

LAPENTA HOPES SEVEN IS HIS LUCKY NUMBER



Robert LaPenta | Horsephotos

By Christie DeBernardis

Longtime owner Robert LaPenta won his first Breeders' Cup race in 2007 when War Pass (Cherokee Run) captured the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile en route to champion 2-year-old honors.

"That was an incredible day and he was an incredible horse, just phenomenal," LaPenta said.

Ten years later, the native New Yorker hopes to score his second--and maybe even third--Breeders' Cup win at the 2017 World Championships at Del Mar with **Catholic Boy** (More Than Ready) in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf or **Whitmore** (Pleasantly Perfect) in the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint.

LaPenta won his first Breeders' Cup with Hall of Fame conditioner Nick Zito, but the majority of his 37 horses in training are now under the tutelage of top New York trainers Todd Pletcher and Chad Brown. However, it is a relatively fresh face on the training scene, **Jonathan Thomas**, who will saddle Catholic Boy Friday.

A former steeplechase jockey and assistant to Pletcher and Christophe Clement, Thomas is head trainer at John and Leslie Malone's Bridlewood Farm in Florida and saddled his first starters under his own name in 2015, but has increased his stable size this year.

"We split most of our babies between Bridlewood and Stonestreet. [Thomas] had Catholic Boy and we get an evaluation," LaPenta explained. "Jonathan said, 'You know, I put him on the turf a few times and he looks pretty good.' Jonathan used to be a jockey and he has a good eye so I said, 'Go ahead, Jonathan. Let's do it.' And, he has done it so far."

LaPenta added, "He buys horses for me too so he has a good eye. He was the original one on [GI Belmont S. hero] Tapwrit (Tapit) too. He identified him. [Thomas] and my racing manager brought the [Tapwrit] partnership together. I was the last one in on that partnership, otherwise they would not have bought the horse."

Donning cap and gown in his career bow over the Gulfstream Park lawn July 20, Catholic Boy followed suit with a 12-1 upset victory in Saratoga's GIII With Anticipation S. Aug. 30 ([video](#)). Drawn in post four for Friday's event, the bay was given the same 12-1 odds on the Breeders' Cup morning line as Thomas's first starter at the World Championships.

"It would be a great first, first," LaPenta said. "It would be really special for [Thomas] and us. He got in there [Oct. 24]. He looks great. This horse has a really explosive turn of foot in closing, which is exactly what you want to see in a turf horse. He has been very professional and I am hoping he runs well. That is all you can say at this point."

LaPenta's BC Sprint contender Whitmore is conditioned by Ron Moquett, who has saddled just two previous Breeders' Cup starters in Asher (Mountain Cat), sixth in the 1999 Juvenile Fillies, and Gentleman's Bet (Half Ours), who finished third in the 2013 Sprint. **Cont. p2**



Catholic Boy | Eclipse Sportswire

LaPenta cont.

Owned in partnership with Southern Springs Stables and Head of Plains Partners, Whitmore was competitive on the GI Kentucky Derby trail last year, hitting the board in the GI Arkansas Derby, GII Rebel S. and GIII Southwest S., but failed to fire on the first Saturday in May.


"I own 30 or 35% of Whitmore. He has been a pleasant surprise," LaPenta said. "I think Ron [Moquett] has done a great job with him. He was on the Derby trail [last year] and he was very competitive. In the Derby, he didn't pick up his feet once and we found that he had a little bit of an injury."

Given a breather following the Derby, Whitmore was reinvented as a sprinter at the conclusion of 2016 and proved that was right up his alley. The powerful chestnut reeled off five straight victories sprinting, including the GIII Count Fleet Sprint H. Apr. 15 and the GIII Maryland Sprint S. May 20. Third behind fellow Sprint runner Roy H. (More Than Ready) as the favorite in Belmont's GII True North S. June 9, the 4-year-old completed the trifecta again in the GIII De Francis Memorial Dash Sept. 16 and returned to winning ways last time in Keeneland's GII Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix S. Oct. 6 ([video](#)), a "Win and You're In" event.

"If you watch his races, even in distance races, he had an explosive turn of foot," LaPenta said. "In 10 seconds, he would pick up five horses and I think Ron caught on to that. Turning him into a sprinter turned out to be a very smart move. He won five in a row. I think we ran him back too early in the race at Belmont and he kind of lost his edge a little bit. That last race in the Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix was really something. Right now I am hoping it didn't take too much out of him, but he is on top of his game." **Cont. p3**



Whitmore | Eclipse Sportswire/Breeders' Cup



Contact: Pat Costello • pat@paramountsales.net
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LaPenta cont.

LaPenta almost had a third BC starter in **“TDN Rising Star”** Montauk (Medaglia d’Oro), an ultra-impressive debut winner at Belmont Oct. 7, but he and trainer Todd Pletcher ultimately decided it was better to give the colt more time.

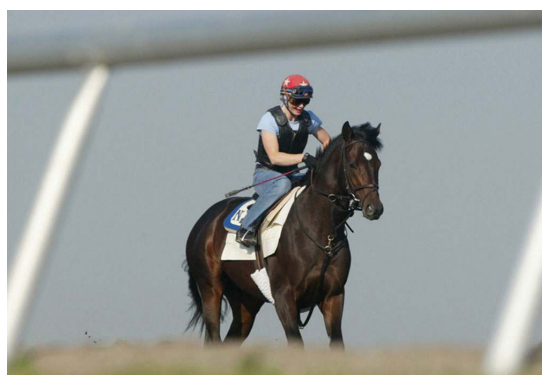
“Montauk is bred on the same cross as [BC Juvenile favorite] Bolt d’Oro, Medaglia d’Oro crossed with an A.P. Indy mare,” LaPenta said. “We want to make sure he is healthy and with that kind of a breakout run we want to position him as best we can. There are a couple of options. We could wait or maybe run at Churchill Downs [in the GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. Nov. 25] and give him a race over that track. We are thinking about it.”

Born and raised in Yonkers, NY, LaPenta was introduced to racing by his mother, who loved to go to the local harness track, Yonkers Raceway.

“We grew up five minutes from Yonkers Raceway and that was my mom’s favorite thing in the world,” LaPenta recalled. “In fact, when she turned 80, I said, ‘Mom I am going to take you to Italy and we will do anything you want to do. She said, ‘Just take me to dinner at Yonkers Raceway!’ She would bet \$1 on every horse in the race and no matter what happened, she would be happy at the end of the race.”

LaPenta, who is involved in private equity, investing in homeland security, satellite imaging, big data and green technology companies, continued, “My uncle, my brother, there was always some connection, but I worked 50 hours a week and just didn’t have time. One day I played golf with Rick Pitino and he asked me if I wanted to join his partnership and I did. That was in the late nineties.”

It wasn’t long before LaPenta went out on his own and he quickly found success as both an owner and pinhooker. He sold the likes of Stay Thirsty, Court Vision and Zavata, but it was a failed pinhook, The Cliff’s Edge (Gulch), who would become the owner’s first Derby starter just a few years



The Cliff’s Edge | Horsephotos

after launching his own stable. Winner of the GIII Iroquois S. and GII Kentucky Jockey Club S. at two, he won the GI Toyota Blue Grass S. in 2004 and finished fifth to Smarty Jones in the Run for the Roses.

“He was phenomenal,” said LaPenta, who has about 37 horses in training and 10 broodmares.

“It was an incredible monsoon that day, but he comes out of the gate and loses one shoe and the other shoe didn’t come completely off, but went sideways into his foot, which knocked him out of the rest of the Triple Crown. He still ran fifth.”

LaPenta is still searching for his first Derby win, but he won his second GI Belmont S. this year with Tapwrit (Tapit), a \$1.2-million FTSAUG buy owned in partnership with Eclipse Thoroughbreds and Bridlewood.

“It was my second time winning the Belmont and it was just as exciting the second time being in a partnership as it was the first. Because the first [in 2008], I never expected that would happen with Da’Tara. I thought he would run well, but I never thought he would beat Big Brown. [The Belmont] is one of my favorites absolutely.”

Pletcher, LaPenta and his partners decided to bypass the Breeders’ Cup with Tapwrit and freshen him up for a 4-year-old campaign.

“We are hoping he is going to be a great 4-year-old,” the owner said. “A lot of the big guns are going to retire this year like Gun Runner (Candy Ride {Arg}) and Arrogate (Unbridled’s Song), so I think Tapwrit is going to be an exciting 4-year-old.”

While LaPenta has won many big races, including a Breeders’ Cup, he said another win at the World Championships would be just as special as the first.

“I am going to go out there with a whole posse and we are excited. Del Mar has been on my list for a long time,” LaPenta said. “It is going to be the first time for everybody out at that track, so if we could have good performances, it would only add to the whole weekend.”

LaPenta continued, “Every serious owner has the same goals and aspirations, right? Especially when you invest all this time and money in these horses. Everybody has the same ones on their list: Derby, Travers, which has only been one or 1.2 on my list, and the Breeders’ Cup. The Breeders’ Cup is special because it is so important for Eclipse awards and the status and the value of a horse. It would be great.”

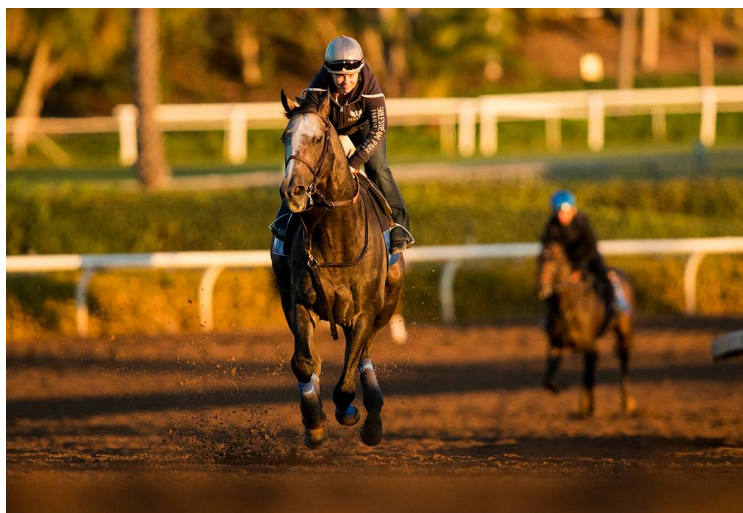
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2017 Breeders’ Cup Post Times (ET)

Saturday, Nov. 4

3:00 PM	14 Hands Winery Juvenile Fillies
3:37 PM	Turf Sprint
4:14 PM	Filly & Mare Sprint
5:00 PM	Filly & Mare Turf
5:37 PM	TwinSpires Sprint
6:19 PM	Mile
6:58 PM	Sentient Jet Juvenile
7:37 PM	Longines Turf
8:35 PM	Classic

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC



Arrogate prepping at Santa Anita for his final start | *Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire*

by Joe Bianca

Last August, **'TDN Rising Star' Arrogate** (Unbridled's Song) brought the racing world to a standstill with a devastating 13 1/2-length, track record-shattering romp in the GI Travers S. at Saratoga. One of the horses left toiling in his wake was **Gun Runner** (Candy Ride {Arg}), at that point a three-time graded

stakes winner, who finished an ordinary third.

Arrogate, of course, went on to defeat two-time defending Horse of the Year California Chrome (Lucky Pulpit) in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic--sewing up champion 3-year-old male honors--dominated the inaugural GI Pegasus World Cup Invitational and overcame a disastrous start and a wide trip to earn another jaw-dropping win in the G1 Dubai World Cup, once again besting Gun Runner.

At that point, it appeared as if Arrogate adding a Horse of the Year trophy to his accomplishments was a foregone conclusion and the discussion would be only where to place him amongst the all-time greats. As for Gun Runner, it seemed that, talented as he is, he was destined to be the Sham to Arrogate's Secretariat.

That's why they run the races.

Arrogate's air of invincibility has dissipated after a dull fourth in the GII San Diego H. and a runner-up finish in the GI TVG Pacific Classic, while all Gun Runner has done since Dubai is win and win powerfully--a seven-length romp in the GI Stephen Foster H., a 5 1/4-length score in the GI Whitney S. and his magnum opus thus far, a 10 1/4-length laughter in the GI Woodward S. **Cont. p5**



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Breeders' Cup Classic cont.

Now, the two will rematch, one final time, in the \$6-million Classic, with Horse of the Year and each's legacy on the line, at Del Mar.

It was **recently announced** that Arrogate would be retired to stud at Juddmonte Farms' United States arm in Kentucky after the Breeders' Cup. The hulking gray has been drilling steadily at Santa Anita for his final racing engagement, completing preparations with a five-furlong bullet in 1:00 flat (1/19) Monday at Santa Anita.

"He looked great for him," trainer Bob Baffert said. "I've been happy with all of his works. I don't see why he wouldn't run a big race."

Gun Runner, meanwhile, got familiar with the Del Mar surface for the first time with an easy four-furlong spin in :49.40 (7/13) the same day.



Gun Runner breezing at Del Mar | Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire

"He just looks fast and that's what you want to see in a work like this and going into a race like this," said Scott Blasi, assistant to trainer Steve Asmussen. "I was just talking to Steve and told him he just looked fast. He's just getting over the ground so nicely. Compared to last year, he's just stronger. He's a bigger, stronger physical horse. I think that's been the change. I think

it's a maturity thing."

The draw for the Classic was eventful, as Arrogate was assigned the one hole and thus will demand some maneuvering from Mike Smith to work out a clean trip. Despite a tendency to break a half-step slowly as happened in Dubai, Arrogate is two-for-two when breaking from the inside post, winning both the Travers and Pegasus World Cup. Gun Runner drew the more comfortable five-post for the Classic.

"Arrogate always seems to get the one a lot," Baffert commented. "He has it and you can't change that. We have a long run to the turn. I like being on the outside better, but it will all work out." **Cont. p6**

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First Lady S.-G1 Maker's 46 Mile-G1 Jenney Wiley-G1
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Speedway Stable LLC's **Collected** (City Zip) has been understandably overshadowed by his champion barnmate, but

his talent is considerable, as he proved by upsetting Arrogate by a half-length in the Pacific Classic. That tally was one of four victories in four tries this season for the chestnut that also included wins in the Santana Mile S., GII Californian S. and a 14-length tour de force in the GIII Precisionist S. Baffert will have

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC-GI, 3yo/up, 10f

PP Horse

Sire

1. Arrogate 

Unbridled's Song

2. War Decree

War Front

3. Win the Space 

Pulpit

4. War Story 

Northern Afflict

5. Gun Runner

Candy Ride (Arg)

6. Mubtaahij (Ire)

Dubawi (Ire)

7. Churchill (Ire)

Galileo (Ire)

8. West Coast 

Flatter

9. Gunnevera 

Dialed In

10. Pavel 

Creative Cause

11. Collected 

City Zip

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

further representation in the Classic, and his third-best chance comes from Gary and Mary West's progressive 3-year-old **West Coast** (Flatter). The bay, getting a bit of a late start debuting Feb. 18, has yet to be out of the exacta in eight career outings, and is in the midst of a five-race winning streak, having captured

the GIII Los Alamitos Derby July 15, the GI Travers S. Aug. 26 and the GI Pennsylvania Derby in a 7 1/4-length romp Sept. 23. The Classic, however, will be his first stakes try against older rivals, and he has yet to run a race fast enough on figures to suggest he can compete with either of his high-powered barnmates or Gun Runner.

In the end though, this race is about Arrogate and Gun Runner, and their winding paths intersecting one last time, when all the lights are shining brightest.

Is Arrogate the same horse he was last year and early this season? Has Gun Runner surpassed him, or was he just getting fat on lesser competition this summer? It comes down to two minutes Saturday evening, in the matchup the entire racing world has been waiting for.

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	Classic runner	Date
GI Pegasus World Cup	Arrogate	Jan. 28
GI Stephen Foster H.	Gun Runner	June 17
GI Whitney S.	Gun Runner	Aug. 5
GI Pacific Classic	Collected	Aug. 19
GI Woodward S.	Gun Runner	Sept. 2
GI Pennsylvania Derby	West Coast	Sept. 23
GI Awesome Again S.	Mubtaahij (Ire)	Sept. 30

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BREEDERS' CUP MILE

by Joe Bianca

Leading European miler **Ribchester (Ire)** (Iffraaj {GB}), recently announced as a **new Kildangan Stud entrant** in 2018, will make the final start of his racing career his first one in the United States as he goes postward as the likely favorite in the GI Breeders' Cup Mile.

Breaking his maiden third out in the G2 Dubai Duty Free Mill Reef S. as a juvenile in 2015, the Godolphin colorbearer has never looked back, finishing out of the money just once in his career--via disqualification--and reeling off three Group 1 scores this year. After dominating the G1 Lockinge S. May 20 at Newbury, the bay repeated in the marquee G1 Queen Anne S. at Ascot June 20 and, after just missing by a neck in the G1 Sussex S. Aug. 2 at Goodwood, tallied in the G1 Prix du Moulin de Longchamp Sept. 10 at Chantilly. He comes into the Mile on just 14 days' rest, having run second in the G1 Queen Elizabeth II S. Oct. 21 at Ascot.



Ribchester (Ire) | Scoop Dyga

It will be his second try going counterclockwise, having run third in the G1 Dubai Turf Mar. 25 at Meydan.

"He has kept his coat, he looks a picture, and clearly, he wants to go," trainer Richard Fahey said. "He has done everything but tell me himself that he should be on the plane to California. I'm very happy with him. He's in great order; he's very tough."


America's best hope to knock him off may be Live Oak Plantation homebred **World Approval** (Northern Afleet), who is in the best form of his life as a 5-year-old. The gray appeared to tail off last year after scoring his first Grade I win in the GI United Nations S., but has

won four of five starts this season and comes in off of back-to-back triumphs in the GI Fourstardave H. and GI Woodbine Mile.


This race is unique in that only one horse who contested last year's Mile returns to try it again. That would be **Midnight Storm** (Pioneerof the Nile), recently tabbed as **an addition** to the Taylor Made Stallions roster in 2018. **Cont. p8**

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Kentucky Derby-G1, Churchill Downs

CON TE PARTIRO
Sandringham H., Royal Ascot

COLLECTED
Pacific Classic-G1, Del Mar

SONGBIRD
Delaware H.-G1, Delaware Park

GORMLEY
Santa Anita Derby-G1, Santa Anita

TAPWRIT
Belmont S.-G1, Belmont Park

BEACH PATROL
Arlington Million-G1, Arlington Park

WEST COAST
Travers S.-G1, Saratoga

ARROGATE
Pegasus World Cup-G1, Gulfstream Park

A person wearing a blue jacket and a cap is shown from the chest up, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is a solid red color. A white L-shaped graphic is in the top-left corner.

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A crowd of people is shown from the chest up, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is a solid blue color. A white L-shaped graphic is in the bottom-right corner.

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Breeders' Cup Mile cont.

Midnight Storm owns the top Beyer Speed Figure in the race,

earning a 110 for his victory in the GI

Shoemaker Mile last

June, but needs to

recapture that form,

as he has dropped

five straight, most

recently running

second in the GI

Awesome Again S.

on the Santa Anita

dirt Sept. 30.

The top three

finishers from the GI

Shadwell Turf Mile

Oct. 7 at Keeneland

re-engage. **Suedois**

(Fr) (Le Havre {Ire})

BREEDERS' CUP MILE-GI, 3yo/up, 1m

PP Horse	Sire
1. Midnight Storm 	Pioneerof the Nile
2. Heart to Heart	English Channel
3. Mr. Roary 	Scat Daddy
4. Lancaster Bomber	War Front
5. World Approval	Northern Afleet
6. Zelzal (Fr)	Sea The Stars (Ire)
7. Om 	Munnings
8. Suedois (Fr)	Le Havre (Ire)
9. Home of The Brave (Ire)	Sasapledancer (Aus)
10. Ribchester (Ire)	Iffraaj (GB)
11. Ballagh Rocks 	Stormy Atlantic
12. Roly Poly 	War Front
13. Blackjackcat	Tale of the Cat
14. Karar (GB)	Invincible Spirit (Ire)

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

stepped off the plane and finished full of run in the final quarter-mile to get up late, posting a career-best effort. Prior to that, the gelding scored in the G2 Solonaway Boomerang S. Sept. 9 at Leopardstown. Runner-up **Heart to Heart** (English Channel)

narrowly missed his first Grade I win and may be a cut below these, but is a consistent performer, finishing in the top four in his last 14 starts and earning seven stakes wins in that period, six of them graded. **Ballagh Rocks** (Stormy Atlantic) captured the GIII Poker S. June 18 at Belmont and was third in the Fourstardave before filling the same slot in the Shadwell.

Coolmore's sophomore filly **Roly Poly** (War Front) scored in the G1 Sun Chariot S. Oct. 7 at Newmarket, one of three top-level scores in her last four races, having also taken the G1 Tattersalls Falmouth S. and G1 Prix Rothschild this summer.

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	Mile runner	Date
GIII Poker S.	Ballagh Rocks	June 18
G1 Queen Anne S.	Ribchester (Ire)	June 20
GI Fourstardave H.	World Approval	Aug. 12
GII Del Mar Mile H.	Blackjackcat	Aug. 20
GII Bernard Baruch H.	Heart to Heart	Sept. 4
GI Ricoh Woodbine Mile S.	World Approval	Sept. 16
GIII Eddie D. S.	Mr. Roary	Sept. 29
G1 Sun Chariot S.	Roly Poly	Oct. 7
GI Shadwell Turf Mile S.	Suedois (Fr)	Oct. 7

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LONGINES BREEDERS' CUP TURF

Trainer Aidan O'Brien, who recently broke the record of the late Bobby Frankel with his 26th Group 1 winner for 2017, has sent out the winner of the GI Breeders' Cup Turf no fewer than four times in the last six years. The Ballydoyle maestro will have every chance to add to that impressive streak with a trio of talented runners--each by the all-conquering Galileo--Saturday afternoon.

The late High Chaparral (Ire), trained by O'Brien, is one of just two horses to record multiple victories in the Turf and the globetrotting **Highland Reel (Ire)** will look to add his name to the list. A Group 1 winner in England and Hong Kong in addition to America and Group 1-placed in France and Australia to boot, the near \$9-million earner showed his trademark toughness in annexing the G1 Coronation Cup at Epsom and the G1 Prince of Wales's S. at Royal Ascot just 19 days apart, but had the ground go against him in his last two. Fourth to superfilly Enable (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}) in the G1 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth S. in July, he was given an enterprising ride in the G1 QIPCO British Champions S. Oct. 21 and looked to be finished in the Ascot straight, but gutted it out to be third. He'll get his preferred fast surface at Del Mar, and while Seamie Heffernan did the steering last year, Ryan Moore is at the controls Saturday.

Highland Reel is one of a remarkable five in the race for Galileo, also the sire of 2015 winner Found (Ire) as well as 2013 victor Magician (Ire), each of whom was ridden by Moore. Heffernan has the call aboard Ballydoyle filly **Seventh Heaven (Ire)**, a running-on and trouble fourth in last year's GI Filly & Mare Turf. Easy winner of this year's G2 Jockey Club S. on Guineas weekend at Newmarket in May, she too may have floundered in ground deeper than she prefers in her last two, including a 14th in the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe Oct. 1. The lightly raced **Cliffs of Moher (Ire)** handled the tight turns at Chester to win the Listed Dee S. and was runner-up in the G1 Investec Derby at this trip earlier in the season, but has already found many of Saturday's opponents too tough and is no more than a rough place chance. **Cont. p10**

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	Turf runner	Date
G1 Coronation Cup	Highland Reel (Ire)	June 2
G1 Prince of Wales's S.	Highland Reel (Ire)	June 21
G1 Juddmonte International S.	Ulysses (Ire)	Aug. 23
GI Sword Dancer Inv.	Sadler's Joy	Aug. 26
GI Joe Hirsch Turf Classic	Beach Patrol	Oct. 1



Highland Reel following his win last year at Santa Anita | Eclipse Sportswire

Breeders' Cup Turf cont.

Ulysses (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) is arguably the best European turf runner of 2017 not named Enable, to whom the G1 Coral-Eclipse winner was second in the King George and third in the Arc. The chestnut, fourth to Highland Reel at Santa Anita 12 months ago,

was highly impressive in defeating Ballydoyle's Churchill (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) on the bridle in the G1 Juddmonte International S. at York Aug. 23 and merits morning-line favoritism. Those who want to knock the chalk could argue that he is slightly better over 10 furlongs and regular rider Jim Crowley stays home,

GI BREEDERS' CUP TURF-GI, 3yo/up, 1 1/2mT

1. Talismanic (GB)	Medaglia d'Oro
2. Bullards Alley	Flower Alley
3. Highland Reel (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)
4. Decorated Knight (GB)	Galileo (Ire)
5. Ulysses (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)
6. Cliffs of Moher (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)
7. Itsinthepost (Fr)	American Post (GB)
8. Bigger Picture	Badge of Silver
9. Seventh Heaven (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)
10. Fanciful Angel (Ire)	Dark Angel (Ire)
11. Hunt (Ire)	Dark Angel (Ire)
12. Beach Patrol 	Lemon Drop Kid
13. Sadler's Joy	Kitten's Joy
14. Oscar Performance	Kitten's Joy

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

American-based runners have won just three times in the last 10 renewals of the Turf, but it is a comparatively deep domestic challenge this time around. Champion trainer Chad Brown has yet to add the Turf to his growing resume, but '**TDN Rising Star**' **Beach Patrol** (Lemon Drop Kid) could break the mold. Theretofore most accomplished at the 10-furlong distance, with marquee victories in the 2016 GI Secretariat S. and this year's GI Arlington Million, the 4-year-old was stretching out to the mile and a half for the first time in the GI Joe Hirsch Turf Classic Invitational S. at Belmont Sept. 30. Admittedly, he found himself in a perfect position early from second as 147-1 no-hoper Converge (Sidney's Candy) opened up by as many as seven, but when Joel Rosario has him to quicken in the lane, Beach Patrol covered his final two furlongs in :22.85 according to *DRF* Formulator to lead home a Brown 1-2, five lengths clear of **Fanciful Angel (Ire)** (Dark Angel {Ire}) and **Oscar Performance** (Kitten's Joy).

Wild Card...

Hunt (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) would appear to be slightly overmatched on paper, but his two most recent wins in the GII Eddie Read S. and GII Del Mar H. at this track have resulted in his two best career speed figures. --*Alan Carasso*

even if Frankie Dettori is a more-than-capable stand-in.



Beach Patrol training at Del Mar | Eclipse Sportswire

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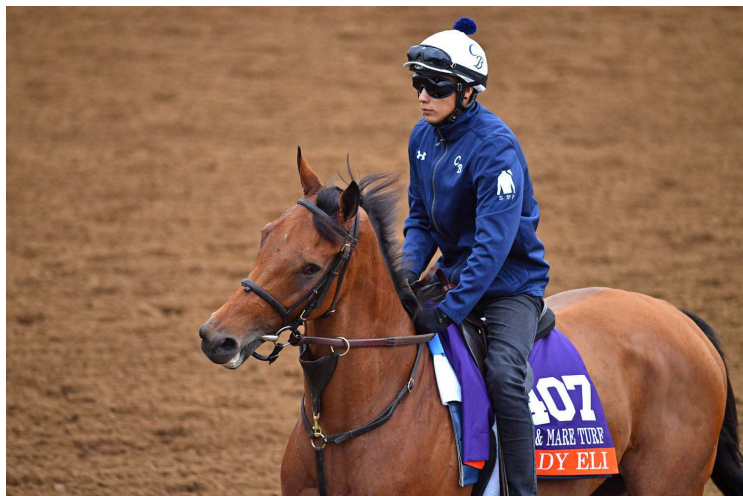
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BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF

Now in her fourth year of racing, **Lady Eli** (Divine Park) has little left to accomplish. Somewhat controversially denied a championship at two, which included a victory in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf, she overcame a tough battle with an oft-deadly disease to assume the mantle of America's best turf female of 2017. Having suffered an excruciating defeat at the wire of last year's GI Filly & Mare Turf, she's back to go one better this time around.



Lady Eli | Horsephotos

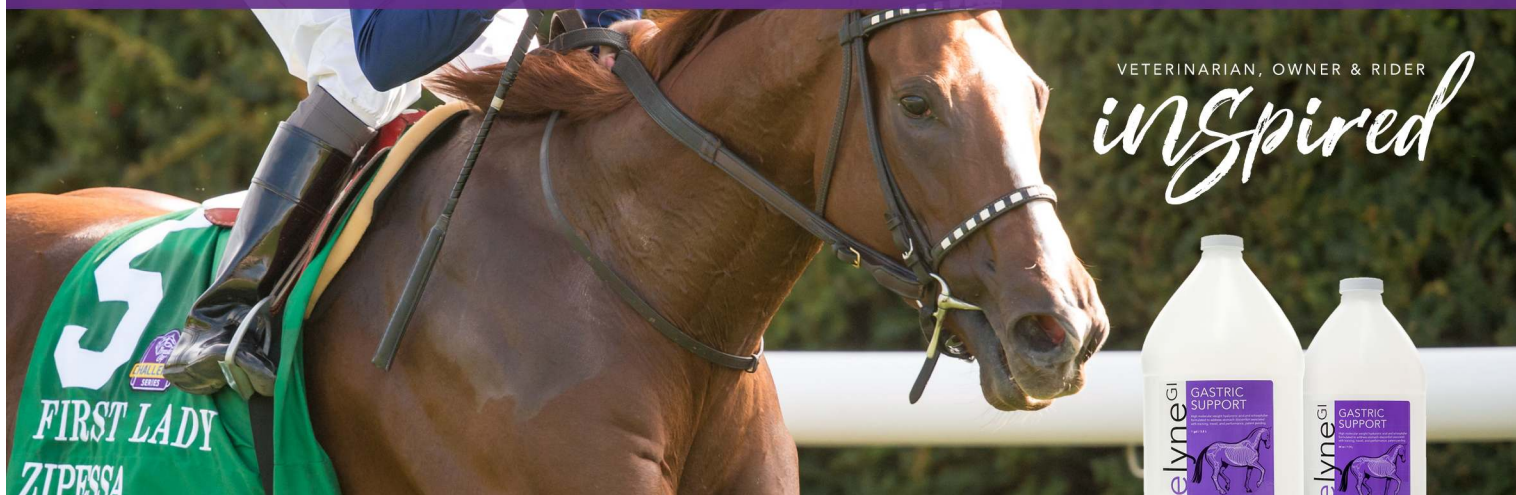
Virtually untouched in winning the first six starts of her career, Lady Eli refused to succumb when pitched in against laminitis and came to win last year's Filly & Mare Turf, only to be grabbed on the line by **Queen's Trust (GB)** (Dansili {GB}). Kept in training this season, Lady Eli has been consistent and consistently brilliant, with easier-than-it looked wins in the GI Gamely S. in May and in the GI Diana S. at Saratoga in July. She is unraced since a facile success in the GII Ballston Spa S. Aug. 27 in which she covered her final five-sixteenths of a mile in a typically slick :27.79 according to *DRF* Formulator. Following Saturday's race, she heads back to Kentucky for a date in the Keeneland November sale next Wednesday, where she is consigned by Hill 'n' Dale as **hip 271. Cont. p12**

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	F/M Turf runner	Date
GI Gamely S.	Lady Eli	May 27
GIII Eatontown S.	Grand Jete (GB)	June 3
GI Diana S.	Lady Eli	July 22
GII Ballston Spa S.	Lady Eli	Aug. 26
G1 Prix de l'Opera	Rhododendron (Ire)	Oct. 1
GI Flower Bowl Inv.	War Flag/Dacita	Oct. 8

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Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf cont.

As if Lady Eli weren't ammunition enough for the barn, looking for a fourth win in six years in the race, **Dacita (Chi)** (Scat Daddy)

BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE TURF-

GI, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8mT

1. War Flag	War Front
2. Senga	Blame
3. Birdie Gold	Birdstone
4. Zipessa 🐾	City Zip
5. Wuheida (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)
6. Cambodia	War Front
7. Dacita (Chi)	Scat Daddy
8. Grand Jete (GB)	Dansili (GB)
9. Lady Eli 🐾	Divine Park
10. Queen's Trust (GB)	Dansili (GB)
11. Nezwaah (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)
12. Avenge	War Front
13. Goodyearforroses (Ire)	Azamour (Ire)
14. Rhododendron (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)
15. Kitten's Roar 🐾	Kitten's Joy
16. Responsibleforlove (Ire)	Dke of Mrmlde (Ire)

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

forms a potent 1-2 punch. The chestnut, ninth to then-stablemate Stephanie's Kitten (Kitten's Joy) over unsuitably easy ground at Keeneland two years ago, has also made just four starts this term, which includes a win in the GI Beverly D. S. in Chicago. She could easily have made three trips to the winner's circle, but for head losses in the GIII Beaugay S.

and to **War Flag** (War Front) when last seen in the GI Flower Bowl S. at Belmont Oct. 8.

For all of his success in the Breeders' Cup Turf, Aidan O'Brien has yet to saddle a winner in the Filly & Mare Turf. That could change Saturday in the form of **Rhododendron (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}), who will have to work out a trip coming out of the chute from gate 14. Last year's G1 Fillies' Mile victrix, the sophomore filly was runner-up as the favorite to stablemate Winter (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in the G1 1000 Guineas at Newmarket and was five lengths' second to Enable (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}) in the G1 Investec Oaks in June. Pulled up in the G1 Prix de Diane in June, she was a one-paced seventh in the G1 Matron S. in September, but bounced back to defeat Hydrangea (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in the G1 Prix de l'Opera at Chantilly Oct. 1.

Wild Card...

Though she is the third string for Chad Brown, **Grand Jete (GB)** (Dansili {GB}) rates an upset chance to give her sire back-to-back winners of the F/M Turf and third in the last five years. The Juddmonte homebred was on the fringes when trained in France by David Smaga, but has flourished under Brown's tutelage. Possessed of a wicked turn of foot, she defeated **Zipessa** (City Zip) into third in the GIII Eatontown S. in June and should probably have won the Beverly D., but was stopped at a crucial stage. She uncharacteristically set the pace in the Flower Bowl and held on gamely for third. --Alan Carasso

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SENTIENT JET BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE

Saturday's GI Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile clearly goes through Ruis Racing's **Bolt d'Oro** (Medaglia d'Oro), who looks to give his sire a second Eclipse Award-juvenile in the space of three years and a winner on championship day for the third consecutive year.



Bolt d'Oro jogging at Del Mar Wednesday | *Eclipse Sportswire*

A \$630,000 purchase out of the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale, the well-bred bay displayed ample speed to take out his 6 1/2-furlong debut at odds-on over the Del Mar strip and overcame adversity to post a cozy success in the GI Del Mar Futurity 30 days later. Bred on the same cross over A.P. Indy responsible for the likes of GI Kentucky Oaks heroine Plum Pretty, Bolt d'Oro handled the stretchout to two turns like a pro, sitting a stalking trip off a good pace before kicking clear to a 7 3/4-length defeat of wide-trip **Solomini** (Curlin) in the GI FrontRunner S. at Santa Anita Sept. 30. **Cont. p14**

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	Juvenile runner	Date
GII Sanford S.	Firenze Fire	July 22
Prairie Gold Juvenile	The Tabulator	July 28
GII Saratoga Special S.	Hollywood Star	Aug. 13
GI Del Mar Futurity	Bolt d'Oro	Sept. 4
GIII Iroquois S.	The Tabulator	Sept. 16
GI FrontRunner S.	Bolt d'Oro	Sept. 30
GI Champagne S.	Firenze Fire	Oct. 7
GI Breeders' Futurity	Free Drop Billy	Oct. 7



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<p>Juvenile Fillies Turf</p> <p>Dirt Mile</p> <p>Juvenile Turf</p> <p>Distaff</p> <p>Juvenile Fillies</p> <p>Turf Sprint</p> <p>F & M Sprint</p> <p>Sprint</p> <p>Mile Juvenile</p> <p>Classic</p>	<p>Moon Dash Significant Form Giant Expectations Sharp Azteca Encumbered Snapper Sinclair Voting Control Champagne Room Alluring Star Gio Game Piedi Bianchi Wonder Gadot Buccherio Guns Loaded Stormy Liberal Constellation Princess Karen Calculator Mind Your Biscuits Mr. Roary Bahamian Hazit The Tabulator Collected War Story</p>
--	--

Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile cont.

Bolt d'Oro is the mount of jockey Corey Nakatani, winner of

10 Breeders' Cup races to date, but winless since guiding Tapizar (Tapit) to victory in the 2012 GI Dirt Mile at Santa Anita.

Trainer Jason Servis sent out Mr Amore Stable's Tightend Touchdown (Pure Precision) to a narrow defeat at odds of 18-1 in the GI Turf Sprint at Santa Anita, but in the form of the same

GI SENTIENT JET BREEDERS' CUP

JUVENILE-GI, 2yo, 1 1/16m

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. U S Navy Flag | War Front |
| 2. Solomini  | Curlin |
| 3. Firenze Fire | Poseidon's Warrior |
| 4. Givemeamin | Star Guitar |
| 5. Free Drop Billy  | Union Rags |
| 6. Good Magic  | Curlin |
| 7. The Tabulator  | Dialed In |
| 8. Bahamian  | Freedom Child |
| 9. Hazit  | War Front |
| 10. Golden Dragon | Skipshot |
| 11. Bolt d'Oro | Medaglia d'Oro |
| 12. Hollywood Star  | Malibu Moon |

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

ownership's **Firenze Fire** (Poseidon's Warrior), the veteran horseman is armed with his best chance to date of Breeders' Cup spoils. From the first crop of his freshman sire (by Speightstown), the homebred has amassed an impressive three wins from four runs, all against the odds.

The bay defeated **Free Drop Billy** (Union Rags) as a 12-1 gamble in the GIII Sanford S. at Saratoga in July and most recently showed a quick turn of foot on the turn before outlasting the maiden **Good Magic** (Curlin) in the GI Champagne S. going Belmont's one-turn mile Oct. 7.

Albaugh Family Stable's Not This Time (Giant's Causeway) just failed to catch Classic Empire (Pioneer of the Nile) in last year's Juvenile and the outfit is double-fisted this time. In addition to GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity hero Free Drop Billy--whose sire also went agonizingly close to winning the Juvenile--the Iowa-based operation is represented by '**TDN Rising Star**' **Hollywood Star** (Malibu Moon). The \$550,000 Keeneland September acquisition has done little wrong and exits a runner-up effort to **The Tabulator** (Dialed In) in the GIII Iroquois S. at Churchill Sept. 16, but gives the impression that the penny hasn't truly dropped yet and could be better still with additional time.

Wild Card...

It will be no easy task as a maiden, but **Good Magic** enters the Juvenile on his merits. The field's most expensive auction purchase at \$1 million at KEESEP in 2016, the chestnut was a hard-trying second to **Hazit** (Hard Spun) on Saratoga debut on Travers Day Aug. 26 and led late in the Champagne before going down to the more experienced Firenze Fire. --Alan Carasso

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*The Blood-Horse, Nov. 1, 2017



14 HANDS WINERY BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES

Last year's renewal of the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies was upended by a 33-1 shot, but this year a shocker like that appears even more unlikely with an ultra-competitive group of debutantes signed on led by a quartet of Grade I winners. Favoritism will likely go to undefeated **"TDN Rising Star" Moonshine Memories** (Malibu Moon), the only two-time Grade I victress in the field.



Moonshine Memories | Benoit

Going wire-to-wire to graduate on debut at Del Mar Aug. 19, the \$650,000

FTSAUG grad followed suit with a win the GI Del Mar Debutante Sept. 2 and passed her first two-turn test with aplomb in the 1 1/16-mile GI Chandelier S. at Santa Anita Sept. 30. She will be joined by a pair of familiar foes in Chandelier runner-up **Alluring Star** (Exchange Rate) and third-place finisher **Piedi Bianchi** (Overanalyze), who was also second in the Del Mar Debutante. Cont. p15

14 HANDS WINERY BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES-GI, 2yo, f, 1 1/16m

PP. Horse	Sire
1. Heavenly Love	Malibu Moon
2. Tell Your Mama	Blame
3. Princess Warrior	Midshipman
4. Gio Game 🌿	Gio Ponti
5. Blonde Bomber	Fort Larned
6. Stainless 🌿	Flatter
7. Moonshine Memories	Malibu Moon
8. Piedi Bianchi 🌿	Overanalyze
9. Alluring Star 🌿	Exchange Rate
10. Maya Malibu	Malibu Moon
11. Wonder Gadot 🌿	Medaglia d'Oro
12. Caledonia Road 🌿	Quality Road
13. Separationofpowers 🌿	Candy Ride (Arg)

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

ANALYZE THIS.

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14 Hands Winery Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies cont.

The form of the Spinaway is represented by its runner-up Maya Malibu (Malibu Moon), and the strength of the race was further flattered when **'TDN Rising Star' Separationofpowers** (Candy Ride {Arg}), 3 1/4 lengths behind Maya Malibu in third, came back to score an impressive victory in Belmont's GI Frizette S. Oct. 8, with Maya Malibu rounding out the triple. Frizette runner-up **Caledonia Road** (Quality Road) also returns in this championship test.

Trainer Mark Casse won the BC Juvenile last year with champion Classic Empire (Pioneerof the Nile) and looks for his first win in the Juvenile Fillies with **Heavenly Love** (Malibu Moon), who rounds out the Grade I quartet. Third in her career bow sprinting over the Gulfstream main track, she came flying from back off the pace to score a decisive victory on the turf at Kentucky Downs Sept. 7. Returned to the dirt and stretched out to 1 1/16 miles next out for Keeneland's GI Darley Alcibiades S. Oct. 6, the bay powered clear to an eye-catching 5 1/2-length success over beaten favorite **Princess Warrior** (Midshipman).

WILD CARD...

Mark Casse's other Juvenile Fillies entrant **Wonder Gadot** (Medaglia d'Oro) could prove to be any kind. Graduating by four lengths when unveiled in a seven-panel allowance on the Woodbine lawn Aug. 26, the dark bay checked in third in the one-mile GI Natalma S. over that course Sept. 17. The **'TDN Rising Star'** cruised from gate-to-wire to register a six-length success next out in Woodbine's GIII Mazarine S. going 1 1/16 miles over the Woodbine synthetic Oct. 7. If she can transfer that talent to the dirt, Wonder Gadot could be a force to be reckoned with Saturday. --Christie DeBernardis

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	Winner	Date
GI Spinaway S.	Lady Ivanka	Sept. 2
GI Chandelier S.	Moonshine Memories	Sept. 30
GI Darley Alcibiades S.	Heavenly Love	Oct. 6
GIII Mazarine S.	Wonder Gadot	Oct. 7
GI Frizette S.	Separationofpowers	Oct. 8

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and to

Gio Game's connections in the
G1 14 HANDS WINERY JUVENILE FILLIES.

Castleton

GIO PONTI

TWINSPIRES BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT



Drefong | Sarah K. Andrew photo

In 2007 and 2008, trainer Bob Baffert pulled off an impressive double when his standout pupil Midnight Lute (Real Quiet) won the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint in successive years, and the Hall of Famer has a chance to pull off the same feat in this year's renewal with last year's victor, **'TDN Rising Star,'** and expected post-time favorite **Drefong** (Gio Ponti).

Campaigned by Susan and Charles Chu's Baoma Corporation, the bay was crowned champion sprinter of 2016 after reeling off five consecutive victories, culminating with a score at the World Championships, and was subsequently sent to the sidelines for an eight-month

respite. Much like Midnight Lute's abbreviated title defense season in 2008, not everything has gone according to plan with Drefong's 2017 campaign: After ducking inward and losing his rider shortly after the start of the July 29 GI Bing

Crosby S. at Del Mar, the colt rebounded with an authoritative four-length tally in Saratoga's GI Forego S. Aug. 26.

TWINSPIRES BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT-GI,

3yo/up, 6f

PP. Horse

1. Calculator

2. Drefong 

3. American Pastime 

4. B Squared

5. Whitmore

6. Mind Your Biscuits 

7. Takaful

8. Roy H 

9. Ransom the Moon

10. Imperial Hint

Sire

In Summation

Gio Ponti

Tapizar

Square Eddie

Pleasantly Perfect

Posse

Bernardini

More Than Ready

Malibu Moon

Imperialism

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

Cont. p18

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Juvenile Turf (G1) contender

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TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint cont.

Entering the Breeders' Cup off the exact same layoff that produced his peak performance last year, Drefong figures to be formidable once again back home in California.

Mind Your Biscuits (Posse) was a good second in the Sprint last year--a breakout performance of sorts that served as a springboard to wins in the GI Malibu S. in December and G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen S. in March. A comfortable winner of the July 8 GII Belmont Sprint Championship S., he could do no better than a head-scratching sixth behind Drefong in the Forego and is also entering the Breeders' Cup off a brief layoff.

'TDN Rising Star' Takaful (Bernardini) also ships in from the East Coast on the heels of a victory over his elders in the GI Vosburgh S. at Big Sandy Sept. 30. The Shadwell homebred's victory represented his first stakes win and a fulfillment of the significant potential he hinted at throughout his young career. **Whitmore** (Pleasantly Perfect) punched his ticket to the World Championships with a win in Keeneland's GII Stoll Kenon Ogden Phoenix S. Oct. 6 and makes his first trip to California for trainer Ron Moquett.

In addition to Drefong, the local contingent is bolstered by the presence of Oct. 7 GI Santa Anita Sprint Championship hero **Roy H** (More Than Ready) and fourth-place finisher **Ransom the Moon** (Malibu Moon). The former has delivered a strong 2017 season, upsetting Belmont's GII True North S. June 9 prior to finishing second behind Ransom the Moon in the GI Bing Crosby S. over the Breeders' Cup Sprint's track and trip July 29. Roy H returned the favor, of course, at Santa Anita last month.

Wild Card...

Imperial Hint (Imperialism) enters the Sprint off five consecutive scores along the eastern seaboard, including wins in the Feb. 18 GIII General George S. at Laurel and the July 1 GIII Smile Sprint S. at Gulfstream. Campaigning for the relatively low-profile Luis Carvajal, Jr. outfit and owner Raymond Mamone, Imperial Hint was last seen flying under the radar with a facile 6 3/4-length romp over three rivals in the Sept. 4 Donald Levine Memorial S. at Parx Racing Sept. 4. He ships westward for the World Championships facing by far the greatest class test of his 12-race career. --Ben Massam

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	Sprint runner	Date
GII Belmont Sprint S.	Mind Your Biscuits	July 8
GI Bing Crosby S.	Ransom the Moon	July 29
GI Forego S.	Drefong	Aug. 26
GI Vosburgh S.	Takaful	Sept. 30
GII Phoenix S.	Whitmore	Oct. 6
GI SA Sprint Championship	Roy H	Oct. 7

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Takaful winning the Vosburgh | Chelsea Durand

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MOON DASH

Juvenile Fillies Turf-G1

GIANT EXPECTATIONS

Dirt Mile-G1

ENCUMBERED

Juvenile Turf-G1

DREFONG

Sprint-G1

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BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE SPRINT



'TDN Rising Star' Unique Bella | Eclipse Sportswire

All eyes will be on the streaking '**TDN Rising Star**' Unique Bella (Tapit) as she seeks to become the first sophomore to win the GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint since its inception in 2007.

Forced to miss the GI Kentucky Oaks with a sore shin after posting four straight jaw-dropping victories (**TDN APB**), the GII Santa Ynez S., GII Las Virgenes S. and GIII Santa Ysabel S.

victress returned to the races in style with a facile win as the 1-5 favorite in the 6 1/2-furlong GIII L.A. Woman S. at Santa Anita Oct. 8.

The Don Alberto Stable colorbearer easily handled subsequent three-time Grade I winner and the GI Breeders' Cup Distaff-bound Abel Tasman (Quality Road) in the Santa Ysabel and also has a 7 1/2-length tally over impressive GI Cotillion S. winner It Tiz Well (Arch) on her resume as well.

Unique Bella's regular partner, Hall of Famer Mike Smith, has won two out of the last three renewals of the Filly & Mare Sprint, guiding home Judy the Beauty in 2014 and **Finest City** in 2016. **Cont. p20**

BREEDERS' CUP FILLY & MARE

SPRINT-GI, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f

PP. Horse	Sire
1. Carina Mia 	Malibu Moon
2. Paulassilverlining	Ghostzapper
3. Curlin's Approval	Curlin
4. Finest City 	City Zip
5. Bar of Gold	Medaglia d'Oro
6. Proper Discretion	Discreetly Mine
7. By the Moon	Indian Charlie
8. Constellation 	Bellamy Road
9. Finley'sluckycharm 	Twirling Candy
10. Highway Star	Girolamo
11. Unique Bella 	Tapit
12. Skye Diamonds	First Dude
13. Princess Karen 	Stay Thirsty
14. Ami's Mesa	Sky Mesa

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

HELL YEAH!

CUPID

Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (GI)

PRINCESS KAREN

Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (GI)

BALLAGH ROCKS

Breeders' Cup Mile (GI)

GOLDY ESPONY

Goldikova S. (GII)

VANMETER GENTRY



GOOD LUCK!

Unique Bella, a \$400,000 KEESEP yearling graduate, is out of the 2010 GI Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic heroine Unrivaled Belle (Unbridled's Song), who brought \$3.8 million from Whisper Hill Farm at the 2016 KEENOV sale. Unrivaled Belle seeks to join a very exclusive club of Breeders' Cup winners to produce Breeders' Cup winners. The group of three includes all-time great Personal Ensign as well as Hollywood Wildcat and My Flag.

Skye Diamonds (First Dude), claimed for just \$40,000 last summer, has done nothing but overachieve since, crossing the line first or second in eight straight starts. Disqualified from a game second-place finish behind Vale Dori (Arg) (Asiatic Boy {Arg}) in the 1 1/16 miles GIII Adoration S. May 7 after testing positive for an excess level of clenbuterol, the California-bred enters off a pair of impressive victories sprinting over last term's GI La Brea S. heroine **Constellation** (Bellamy Road) in the GII Great Lady M S. at Los Al July 8 and the GIII Rancho Bernardo H. at Del Mar Aug. 13. "She just wants to win," said trainer Bill Spawr, who also conditioned 2011 GI Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Amazombie. "Wants to beat you. She overcomes things. And these are good fillies she's running against."

Paulassilverlining (Ghostzapper), a close third behind **Finest City** (City Zip) at 15-1 in this race last year for former trainer Michelle Nevin, had a four-race winning streak snapped when a well-beaten fifth behind **By the Moon** (Indian Charlie) as the slight favorite in Saratoga's GI Ketel One Ballerina S. Aug. 26.

Acquired privately by Juddmonte Farms earlier this year as a future mate for leading GI Breeders' Cup Classic contender and 'TDN Rising Star' Arrogate (Unbridled's Song), Paulassilverlining eked out narrow wins in both the GI Madison S. at Keeneland and GI Humana Distaff S. at Churchill Downs this spring and also won a tight one in Saratoga's GII Honorable Miss H. July 26. Trainer Chad Brown won this race with Wavell Avenue at Keeneland two years ago.

Finest City, beaten just a neck as the 3-2 favorite in the Humana Distaff, was last seen finishing a disappointing third with a wide trip in her Great Lady M title defense. She's posted only one win in five subsequent attempts since her crowning achievement in Arcadia last fall, scoring in the GII Santa Monica S. in January. --Steve Sherack

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	F/M Sprint runner	Date
GII Santa Monica S.	Finest City	Jan. 21
GIII Santa Ysabel S.	Unique Bella	Mar. 4
GI Humana Distaff S.	Paulassilverlining	May 6
GII Honorable Miss H.	Paulassilverlining	July 26
GIII Rancho Bernardo H.	Skye Diamonds	Aug. 13
GI Ballerina S.	By the Moon	Aug. 26
GII TCA S.	Finley'sluckycharm	Oct. 7
GIII L. A. Woman S.	Unique Bella	Oct. 8

First Dude

by Stephen Got Even—Run Sarah Run by Smart Strike

Progeny Earnings
For 2017 More
Than \$3 Million

131 Wins as of 10/31/17

Best of Luck to
Skye Diamonds in
the Breeders' Cup
Filly & Mare Sprint (G1)



Donald R. Disney

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G2 Winner
Skye Diamonds

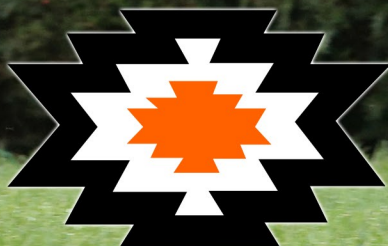
Good Luck to

IRON HORSE RACING LLC, TIM GLYSHAW, &

BUCCHERO

in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint

Bred, Trained & Sold by
SOUTHERN CHASE FARM



Greg and Karen Dodd
southernchase@yahoo.com

BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT

by Joe Bianca

It's almost hard to remember with all the success she's had in Europe, but Stonestreet Stables and Peter Leidel's **'TDN Rising Star' Lady Aurelia** (Scat Daddy) is an American born-and-bred filly, who stamped herself as a promising runner with a debut in the Bluegrass State, and hails from entrenched American interests. Yet, in seven magnificent starts, the bay has only run in her home country twice, neither in a race worth more than \$100,000. Saturday, though, the superstar turf sprinter faces her toughest domestic test as the likely favorite in the \$1-million GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, her initial try in the World Championships.

Debuting to a 7 1/2-length romp last spring at Keeneland to earn her Rising Star nod, the \$350,000 Keeneland September graduate took Royal Ascot by storm with a seven-length destruction of the G2 Queen Mary S. last June. She followed that with a victory over males in the G1 Darley Prix Morny, at about six furlongs, probably a bit beyond her purview. She closed her 2-year-old season with a slightly disappointing third at odds-on in the G1 Connolly's Cheveley Park S. at Newmarket, but has returned as a sophomore better than ever.

Tallying an easy victory on home soil in the Giant's Causeway S. Apr. 15 at Keeneland, she dominated the G1 King's Stand S. against older male rivals back at Ascot June 20, an unheard of accomplishment for an American 3-year-old filly. She was just nipped on the wire when second in the G1 Coolmore Nunthorpe S. Aug. 25 at York, but this much is obvious: Lady Aurelia can compete with any turf sprinter on the planet. Her 134 Timeform Rating for the King's Stand has only been matched or bettered this year by global superstars Arrogate (Unbridled's Song), Winx (Street Cry {Ire}) and Enable (Nathaniel {Ire}).

She is also helped by the Breeders' Cup being run at Del Mar for the first time, as the Turf Sprint will be contested at five furlongs, her ideal distance, for the first time since 2011 after going at the 6 1/2-furlong downhill turf trip in four of the last five renewals. Additionally, she remarkably finds herself in a field without a ton of early speed, which may allow her to have her own way and make her chief rivals try to chase her down.

The one horse to take Lady Aurelia down this term will be back to take another crack. **Marsha (Ire)** (Acclamation {GB}), winner of the G1 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp last fall, had found the favorite too tough when third in the King's Stand, but ran easily



Lady Aurelia (left) taking in the sights at Del Mar under the watchful eye of Wesley Ward (right) | Breeders' Cup/Eclipse Sportswire

her career-best effort in catching her in the shadow of the line at York. She couldn't, however, reproduce that effort when a

well-beaten second trying to defend her title in that Arc Day Group 1 Oct. 1 at Chantilly.

America's arguable two best hopes outside of the big horse are a pair of Patricia Generazio homebreds from the same barn. **Disco**

Partner (Disco Rico) opened eyes when setting a world record for six furlongs on turf in the GIII Jaipur S. June 10 at Belmont. The gray rallied to a

has since scored victories in the Forbidden Apple S. and Belmont Turf Sprint Invitational sandwiched around a fourth-place run in the yielding-turf GI Fourstardave H. going a mile at Saratoga.

Pure Sensation (Zensational) was third in this event last year and earned a field-best Beyer Speed Figure of 110 with a 5 3/4-length destruction of the GIII Parx Dash July 8. The gelding's last two efforts have not measured up to that try, however, as he finished sixth in the Troy H. at Saratoga and scored a more workmanlike half-length tally in the GIII Turf Monster S. last out. He also was not aided by the draw, as he pulled the widest-out 12-hole in a race that figures to bunch up from the start.

BREEDERS' CUP TURF SPRINT-GI,

3yo/up, 5f

PP Horse

Sire

1. Disco Partner

Disco Rico

2. Holding Gold

Lonhro (Aus)

3. Lady Aurelia

Scat Daddy

4. Stormy Liberal

Stormy Atlantic

5. Washington DC (Ire)

Zoffany (Ire)

6. Marsha (Ire)

Acclamation (GB)

7. Richard's Boy

Idiot Proof

8. Cotai Glory (GB)

Exceed And Excel (Aus)

9. Mongolian Saturday

Any Given Saturday

10. Hogsy

Offlee Wild

11. Buccherio

Kantharos

12. Pure Sensation

Zensational

13. Guns Loaded

D'wildcat

14. Paquita Coqueta (Chi)

Scat Daddy

(see Graded Stakes Entries)

half-length win, stopping the clock in a blistering 1:05.67, and

Let's Go to the Videotape ...

Race	Turf Sprint runner	Date
GII Shakertown S.	Holding Gold	Apr. 8
GIII Jaipur S.	Disco Partner	June 10
G1 King's Stand S.	Lady Aurelia	June 20
G1 Coolmore Nunthorpe S.	Marsha (Ire)	Aug. 25
GIII Turf Monster S.	Pure Sensation	Sept. 4
GIII KD Turf Sprint S.	Hogsy	Sept. 9
GII Woodford S.	Buccherio	Oct. 7



Pure Sensation (right) | Chelsea Durand