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NEXT DESERVES A SHOT IN BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC



Next | Sarah Andrew

The Week in Review, by Bill Finley

There will no doubt be a tendency to dismiss **Next** (**Not This Time**) as a novelty act, even after his 25-length romp in Saturday's GIII Greenwood Cup on a sloppy, dreary day at Parx. That comes with the territory when your speciality is marathon-distance races of 12 furlongs or more. But to do so would be a mistake.

While it's true that he does not face the best of competition in these races, Next is obviously a seriously talented race horse. You have to be to win a graded stakes race by 25 lengths--no matter the distance or the level of competition.

Next was claimed for \$62,500 by trainer Doug Cowans out of a seven-furlong race in April of last year, but the story really begins five months later. Cowans was running him on the turf, but stayed in when the Cape Henlopen S. at Delaware Park was rained off the grass and run at 12 furlongs on the dirt. He won by 18 1/4 lengths. Then it was the GII Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance S. at Keeneland, which he won by 6 1/4 lengths. He didn't run his race in his 2023 debut when third in the Isaac Murphy Marathon Overnight S. at Churchill Downs, but has been nothing short of sensational since. He won the GII Brooklyn S. by 2 1/4 lengths and then the Birdstone by 11 3/4. Then he turns the Greenwood Cup into a laugher.

Cont. p3

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE BREEDERS' CUP WITH 40 WINNERS

This year will mark the 40th anniversary of the Breeders' Cup, an annual event also known as the World Thoroughbred Championships. There is no denying the Breeders' Cup has become far more than a year-end championship. It has sculpted our modern sport and left an indelible mark. Whether an equine winner or one of the human connections, having that Breeders' Cup-winning score is more than just a victory; it's a life-long badge of honor and proof one has made it to the highest echelon of the sport.

As a special tribute in celebration of the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN's* Sarah Andrew photographed some of the living legends who earned a Breeders' Cup trophy. In each of the 40 days leading up to the 2023 edition, the *TDN* will share a daily photo by Sarah and an update by Jill Williams. Throughout the series, we will also share features and a video celebrating some of the more than 350 cumulative winners. **Cont. p4**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

MEDALLION SEARCHES FOR THE NEXT PORTA

FORTUNA Medallion Racing's Phillip Shelton, on his first trip to Goffs Orby, explains how Royal Ascot success with Porta Fortuna has made the American-based ownership group hungrier than ever.

CHARGED UP FIRST-YEARLINGS

\$155,000
\$120,000
\$100,000
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Monday, September 25, 2023



This 29-year-old daughter of Summer Squall is believed to be the oldest living Breeders' Cup winner. Who is she? See page 5. | Sarah Andrew

NOBODY LISTENS DIES IN TRAILER ACCIDENT 8

Nobody Listens (Conveyance), who earned his first graded stakes victory in the GIII Turf Monster S. at Parx Saturday, died in a trailer accident Sunday.

HOW DID HE DO THAT FIRST IN OKLAHOMA DERBY 9

How Did He Do That (Good Magic) got his nose in front on the line to win a dramatic photo finish in the GIII Oklahoma Derby.

LADY RADLER ON TOP IN DOGWOOD 10

Longshot Lady Radler (Kantharos) earned the first graded win of her career in the GIII Dogwood S. at Churchill Saturday night.

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Here’s how the Equibase chart caller saw it: “RIDIN WITH BIDEN prompted the winner to midway on the final turn, proved no match then was eased in the final stages costing the place.”

That’s exactly what happened as Ridin With Biden wound up finishing third, beaten a nose by 84-1 shot **My Imagination (Lea)**. The difference between the place and show money was \$19,000. Then, of course there’s all the money that went down the drain in the exactas, where the Next-Ridin With Biden combo was the favorite. The irony is that Lopez is often accused of being too aggressive.

Maybe he thought he had the place position wrapped up, but that’s no excuse. His job was to ride the horse out to the wire and he didn’t. The Parx stewards shouldn’t take this lightly. An appropriate suspension and fine is called for. Send a message.

Turf Paradise’s Demise

It’s sad, but hardly surprising to see that Turf Paradise will not re-open. The sport keeps losing racetracks and now will no longer have a track in another major market. With a population of 1.6 million, Phoenix is the fifth biggest city in the U.S.

But this is also a story of how casino gaming has changed the sport. I don’t know what the bottom line details were at Turf Paradise, but trying to make a racetrack go without help from casino revenue is a battle that few tracks can win. That’s

especially true at a place like Turf Paradise, where the handle is small. And there was nothing on the horizon in Arizona in the way of the track getting help from Historical Horse Racing Machines (HHR) or anything else.

It’s no coincidence that the other track about to close, Golden Gate Fields, was also trying to get by without help from a casino, slots or HHR. The list of places where there is an operating racetrack that gets nothing in the way of casino revenues or a subsidy from the government has dwindled to just a handful. Of all the U.S. tracks racing over the weekend, Los Alamitos was the only one. Even Monmouth, which has been fighting a losing battle against the Atlantic City casinos for decades, gets \$10 million a year from the state to fatten the purse account.

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Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup with 40 Winners *(cont. from p1)*

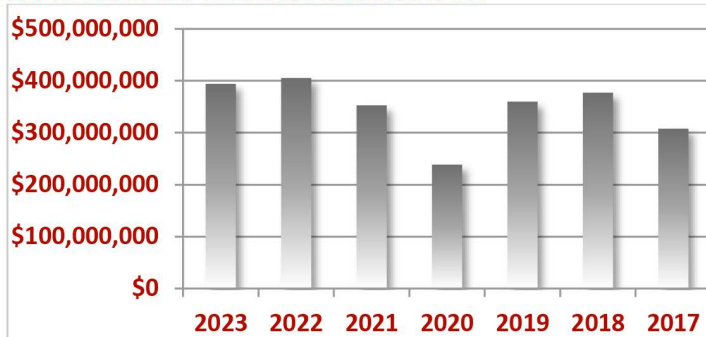
To kick off the series, today we catch up with Storm Song (Summer Squall). The 29-year-old mare, believed to be the oldest living Breeders' Cup winner, is pensioned at Winchester Farm near Lexington, Ky.

The 40th running of the Breeders' Cup will be held Nov. 3 and 4 at Santa Anita.

TDN SALES INDEX

THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

KEENELAND SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE



“Despite swirling uncertainties--both inside the industry and in the wider global economy--the 2023 Keeneland September sale was able to match strides with its powerful 2022 renewal. The 12-day auction recorded its highest-ever average and, with the addition of post-sale transactions, had a gross over \$400 million for just the second time in its history.”

- Jessica Martini

YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	% W/D	% S/R	% S/C	GROSS	AVE
2023	4215	3452	2754	18.1%	79.8%	65.3%	\$394,127,900	\$143,111
2022	4153	3482	2847	16.2%	81.8%	68.6%	\$405,495,700	\$142,429
2021	4032	3299	2672	18.2%	81.0%	66.3%	\$352,823,000	\$132,045
2020	4272	3318	2346	22.3%	70.7%	54.9%	\$238,543,300	\$101,463
2019	4644	3766	2855	19.0%	75.8%	61.4%	\$360,004,700	\$126,096
2018	4538	3820	2916	15.2%	76.3%	64.2%	\$377,140,400	\$129,335
2017	4139	3416	2555	17.5%	74.8%	61.7%	\$307,845,400	\$120,487

STORM SONG, THE OLDEST LIVING BREEDERS' CUP WINNER


*Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup with Living Legends
Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams*

Some moments last a lifetime. Breeders' Cup wins are like that. They affect everyone associated with the horse, from owners whose silks the horse sports in the race to breeders to consignors to grooms to farriers and so many others. They even touch those many years down the road, such as those who care for the winner more than a quarter century removed from that magical winner's circle and those signature purple and gold flowers. It is, without a doubt, a privilege to have any association at all with a Breeders' Cup winner.

Dr. Naoya Yoshida of Winchester Farm embraces that honor. He has charge of 1996 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies winner Storm Song, believed to be the Breeders' Cup's oldest living winner. The 29-year-old mare has been at his Winchester Farm near Lexington since Dr. Aaron Sones purchased her in 2009.

"We were quite excited to welcome her to our farm," said Yoshida. "Of course we feel pretty privileged to have these kind of mares."


WATCH STORM SONG'S 1996 JUVENILE FILLIES WIN




40


YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

The rich heritage of the Breeders' Cup is woven into horse racing's history. Thirty-nine years and more than 360 champions later, the world-class festival of racing has transcended the sport itself.





JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE
40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4





To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 1996 Juvenile Fillies winner Storm Song, believed to be the oldest living Breeders' Cup winner. | Sarah Andrew

Yoshida is a veterinarian and fourth-generation horseman whose family ties to the Thoroughbred industry date back 125 years to his great-grandfather, who bred horses in the U.S. and Europe.

“It’s amazing when we work in the Thoroughbred industry, we have this history. I remembered this mare when she was sold at Keeneland November as broodmare prospect [in 1997]. I was training at Hagyard and saw her and never thought I would take care of her in the future. After that I saw her name with a breeding to Dubai Millennium (GB). I used to work for Sheikh Mohammed and saw him try to buy those mares. And the next time I saw her name, she came here [to Winchester Farm]. I feel like it was destiny.”

Now pensioned after producing six foals during her tenure at Winchester, Storm Song was campaigned by pioneering racing syndicate Dogwood Stable. Dogwood’s Cot Campbell, who was a master at finding horses that might have slipped just a little bit

through the cracks, bought Storm Song from Lane’s End’s Book 1 consignment at Keeneland September for \$100,000 in 1995. She turned out to be one of the brightest stars to carry the distinctive Dogwood Stable colors, behind her own sire,

Dogwood’s GI Preakness S. winner Summer Squall. Dogwood had Storm Song for just over two years, selling her as a broodmare prospect at the 1997 Keeneland November sale for \$1.4 million to J. S. Carrion. Sandwiched between those two times the filly went through the ring were umpteen thrills for Dogwood partners.

“It was the greatest thrill you can imagine when she won that race [the Breeders’ Cup],” said Anne Campbell, co-owner of Storm Song with her late

husband, Dogwood founder Cot. “We were particularly thrilled because she was by our wonderful racehorse, Summer Squall, who of course won the Preakness in 1990, so it was just one of the thrills of our lifetime.



Winchester’s Dr. Naoya Yoshida with Storm Song | Sarah Andrew

Another
MAGIC G1

ALLIGATOR BLOOD
All Too Hard-Lake Superior

MRC UNDERWOOD STAKES G1
\$55,000 2018 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale
Earnings: \$6,875,925

Breeder: Mr G Harvey | Vendor: Baramul Stud
Buyer: Ezybonds No 1 Syndicate
Owners: G Harvey, Mrs R Simpson & J A Simpson
Trainers: Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott

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MAGIC MILLIONS

“Ironically, Cot woke up about three in the morning [of the race] with vertigo, just sick as a dog. I don't think he felt very well at all during the day, but he forgot about that [when she won]. I remember thinking the paddock in Toronto at Woodbine was so incredibly lovely and classy. The people, the demeanor, just the atmosphere of the whole place. It was a wonderful experience and we were overjoyed that she was clearly going to win before she got to the finish line.”



Yoshida with Storm Song | Sarah Andrew

The year that Storm Song got her Breeders' Cup title was, perhaps, a simpler time. The Breeders' Cup was in only its 13th year in 1996, was being held at Woodbine--the first and only time it was hosted outside of U.S. borders--and was still in its original seven-race, one-day format. The Juvenile Fillies was the first Breeders' Cup race on the card that October day with the looming presence of Cigar's final career start in the Classic just under four hours away.

The 8-5 Juvenile Fillies favorite off a four-length romp in the GI Frizette S. just 20 days prior, Storm Song waited midpack in the Juvenile Fillies, tipped out on the turn, and mowed down her Nick Zito stablemate Love That Jazz (Dixieland Band) to glide clear by 4 1/2 lengths with her ears pricked. Even the Equibase chart called it a “perfect trip.” Storm Song was a no-brainer to be named that year's Eclipse champion 2-year-old filly off the merits of her two Grade I wins, with an extra score in the GI Adirondack S. for good measure. Despite placings at three in both the GI Kentucky Oaks and GI Ashland S., Storm Song never won again and retired after finishing unplaced in the GI Acorn S. at the end of May in 1997. Less than six months later, she was purchased by Carrion.

“We were practical about selling horses when the time came for us to sell them because we weren't in the breeding business,” said Campbell.

Another

MAGIC G1

MILITARIZE

Dundeel-Amerindia

ATC GOLDEN ROSE STAKES G1

\$550,000 2022 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale
Breeder: GSA Bloodstock Pty Ltd | Vendor: Bhima Thoroughbreds (As Agent)
Buyer: China Horse Club/Newgate B'stock/Trilogy Racing | Earnings: \$1,716,950
Owners: Newgate Bloodstock, China Horse Club Racing Pty Ltd, Trilogy, Newgate S F, Horse Ventures, Go Bloodstock Australia, Starlight Racing, Grant Bloodstock Pty Ltd, Carpe Diem, Aston Bloodstock, Nick Vass Bloodstock, GIG Colts & Breeding Pty Ltd & Aristia Park Bloodstock Pty Ltd
Trainer: Chris Waller

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Campbell continued, “It wasn’t our thing. We never looked back, we were always glad and so grateful for those horses for what they did. It’s a business, so you can’t be too sentimental, but you can still love them.”

Storm Song’s first foal, Another Storm (Gone West), fetched \$1 million as a Keeneland September yearling and would go on to produce European champion Order of St George (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), as well as GSWs Angel Terrace (**Ghostzapper**) and Asperity (War Chant). As one of the mares selected for what would be the single and abbreviated book of the brilliant Dubai Millennium, Storm Song was eventually purchased privately by Darley and traveled a good deal during her broodmare career, making three separate trips to Great Britain and even a sojourn to Japan, where she produced her Dubai Millennium daughter before being sent back to Kentucky with a Sunday Silence filly in utero.

She sold again in 2009 to Sones at Keeneland November for \$100,000, which is where Yoshida enters her story. Storm Song produced six foals for Sones, including 2016 GI Wood Memorial S. runner-up Trojan Nation (Street Cry {Ire}). Her last foal is the now-5-year-old My Favorite Uncle (**Uncle Mo**), whose most recent race was a second-place finish at Belterra Park Sept. 20 for Joshua Galindo and trainer Climaco Galindo-Torres. Yoshida raised each of those six.

“She produced good-looking foals,” said Yoshida. “She was a good teacher to me and the farm crew, to see what a good-quality horse is. She’s also proven as a broodmare herself.

“She is easy to handle, however, she has kind of a strong personality. She has the dignity of a Grade I-level mare. She’s not difficult, but uses her strong personality to show us what she wants to do.”



Storm Song flanked by My Trusty Cat to her left and Plaisir des Yeux to her right | Sarah Andrew

Yoshida keeps Storm Song turned out with 2005 GI Humana Distaff H. winner My Trusty Cat (Tale of the Cat) and 1997 G1 Prix Marcel Boussac-placed Plaisir des Yeux (Fr) (Funambule). The trio are enjoying pensioned life together.

“We keep them in a big field by a creek and forest to keep them calmed down. They gallop so hard, considering their age. We pay very good attention to their feet and change their feeding program if necessary because of cold or hot weather, but these mares are in very good shape. They really don’t need special care.”

Storm Song (1994 bay mare, Summer Squall--Hum Along, by Fappiano)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo filly, MGISW, 12-4-1-2, \$1,020,050

Breeders’ Cup connections: B-W. S. Farish and O. M. Phipps; O-Dogwood Stable; T-Nicholas Zito; J-Craig Perret.

Current owner and location: Dr. Aaron Sones; Winchester Farm, Lexington, Ky.

Yoshida was asked about the first words that come to his mind when he thinks of his Breeder’s Cup-winning charge.

“Sophistication. She has a very beautiful eye and face and good conformation. Balance. Dr. Sones still keeps a few daughters of Storm Song, so the story of Storm Song is still going. Hopefully we can give more exciting news from this family.”

[Share this story](#)

NOBODY LISTENS DIES IN TRAILER ACCIDENT

Nobody Listens (Conveyance), the 5-year-old gelding who earned his first graded stakes victory in the GIII Turf Monster S. at Parx Saturday, died in a trailer accident Sunday, according to a Facebook post from co-owner Mike Kwiatowski.

“Yesterday was one of the greatest days when Nobody Listens won the GIII Turf Monster at Parx,” Kwiatowski wrote. “Today was one of the worst. Nobody Listens had an unforeseen and unpreventable trailer incident resulting in us losing him. We love and cherish every moment that we shared with him.

“The ride Nobody Listens took us on was the greatest one we have ever been on. Our hearts are broken as we share this tragic news. Thank you to all who supported and helped make him who he was.”

Trained by Tim Eggleston, Nobody Listens was winning his fourth straight race in Saturday’s Turf Monster. He also won the Brickyard H. at Horseshoe Indianapolis and the Parx Dash. A five-time stakes winner, he hit the board in 22 of 26 starts with 14 wins and earnings of \$251,361.

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Tuesday, September 26, 2023



Breeders' Cup 40. This half-sister to MGSW Bizzy Caroline won the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf in her third start. Who is she? See page 9. | Sarah Andrew

USHBA TESORO PREPS FOR BREEDERS' CUP

6

Ushba Tesoro (Orfevre)'s, winner of this spring's G1 Dubai World Cup, will mark his return to the races in Wednesday's Listed Nippon TV Hai at Funabashi as he prepares for the Breeders' Cup Classic.

F-T CALIFORNIA SALE AT FAIRPLEX TUESDAY

7

The single-session Fasig-Tipton California Fall Yearlings and Horses of Racing Age Sale will be held at the Fairplex Sales Pavilion near Pomona Tuesday.

KEYSTONE INTEGRITY TEAMS SWEEP TRACKS

10

Integrity teams conducted searches and seizures last week across a pair of Keystone State racetracks.



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2014 JUVENILE FILLIES TURF WINNER LADY ELI

Lady Eli (2012 dark bay or brown mare, Divine Park--Sacre Coeur, by Saint Ballado)

Lifetime record: Ch. turf female, MGISW, 14-10-3-0, \$2,959,800

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Runnymede Farm Inc. & Catesby W. Clay; O-Sheep Pond Partners; T-Chad Brown; J-Irad Ortiz, Jr.

Current location: Coolmore America/Ashford Stud, Versailles, Ky

Lady Eli had a sensational career that got rolling with a Breeders' Cup win at two and culminated with an Eclipse for champion turf female at five. In between, she fought a life-threatening battle with laminitis and captured the hearts of racing fans. She delivered her third foal, an Into Mischief colt, Mar. 6 at Coolmore America and was bred back to **Justify**.

"The Breeders' Cup is the ultimate race test of champions to define and prove yourself against the ultimate competition," said Hill 'n' Dale's John Sikura, who now owns Lady Eli in partnership with Coolmore. "That's what everybody dreams of; to win a Breeders' Cup race certainly defines you as a world-class racehorse. As someone who is in the breeding business, presenting a foal from the best racemare is a unique achievement as far as the quality of the dam. There's only one Breeders' Cup winner in each race each year, so Lady Eli is the

WATCH LADY ELI'S 2014 JUVENILE FILLIES TURF WIN



40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

The rich heritage of the Breeders' Cup is woven into horse racing's history. Thirty-nine years and more than 360 champions later, the world-class festival of racing has transcended the sport itself.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4



epitome of class." --Jill Williams



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2014 Juvenile Fillies Turf winner Lady Eli, now a broodmare at Coolmore. | Sarah Andrew

2017-18 TURF SPRINT WINNER STORMY LIBERAL

Stormy Liberal (2012 bay gelding, Stormy Atlantic--Vassar, by Royal Academy)

Lifetime record: Ch. turf male, MGISW-U.S., MG1SP-UAE, 37-12-10-4, \$2,212,580

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Dapple Bloodstock & Gryphon Investments LLC (KY); O-Rockingham Ranch (2017)/Rockingham Ranch & David A. Bernsen LLC (2018); T-Peter Miller; J-Joel Rosario (2017)/Drayden Van Dyke (2018).

Current location: Old Friends, Georgetown, Ky.

Stormy Liberal is one of a select number of Breeders' Cup winners to repeat the feat. Always dead game, the former claimer's final half-dozen career victories had connections and fans regularly holding their collective breaths as his biggest margin was just a neck. The tough and classy veteran raced on three continents, earned an Eclipse as champion turf male in 2018, and retired to Old Friends after his 2019 season.

"When owner David Bernsen retired Stormy to us, I was thrilled," said Michael Blowen, president of Old Friends. "The two-time Breeders' Cup winner arrived with a fan following and his owner's love. And earned the respect of everyone at Old Friends who adore him and his best friend, Patch." --*Jill Williams*

WATCH STORMY LIBERAL'S 2018 TURF SPRINT WIN



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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2017 and 2018 Turf Sprint winner Stormy Liberal (right), playing with paddockmate Patch. | *Sarah Andrew*

CATCHING UP WITH 2021 BREEDERS' CUP DIRT MILE WINNER LIFE IS GOOD

Life Is Good (2018 bay horse, Into Mischief--Beach Walk, by Distorted Humor)

Lifetime record: MGISW, 12-9-1-0, \$4,541,700

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Gary and Mary West Stable, Inc.; O-CHC Inc. and WinStar Farm LLC; T-Todd Pletcher; J-Irad Ortiz, Jr.

Current location: WinStar Farm, Versailles, Ky.

When **Life Is Good** was good, he was really, *really* good. A sight to behold in full flight, the 2021 Dirt Mile winner inspired breeders to send him a first book containing 25 Grade I winners and/or producers, as well as 70 graded winners and/or producers. **Life Is Good's** first foals will arrive in 2024.

"We are extremely excited for **Life Is Good's** foals coming next year," said Elliott Walden, WinStar Farm's president/CEO and racing manager. "We have never had a stallion that was so well received." --*Jill Williams*

WATCH LIFE IS GOOD'S 2021 DIRT MILE WIN

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2022 CLASSIC WINNER FLIGHTLINE

Flightline (2018 bay horse, **Tapit**--Feathered, by Indian Charlie)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year, Ch. older male, MGISW, 6-6-0-0, \$4,514,800

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Summer Wind Equine (KY); O-Hronis Racing LLC, Siena Farm LLC, Summer Wind Equine LLC, West Point Thoroughbreds, & Woodford Racing, LLC; T-John Sadler; J-Flavien Prat.


Current location: Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Ky.

By all accounts, the undefeated GI Breeders' Cup Classic winner **Flightline** was truly a once-in-a-generation horse. Like the legendary A.P. Indy, his great-grandsire who also stood at Lane's End, **Flightline** was a seven-figure yearling fashioned into a Horse of the Year, but it was the way he made very good horses look like ordinary mortals that cemented his acclaim.

Flightline completed his first season at stud this year; will he also follow in A.P. Indy's footsteps and become a breed-shaping sire?

"Flightline had an excellent start at stud, covering 152 mares including more than 50 Grade I mares or Grade I producers," said Lane's End Farm's Bill Farish. "There's obviously a huge amount of excitement about his first foals, we can't wait to see them." --*Jill Williams*


WATCH FLIGHTLINE'S 2022 CLASSIC WIN




40


YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

The rich heritage of the Breeders' Cup is woven into horse racing's history. Thirty-nine years and more than 360 champions later, the world-class festival of racing has transcended the sport itself.





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40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4





To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2022 Classic winner **Flightline**, now a stallion at Lane's End. | *Sarah Andrew*



BEHOLDER AND SONGBIRD, INEXTRICABLY LINKED AFTER THE 2016 DISTAFF



Beholder and Songbird | Sarah Andrew

*Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup with Living Legends
Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams*

Each race--particularly a Breeders' Cup win--is special to the connections of the winner, but some races stand out more than others in all who are lucky enough to witness them. Some get embedded in the mind and take up permanent residence there. Just about everyone in racing can recall in vivid detail Arazi's scintillating 1991 Juvenile or Personal Ensign's electrifying 1988 Distaff or Tiznow's gripping 2001 Classic. Each of those are among the transcendent performances in our sport that stir the soul, both for those who witnessed them in person or live on television and even in newer racing devotees who discover them for the first time. **Cont. Pg. 3**

RICE HIT WITH BUTE FINE, SUSPENSION; LODGES APPEAL JUST BEFORE NYSGC TO RULE ON 'IMPROPER PRACTICES'

by T.D. Thornton

Trainer Linda Rice has been suspended 14 days and fined \$2,000 by the New York State Gaming Commission after a filly under her care returned a positive test for the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug phenylbutazone following a 9 1/2-length win as the 4-5 favorite at Aqueduct Racetrack more than eight months ago.

Rice has appealed the Sept. 28 ruling, so she has been granted a stay of those penalties pending a final resolution.

The NYSGC also made it public on Friday that Rice will be appearing before the commission for a separate matter when the board conducts its monthly meeting this coming Tuesday.

Rice's name appears on the just-released agenda for the Oct. 3 meeting for an adjudication of her "improper practices" case that has persisted at the commission level and in the New York courts for more than two years.

In 2021, the NYSGC fined Rice \$50,000 and revoked her license for three years after investigating claims that Rice received favorable treatment from the New York Racing Association and that the racing office was releasing to her the names and past performances of horses that had already been entered in races, giving her an unfair advantage. **Cont. Pg. 10**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

VANDEEK FAVOURED IN MIDDLE PARK

Group 1 winner **Vandeeek (GB)** (Havana Grey [GB]) is trying to double that tally in the G1 Juddmonte Middle Park S. at Newmarket on Saturday. Arc weekend also begins at ParisLongchamp. Tom Frary has the preview.



Eclipse Award winning Champion 3YO by NOT THIS TIME

Winner of the **Travers S.-Gr.1** at Saratoga by 5¼ lengths.

Triple **Gr.2** winner and runner-up in both the **Kentucky Derby-Gr.1** and **Preakness S.-Gr.1**.

Stakes-winning 2YO by 6½ lengths.

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In Memoriam: Ben Massam (1988-2019)

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Saturday, September 30, 2023



Songbird with her 2023 Curlin filly at Gainesway. | Sarah K. Andrew

LOPEZ SUSPENDED 30 DAYS FOR GREENWOOD CUP RIDE

14

In ruling, the stewards wrote that the suspension was "for failure to give his best effort and failure to use the proper diligence in Race 7 on September 23, 2023 while astride the horse Ridin With Biden..."

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES



ET

4:58p

Race

Ack Ack S.-GIII, CD

5:29p

Lukas Classic S.-GII, CD

6:37p

SA Sprint Championship S.-GII, SA

7:41p

Awesome Again S.-GI, SA

8:13p

Eddie D S.-GII, SA

8:45p

City of Hope Mile S.-GII, SA

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Songbird/Beholder Cont. From Pg. 1

Without a doubt, the 2016 GI Breeders' Cup Distaff ranks among the best races in Breeders' Cup history. Two already-beloved Breeders' Cup winners and future Hall of Famers locked horns in what would prove a race for the ages, only to finish millimeters apart at the wire.

To jog the memory, that year's Distaff was the last Breeders' Cup race on Friday's card at Santa Anita and the final race of Beholder's stellar career. The Spendthrift colorbearer was already a three-time Eclipse champion, a 10-time Grade I winner, and a dual Breeders' Cup winner. However, after three straight runner-up finishes and certainly in the twilight of her career at the age of six, there were whispers that perhaps the great mare's best days were behind her.

"I was really nervous about it going in because I wasn't quite sure she was the same Beholder as a 6-year-old as she had been her 5-year-old year," said Ned Toffey, general manager at Spendthrift. "I remember the next day wondering why my hands were sore and it was because I was pounding on the box, pounding on the wall as they were coming down the stretch, cheering her home."



Beholder at Spendthrift | Sarah Andrew

For her part, the Fox Hill-owned Songbird was no slouch either as an undefeated 3-year-old filly. Her previous 11 starts--and wins--included seven Grade I victories and the last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, as well as an Eclipse championship of her own. The question facing her was how she would handle older mares for the first time, especially one as tough as Beholder.

"With her first Breeders' Cup, I don't think we've ever had a horse we were as confident in," said Victoria Keith, Fox Hill Farm's vice president at the time. "You get really, really spoiled by a horse of her caliber. With [Fox Hill's] Havre de Grace and **Hard Spun**, you knew they were going to give a good effort, but with Songbird, you got the idea she was invincible." **Cont.**

GIRVIN



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takes the GI Gallant Bob S.
on 9/23

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Source: TDN Sire Lists

Beholder (2010 bay mare, Henny Hughes--Leslie's Lady, by Tricky Creek)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo filly, Ch. 3yo filly, Ch. older mare (twice), MGISW, 26-18-6-0, \$6,156,600

2016 Breeders' Cup connections: B-Clarkland Farm (KY); O-Spendthrift Farm LLC; T-Richard Mandella; J-Gary Stevens.

Current owner and location: Spendthrift Farm, Lexington, Ky.

"This race was the toughest competition. When you're going to be meeting up with Beholder..." Keith trailed off. "I always feel when two great horses meet each other, the [older horse] is going to have the physical advantage even with a weight allowance. The fact that Songbird ran so well was something to be so proud of."

It was exactly the type of showdown we all crave and that so rarely comes to fruition. Both were clearly at their best that day. Of course, there were a number of other top fillies and mares in that year's Distaff, but they were all running for third.

In a stretch run reminiscent of Sunday Silence and Easy Goer in the 1989 Preakness or Affirmed and Alydar in the 1978 Belmont, Songbird and Beholder exited that final bend together and threw it all down. Nose to nose for stride after pulsating stride, neither deserved to lose.

"We had a bad angle on the wire and it looked to me like Songbird had gotten her nose down on the wire," said Toffey. "It was a great race. Two champions, two gutsy, courageous mares. Those are the kind we're all looking for."

Keith had the same thoughts. "We all stood there and thought Songbird had won. From our angle it certainly looked like she'd nosed out Beholder. We were so proud to be part of that race, one that is considered to be one of the best Breeders' Cup races ever."



Songbird at Gainesway | Sarah Andrew

Sires OBS Yearlings

**Audible
Bernardini
Bolt d'Oro
Bucchero
Candy Ride (ARG)
Catalina Cruiser
City of Light
Complexity
Curlin's Honor
Game Winner
Girvin
Global Campaign
Good Magic
Gunnera
Hard Spun
Honest Mischief
Improbable
Instagrand
Instilled Regard
Kantharos
Khozan
Maximum Security
McKinzie
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Munnings
Not This Time
Nyquist
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Practical Joke
Quality Road
Tiz the Law
Union Rags
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Vino Rosso
Volatile
War of Will**



OCTOBER 10 - 11 10:00 am
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Songbird (2013 dark bay or brown mare, **Medaglia d'Oro**--Ivanavinalot, by West Acre)
Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo filly, Ch. 3yo filly, MGISW, 15-13-2-0, \$4,692,000
2016 Breeders' Cup connections: B-John Antonelli (KY); O-Fox Hill Farms, Inc.; T-Jerry Hollendorfer; J-Mike Smith.
Current owner and location: Whisper Hill Farm, LLC; Gainesway Farm, Lexington, Ky.


In the end, the photo showed Beholder's nostrils just a hair breadth in front at the wire, but the bob could just as easily have gone to Songbird. Both had given their best, neither had disappointed, and the two have been inextricably linked since.

"We were waiting for [the photo] and when it came down, I remember the look on [Fox Hill owner] Rick [Porter]'s face," said Keith. "At first, we were so disappointed, so sure it was us, and then so proud that the disappointment didn't last long."

The Spendthrift team had the opposite experience, initially believing they'd lost the photo and then realizing they'd won the epic battle.


"Our group was ecstatic. Just jubilation," said Toffey. "We all knew going in that it was going to be Beholder's last start."

WATCH BEHOLDERS'S 2016 DISTAFF WIN





40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2016 Distaff winner Beholder. | Sarah Andrew

“At six, it was time to be retired and be bred,” continued Toffey. “It was funny because there wasn't a sense of pressure because she'd had such a remarkable career already, having won a Grade I at two, three, four, five, and six. It was, in some ways, an unprecedented career.

“Songbird was a worthy adversary and she certainly didn't disappoint. It was a really, really fitting way for Beholder to wrap up one of the greatest careers we've seen, a great and fitting way to cap her career.”

Both Beholder and Songbird earned year-end championships in their respective divisions. Beholder became only the second horse in history to win three Breeders' Cup races.

Despite officially losing what would become a match race, Songbird inspired enduring respect and a legion of hashtags on social media claiming #SongbirdWon.

Both owners of the two champions have since passed away: Fox Hill's Rick Porter in June, 2021 and Spendthrift's B. Wayne Hughes two months later.

“Probably one of my favorite memories is that Rick and Mr. Hughes became friends,” reminisced Keith. “One time [Hughes] invited us to his house to show us his guest bathroom downstairs with custom wallpaper of Songbird and Beholder.”

WATCH SONGBIRD'S 2015 JUVENILE FILLIES WIN



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“Obviously for him to do something like that showed how equally proud he was. Those two gentlemen were two of the finer men in racing. Both were so proud to be part of that race and those two fillies. That's what is so special about it to me.”

Both mares have continued to make headlines. Beholder was retired after the Distaff to Spendthrift Farm.

“It was huge for us to bring her home,” said Toffey. “There are obviously plenty of nice mares on the farm, plenty of nice horses, but when you have a horse like that get off the van, there's a little added sense of pressure to the task of getting her let down safely and settled into farm life, plus to go on and get her bred, all those things.

“[Trainer Richard] Mandella did such a great job taking care of her at the track. It was very gratifying for her to come home and to hope she was going to come in and have a good, long career. A horse like that sort of picks everybody's head up on the farm.

There's a sense of pride, something really special about it, how it lifts everyone's morale.”

Each foal has been eagerly anticipated, with the farm willingly sharing updates with the public. Beholder's first two foals did not live up to her lofty standards at the track, but her next three have each made headlines in 2023. There is a sense that she is just getting started as a producer despite a slower start.

Her first foal, Q B One (**Uncle Mo**), did not win at the racetrack. He is now a 5-year-old and has been gelded.

“He is a young lady's show horse,” said Toffey. “He has a great, great home, goes to horse shows regularly. He was not an

easy horse. If he had almost any other pedigree, he would have been gelded sooner as he was a little bit of a rogue. He had a hard time concentrating on doing his job, so it was hard to get an assessment of his talent level, but he didn't show a lot of focus.”



Beholder with Spendthrift's Kendall Wucker | Sarah Andrew



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Karin With an I (**Curlin**), Beholder's 4-year-old, was unplaced in two starts.

"She is back here at Spendthrift," said Toffey. "She's a beautiful filly, very strong, marked sort of similarly to Beholder. For whatever reason, she didn't demonstrate a lot of talent. She is in foal to [Spendthrift's Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup Classic winner] Authentic.

"The mating was always interesting. We were waiting to do it for a generation or so because there's some thought of inbreeding to superior females. The foal will be 3x3 to Leslie's Lady. We're excited about the potential there."

Leslie's Lady, of course, was the Broodmare of the Year who produced both Beholder and Into Mischief, Spendthrift's record-breaking four-time leading sire.

Beholder's current 3-year-old filly, Teena Ella (**War Front**), became her first winner in February and then went one better by capturing the GIII Seniorita S. in May. Toffey said she is the



Beholder | Sarah Andrew

least impressive physically of Beholder's foals to date, as she is "somewhat short and compact, but definitely had a little bit of zip to her." He said she was just starting to come into her own, but had some niggling issues and will be retired and bred this coming year.

A graded winner is a wonderful accomplishment for any broodmare, but Beholder is not just any mare. In hindsight, she was just warming up with Teena Ella. Her 2-year-old filly has since become the undefeated 'TDN Rising Star' and facile GI Del Mar Debutante S. winner Tamara (Bolt d'Oro), who has given flashbacks of her brilliant dam. Tamara is targeting the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, which Beholder won 11 years

ago. And then, of course, there's Beholder's yearling colt by **Curlin**, who topped August's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale when realizing \$4 million from agent Donato Lanni on behalf of Zedan Racing.

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Beholder was barren to the cover of **Gun Runner** this year. She is in foal to Jackie's Warrior for 2024.

“There was a time when Mr. Hughes thought about selling Beholder,” said Toffey. “It was early in her career, but she developed a fever which kept us from shipping her to Fasig-Tipton. That may have been some of the best luck we've ever had. Mr. Hughes had a saying, 'This is the damnedest business, because at the time when you have luck, you don't even know for a couple of years whether it's good luck or bad luck.' How fortunate that led us to keep her. After her win [over males in the 2015 GI] Pacific Classic, there was no selling her. Some of the best luck.

“There is something really special about Beholder,” continued Toffey. “She's only a little bit bigger than average. She's a good, strong filly, not huge, but now on the farm she's grown and developed and is that much bigger. She has a tremendous presence about her that you would get a sense of even if you didn't know who she was. She sort of knows that she's special. There's a presence and a substance to her that really strands out.”

Songbird had a slightly different journey than her biggest rival after the 2016 Distaff. She briefly raced the next summer, adding two more Grade I wins to her extensive CV, then topped Fasig-Tipton's November Sale as a \$9.5-million broodmare prospect when Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm LLC won the bidding war.



Songbird | Sarah Andrew

“While it was hard [to say goodbye to Songbird], Rick was never really into breeding,” said Keith. “He had tried his hand at it a little bit earlier and thought about buying a farm in Lexington, but it didn't pan out and he didn't really want to board them elsewhere. Rick loved the horses but was also very disciplined. For him that meant there was a certain amount of money he'd spend at auction and from that crop there would be

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a very small percentage that would pay for the rest, not on the track, but in selling. That enabled him to keep in the black by having that discipline.

“He had to be able to sell the valuable breeding prospects. The good thing is that he was at the level in racing that you know the person who is going to buy the horse is going to be a good owner, and give certainly as good a home as we'd ever give the horse. It was exciting for him to see his horses do well in every area. The businessman in him was very disciplined in that.”

Like Beholder, Songbird did not immediately find success with her first foals, but each foal brings renewed promise and hope. Also like Beholder, she too sent her first yearling to the sales this year. Songbird's **Curlin** colt was a \$1-million Book 1 purchase by Grandview Equine at the Keeneland September Sale.

Songbird's initial foal, the unraced Arrogate filly Song Gate, produced her first foal, a filly by **Tapit**, this year. Songbird's 3-year-old filly, Magical Song (**Tapit**), last raced at Saratoga Aug. 18 for trainer Todd Pletcher but has not yet found the winner's circle. She also has an unraced 2-year-old filly by **Tapit**, as well as that seven-figure Keeneland yearling. Songbird produced another **Curlin** foal, a filly this time, May 1 and has been bred back to **Gun Runner**.

“I've watched her from afar,” said Keith. “She was such a sweetheart, it's sort of unbelievable to me how sweet she was [and yet such a competitor]. The most you can hope for in racing is that you've been blessed enough to own a horse like that.

“Rick was very blessed and I got to ride along on the coattails. I got to live vicariously. It was so fun, a very special journey. I wish everyone in horse racing could experience it.”

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Linda Rice Cont. From Pg. 1

It was further alleged that Rice had paid racing officials in exchange for the information, a charge she denied. She did, however, admit to routinely giving members of the racing department, as well as the gate crew, Christmas presents.

On June 8, 2023, the **New York Supreme Court Appellate Division** ruled that the three-year banishment imposed by the NYSGC was "entirely unwarranted."

But that same court also upheld the commission's determination that the "improper practices" rule had been violated, and ordered the matter back to the NYSGC to reassess the penalty "with the constraint that any reassessed penalty cannot contain a license revocation."

Rice's Jan. 21, 2023, bute penalty was triggered by **Afleet Arlene** (Afleet Alex), who is owned by Winning Move Stable and has been unraced since that victory. A disqualification from the win and a purse redistribution from the \$16,000 claimer (\$15,400 winning purse) was mandated by the under-appeal ruling.



Linda Rice | Sarah Andrew

The ruling stated that the bute finding was "in excess of the quantitative threshold" of 0.3 mcg/ml in plasma.

The relatively long time that the NYSGC's drug-test findings linger behind the scenes prior to a ruling being issued has been an issue of concern in 2023, with some cases still resurfacing even after the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act Authority took over as the sport's nationwide testing entity back on May 22.

Back on May 11, trainer Todd Pletcher was fined \$1,000 and suspended 10 days after tests revealed that his trainee **Forte (Violence)** tested positive for meloxicam following a win in the GI Hopeful S. on Sept. 5, 2022, at Saratoga Race Course.

Cont.

2013-14 DIRT MILE WINNER GOLDENCENTS

Goldencents (2010 bay horse, Into Mischief--Golden Works, by Banker's Gold)

Lifetime record: MGISW, 18-7-7-0, \$3,044,000

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Rosecrest Farm and Karyn Pirrello (KY); O-W. C. Racing, Dave Kenney, and RAP Racing (2013)/W.C. Racing, Inc. (2014); T-Doug O'Neill (2013)/Leandro Mora (2014); J-Rafael Bejarano.

Current location: Spendthrift Farm, Lexington, Ky.

The only two-time winner of the Dirt Mile to date, Goldencents had gameness written all over him. The Equibase chart for his second Breeders' Cup win summed up much of his career: "gunned hard," "met the oncoming challenge," and "dug in tenaciously."

"Goldencents was a special horse for us because he is the first horse that really began to put Into Mischief on the map," said Ned Toffey, general manager of Spendthrift Farm. "He and [MGSW & MGISP] Vyjack came out of Into Mischief's first crop. Obviously he went on to be a Breeders' Cup Dirt mile winner, the second win of which was in incredible fashion. He really began to elevate Into Mischief into the status of being a truly



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2013 and 2014 Dirt Mile winner Goldencents, now a stallion at Spendthrift. | Sarah Andrew

elite sire, and then he came to stud, had success, and began to set the stage for Into Mischief to become a sire of sires. He has really meant a lot to Into Mischief's career and to Spendthrift.”

--Jill Williams

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Saturday, Churchill Downs

LUKAS CLASSIC S.-GII, \$438,660, Churchill Downs, 9-30, 3yo/up, 1 1/8m, 1:48.79, ft.

1--**CLAPTON, 123, c, 4, by Brethren**

**1st Dam: Alexandra Rylee (SW, \$111,320),
by Afleet Alex**

2nd Dam: Sira, by Capote

3rd Dam: Sigrun, by Crafty Prospector

O-RRR Racing; B-Arindel (FL); T-Chad Summers; J-Cristian A. Torres. \$240,560. Lifetime Record: 24-6-4-6, \$823,450. **Werk**

Nick Rating: A+. [Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#) [Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree.](#)

2--**Trademark, 121, g, 4, Upstart--Creative Trick, by Creative Cause.** (\$37,000 Wlg '19 KEENOV; \$42,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP; \$275,000 RNA 3yo '22 KEENOV). O-BBN Racing LLC; B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-Victoria H. Oliver. \$97,600.

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3--**Blue Devil, 121, g, 4, Uncle Mo--Apologize, by Lemon Drop Kid. 1ST BLACK TYPE, 1ST GRADED BLACK TYPE.** (\$300,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP; \$260,000 3yo '22 KEEAPR). O-Rocket Ship Racing, LLC; B-Mt. Brilliant Farm & Ranch, LLC (KY); T-Jeff A. Hiles. \$48,800.

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Also Ran: Rattle N Roll, Happy American, Americanrevolution, Whelen Springs, Five Star General. Scratched: Warrant.

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Making his second start since a private purchase by Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid al Nuaimi's RRR Racing, Clapton finished determinedly down the center of the Churchill Downs main track to cause an 8-1 upset in Saturday's GII Lukas Classic. It was second victory in the race for trainer Chad Summers, who sent out Mind Your Biscuits (Posse) to score in 2018.

In part, Summers landed on the Lukas Classic over the Woodward and Awesome Again S. owing to his belief that there would be some pace to aid his charge's causes, and so it proved. Five Star General (Distorted Humor) sped to the front from his high draw and Americanrevolution (**Constitution**) followed him into the first turn, the field strung out over as many as 20

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lengths as they tore through an opening quarter in :23.12. Trademark tucked in closest to the dueling speedballs, while Cristian Torres settled Clapton outside of favored Rattle 'N Roll (**Connect**) towards the rear. Torres asked Clapton for a bit of run three furlongs out and circled rivals five deep on the turn as Americanrevolution inherited the lead from a spent Five Star General. His lead was also short-lived, as Trademark looked poised to capitalize on his golden trip, but produced down the center, Clapton hit all the right notes late and was along in the dying strides.

“I was very happy with the way he was traveling,” said Torres, who won three races Saturday. “Around the half-mile pole I could tell I had a lot of horse beneath me. I tipped him outside at the quarter-pole and he kept coming with his run. It’s been a great day and a great meet here at Churchill. Winning these big races is a great feeling.”

Added Summers: “I’m so grateful to the owner for allowing me the opportunity to train this horse,” Summers said. “The goal is getting to the Dubai World Cup. If that means taking us to the Breeders’ Cup that would be great. But, the goal is getting him over to Dubai in March.”

Clapton won five of his first 21 career starts for his breeder and trainer Juan Alvarado, including his previous career-best run when upsetting the GIII **Ghostzapper** S. this past April. Third in

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Monday, October 2, 2023



Pictured above as a weanling, *Midshipman* (Unbridled's Song) is today's featured Breeders' Cup 40 winner. See page 13. | Michael J. Marten/Stonerside

ZANDON GETS HIS DAY IN WOODWARD WIN

8

Jeff Drown's Zandon (*Upstart*) finally got his day to shine with a come-from-behind victory in the rescheduled GII Woodward S. at Belmont's Aqueduct meet.

FASIG REGIONAL TOUR MAKES STOP IN MARYLAND

18

Fasig-Tipton shifts its focus this week to Maryland, where it will hold its two-day Midlantic Fall Yearlings sale in Timonium Monday and Tuesday.

BAD HOOF LUCK CONTINUES FOR TEAM FORTE

19

'TDN Rising Star' and MGISW Forte (*Violence*) is receiving treatment for a quarter crack.

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2008 JUVENILE WINNER MIDSHIPMAN

Midshipman (2006 chestnut horse, Unbridled's Song-- Fleet Lady, by Avenue of Flags)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo colt, MGISW, 8-5-1-1, \$1,584,600

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Stonerside Stable (KY); O-Darley Stable; T-Bob Baffert; J-Garrett Gomez.

Current location: Darley America, Lexington, Ky.

"After Sheikh Mohammed purchased Stonerside Stable in 2008, he graciously kept on the entire Stonerside staff," said Vicky Van Camp, who was formerly the Research and Information Director of Stonerside Stable and is now Godolphin's U.S. Racing Research Coordinator. She was at Stonerside when **Midshipman** was born and is now at Darley, where **Midshipman** stands.

"Midshipman, the last Grade I winner for Stonerside, became the first Grade I winner from the purchase for Sheikh Mohammed with his Breeders' Cup Juvenile win just a month later. I'm happy to say a great many of us are still with Godolphin, 15 years on. And yes, I admit 'Shippy' gets extra apple slices from me every week, something **Nyquist** has long been suspicious of as he peers at us from across the aisle of the stallion barn." --*Jill Williams*

WATCH MIDSHIPMAN'S 2008 JUVENILE WIN



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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2008 Juvenile winner **Midshipman**. | Sarah Andrew

2020 JUVENILE TURF SPRINT/2021 TURF SPRINT WINNER GOLDEN PAL

Golden Pal (2018 bay horse, **Uncle Mo**--Lady Shipman, by **Midshipman**)

Lifetime record: GISW-U.S., GSP-Eng, 13-8-2-0, \$1,825,131

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Randall E. Lowe (FL); O-Ranlo Investments LLC (2020)/Westerberg, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael B. Tabor, and Derrick Smith (2021); T-Wesley A. Ward; J-Irad Ortiz, Jr.

Current location: Coolmore America, Versailles, Ky.

“He's one of my all-time favorites,” said trainer Wesley Ward. “He was an awesome horse. Extremely talented, super quick, and agile: that was really his biggest attribute. When the first jump opened, he was explosive. He would open up effortlessly. He pulled the heart away from the other horses a little bit.

“He was a joy to train, a highly intelligent horse. I really appreciated the time at the barn with him every day, because based on his accomplishments I knew that our time would be limited with him and he'd be highly sought after as a stallion. As beautiful as he is and as fast as he was, I knew the breeders would take to him.” The brilliantly fast **Golden Pal** stood his first season in 2023. --*Jill Williams*

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WATCH GOLDEN PAL'S 2021 TURF SPRINT WIN



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CURLIN, FROM BREEDERS' CUP WINNER TO BREEDERS' CUP SIRE

*Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup with Living Legends
Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams*

There are great racehorses and there are great sires. One doesn't always equal the other. Sometimes, but not always, a horse is equally adept at both.

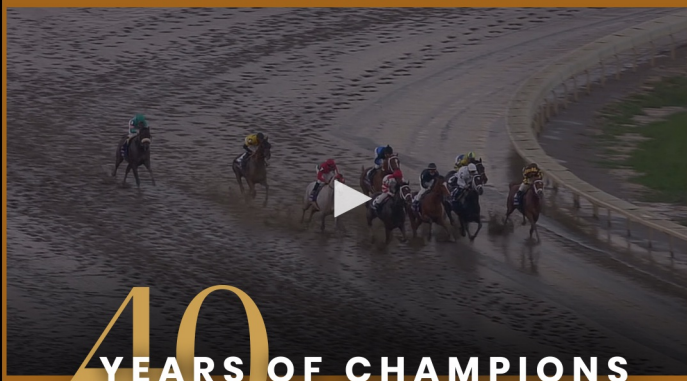
"It's rare for world-class racehorse to become a world-class sire. It's two different resumes, two different achievements," said John Sikura, owner of Hill 'n' Dale.

Rarely, ever so rarely, a top racehorse becomes a sire so good and so prolific in generating top-class horses that his own championship race record becomes almost an afterthought. That happened with Northern Dancer. He was a sire in such uncommon air that his own Hall of Fame achievements and Classic wins have been virtually relegated to a footnote amongst the heights of his accomplishments.

Is the same thing happening to 2007 GI Breeders' Cup Classic winner and Hall of Famer **Curlin**?

When a horse wins the Breeders' Cup, particularly the Classic, that is generally--and rightfully--considered the pinnacle of his or her career. **Cont.**


WATCH CURLIN'S 2007 CLASSIC WIN




40


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Breeders' Cup winner to Breeders' Cup sire, cont.

Many are retired shortly afterward as there's a belief they've achieved all they can on the racetrack. A select few might add a second Breeders' Cup win or other Grade I races, but they are always referred to and remembered as a Breeders' Cup winner. Not so with **Curlin**. His Classic win was merely the launching pad of his impact on the World Championships.

"He's on the cusp of siring the most Breeders' Cup winners ever in different categories, sexes, distances," said Sikura, who stands **Curlin** at Hill 'n' Dale. "The uniqueness of him producing world-class horses will be unparalleled in the breed.

"You'd be greedy if you thought the sire you were standing would accomplish this, but **Curlin** is a force and is unique."

Indeed, of all the Breeders' Cup winners who have sired Breeders' Cup winners, **Curlin** ranks only one behind the late Unbridled's Song with five individual winners, making him the leader among living North American sires. A handful of other living sires have matched or exceeded that number--Dubawi (Ire), Into Mischief, and **Tapit**--but none of them won the Breeders' Cup themselves. Rare air, indeed.

"Any time you've sired more Breeders' Cup champions than any of those horses," continued Sikura, "it's the highest distinction. What a testament among sires that have sired Breeders' Cup winners. Hopefully we can break the record this year or tie it. He had three winners last year which has never been achieved if you look at all the history of the Breeders' Cup.

"Curlin's accomplishments speak for him. If the ultimate goal with a sire is siring a Breeders' Cup winner and if you've done that more than any other sire, then it doesn't really need a graphic or more explanation. He's the best of the very best, that's what that achievement says."

Curlin (2004 chestnut horse, Smart Strike--Sherriff's Deputy, by Deputy Minister)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year (twice), Ch. 3yo colt, Ch. older male-U.S., Hwt. older horse-UAE, MGISW-U.S., G1SW-UAE, 16-11-2-2, \$10,501,800

2007 Breeders' Cup connections: B-Fares Farm Inc. (KY); O-Stonestreet Stables, Padua Stables, George Bolton, and Midnight Cry Stables; T-Steve Asmussen; J-Robby Albarado.

Current location: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, Paris, Ky.



Curlin at Hill 'n' Dale last month | Sarah Andrew

When **Curlin** retired as America's richest racehorse with earnings north of \$10 million to stand his initial season in 2009, no one could have logically predicted the dual Horse of the Year's best and biggest contribution to the sport was still ahead.

But one person did. His majority owner, Jess Jackson, told the media in late 2008: "He is one of the best examples of the breed--fast, strong, and durable. I predict he will make a substantial contribution to our sport through his gene pool, and I am looking forward to seeing his foals compete and possibly exceed his unequaled race record."

Jackson, the late founder with his wife, Barbara Banke, of the then-fledgling Stonestreet Farm, was never shy with bold, sometimes flamboyant statements, but perhaps even he would be floored at the stark truth in his prediction these 15 years later. **Curlin**, with that gleaming golden coat, has the Midas Touch as a sire. And unlike many stallions, who have their best horses early on with those initial good books of mares, **Curlin** seems to be

getting better and better. In 2022 alone, he became the first sire in the history of the Breeders' Cup to have three winners in one day. More specifically, it was three winners in less than three hours: races 5, 7, and 9.

Curlin's own Classic in 2007 was a powerhouse performance in a soggy rendition at Monmouth Park. He'd never faced a sloppy track before, but it proved no obstacle. In a foreshadowing of his future, he manhandled his opponents on the racetrack and drew away with authority, just as he would do so on many indicators of the sire charts.

Curlin was Jackson's first major racehorse; Rachel Alexandra (**Medaglia d'Oro**) would be his second. Incidentally, and perhaps relevant to today's ongoing debate over synthetic surfaces, **Curlin's** only career off-the-board finish was a fourth when attempting to defend his Breeders' Cup Classic title at Santa Anita in 2008 over the then-synthetic. Jackson publicly stated at the time his horses would never compete over a synthetic surface again. True to his word, the next year, he did not enter Rachel Alexandra in the Breeders' Cup when it returned to Santa Anita despite her undefeated sophomore season which included wins over the boys in the GI Preakness, GI Haskell, and GI Woodward, as well as a 10 1/4-length GI Kentucky Oaks romp.

Cont.

Breeders' Cup winner to Breeders' Cup sire, cont.

Curlin after his Breeders' Cup Classic win | Sarah Andrew/Equi-Photo

Jackson passed away in 2011 when **Curlin's** first foals were still short yearlings. He had been an incredibly sporting owner in his short time at the top level of the sport, proven by his decision to campaign **Curlin** at age four. Many would have retired the chestnut after a 3-year-old season that included that included wins in the GI Preakness, GI Jockey Club Gold Cup, and Classic, plus a head second to Rags to Riches (A.P. Indy) in an unforgettable GI Belmont S. battle. **Curlin** rewarded Jackson with another three U.S. Grade I wins at four, as well as a trip around the world to bring back a G1 Dubai World Cup trophy.

"He was the best horse in the world [at that time]," said Sikura. "I think his body of work as a racehorse was special and unique. He's passing on that quality, that ability, that soundness, that tenaciousness. All those things that made him such a great horse he's passing on to his progeny."

Curlin initially stood at Lane's End upon retirement, but a change in his ownership brought him to Hill 'n' Dale for the 2016 season, when his first crop had completed their 5-year-old campaigns. Stellar Wind would be named the 2015 champion 3-year-old filly, Keen Ice had won the GI Travers S., **Palace Malice** had captured the GI Belmont S. and the GI Met Mile, and Curalina had taken the GI Acorn S. and GI CCA Oaks--all career-

making accomplishments for the majority of sires. But most sires are not **Curlin**. He was just getting warmed up.

"There was an opportunity we seized upon when a 20% interest arose," said Sikura. "It was ahead of his ability, but when it arose we certainly did everything to secure him. Look at all the Breeders' Cup winners along the way [since then]. He's done great things and hopefully will consistently continue to do them."

Among **Curlin's** 21 Grade I winners and/or seven champions are Breeders' Cup winners Vino Rosso (2019 Classic) and **Good Magic** (2017 Juvenile), as well as his trio in 2022: Malathaat (Distaff), Elite Power (Sprint), and Cody's Wish (Dirt Mile). Amazingly, his runners have had another nine placings in Breeders' Cup races.

"If they make the starting gate, they're dangerous," said Sikura. "He is multidimensional at the highest level; that's what makes him so special.

"He has done everything but be leading sire by progeny earnings. He's been carefully managed with fewer starters and fewer earners, but more importantly, he's siring more Grade I horses than any other horse during the last few seasons. When he breaks the Breeders' Cup record he can singularly be the horse."

Sikura is right; by Grade I winners, **Curlin** currently leads North America's 2023 leading sire list and did in 2021 and 2022 as well.

"He's a horse whose achievements will be seen throughout the history of racing," continued Sikura. "He's a true classic sire. His accomplishments prove that he is that special and unique horse." **Cont.**



Cody's Wish, shown winning the 2023 Met Mile. After his Saturday score in the Vosburgh, Godolphin's Michael Banahan said, "The major goal was trying to win the Met Mile, which we achieved. Everything else was just bonus to top it off." | Sarah Andrew

Breeders' Cup winner to Breeders' Cup sire, cont.

Sikura believes in **Curlin's** abilities so much that he did a deal for the breeding rights of **Good Magic** during that colt's 3-year-old year and now stands him as well. Hill 'n' Dale had consigned **Good Magic** to the 2016 Keeneland September sale as a yearling for his breeder, Stonestreet. **Good Magic** brought \$1 million and broke his maiden in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, then went on to have a stellar sophomore season, sandwiching wins in the Gil Blue Grass S. and GI Haskell S. around a second in the GI Kentucky Derby.



Good Magic at Hill 'n' Dale | Sarah Andrew

“He's not quite as coarse as **Curlin**. He's medium-sized and he moves very well. If he's successful, he reminds you of **Curlin**. If not, he reminds you of the dam,” said Sikura with a laugh. “He's successful, so **Curlin** gets that attribution. He has a soundness quality and is probably a little earlier than **Curlin** was. I see, in the performance of his offspring, some similarities to **Curlin**, but he has his own ability to transmit those qualities.”

Good Magic leads the second-crop sire list by the standard measurement of earnings and got this year's Kentucky Derby winner, Mage, in his first crop. This marks the second consecutive year one of **Curlin's** sons has sired the Derby winner, as Keen Ice sired Rich Strike last year. **Curlin** has four sons to date who have sired Grade I winners.

“It's hard for a stallion to be trending any better than **Good Magic**. The secret is out,” said SF Bloodstock's Tom Ryan two weeks ago at the Keeneland September sale after purchasing a \$700,000 session topper by the son of **Curlin**. “At this point, when you have a stallion producing horses at that elite level, the price bracket can get to an elite range as well. At the end of the day, you try to buy them as reasonably as possible, but it's our job to buy them.”

Curlin himself had two of the seven-figure yearlings at that sale and another two at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale, including

the \$4-million topper out of champion Beholder (Henny Hughes). Despite a few more yearling sales remaining on the 2023 calendar, that **Curlin** yearling is likely to be the highest-priced yearling of the year.

“Everyone has given their best to the horse and he has rewarded that faith and opportunity by giving his best,” said Sikura. “Quid pro quo: we give our best, he gives his best. That's rewarding.”

Sikura pointed to the support of Stonestreet as one of the keys to getting **Curlin** those opportunities.



Another of **Curlin's** 2022 Breeders' Cup winners, Elite Power, has come back to be a repeat Grade I winner in 2023. **Curlin** has five Grade I winners this year, top in the nation. | Sarah Andrew

“Stonestreet has been great supporters. They were active in supplying those great mares ahead of the marketplace. That's a reward in itself and now other people are emulating that. There's synergy between owner and horse. They have that belief in him.”

Curlin's 12th crop of 2-year-olds is at the races this year. No fewer than 16% of all his foals aged three and up are stakes performers. If one looks only at starters, the number jumps to a provocative 20%. **Curlin** has 97 black-type winners bred in this hemisphere; 55 of those are graded winners; 21 are Grade I winners; seven are champions. Heady numbers, indeed. And he's showing no sign of slowing down.

“He's doing fantastic,” said Sikura. “He's a 19-year-old horse and is very, very fertile. He continues to sire elite-level horses. When the market looks at stallions when they get middle-aged, it is receptive if they are still performing. He is current and popular at the racetrack with representation and performance at the highest levels every year.”

From Breeders' Cup winner to Breeders' Cup sire, **Curlin** can no longer be considered on the cusp of greatness. He hurdled that superlative long ago. **Cont.**

Breeders' Cup winner to Breeders' Cup sire, cont.



Curlin | Sarah Andrew

Perhaps an avalanche is a better term to describe his momentum as he sweeps up and overwhelms everything in his path, but he leaves things improved, not bereft as an avalanche does. He may not be Northern Dancer yet, but don't count him out.

"He is a self-made man. He brought just \$57,000 as a yearling, but he's overcome every prejudice and at every opportunity he continues to elevate. That proves how great he is. We can just nod our head to that greatness level," said Sikura.

Northern Dancer himself was famously an unsold yearling before his Hall of Fame racing career and unprecedented success as a sire. **Curlin** may have sold as a yearling for what now looks to be the bargain of the century, but he, too, was inducted to the Hall of Fame and is certainly proving himself as a sire and a burgeoning sire of sires. It's early days yet for him as a broodmare sire, but there's already 15 black-type winners and seven graded winners out of his first daughters.

Curlin knows he's special.

"He's like a politician. When someone shows up, he has a big smile because he knows he's going to get his picture taken," said Sikura. "He has that aura about him, that life force. He knows he's the dominant male. He's not a fractious horse, doesn't bounce around, just looks around like 'I own the place.' Well, I own the place, but he paid for it. He's my best banker."

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September 20, 2023

Wade Jost Shares Story of Carson's Run and His Namesake Carson Jost



RESCHEDULED BREEDERS' CUP 'WIN AND YOU'RE IN' RACES TAKE TO BAQ TURF

by J.N. Campbell

After significant rainfall cancelled the entire Friday and Saturday Belmont at the Big A cards, a pair of Breeders' Cup 'Win and You're In' Challenge races were moved from Sunday to Wednesday in order to allow everyone to dry out.

The GII Miss Grillo S., a pathway to the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf, brings together a cast of 12. Only Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott's **Gala Brand (Violence)** has graded experience. The chestnut filly delivered in her second start when she faced males and won the GIII With Anticipation S. Aug. 31 at Saratoga over next-out GI bet365 Summer S. hero Carson's Run (**Cupid**).

From the inside gates, **Appellate (Constitution)** from the Todd Pletcher barn and **Hard to Justify (Justify)** from Chad Brown's shedrow will tussle once again. The latter won on debut by a head over the former July 23 at Saratoga, but the Pletcher trainee made a start since Sept. 3 upstate and gained some valuable grass experience as a runner-up once again.

Meanwhile, Gainesway homebred **Memorialize (Karakontie {Jpn})** for Graham Motion is looking to build on her own maiden victory, this one at second asking, when the chestnut filly won confidently by three lengths Aug. 20 at Saratoga.

The boys get their chance later on the BAQ card when the GII Pilgrim S. goes off with GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf implications at stake. Leading the way is '**TDN Rising Star**' **Agate Road (Quality Road)**, who absolutely rolled from seemingly nowhere Sept. 2 at Saratoga to break his maiden by a neck at second asking.

"His last breeze was very good. He's training well and came out of his race in good order," said the colt's trainer, Todd Pletcher. **Cont.**



Agate Road | Sarah Andrew

2018 CLASSIC WINNER ACCELERATE

Accelerate (2013 chestnut horse, **Lookin At Lucky**--Issues, by Awesome Again)

Lifetime record: Ch. older male, MGISW, 23-10-5-6, \$6,692,480

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Mike Abraham (KY); O-Hronis Racing LLC; T-John Sadler; J-Joel Rosario.

Current location: Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Ky.

One of the biggest stories going into the 2018 Breeders' Cup was trainer John Sadler's 0-41 record on racing's championship day. **Accelerate**, whose five for six already on the year included four Grade 1s in California, succinctly put all that babble to rest with his win in the biggest race on the card.

"What stands out to me with **Accelerate** was the year he had that culminated in the Breeders' Cup Classic," said Sadler. "He won, what, four or five Grade 1s that year. So, he had just a fabulous year and he went to Churchill Downs as the favorite and he ran his race. It was just the thrill of one of the biggest days of my career. My first Breeders' Cup win. They hashed me over the coals because I hadn't, until then, hit the big one. It was a great day." --*Jill Williams*

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WATCH ACCELERATE'S 2018 CLASSIC WIN



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2019 SPRINT WINNER MITOLE

Mitole (2015 bay horse, Eskendereya--Indian Miss, by Indian Charlie) | **Lifetime record:** Ch. male sprinter, MGISW, 14-10-2-2, \$3,104,910 | **Breeders' Cup connections:** B-Edward A. Cox, Jr. (KY); O-L. William and Corinne Heiligbrodt; T-Steve Asmussen; J-Ricardo Santana, Jr. | **Current location:** Spendthrift Farm, Lexington, Ky.

It's hard for a horse to have a better season than Mitole did at four: his four Grade 1s included the Sprint as well as the Met Mile and it's no small thing to set (and still hold) Saratoga's GI Forego stakes record of 1:20.80 for seven panels.

"A long time ago somebody asked a groom what makes a good racehorse. He said speed and more speed. That always makes me think of Mitole," said Ned Toffey, general manager of Spendthrift Farm.

"This was a horse that had an unbelievable career, was brought along really well by Asmussen, developed a reputation early on as a really fast horse, kind of began to assert that speed as he stepped up in class. They never found a class that was too high for him. When you look at him, he's among the most well-made horses we have. He's a smooth-bodied horse: every part of him just fits together and it's easy to understand why he functioned as a well-oiled machine." --*Jill Williams*

WATCH MITOLE'S 2019 SPRINT WIN



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2015 JUVENILE WINNER NYQUIST

Nyquist (2013 bay horse, **Uncle Mo**--Seeking Gabrielle, by Forestry)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo colt, MGISW, 11-8-0-1, \$5,189,200


Breeders' Cup connections: B-Summerhill Farm (KY); O-Reddam Racing LLC; T-Doug O'Neill; J-Mario Gutierrez.

Current location: Darley America, Lexington, Ky.

Nyquist capped an undefeated 2-year-old season with a win in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile, then added the GI Kentucky Derby the next spring, becoming just the second colt to complete the Juvenile-Derby double. His fellow Darley stallion, **Street Sense**, was the first. **Nyquist** got his sire career off to a bang with his first crop including a Breeders' Cup winner of his own in 2020 Juvenile Fillies star **Vequist**.

"From his first season in 2017 until now, hands down the most fertile horse I've ever worked with anywhere in the world," said Graham Lovatt, who has worked at Darley stallion divisions in England and Australia and is now the stallion manager at Darley in the U.S. "Very professional in his second career. And excellent showman. We installed a new aqua tread and he absolutely loves it. He is a very observant horse and he'll always let you know when there is something out of place." --*Jill Williams*


WATCH NYQUIST'S 2015 JUVENILE WIN




40


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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2015 Juvenile winner **Nyquist**. | *Sarah Andrew*

CATCHING UP WITH 2010 BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE WINNER UNCLE MO

Uncle Mo (2008 bay horse, Indian Charlie--Playa Maya, by Arch)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo colt, MGISW, 8-5-1-1, \$1,606,000


Breeders' Cup connections: B-D. Michael Cavey DVM (KY); O-Repole Stable; T-Todd Pletcher; J-John Velazquez.

Current location: Coolmore America/Ashford Stud, Versailles, Ky.

When Indian Charlie died prematurely from cancer at the age of 16 in 2011, the loss was palpable. He had perennially been among the nation's leading sires, while his prowess as a broodmare sire had yet to fully emerge. He had several sons already at stud, but waiting in the wings was his top successor and one who would ultimately put him on the map as a sire of sires. At the time of Indian Charlie's death, **Uncle Mo** had just closed out his racing career and was preparing for his first breeding season.


No one could have envisioned what would happen next. **Uncle Mo** was the runaway leading freshman sire in 2015, setting what was then a record for freshman earnings with his first crop, but he didn't stop there. **Cont. p12**

WATCH UNCLE MO'S 2010 JUVENILE WIN





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Breeders' Cup 40 cont.

He's constantly come up with good horse after good horse since, then sent his own first sons to stud, where they took three of the top four freshman spots in 2020. And he's showing no signs of slowing down, with current GISWs including Breeders' Cup-bound Arabian Knight and Adare Manor. Two of his sons--dual Breeders' Cup winner **Golden Pal** and GISW **Mo Town**--have since joined **Uncle Mo** on Ashford's roster. As icing on the cake, **Uncle Mo's** first daughters are doing him credit as a broodmare sire, with Saturday's GI **American Pharoah** S. winner Muth (**Good Magic**) and this summer's GI TVG.com Haskell S. winner Geaux Rocket Ride (**Candy Ride {Arg}**) among his early black-type winners as a damsire.

Uncle Mo, and the man who campaigned him, Mike Repole, are so entrenched as part of the fabric of the upper echelon of the sport that it's difficult to remember that wasn't the case as recently as 15 years ago. When 'Mo' was born, Repole had never even won a stakes race and was focused on claimers. Repole's purchase of the bay as a \$220,000 yearling at Keeneland September in 2009 changed everything.

No one can tell it better than Repole himself, who captures the heart of the sport as he shares his memories:

"Basically if there was no **Uncle Mo**, Repole Stable wouldn't be where it is today. He was the patriarch to Repole Stable. I was in horse racing at a claiming level probably from 2004-2009 and then the son of Indian Charlie out of the dam Playa Maya burst on the scene. I was just doing business with Todd [Pletcher] for about a year and I asked him if he liked the horse. He said, 'I think he's really good,' but I didn't know what that meant.

"We won [on debut] on Travers Day. **Uncle Mo** stole the day. The day was supposed to be about the Travers but he broke his maiden by 14 and that's what people were talking about.

"I never had a good horse like that before. He was something special. So now, [I'm realizing] this is pretty serious.

"I got to witness a superstar [break his maiden]. As someone who has been in racing as a fan since I was 13, I watched horses do this and then I'd be awestruck. I felt like a 13-year-old kid again. It took me about five minutes before I realized he was my horse and I was on my way to the winner's circle.

"I never had a horse like this; I had chills."

And that was just **Uncle Mo's** maiden! **Uncle Mo** would go next in the GI Champagne S. at Belmont in October of 2010 and get Repole his very first black-type win.

"I was 0-37 in stakes races before," said Repole. "Uncle Mo was my first stakes win. It was pretty special. He won the Champagne by five lengths. Then we went to Churchill [for the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile] and he was the favorite. He won by five lengths again.

"Fifteen years ago I didn't even know what the Eclipse Awards were and then I won one. It was all new, it was surreal. My whole family--50 or 60 of us--went to every single race. I always knew the game, but this with **Uncle Mo** was something special."

Repole, in partnership, has won two more Eclipse Awards with Breeders' Cup winners: Vino Rosso in 2019 and Forte in 2022.

"To win the Breeders' Cup, to be an Eclipse Award winner...they all feel incredibly special, but nothing like **Uncle Mo**.

"The feelings I experienced then, the innocence of being a first-time owner of a pretty special horse, it makes me emotional just thinking about it."

Ashford, where **Uncle Mo** now stands, is no stranger to top-class stallions. It's a testament to his ability as a sire that **Uncle Mo** has topped the Ashford roster's fees for the past few years.

"Uncle Mo was a sensational racehorse and is proving to be a very important stallion," said Charlie O'Connor, Ashford's director of sales. "Successful from the start, he sired 25 stakes winners from his first crop including a Kentucky Derby winner and has since gone on to sire 14 Grade I winners and just shy of 100 stakes winners. They can run on any surface and at any distance: he can get you a Grade I Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint winner, a Grade I Belmont Stakes winner, and everything in between. He has had another terrific year at the sales with five \$1-million+ yearlings and is proving to be a very successful sire of sires and an emerging top broodmare sire, all of this whilst still only being 15 himself. He's a very special horse." --*Jill Williams*

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Sales PPs is now

Sales Results by Stallion

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TDN 

2016 MILE WINNER TOURIST

Tourist (2011 dark bay or brown horse, Tiznow--Unbridled Melody, by Unbridled's Song) | **Lifetime record:** MGISW, 18-6-3-4, \$2,170,340 | **Breeders' Cup connections:** B-WinStar Farm LLC (KY); O-WinStar Farm LLC, Wachtel Stable, and Gary Barber; T-William I. Mott; J-Joel Rosario. | **Current location:** Rockridge Stud, Hudson, NY.


The blinkered **Tourist** ran into a scorching :21.81 and :44.61 pace in the 2016 GI Breeders' Cup Mile, split horses in a thriller, and emerged from battle not only with the win, but with the Mile record. In 39 years of Breeders' Cups and so many champions, no one has run the eight furlongs on the grass faster than his blistering 1:31.71.

After standing his first few seasons at WinStar in Kentucky, **Tourist** relocated to Rockridge in New York for the 2023 season.

"Tourist is the perfect blend of fire and nice," said Maryke Roeloffze, Rockridge's stallion manager. "He knows just how handsome he is and loves to strut and prance, but bring out the peppermints--he turns to putty in your hands."

Erin Robinson, Rockridge's stallion director, added, "I'm delighted to have **Tourist** in the barn; he is a wonderful addition to New York for those breeding to race." --*Jill Williams*


WATCH TOURIST'S 2016 MILE WIN




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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2016 Mile winner **Tourist**, pictured in January at Rockridge Stud. | *Sarah Andrew*

2017 JUVENILE WINNER GOOD MAGIC

Good Magic (2015 chestnut horse, **Curlin**--Glinda the Good, by **Hard Spun**)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo colt, MGISW, 9-3-3-1, \$2,945,000

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY); O-e Five Racing Thoroughbreds & Stonestreet Stables LLC; T-Chad Brown; J-Jose Ortiz.

Current location: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, Paris, Ky.

Good Magic entered the GI Juvenile a maiden; he came out a Breeders' Cup winner. He's making an even bigger splash at stud.

A little more than six weeks before his first crop turned up GI Kentucky Derby winner Mage, he had this year's priciest OBSMAR 2-year-old. That \$2-million colt is now GISW Muth and will be one of the favorites for this year's Juvenile.

"The odds are rare to buy a horse and have it become an important stallion," said Hill 'n' Dale's John Sikura of **Good Magic**. "Intuitively you like what you like and hope it works out. The progeny will do it or they won't. You can only drive as many good mares to him as you can to give him the opportunity. Obviously we have a vested interest so we believe he had a strong potential, but the multiplicity of stakes winners, colts and

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fillies, early and late, a Derby winner... He's been in demand every year, but this year he will breed the highest quality of mares. He'll have the best opportunities. We're hoping the success then will be multiplied." --*Jill Williams*

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BREEDERS' CUP OPTION FOR LEMON POP FOLLOWING COMEBACK WIN *by Alan Carasso*



Lemon Pop | Horsephotos/Tomoya Moriuchi

The GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile is one of three options for Godolphin's **Lemon Pop** (Lemon Drop Kid) following a barnstorming gate-to-wire victory in Monday's \$823,000 Listed Mile Championship Nambu Hai at Morioka Racecourse on the National Association of Racing circuit in Japan.

Having already secured a Breeders' Cup berth courtesy of his biggest win to date in the G1 February S. at Tokyo this past February, the 5-year-old was having his first run since finishing an outpaced 10th, beaten six lengths, in the G1 Dubai Golden Shaheen over six furlongs in late March.

Favored at 1-2, the \$70,000 Keeneland November weanling purchase hit the ground running from gate three and was soon at the head of affairs for jockey Ryusei Sakai. Always traveling strongly on the front end, Lemon Pop began to get away from his rivals approaching the 400-meter marker and turned it into a one-horse show in the final stages. He had a margin of two full seconds, or approximately a dozen lengths, on **Igniter (Jpn)** (Espoir City {Jpn}) at the wire, with the mare **Ladybug (Jpn)** (Hokko Tarumae {Jpn}) third. Two-time February S. hero **Cafe Pharoah (American Pharoah)** was fifth, while 2022 G1 Satsuki Sho winner **Geoglyph (Jpn)** (Drefong) finished ninth.

"It's impossible to be anything other than thrilled with a performance like that," said Godolphin Japan President Harry

Sweeney. "Lemon Pop was outstanding today. We hadn't really expected him to make the running and there was a very audible murmur from the crowd as he took the lead, somewhat in disbelief. The jockey rode a brilliant race and pulled away easily to win very, very comfortably at the finish.

"It's not easy to win a Jpn G1 race by a distance, so credit to the horse and the trainer. A special thanks must go to our own team in Castle Park, where Lemon Pop has been for about five months since he came back from Dubai."

Sweeney said that instead of the Dirt Mile, Lemon Pop could remain at home for the valuable Listed JBC Sprint (1200m) Nov. 3 and/or the G1 Champions Cup in December, which would mark his first start past a mile.

"Lemon Pop's trainer was never really in favour of running him over a mile, even though he has now won two top competitions over the distance, and he certainly showed today that he has no problem with the trip," said Sweeney. "Certainly, we will be looking at the Champions Cup, with one run beforehand. We will be discussing it intently over the next few days."

See 'TDN Europe--Worldwide News' for the chart.

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APPRENTICE SUSPENDED 30 DAYS FOR 2ND TIME IN WEEK AFTER ANOTHER SPILL-MARRED DELAWARE RACE



Axel Concepcion | Jim McCue

by T.D. Thornton

Eighteen-year-old jockey Axel Concepcion, who is currently Maryland's top apprentice and is on the cusp of a planned move to Kentucky that could launch him into contention for a rookie rider Eclipse Award, has again been suspended 30 days by the Delaware Park stewards for "careless riding" that caused a rival horse to crash to the track. **Cont.**

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Wednesday, October 11, 2023



Oscar Performance requests a carrot from Ryn Harris during a Horse Country tour at Mill Ridge Farm. See page 9. | Sarah Andrew

BREEDERS' CUP FOAL NOMINATION CLOSES OCT. 15 13

The final deadline to nominate weanlings of 2023 to the Breeders' Cup program is Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. ET. It is the last opportunity to nominate at the one-time fee of \$400, which entitles each foal with lifetime racing eligibility to the Breeders' Cup World Championships and the Breeders' Cup racing programs.

TRF LAUNCHES HAY DRIVE WITH \$60,000 MATCH GIFT 13

The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF) has received a \$60,000 matching gift from the Santulli Family Foundation to launch the 2023 Hay Drive. The annual drive ensures that the herd of 425 retired racehorses cared for by the TRF are fed through the winter.

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'HOW LUCKY ARE WE?' MILL RIDGE AND THE BREEDERS' CUP


*Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup with Living Legends
Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams*

It wasn't so long ago that the magnificent sire Gone West held court at Mill Ridge Farm near Lexington. From 22 crops, all while at Mill Ridge, he netted a mouth-watering 9% black-type winners from starters, including Breeders' Cup winners Da Hoss (twice), Johar, and **Speightstown**, all back in the days when the Breeders' Cup was still a single day and there were far fewer races.

The son of Mr. Prospector passed away in 2009, but his influence on the Breeders' Cup was not done and neither was Mill Ridge's. Among Gone West's sire sons are **Speightstown**, who has sired two Breeders' Cup winners, and Elusive Quality, who has sired three. His grandsons include **Quality Road**, sire of four Breeders' Cup winners. And among the major runners out of his daughters is another Breeders' Cup winner in Awesome Feather.


The Mill Ridge team hasn't stopped there. Eight Breeders' Cup winners have been bred, raised, and/or sold by the Central Kentucky farm. Additionally, Mill Ridge's involvement in Horse

WATCH OSCAR PERFORMANCE'S 2016 JUVENILE TURF WIN





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Country has created an extra ripple effect of the Breeders' Cup's impact on farms big and small, as well as on the fans who visit those farms. And now, the two young sires who are standing at Mill Ridge are both Breeders' Cup winners.

Oscar Performance won the GI Juvenile Turf in 2016, while **Aloha West** won the GI Sprint in 2021.

"That's like starting two full teams for the University of Kentucky basketball team," said Price Bell, Jr., general manager of Mill Ridge, with a laugh about the eight Breeders' Cup winners combined with the two additional championship day winners in the stud barn. "That's the beauty of the Breeders' Cup. How lucky are we to have been able to associate with this many horses on Breeders' Cup days?"

"We'll often have visitors say, 'Well, don't you have an unfair advantage because you get to watch them in the field and then watch them win?' We know how special it is to get to do this."

Oscar Performance (2014 bay horse, Kitten's Joy--Devine Actress, by Theatrical (Ire)

Lifetime record: MGISW, 15-8-0-1, \$2,345,696

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Mrs. Jerry Amerman (KY); O-Amerman Racing LLC; T- Brian A. Lynch; J-Jose Ortiz.

Current location: Mill Ridge Farm, Lexington, Ky.

WATCH ALOHA WEST'S 2021 BREEDERS' CUP SPRINT WIN



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Sarah Andrew

From the start, **Oscar Performance** had the Bell family's fingerprints all over him. Fittingly, he was raised on the farm and has now returned to the place of his birth to stand. He is also the sire of Sunday's GIII Zuma Beach S. winner **Endlessly** from his second crop of 2-year-olds. **Endlessly** is an unbeaten dual graded winner--for the same connections as his sire--who will try to emulate his sire in the Nov. 3 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf.

"We raised **Oscar Performance** for the Amermans and helped with the mating. Now for a horse for the same connections to go on and keep that dream alive is very special.

"We feel so lucky and blessed to associate with so many incredible people and breeders and clients and horses," said Bell. "The Breeders' Cup is what we're all striving for and dreaming about as soon as you do a mating. We feel so blessed to have gotten there and want to keep going."

Mill Ridge is a popular spot on the Horse Country tours and **Oscar Performance** has become a showman.



Aloha West at Mill Ridge late last month | Sarah Andrew

"To connect him with guests is so special," said Bell. "People have just fallen in love with him. We've really enjoyed sharing him with people and seeing the way he's become a fan favorite. It has been very meaningful as we share that he was the best 2-year-old on the turf in his generation, the best 3-year-old on the turf, and that he set the world record at a mile. One of those three things often sticks with people. To be able to share him with fans is really special."

As a racehorse, **Oscar Performance** had a devastating kick.

"What I found so brilliant in his Breeders' Cup is that he had broken from the 13 hole, yet was able to clear the field," said Bell. "To break from the 13th post to get clear and over at Santa Anita is a big thing. I remember very vividly where I was when he broke his maiden [at Saratoga in August of 2016]. And then his Breeders' Cup, we sat and watched it at the office with my dad because my wife and I had a 15-month-old. It was our son's first Grade I and one we certainly remember as a family. It would be so memorable if **Endlessly** could do it, too. We're so blessed to have those relationships."

Aloha West (2017 dark bay or brown horse, **Hard Spun**--Island Bound, by **Speightstown**)

Lifetime record: GISW, 13-6-2-1, \$1,507,290

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Robert T. Manfuso & Katharine M. Voss (MD); O-Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners; T-Wayne Catalano; J-Jose Ortiz.

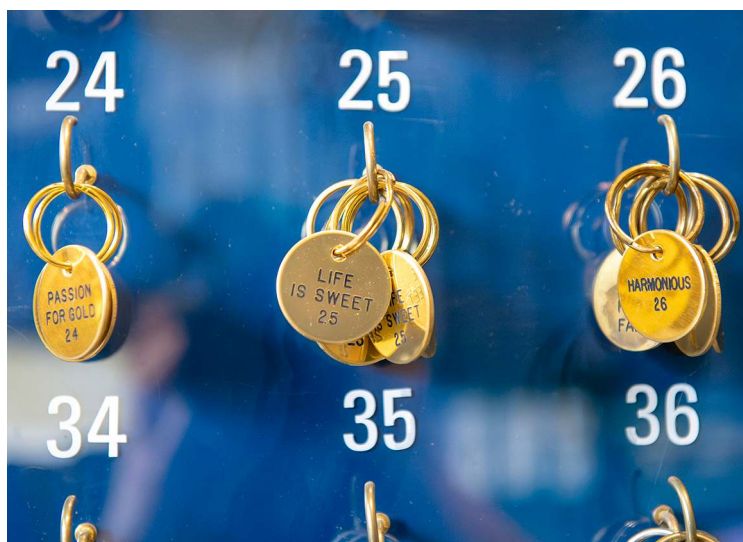
Current location: Mill Ridge Farm, Lexington, Ky.

Aloha West, whose first foals will be born in 2024, took a different route to Mill Ridge.

"He was raised by our friends at Nursery Place by John Mayer," said Bell. "I think for his Breeders' Cup, what was so telling, is that was the ninth race he had had that year. He'd showed some ability at two, had some shins, hurt himself at three. They were really patient with him. [He debuted at four], broke his maiden in February culminating with a Breeders' Cup win. He danced every dance, had nine starts that year, no real break. He was sort of the clever horse on the backside; people had a lot of chatter about him going into the Breeders' Cup. And then he showed that will to win."

In addition to their two Breeders' Cup-winning stallions, one of whom they had also raised, Mill Ridge has been intimately involved with 2000 Distaff winner **Spain**, 2003 Turf dead-heater **Johar** (one of **Gone West**'s winners), 2004 Juvenile Fillies winner **Sweet Catomine**, 2005 Mile winner **Artie Schiller**, 2006 Distaff winner **Round Pond**, 2009 Ladies' Classic winner **Life Is Sweet**, and 2013 Juvenile Fillies winner **Ria Antonia**. For those keeping score, that was four consecutive winners from 2003-06 and six in that decade alone.

Winning the Breeders' Cup doesn't get old though. On the contrary, it leaves one hungry for more.



Halter tag keychains, including one of Breeders' Cup winner Life Is Sweet, in Mill Ridge's Horse Country gift shop | Sarah Andrew

"Once you've been there, you want to experience it again," said Bell. "You want to do it again and again and again and again."

Bell has distinct memories of every winner. Some stood out early.

"I often put Sweet Catomine as the one that everyone on the farm thought was very special. For her to culminate as champion and the way she had done it was wonderful. Sometimes you do see something when they're young and it's very gratifying."

Some stand out because of the relationships with the breeders.

"Artie Schiller was awesome because Leroidesanimaux (Brz) was the overwhelming favorite and he beat him handily, squarely, no excuses. He ran by him like he was standing still. It was a great culmination of the relationship we had with the Moussacs [breeders of Artie Schiller]. A great celebration."

But one of the Breeders' Cup wins that is most memorable to Bell is for an out-of-the-ordinary reason and ties in to the farm's involvement with Horse Country.

"I remember Spain was a classic [D. Wayne] Lukas move. Lukas put them to sleep. She got a phenomenal ride [from Victor Espinoza]. It was Lukas taking a shot and then he wins at 56-1.

"But what I really remember when I think of her now is on one of our tours there was a gentleman who was about my age. He loved Spain. He was in the hospital at the time she won, in a children's cancer ward, and he'd told all the nurses to bet her.

"Here's a horse that we both had great memories of for very different reasons. It was our first Breeders' Cup winner while he's a kid fighting cancer. It meant a lot to both of us, was an inspiration for both of us. Horses touch people in different ways and sometimes we don't even know it."

Perhaps that is why Bell and Mill Ridge are so bullish on the



A Horse Country tour at Mill Ridge along with tour guide Ryn Harris and managing partner Headley Bell. Earl the Corgi is quite popular on the tours and on social media. | Sarah Andrew

non-profit Horse Country, which Bell was instrumental in co-founding and which also has Breeders' Cup roots. It's his way of giving back to the industry and connecting the wider public to our sport.

"We launched Horse Country tours the same year [2015] as the first Breeders' Cup at Keeneland. It coincided with **American Pharoah** and that was kind of what got us going. We had set a timeline of the Breeders' Cup date and it gave us a starting gate. We were committed. It has taken a lot of iterations between then and now, but we're big believers in it. We love doing it and sharing what we do.

"The tours have welcomed 200,000 people since then, 25,000 of those at Mill Ridge. We're the number two thing to do on Trip Advisor in Lexington. It feels like it's our part in trying to connect people to racing.

"We're all inspired by the horses and tours are people's best opportunity to meet a horse. Farms create a great opportunity for that. It's meaningful for people to share that, just like the gentleman who had a relationship with Spain from his hospital bed."

One guest at a time, Mill Ridge and Horse Country are changing the wider public's perception of racing. If meeting a Breeders' Cup-winning stallion brings one more person over to the beauty of our sport, it's a win. If it shows another person how well we take care of our horses and how much they mean to us, it's a win. And if it gets one more person to watch the Breeders' Cup, feeling they have a connection because they've feed a carrot to the sire of one of the runners or have walked over the same land where one was raised, it's a win.

"The better we can show guests what we do, the better we all are," said Bell. "It feels like the right thing to do. We get so much



A Horse Country tour sign at Mill Ridge | Sarah Andrew

from the guests and the experience. It's a great reminder of how lucky we are.

"Mill Ridge is just one small piece in it, but we've jumped all the way in. It's very doable. And it's beautiful. At the end of the day, we get so much out of committing to it.

"I feel like we get more out of it than we give."

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BREEDERS' CUP FOAL NOMINATION DEADLINE CLOSING OCT. 15



Seabiscuit Statue at Santa Anita | Horsephotos

The final deadline to nominate weanlings of 2023 to the

Breeders' Cup program is Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m. ET. It is the last opportunity to nominate at the one-time fee of \$400, which entitles each foal with lifetime racing eligibility to the Breeders' Cup World Championships and the Breeders' Cup racing programs.

All foals sired by a fully nominated North American Breeders' Cup stallion are eligible for nomination to the Breeders' Cup program in their year of birth at the weanling rate. Any foal entered in a fall or winter breeding stock sale must be nominated by the early foal deadline in order for the Breeders' Cup Nominated engagement to be included on the catalog page.

Late foal nominations may be made in the foal's year of birth by a one-time payment of a \$1,500 nomination fee between Oct. 16 of the weanling year to Feb. 28 of the yearling year.

In addition to the racing benefits, Breeders' Cup foal nominators will earn \$10,000 for every victory in the worldwide Breeders' Cup Challenge Series: Win and You're In program and every horse that starts in a Breeders' Cup World Championship race will earn a nominator award. The individual nominating the foal receives these nominator awards even though the horse may change hands throughout its racing career.

Visit the [Breeders' Cup website](#) for more information or to nominate.

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TRF LAUNCHES 2023 HAY DRIVE WITH \$60,000 MATCH GIFT FROM SANTULLI FAMILY FOUNDATION



Retired Thoroughbreds enjoy a dip in the pond | Diana Pikulski

The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF) has received a \$60,000 matching gift from the Santulli Family Foundation to launch the 2023 Hay Drive. The annual drive ensures that the herd of 425 retired racehorses cared for by the TRF are fed through the winter. The TRF's goal to help fill the hay loft is

2017 JUVENILE TURF WINNER

MENDELSSOHN

Mendelssohn (2015 bay horse, Scat Daddy--Leslie's Lady, by Tricky Creek)

Lifetime record: Hwt. at 3-U.A.E, GISW-U.S., GSW-U.A.E., G1SP-Eng, SW-Ire, 13-4-2-2, \$2,542,137

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Clarkland Farm (KY); O-Michael B. Tabor, Mrs. John Magnier, and Derrick Smith; T-Aidan O'Brien; J-Ryan Moore.

Current location: Coolmore America, Versailles, Ky.

If ever there was a horse whose CV matches his pedigree, it is **Mendelssohn**. He topped the Keeneland September sale on a bid of \$3 million from Coolmore in 2016, the year before he captured the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. And that pedigree? When he won the Breeders' Cup, he pushed his dam, the reigning Broodmare of the Year Leslie's Lady, into rare territory: she became what was then one of five mares to produce two Breeders' Cup winners. The year prior, her multiple champion daughter Beholder had captured her third Breeders' Cup. If that isn't enough of a 'wow' factor, **Mendelssohn** has another pretty well-known half-sibling as well, four-time leading sire Into Mischief.

Cont.



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2017 Juvenile Turf winner **Mendelssohn**. | Sarah Andrew

40 years of the Breeders' Cup: Mendelssohn, cont.

"All of our team loved Mendelssohn from the first time we saw him as a yearling and he developed into a magnificent-looking horse," said Coolmore's Charlie O'Connor. "Being by our own Scat Daddy and a half-brother to Into Mischief and Beholder, you couldn't ask for a better pedigree and he showed real brilliance when winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Del Mar and the [G2] U.A.E. Derby by a street, recording a new track record. He is currently the No. 4 leading sire of 2-year-olds in North America... With big crops to come he should keep rising up the ranks." --Jill Williams

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40 DAYS OF GIVING' BENEFICIARIES SPEAK UP: 'FOR US, IT'S PERSONAL' by T.D. Thornton

The Breeders' Cup is in the midst of its "40 Days of Giving" program that puts key Thoroughbred industry charities in a collective spotlight with a fundraising twist: This year's initiative involves a money-matching effort in which donors selected by each charity will match up to \$1,000 raised by the general public on that charity's designated day. On the final day of the drive, the Breeders' Cup itself will match up to \$20,000 in donations, with funds raised on that 40th day to be distributed evenly to all



Breeders' Cup starting gate at Santa Anita | Horsephotos

participating charities.

"It's the lead-up to the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup championships. So we're taking 40 days and 11 different charities, and we're trying to raise as much money as possible for all of these charities that are doing incredible work within our industry," said Stefanie Palmieri, the vice president of events for Breeders' Cup, Ltd. **Cont.**

CONTRIBUTE

NTRA ¼% CHECK-OFF PROGRAM

Keeneland September yearling buyers can help support the NTRA's federal legislative efforts by contributing to the NTRA's ¼% Check-off Program. The NTRA uses the money raised through the Check-off Program to advocate in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the industry.

Contributors are eligible to save through NTRA Equine Discounts partners. Visit EquineDiscounts.com for details.

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THE SWEET SISTERS, ONE OF ONLY TWO SETS OF FULL-SIBLINGS TO WIN THE BREEDERS' CUP

Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup with Living Legends
 Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams

In the nearly 40-year history of the Breeders' Cup, only two sets of full-siblings have won Breeders' Cup races. It's difficult enough for a mare to produce one Breeders' Cup winner, but two individual Breeders' Cup winners? That's such a rarity only six mares have ever done it. And only two of those six have had lightning strike twice as they've produced two Breeders' Cup winners by the same sire.

The first set, Juddmonte homebreds Banks Hill (GB) and Intercontinental (GB), won the GI Filly & Mare Turf in 2001 and 2004, respectively. By Danehill and out of the wonder mare Hasili (Ire), each wrapped up their broodmare careers in Great Britain.

Closer to home are full-sisters Sweet Catomine and Life Is Sweet. Both by Storm Cat out of the Kris S. mare Sweet Life, the Sweet sisters won the 2004 GI Juvenile Fillies and the 2009 GI Ladies Classic, respectively. **Cont.**

WATCH SWEET CATOMINE'S 2004 JUVENILE FILLIES WIN



40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

The rich heritage of the Breeders' Cup is woven into horse racing's history. Thirty-nine years and more than 360 champions later, the world-class festival of racing has transcended the sport itself.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4




To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have full sisters Sweet Catomine and Life Is Sweet, pictured with Ruben Trujillo and Pedro Valdivia. | Sarah Andrew

The Sweet Sisters, cont.

Sweet Catomine (2002 bay mare, Storm Cat--Sweet Life, by Kris S.)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo filly, MGISW, 7-5-1-0, \$1,059,600

Breeders' Cup connections: B/O-Pam and Martin Wygod; T-Julio Canani; J-Corey Nakatani.

Current owner and location: Pam and Martin Wygod; Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Ky.

Both raced as homebreds for Pam and Marty Wygod and both were uber-talented with a number of other top-class graded events on their CVs to go along with their Breeders' Cup wins.

The moment was cemented alongside Trevor Denman's call in 2009 at Santa Anita. Life Is Sweet, despite capturing the GI Santa Margarita and two other graded stakes earlier that year, had the distinct misfortune of running against the mighty Zenyatta three times in 2009. She was always a bit in Zenyatta's shadow, magnified because the two shared a conditioner in John Shirreffs. Zenyatta, the defending Ladies Classic winner, would skip the race in 2009 and face the boys in the Classic instead, which of course she would win in one of the most thrilling Breeders' Cup races to date. Without her stablemate, Life Is Sweet finally had her moment to shine and shine she did.



Life Is Sweet after the 2009 Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic
Sarah Andrew



Sweet Catomine with Ruben Trujillo at Lane's End | Sarah Andrew

Life Is Sweet trailed about 20 lengths behind the leader leaving the backstretch, was still last coming off the turn, and borrowed a Zenyatta-like move. Denman captured the excitement:

“Life Is Sweet exploding in the center and Life Is Sweet looking like she just joined in at the quarter pole! And it's Life Is Sweet and Garrett Gomez annihilating them in the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic. Life Is Sweet could not have been more impressive!”

Denman didn't mention the significance at the time of just the second set of full-sisters to win the Breeders' Cup, but owner Marty Wygod did in the winner's circle. And make no mistake, for a broodmare to accomplish that is a very, very big deal. Sweet Life would be named Broodmare of the Year in 2009.

The sisters Sweet were both foaled and raised at Mill Ridge Farm near Lexington. Ric Waldman of Storm Cat fame worked with the Wygods on the matings, according to Mill Ridge's Price Bell, Jr. Donnie Snellings, now with Denali Stud and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club's 2018 Farm Manager of the Year, was instrumental in raising both as fillies at Mill Ridge. Even today, so many years after they'd left his care, his affection for them still rings through.

“It was an immense gratification [to see them win the Breeders' Cup],” said Snellings. “That's what we do this for. We obviously work long hours and to see something you've raised turn out that way is immensely gratifying.

“Sweet Catomine was my special one. I really liked her.” **Cont.**

Life Is Sweet (2005 bay mare, Storm Cat--Sweet Life, by Kris S.)

Lifetime record: MGISW, 16-6-4-1, \$1,820,810

Breeders' Cup connections: B/O-Pam and Martin Wygod; T-John Shirreffs; J-Garrett Gomez.

Current owner and location: Pam and Martin Wygod; Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Ky.

The Sweet Sisters, cont.

“We raised her there on the farm and she was just a special filly. Sometimes when you're around good horses, they just give you a feel. She was super easy to deal with, had a great attitude, would do anything you asked her to do, very willing.”

Bell confirmed that Snellings knew early something exceptional was brewing with Sweet Catomine.

“Sometimes when you work with them, you just know there is something different,” said Bell. “I still remember him gloating about Sweet Catomine. He said she breathed different air. He had a soft spot for her. He talked about her with passion.”

Snellings was pleased to confirm it.

“You get a sense that the animal is special and she was very special. We had her up until she was a yearling, both of them until they went off for breaking,” said Snellings. “To see horses like that move on and go on to win the Breeders' Cup means we raised them the right way. It's very gratifying.”

“Life Is Sweet I don't remember as well as Sweet Catomine, but that's just a fantastic family. How often does this happen? Two full-sisters winning the Breeders' Cup. How fortunate it is that both those fillies were raised at the farm. Mill Ridge has had some very special mares and some very special owners.” **Cont.**

WATCH LIFE IS SWEET'S 2009 LADIES' CLASSIC WIN



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The Sweet Sisters, cont.

Sweet Catomine broke her maiden in the GI Del Mar Debutante as the first in a five-race win streak--all in graded races--which included the Juvenile Fillies. She was a part of the late Julio Canani's barn. Her Breeders' Cup win, five years before her younger sister's, happened during the championship's stop at Lone Star Park. Tom Durkin had that call and it was just as exciting as Life Is Sweet's. Let's pick it up leaving the backstretch, with the patented Durkin energy that made every Breeders' Cup call indelible.

"Oh! Sweet Catomine had to check and it cost her dearly. She checked in traffic... Sweet Catomine now has running room. And here comes the big filly on the outside... Sweet Catomine has overpowered them and strides away impressively and unquestionably the 2-year-old filly champion. She wins by five."



Life Is Sweet | Sarah Andrew

Sweet Life was carrying Life Is Sweet in utero when Sweet Catomine won her Breeders' Cup. The mare had three more foals by Storm Cat: the MSW & MSP colt named Calimonco and two unraced fillies. Another daughter, by Bernardini, would produce MGSW **Modernist**, a son of **Uncle Mo** whose first foals were born this year. He stands at Darby Dan Farm.

"It's a phenomenal family that we worked with and raised for the Wygods," said Bell. "Those [Breeders' Cup] races were incredible."

Both Breeders' Cup winners raced briefly after championship day. Sweet Catomine would be named the Eclipse champion 2-year-old filly and the next spring parlayed a GI Santa Anita Oaks victory into a try against the boys in the GI Santa Anita Derby. To the disappointment of many in the sport, she wasn't herself that day and finished fifth as the odds-on favorite, one spot behind eventual GI Kentucky Derby winner Giacomo. A controversy ensued, resulting in the Wygods removing her from Canani's barn to the Shirreffs shedrow, where she only spent a brief

amount of time. She was eventually retired without racing again.

Life Is Sweet finished second in her one start the spring following her Breeders' Cup win, but she had a history of tying up and it was decided to retire her. It was in the days before TikTok and Instagram, but Shirreffs surely would have been a sensation if they'd been around. At the time, he uploaded a number of videos of Life Is Sweet around the barn to YouTube and they were extremely popular. Bell remembers them, too.

"In those early days when John would have a camera in the barn, he spent a lot of time with Life Is Sweet. He would feed her each morning as she was laying down. I just remember John loving on her, feeding her in the stall on the ground. It was beautiful, individual attention he would give to her and I'm sure all of his horses. He really showcases them as individuals."



Ruben Trujillo and Sweet Catomine with Pedro Valdivia and Life Is Sweet | Sarah Andrew

For an example of one of the videos, [click here](#). Spoiler alert: it will warm even the hardest of hearts.

When contacted recently, Shirreffs shared the video and commented, "This is Life is Sweet, everything on her time."

Both Sweet Catomine and Life Is Sweet were retained by the Wygods and each produced several winners. They are now living the life of Riley together at Lane's End Farm near Versailles.

"Both are pensioned," said Alys Emson, who works in client management at Lane's End. "Sweet Catomine had her last foal in 2018. Life Is Sweet had her last foal in 2021. This is the 2-year-old filly called Life's for Living [by **Uncle Mo**]. She was sold as a yearling [to Mathiesen Racing at Keeneland September for \$170,000]. Mr. and Mrs. Wygod still board their mares with us and have retained various offshoots of the family.

"They are different physically," continued Emson. "Sweet Catomine is a big, wide-chested mare that is very powerfully made. Life Is Sweet is a little smaller and more refined in type."

The Sweet Sisters, cont.

"We have a group of retired mares that live in two to three separate fields depending on the time of year. These two are in the same field. They are outside all the time unless they need special care. They are fed and checked twice a day and just allowed to enjoy life and do as they please."

Broodmare of the Year Sweet Life passed away earlier this year at the age of 27 and was buried at Lane's End. As Juddmonte's Hasili was based primarily in Newmarket, Sweet Life remains the only U.S.-based mare to produce two Breeders' Cup-winning full-siblings. To borrow words from Bell and Snellings, surely "she breathed different air."

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FORMER HBPA PREZ ON 5TH CIRCUIT APPEAL: 'NO MATTER THE RESULT' BOTH SIDES EXPECT SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE

HISA'S FATE *by T.D. Thornton*

Leroy Gessmann, who served as president of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) from 2015 to 2021 and currently works as the Arizona HBPA's executive director, told commissioners at the Arizona Racing Commission (AZRC) meeting Thursday that regardless of the decision gets handed down by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, both the HBPA and its opponents in a 2 1/2-year-old lawsuit to nullify the Horseracing and Safety Integrity Act (HISA) agree that the nation's highest court will eventually have to be called upon to settle the matter.

Gessmann spoke in the wake of **Oct. 4 oral arguments** in the Fifth Circuit case that pits the HBPA and 12 of its affiliates against the HISA Authority and the Federal Trade Commission. On May 4, a lower court deemed that the now-in-effect version of HISA is indeed constitutional because a 2022 rewrite of the law fixed constitutionality problems the Fifth Circuit had identified. Shortly after that lower court's ruling came out in the spring, the HBPA plaintiffs then swiftly filed for another appeal back to the Fifth Circuit, which agreed to hear the case on an "expedited" basis.

"Both sides left the [Fifth Circuit] hearing feeling positive that they made good arguments and that they would win," Gessmann said. "So it's also been stated by both parties, no matter what the result is, the next step is the U.S. Supreme Court. We'll see when we get a ruling. Usually it takes about 30 to 60 days to get a ruling."

Gessmann then segued into updating the AZRC on a related project spearheaded by the HBPA, which is **federal legislation** filed **Sept. 26** to repeal HISA and replace it with a voluntary

interstate compact to govern the nation's Thoroughbred, Standardbred, and Quarter Horse racing.

That bill, named the Racehorse Health and Safety Act (RHSA), would establish a governing body known as the Racehorse Health and Safety Organization (RHSO), which would oversee breed-specific Scientific Medication Control Committees tasked with drafting and recommending drug rules for each breed.

There would also be racetrack safety oversight based on existing standards as set forth by both the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and the model rules of the Association of Racing Commissioners International.



Coady

Individual states would decide whether their own racing commission or the RHSO got to enforce the new federal rules, which would supersede existing state statutes. States wouldn't have to opt into the RHSO, but the cost of not doing so would jeopardize their racetracks' ability to simulcast out of state.

"So far, we've got a lot a lot of reviews on it, and it seems to have gained some traction, so hopefully something can be done there," Gessmann said, adding that the bill has been "well-received and is moving through the process in the legislature in Congress."

Asked by commissioner Linda York if he had any sense of a timetable for when the bill might make it to the Congressional floor, Gessmann said, "We have not been advised of anything, how quickly it could get there. Unfortunately, the National HBPA doesn't have a very large pack [of lobbyists] to help move things through."

The RHSA's sponsor is Rep. Clay Higgins, a Louisiana Republican. More than two weeks after its introduction, the bill has not yet been assigned to a committee. It has thus far gained one co-sponsor, Rep. Doug Lamborn, a Colorado Republican.

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2004 CLASSIC WINNER GHOSTZAPPER

Ghostzapper (2000 bay horse, Awesome Again--Baby Zip, by Relaunch)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year, Ch. older male, MGISW, 11-9-0-1, \$3,446,120

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Adena Springs (KY); O-Stronach Stables; T-Robert Frankel; J-Javier Castellano.

Current location: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, Paris, Ky.

Horses aren't supposed to be able to do what **Ghostzapper** did. The Hall of Famer was so dazzling that the 128 Beyer Speed Figure he registered in the GIII Philip H. Iselin H.--still the highest figure in the history of American racing at a route--isn't even remembered as one of his top races. Some people might count his GI Vosburgh sprinting at three against older horses as one of his best, others might prefer his GI Woodward battle over eventual Horse of the Year Saint Liam, and still others might best remember his spectacular daylight GI Met Mile win coming off a seven-month layoff. But there's no denying his GI Breeders' Cup Classic, his first and only time at 10 furlongs, left such an impression he still holds the stakes record of 1:59.02, having run the fastest Classic in the 39-year history of the Breeders' Cup.

Cont.

WATCH GHOSTZAPPER'S 2004 CLASSIC WIN



40

YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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Ghostzapper, cont.

Javier Castellano was aboard **Ghostzapper** for every one of those remarkable performances.

“He was one of the biggest horses and one of the best in my career,” said Castellano. “I say that because you don’t see too many horses that do what he did. This horse was particularly diversified at distances. From sprint to long distances, he did everything. He won the sprint races, he won at 1 1/4 miles, he won at a mile, at all the distances. It’s hard to stretch out a horse from six furlongs to long and back again, but he did it and he won. He did everything.

“He still has [the Breeders’ Cup] record. We’re talking about 19 years ago and nobody has broken that record. It was against all the best horses in the world at the time: Funny Cide, Azeri, Pleasantly Perfect.

“He’s pretty amazing, such a special horse. He put me on another level in my career. People didn’t know who Javier Castellano was at the time and for me to ride the best horse, he opened the door for myself and my family. He opened the door for my career. He’s such a special horse. I love him.

“He’s just amazing. I’m blessed, thankful, grateful to have ridden such a special horse. Mr. **Frankel** told me **Ghostzapper** was the best horse he’d trained in all his life. For him to say that, with all those good horses he had, was pretty amazing.”

—Jill Williams

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Tyler Baze, cont. from p7

Baze is slated to ride seven races at Santa Anita this coming weekend.

“Now with the winner, hopefully things will pick up and I’ll get on better horses,” Baze said. “But this whole ordeal has given me a whole new perspective... You realize how precious life is. Instead of just getting through your morning or through the day, you need to enjoy every minute of it. I get to be out here and look at these beautiful mountains and watch the sun come up every morning. It’s an amazing gift from God.”

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Join the growing list of owners and trainers who have pledged a percentage of their 2023 Breeders’ Cup Championship earnings to support Thoroughbred aftercare.

Photo Courtesy: Kurtis Coady

For more information, contact Anna Ford
614-989-3926 or anna@horseadoption.com

2015 DIRT MILE WINNER LIAM'S MAP

Liam's Map (2011 gray or roan horse, Unbridled's Song--Miss Macy Sue, by Trippi)

Lifetime record: MGISW, 8-6-2-0, \$1,358,940

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Albaugh Family Stable LLC (KY); O-Teresa Viola Racing Stables and West Point Thoroughbreds; T-Todd Pletcher; J-Javier Castellano.

Current location: Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Ky.

It's not often one is surprised when a 1-2 favorite wins, but **Liam's Map** had such a tumultuous trip in the GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile after a history of front-running scores that he had every right to lose.

"I like the way he did it," said Javier Castellano, who also had won the GI Woodward with the horse the month before. "He had missed the break. [Todd] Pletcher told me, 'Make sure he breaks good and get a good position,' but when the gate opened, he missed the break. He had to find the best spot and show he was an amazing horse the way he did it behind horses. It was in the way he did it that was very special. When I asked a little bit, he took off, and I just hand rode him. So amazing, very professional. He was very unique. I don't have any words to say how happy I was. He was just the right horse." --*Jill Williams*

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WATCH LIAM'S MAP'S 2015 DIRT MILE WIN



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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2015 Dirt Mile winner Liam's Map. | Sarah Andrew

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Monday, October 16, 2023



2020 Horse of the Year Authentic (Into Mischief), pictured last month with Christina Zurick, is one of two Breeders' Cup Classic-winning stallions standing at Spendthrift featured today in the TDN's Breeders' Cup 40 series. See pages 7-8. | Sarah Andrew

ARCANGELO TUNES UP FOR CLASSIC

5

GI Belmont S. winner Arcangelo (Arrogate) continued preparations for the GI Breeders' Cup Classic with a five-furlong work at Santa Anita Sunday.

TONY ANN TURNS BACK CARAVEL IN FRANKLIN

5

Tony Ann (Cairo Prince) outbattled champion Caravel (Mizzen Mast) to earn her first stakes victory in the GI Franklin S. at Keeneland Sunday.

KATE BIANCO JOINS HIGHGATE SALES

6

Kate Bianco, who has worked at Three Chimneys Farm and at Stonestreet Farms, has been named sales director at Highgate Sales.



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**PENNSYLVANIA
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2019 CLASSIC WINNER VINO ROSSO

Vino Rosso (2015 chestnut horse, **Curlin**--Mythical Bride, by Street Cry {Ire}).

Lifetime record: Ch. older male, MGIW, 15-6-1-3, \$4,803,125

Breeders' Cup connections: B-John D. Gunther (KY); O-Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable; T-Todd Pletcher; J-Irad Ortiz, Jr.

Current location: Spendthrift Farm, Lexington, Ky.

The first of back-to-back GI Breeders' Cup Classic winners retired to Spendthrift, Vino Rosso currently leads the U.S. freshman sire list and has had four individuals place in Grade I races in the last five weeks, including three on Oct. 7.

"Since he is a son of **Curlin**, we were fortunate enough to acquire the breeding rights to him in his 4-year-old year, and that's when he really began to take off," said Ned Toffey, general manager of Spendthrift. "He won the Wood Memorial, so he was good early in his 3-year-old year, too. He had talent, did have some precocity, and really got good as he got into those Classic distances. His Breeders' Cup Classic was one of the most impressive. He was a horse that had a really good fall and continued to thrive into Breeders' Cup week. He was the wise guy horse and didn't disappoint on race day; he's come to stud and done the same. He's demonstrated more precocity as a sire than we even expected. We're really excited about him."

--Jill Williams

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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2019 Classic winner Vino Rosso. | Sarah Andrew

2020 CLASSIC WINNER AUTHENTIC

Authentic (2017 bay horse, Into Mischief--Flawless, by Mr. Greeley). **Lifetime record:** Horse of the Year, Ch. 3yo colt, MGISW, 8-6-2-0, \$7,201,200

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC (KY); O-Spendthrift Farm LLC, MyRaceHorse Stable, Madaket Stables & Starlight Racing; T-Bob Baffert; J-John Velazquez.

Current location: Spendthrift Farm, Lexington, Ky.

Between winning the COVID-delayed Kentucky Derby in September and giving thousands of microshare owners cause to celebrate, Authentic was a major talking point the fall of 2020. His first foals, yearlings of 2023, include 10 who fetched \$700,000 or more at recent Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton sales.

“Authentic is a very special horse to us here at Spendthrift,” said the farm's general manager, Ned Toffey. “He is a horse that we initially pursued the breeding interest in, but very quickly we found ourselves taking it a step farther and buying him outright. It was exciting for us to have a son of Into Mischief with so much potential and especially so much Classic potential. At the end of the day I think he gave Mr. [B. Wayne] Hughes one of the biggest thrills to win the Breeders' Cup Classic right here in Lexington. He is very, very special to us.” --*Jill Williams*

WATCH AUTHENTIC'S 2020 CLASSIC WIN



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2021 JUVENILE WINNER CORNICHE

Corniche (2019 bay colt, **Quality Road**--Wasted Tears, by Najran)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo colt, MGISW, 4-3-0-0, \$1,263,500

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Bart Evans & Stonehaven Steadings (KY); O-Speedway Stables; T-Bob Baffert; J-M Smith.

Current location: Coolmore America/Ashford Stud, Versailles, Ky.

The time **Corniche**, a \$1.5-million OBS topper and '**TDN Rising Star**', spent on the track might have been brief, but it was bright. Undefeated in three starts at two and a dual Grade I winner, he was simply better than the rest.

"Corniche was always a dominating colt on the farm and so good looking as a foal," said Leah O'Meara of Stonehaven Steadings, who co-bred the Juvenile winner. "We always had high hopes for him. He gave us the first round of excitement when he breezed so well and went on to top the OBS April 2-year-old sale. But truly, the most impressive shock we were able to witness was his Breeders' Cup win... the way he broke strongly outside in post 12, was able to clear the field, and take an inside trip truly blew us away. Then of course he held on to take the 2-year-old championship and subsequently the Eclipse Award--we are truly blessed to have had a hand in a horse as great as him!" --*Jill Williams*

WATCH CORNICHE'S 2021 JUVENILE WIN



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2000-01 CLASSIC WINNER TIZNOW

Tiznow (1997 bay horse, Cee's Tizzy--Cee's Song, by Seattle Song)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year, Ch. 3yo colt, Ch. older male, MGISW, 15-8-4-2, \$6,427,830

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Cecilia Straub Rubens (CA); O-Michael Cooper and Cecilia Straub-Rubens (2000)/Cees Stable LLC (2001); T-Jay Robbins; J-Chris McCarron.

Current location: WinStar Farm, Versailles, Ky.

"The American Horse of the Year and the Arc winner are heads apart with a furlong to go in the Classic... Here's the wire, desperately close. Tiznow wins it for America!"


Chances are you can actually hear Tom Durkin's legendary call as you read those words. And chances are listening to the call now will give you goosebumps all over again and bring you straight back to that amazing moment.

Tiznow became an American hero that day at Belmont Park, just weeks after what would become known as 9/11.

Still the first and only horse to win back-to-back Breeders' Cup Classics, Tiznow's story is far more than one great victory.


Cont.

WATCH TIZNOW'S 2001 CLASSIC WIN




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Catching up with Tiznow, cont.

The robust California-bred's career reads like a modern-day racing soap opera: sandwiched between the Eclipse Awards, the Grade I races, and the two Classics, he was famously reluctant to train, lost his owner three days after his first Breeders' Cup win, and suffered a back injury that kept him on the sidelines for six months. He was quirky, he was game, and he was flat-out wonderful.

With perhaps a bit more modest pedigree than many stallions, Tiznow also wasn't guaranteed to stand in Kentucky. Thank goodness he did, though. Among his offspring are Breeders' Cup winners Folklore and **Tourist** and he's proving to be a darn good broodmare sire as well. Tiznow was pensioned from stud duty around this time of the fall in 2020. He remains at WinStar, where the affection stallion manager Larry McGinnis has for the big bay is palpable.

"I led him off the van when he arrived at WinStar," said McGinnis. "It's been a pleasure to take care of him his whole life.

"He's very good boy. He's retired now and when he's ready to come in the barn, he walks down to the gate and lets us know. His paddock has a hill in it. If we can't see him from the barn, he's on the other side of the hill and he doesn't want to come in. If he's at the top of the hill, we know he'll want to come in soon. We just wait for him to walk down to the gate, because that's when he's ready for us to bring him in, not before. He knows if it's going to get hot and he'll want to come in. We let him tell us.

"He's one of the smartest horses I've been around, probably the smartest. He's just a very cool, collected horse, always in control. He always looks at things and assesses them.

"He didn't like us riding or exercising him when he retired, so we stopped that pretty quick with him. He let his opinion be known. He felt that was work and he'd done that and didn't want to do it anymore.

"He's very, very smart with a good temperament. He was also a very, very fertile horse. One time he got 15-20 mares in foal in a row. That doesn't happen very often.

"He's just always been very intelligent, very cool and collected about everything he's done. It's just a pleasure to be around him." --Jill Williams

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WINTER MEMORIES MADE AND PRESERVED AT DARBY DAN

by J.N. Campbell

"Multiple graded stakes winner **Winter Memories** died, and not a peep about it anywhere? Seriously?" Last week's tweet sounded like a salvo.

The message's verve was driven by a quest for information. The responses underneath that query told the story, as a host of

fans who loved and cheered home this gray filly by El Prado (Ire) over a decade ago, posted their sadness after hearing of her loss.

Heading out the Old Frankfort Pike at historic Darby Dan Farm, owner John Phillips made the decision not to issue a press release. He had his reasons. As he said so acutely and with deep emotion, "Actually we put her down May 16. It was time, as her hind suspensories just gave out and she was in pain to stand. She was surrounded by the staff and I held the shank."

He also divulged that, "While I know she was a recognized mare, the loss was personal, private. We probably should have announced her passing, but that just seemed too commercial to me. Sorry if that offends anyone."

No one is offended. It's Phillips's right. In the world of commercial Thoroughbred breeding, which at times is only understood as a series of business transactions that are attached to monetary gains and losses, there are still deep-seeded tributaries of emotion that are directly tied to family connections--both human and equine. After all, that nexus is full of blood, sweat and at times, many, many tears. No myths here: only truth. That is what Winter Memories meant to Phillips and Darby Dan.

To hear him tell it, from the very beginning Winter Memories was intimately tied to the family and the stallion farm's staff. It all started Apr. 24, 2008.

"She was born on the day we buried our mother [Joan Phillips]," he said. "She was my mother's favorite color, gray. To say Winter Memories was a sentimental favorite is an understatement."

Out of Memories of Silver (Silver Hawk)--winner of the 1996 GI Queen Elizabeth II Challenge S. and the 1997 GI Beverly D. S. for Darby Dan--her filly would also head to Jimmy Toner's shedrow.

"Winter Memories was, like her mother Memories of Silver, a keen competitor, but was amazingly kind and gentle," he said.



John Phillips | courtesy of Darby Dan

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN TAYLOR MADE'S BREEDERS' CUP STORY

Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup

Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams

Can you imagine being a horse racing-crazy kid with a ringside seat to the creation of the Breeders' Cup? Mark Taylor can, because he was.

Fast forward more than four decades and now he is president and CEO of the Central Kentucky farm that is believed to have raised and/or sold more Breeders' Cup winners than any other. There's also the matter of having stood the Breeders' Cup winner who currently holds the record for siring the most Breeders' Cup winners in turn. And, oh yes, there's also **Knicks Go**, another Breeders' Cup winner, in the farm's stud barn right now, as well as a few in the fields. Yes, surely Taylor can be excused if his reverence for the Breeders' Cup might be even greater than usual.

"Listen, the [Kentucky] Derby is amazing, but if you're in this industry, the Breeders' Cup is the real deal," said Taylor. "Every division: turf, dirt, 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, older horses, all coming together and laying it all on the line." **Cont.**

WATCH KNICKS GO'S 2021 CLASSIC WIN



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Taylor Made, cont.

Knicks Go at Taylor Made | Sarah Andrew

Taylor's father was the legendary farm manager Joe Taylor, whose fortunes coincided with that of Gainesway. Many will remember Gainesway under John Gaines and the elder Taylor together. At one point the farm on Paris Pike stood 40 stallions and bred over 2,000 mares a year. This was all the more remarkable considering it was in the days when stallion books were much smaller and reproductive work wasn't quite so advanced, often necessitating multiple covers per mare.

In addition to owning one of the most successful stallion stations in our sport's history, Gaines is also credited with the conception of the Breeders' Cup. Joe Taylor was at his side for all of it. Although they were farm owner and employee, the two men were far closer than that, said Mark Taylor.

"Mr. Gaines and my dad were like brothers in a lot of ways," he said. "Mr. Gaines was a brilliant business guy and the visionary. My dad was the diplomat and the horseman. My dad was really gratified for Mr. Gaines when he got it all together and got the Breeders' Cup done. What an amazing thing."

Taylor said he was the youngest of eight kids and a young teenager when Gaines hatched the idea behind the Breeders' Cup.

"I feel like I got a front-row seat," said Taylor. "I was the last kid still in the house in those years where the Breeders' Cup was really coming to fruition. I could hear my dad in there on the phone with Mr. Gaines and the two of them brainstorming."

"It was like political warfare, getting everyone on board. For Mr. Gaines to try to bring this concept to fruition he deserves some sort of Nobel Peace Prize. I don't know how he got it done."

All these years later, Taylor still marvels at the unobstructed view he received.

"It's really amazing. I feel like of all the thousands and

thousands of people in this industry, I got to see this and I was just a 13- or 14-year-old kid. I had a really unique view of this thing coming together. I was really into horse racing. I'd be waiting for the *Blood-Horse* or *Thoroughbred Record* every week, and the race results in the *Herald-Leader* every day. The *TDN* wasn't around yet.

"It was kind of cool watching it all come together. I love the Breeders' Cup. It's one of my favorite days of the year. Watching what it's become is really special.

"I'll never forget that first Breeders' Cup Classic. That wild stretch drive. I think it was more than Mr. Gaines could have dreamt up the way it came together.

"What a privilege to see it all come together."

After witnessing something so special, no wonder Taylor--along with his older brothers--would later found Taylor Made Farm, today a diverse operation which has conquered the worlds of boarding, selling, stallions, and more. No fewer than 20 individual Breeders' Cup winners have been raised or sold by Taylor Made. Lest one think those eventual winners simply passed through sales barns, a full 11 of those 20 spent their formative years cavorting through Taylor Made pastures. Among those raised on Taylor Made's land were Triple Crown winner **American Pharoah** and leading sire Unbridled's Song. The latter also spent his entire stud career at Taylor Made and would sire six individual Breeders' Cup winners. Long before he sired a foal, Unbridled's Song was tied to Taylor Made.

"It's a long story," said Taylor. "We had Unbridled's Song here on the farm when he was a weanling owned by Mandysland Farm. They were dispersing; ultimately he was bought by someone else and they took him to Saratoga where he sold as a yearling, but was sent back to Taylor Made for some R&R. Ernie Pargallo's Paraneck Stable and Buzz Chace bought him." **Cont.**



Sarah Andrew

Taylor Made, cont.

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2023 Breeders' Cup Classic?

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“Back then, Taylor Made sold 2-year-olds in training. We obviously didn't have a training center, so we were the marketing arm. I never will forget when Unbridled's Song breezed, he was just this big, gray monster. He breezed so effortlessly. As he crossed the line, the announcer said, 'He went so fast the infield trees swayed.'”

Unbridled's Song brought \$1.4 million in 1995 at the Barretts March sale. At the time, it was a world record for a 2-year-old in training. However, there was a hitch. A chip was found in the colt's hind ankle and the buyer, according to Taylor, tried to negotiate a reduced price.



Sarah Andrew

“We had an anxiety attack,” said Taylor. “Here we'd spent all this money going to California--we'd flown all the way to Barretts to sell him--and our big horse was being turned back. Ernie Paragallo said, 'Don't worry about it. We're going to win the Breeders' Cup with him.' The rest is history.”

Sure enough, Unbridled's Song did just that. About seven months later, he captured the GI Juvenile in a spectacular stretch duel with Hennessy.

“That was amazing. Of course, he came here [after his racing career], led the general sires list, and was a tremendous sire for us,” said Taylor. “He really put our stallion operation on the map. He had so much speed for a big horse and could carry it two turns. He also had such a sweet disposition, not a mean bone in his body.

“And he died with that chip in his hind ankle!”

Unbridled's Song passed away in 2013 at the age of 20. Another Breeders' Cup winner, 2021 Classic winner and 2020 Dirt Mile winner **Knicks Go**, is currently in the stallion barn.

“Several farms were after him, so the fact that we were able to get the horse was very exciting,” said Travis White, director of sales at Taylor Made. “It's not often you get a horse like that. For us he checked a lot of boxes. We feel so fortunate and excited to have him.

“The Breeders' Cup is the Super Bowl of our sport. Anytime you can get a horse of that caliber, the best of the best, proven on the world's biggest stage, it's a great addition to a stallion roster. You're going to attract the top breeders in the world.”

Knicks Go was just history's sixth horse to find the winner's circle in two different Breeders' Cup races, but there was almost a third Breeders' Cup win on his CV. It's often lost among the Eclipse championships and two championship day wins, but **Knicks Go** also finished runner-up as a 2-year-old in the 2018 Juvenile behind eventual champion **Game Winner**.

“I think a lot of people forget he was a Grade I winner at two and that he won or placed in three different Breeders' Cup races,” said White. “It is extremely rare for a horse to be as precocious as he was and then come back and win two different Breeders' Cup races as an older horse. Most horses have a niche--they can't go two turns, can't come from off the pace, have to have things go their own way--but he was able to do it all. Hats off to Brad Cox and his crew for doing such a great job with him.” **Cont.**



Knicks Go with Ernesto Martinez | *Sarah Andrew*

Taylor Made, cont.

Knicks Go (2016 gray or roan horse, **Paynter**--Kosmo's Buddy, by Outflanker)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year, Ch. older male, MGISW, 25-10-4-1, \$9,258,135

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Angie Moore (MD); O-Korea Racing Authority; T-Brad Cox; J-Joel Rosario.

Current location: Taylor Made Farm, Nicholasville, Ky.

White said it's an honor to have **Knicks Go** in the stallion barn at Taylor Made. "Anytime you have a horse with his accomplishments and accolades, it means the world."

Knicks Go isn't the only Breeders' Cup winner currently on the farm. The most high-profile Breeders' Cup-winning mare at Taylor Made at the moment is undoubtedly Blue Prize (Arg), winner of the 2019 Distaff and a \$5-million purchase out of Fasig-Tipton by OXO Equine. However, it is Miss Macy Sue who holds pride of place.



Miss Macy Sue at Taylor Made last month | Sarah Andrew

Miss Macy Sue, a graded winner who was third in the 2007 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint, had five foals to race. Four were stakes winners, including GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile winner **Liam's Map** (who is by Taylor Made's Unbridled's Song) and **Not This Time**, who was runner-up by a neck in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and is now king of the stallion barn at Taylor Made.

"She is pensioned and still lives here," said Taylor. "She is the grand dame of Taylor Made. Almost two Breeders' Cup winners. What an achievement. Stallions get to produce hundreds and hundreds of foals every year, but mares get one chance a year for maybe 10 or 15 years. For her to have that kind of strike rate in the Breeders' Cup is just incredible."

Taylor Made has had a lot of significant moments in the

Breeders' Cup, but there was one that might have been a little extra special. In the 2004 edition at Lone Star Park, two mares grazing in Taylor Made paddocks both had Breeders' Cup winners. Silken Cat and Goulash produced Sprint winner **Speightstown** and Distaff winner Ashado, respectively. Now the mares are buried next to each other at Taylor Made.



Silken Cat's grave at Taylor Made | Sarah Andrew

"Both were bred by Aaron and Marie Jones, long-time customers. That day was incredible," remembered Taylor. "We raised them both here and they were on opposite ends of the spectrum price-wise. **Speightstown** was a \$2-million Keeneland July yearling and Ashado brought \$170,000 at Keeneland September. And yet they both turned into champions. Later we resold Ashado for a then world-record \$9 million."

It's probably safe to say Taylor Made's story in the Breeders' Cup is far from over. Whether future chapters will be written from the mare side or the sales division or even by horses standing in the stallion barn remains to be seen, but the touch of Taylor Made will likely continue to be felt alongside the Breeders' Cup. What could be more fitting for a kid with a front-row seat to the birth of racing's championship days?

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2012-13 FILLY & MARE SPRINT WINNER GROUPIE DOLL

Groupie Doll (2008 chestnut mare, Bowman's Band--Deputy Doll, by Silver Deputy)

Lifetime record: Ch. female sprinter (twice), MGISW, 23-12-4-4, \$2,648,850

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Fred Bradley & William Bradley (KY); O-Fred F. Bradley, William B. Bradley, Carl Hurst, and Brent Burns; T-William 'Buff' Bradley; J-Rajiv Maragh.

Current location: Gainesway, Lexington, Ky.

Fan favorite and beloved Bradley family member Groupie Doll won two Eclipse Awards, two Breeders' Cup races, four Grade 1s, and nine graded stakes; she set two track records, including at Churchill Downs in the GI Humana Distaff; and she sold to Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm for \$3.1 million. But it's not the accolades that mean the most to co-breeder, co-owner, and trainer Buff Bradley, he said. It was the special ride she gave the Bradley family during a difficult time.

"Winning the Breeders' Cup was great and awesome and wonderful for myself, my family, and my career. Really, being able to see something that we bred and foaled and raised do that was very special." **Cont.**

WATCH GROUPIE DOLL'S 2013 FILLY & MARE SPRINT WIN



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Groupie Doll, cont.

Bradley continued: "Everybody says, 'You did good with that filly [as her trainer],' but I had more pleasure from being a co-breeder and attending her foaling. That meant more to me than anything.

"My father and I got to share a lot of good racing over the years from maiden claimers all the way up to Grade Is with [Bradley family homebred] Brass Hat, but when the Breeders' Cup with Groupie Doll came about, it was very special for me because my dad had been diagnosed with dementia and I knew this might be his last hurrah with a horse.

"That was something that could keep my dad going and have him communicate with me, so it was really special to win that first one. The second year my father wasn't able to travel, but they had a party in Frankfort.

"My ex-wife, Kim, and I--we're still good friends--always go back and talk about her. I could tell you 100 stories about Groupie Doll since I was there since her first breath.

"We didn't really want to sell her ever, but we'd had several offers that kept coming. Right after her maiden win, I finally told my dad what we needed to do is sell 10% of her to our best partners and that was Carl Hurst and Brent Burns. We sold 10% to each of them so we could have some fun with them and that way we could say we already sold her and get people off our backs about selling her.

"Kim and I were talking just the other day about Groupie Doll. In between her Breeders' Cup wins, I had her turned out with Brass Hat. Once, from our house, we were watching them run in the paddock. As we watched them, Brass Hat would keep cutting the corner on her and make her run around him. In the end, she was blowing and he wasn't! We had to cool them out. I wanted to take him back to the track [he was retired], but Kim said it was time for her to go back. It was a lot of fun to see those two.

"When Groupie Doll was born, I told Kim, 'We're going to keep this filly, she'll be part of the broodmare band.' We kept moving forward and won the two Breeders' Cups, but before the second one, I told the family she would be worth more than we could afford. We were so happy to see Mandy purchase her. I was able to keep Groupie Doll in my barn after that and race her two more times for Mandy. Now she's at Gainesway and I haven't seen her in a while, but I used to visit her sometimes when she was at Timber Town. I'd go out in the field and she'd even talk to me a little bit when she walked toward me. She knows I have a peppermint for her." --Jill Williams

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DEL MAR TO TRIM FALL MEET PURSES IN 3-11% RANGE

by T.D. Thornton

Purses at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club are getting a haircut for the 13-date fall meet that spans Nov. 10-Dec. 3.

Del Mar executives speaking about the meet at Thursday's California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) meeting did not initially mention the purse cuts when making their standard presentation for licensure, which the CHRB unanimously granted. But Del Mar's president, Josh Rubinstein, detailed the reductions when directly queried about the state of purses by CHRB vice chair Oscar Gonzales.

"We have reduced purses slightly for this fall meet," Rubinstein said. "[We're] coming off two years of record wagering at Del Mar in 2021 and '22, and what we've seen nationally this year across the board in the industry, handle has been down eight of nine months.



Del Mar | Benoit

"We think there are multiple reasons for that," Rubinstein continued. "My own personal view is we're in a fairly soft economy right now--higher interest rates, inflation concerns--and there's just less discretionary income that people have. So we are matching purse levels to what we believe will be the handle generation for the meet."

Rubinstein termed the cuts as "a market correction from where we were the last two years. So depending on the race, anywhere from 3% to 11%, but still some of the highest purses in the country during this time."

Tom Robbins, Del Mar's executive vice president for racing and industry relations, told the CHRB that the 15-stakes schedule "remains intact" compared to last fall's meet.

Rubinstein noted that the fall season at Del Mar is traditionally a scaled-back version of racing compared to the track's nationally prominent summertime flagship meet that extends over two months. **Cont.**

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Saturday, October 21, 2023



Photographed in May at age 26, Bedazzle (Dixieland Band) is the dam of today's featured Breeders' Cup 40 horse. See page 16 | Sarah Andrew

JOHNSON CROSS A FORMIDABLE TWOSOME

11

Tanya Johnson and Kelli Cross have much in common in life and the duo bring their third consignment to Fasig-Tipton October next week.

QUALITY ROAD TOPS LANE'S END ROSTER

14

*The sire of six graded winners in 2023, including GI Preakness S. hero National Treasure, **Quality Road** will once again stand for \$200,000 in 2024.*

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES



ET

5:16p

5:41p

Race

Lexus Raven Run S.-GII, KEE

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2006 JUVENILE WINNER STREET SENSE

Street Sense (2004 dark bay or brown horse, Street Cry {Ire}--Bedazzle, by Dixieland Band)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo colt, MGIWSW, 13-6-4-2, \$4,383,200

Breeders' Cup connections: B-James Tafel (KY); O-Jim Tafel LLC; T-Carl Nafzger; J-Calvin Borel.

Current location: Darley America, Lexington, Ky.

With a patented Calvin Borel ride, **Street Sense** skimmed the rail and ricocheted off the turn with such momentum that perhaps even Borel was caught by surprise, as he glanced back several times before finally easing the Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner past the wire while 10 lengths clear. Much was made at the time of the 'Juvenile Jinx,' as no Juvenile winner had yet won the GI Kentucky Derby the following year. The charismatic **Street Sense** promptly put that myth to bed the next spring, then added the GI Travers for good measure. Now two of his own Grade I-winning sons stand alongside him at Darley.

"I looked after **Street Sense** for his first season in 2008 in Australia," said stallion manager Graham Lovatt. "Has as much character in a stallion that I've ever worked with. He'll 'ask' for a carrot or a treat when you walk by and will actually lift a leg up as a prompt." **Cont. p17**

WATCH STREET SENSE'S 2006 JUVENILE WIN



40
YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

The rich heritage of the Breeders' Cup is woven into horse racing's history. Thirty-nine years and more than 360 champions later, the world-class festival of racing has transcended the sport itself.





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40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4





To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2006 Juvenile winner **Street Sense**. | Sarah Andrew

“He’ll know when his pin is out of his stall door and he’ll open it up with his nose/muzzle to get his carrot. He’s very respectful. Not a mean bone in his body. I’ve never known him to bite or kick anyone out of malice.” --*Jill Williams*

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GEAUX ROCKET RIDE RETURNS TO THE WORKTAB



Geaux Rocket Ride winning the Haskell | *Sarah Andrew*

Pin Oak Stud LLC's **Geaux Rocket Ride** (**Candy Ride {Arg}**), winner of the GI TVG.com Haskell S. ahead of a runner-up effort in the GI TVG Pacific Classic, breezed three-quarters of a mile in 1:13.80 over the Santa Anita main track Friday morning as he resumed his serious preparations for the GI Breeders' Cup Classic Nov. 4.

Taking to the track at around 7:45 a.m. PT, the \$350,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga graduate was put through his paces by regular rider and four-time Classic winner Mike Smith, who pronounced himself pleased with the move.

“It was a good work, especially for him,” Smith said of Geaux Rocket Ride. “He’s never been the flashiest horse in the morning.”

Geaux Rocket Ride breezed five furlongs in 1:00.20 (3/11) Oct. 3 and also went six panels on Oct. 9, but a time was not recorded owing to heavy morning fog. Trainer Richard Mandella said that the colt spiked a bit of a temperature out of that work, but recovered quickly.

“We had to put him on an antibiotic,” said the conditioner, who saddled Pleasant Perfect (Pleasant Colony) to victory in the 2003 Classic, one of an historic four wins on the program. “Luckily, he got right through it. It didn’t amount to much. We’re happy. Next week he’ll have a better work.”

Three stakes winners from two weekends ago also returned to the tab Friday morning. **Chatalas** (**Gun Runner**), victorious in the GI Chandelier S. for trainer Mark Glatt, drilled a half-mile in :47.40 (3/48) and is expected to make her next appearance in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Nov. 3. Amerman Racing's **Endlessly** (**Oscar Performance**), who remained unbeaten in three starts in the GIII Zuma Beach S., geared up for the GI Juvenile Turf with a four-furlong move that was timed in :48.20 (19/48). **Slider** (Jimmy Creed), who earned a berth in the field for the GI Juvenile Turf Sprint courtesy of his score in the Speakeasy S., went a similar distance in :47.40.

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HIWU CHANGES ENFORCEMENT OF PROVISIONAL SUSPENSIONS AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PROTOCOLS FOR SELECT BANNED SUBSTANCES

Following discussions with HISA's ADMC Committee, HIWU will no longer impose Provisional Suspensions on Covered Persons upon the service of an Equine Anti-Doping Notice for an Adverse Analytical Finding (i.e., positive test result) for Banned Substances that are recognized as substances of abuse in humans, the unit said in a release Friday.

Examples that fall under this category include cocaine, methamphetamine, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

If a Covered Horse's A Sample tests positive for one of these Banned Substances, a Provisional Suspension will not be imposed on the relevant Covered Person until B Sample analysis confirms the presence of the Banned Substance or B Sample analysis has been waived by the Covered Person.

Consequently, in compliance with Rule 3610(b), such cases will not be published on the HIWU website's Public Disclosures page until after these steps occur. This change to the Public Disclosure protocol is consistent with current procedures for presence violations (i.e., positive tests) for Controlled Medication Substances.

This policy applies retroactively to current pending cases, and Provisional Suspensions have been lifted on all Covered Persons who have not been charged and are waiting for B Sample results to be issued.

This update is intended to address concerns within the industry that the names of Covered Persons were being publicly disclosed in cases involving the aforementioned types of substances before the Covered Persons had an opportunity to determine the source of the substance at issue, including whether it was the result of unintended human transfer.

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2004 SPRINT WINNER SPEIGHTSTOWN

Speightstown (1998 chestnut horse, Gone West--Silken Cat, by Storm Cat)

Lifetime record: Ch. sprinter, GISW, 16-10-2-2, \$1,258,256

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Aaron U. and Marie Jones (KY); O-Eugene and Laura Melnyk; T-Todd Pletcher; J-John Velazquez.

Current location: WinStar Farm, Versailles, Ky.

Some horses never seem to set a foot wrong. **Speightstown** is one of those. From \$2-million Keeneland July yearling to Breeders' Cup winner to champion to influential sire, he's not only done it all, but done it all extremely well.

When WinStar's David Hanley was asked if he had a few words to say about the remarkable 25-year-old, he said with a laugh:

"I've more than a few words. He's a wonderful horse. I've been very lucky and fortunate to be around him for the past 10 years. He's a magnificent character and a very kind-natured horse. Always looking for treats, but always willing to do what you ask him to do. He has a beautiful head and a sweet nature.

"Up until a year a year ago, we used to ride him every day and he would bow his neck and swell up like he was going to the racetrack. He was a wonderful racehorse and is now a great stallion with 26 Grade I winners in his career.

WATCH SPEIGHTSTOWN'S 2004 SPRINT WIN



40

YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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At the age of 25, he has Prince of Monaco, the highest rated 2-year-old in America right now, and several young sons at stud, which is amazing. He's also one of the best broodmare sires right now. He's just a wonderful horse, an amazing horse. It's been a privilege to have him." --Jill Williams

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EXERCISE RIDER LUEVANO DIES DURING TRAINING HOURS AT LOS ALAMITOS

Alfredo Luevano, 53, died early Friday morning in a training incident at Los Alamitos Race Course in Cypress, California, the track said in a press release late Friday evening.

Luevano was exercising a filly on the backstretch when the incident occurred. He was on the ground when assistance first arrived, while the filly ran off under her power. As of now, there have been no eyewitness accounts with any precise details on the incident. Luevano was rushed to Long Beach Memorial, where he was pronounced deceased.

The horse, a 2-year-old filly Quarter Horse named Fly From The Fire (Fly Thru the Fire), was not injured. She made five starts this year for trainer Mike Casselman and was entered in the seventh race at Los Alamitos on Saturday night. Track management has since confirmed that the filly will be scratched as a precaution.

"On behalf of the Los Alamitos Race Course family, we express our deepest condolences to Mr. Luevano's family members and friends," said Los Alamitos Race Course spokesperson Orlando Gutierrez.

Born in the city of Luis Moya in Zacatecas, Mexico, the jockey had a total of 33 mounts during his professional riding career with most of his rides taking place in Mexico and Colorado. He was issued an exercise rider license by the California Horse Racing Board earlier this year.

Alfredo Luevano is survived by his wife, Marisela Martinez, their children, Lisbet, Alfredo Jr., Alex, Aldo, and Camila, six grandchildren and his father, Augustine. A moment of silence will be held in his memory before Sunday's Quarter Horse card at Los Alamitos.

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TODAY'S FEATURED REPLAY



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VAHVA (by *Gun Runner*) collects her second consecutive graded win in Keeneland's GII Lexus Raven Run S. Saturday.
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2022 FILLY & MARE TURF WINNER TUESDAY

Tuesday (Ire) (2019 bay filly, Galileo {Ire}--Lillie Langtry {Ire}, by Danehill Dancer {Ire})

Lifetime record: GISW-U.S., G1SW-Eng, G1SP-Ire, 10-3-3-1, \$1,828,827

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Coolmore (Ire); O-Westerberg Limited, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael B. Tabor, and Derrick Smith;

T-Aidan O'Brien; J-Ryan Moore.

Current location: Coolmore America/Ashford Stud, Versailles, Ky.

Coolmore's late super sire, Galileo, added his sixth Breeders' Cup winner with Tuesday just last year. He is a joint second by winners, but stands alone as the leading Breeders' Cup sire by money won with nearly \$16 million in purses--more than \$4.5 million more than his closest pursuer.

Tuesday, who also captured the G1 Cazoo Oaks in 2022 and now holds the 1 3/16-mile course record at Keeneland after her Breeders' Cup win, was retired shortly after the race and bred to Into Mischief this spring.

"She was such a tough, consistent race filly--like all of the Galileos are," said Ashford's Dermot Ryan.



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have Filly & Mare Turf winner Tuesday. | Sarah Andrew

“She was expertly campaigned by Aidan and his team to win the Oaks on her 3-year-old birthday and to defeat a top-class field containing six Grade I winners and a Canadian Classic winner at the Breeders' Cup gave her owners/breeders and the whole team at Coolmore such a thrill.” --*Jill Williams*

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Tamara | *Horsephotos*

Tamara Cont. From Pg. 9

Trainer Richard Mandella also pronounced himself pleased with the work.

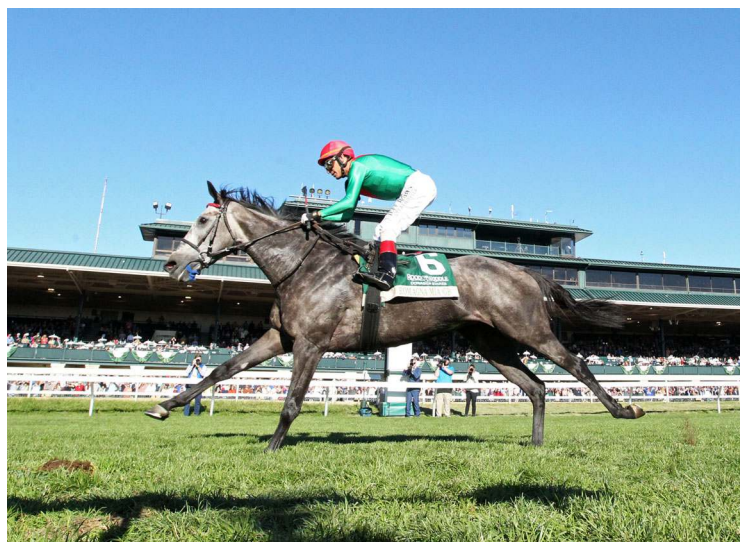
“She can run,” said Mandella. “She’s not a big horse, but when the time is needed, she rises to the occasion. She swells up. She’s not tall, she’s kind of stocky and stout and growing as we go along. She’ll end up bigger than this, but she’s big enough,” he concluded with a smile.

Mandella, of course, trained Beholder and Smith was the regular rider on Songbird, whom Beholder beat in her last-ever race in the 2016 GI Breeders' Cup Distaff. Smith was asked about the irony of that as Tamara's regular rider.

“I even rode her mother once,” said Smith, “but it’s pretty cool. I guess it means I’ve been around for a little bit. It’s kind of cool to see these young ones come up. Look, she’s got a long ways to go before she comes close to her mother, but she’s certainly on the right track.”

As for the upcoming Breeders' Cup, Smith said, “I can't wait. I'm really looking forward to it, especially getting to ride a filly with the kind of talent she does. If all goes well, the sky's the limit for her.”

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Romagna Mia | *Coady*

ROMAGNA MIA NOTE PERFECT IN DOWAGER

The 6-1 morning line didn't last long on this European invader as **Romagna Mia (GB)** (Mastercraftsman {Ire}) wound up receiving all the wagering attention before strolling home in Sunday's GIII Rood and Riddle Dowager S.

Already a group winner as a 3-year-old in Italy last Fall, the 4-year-old had considerably worse luck in several attempts at stakes in France before making the voyage across the pond to debut for trainer Graham Motion in the GI Beverly D. at Colonial Downs Aug. 12. She ran a valiant third that day behind only MGISW's Fev Rover (Ire) (Gutalfan {Ire}) and Gina Romantica (Into Mischief). **Cont.**



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2005 JUVENILE FILLIES WINNER FOLKLORE

Folklore (2003 bay mare, Tiznow--Contrive, by Storm Cat)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo filly, MGISW, 8-4-3-1, \$945,500

Breeders' Cup connections: B/O-Robert Lewis & Beverly Lewis (KY); T-D. Wayne Lukas; J-Edgar Prado.

Current location: Taylor Made Farm, Nicholasville, Ky.

The late owners Bob and Beverly Lewis, universally beloved in the industry and honored with the Eclipse Award of Merit in 1997, got their third and final Breeders' Cup win with Folklore, made all the more special as she was a homebred. Although they used a variety of trainers, all three of their of their Breeders' Cup wins were with D. Wayne Lukas.

“We partnered with WinStar on Tiznow and Folklore was in his first crop,” said Mark Taylor of Taylor Made Farm, where Folklore was raised. “She was bred by Bob and Beverly Lewis. At the time, they used several different trainers and Wayne Lukas was one of them. Folklore was kind of slated to go to the sale. We had others for them that were by more high-profile sires at the time, higher-bred yearlings. Lukas was told he could pick one. He locked on her right away. He didn't even look at the pedigree, didn't care who she was by or what her family was. He wanted her and he just knew.” **Cont.**



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2005 Juvenile Fillies winner Folklore. | Sarah Andrew

“And of course she turned into a Breeders' Cup winner and a champion. She really kicked off Tiznow's stallion career, him being such a special horse in Breeders' Cup lore, then to get her in his first crop. I give Lukas a lot of credit. He was right.”

Folklore, now 20 and still owned by a branch of the Lewis family, has a yearling filly by **Practical Joke**, a weanling filly by Yaupon, and was bred to Mo Donegal for 2024. Her first daughter is the dam of multiple Japanese champion and Triple Crown winner Contrail (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}). --*Jill Williams*

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2nd-Finger Lakes, \$26,200, 10-23, (C), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.33, gd, 1/2 length.

WAITWAITDONTTELLME (f, 3, Mucho Macho Man--Yolie's Choice, by Silver Deputy) Lifetime Record: 14-4-1-5, \$100,172. O-Gags Racing Stable, LLC and M. Anthony Ferraro; B-Mulholland Springs LLC (NY); T-M. Anthony Ferraro. *\$45,000 Ylg '21 FTKFEB. **1/2 to Southern Blessing (Dixie Union), GSP, \$108,895.

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8th-Finger Lakes, \$25,300, 10-23, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.67, ft, 6 lengths.

WARSAICHI (f, 3, War Dancer--Saichi Sweepin {SP, \$178,956}, by Fusaichi Pegasus) Lifetime Record: SW, 11-3-4-3, \$129,147. O/B-Purple Haze Stables, LLC (NY); T-Chris J. Englehart. *1/2 to Laochi (Laoban), SP, \$162,530.

4th-Finger Lakes, \$25,140, 10-23, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m 70y, 1:45.49, gd, 1/2 length.

SHOOPHEREITIS (f, 3, Carpe Diem--Shoop, by Uncle Mo) Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-1, \$47,519. O-Glenn P. Corbett; B-Stonegate Stables LLC, TLC Thoroughbreds, John P Hicks & William Ziemba (NY); T-Jeremiah C. Englehart.

1st-Finger Lakes, \$24,700, (S), (NW2BX)/Opt. Clm (\$10,000), 10-23, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:47.35, gd, 5 lengths.

SARATOGA KISSES (f, 4, Kantharos--Kiss the Flag, by Quiet American) Lifetime Record: 27-5-7-5, \$174,125. O-Stoneybrook Farm Trust; B-Scott Pierce (NY); T-Beth Miller-Saul. *\$47,000 RNA Ylg '20 FTKSEL.

6th-Finger Lakes, \$24,700, (S), (NW2BX)/Opt. Clm (\$10,000), 10-23, 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:43.87, ft, 4 3/4 lengths.

MAJESTIC FRONTIER (g, 4, Keen Ice--Majesty's Crown, by First Defence) Lifetime Record: MSP, 29-5-7-4, \$198,020. O-Gumpster Stable LLC; B-Renate Jackson & Gerald Grabcheski (NY); T-Ralph D'Alessandro.

5th-Finger Lakes, \$24,000, (S), 10-23, (NW1BX), 3yo/up, 1m 70y, 1:45.13, ft, neck.

CO CONSPIRATOR (g, 4, Big Brown--Harlotry Holiday, by Harlan's Holiday) Lifetime Record: 28-7-4-5, \$113,750. O-Stop Playing Stables; B-KatieRich Farms (NY); T-Luis Gutierrez. *\$17,000 Ylg '20 KEESEP; \$40,000 2yo '21 OBSAPR.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

El Bambino, c, 2, **Connect**--Rezister, by Deputy Minister.

Mahoning Valley, 10-23, 5f, 1:00.31. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, \$22,500. B-George M. Veloudis (KY). *\$4,000 Ylg '22 FTKOCT; \$12,500 2yo '23 OBSOPN.

Spinnin Pistols, g, 2, **Lord Nelson**--Touch the Sky, by **Candy Ride (Arg)**. Golden Gate Fields, 10-22, 6f (AWT), 1:10.91. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$18,000. B-Stephen E. Johnson (KY). *\$17,000 Wlg '21 KEENOV; \$17,000 Ylg '22 FTDIGD. **1ST-TIME STARTER.

Uncle Heavy, g, 2, **Social Inclusion**--Expect Wonderful, by Tiz Wonderful. Parx Racing, 10-23, 6f, 1:13.61. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$42,000. B-Barbara Reid (PA). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Concentration, g, 2, **Tamarkuz**--Three Spokes, by Daaher. Horseshoe Indianapolis, 10-23, (S), 1m, 1:40.51. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-0, \$28,350. B-Michael Lauer, Penny Lauer, Jack Danehy & Barry Ward (IN).

Total Smokeshow, f, 3, **Courageous Cat**--Miss **Tapit**, by **Tapit**. Mahoning Valley, 10-23, (S), 6f, 1:14.79. Lifetime Record: 16-1-1-5, \$34,875. B-Jon Matthew Engstrom (OH).



Monumentaljustice, g, 3, **Super Saver**--Sheltowee's Gold, by **Dialed In**. Horseshoe Indianapolis, 10-23, (S), 1 1/16mT, 1:46.17. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-2, \$37,000. B-Justice Farm, Greg Justice (IN).

Silent Heat, c, 4, **Unusual Heatwave**--Silent Deposition, by Silic (Fr). Santa Anita, 10-22, (S), 1 1/8mT, 1:48.37. Lifetime Record: 9-1-0-2, \$60,400. B-Paul Lawrence Newhart (CA).

TODAY'S FEATURED REPLAY



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Candy Corn (*Twirling Candy*) breaks his maiden at Presque Isle
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2017 CLASSIC WINNER GUN RUNNER

Gun Runner (2013 chestnut horse, **Candy Ride {Arg}**--Quiet Giant, by Giant's Causeway)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year, Ch. older male, MGISW-U.S., G1SP-UAE, 19-12-3-2, \$15,988,500

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Besilu Stables, LLC (KY); O-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC and Three Chimneys Farm; T-Steve Asmussen; J-Florent Geroux.

Current location: Three Chimneys Farm, Versailles, Ky.

Surely there's not much that hasn't been said about the inimitable **Gun Runner**. A top 3-year-old--Grade I winner who placed in the Kentucky Derby, Travers, and Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile--he was nearly perfect at four. After a runner-up finish behind Arrogate halfway across the world in the Dubai World Cup, he never lost again, reeling off a string of Grade I scores which included the Breeders' Cup Classic. He hasn't broken stride at stud either, currently and remarkably ranked second on the U.S. general sires list with only his third crop now at the races.

"Gun Runner was such a special horse for us," said Scott Blasi, assistant to Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen. "He was a horse that we developed from his 2-year-old year on. Just to be a part of

WATCH GUN RUNNER'S 2017 CLASSIC WIN



40

YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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him and get to watch him develop into the super star that he was and to see what he's done in the stallion barn is just absolutely amazing. I'm pretty proud to be a part of it.

"The fun part about **Gun Runner** is how early it is in his stallion career, but he's doing things that we haven't seen stallions do. Having the opportunity to train his future offspring is such a privilege.

"Just being able to be a part of him and being able to continue to be a part of him is really special and exciting. That pretty much sums it up."

A runaway leader of both the first-crop sires list in 2021 and the second-crop list last year, **Gun Runner**'s top performers in the last two months alone include GI Ballerina winner Echo Zulu, GI Forego winner Gunite, and GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity winner Locked. He had a Breeders' Cup winner in his first year with runners and a Preakness winner in his second.

"I have asked the grooms in the barn things that they think I should convey," said Veronica Reed, stallion manager at Three Chimneys, "and the top one we all agree on is that **Gun Runner** is the king of the castle! This horse is so smart. He knows that he rules the roost over the people that work with him day in and day out, but also the people joining tours and breeders coming for a peek at his majesty.

"We have never met a horse that knows where his place is in this world better than **Gun Runner**, and we have met a lot of excellent racehorses. He has such a sharp eye it seems he can see miles away; it also makes it obvious to me that he could win all those races [because] he was calculating moves before the other horses even knew what they had coming.

"He is highly intelligent in the shed. He seems to know who the exciting mares are, as well as the ones that might give him a run for his money. Yet he is a gentleman with his ladies, and sometimes with the people that handle him, mostly. We pick and choose who can handle him as he is not always an easy horse to work with but one that will teach a whole lot to the grooms.

"He loves his outdoor time and having other over-the-fence stallions to mingle with. He knows when to pose for photos, but also enjoys us looking ridiculous as we try to get his attention in conformation shots.

"I love the balance he pushes us to reach as when we are all in harmony, he is happy, and he reminds us that this industry is about the horse."--*Jill Williams*

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FANDUEL TV EXPANDS BREEDERS' CUP COVERAGE

FanDuel TV is expanding its coverage for this year's Breeders' Cup World Championships, the network announced on Tuesday.

Wednesday's pre-entry announcement show will air live from Santa Anita on Wednesday, Oct. 25, beginning at 12:00 p.m. ET and will be hosted by Joaquin Jaime and Christina Blacker.

The live morning works show "Breakfast at the Breeders' Cup" returns on Friday, Oct. 27 on FanDuel TV and on the Breeders' Cup digital and social media channels from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ET daily through Thursday, Nov. 2. Hosts Todd Schrupp, Simon Bray, Caton Bredar, Michelle Yu, Rishi Persad, Scott Hazelton, Joaquin Jaime and Andie Biancone will be live on-site at Santa Anita, Keeneland and Churchill Downs.

The post-position draw will be held on Monday, Oct. 30 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. ET and will be hosted by Nick Luck and Britney Eurton.

This year for the first time, the Breeders' Cup is carding two of its championship races after the GI Longines Breeders' Cup Classic, and FanDuel TV will be the exclusive linear broadcast partner for both the \$1-million GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint and the \$2-million GI Qatar Racing Breeders' Cup Sprint.

"The Breeders' Cup is always a highlight on the racing calendar and one of the biggest weekends of the year for our audience and we are excited to be expanding our coverage for the 40th running," Kevin Grigsby, FanDuel TV Executive Producer, said. "Racing fans can count on wall-to-wall coverage from Pre-Entry till the last race on Saturday."

The FanDuel Group is an official sponsor of the Breeders' Cup and the title sponsor of the \$2-million GI FanDuel Breeders' Cup Juvenile presented by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) and the \$2-million GI FanDuel Breeders' Cup Mile presented by the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF).

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BREEDERS' CUP VETERINARY TEAM CONDUCTS ENHANCED PRE-SCREENING

The Breeders' Cup Veterinary Review Team has conducted the first stage of an extensive assessment of the veterinary and treatment records associated with more than 200 potential contenders for the 2023 Breeders' Cup World Championships, it was announced Tuesday.

The 2023 Breeders' Cup World Championships, featuring 14 Grade I races and \$31 million in purses and awards, will showcase the best Thoroughbreds from around the globe Nov.

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Thursday, October 26, 2023



Photographed in May, Round Pond (Awesome Again) and Ashado (Saint Ballado), winners of the 2006 and 2004 GI Breeders' Cup Distaff, respectively, are today's featured Breeders' Cup 40 horses. See pages 25 and 26. | Sarah Andrew

PIMENTALS GET HELP TO PROCEED TO HIWU HEARING

20

The ruled-off trainer John Pimental said Wednesday that he and his wife, Diana, have been "blown away" by the support and offers of assistance they have received in the five days since a TDN story highlighted HIWU allegations against them stemming from a methamphetamine positive.

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2006 DISTAFF WINNER ROUND POND

Round Pond (2002 bay mare, Awesome Again--Gift of Dance, by Trempolino) | **Lifetime record:** MGISW, 13-7-2-3, \$1,998,700

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Trudy McCaffery & John Toffan (KY); O-Fox Hill Farms, Inc.; T-Michael Matz; J-Edgar Prado.

Current location: Darley America, Lexington, Ky.

John Ferguson acquired Round Pond on behalf of Darley for \$5.75 million at Fasig-Tipton's fall sale in 2007. The elegant bay produced two stakes winners for the Darley/Godolphin banner--MSW & GISP Long River (A.P. Indy) and SW & GSP Lake Lucerne (Dubawi {Ire})--while an unraced daughter produced 2022 GI Carter H. winner **Speaker's Corner**. The latter, a Godolphin homebred by home stallion **Street Sense**, stood his first season in the Darley stud barn alongside his sire this year.

"Round Pond is a sweet girl," said Darley's Gainsborough division farm manager Danny Mulvihill, "but is pretty low on the totem pole. She will come for food but likes to play hard to catch! I am sure I have heard her 'laughing' as she runs away from you. She tends to be happy with her own company and doesn't need a whole lot of attention. She is another fan favorite when the tours come through." --*Jill Williams*

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WATCH ROUND POND'S 2006 DISTAFF WIN

40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2006 Distaff winner Round Pond. | *Sarah Andrew*

2004 DISTAFF WINNER ASHADO

Ashado (2001 dark bay or brown mare, Saint Ballado--Goulash, by Mari's Book)

Lifetime record: Ch. 3yo filly, Ch. older mare, MGISW, 21-12-4-3, \$3,931,440

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Aaron U. Jones & Marie D. Jones (KY); O-Starlight Stable LLC, Paul Saylor, and Johns Martin; T-Todd Pletcher; J-John Velazquez.

Current location: Darley America, Lexington, Ky.

Ashado's Breeders' Cup win in 2004 was sandwiched by placings both the year prior and the year after. The grand mare's 11 black-type wins included seven Grade 1s, ranging from the Spinaway at two to the Kentucky Oaks at three and the Ogden Phipps at four. No wonder John Ferguson went to \$9 million--then a world record--for her at the 2005 Keeneland November sale on behalf of Darley. Her final foal, a Bernardini yearling, is a full-brother to her stakes winner Westwood.

"She is the dominant mare in her retired group," said Danny Mulvihill, farm manager at Darley's Gainsborough division. "No matter who is added to the group, she remains 'Top Dog'. With that being said, she is very easy to deal with and is a sweetheart but will let you know when she is not happy about something."

Cont.

WATCH ASHADO'S 2004 DISTAFF WIN



40

YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2004 Distaff winner Ashado. | Sarah Andrew

Ashado, cont.

“She loves attention and is extremely food driven! She is definitely an easy keeper. She was a great mom to all of her babies and is now enjoying a happy retirement. She is, of course, one of the fan favorites when the tours come through.”

--Jill Williams

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NYRA RAISES PURSES FOR 2024 NY-BRED FOAL CROP



Sarah Andrew

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2026, New York-bred overnight races for 2-year-olds on the NYRA circuit will offer purse amounts matching the race's open-company counterpart, which will directly benefit the state's 2024 foal crop and pave the way to compete for some of the richest purses of any state-bred program in the nation, the association said in a release Wednesday.

At the 2023 summer meet at Saratoga Race Course, maiden races restricted to New York-bred 2-year-olds featured a purse of \$88,000 compared to a purse of \$105,000 offered for 2-year-olds competing in an open-company maiden event.

While this purse increase will impact only the 2024 New York-bred foal crop, NYRA intends to further expand purse parity for additional categories of New York-bred races in the future.

In 2022, NYRA conducted 556 races exclusively for registered New York-breds with purses totaling \$42,366,000. Among those races were 56 stakes with \$8,725,000 of purse money on offer. NYRA holds three high profile NY-bred showcase days annually, highlighted by New York Showcase Day at Saratoga Race Course. In 2023, Saratoga Showcase Day was run on the Sunday of Travers Weekend and featured 113 NY-breds competing in 11 races, including six stakes worth a combined \$1.25 million.

As a result of the partnership between NYRA and FOX Sports, nearly every NY-bred contest is broadcast live to a national audience on the FOX Sports family of networks. Both Saratoga Live and America's Day at the Races, which are produced by NYRA, have generated sustained ratings growth since they were launched nationally in 2016.

“The New York-bred program is critically important to the future of Thoroughbred racing in New York State,” said Dave O'Rourke, NYRA President & CEO. “This new purse structure increases the value of the upcoming foal crop of New York-breds, and reflects NYRA's commitment to the owners, breeders and trainers who choose to breed and race in New York.”

Beyond the rich purses offered by NYRA, a variety of owner, breeder and stallion awards are available to those who breed and race in New York. These lucrative incentives serve as a significant benefit to Thoroughbred breeding farms across the state, which create and sustain thousands of jobs in every corner of New York.

“This initiative is a strong signal to the bloodstock market on why you should breed and foal in New York, and own a New York-bred to race,” said Najja Thompson, Executive Director of the New York Thoroughbred Breeders. “New York-breds compete and win at the highest levels, and NYRA's consistent support guarantees more opportunities than ever for New York State's breeders and owners.”

New York State has adopted rules that expand the reach of the New York-bred awards and benefits by clarifying a pathway for non-resident mares to gain residency status. According to the rule changes, a non-resident mare purchased in foal through public auction is deemed a resident mare provided the mare is purchased for at least \$50,000 in the public auction; is present in the state of New York within 15 days after a sale in North America and 60 days at any public auction sale abroad; the foal is foaled in New York; and the mare thereafter is continuously in residence in New York from within 120 days after her last cover in the year of conception of another foal and remains in residency until foaling.

“It pays to participate in the New York-bred program,” added Thompson. “And bringing a mare back to New York is a valuable proposition, especially for the 2024 foaling season.”

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2016 JUVENILE WINNER CLASSIC EMPIRE

Classic Empire (2014 bay horse, Pioneerof the Nile--Sambuca Classica, by Cat Thief)

Lifetime record: Ch. 2yo colt, MGISW, 9-5-1-1, \$2,520,220


Breeders' Cup connections: B-Steven Nicholson & Brandi Nicholson (KY); O-John C. Oxley; T-Mark Casse; J-Julien Lejaroux.

Location photographed: Coolmore America/Ashford Stud, Versailles, Ky.

Dual Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse was coming off his first two Breeders' Cup wins just the year before when he entered **Classic Empire** in the Juvenile. Second choice on the board, **Classic Empire** made back-to-back Grade I look easy following a powerful victory in the GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity. Casse indicated looks can be deceiving.

"Any hair I had left, he made sure it was gone," said Casse recently with a laugh. "He was a pistol. A lot of people didn't know this, but six days before the Breeders' Cup--right before we were going to ship--he came up with a foot abscess and couldn't walk. We weren't even sure we were going to get him on the plane." **Cont.**


WATCH CLASSIC EMPIRE'S 2016 JUVENILE WIN




40


YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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Classic Empire, cont.

“We put a three-quarter shoe on him and he won. I have that shoe in my office with the win photo.

“That just showed how truly good he was, a testament to him and his ability. It was wonderful to win it for the Oxleys. They have always been big supporters of ours and they were there, so it was special to win.” --*Jill Williams*

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NEWEST ADDITIONS TO FASIG-TIPTON NOVEMBER INCLUDE TOP PRODUCER STRONG INCENTIVE



Strong Incentive, the dam of 'TDN Rising Star' Ways and Means, has been added to the Fasig-Tipton November Sale | *Sarah Andrew*

Officials at Fasig-Tipton Company have announced an additional eight supplemental entries for its November Sale, to be held Tuesday, Nov. 7 at the Newtown Paddocks.

Chief among them is Strong Incentive (Warrior's Reward--G G's Dolly, by Comic Strip), a stakes winner at three who has become an outstanding addition to the broodmare band at Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable, having produced Grade III winner **Highly Motivated** (Into Mischief); Surge Capacity (Flintshire {GB}), victorious in this year's GIII Lake George S. and entered for Friday's GIII Valley View S. at Keeneland; and the exciting Ways and Means (**Practical Joke**), named a '**TDN Rising Star**' on Saratoga debut Aug. 6 ahead of a troubled runner-up effort in the GI Spinaway S. The 11-year-old mare, in foal to top sire **Good Magic**, is being offered by ELITE, agent, as **hip 264**.

Next through the ring will be Ceiling Crusher (Mr. Big), who shipped away from her California base for the first time to best '**TDN Rising Star**' and GI Kentucky Oaks winner Pretty Mischievous (Into Mischief) in the GI Cotillion S. at Parx Sept. 23.

Also successful in Del Mar's GIII Torrey Pines S. over the summer, the California-bred is cataloged as a racing/broodmare prospect and sells as **hip 265** through Taylor Made.

Other supplements include:

- **My lady (Ger)** (The Grey Gatsby {Ire}), a Group 3 winner and third in the G1 Preis der Diana (German Oaks) before winning the GIII The Very One S. in her second appearance in America; offered as a broodmare prospect by Lane's End;

- **Practica Cat (Chi)** (**Practical Joke**), a group-winning juvenile in Chile and placed at Group 1 level at three; consigned as a racing/broodmare prospect by Highgate Sales;

- **Yuki (Chi)** (The Lumber Guy), a Group 1-placed runner at home prior to her export to the U.S., where she most recently won the Sept. 23 Dark Mirage S. at Los Alamitos; Highgate Sales consigns as a racing/broodmare prospect;

- Weanlings by Authentic (**hip 266**), **Munnings (hip 267)** and Into Mischief (**hip 268**)

All entries are available online and will also be available in the EquineLine sales app. Fasig-Tipton will continue to accept supplemental entries through the Breeders' Cup.

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GRADE II WINNER BELLABEL, PAIR OF STAKES-PRODUCING DAMS ADDED TO KEENELAND NOVEMBER

Keeneland has added a trio of horses--one racing/broodmare prospect and the dams of a pair of current black-type winners, one with Breeders' Cup aspirations--to its upcoming November Sale, beginning Wednesday, Nov. 8.

Bellabel (Ire) (Belardo {Ire}), to be offered by Taylor Made, is cataloged as **hip 251**. A maiden winner in five Irish appearances at two, the dark bay relocated to the U.S. last year and was off to a quick start, with victories in the Blue Norther S. and--following a six-month absence--the GII San Clemente S. as the betting favorite. Bellabel was runner-up to the classy Spendarella (**Karakontie {Jpn}**) in the GI Del Mar Oaks and was last seen at the races in Keeneland's GI QE II Challenge Cup, staying on gamely for a third-place effort behind Gina Romantica (Into Mischief). She is catalogued as a racing/broodmare prospect, but has been in steady work at Los Alamitos, where she has recorded no fewer than seven breezes since Sept. 3 and most recently drilled five furlongs Oct. 20. **Cont.**

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Saturday, October 28, 2023



Photographed in May, Delightful Quality grazes alongside her *Tapit* filly, a full sister to today's Breeders' Cup 40 horse. See page 11. | Sarah Andrew

PLETCHER BRIGADE, WHITE ABARRIO BREEZE

4

A dozen Breeders' Cup-bound horses from the barn of Todd Pletcher recorded breezes Friday morning at Keeneland, while at Santa Anita, White Abarrio (Race Day) turned in a strong move in preparation for the GI Breeders' Cup Classic.

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES



ET	Race
3:48p	Mother Goose S.-GII, BAQ
4:44p	Bryan Station S.-GIII, KEE
4:53p	Forty Niner S.-GII, BAQ
5:16p	Hagyard Fayette S.-GIII, KEE

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2020 JUVENILE WINNER ESSENTIAL QUALITY

Essential Quality (2018 gray or roan horse, **Tapit**--Delightful Quality, by Elusive Quality)

Lifetime Record: Ch. 2yo/3yo Colt, MGISW, 10-8-0-1, \$4,755,144

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Godolphin (KY); O-Godolphin, LLC; T-Brad Cox; J-Luis Saez.

Current location: Jonabell Farm, Lexington, Ky.

As the wide-reaching Godolphin operation has used the names of different arms throughout the years--for example, 2001 Juvenile Fillies winner *Tempera* (A.P. Indy) was bred by Darley Stud Management, LLC but raced for Godolphin, LLC--it may be a surprise to learn **Essential Quality** was the first official Godolphin homebred to win the Breeders' Cup. Remarkably, in the two renewals since his win, another seven Godolphin homebreds have added to that number.

Undefeated at two, **Essential Quality** was a Belmont and Travers winner at three. His first foals were born this year.

"Essential Quality was one of our best yearlings in his crop and he later proved to be the best of his whole crop," said Michael Banahan, Director of Bloodstock at Godolphin, USA, "winning the Eclipse Award for being Champion 2-year-old and 3-year-old." **Cont. p12**

WATCH ESSENTIAL QUALITY'S 2020 JUVENILE WIN

40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2020 Juvenile winner **Essential Quality**. | Sarah Andrew

He also holds a special place in the Godolphin honor roll as a homebred Classic winner. What really distinguished **Essential Quality** from other horses is that when he left our yearling farm to go into training, he never had a day off until after his last race. He never raced on any medication, was fast, tough, sound, and durable. Hopefully, he will pass on those traits to his offspring which will propel him into having a great second career as a stallion.” --*Jill Williams*

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FOR \$14,000, JERSEY BREEDERS BOUGHT A “DREAM COME TRUE” by Bill Finley



Book'em Danno | Susie Raisher

(Story courtesy of The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey)

New Jersey-based breeder Greg Kilka knew the odds were not in his favor when he arrived at the 2020 Keeneland January Sale. A small-time owner and breeder with a modest budget, what chance did he have of coming home with a horse that could be life-changing? He was playing the lottery.

“I didn’t have unlimited resources,” he said.

What he did have was \$14,000, what it cost to buy an unraced mare named **Adorabella** (**Ghostzapper**) in foal to Fast Anna (Medaglia d’Oro). It was the only horse he bought at the sale.

Fast forward some three years later and Adorabella’s first two foals are both stakes winners and her third, a yearling colt by **Classic Empire** just sold for a sales-topping \$135,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling Sale. All three are New Jersey-breds.

“People may think we’re overnight successes,” Kilka said. “But my wife and I have been putting money into the sport for some 15 years. But never have we had anything like this.”

Kilka arrived at the sale with bloodstock agent Chris Gracie. They looked at dozens of horses, hoping to find that diamond in the rough that everyone else misses. Hip 945 caught their attention. There wasn’t a lot to go on. She was bred by Tracy Farmer but never made it to the races. Her dam, Alydorable (Arch) was 1-for-3 during her brief career and finished third in the Revidere S.

“Physically, she was beautiful,” Kilka said. “There was nothing we could see that was wrong with her when we purchased her. Chris went through lot of mares on my behalf. He liked this one physically and thought she could be a productive broodmare. Looking at her family, he thought there was some upside.”

Kilka said he had no idea why Adorabella had never raced. It turns out she had the type of niggling problems that keep a lot of horses from making it to the races.

According to Joe Miller, who helped manage the racing and breeding operations of Tracy Farmer, Adorabella was sent to Mark Casse to prepare for her debut but came down with some ankle issues.

“We felt like we’d be better off breeding her because she was going to struggle to make it to the races,” Miller said. “Now I feel embarrassed that we sold her. Fortunately, Tracy still has the rest of the family. He’s pressing on with the family, so, hopefully, they’ll keep breeding stakes winners out of Adorabella.”

Kilka teamed up with Christine Connelly of Bright View Farm and they are the co-breeders of the Fast Anna foal, which they decided to sell at auction. Named **Girl Trouble** (Fast Anna), she sold for a mere \$15,000 at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midatlantic Fall Yearling Sale. The buyers were Swilcan Stable LLC and LC Racing and they turned her over to top Midlantic trainer Butch Reid. She’s gone 5-for-13 and has won two stakes, both at Parx, the Future Stars Filly Division S. and the Parx Futurity.

Kilka and Connelly were off to a fast start with Adorabella, but it would only get better.

Kilka had been part of a partnership that raced **Buccherio** (**Kantharos**) and was eager to give the stallion a try. He didn’t know at the time that **Buccherio** would become a rising star among stallions. From his first two crops to race, he’s had 50 winners (61% winners to starters, below only **Army Mule** and well ahead of horses like **Justify** and **Good Magic**. He’s had three stakes winners and eight total stakes horses from modest books of mares.

“I probably wouldn’t have been shrewd enough to breed her to **Buccherio**, who’s off to a phenomenal start as a stallion” Miller said. “More power to them. They’ve done a great job managing her.”

Cont. p13

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Sunday, October 29, 2023



Midnight Lute, winner of the 2007 and 2008 Breeders' Cup Sprint, is today's featured Breeders' Cup 40 horse. See page 12. | Sarah Andrew/Equi-Photo

EVERSO MISCHIEVOUS STRIKES GOLD IN FORTY NINER

5

The lone 3-year-old in the GII Forty Niner S. field, Everso Mischief (Into Mischief) got not only his first career graded win, but also the first graded win in New York for jockey Cristian Torres.

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES



ET
5:35p

Race
Street Sense S.-GIII, CD

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2007-08 SPRINT WINNER MIDNIGHT LUTE

Midnight Lute (2003 dark bay or brown horse, Real Quiet--Candytuft, by Dehere)

Lifetime record: Ch. sprinter, MGISW, 13-6-3-1, \$2,690,600

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Tom Evans, Macon Wilmil Eq, & Marjac Fm (KY); O-Mike Pegram, Karl Watson, and Weitman Performances, LLC; T-Bob Baffert; J-Garrett Gomez.

Current location: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa, Paris, Ky.

Midnight Lute gave a masterclass in devastating closing speed in his back-to-back Breeders' Cup Sprint wins, with his 4 3/4-length score in 2007 an eye-popping performance visually and his 1:07.08 time in 2008 still holding the Sprint record. Veteran yearling-to-juvenile reseller Eddie Woods broke the champion, who was a \$290,000 RNA at OBS March in 2005 as a 2-year-old.

"He was a wonderfully big, good-looking black horse," said Woods. "Tom McGreevy bought him to pinhook him to OBS. It's shameful to say for a champion sprinter, but he didn't work quick enough. If you look at his style of running, he sashayed out of the gate. He had no early speed at all.

"He was always good-looking and he turned into a big, handsome horse with crazy finishing speed. His Breeders' Cup at Monmouth in the slop was one of the best races I've seen."

--Jill Williams

WATCH MIDNIGHT LUTE'S 2008 SPRINT WIN



40

YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

The rich heritage of the Breeders' Cup is woven into horse racing's history. Thirty-nine years and more than 360 champions later, the world-class festival of racing has transcended the sport itself.





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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2007 and 2008 Sprint winner **Midnight Lute**. | Sarah Andrew

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Monday, October 30, 2023



Wise Dan, pictured in September with half brother Successful Dan, is one of today's Breeders' Cup 40 horses. See story on page 12. | Sarah Andrew

BREEDERS' CUP SUNDAY BULLETIN

6

Japanese contender Ushba Tesoro (Jpn) (Orfevre {Jpn}) was among the Breeders' Cup contenders working Sunday at Santa Anita. Both Bob Baffert and Bill Mott had four contenders on track in Arcadia with five days to go before championship weekend.

DETTORI SUSPENDED

10

Jockey Frankie Dettori was handed a three-day ban by the Santa Anita stewards for interference caused during the fifth race at the Arcadia oval Saturday.

LIBERAL ARTS STORMS TO STREET SENSE WIN

11

*Liberal Arts (Arrogate) made the most of his two-turn debut with an authoritative victory in the GIII **Street Sense S.** at Churchill Downs Sunday.*



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WISE DAN AND MAIN SEQUENCE, TWO GLORIOUS GELDINGS AND THE BREEDERS' CUP

Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup


Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams

John Henry famously didn't make it to the Breeders' Cup. Da Hoss famously did, after a two-year layoff with a mere allowance prep. In this industry, where geldings at the elite levels are the exception and not the norm, those geldings tend to become beloved fan favorites. Perhaps it's because they often have longer race careers than their compatriots whose breeding careers must be considered.

Right up there in the lexicon of the special 31 geldings to have won a Breeders' Cup are two industry favorites living their best lives as retirees with the people who knew them best: Wise Dan and Main Sequence. These two glorious geldings may now be retired from the racetrack, but they both still live with their trainers, Charlie LoPresti and Graham Motion, respectively.


"He lives with us and that should show how special he is," said Motion of Main Sequence.

WATCH WISE DAN'S 2013 MILE WIN




40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4




To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the TDN will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2012 and 2013 Mile winner Wise Dan. | Sarah Andrew

Neither had a future in the stud barn, neither was transformed into a show horse, neither became a track pony, neither is even a riding horse. Instead, both Wise Dan and Main Sequence are beloved pasture pets, each turned out with a buddy, each living the life of Riley, each with the assurance of LoPresti and Motion meeting their every need.



Wise Dan | Sarah Andrew

Both champions--one as a homebred always destined to race as such and one as a homebred originally intended for the sales--these two horses gave so many thrills to their connections. No wonder their trainers couldn't imagine them living anywhere else and plan to cater to each one's every need for life.

The two chestnuts took very different routes to each trainer's barn. Wise Dan has spent nearly every moment of his life, since he was a short yearling, in LoPresti's care. Motion doesn't remember laying eyes on Main Sequence until he was a 5-year-old who had already won a Group race in England and finished second in the G1 Investec Epsom Derby for trainer David Lanigan.

"Wise Dan was foaled at Patchen Wilkes Farm in Lexington and Mr. [Morton] Fink always sent those babies to us when they were short yearlings," remembered LoPresti. "I don't remember the exact month, but we pretty much raised him from a short yearling. We broke him, we trained him, we did everything with him.

"He was a big, strong horse," continued LoPresti. "I wouldn't say he was difficult, but the only thing that stood out in my mind early was how different he was than other horses. Once I figured out that his stride was so much longer than most horses, he was easy to get along with. At first, we were always trying to bottle him up or slow him down, but once we figured out his natural rhythm was :13 or :14 [for an eighth], he was just a natural athlete. He is just an incredible horse, so smart. Just different than most horses."

Everyone remembers Wise Dan as a two-time Breeders' Cup Mile winner, but what might not be remembered as well is he started his career on the dirt. He was a graded winner on the main track at three and even ran in the Breeders' Cup Sprint, finishing sixth. It was midway through his 4-year-old year that Wise Dan tried turf for the first time, winning the GII Firecracker H. at Churchill, but he didn't stay on the surface, adding the GI Clark H. and GII Fayette S. on dirt before the year was over. More graded success on the main track at five followed. It wasn't until August at Saratoga at age five in the GII Fourstardave H. that Wise Dan moved permanently to the grass and started one of the most remarkable streaks in recent memory. He would win his next nine in a row, including his first Breeders' Cup, and 14 of his final 15 races.



Successful Dan and Wise Dan | Sarah Andrew

"I could tell you so many things about him," said LoPresti, "but nothing really fazed him. He almost knew when he was going to run. He'd lay down or rest his head on the stall webbing. I would worry about post position, track condition, everything, but [rider] Johnny Velazquez would say, 'Don't worry about it. He knows how to win, he knows how to get himself out of trouble.' And he did! He did it every time he won and pulled it off. Nineteen graded stakes he won.

"Part of the thing with him was how he took everything in stride," continued LoPresti. "When he got to Santa Anita for his Breeders' Cup wins, the first thing he did was just stare at the San Gabriel Mountains like he knew what he was there for. He'd get in the stall--remember he'd never been there before--make two or three turns around and settle down to eat. Most horses take a little while to settle in. He wouldn't. He never got upset about anything. If there was a loose horse, he would just watch like he was saying, 'What's wrong with you?'"

"That's the thing about him: he took everything in stride and he always knew how to win."

He certainly did. During his five-year racing career, Wise Dan won 23 of his 31 starts. No fewer than 11 of his 19 graded wins were in Grade I races. He set track or course records at Santa Anita, Keeneland, and Woodbine. But not everything was smooth sailing. He came back from small injuries. And the sport held its collective breath when Wise Dan colicked and underwent surgery.

“When they turned him over on the table and opened him up,” remembered LoPresti, “the surgeon turned around and gave me a thumbs up. He'd untwisted when they turned him over, so they didn't have to mess with anything and they just sewed him back up. The only thing we were dealing with then was the healing of the incision. Yes, that's a lot, but he was just so tough. That son of a gun came back from the clinic bouncing off the van! All we had to do was heal his incision.”



Wise Dan | Sarah Andrew

LoPresti said he got some flack for bringing Wise Dan back after the surgery and expecting him to perform at the same level. What some people forget is that no one knew him better than LoPresti and no one had his best interests more in mind.

“I knew a lot of people thought I was crazy to bring him back. His first couple of works were not brilliant and I can remember reading stuff after those works—he's not the same horse, you know, all the naysayers—but all I was trying to do was keep him from being stressed and bring him along slow. Then we started to build. That's where I wanted him. We didn't pressure him; we wanted to go along easy and make sure he wasn't going to colic again. Then he came back and he won. And he won again. I always worried. When people start talking, you start to second guess yourself, but I started to see the light come back on and I knew he was back.”

Back indeed. Wise Dan would close out his career as a two-time Horse of the Year and a legend.

“I just want everybody to realize what kind of horse he really was, everything he came through, everything he did. He won \$7.5 million and 19 graded stakes and he didn't run for megapurses. He earned it. If you look at all his races, a lot of them were small stakes. He didn't go to Dubai; there was no Pegasus Cup. I was very fortunate that I had a farm and owners who trusted what I did. I always gave my horses the winter off, never took them to Florida or Louisiana. That was to my demise as a trainer for business, but the old racing families, the old, true sportsmen, got it. I was just fortunate that I had owners that let me do that. Nowadays, if you don't travel and dance every dance, you're going to lose horses. I have really fond memories looking back.”

LoPresti, who quietly retired from training at the end of 2020, said it wasn't just his family and the public who loved Wise Dan. The horse also gave his owner-breeder a reason to live.

“Mr. Fink went to dialysis two or three days a week. That horse kept him alive. The idea of having to go watch him run and watch his next race. That was why we didn't go overseas or to Dubai or anything. Mr. Fink wanted to watch him in person and he really couldn't travel that far. We weren't there for the money. Mr. Fink enjoyed the horse and being able to go see him. I totally understood. I believe he could have gone over to Dubai and won, but that's not what Mr. Fink wanted to do. I was fine with that.”

Wise Dan (2007 chestnut gelding, Wiseman's Ferry-- Lisa Danielle, by Wolf Power {SAF})

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year (twice), Ch. grass horse (twice), Ch. older male (twice), MGISW, 31-23-2-0, \$7,552,920

Breeders' Cup connections: B/O-Morton Fink (KY); T-Charles LoPresti; J-John Velazquez (2012)/Jose Lezcano (2013).

Current location: Forest Lane Farm, Athens, Ky.

Wise Dan's last race--and win--was in 2014 in the GI Shadwell Turf Mile at Keeneland. No one knew at the time it would be his last race, but some small, niggling injuries kept him from returning. When he was officially retired 11 months later just before an attempt at a third GI Woodbine Mile, it was decided 'Dan' would live out his days at LoPresti's farm. LoPresti indicated the Kentucky Horse Park and Old Friends were both interested in having him, “But this is what we all decided. We know him. He was raised here. Why send him somewhere he doesn't know and take him away from his brother?”



Listen to this week's podcast

October 25, 2023

Michael Banahan Discusses
Godolphin's Breeders' Cup Contingent





Successful Dan and Wise Dan | Sarah Andrew

That half-brother is the one-year older MGW & MGISP Successful Dan, also a Fink homebred campaigned by LoPresti. Successful Dan and Wise Dan are thick as thieves. They're turned out together, they play hard, and they keep themselves extremely fit, said LoPresti. They're also very attached to each other.

WATCH MAIN SEQUENCE'S 2014 TURF WIN



40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

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“Not too long ago, Successful Dan got a little hurt and needed some stitches. He needed to stay in the barn for a week. Wise Dan never went more than 30 yards away. He kept checking on him,” said LoPresti.

“Wise Dan is just different from other horses. He's so smart. All the great ones are just different. That's what makes them what they are. Of course, they have to have the athletic ability, too, and he did with that natural rhythm, that natural stride.

“He's very kind, but also very strong. When he decides he wants to go out to the paddock or when he went to gallop at the track, he's going to take you where he wants to go. It's impossible to slow him down.”

Wise Dan's Breeders' Cup wins were in 2012 and 2013; he was undefeated in four starts in 2014, but didn't make the Breeders' Cup that year. Main Sequence, another turfer, did. The two never faced each other on the track, as Wise Dan specialized at a mile and Main Sequence wanted longer. The latter won the 12-furlong Breeders' Cup Turf in 2014. He took a far different road getting there than Wise Dan did.

“Honestly, he wasn't the most straightforward horse to train,” said Motion of Main Sequence. “He could be a little bit tricky. He certainly has a lot of personality.”

Lanigan, a former UK-based trainer who is now with Four Star Sales in Kentucky, laid it out plainly.

“He was a pain in the ass!” said Lanigan, who first trained Main Sequence in England, with a laugh. Lanigan and Motion both trained for the Niarchos family's Flaxman Holdings.



Main Sequence | Sarah Andrew

“He was a difficult horse, a little bit quirky,” continued Lanigan. “He didn't like to lead the string, didn't show much on the gallops. But he was a big, mature, good-looking horse who coped with everything very good. We were surprised when he won his maiden first time at two. None of mine usually won first time out. They improved more from first to second run. There

was a good horse of Godolphin's in there that cost a lot of money and he beat him quite well. Then we sent him to a novice at Newmarket. It was more of a fact-finding mission to see if he was as nice as we thought he was. There were useful sorts in there and he won that very well.

“Then I managed to convince [owner] Maria [Niarchos-Gouaze of Flaxman Holdings] and [Flaxman's racing manager] Alan [Cooper] to supplement him for the Derby... The boldness in me! I couldn't leave a Derby horse on the table. I had to spend the next six months trying to convince Alan to run him.”

Main Sequence ended up going to the Derby undefeated in four starts, including in the G3 Betfred Derby Trial. He suffered his first career defeat in the Derby to Aidan O'Brien's **Camelot (GB)** with Queen Elizabeth II in attendance. The performance may have been assurance that Main Sequence was as good of a horse as Lanigan thought, but that loss was also tough to swallow.

Main Sequence (2009 chestnut gelding, Aldebaran--Ikat {Ire}, by Pivotal {GB})

Lifetime record: Ch. grass horse, Ch. older horse, MGISW-U.S., GSW & G1SP-Eng, 21-9-3-3, \$3,428,666

Breeders' Cup connections: B/O-Flaxman Holdings Limited (KY); T-H. Graham Motion; J-John Velazquez.

Current location: Fair Hills, Elkton Md.

“It broke my heart,” said Lanigan. “Nobody ever remembers second. He was beaten by a very good horse and ran his race, but I was gutted for myself because I knew we had a very nice horse. And I was very disappointed for Maria. She was one of the first people to send me a horse when I started training. She was always a very good supporter and friend, so it wasn't just my own selfishness. I was very disappointed for her.”

Main Sequence and Lanigan were together for approximately another year and a half after the Derby, long before the Breeders' Cup was on the table. Lanigan had actually picked the chestnut out of the Keeneland September sale as a yearling. The horse had been entered, but Lanigan said Niarchos-Gouaze had asked him if there were any of hers in the crop he liked. When Lanigan picked Main Sequence, he never went through the ring and was shipped to the UK instead. Lanigan and the horse were together for nearly three years total and came to an understanding.

“Like a lot of good horses, you could set your watch by him. He went out first lot every day, would have his breakfast, then go to sleep. He'd be comatose from 9-12, head under the shavings. I took him out for a pick of grass every day myself. He was a bit of a handful. Out of nowhere, he'd stand straight up on his hind legs.

Cont. p17

“He overcame a lot. He had a tiny bit of a kissing spine after he won his novice as a 2-year-old, but after that never missed another day. We gelded him at the end of his 3-year-old year because he didn't really have a stallion's pedigree. He was a little bit of a bridesmaid at four. He'd get himself very warm in paddocks that year, which he never did before, so it was sort of a frustrating year.



Main Sequence | Sarah Andrew

“I told Maria, 'There's a better chance for him over in America. You could win a Breeders' Cup with him in America, but we're going to struggle with him in Europe.'”

Prophetic words, it turns out. Lanigan said shipping him back and forth was considered, but it was ultimately decided it would be better for the horse to be based in the same area he'd run, rather than to ship. Lanigan was fully on board.

“I told Maria it was going to be a wasted opportunity for the horse and for her if she didn't do it. It all worked out very well. Maria and the horse were the most important two in the whole thing. She's an owner who deserves the very best. It was a pleasure to have had him and I feel very lucky to have had him.”

Motion was the lucky recipient in America. Although Motion had been to Lanigan's yard in Lambourn when he stabled his GI Kentucky Derby and G1 Dubai World Cup winner Animal Kingdom there prior to a run at Royal Ascot, he didn't have any particular memories of Main Sequence in the flesh before he came to America.

“Obviously he'd been in some nice races already, so you knew he was a good horse,” said Motion. “I was aware of him because we all trained for Flaxman and he'd certainly done well in some nice races--had that second in the Derby--but I didn't really know him before. I think the whole team felt that American racing might suit him. We kind of all made all those decisions together, with David Lanigan and Alan Cooper.

“Main Sequence actually got quite sick when he first came to me. Shipping over the winter is tough, having to travel and

quarantine on both sides. It took him a while to get over it. We gave him a lot of time.”

The repatriated Main Sequence would not make his American debut under Motion's care until July of 2014. He would win that day--the GI United Nations S.--and wouldn't lose that year, adding the Sword Dancer, Joe Hirsch Turf Classic, and Breeders' Cup Turf, all Grade 1s. The campaign culminated in a championship.

“We did things with him that I hadn't really done with a horse,” said Motion, “in all the extra schooling. He required a lot of time in working with those things. He was always a little slow to come away from the gates, so we worked on that quite a lot. The first time he ran for us, in the UN, he walked out of the gate. He gave us fits with that.

“His first three races were by a neck, a head, and a neck. It was a testament to Rajiv [Maragh], who rode him so well.”



Main Sequence and Bye Bye Melvin | Sarah Andrew

Maragh was not able to be aboard for the Breeders' Cup. Velazquez, who had piloted Wise Dan to his first Breeders' Cup win, but had gotten injured earlier on the card of Wise Dan's second Breeders' Cup victory and was hospitalized as the race ran, had to substitute for Maragh in this Breeders' Cup.

“It was tough,” said Motion, “because Rajiv had won on him in the Turf Classic and while we were up in the reception room after the race [just over 30 minutes later], Rajiv had his terrible accident and broke his arm. We were good friends with him and Angie, his wife, so there were a lot of emotions when he got hurt. I get emotional now just thinking about it. So Johnny rode him in the Breeders' Cup. That was the year he was coming off that bad accident of the year before in the Breeders' Cup.”

Maragh needed two plates and 13 screws to repair his arm and would win on Main Sequence again in 2015. Velazquez had emergency surgery after a spill in the Juvenile Fillies in 2014 that resulted in pancreas repair and spleen removal. Motion is close friends with both riders.

“On Breeders' Cup Day was the only time Main Sequence ever broke properly. He won handily,” said Motion. After winning the GII Mac Diarmida S. the next year, Main Sequence tried Dubai and for a repeat in the United Nations, but didn't perform as hoped in the latter and it was discovered he had suffered a tendon tear. He was retired.

“Alan and Maria were nice enough to let him stay here after his career,” said Motion. “These horses were so influential in my career.”



Graham Motion with Better Talk Now in 2008 | Sarah Andrew

Motion mentioned Better Talk Now, his very first Breeders' Cup winner. Better Talk Now, who also won the Turf a decade before Main Sequence, also retired to Motion's Fair Hills home base. He passed away in 2017 following complications from colic surgery.

“Main Sequence is a bit like Better Talk Now,” said Motion. “Neither one of them were particularly nice horses to ride. They both had the same kind of personality: pretty cantankerous, pretty tough, which is probably an indicator of how good they were.”

Main Sequence now lives in a paddock with Bye Bye Melvin, another former Motion runner who ran in the 2022 Breeders' Cup Turf.

“I have to be very careful who we put out in the paddock with him, because he's pretty tough on other horses, but he and Bye Bye Melvin get along great.”

Main Sequence served as an ambassador at the Maryland 5* event earlier this month.

“That was quite a shock to him to come out of his field for the first time in years,” said Motion with a laugh. “He was a little wound up, but it was very cool. A lot of people came by to see him. I heard he only bit one person, but we made it through. It was just a mile up the road, so we decided to do it.”

Like LoPresti with Wise Dan, Motion has incredibly fond memories of his Breeders' Cup win with Main Sequence.

“It was very rewarding,” said Motion. “It was really a team effort to win a Breeders' Cup race for the Niarchos family. I grew up watching them, so it was like a dream to win for them. It was sort of coming full circle. We love the Breeders' Cup.”

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MANNY FRANCO EARNS CAREER WIN 2,000, TAKES BELMONT RIDING TITLE

Jockey Manny Franco earned the 2,000th victory of his career Sunday at Aqueduct when guiding the Chad Brown-trained Spirit of St Louis to a half-length score in the day's second race.

“I feel great,” Franco, who also won the day's opener, said. “I had that on me the whole week, so I'm glad to do it early. I'm a little calm now and happy to do it. I just let him do what he wanted to do because I know the pace wasn't fast in front. I just kept my position and he was there for me the whole way.”

Franco, 28, won three races at the Belmont at Aqueduct meet finale Sunday to secure his third NYRA riding title of the year. Franco earned 34 wins at the stand to take a three-way battle for the riding title over Irad Ortiz, Jr. and Jose Ortiz, who tied for second with 31 wins.

Cont. p19

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Tuesday, October 31, 2023



2007 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf winner Lahudood (GB) (Singspiel {Ire}) poses for a photo with Fernando Ruvalcaba, PJ Dilger, and Jose Valenzuela at Shadwell last month. See page 16 for story. | Sarah Andrew

PIN OAK UPDATE ON GEAUX ROCKET RIDE

7

Pin Oak Stud has tweeted a guarded update on the condition of their Grade I winner Geaux Rocket Ride, who had an 'unexpected response' to the surgery.

PARTENSHIPS: BLACKOUT RACING MERGES PASSION

11

Kyle McGinty, Founder and President of the Blackout Group, talks about how the social group started as a bourbon exchange-type opportunity.

IRAD ORTIZ JR. SUSPENDED FOR CARELESS RIDING


15


Irada Ortiz, Jr., currently the nation's leading jockey in both purse winnings and victories for 2023, waived his right to appeal a three-day "careless riding" suspension imposed by the Aqueduct Racetrack stewards.

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FROM LAHUDDOOD TO MALATHAAT, SHADWELL BLENDS THE OLD WITH THE NEW

Celebrating 40 Years of the Breeders' Cup

Photos by Sarah Andrew; story by Jill Williams

When Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum passed away early in 2021 after decades of prominence in Thoroughbred racing and breeding, it was unclear in the sport what would happen to his vast bloodstock and farm holdings. Racing needn't have worried. His daughter, Sheikha Hissa, catapulted into the public eye as the head of Shadwell right at the same time the racing stable was seeing a resurgence. The bedrock laid over decades of success by Sheikh Hamdan was the perfect foundation for stunning new success under the guidance of his daughter.

Malathaat (2018 bay mare, **Curlin**--Dreaming of Julia, by A.P. Indy

Lifetime record: Ch. 3yo filly, Ch. older dirt female, MGISW, 14-10-3-1, \$3,790,825

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC (KY); O-Shadwell Stable; T-Todd Pletcher; J-John Velazquez.

Current location: Shadwell, Lexington, Ky.

WATCH MALATHAAT'S 2022 DISTAFF WIN



40 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

The rich heritage of the Breeders' Cup is woven into horse racing's history. Thirty-nine years and more than 360 champions later, the world-class festival of racing has transcended the sport itself.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE 40TH RUNNING ON NOV 3 & 4




To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2022 Distaff winner Malathaat. | Sarah Andrew



Malathaat at Shadwell last month | Sarah Andrew

Sheikha Hissa is not yet 30, yet she seems to be instilling confidence throughout the sport--on American shores and beyond--by reinvigorating the Shadwell brand. She's doing it in Europe with Shadwell homebreds like English highweight Baaeed (GB), whose granddam was a Breeders' Cup winner for Shadwell, and she's doing it in the U.S. with sales purchases such as 2021 and 2022 champion Malathaat, who closed out her career with victory in last year's Breeders' Cup Distaff.

"Shadwell Farm in America is rebranding as Shadwell Racing," said Jonathan Smyth, general manager of the American arm. "Under the leadership of Sheikha Hissa, there is a strong passion for the business, much like her late father. It's truly exciting for all of us to be part of the next chapter of Shadwell."

Few things in this sport inspire passion and hope more than a Breeders' Cup winner. Malathaat provided just that. The elegant bay closed out her stellar career last November with a scintillating final-stride win in the Distaff after finishing third in the same race as a sophomore in 2021. Winner of the Kentucky Oaks, Alabama, and Ashland at three, her Distaff alongside Spinster and Personal Ensign wins at four was icing on the cake.

"What a day to remember! Malathaat's Breeders' Cup win was truly spectacular," said Smyth. "She's an extraordinary mare, and her victory was a testament to her remarkable talent and incredible determination. I remember the atmosphere at the Breeders' Cup, where the best of the best came together to put on a show."

"Malathaat's victory was the result of her not only being physically gifted but also having a beautiful, composed mind. [Trainer] Todd [Pletcher] and his team did an exceptional job preparing her for that race, and Johnny [Velazquez] gave her a thrilling ride."

With back-to-back Eclipse Awards secure, Malathaat was retired after the Breeders' Cup and bred to leading sire Into

Mischief this spring. Smyth reported she caught on the first attempt and has been determined to be carrying a filly. Despite her competitiveness and athleticism on the racetrack, Malathaat was known for her kindness off the track, making her a fan favorite.

"Malathaat's famously sweet disposition at the track has continued on the farm," said Smyth. "She's like a big teddy bear, as kind and gentle as ever. Her friendly and amiable nature has made the transition from the track to farm life a smooth and delightful experience. She still requires peppermints, though!"

"Malathaat has settled into life on the farm remarkably well," continued Smyth. "She has a great temperament and a sweet disposition, making her a joy to be around. She has formed a close bond with [Shadwell homebred and 2021 Gil Mother Goose winner] Zaajel, which is heartwarming to witness."

Malathaat's presence in the Shadwell racing stable was a bit of a departure from the usual for Shadwell, as she was a \$1.05-million buy at the Keeneland September sale from Stonestreet, who bred and consigned her, during Sheikh Hamdan's tenure. Shadwell has had a mountain of success with homebreds in the past, but hasn't shied away from sales purchases either.

"Shadwell has historically been known for its breeding-to-race approach," said Smyth, "and that continues to be our primary focus in the American division. However, we do participate in sales as well. Sheikh Hamdan had a particular fondness for the Keeneland September sales, and it's been a wonderful tradition to carry on."

"We can't emphasize enough how fortunate we feel to have her as part of our stable. Malathaat is a beautifully balanced filly, and her walk is simply amazing. It's been an incredible journey since that acquisition, filled with victories and a deep sense of pride for Shadwell for owning a horse of such exceptional quality." **Cont.**



GSW Zaajel and Malathaat with Brittany Carter (broodmare manager), Larry Howard, PJ Dilger, and Maddie Danna | Sarah Andrew



Malathaat with Maddie Danna (left) and Brittany Carter (right)

Sarah Andrew

Malathaat's dam, Dreaming of Julia, was named 2022's Broodmare of the Year for Stonestreet, based in no small part on Malathaat's contributions to her accomplishments. Like Malathaat, both her dam and granddam were Grade I winners, which never hurts when one considers the potential of her future foals.

"We have big hopes for Malathaat's future as a broodmare," said Smyth. "We have a lot of options when it comes to selecting stallions for her, and our primary focus is on breeding to race. The plan is to race the offspring she produces and continue the tradition of excellence that Shadwell is known for in the world of horse racing."

While it will be a minimum of nearly three years before Malathaat's first foal can have an opportunity at the races, Malathaat herself has represented new hope for the Shadwell team and an excitement for what the future holds.

"Having a successful American horse like Malathaat early on in the midst of all the changes at Shadwell, with Sheikha Hissa at the helm, is truly significant," said Smyth. "Sheikha Hissa has achieved phenomenal success globally in the last two years and Malathaat's accomplishments are a testament to that. We hope to build on this success and uphold our commitment to continue the amazing operation her father built. It's a promising start to the next chapter of Shadwell under her leadership."

While Malathaat may be part of the new look and new future of Shadwell Racing, the old also remains prominent. Nowhere is this more evident than with another Breeders' Cup winner, 2007 Filly & Mare Turf victress Lahudood (GB). Following a French campaign, the Shadwell homebred was supplemented to the Breeders' Cup for \$180,000 after a win in the GI Flower Bowl. Eventually named champion grass mare in the U.S., Lahudood was part of the lone Breeders' Cup edition at Monmouth Park.

That renewal tends to be remembered as much for the soggy conditions as for the winners.

"On the day Lahudood triumphed at the Breeders' Cup," remembered Smyth, "the ground was exceptionally soft due to the rain at Monmouth Park. Undeterred by the conditions, she displayed exceptional skill and resilience. She broke from the gate very well and encountered some tight spots in the pack. However, a remarkably tough-minded filly, [she] held her own and found herself in second place at the halfway mark. As they reached the final turn, she surged forward with unwavering determination and astonishing speed, never slowing down. Her victory was a testament to her remarkable spirit.

"The translation of Lahudood's name, meaning 'no frontiers', couldn't be more fitting. It perfectly encapsulates her fearless and boundless determination on the track."

Yet, remarkably, Lahudood's Breeders' Cup win would not be her biggest contribution to the Shadwell program. Herself a third-generation Shadwell homebred tracing directly to the wonderful Height of Fashion (Fr), Lahudood has done much to boost that line since Sheikh Hamdan's death. Height of Fashion, of course, was famously acquired from Queen Elizabeth II and produced the magnificent Shadwell homebred champion and G1 Epsom Derby winner Nashwan, as well as additional highweights Nayef and Unfuwain and three more stakes winners. While a number of top-class winners trace to her through her daughters and their descendants, it's a safe bet Lahudood might be responsible for her greatest current legacy.

Lahudood's French black-type winning daughter, the Kingmambo mare Aghareed, is the dam of not only Baaeed—a spectacular 10 for 11 in 2021 and 2022 at the most elite level—but also of Hukum (Ire), another multiple Group 1 winner in 2022 and 2023. **Cont.**



Lahudood in the 2007 Breeders' Cup | *Sarah Andrew/Equi-Photo*

“The satisfaction of having a homebred like Lahudood win the Breeders' Cup,” said Smyth, “and then continue to provide excitement through her progeny is immense. Sheikh Hamdan's deep love for homebred fillies makes this accomplishment even more significant. It's a true testament to the success and legacy of their breeding program.”

Baaeed, a son of **Sea The Stars (Ire)**, retired to Shadwell's Nunnery Stud in the UK at the end of 2022 and covered his first mares this year. Hukum, his full-brother, remains in the ownership of Shadwell but will stand his first season at Darley Japan in 2024.

Lahudood (GB) (2003 bay mare, Singspiel {Ire}--Rahayeb {GB}, by Arazi)

Lifetime record: Ch. grass mare, MGISW-U.S., SW & MGSP-Fr, 12-4-5-1, \$1,695,370

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Shadwell Estate Company Limited (GB); O-Shadwell Stable; T-Kiaran McLaughlin; J-Alan Garcia.

Current location: Shadwell, Lexington, Ky.

“Without a doubt, the influence of a mare like Lahudood being the second dam of Baaeed and Hukum is nothing short of remarkable,” said Smyth. “She holds a special place within Shadwell's breeding program, and her impact is profound.”

WATCH LAHUDOOD (GB)'S 2007 FILLY & MARE TURF WIN



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Lahudood with Jose Valenzuela | Sarah Andrew

Owning a mare of such caliber is a testament to the depth and quality of Shadwell's breeding families. It showcases a dedication to preserving and elevating the standards of Thoroughbred racing and breeding. The influence of this exceptional mare continues to shape Shadwell's breeding program, and her legacy is a source of pride for the Shadwell family and all who appreciate the beauty and power of these magnificent animals."

Lahudood, now 20, had her final foal in 2021. By Kitten's Joy, the colt has been named Sumood and has not yet raced. Smyth said two of Lahudood's daughters remain part of Shadwell's broodmare band in Kentucky.

"We have great hopes that the mares will take after their older sister and produce high-end athletes," said Smyth.

As for Lahudood, she's been pensioned "and is living her best life in our sheds with the other retired mares."

Shadwell has had other Breeders' Cup successes over the years, most notably with 2006 Classic winner Invasor (Arg), Horse of the Year in both the U.S. and Uruguay, and 2016 Dirt Mile winner Tamarkuz. Still owned by Shadwell, Invasor spent most of his stud career in Uruguay, where he was recently pensioned. Tamarkuz stands at Ballycroy Bloodstock in Canada. Shadwell's American arm is not currently standing any stallions.

"The American division of Shadwell--Shadwell Farm--was established in 1984," said Smyth. "It has been a significant part of Shadwell's global success in the horse racing industry.

"As for the future of Shadwell, we're all looking forward to continuing the remarkable legacy of Shadwell and the exciting developments that lie ahead. It's a joy to see the Shadwell legacy continued with such dedication and enthusiasm."

In addition to all those top-class homebreds gracing the fields, four yearling fillies purchased at the recent Keeneland September sale will be added to the racing stable and eventually the broodmare ranks. Sheikha Hissa attended the sale and

personally picked them out, said Smyth. Among the purchases were a \$2.3-million Into Mischief filly and a \$1.1-million **Medaglia d'Oro** filly.

"It's an exciting blend of the old and new, combining our traditional breeding approach with strategic sales acquisitions to continue Shadwell's success in the racing world," said Smyth.

From a freshly retired Breeders' Cup winner carrying her first foal to a pensioned Breeders' Cup winner who has contributed so significantly to the tremendous success synonymous with the Shadwell brand, the new Shadwell Racing is poised to honor the past as it melds into the future.

Later this week, Shadwell Racing has homebred Mostahdaf (Ire) pointing to the 40th renewal of the Breeders' Cup Turf. A win by the dual Group 1 winner would add yet another page to the sequel now being written at Shadwell. Win or lose, yet another Breeders' Cup contender seems a fitting way to honor Sheikh Hamdan's legacy and usher in the future with Sheikha Hissa at the helm.

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SIREs WITH NEW SWs/GSWs

**FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 29, 2023
ACTIVE NORTH AMERICAN-BASED STALLIONS**



West Sunset became the latest black-type winner for Lane's End's **West Coast** in the Rags To Riches S. | Coady/Cady Coulardot

<u>Sire (Sire's Sire)</u>	<u>#SWs</u>	<u>#GSW</u>
Audible (Into Mischief)	2	---
<i>(My Mane Squeeze--Maid of the Mist S.)</i>		

**STANDING AT WINSTAR FARM • CLICK HERE FOR MORE
NOMINATE A MARE • EMAIL LIAM O'ROURKE**

2010 LADIES' CLASSIC WINNER UNRIVALED BELLE

Unrivald Belle (2006 gray or roan mare, Unbridled's Song--Queenie Belle, by Bertrando)

Lifetime record: GISW, 14-6-6-1, \$1,854,706

Breeders' Cup connections: B/O-Gary Seidler & Peter Vegso (KY); T-Bill Mott; J-Kent Desormeaux.

Current location: Timber Town Stable, Lexington, Ky.

A homebred for Gary Seidler and Peter Vegso, Unrivald Belle's Breeders' Cup win came at the expense of the following year's Horse of the Year Havre de Grace, who finished third. The two mares would eventually share common ownership, both being purchased by Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm, and live together at Timber Town before Havre de Grace's passing earlier this year.

The crown jewel among Unrivald Belle's foals to date is two-time champion Unique Bella. Unrivald Belle has a 2-year-old full-sister to Unique Bella named Tap My Belle, as well as yearling and weanling colts by Into Mischief. She was bred to **Flightline** for next term.

WATCH UNRIVALED BELLE'S 2010 LADIES' CLASSIC WIN

200 YDS

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Cont.

“Our time with Unrivaled Belle was amazing and super fun,” said Vegso, best known outside of racing as publisher of the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” series. “She was a wonderful horse and loved racing. Bill Mott did a super job with her; he’s a special soul as is ‘the Belle.’ It’s always so special when a horse we foal does so super well; makes having a farm and mares and mating--and the Mother Nature surrounding that comes with it--magical.” --*Jill Williams*

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PROMINENT HORSEMEN PLEDGE BREEDERS' CUP EARNINGS TO SUPPORT FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

In a movement spearheaded by Aron Wellman of Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Gary Barber, a group of 36 prominent horsemen have joined together in support of the fight against antisemitism. The horsemen have pledged a donation of a portion of their Breeders' Cup earnings to the organization [Stand Up to Jewish Hate](#).

“Together, we support the fight against Jewish hate and antisemitism and stand with Israel’s mission to eliminate all forms of terrorism,” a statement from the group read. “In a united effort, we are committed to donating a portion of earnings from the Breeders’ Cup this weekend to benefit Stand Up To Jewish Hate. We welcome everyone from the Thoroughbred Horse Racing community and all its fans to join us. Please visit www.standuptojewishhate.org to learn more or donate.”

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2015 CLASSIC WINNER AMERICAN PHAROAH

American Pharoah (2012 bay horse, Pioneerof the Nile-- Littleprincessemma, by Yankee Gentleman)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year, Ch. 2yo colt, Ch. 3yo colt, MGISW, 11-9-1-0, \$8,650,300

Breeders' Cup connections: B/O-Zayat Stables, LLC (KY); T-Bob Baffert; J-Victor Espinoza.

Current location: Coolmore/Ashford Stud, Versailles, Ky.

The sport's first Triple Crown winner since 1978, **American Pharoah** famously went through Fasig-Tipton's Select Saratoga Yearling Sale in 2013 only to be bought back by his breeder to race as a homebred. He spent eight months at Taylor Made Farm before the sale; Mark Taylor, who has had his hands on a lot of nice horses, distinctly remembers him.

"It's kind of a microcosm of this industry: when you think you have it figured out, you don't have it figured out. He was born at Vinery, then went to Tom Van Meter. We got him in December of his weanling year; he stayed with us through the Saratoga sale, so we had him December through August."

Cont.



To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2015 Classic winner **American Pharoah**. | Sarah Andrew

American Pharoah, cont.

“This is no revisionist history; he was not the highest-regarded yearling on our farm.”

Taylor continued: “He was a very, very nice horse, very well balanced. Great body, great muscle, very correct, huge walk, touch long in his pasterns. I've looked back on our notes and he got into Saratoga on his physical. He was a nice horse, but he went up there and, really, everybody looked and said, 'Zayat Stables bred this horse, they're not going to give him away. I'm not really going to risk that much on a Pioneerof the Nile right now.'”

“If you look back on it, Pioneerof the Nile had 2-year-olds when he was a yearling. We must have had 20 people ask what the Zayats would take for this horse; they really did want a lot for the stage Pioneerof the Nile was at in his career and we didn't get him sold.

“In the end, we had the Triple Crown winner right there in front of us, right in front of all the best judges of horseflesh, and no one took a swing. It was amazing. It's a cautionary tale that you have to give every horse a chance.” --*Jill Williams*

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WEEKLY RULINGS 

WEEKLY STEWARDS AND COMMISSIONS RULINGS: OCT. 24-30

Every week, the *TDN* publishes a round-up of key official rulings from the primary tracks within the four major racing jurisdictions of California, New York, Florida and Kentucky.

Here's a primer on how each of these jurisdictions adjudicates different offenses, what they make public (or not) and where.

The *TDN* also posts a roundup of the relevant Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA)-related rulings from the same week. These include decisions from around the country.

NEW HISA/HIWU STEWARDS RULINGS

The following rulings were reported on HISA's “**rulings**” portal and through the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit's “**pending**” and “**resolved**” cases portals. **Cont.**



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SAFETY TAKES THE LEAD

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) recently launched the new safety campaign “Safety Takes The Lead”, highlighting the sport's enhanced safety and welfare protocols, as well as its commitment to do more.

“Nothing comes in front of our sport's commitment to equine and human safety,” said Tom Rooney, NTRA president and CEO, at the time of the launch.

The first in a series of longer form videos focuses on the related reforms implemented in California since 2019 and the resulting progress. Click the image to view.



2008 LADIES' CLASSIC AND 2009 CLASSIC WINNER ZENYATTA

Zenyatta (2004 dark bay or brown mare, Street Cry {Ire}--Vertigineux, by Kris S.)

Lifetime record: Horse of the Year, Ch. older mare (three times), MGISW, 20-19-1-0, \$7,304,580

Breeders' Cup connections: B-Maverick Production, Limited (KY); O-Mr. and Mrs. Jerome S. Moss; T-John Shirreffs; J-Mike Smith.

Current location: Lane's End Farm, Versailles, Ky.

Thousands upon thousands--likely hundreds of thousands--of words have been written about the legendary Zenyatta, who captured the heart and soul of racing during her time on the racetrack and remains just as beloved today, 13 years after her retirement. Winter Quarter Farm's Don Robinson, who foaled her, was kind enough to share his memories of her formative years with *TDN*.

"Zenyatta was the ultimate," said Robinson. "I can't say enough superlatives about her. I could speak endlessly about her.

"The real satisfaction is I delivered her mother, too. *Cont.*

WATCH ZENYATTA'S 2009 CLASSIC WIN



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To celebrate the 40th running of the Breeders' Cup, the *TDN* will share a photo and catch up with a past winner in each of the 40 days leading up to the event. Today, we have 2008 Ladies' Classic and 2009 Classic winner Zenyatta, shown with her 2023 **War Front** filly, Nymue. | Sarah Andrew

Zenyatta, cont.

Zenyatta in September at Lane's End | Sarah Andrew

"I had three generations, so its kind of the breeder's ultimate reward. Their owner--Eric Kronfeld, who has passed away--over the years we became very fast friends. We formed such a very close human relationship that became obviously closer and closer over Zenyatta's career. He was a great friend. I still miss him.

"My family has been three or four generations in the Thoroughbred business. I don't think we ever could have thought we'd have the good fortune to be such an integral part of such a magnificent horse like Zenyatta. I feel she's the best horse of our lifetimes. I'll leave that to others to decide, but no matter who I run into, people tell me that they feel she's the best horse they've ever heard of or seen. It's heartwarming; it's rewarding; it's all the superlatives.

"The three generations of her family that I had started with For the Flag [Zenyatta's granddam], whom Eric very carefully bred to the Roberto line to get Vertigineux [Zenyatta's dam]. He was so taken with Street Cry that he bred Vertigineux to her and got Zenyatta. I never knew she'd be that kind of horse; you just never know.

"I'd raised all of Vertigineux's foals. It was a really neat family. Balance [Zenyatta's half-sister by Thunder Gulch] was totally precocious. She felt like a quick 2-year-old, so fast and so hot. She was quite remarkable. She'd get away from you. Zenyatta had much more cool; she was a bit more level headed.

"Of course, everyone knows the infamous story about Zenyatta at the [2005 Keeneland September] sale: Street Cry wasn't particularly well received and she was immature. She had a Street Cry hind leg; there was no precocity to her at all.

"There were really just two people interested in her at all and I think David Ingordo had a little bit of a leg up because Balance was really impressive and he was either in the same barn or next

to the barn of Balance.

"Zenyatta looked like a project to many people. She didn't grab them. We thought more of her, but we got her on the ground and raised her well, I hope.

"But the best thing that ever happened was that David purchased her for Jerry Moss, who was one of the more patient owners. He and [trainer] John Shirreffs just really had a sense of Thoroughbreds and giving them time. What a great team. They left the horses alone if they needed it and gave them the time they needed to mature.

"I think that time was really essential for Zenyatta. So much of the key is giving them the time they need.

"My friend Eric Kronfeld said, 'I never could have done that; I would be impatient.' Most people would, but she was in the right hands."

Robinson also talked about Zenyatta's three Breeders' Cup appearances. She won the 2008 Ladies' Classic, briefly rebranded as that name from the Distaff; the 2009 Classic against the boys as the only filly or mare to win the Breeders' Cup's signature race; and then closed out her career with her only official loss in 20 starts in the 2010 Classic.

"My favorite race, what I thought was her crown," said Robinson, "was her Distaff. She went off--for her--at a fairly long price and was discounted some because she had remained in California, except for the Apple Blossom in Arkansas. She just annihilated the field. That race was, 'Oh my goodness; she's the real deal.' She just performed like no other horse. She was pretty unusual. And then she kept improving.

"When I went to her Distaff, I had not seen Zenyatta since I'd raised her. I was kind of leaning around the wall in the saddling paddock when she made a pass by. She went past me, stopped, and turned her head completely around. She took her time, looked straight at me. **Cont.**



Zenyatta | Sarah Andrew

Zenyatta, cont.

“There was no question she sensed me. It was like she was saying, 'Where have you been?' She had such a presence. It really gave me the chills. She singled me out, no question. Isn't that remarkable? She was just an incredibly unusual horse. She was so intelligent.

“Everyone loves the Classic she won, but I think her best race was the one at Churchill she lost in her last start. There was silence afterward. But I came away thinking, 'That was the most sensational race.'

“She was absolutely out of contact with the field. Floundering. For her to get up and just miss that wire by a head.... I've never seen a horse on dirt make up that kind of ground. It was the best.



Zenyatta, Mike Smith, and Mario Espinoza | Sarah Andrew

“Sometimes I go to YouTube and look up Zenyatta. All her starts are there. You almost end up on the floor, it's so sensational to see her break patiently, get up, and measure the wire. You end up breathless.

“I'm 75 years old and the experience with her has been extraordinary.

“Now, years later, I still sort of pinch myself to think I had a horse like that on this land.

“To have raised her and to have that sort of extraordinary

performance and career and presence and just everything... I can't imagine a greater experience in this industry, but hope springs eternal.” --Jill Williams

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Zenyatta and Mike Smith celebrate after the 2009 Classic with trainer John Shirreffs in the background | Sarah Andrew

BREEDERS' CUP TV SCHEDULE
(All times ET)

FUTURE STARS FRIDAY BREEDERS' CUP RACES

Coverage on USA Network & Peacock from 4-8 p.m.

FanDuel TV live coverage of each race

- GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint--5 p.m.
- GI NetJets Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies--5:40 p.m.
- GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf--6:20 p.m.
- GI FanDuel Breeders' Cup Juvenile--7 p.m.
- GI Prevagen Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf--7:40 p.m.

SATURDAY BREEDERS' CUP RACES

Coverage on USA Network & Peacock from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

FanDuel TV live coverage of Dirt Mile, F/M Turf, F/M Sprint, Mile, Distaff and Turf

- GI Big Big Ass Fans Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile--2:30 p.m.
- GI Maker's Mark Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf--3:10 p.m.

Coverage on NBC & Peacock from 3:30-7 p.m.

- GI PNC Bank Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint--3:50 p.m.
- GI FanDuel Breeders' Cup Mile--4:30 p.m.
- GI Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff--5:10 p.m.
- GI Longines Breeders' Cup Turf--5:50 p.m.
- GI Longines Breeders' Cup Classic--6:40 p.m.

Live Coverage on FanDuel TV and Peacock (7-8 p.m.)

- GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint--7:25 p.m.
- GI Qatar Racing Breeders' Cup Sprint--8 p.m.

MULTIPLE G1 WINNER BY VIOLENCE
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BREEDERS' CUP 40 IS HERE!



The Breeders' Cup returns for a record 11th time at Santa Anita
Horsephotos

by Steve Sherack

ARCADIA, CA – Forty looks good on you, Breeders' Cup.

With defending winners **Caravel** (Mizzen Mast) (Turf Sprint), **Cody's Wish** (Curlin) (Dirt Mile), **Elite Power** (Curlin) (Sprint) and **Goodnight Olive** (Ghostzapper) (F/M Sprint) all back to defend their titles, the two-day Championships--consisting of 14 races with purses and awards totaling more than \$31 million--gets underway for a record 11th time at Santa Anita Friday.

Sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s--welcome back to Southern California!--will be on the menu as the weekend kicks off with a 10-race, 'Future Stars Friday' program.

"This is what it's all about," Santa Anita track announcer Frank Mirahmadi said. "The Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita, there is nothing that's bigger than that in our game."

All eyes will be on Spendthrift Farm's unbeaten 'Rising Star' **Tamara** (Bolt d'Oro) as she looks to emulate her larger-than-life-dam Beholder (Henny Hughes) with a win in the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies.

A terrific field has been assembled for the G1 Breeders' Cup Juvenile, led by last-out GISWs and 'Rising Stars' **Locked** (Gun Runner), **Timberlake** (Into Mischief), and the Bob Baffert-trained duo of **Muth** (Good Magic) and **Prince of Monaco** (Speightstown).

Cont. p3

BREEDERS' CUP 40: FROM ACCELERATE TO ZENYATTA by Jill Williams

The TDN's Breeders' Cup 40 project began as a special tribute looking back at 40 individual winners in the 40 days leading up to the 40th anniversary of racing's championship day, but it grew into more than that.

Of course, it's beyond wonderful to reawaken the excitement of those championship wins and revisit these amazing horses today through brand-new photos.

We thought we would simply catch up with these Breeders' Cup horses through some gorgeous images, but it really ended up as a celebration of how these living champions have impacted the lives of the people who care for them.

What we have learned is that although each race each year has just one winner--except for that dead heat in the 2003 Turf--so many people go along for the ride.

Cont. p4

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

AUGUSTE LEADS O'BRIEN TEAM AT THE BC

Emma Berry checks in with Ballydoyle maestro Aidan O'Brien on **Auguste Rodin (Ire)** (Deep Impact [Jpn]) and the rest of the Coolmore team on Thursday.

Good Luck IN THE BREEDERS' CUP

G1W by Blame
WET PAINT
BC DISTAFF (G1)
Owner/Breeder Godolphin

Claiborne Raised
AGATE ROAD
BC JUVENILE TURF (G1)
Owner Repole Stable and St. Elias Stables
Breeder CHC, Inc.

BC MILE (G1)
MASTEROFFXHOUNDS (BY WAR FRONT)
Owner David Bensen & Rockingham Ranch
Breeder Orpendale/Chelston/Wynatt

Breeders' Cup 40 project, cont. from p1

It's impossible to count how many people each individual horse touches, whether it's someone like Vicky Van Camp at Darley who sneaks **Midshipman** apple slices or Price Bell at Mill Ridge who shared how much a winner inspired a tour guest from his childhood cancer hospital bed or Larry McGinnis at WinStar whose affection for Tiznow is palpable or Veronica Reed at Three Chimneys who so eloquently said **Gun Runner** "reminds us that this industry is about the horse."

What became clear throughout this project is it's not just the public faces associated with these horses when they win the Breeders' Cup who are impacted. It's all the people ever associated with a Breeders' Cup winner, from the foaling person who helps pull them out of their dam to the exercise rider on the racetrack to the grooms and handlers and watchmen and

administrative staff who care for them today and even their fans.

Often we have fixed images in our minds of these horses during their racing days, when they're at peak fitness, in racing shape, and young and fiery. But as the years pass, the stallions fill out, the broodmares get permanent bellies, the grays become white, and quiet time on the farm often mellows even the fiercest of competitors.

Knowing nothing but a lifetime of top care, these horses positively glow with good health, the assurance of having every need met, and the confidence they are champions.

What struck us as we saw each horse and spoke with their connections is the love and adoration each one has inspired.

It is often said that 'a rising tide lifts all boats.' That's what these Breeders' Cup-winning horses are, an unstoppable swell that elevates everyone around them. **Cont.**



Sarah Andrew

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Breeders' Cup 40 project, cont.

This 40 years and 40 days of Breeders' Cup winners project may have started as a way to celebrate Breeders' Cup horses, but it's also about how the lives of all the people connected with a Breeders' Cup winner are impacted by these remarkable horses. We've seen that in the memories connections have shared with us that we've published alongside their photos and we can see that in the pride their handlers take when presenting them for photos.

We're thrilled we were able to showcase more than 40 former Breeders' Cup winners in the *TDN* in the 40 days leading up to this year's event. It was through the lens of photographer Sarah Andrew that we all got the privilege of seeing this tremendous collection of Breeders' Cup winners as they appear today. We hope you've enjoyed seeing them as much as we've enjoyed sharing them.

More Breeders' Cup winners will be added to racing's annals this year. In the meantime, as we appreciate these magnificent athletes, may they also remind us of the hard-working people behind them and how lucky we all are to love these horses and this sport.

Don't miss our final horse, 2010 Horse of the Year and three-time older female champion Zenyatta, on page 15.

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A YEAR REMOVED FROM A HORSE OF A LIFETIME, SADLER THREE DEEP AT BREEDERS' CUP *by Steve Sherack*

ARCADIA, CA – With a trio of longshot chances entered in this weekend's Breeders' Cup, trainer John Sadler found a quiet spot on the apron to watch his 9:00 a.m. set train at Santa Anita on Wednesday morning. **Cont.**



John Sadler | Benoit



TIME FOR INTRODUCTIONS
SUPPLEMENTS TO THE HORSES OF RACING AGE CATALOG

HIP 4301
GORDON GEKKO

Two-year-old colt by Quality Road. First foal for Beldame (G1) winner and Chilean Horse of the Year Wow Cat.

Consigned by ELITE, agent

HIP 4302
HALMSTAD

Gelding by Nyquist out of the Bernardini mare Sugarcraft. A 3/4-length maiden special weight winner at Keeneland on Oct. 27.

Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, agent

HIP 4303
LUNA PATINA

New York-bred filly by Malibu Moon out of Grade 3 winner Solo Survivor. A half-sister to stakes winner and Grade 3-placed Hip Hop N Jazz and stakes-placed Strive. From the family of Grade 1 winner Nastique.

Consigned by Buck Pond Farm (Douglas S. Arnold), agent

Keeneland November
Horses of Racing Age Sale

Friday, Nov. 17

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