on him, [he's] really well bred, from a good farm, good breeder."

Maher was also very complimentary of Too Darn Hot, who has enjoyed early Southern Hemisphere success in the form of Arabian Summer (Aus), one of the prominent chances in the R. Listed Magic Millions Gold Coast 2YO Classic.

"He's done really well in Europe and we've got a few Too Darn Hots in the stable that are starting to hit their straps now."

There is no denying the strong start A Time For Julia (Aus) (Redoute's Choice {Aus}) has made to her career in the barn, having already produced the Listed Clare Lindop S. winner As Time Goes By (Aus) (Deep Impact {Jpn}), who is destined to be one of the final stakes performers of her legendary Japanese stallion. A Time For Julia has also produced four-time victor Famous (Aus) (Medaglia d'Oro).

Further down, there is an enviable collection of high-class performers, including the G1 VRC Oaks victress Personal (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), the G2 Todman S. winner Sejardan (Aus), and the G2 Expressway S. winner Centennial Park (NZ) (Thorn Park {Aus}), who also recorded a Group 1 placing in the G1 Chipping Norton S.

Lot 350 - Snitzel (Aus) x Warranty (Aus) (All Too Hard {Aus}), colt, A\$1.75 million

Much like the opening day, Tom Magnier kept himself right at the top of the list for buyers on Day 2, a metric which was given significant momentum by his A\$1.75 million purchase of Lot 350, a son of Snitzel (Aus) who was bred by respected judge John Camilleri.

"He was a real quality horse, Peter O'Brien [from Segenhoe Stud] has had this horse on top for a long time and when we saw him at the farm, we liked him a lot and he's been very professional here at the sale.

Magnier, who spent almost as much time in the presence of media on Wednesday than he did away from it, lauded over his purchase, telling *The Thoroughbred Report* how highly he rates his acquisition.

"He was the star colt of the week and we're delighted to get him," he said. "He's got quality, he's got pedigree, he's got looks and everybody on the sales ground has been talking about this horse all week.

"Obviously this horse goes to Chris [Waller] and Chris will work his magic. Snitzel is very good for us at the moment with Shinzo and hopefully a couple of the 2-year-olds [we've got] look exciting as well."

The colt is out of Warranty (Aus), a winning daughter of All Too Hard (Aus), who was twice placed at listed level during her racing career. [Cont. p11](#)



Charlie Magnier, Tom Magnier and Evie Magnier with John Camilleri
Magic Millions

Magic Millions Cont.

There is plenty of depth to the page, he is a close relation to talented mare Street Gossip (Aus) (So You Think {NZ}), who won the Listed Princess S. in 2023.

Also represented on the page is the G1 Railway S. winner Gathering (Aus) (Tale Of The Cat), the G1 Saratoga Derby winner In Italian (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) and the G3 Gold Coast Guineas conqueror Florentina (Aus) (Redoute's Choice {Aus}).

Lot 349 - Extreme Choice (Aus) x Wanted Lady (Aus) (Wanted {Aus}), colt, A\$1.6 million

The James Harron Bloodstock Colt Partnership stepped into Lot 349 in a big way, going all the way to A\$1.6 million to acquire him out of the draft of Milburn Creek.

Outmuscling their rivals to secure a flashy son of Extreme Choice (Aus), Harron ensured that, in a very business as usual fashion, he would be taking home one of the glamour colts of a major yearling sale in Australia.

With progeny of Extreme Choice in short supply, this colt boasts an impressive pedigree to match his attitude, coming from a family boasting a number of stakes-performed horses.

His dam, Wanted Lady (Aus) (Wanted {Aus}), is a half-sister to the Listed James HB Carr S. winner Missy Cummings (Aus) (Magnus {Aus}), who would go on to produce the G1

Canterbury S. winner Mizzy (Aus) (Zoustar {Aus}). Missy Cummings is the grandam of the Listed Burgess Queen S. winner Laced Up Heels (Aus) (Toronado {Ire}), with her victory in 2022 making her the first horse to defeat Amelia's Jewel (Aus) (Siyouni {Fr}).

Speaking following the hammer crashing down, breeder Luke Wilkinson spoke of his delight at the result, one that is sure to stand amongst the upper echelon of purchases across the entire sale.

"It is a dream for a breeder. For a commercial breeder it is the thing of dreams. I can't put it into words.

"I paid \$100,000 and got yelled at by Mick [Price] for paying too much for him [Extreme Choice, as a yearling]. It took a while to sell him and when he raced he's obviously won a [G1] Blue Diamond and went to stud.

"When he went to stud I was able to get a lifetime breeding

right. I love the horse and he was great for my career and I loved him to death. I have always supported him and sent extra mares. Lucky that this mare has been in foal to him three times and this is the best one by a long, long way."

Lot 332 - Snitzel (Aus) x Vaujany (Aus) (Lonhro {Aus}), colt, A\$1.3 million

If there was any doubt at the level of intent from Te Akau Racing to transfer their dominance in New Zealand across the Tasman to their Cranbourne stable, those questions have been thoroughly disarmed throughout this sale, with David Ellis CNZM (BAFNZ) going to A\$1.3 million to purchase Lot 332, a colt that he hopes can go and compete amongst the elite 2-year-olds in 12 months' time.

With interest from all corners of the auditorium, Ellis, who has been amongst the biggest spenders in the opening two days of

selling, outlasted rival bidders to take home the son of Snitzel (Aus), who was offered by Blue Gum Farm in Victoria.

Discussing his acquisition with *The Thoroughbred Report* in the immediate aftermath of the hammer crashing, Ellis couldn't help but gush over the newest member of the Te Akau Racing team.

"We thought that he was just one of the most beautiful colts you'd [have seen] in 10 years.

"He's a ripper and it was interesting that John O'Shea was the underbidder and came

up to me and said, 'This is the best Snitzel I have ever seen, can you go back to New Zealand quickly please'. He's a pretty good judge, too.

"We're just thrilled to have horses like this to train in our stable at Cranbourne. He'll go home, he'll get broken in [educated] to race this time next year."

This colt is out of an unraced daughter of Lonhro (Aus), Vaujany (Aus), with a family enriched in success across the board. Although she never made it to the track, her full-sister, Ghisoni (Aus) (Lonhro {Aus}), was a successful runner, winning the G2 Surround S.

Also featuring on his page is the late stallion Snippetson (Aus), as well as the G1 Galaxy H. victor Snowland (Aus) and the G3 Hong Kong Jockey Club S. winner Larkspur Run (Aus) (Shamardal). **Cont. p12**



Stephen Heath, James Harron, Charlotte & Christian Harron, Alison Harron and Anna Ryan | *Magic Millions*

Lot 260 - Ole Kirk (Aus) x Supara (Aus) (Domesday), filly, A\$1 million

Trainer Robbie Griffiths went to uncharted territory to secure Lot 260 on Wednesday, with the veteran horseman signing for A\$1 million to secure a sparkling grey filly by first-season sire Ole Kirk (Aus).

Bids flowed in with consistency as she strutted around the ring, with Griffiths, who trains in partnership with Mathew de Kock, winning out in a hotly contested battle to take her home from Newhaven Park, who enjoyed their first seven-figure result of the sale so far. They didn't do it alone, with Griffiths de Kock Racing joined by Peter Ford Thoroughbreds (FBAA) and Brookdale Racing as the winning bidders.

Speaking to *The Thoroughbred Report* in the aftermath, Griffiths highlighted the quality of the filly, who he believes can reach the upper echelon of racing in the coming years.

"We'll see how she grows out. Ole Kirk ran as a 2-year-old but more so in the autumn, so whether she could be a 2-year-old in the Blue Diamond series just depends on how she handles her workload.

"Certainly in the autumn you would think so, based on the half [brother, Brosnan] who is already placed in a 2-year-old Group 1, and we've seen Written Tycoon (Aus) get early success with Capitalist (Aus) and horses like that.

"I can't see why she wouldn't be a 2-year-old looking at her shape. She's got the shape of a 2-year-old, but we'll just wait and see how it plays out.

"We loved her from first inspection, we wanted her from the get-go, and she was the one we wanted to bring home.

"Ole Kirk was a great horse and she [Supara] has already produced a Group 1 performer so we can't see why she won't do it again.

"She comes off a champion farm in Newhaven, they can breed a lot of Group 1 winners, their history says that, so we were more comfortable doing that off their farm.

"I don't think I've ever seen her in the box. Every time I went past to inspect her somebody else had her out, so we knew there was going to be a lot of competition but we were the lucky ones that secured her.

"You've got to pay if you want the Group 1 winners and that's where we're trying to get to.

"I didn't know who I was up against but there would have been

some pretty serious players wanting a Group 1 filly like her."

She is out of a proven producer, Supara (Aus) (Domesday {Aus}), who has produced the G1 JJ Atkins S. placegetter Brosnan (Aus) (Snitzel {Aus}), who himself was purchased for A\$1.05 million at this very sale back in 2021.

Also present on the fillies page is the G3 VRC Carbine Club S. winner Permaiscuous (Aus) (Danzero {Aus}), with a number of winners in the 1400 to 1600-metre range.

Lot 335 - I Am Invincible (Aus) x Vezalay (Aus) (Shamardal), filly, A\$1 million

There is seldom a shortage of bidders interested in progeny by I Am Invincible (Aus), with Highway Farm emerging victorious of a bidding battle, at the cost of A\$1 million.

Speaking following the conclusion of bidding, Vin Cox, general manager of Yulong Investments, was eager to tell *The*

Thoroughbred Report of his

excitement around the expensive filly, one that will undoubtedly be watched as much in time for what she can do as a producer, as well as a runner.

"It is a family that Widden [the vendors of Lot 335] have owned for a long time and a family that I have seen over many years. Everything out of the family has been very good looking from decades ago.

"No exception there [from this filly] and being by the most

prominent stallion in the country and a good race-winning mare, it is a formula that works.

"She's got residual for a long way forward and I think her half-sister with Gai Waterhouse [Zouphoria] is a bit above average so hopefully she can go the right way as well."

Across the filly's page, plenty of quality types exist, including her dam, Vezalay (Aus) (Shamardal), who was successful in the Listed Alinghi S., and a promising producer of runners, with the aforementioned Zouphoria (Aus) (Zoustar {Aus}) progressing through the grades nicely in the care of Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott.

Excitingly for those hoping to see this filly return to the Gold Coast in 12 months' time to compete for Magic Millions riches, there is ample speed in her damline, including the G3 BJ McLachlan S. winner Sun City (Aus), and the Listed SAJC Lightning H. winner Parlophone (Aus) (I Am Invincible {Aus}).



Some of the Yulong team | Magic Millions

Lot 339 - Zoustar (Aus) x Villami (Aus) (Foxwedge {Aus}), colt, A\$1 million

Plenty of sharp judges took an interest in Lot 339, with the James Harron Colt Partnership kicking off a busy stanza of targeting their trademark early running colts, securing the son of Zoustar (Aus) for an even A\$1 million from Segenhoe Stud.

Harron, who operates an exclusive invitation-only colts syndicate that targets building stallion prospects, was happy to invest a significant sum of money into the eye-catching chestnut, who strutted around the ring with a sense of authority.

Speaking following securing the colt, Harron expressed his delight at coming out on top of a number of interested parties to have the winning bid.

“He’s a ripping colt, I loved him from the time I saw him at the farm, I thought he’d progressed really well from the farm to the sales ground and just knocked it out of the park while he was here.

“He’s got a really nice pedigree, he’s the first foal out of a super-fast mare and it’s a really deep pedigree from a great nursery in Segenhoe, which gives us a lot of confidence.”

Lot 339 is out of Villami (Aus) (Foxwedge {Aus}), a talented racemare who tasted success in the Listed Fireball S., one of three career victories. Now embarking on her breeding career, this is her first foal, with a seven-figure start setting her off in the right direction.

His grandam, Galapagos Girl (Aus) (Dehere), was a quality galloper, winning the G3 Frances Tressady S. on the track, before going on to enjoy a stellar career in the barn, with 10 foals to race being converted into nine winners.

With plenty of talent in her damline, this colt hails from the same family as Lot 392, with further relations including the G1 Goodwood H. winner Lone Rock (Aus) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) and the dual Group 1 winner Laisserfaire (Daneshill {USA}).



Team Segenhoe | Magic Millions

Lot 442 - I Am Invincible (Aus) x Arcadia Queen (Aus) (Pierro {Aus}), colt, A\$1 million

The first foal of one of the darlings of the Western Australian turf, Arcadia Queen (Aus) (Pierro {Aus}), was always destined to be a sought-after commodity at public auction, and the handsome colt was one of the highlights of Day 2, being knocked down to Hawkes Racing for A\$1 million.

Offered by Arrowfield Stud, the I Am Invincible (Aus) colt attracted a crowd of onlookers to see him patiently wait his turn to go through the ring, and from the moment bids started flying in it was clear he was going to be perched amongst the top lots of a high-end day of selling.

Arcadia Queen’s exploits as a racemare require little introduction, with her progressing rapidly from success in the G2 WA Guineas into weight-for-age company at the highest level, stamping herself as an equine force with a crushing victory in the G1 Kingston Town S. (now Northerly S.). From there, she would begin her conquest of the eastern seaboard, taking out the G1 Mackinnon S. (now Champions S.) and the G1 Caulfield S. (now Might And Power S.), finishing with eight wins from 16 career starts.

Away from her performances, this colt boasts plenty of relations to talented performers, including the G1 Railway S. winner Regal Power (Aus) (Pierro {Aus}), the G2 WATC Derby winner Arcadia Dream (Aus) (Domesday {Aus}) and the G3 AJ Scahill S. (now Damien Oliver Gold Rush S.) winner Arcadia Rose (Aus) (Kheleyf).

Speaking after the purchase, John Hawkes told of his hope that the colt can live up to his impeccable page.

“You always hope he might be a champion, it doesn’t always work that particular way, but he’s a lovely horse from a great family.

“You just hope he does make the top level but only time will tell.

“He’s just a lovely balanced horse and naturally he’s been well-prepared by Arrowfield.

“He’s a lovely horse for good stable clients, so we’re really looking forward to breaking him in and getting him into the system.

“The top ones, they’re always hard to buy at the Magic Millions you always pay a bit of a premium because of the race.”

Wednesday, Happy Valley, Hong Kong

JANUARY CUP H.-G3, HK\$4,200,000, Happy Valley, 1-10, 3yo/up, 1800mT, 1:48.29, gd.

1--HAPPY TOGETHER (IRE), 115, g, 5, by Dragon Pulse (Ire)

1st Dam: Ruby Girl (Ire), by Fast Company (Ire)

2nd Dam: Consensus (Ire), by Common Grounds (GB)

3rd Dam: Kilbride Lass (Ire), by Lahib


1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN, 1ST GROUP WIN. (£15,000 Ylg '20 TATIRE; £24,000 2yo '21 TATJUN). O-Excellent Ride Syndicate; B-Brian Miller; T-Frankie Lor; J-Alexis Badel; HK\$2,352,000. Lifetime Record: 18-6-3-1, HK\$12,335,150. *Formerly Hotel Wren (Ire). **Werk Nick Rating: B+.** [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree](#) or the [free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).

2--**La City Blanche (Arg)**, 115, g, 5, Cityscape (GB)--Etoile Blanc (Brz), by Nedawi (GB). O-Chef's Table Syndicate; B-Phalaris SRL; T-Tony Cruz; J-Karis Teetan; HK\$882,000.

3--**Helene Feeling (Ire)**, 117, g, 4, **Sioux Nation**--Cynthia Calhoun (GB), by Exceed and Excel (Aus). **1ST BLACK-TYPE, 1ST GROUP BLACK-TYPE.** (€15,500 Wlg '20 GOFDEC; 40,000gns Ylg '21 TATOCT). O-Helene Syndicate; B-A Sherwood & P Connell; T-Danny Shum; J-Vincent Ho; HK\$483,000.

Margins: 3/4, 3/4, 3/4. Odds: 31-10, 9-1, 7-5.

Also Ran: Nimble Nimbus, Tourbillon Diamond (Aus), Champion Dragon, Telecom Fighters, Encountered (Ire), Berlin Tango (GB), Money Catcher (NZ), Sword Point (Aus), Rising From Ashes. [Click for the HKJC chart, PPs and sectional timing. VIDEO.](#)

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 Highlights Include:

Talking Points From Day 2 At Magics
McKeever & Sutton Team Up On The Gold Coast
TTR Value Buy: 120k Pierata Colt
Maher Has Faith In Spywire



Happy Together | Hong Kong Jockey Club

Epsom Derby Winners (2013 - 2023)

Year	Winner	Sire
2023	Auguste Rodin (Ire)	Deep Impact (Jpn)
2022	Desert Crown (GB)	Nathaniel (Ire)
2021	Adayar (Ire)	Frankel (GB)
2020	Serpentine (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)
2019	Anthony Van Dyke (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)
2018	Masar (Ire)	New Approach (Ire)
2017	Wings Of Eagles (Fr)	Pour Moi (Ire)
2016	Harzand (Ire)	Sea The Stars (Ire)
2015	Golden Horn (GB)	Cape Cross (Ire)
2014	Australia (GB)	Galileo (Ire)
2013	Ruler of the World (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)

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