

Europe's Leading Breeze Up Sale
Craven Breeze Up Sale
16 - 18 April
Gr.1 winner **BRANDO**

*since 1/1/2015
40
Group/Listed winners*

Tattersalls

MAYFAIR OFFERINGS LEAD ARQANA FEBRUARY



Jake Warren signs for second-top lot Lbretha | APRH

Buyers during the second session of the Arqana February Sale on Wednesday capitalized on the opportunity to scoop up offerings from Mayfair Speculators, with three of the top four lots formerly representing that stable.

The Tattersalls February sale two weeks ago enjoyed a boost from the sale of a handful of lots formerly owned in partnership by Mayfair Speculators. That was again the case in Deauville on Wednesday, the offerings raced by Markus Jooste's stable alone or in partnership including the €300,000 colt **Learning To Fly (Ire)** (Oasis Dream {GB}) and the €200,000 filly **Lorgnette (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}).

The February Sale was this year staged over two days compared to one last year, and figures held steady with 89 more horses offered. The clearance rate for 279 sold was 79.3%, and the aggregate €2,794,300. The average dipped slightly (3%) to €10,015, while the median was down 20% at €4,000.

China Horse Club signed for Learning To Fly (lot 245) for €300,000 at Arqana's August yearling sale in 2016, and subsequently put him into training with Andre Fabre in partnership with Mayfair Speculators. The bay broke his maiden by two lengths in his lone outing at Lyon-La-Soie on Oct. 25, and that proved sufficient to hold his value on Wednesday. Anthony Stroud was the winning bidder this time, but a client was not disclosed.

Learning To Fly is a half-brother to the stakes-placed Astronomy's Choice (Fr) (Redoute's Choice {Aus}), and his dam is a half-sister to the stakes winners Pacifique (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}) and Prudenzia (Ire) (Dansili {GB}), the latter the dam of G1 Irish Oaks winner Chicquita (Ire) (Montjeu {Ire}).

Anthony Stroud was also the name on the ticket when Lorgnette (lot 353) sold for €1 million at the Arqana August yearling sale in 2014, and she would go on to race just twice unsuccessfully for Markus Jooste and Bernard Kantor. The daughter of the Group 3-placed Dance Secretary (Ire) (Daneshill Dancer {Ire}), a half-sister to the champion miler Perfect Soul (Ire) (Sadler's Wells), will now join the first book of new Haras des Granges stallion Johnny Barnes (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) after being snapped up by Jake Warren for €200,000 in foal to Le Havre (Ire).

Johnny Barnes was one of the first horses to race for Bermuda Thoroughbred Racing, and his four wins for trainer John Gosden included victory in the G3 Prix Quincey Barriere in 2015. He was recently retired to Haras des Granges in the Southwest of France.

Cont. p2

MERSANT INTERNATIONAL, LTD Worldwide Horse Transporters		Tel: 718.978.8200 www.mersant.com
SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING STATS FOR THE:		
ARQANA FEBRUARY SALE		
CUMULATIVE	2018	2017
• Catalogued	415	307
• Number Offered	352	263
• Number Sold	279	201
• Not Sold	73	62
• Clearance Rate	79.3%	76.4%
• High Price	€300,000	€210,000
• Gross	€2,794,300	€2,075,900
• Average (% change)	€10,015 (-3%)	€10,328
• Median (% change)	€4,000 (-20%)	€5,000

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

HORSES A TIMELESS PURSUIT FOR J.J. PLETCHER

Chris McGrath chronicles the career of J.J. Pletcher. [Click or tap here to go straight to TDN America.](#)

SESSION TOPPERS

ARQANA FEBRUARY SALE

Lot	Name	Status	Price (€)
245	Learning To Fly (GB) <i>(c, 3, Oasis Dream {GB}--Astronomy Domine {GB}, by Galileo {Ire})</i> (€300,000 yrl '16 ARAAUG) Consigned by Andre Fabre Purchased by Stroud Coleman Bloodstock	In training	300,000
287	Lbretha (Fr) <i>(m, 5, Exceed and Excel {Aus}--Actrice Francaise, by Dynaformer)</i> (€190,000 2yo '15 ARAMAY) Consigned by Haras de Castillon Purchased by Bertrand Le Metayer Bloodstock	Out of training	260,000
353	Lorgnette (Fr) <i>(€1,000,000 yrl '14 ARAAUG)</i> Consigned by Ecurie des Monceaux Purchased by John & Jake Warren	i/f Le Havre (Ire)	200,000

Mayfair Offerings Lead Arqana February Cont. from p1

Warren explained, “She is for the owners of Johnny Barnes, who are keen to support their stallion. They have been looking for quality mares and she fitted the bill perfectly.”

The 5-year-old maiden mare **Lbretha (Fr)** (Exceed and Excel {Aus}) (Lot 287) was a listed winner racing in the Al Shaqab silks, and the daughter of the Dynaformer mare Actrice Francaise, formerly a €190,000 Arqana breeze-up buy, was picked up by Bertrand Le Metayer on behalf of new breeder Samuel de Barros for €260,000.

“She is for Samuel de Barros, who is starting out as a Thoroughbred breeder,” said Le Metayer. “This will be his second broodmare. I liked the fact that she has strains of Machiavellian and will be very easy to mate with Galileo and his sons.”

De Barros, whose wife Elodie is a significant breeder of trotters, bought a nomination to Siyouni on Arqana Online in December.

Another Mayfair Speculators connected offering, the twice-raced €250,000 yearling **Emotion (Fr)** (Exceed and Excel {Aus}) (Lot 336), found favour when secured by Charlie Gordon-Watson’s assistant Will Douglass for €75,000. Emotion is a half-sister to two stakes horses and a granddaughter of the Group 2 winner and multiple stakes producer Spectacular Joke (Spectacular Bid).

The most expensive yearling sold on the day was a colt by the in-form Dabirsim (Fr) (Lot 259) picked up by the Fairway Partners for €30,000.

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Throwback Thursday: Lester Piggott pictured with Vincent O'Brien in 1991. Piggott, known as The Long Fellow, rode nine Epsom Derby winners: Never Say Die (1954), Crepello (1957), St. Paddy (1960), Sir Ivor (1968), Nijinsky (1970), Roberto (1972), Empery (1976), The Minstrel (1977), and Teenoso (1983). | racingfotos.com



DEADLINE TODAY

US SIRED 2YOS OF 2018 CAN BE EBF NOMINATED AT ONE OF THESE TWO STAGES:

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YOUNG GUNS

BILLY JACKSON-STOPS

Young Guns is a series where we endeavour to find out more about some of the young professionals in the industry. Today we speak with bloodstock consultant Billy Jackson-Stops of Atlas Stallions.

TDN: What was your path into the industry?

BJS: My brother and I were big jumps racing fans, having been brought up opposite Towcester Racecourse, so we started out by riding point-to-pointers. Then when I left school I got some work experience with James Delahooke at Tattersalls and my interests soon changed from jumps to flat racing, and from there I got a job prepping yearlings at Hascombe and Valiant.

TDN: Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

BJS: My time as assistant trainer to Godolphin in Australia was most influential because I spent all of my days one-on-one with John O'Shea. John is a remarkable trainer and had some very alternative views on life. He was lot of fun to work with and we had a huge amount of success together. He was willing to discuss anything and had an in-depth knowledge of pedigrees, which helped open my eyes to what I'm doing now with Spill The Beans.



Billy Jackson-Stops | Alayna Cullen

TDN: What does your role involve?

Young Guns: Billy Jackson-Stops Cont.

BJS: The majority of my time is spent managing Spill The Beans, who stands at The National Stud; he's the first son of the sire sensation Snitzel to stand in Europe. I started a small company, Atlas Stallions, so I could lease Spill The Beans from Aquis Farms in Australia to stand him here in the UK because I felt he would fit well into the current commercial and speed-oriented market. Along with Amy Taylor from The National Stud I manage the nominations, finances and marketing for all things Spill The Beans and Atlas Stallions.

Away from that I have a lot of my own bloodstock interests that I manage both here and in Australia. Then I consult on both bloodstock and racing for some private clients here, in the Middle East and in Australia.

TDN: What challenges do you face in your role?

BJS: This year has been incredibly competitive on the stallion marketing front with so many new horses coming onto the market, so the challenge for anyone with a stallion is to get mares booked in. Fortunately Spill The Beans has generated a huge amount of his own interest through being the first son of Snitzel to stand here; he makes life easy by also being very easy on the eye and by having an amazing race record. Promoting him has been a fun challenge to take on.

I'm currently consulting for a trainer in Qatar and trying to improve his operation. A lot of

the horses that end up there are the lower tier horses from the UK that have had previous issues and the only training track in Qatar is a hard dirt surface. [Cont. p5](#)

Be completely confident in the decisions you make and have the patience to let the effects of those decisions play out in front you rather than trying to constantly interfere

[Billy Jackson-Stops](#)

SPILL THE BEANS

Snitzel x Miss Dodwell | Born 2012 Bay | Height 16 h.h | Fee £6,000 (1st Oct SLF)

- **Undefeated** as a two-year-old and a multiple **stakes winner** as a three year-old, incl. the **GR.2 QTC Cup (6.5f)**.
- The most popular **1st season sire** in Australia in 2016, covering over **200 mares**.
- 1st son of **record breaking Champion Australian sire SNITZEL** to stand in Europe.



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Young Guns: Billy Jackson-Stops Cont.

So it's been a complicated challenge to work out how to train the horses more effectively without breaking them down on the surface; hopefully we'll start seeing some results from there quite soon.

TDN: What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

BJS: To be completely confident in the decisions you make and then to have the patience to let the effects of those decisions play out in front you rather than trying to constantly interfere.

TDN: What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the industry and how would you solve it?

BJS: It's nothing new, but the biggest challenge at this present moment is the lack of staff across the board here in the UK. This looks like it might only get worse with Brexit. Solving it won't be easy, but it comes by improving wages to attract and keep staff in the game. When prize money improves, more owners will be attracted to the game because their risk/reward of buying horses will be less; this demand from owners means that trainers could increase their rates and therefore pay more to staff. Currently the average keep of a horse in training is around £16,500, and the average prize money earned is £13,060. So it's easy to see why trainers can't justify upping their rates.

With more owners in the game there would also be more competition for horses at sales, so the middle to lower end of the sales market would improve and therefore generate more finances for breeders and their staff.

TDN: What do you think horse racing's perception is for the general public?

BJS: Horse racing still seems to be viewed as elitist by the general public. The work of Middleham Park Racing, Hot To Trot Racing and other syndicates are really helping to shake off this perception though and they're doing to a great job at making racing affordable to everyone.

TDN: How would you attract more young people into the workforce?

BJS: There's a lot of talk about 'working hours' in horse racing, but that can't be changed; horses have to be cared for. So I think to get young people into the game and keep them there then racing must work out a way to pay them more as I mentioned earlier. I overheard someone recently from a stud say 'it's all very well to do it for the love of the horses, but that love doesn't pay the mortgage.'

TDN: Who is your favorite racehorse of all time and why?

BJS: Simple Verse. I was at Olly Stevens's when she arrived there as a yearling, she was the only yearling I was allowed to ride because she was so big. I left Olly's quite soon after to go be assistant to Ralph Beckett, where Simple Verse turned up a year later. I was fortunate enough to have been able to work very closely with her throughout her career and witness firsthand the controversy of the G1 St Leger and then her dominating win in the G1 Fillies and Mares S. on Champions Day.



Billy Jackson-Stops and James Berney with Spill The Beans

TDN: Tell us something about yourself that not many people would know.

BJS: I very nearly joined the Army when I left school and got so close that I toured India as part of an official Army Polo Team before James Delahooke set me straight on my first visit to Tattersalls a few months later.

TDN: What would you like to achieve in the next five years?

BJS: The dream would be to have Atlas Stallions going successfully with two to three stallions on the books and for me to have bought my own small stud, but I'm sure reality has different ideas.

CLARIFICATION: In Wednesday's article on covering figures from the Return of Mares, we stated that Frankel covered 223 mares. That figure includes the 28 he covered on Southern Hemisphere time.

EUROPEAN NEWS

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CHANTILLY TRAINER LELLOUCHE RETIRES



Elie Lellouche and Gregory Benoist in 2014 | *Racing Post* photo

Just weeks after Crique Head-Maarek announced her retirement, another Chantilly stalwart, Elie Lellouche, has called it a day, *Racing Post* reports.

Lellouche will be best remembered as the conditioner of the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Helissio (Fr) (Fairy King), but also in his ranks were the Wildenstein family owned G1 Prix de Diane winners Aquarelliste (Fr) (Danehill) and Bright Sky (Ire) (Wolfhound) and the G1 Hong Kong Vase scorer Vallee Enchantee (Ire) (Peintre Celebre), as well as the excellent stayer Westerner (GB) (Danehill).

"It wasn't a difficult decision at all when it came to it," Lellouche told *Racing Post*. "I had lost a few clients and that forced my hand a little but I felt it was the right time to stop for a variety of reasons."

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BRITAIN



CONDITONS RESULTS:

5th-LIN, £19,000, Cond, 2-14, 4yo/up, 12f (AWT), 2:39.61, st. RED VERDON (h, 5, Lemon Drop Kid--Porto Marmay {Ire} {MSW-US & SW-Ire, \$252,143}, by Choisir {Aus}) Lifetime Record: SW-Eng & G1SP-Fr, 18-5-5-1, \$358,669. O-The Hon R J Arculli; B-Liberty Road Stables (KY); T-Ed Dunlop. *\$85,000 Ylg '14 KEESEP; 90,000gns 2yo '15 TATBRE.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Michael Corleone (GB), c, 3, Cacique (Ire)--Pleine Forme (MSP-Ger & SP-US), by Grand Slam. WOL, 2-14, 7f 36y (AWT), 1:30.18. B-Fair Salinia Ltd (GB). *42,000gns Wlg '15 TATFOA; 40,000gns Ylg '16 TAOCT.

Mighty Mac (Ire), g, 3, Dragon Pulse (Ire)--Invincible Fire (Ire), by Invincible Spirit (Ire). LIN, 2-14, 6f 1y (AWT), 1:13.00 B-Geraldine Browne (IRE). *€12,000 Wlg '15 GOFNOV; €15,000 RNA Ylg '16 TIRSEP; £42,000 2yo '17 GOFBRE.

Breaking Records (Ire), c, 3, Kodiak (GB)--Querulous, by Raven's Pass. WOL, 2-14, 7f 36y (AWT), 1:30.32. B-Tally-Ho Stud (IRE). *110,000gns Ylg '16 TATOCT.

BHA ISSUES AFTERCARE SURVEY

The British Horseracing Authority has issued trainers with a survey to help it better understand the aftercare of Thoroughbreds as part of an overarching health and welfare strategy being developed. This follows on from the news of 30-day foal notifications, which will help to form a more accurate picture of racehorses' lives before they enter training. Trainers are asked to complete the survey by Mar. 2.

David Sykes, director of equine health and welfare at the BHA, said, "British Racing's duty of care to its racehorses extends beyond the end of their racing careers. As part of our work towards an equine welfare strategy, which encompasses the post-racing life of a racehorse, we need to get a fuller picture of what happens to horses after they leave the track. Asking for trainers' help to do this will allow us to understand the current landscape from those who experience it firsthand, and we are looking forward to seeing the results."

EBF DEADLINE ON THURSDAY

The deadline to nominate 2-year-olds by non EBF-registered stallions is Thursday, Feb. 15. Kerry Murphy of the EBF said, "owners and trainers looking to campaign a horse in Europe should check that it is EBF nominated as over 80% of 2-year-old maiden/novice races in Great Britain, Ireland, France and Germany are confined to EBF eligibles. **Cont. p7**



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EBF Deadline on Thursday Cont.

By nominating, your horse will be qualified to compete for a pool of over €5-million available in added prizemoney. This nomination stage largely relates to horses by stallions standing in the U.S. and Japan.”

The current fee is \$3,000 or equivalent up to Feb. 15 and will rise to \$6,000 after this date.

FRANCE**CONDITIONS RESULTS:**

4th-MMN, €24,000, Cond, 2-14, 3yo, 0fT, 2:23.40, hy.

WETROV (FR) (c, 3, Evasive {GB}--Whoosh {Fr}, by Muhtathir {GB}) Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-1, €33,350. O-Mme Marina Tretiakova; B-Ecurie Villebadin (FR); T-Ralf Rohne. *€3,000 Ylg '16 BBAGO.

5th-MMN, €19,000, Cond, 2-14, 4yo/up, 12fT, 2:47.20, hy.

CNICHT (FR) (c, 4, Silver Frost {Ire}--Gibraltar Bay {Ire}, by Cape Cross {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 12-3-1-3, €42,550. O/B-Nicholas Hughes (FR); T-David Henderson. *€15,000 RNA Ylg '15 ARQNOV. **1/2 to Rooke (GB) (Pastoral Pursuits {GB}), SW-Fr & MSP-Spa, \$119,395.

6th-MMN, €15,000, Cond, 2-14, 4yo, 12fT, 2:49.50, hy.

PENSHURST (IRE) (g, 4, Fastnet Rock {Aus}--Penny's Gold {MGSW-US & GSW-Fr, \$393,493}, by Kingmambo) Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-1, €32,700. O-OTI Management Pty Ltd; B-Lynch Bages Ltd (IRE); T-Antoine de Watrigant.

8th-MMN, €15,000, Cond, 2-14, 4yo, 10fT, 2:22.50, hy.

SWEET MAMBO (FR) (f, 4, Soave {Ger}--Mambo Mistress, by Kingmambo) Lifetime Record: 9-2-2-1, €33,000. O-Jean-Marc de Watrigant; B-Haras de Mandore (FR); T-Damien de Watrigant. *€35,000 RNA Ylg '15 OSLATE. **1/2 to Mambomiss (Fr) (Mastercraftsman {Ire}), MSW & MGSP-Fr, \$171,035.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

French Reflection (Ire), f, 3, Declaration of War--Spira (Ire), by Sadler's Wells. CGN, 2-14, 10f (AWT), 2:04.62. B-Edy SRL (IRE). *€43,000 RNA Wlg '15 ARQDEC; €37,000 Ylg '16 AROCT; €8,000 2yo '17 ARQNOV.

Interieur (Ire), c, 3, Elusive City--The Living Room (Fr) (MSP-Fr), by Gold Away (Ire). CGN, 2-14, 10f (AWT), 2:03.59. B-Jean-Claude Seroul (IRE). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Ryan Chop (Fr), c, 3, Muhaymin--Multichope (Fr), by Indian Rocket (GB). MMN, 2-14, 8fT, 1:40.90. B-Alain Chopard (FR). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

IRELAND**HRI TO HOLD SUMMER INTERNSHIPS**

Horse Racing Ireland will this summer offer four paid placements of 10 to 12 weeks as part of its student summer internship programme. Students will be exposed to all aspects of the industry including marketing, communications, social media, sales, racecourse operations, race day planning and event management. Three interns will be based in HRI Head Offices in Kildare and the fourth at Leopardstown Racecourse.

EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS**IN AUSTRALIA:**

Mazaz (Ire), g, 5, Galileo (Ire)--Ice Mint, by Awesome Again.

Warwick Farm, 2-14, Hcp. (£23k/€25k), 2200mT, 2:15.88.

B-Knighton Hse, Eadling Farm & Marengo. *65,000gns HRA '16 TATHIT.

IN HONG KONG:

Litterateur (Ire), g, 6, Lope de Vega (Ire)--Lake Moon (GB), by

Tiger Hill. Happy Valley, 2-14, Hcp. (£23k/€25k), 1650mT,

1:39.87. B-Richard Ahern. *Formerly Meteoric (Ire). **SW-Fr.

***€24,000 Ylg '13 GOFORB; £120,000 HRA '14 GOFLO. **VIDEO**

WORLDWIDE NEWS**APPLEBY GOES FOR GUINEAS GOLD**

Charlie Appleby won the G3 UAE 2000 Guineas in 2014 with Long John (Aus) (Street Cry {Ire}), and the Godolphin trainer looks to repeat that pattern in Thursday's renewal of that Dubai Classic with **Gold Town (GB)** (Street Cry {Ire}). Coming off a Newmarket handicap score on Aug. 12, Gold Town was an easy 4 1/4-length winner of the first heat of the Guineas trial over a furlong shorter here in his first try on dirt on Jan. 25, and given he is by the Dubai World Cup-winning sire, the added distance shouldn't prove a problem.

"We were both delighted and impressed with Gold Town's dirt debut and we are very hopeful the extra 200 metres in the Guineas will suit him," Appleby said. "If he can run to the same level as when winning the trial, he will hopefully be hard to beat." **Cont. p8**



Gold Town winning the Guineas trial | DRC/Andrew Watkins

Appleby Goes for Guineas Gold Cont.

In the second heat of the Guineas trial, **El Chapo (GB)** (Lethal Force {Ire}) defeated Saeed bin Suroor's **Racing Country (Ire)** by a half-length in a time about a second slower than Gold Town's race. El Chapo was making his first start as a gelding there for trainer and co-owner Fawzi Nass after being bought out of the Tattersalls Autumn sale.

"We thought he would run well," Nass said. "I could not have been happier when he won. Obviously, this is a better race but the extra distance should suit him and we are again hoping he runs well."

The maiden Racing Country returns to the dirt after struggling home eighth in last week's Meydan Classic Trial. Bin Suroor said, "He disappointed on the turf last week, but back on dirt he should run much better and the 1600 metres will be in his favour."

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REY DE ORO CONFIRMED FOR DUBAI

by Alan Carasso

Rey de Oro (Jpn) (King Kamehameha {Jpn}), whose five wins from eight career trips to the post include the 2017 G1 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby), has been confirmed for a run in the US\$6-million G1 Dubai Sheema Classic at Meydan Mar. 31, according to a report on the Japanese-language Yahoo! website.

The Carrot Farm colorbearer, perfect in three starts at two, including the G2 Hopeful S., was the 3/4-length winner of the Derby last May ([video](#), gate 12) and added the G2 Kobe Shimbun Hai ([video](#), gate 8) in September. A staying on second to Cheval Grand (Jpn) (Heart's Cry {Jpn})--with future Horse of the Year Kitanas Black (Jpn) (Black Tide {Jpn}) third--in the G1 Japan Cup, Rey de Oro was the 3-5 favourite for the G2 Kyoto Kinen Feb. 11, but could only manage third in what was to be a Sheema

prep ([video](#), gate 6). Trainer Kazuo Fujisawa was non-committal following that effort, but reports are that the 2017 champion 3-year-old colt has pulled up well and will press on to the desert. Christophe Lemaire, who was suspended for the Kyoto Kinen and was replaced by Dario Vargiu, will be back in the irons in Dubai.

Japanese raiders have won the Sheema Classic on three occasions--Stay Gold (Jpn) (Sunday Silence, 2001); the Lemaire-ridden Heart's Cry (Jpn) (Sunday Silence, 2006); and Gentildonna (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}, 2014).

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Rey de Oro (12) winning the Tokyo Yushun | Horsephotos

KRANJI MILE TO BE CONTESTED AS INVITATIONAL IN 2018

by Alan Carasso

Officials at the Singapore Turf Club have announced that this year's Kranji Mile has been elevated to an invitational status and will be open to as many as four selected international runners. As such, the prize money for the 1600m feature will be raised from S\$1 million to S\$1.5 million, making it the richest event on the local racing calendar for 2018.

"We are exhilarated to put Singapore racing back on the world map and believe the way to do so is to offer better incentives and bigger prizemoney to attract the world's top horses, owners, trainers and jockeys to Singapore," said Chong Boo Ching, President and Chief Executive of the Singapore Turf Club. "This year's Kranji Mile will be a window into the international races in 2019 to drum up early interest and anticipation among the local and international racing communities. It is an exciting step forward in Singapore Turf Club's plan to uplift the quality of Singapore racing."

Cont. p9

Kranji Mile Cont.

In addition to the purse hike, the first locally based horse home will be eligible for a bonus of S\$100,000, while the second to pass the post will be eligible for an S\$50,000 bonus.

In September 2015, the S\$3-million G1 Singapore Airlines International Cup (2000m) and S\$1-million G1 KrisFlyer International Sprint (1200m) were abruptly canceled, with STC officials saying that the races had “accomplished the objectives” that were set out when the races were created in 2000 and 2001, respectively. The two events had been dominated in recent years by Hong Kong shippers. Within the context of a complete overhaul of the racing structure in Singapore, Club officials announced last September the reintroduction of international races for 2019, when the Kranji Mile will carry purse money of S\$3 million and the Lion City Cup (1200m) will offer S\$1.35 million.

The Kranji Mile, won in 2017 by subsequent Horse of the Year Infantry (NZ) (Tavistock {NZ}), and the S\$1-million Lion City Cup are scheduled this year for Sunday, May 20, and are positioned to attract plenty of interest from sprinters and milers based in Hong Kong. The G1 Champions Mile and G1 Chairman’s Sprint Prize are set for Sunday, Apr. 29, at Sha Tin Racecourse.

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Singapore HOTY Infantry won the 2017 Kranji Mile
Singapore Turf Club photo

AUSTRALIAN-BRED WINNERS

IN HONG KONG:

Har Har Heart (Aus), g, 4, **Myboycharlie (Ire)**--Dangerous Dancer (Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire). Happy Valley, 2-14, Hcp. (A\$143k), 1650mT, 1:40.66. B-??. *A\$15,000 Wlg '14 MMNWNL; A\$35,000 Ylg '15 INGSYD. **VIDEO**




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Thursday, Meydan, United Arab Emirates, post time: 8:50 p.m. (11:50 a.m. EST/4:50 p.m. BST)

UAE 2000 GUINEAS SPONSORED BY AL TAYER MOTORS-G3, \$250,000, 3yo, 1600m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Waaqqad 	Quality Road	SCR	SCR	124
2	Daffg	Discreet Cat	bin Harmash	De Sousa	121
3	One Season (Ire)	Showcasing (GB)	Seemar	Mullen	121
4	Gold Town (GB)	Street Cry (Ire)	Appleby	Buick	121
5	El Chapo (GB)	Lethal Force (Ire)	Nass	Morris	121
6	Rua Augusta 	Arch	bin Harmash	Jara	121
7	Last Voyage 	Eskendereya	Appleby	Barzalona	121
8	Racing Country (Ire)	Dubawi (Ire)	bin Suroor	Cosgrave	121
9	Gotti 	More Than Ready	Al Rayhi	Fresu	121
10	Roland Rocks (Ire)	Red Jazz	Ryan	Mosse	121
11	Roy Orbison (Arg)	Orpen	Al Rayhi	O'Shea	131
12	Blue Laureate (GB)	Poet's Voice (GB)	Watson	Hitchcott	131
13	Loyal Soldier	Colonel John	bin Harmash	Beasley	121
14	Meqdaam	Alternation	Bouresly	Mesetovic	121
15	Doublet (Ire)	Epaulette (Aus)	bin Ghadayer	Ziani	121
16	New Arch 	Arch	Bouresly	Rosales	121

Saturday, Flemington, Australia, post time: 4:45 p.m. (12:45 a.m. EST/5:45 a.m. BST)

BLACK CAVIAR LIGHTNING S.-G1, A\$750,000 (US\$590,455/£423,095/€476,338), WFA, 4yo/up, 1000mT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	9	Redzel (Aus)	Snitzel (Aus)	P & P Snowden	McEvoy	129
2	4	Terravista (Aus)	Captain Rio (Aus)	Pride	Zahra	129
3	3	Hey Doc (Aus)	Duporth (Aus)	McEvoy	Currie	129
4	7	Redkirk Warrior (GB)	Notnowcato (GB)	D & B Hayes/Dabernig	Bayliss	129
5	1	Rock Magic (Aus)	Redoute's Choice (Aus)	Gangemi	Dee	129
6	2	Ball of Muscle (Aus)	Dubawi (Ire)	Pride	Williams	129
7	10	Supido (Aus)	Sebring (Aus)	Kent	Mertens	129
8	6	Missrock (Aus)	Fastnet Rock (Aus)	Laing	Oliver	124
9	5	Super Too (Aus)	Hinchinbrook (Aus)	Connors	Baster	124
10	8	Formality (Aus)	Fastnet Rock (Aus)	D & B Hayes/Dabernig	Dunn	118

Saturday, Meydan, United Arab Emirates, post time: 7:40 p.m. (10:40 a.m. EST/3:40 p.m. BST)

FIREBREAK S. SPONSORED BY AZIZI DEVELOPMENTS-G3, \$200,000, NH 4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, 1600m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Bravo Zolo (Ire)	Rip Van Winkle (Ire)	Appleby	Buick	125
2	Fantastic Four (Arg)	Forestry	Bruss	Fayd'Herbe	125
3	Heavy Metal (GB)	Exceed And Excel (Aus)	bin Ghadayer	Barzalona	129
4	Cosmo Charlie	Stay Thirsty	Watson	Hitchcott	125
5	Richard Pankhurst (GB)	Raven's Pass	bin Ghadayer	Ziani	125
6	Nobelium	Sky Mesa	Bouresly	Mullen	125

Saturday, Meydan, United Arab Emirates, post time: 8:50 p.m. (11:50 a.m. EST/4:50 p.m. BST)

BALANCHINE SPONSORED BY AZIZI DEVELOPMENTS-G2, \$200,000, NH4yo/up & SH 3yo/up, f/m, 1800mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Singyoursong (Ire)	Aqlaam (GB)	Simcock	Crowley	125
2	Opal Tiara (Ire)	Thousand Words (GB)	Channon	De Sousa	125
3	Icecapada (Ire)	Mastercraftsman (Ire)	Petersen	Buick	125
4	Furia Cruzada (Chi)	Newfoundland	Charpy	Fresu	125
5	Tiaemah (KSA)	Premium Tap	Bruss	Dettori	125
6	Promising Run	Hard Spun	bin Suroor	Cosgrave	129
7	Absolute Blast (Ire)	Kodiac (GB)	Watson	Murphy	125
8	Aljuljalah 🇲🇪	Exchange Rate	bin Ghadayer	Barzalona	125

*All posts are displayed in local time.



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HORSES A TIMELESS PURSUIT FOR J. J. PLETCHER



J.J. Pletcher | Joe DiOrio

by Chris McGrath

Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico, 1968. J.J. Pletcher, 30 years old, is trying his luck with a few Quarter Horses--and by now some Thoroughbreds, too--applying skills first learned helping his uncle, a weekend rodeo roper, in Texas. And here was this guy, D. Wayne Lukas, drawing attention to himself round the backside--and not just with those unbelievable white chaps of his.

"We used to call him Mr. Clean," Pletcher remembered, half a century later. "That was some guy on an advertisement for cleaning fluid, so that's what we called him, Mr. Clean, everything had to be just right. Got to know him pretty well. He was getting big at that time. He had a gift for gab, for lack of a better word; didn't spoil the story for lack of material, put it that way. And he could back up a lot of it. He was good at what he did."

Well, all the world knows that now. And, of course, there would be another charismatic defector from Quarter Horses a couple of decades later. But if Lukas and Bob Baffert represent the gleaming twin peaks, nobody celebrating the transfusion of Quarter Horse lore into the modern Thoroughbred should be leaving Pletcher in their shadow.

Cont. p3

STIDHAM HOPING FOR TWO STRONG

'RIDES' SATURDAY by Ben Massam

A mainstay near the top of the Fair Grounds trainer standings, Michael Stidham will make full use of the track's lucrative stakes-laced card Saturday, sending out two promising sons of Candy Ride (Arg) in the GIII Mineshaft H. and GII Risen Star S. Godolphin's **Cedartown** has elevated himself to the status of a stable star in his brief career, finishing in the exacta in all seven tries and recently capturing his 4-year-old debut with authority in the Listed Louisiana S. in New Orleans Jan. 13.

Although Cedartown did not debut until June of his sophomore year, Stidham said the colt always gave him the impression of a horse who would do better with time.

Cont. p8

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Horses raced alone or in partnership by Mayfair Speculators fetched three of the top four prices during the second session of Arqana's February Sale on Wednesday.

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Thursday, February 15, 2018



Perfect Palm Beach. If you're heading down to Gulfstream this year to see your horses train or race, consider staying up the road in Palm Beach. Michelin-rated eateries and five-star hotels await you. [Click here](#) to take a tour with Christina Bossinakis in this month's TDN Weekend. | Photo courtesy of Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa

WOLFSON RULED OFF AT GULFSTREAM

9

Multiple Grade I-winning trainer Martin Wolfson has been ruled off the Gulfstream Park property due to his inability to meet financial obligations.

WHY RACING? SHANNON & STEVE CASTAGNOLA

10

Shannon and Steve Castagnola each share how they got into racing and their earliest memories of the sport.

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES

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J. J. Pletcher cont. from p1

Not just because it was his compass, through nature and nurture alike, that set his son Todd on the path to records beyond even Lukas or Baffert; nor simply because it was Lukas who took Todd under his wing, as he was learning the trade. Year by year, the elder Pletcher retains a far more tangible role in his son's success.

For one thing, it was his seasoned eye that picked out many of the horses who first made Todd's name. To this day, moreover, he supervises the conversion of each new draft of raw recruits into battle-ready cadets at his Payton Training Center in Ocala.



J.J. Pletcher and Todd Pletcher | Joe DiOrio

One way or another, then, he has stitched another deep Quarter Horse seam into the manual of training Thoroughbreds in the 21st century. I mean, really deep. Listen to Pletcher, in his soft tones, conjuring memories of the old days; of an adolescence in the care of his grandparents, small farmers in the Texas panhandle.

"Those county fairs in the summertime..." he mused, sitting at the desk of his office at Payton. "Maybe a \$1,000 purse, 220 yards, 350 yards, a distance race would be a quarter of a mile--that was a marathon. But it was fun. And you learned a lot. You'd take your pick-up and trailer, load your horse and go; unload, tie it up to a tree, probably it was a bit like it must have been in Ireland 100 years ago. It was the farm during the week, and race on the weekends. These little bush tracks around Texas, there'd be three or four horses in the race and you'd bet a little on the side." **Cont. p4**

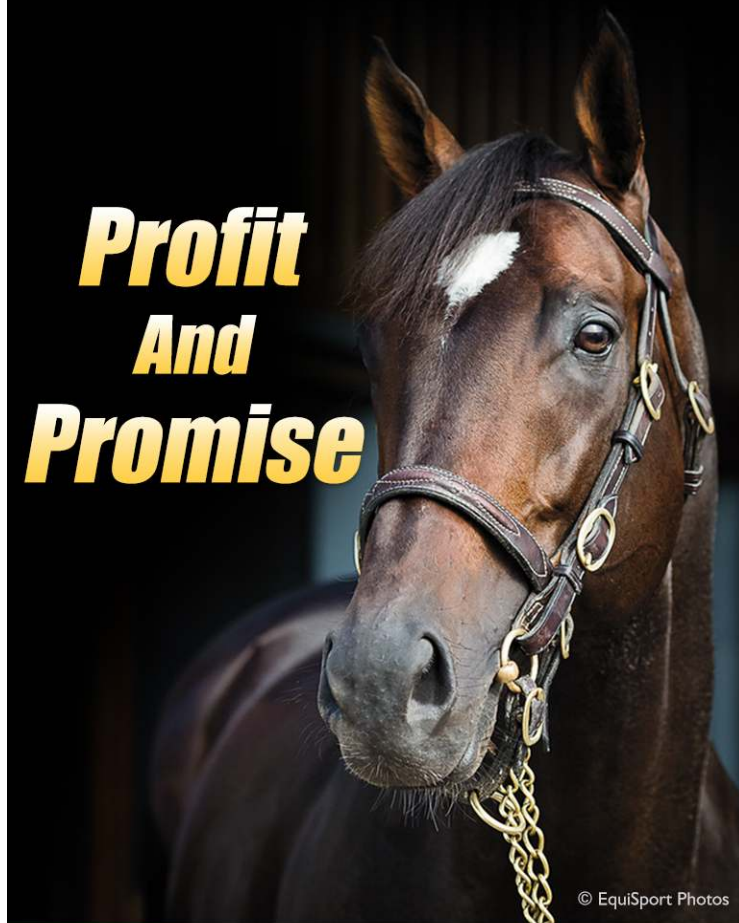
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J. J. Pletcher cont.

Yes, the odd wager was essential. Because there was no real money to be made otherwise.

"You had to enjoy it to do it, because you barely could make a living," Pletcher said. "That's why you had to get out of the business, why they switched to Thoroughbreds: out of necessity. And then Wayne went to New York and started putting these horses on the front end--and they just somehow kept going. These guys had been training them to come from behind for 100 years, they didn't know what had happened. All of a sudden he had it figured out. Pretty smart. Wayne probably changed the Thoroughbred industry as much as he did the Quarter Horse one."

Pletcher's own impact, if barely less profound, would be in a lower key. He dismisses his record as a trainer of Thoroughbreds--"won a few races, enough to keep a few clients, but nothing big"--but one of his patrons did have some land in Florida. And, when Pletcher tired of the track life, he accepted an invitation to establish a training center down there in 1985. It was the right time to put down some roots. Pletcher's wife Joan was able to start what has itself become a thriving business, as a realtor specialising in equine facilities.

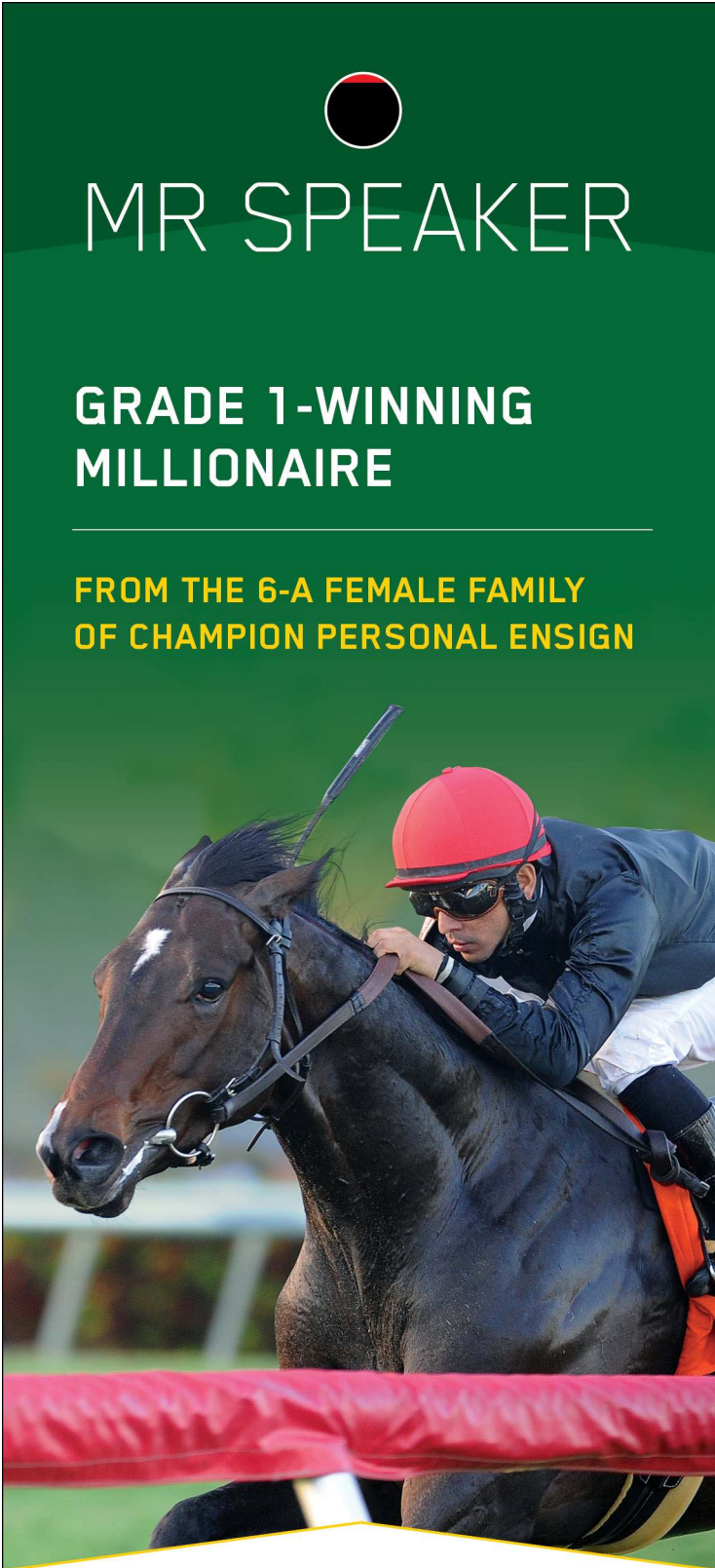
And then there was Todd, heading off to college in Arizona.


"He was raised on the racetrack, more or less," Pletcher said. "Being an only child, he was at the barn when he wasn't at school. He wanted to learn all the time. He could have done whatever he made up his mind to do, he was that smart. Everybody could tell you that, seeing this little kid with such personality, such work ethic. And he always knew what he wanted to do."

So every summer during college Todd would be sent to one of his father's old track buddies: Charlie Whittingham, Henry Moreno and, of course, Lukas--whose barn Todd joined, full-time, on graduation. Father and son drove non-stop from Texas to New York, taking turns at the wheel, and Todd started work next morning.

During the next seven years, against that unique Lukas whetstone, Todd sharpened the instincts and knowledge already absorbed from his father. In the meantime, as in every life, there were the usual unreadable shifts of fate. On the one hand, the Lukas team also included Gerard Butler, who would go on to train Group 1 winners in Europe and is now assistant to J. J. Pletcher. On the other, there was the terrible day when the loose Tabasco Cat galloped over Jeff Lukas, the trainer's son and right hand man. Todd found himself assuming many of that tragic figure's responsibilities.

Cont. p5






MR SPEAKER

GRADE 1-WINNING MILLIONAIRE

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By the time Todd set up his own barn, in 1996, his father was also at a crossroads following the death of the patron who had brought him to Florida. They sat down together.



Todd Pletcher with D. Wayne Lukas on horseback | Horsephotos

"You gotta have young horses in this game," Pletcher told his son. "Gotta have them coming in every year."

So they agreed to set up their own breaking and pre-training complex; it would be named after Pletcher's first grandson, Payton, born the year after the 80-acre, 96-stall facility was built.

Pletcher had been going to sales forever, of course, but just about the first he attended for their new venture was Keeneland September 1998. He went to look at a horse way out the back hill, happened to look across--and there he was: a son of Southern Halo.

Joan saw him coming back with sparkling eyes. She knew that look. "Pletch, what *have* you seen?" she asked.

"I saw this horse, he's put together so good! He's not big but, I mean, he just has this lift in his walk," he said.

Signed for by Eddie Rosen at \$187,000, the colt was taken on by James Scatuorchio. Pletcher took him down to Florida, broke him, and found him such a natural that he reckoned him ready for a 4 1/2-furlong race at Keeneland in the spring. Todd objected that he didn't even have a name yet.

"Todd," Pletcher Sr. said. "This horse can run."

"So he called up Scat," he recalled. "And he said: 'Scat, where you at?' And Scat said: 'I'm in France.' 'We gotta name this horse, there's a race for him next week, last day of the meet.' 'Well, is he ready to run?' And Todd said: 'He's *more* than ready.' And Scat's wife was sitting there with him, and she said: 'Well, call him More Than Ready!' Won by nine lengths. And paid \$9.00. I'll never forget it. We all made a little. We loved those kind of deals, you didn't have to do anything sneaky but now a horse breezes one time it's in every publication in the United States!"



MR SPEAKER

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At 3: Grade 1 Winner	Graded Stakes Wins: 4
Best Beyer: 103	Freshman Stud Fee: \$10,000



At 2: Grade 3 Winner	Earnings: \$557,300
At 3: Grade 1 Winner	Graded Stakes Wins: 2
Best Beyer: 98	Freshman Stud Fee: \$15,000



TEL: 859.873.7300

J. J. Pletcher cont.

Though he did hang on for fourth in the GI Kentucky Derby, More Than Ready really blossomed when dropped in distance, notably in the GI King's Bishop S. Pletcher's only regret--in view of the horse's long record of accomplishment at stud, in both hemispheres--is selling his share. No matter: it was only the beginning.

Back at the same sale in 2003, way down the catalogue, Pletcher fell for a diminutive colt by Smart Strike. So diminutive, in fact, that Todd and the rest of their team teased him about it.

"Didn't have a lot to look at," Pletcher admitted. "But I liked the horse, for some reason; he was just very balanced. He was selling Saturday, everybody left Friday, I made two bids and bought him for \$50,000. So I called Scat and said: 'I bought this little horse--but if you don't want him, I'll keep him.' He said: 'No, no, I want him.' And I've kicked my ass many times for not saying I'll have half. **English Channel**. Won \$5 million, champion grass horse, won the [GI] Breeders' Cup [Turf]. No, he wasn't very big. But he was the gutsiest S.O.B. you ever saw."



English Channel | Sarah K. Andrew

And then, two years later, the horse that would embed Scaturchio's nickname in the lexicon of the breed.

"Horse was next to last for sale that day," recalled Pletcher. "Scat came out to the bar and told Todd: 'I'm going to 150. No more.' 'Yes Scat.' Got to \$150,000, Todd just kept on bidding. Bought him for \$250,000. And Scat just said, 'Man!' We just decided, we stayed that long we were gonna buy him. We'd have sold him to somebody, if Scat didn't take him. The good part was that Scat, next day or so, said, 'I'm giving you and Todd half this horse.' That's why we're living in a nice house. Just the kind of guy he is, there's very few people like him."

As **Scat Daddy** (Johannesburg) began to shine on the track, the Pletchers sold their half to another valued client in Michael Tabor. There was still a breeding stake in the horse, however--and what might that be worth now, had Scat Daddy not dropped dead aged just 11? **Cont. p7**



MR SPEAKER

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Scat Daddy | Sarah K. Andrew

"He was so well balanced, one of those you knew he was a runner just by looking at him," said Pletcher, shaking his head. "Best moving horse I ever broke. I breezed him a couple of times and I rang Todd and said, 'I'm sending you this horse; I'm not gonna keep him here. He's too good, I'm not messing him up.'"

Two old allies, Tabor and More Than Ready, have meanwhile opened a new chapter in the latter's son Verrazano, now trying to fill the breach left by Scat Daddy at Ashford.

"Think we've got a chance with him," Pletcher said. "Watch him, his covers sold pretty good."

And so the legacy continues to grow. Who can say how far any of these sires might have gotten, without Pletcher to find them? Without Pletcher, to give them a grounding; and, of course, to have given their trainer an education of his own? At 80, true, he greatly values the prodigious energy and talent of Butler. ("Just like Todd," he says. "A workaholic, daylight to dark.") But nor can there be many keener eyes in the game, having sifted crop after crop for so many decades.

Dear lord, help me break even.

J.J. Pletcher

"You look at a good Thoroughbred, you'll see a lot of Quarter Horse in there," Pletcher said. "Well balanced, a big ass on him, a lot of drive. When you bought a Quarter Horse, you didn't want it muscle-bound or too skinny, you wanted that balance. So I think that's one of the reasons Baffert and Lukas done good, too--it helped those guys a lot."



Sierra Farm
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Filly ex **Silver Prize**.
Bred by **China Horse Club**



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J. J. Pletcher cont.

"You do train them differently, of course. With Quarter Horses, they had to be ready to go when you said go; Thoroughbreds, you're trying to get them to relax. But whether you're training jumping horses, trotters, whatever, basically it all still boils down to soundness, and getting into their heads."

So here he is, testing the fruit of his judgement once again. The latest bunch of youngsters started breezing at the start of the month, and wheat will soon be sorted from chaff. Todd, needless to say, is getting his daily bulletins.

"It doesn't take long to spot a runner," Pletcher shrugs. "Most of the real good ones have a good brain. They wouldn't run off or flip over or do something crazy. But the better the education they get as yearlings, 2-year-olds, the better chance they'll have as racehorses."

But the vagaries of life, especially the horseman's life, remain ever in mind. After a lifetime of horse-trading, from the Texas fairgrounds to Scat Daddy, Pletcher never forgets the gambler's prayer.

"Dear Lord," he recited, smiling. "Help me break even."

[Share this story](#)

Stidham cont. from p1



Cedartown | Hodges photo

Cedartown graduated from the maiden ranks in his first try over a route of ground at Monmouth in August and ultimately wrapped up his 2017 campaign with a breakthrough win over GIII Oklahoma Derby winner Untrapped (Trappe Shot) in the Zia Park Derby Nov. 22.

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Colt ex **Dream The Blues**, dam of 2017 G1 Phoenix Stakes winner **Sioux Nation** pictured at 12 hours old. Bred by **John Halley**

Filly ex maiden **Cry Me A River**, pictured at 12 hours old. Bred by **Lynch-Bages**

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Stidham cont.

“He was kind of a later developer,” said Stidham, who has divided his stable up with strings at Fair Grounds and Tampa Bay Downs this winter. “I didn’t get him in as a 2-year-old at all because he was a big, growthy horse who they wanted to give a chance to grow up and mature. When we got him, we took our time getting him ready, and our patience has paid off.”

Cedartown rewarded Stidham and company in a big way in the Louisiana, tracking the pace and pouncing en route to a two-length score. He earned a career-top 100 Beyer Speed Figure for his victory, giving Stidham confidence that the colt could be a major player in the handicap division going forward. As such, Saturday’s Mineshaft will serve as a useful barometer.

“From a numbers standpoint, he’s certainly going the right way,” the trainer commented. “He fits with these kind of horses pretty well. We’d like to wind up running in the [Mar. 24 GII] New Orleans H.--that’s our goal and we hope we can make it.”



Michael Stidham | Horsephotos

Stidham picked an ambitious spot in the Risen Star for **Supreme Aura**, undefeated in two starts at six furlongs. The 3-year-old son of Candy Ride, owned by Stallionaire Enterprises, captured his Aug. 9 debut at Delaware Park and returned from a lengthy layoff to make it two-for-two in a Fair Grounds allowance Jan. 5. While Supreme Aura possesses ample talent, the question remains whether the \$165,000 KEESEP purchase will successfully navigate a route of ground.

“That’s what we’re going to find out,” Stidham said. “From a numbers standpoint, he’s solid sprinting--but until you can run those numbers routing, you don’t really know. We’ve put a lot

into him work-wise to have him as well-prepared as we can get him. He’s handled it well physically and mentally. So we’re ready to step up and see if he can handle it.”

Stidham has spent recent years building a wide portfolio of clients who have entrusted the trainer with high-end stock. Saturday’s card will see the New Jersey native saddle horses for prominent owners such as Godolphin, Robert Evans and Pin Oak Stable.

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WOLFSON RULED OFF AT GULFSTREAM

by Ben Massam

Trainer Martin Wolfson has been ruled off the Gulfstream Park property due to his inability to meet financial obligations. As first reported by *Daily Racing Form*, the ruling was issued by track management after the veteran trainer was unable to adequately pay for the care of his horses in recent months, general manager Billy Badgett confirmed Wednesday afternoon.

“It’s a difficult situation,” Badgett said. “It was more or less over financial obligations--as a trainer, you’re supposed to meet those requirements, and he wasn’t doing it. It was more or less a management decision.”

Badgett said Wolfson had seven horses remaining in his care and, to his knowledge, all of them were moved to the care of trainer Danny Gargan at nearby Palm Meadows Training Center.

“The horses were relocated,” Badgett said. “He’s not ruled off for life by any means. We’re hoping he can get himself together and get back into it. It’s just for right now, until he can get himself into a position financially to pay the help right, pay the feed man right, pay the blacksmith right.”

Wolfson’s horses have made six starts in 2018 with a runner-up finish and two third-place efforts. His most recent success came with the mare Curlin’s Approval (Curlin), who won three graded stakes events at Gulfstream in 2017. Her final start under Wolfson’s care was a victory in the GII Princess Rooney S. July 1--after which she began competing under the name of owner/trainer Happy Alter. Wolfson has won a total of 1,682 races in his career, with 2006 champion turf horse Miesque’s Approval (Miesque’s Son) and MGISW Chaposa Springs among his most notable trainees.

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WHY RACING?

As part of a new series, we asked a number of people not born into racing families why they got into the sport, and what their first racing memory was.



Shannon Castagnola

Director of Sales, Woodford Thoroughbreds

Why did you get involved in the sport?

Like so many, I was that little girl who loved horses and even at a very young age was fascinated by them. We lived in Eastern Kentucky because my dad was a helicopter pilot for a coal company. However, if there was a horse, of any shape, color, or size, that we passed driving on mountain roads, I would beg my family to pull over and allow me to reach my little arm through a fence opening to pet a whiskered muzzle. The horse addiction was fed when we moved to Lexington when I was nine and started riding lessons which carried me through high school. I taught at a summer riding camp while in college.

I wasn't exposed to the Thoroughbred industry until I graduated from the University of Kentucky. I had planned on being a political reporter and was sending out audition tapes to local (and not so local) television stations, when the Keeneland September sale came around and in need of a paycheck and open to new experiences, I showed yearlings for Taylor Made Sales Agency. It was during that three-week period that the direction of my life forever changed. The atmosphere of the sale hooked me. I was already a lover of the animal, but it was the people that stood out to me. The characters in the horse industry are endlessly entertaining. Nineteen years later I'm the director of sales at Woodford Thoroughbreds. Because Woodford is one of the few yearling consignors to also sell 2-year olds, I spend *a lot* of time on the sale grounds.

SHACK ATTACK

LEADING 2017 SECOND CROP APEX SIRES BY ABC RUNNERS

	A	B	C	ABC
1. SHACKLEFORD	5	3	10	18
2. Creative Cause	5	2	5	12
Dialed In	3	3	6	12
4. Union Rags	6	2	3	11
5. Maclean's Music	3	4	3	10

Source: BillOppenheim.com

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SHACKLEFORD

What is your earliest racing memory?

In seventh grade I wrote a paper on Sunday Silence versus Easy Goer and compared and contrasted their upbringing and race record. I was inspired by watching that year's Kentucky Derby on television.



Steve Castagnola, Kempton Bloodstock

Keeneland Photo

I grew up just south of London in Surbiton, Surrey and my first exposure to horse racing was my first bet on April 9th, 1983, when my mom let my brother and I pick out a horse in the 137th edition of the Grand National. I was 12 years old and my 50 pence each way wager went on an 8-year-old chestnut with a big white blaze named Corbiere. We were driving in the car during the race and listened to it on the radio! Corbiere won at 13-1 and his trainer, Jenny Pitman, became the first female trainer to ever win the Grand National. To date, only two women have trained Grand National winners, Venetia Williams being the other, however both Rebecca Curtis and rookie trainer Kerry Lee both have hopes for this year's addition and the hope to join Pitman and Williams on that list.

That led to many trips from that day on, riding a train and two buses by myself to attend the races at Kempton Park and having to figure out how to get in the Grandstand as an unaccompanied youth (It was a different world back then)! Now I've shared the reason my bloodstock agency is named Kempton Bloodstock!

Want to participate in the "Why Racing?" series or have a suggestion? Please email the TDN at tdnpressbox@gmail.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JOSE MARÍA NELSON

Harsh times ahead for Buenos Aires Province racing or one more chance towards modernization?

After months of speculation and rumors, the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires announced Wednesday that it will be reducing the funds that provide a very high percentage of the purses of races run at the Province Racetracks, mainly San Isidro and La Plata. The funds arise out of a Provincial Law passed back in 2005, called the Racing Law, that mandatorily funneled to racing a percentage of a much bigger fund made out of the proceeds of the net wins of slots machines operating in different "bingo halls" in the Province of Buenos Aires.

The Racing Law was passed at that time because in the Federal District Palermo Racetrack had got the right to operate slot machines in its premises, thus creating a major financial advantage over the racetracks of the Province.

The Racing Law also provided certain guidelines, short of a complete legal framework, for other matters pertaining to racing, such as the opening of betting shops, a related gaming lottery, a racing TV channel, export of signal and data, among others, but they were minimally, if at all, implemented by the Provincial Lottery during the 12 years of Peronist Administration in the Province, much more interested in expanding the business of "bingo halls" and casinos.

Most, if not all the "new matters," never became a reality, but the continuity of the funding of the purses made almost everyone forget that there were necessary for the "self-sustainability" of racing. During the first two years of the new administration, which started in January 2016, matters have not changed much since the new authorities have a very negative opinion of gambling in general and the racing community looked more interested in continuing its domestic fights, thus no Plan B was ever prepared in case the flow of funds were finally reduced, as the rumors and unofficial comments of the authorities indicated.

Now, the new administration of the Province of Buenos Aires has decided to reduce the percentage of funds that provide approximately 75% of the purses at both San Isidro and La Plata. The fund for purses will be only 9% of the bigger fund instead of the previous 12%, thus reducing the purses in approximately 26%. The huge social liabilities of the Province of Buenos Aires, where millions of people live in poverty or almost with no infrastructure at all (no pavement, no sewage, no water, etc) made the new administration search for cash at any corner of the treasury and the fund created by the Racing Fund was an obvious target for politicians.

Letter to the Editor cont.

However, the Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires has also announced that a new bill will be sent to the Provincial Legislature amending the Racing Law, details of which are not clear yet. The reduction of the funds dedicated to purses is indeed very bad news for all related to racing in Argentina, where the Province of Buenos Aires is by far the biggest racing jurisdiction, but some observers believe that this immediate reduction of the purses may very well put an end to the well-known internal disputes among the different sectors of racing of Argentina, who have not been able to work toward having one voice to negotiate with the public sector and confront with the gigantic lobbying efforts of casino and “bingo hall” owners.

Argentine Thoroughbreds, its land and its horse people, are among the best in the world. Even after years of very serious macro-economic financial crisis, Argentine racing has always managed to produce excellent horses that have excelled all over the world. What Argentine racing has not produced is a group of people with the will, talent and resources to jointly design, promote and negotiate with the Government a set of measures aimed to make Argentine racing a modern activity in line with other racing jurisdictions that few years ago were looking at

them as an example of a prime racing jurisdiction. The Thoroughbreds, the land and the horse men are still available. Hopefully this damaging decision of the Provincial Government and the financial crisis that will follow, may convince all parties of the activity to leave domestic fights behind and together confront the harsh times ahead with one voice, the voice of racing, a modern and viable racing.

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Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 4:05 p.m. EST

MINESHAFT H.-GIII, \$150,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Cedartown 🐾	Candy Ride (Arg)	Godolphin, LLC	Stidham	Bravo	8-5
2	No Distortion 🐾	Distorted Humor	Loooch Racing Stables, Inc.	Rini	Albarado	15-1
3	Scuba 🐾	Tapit	DARRS, Inc.	Walsh	Leparoux	6-1
4	Rich Daddy	The Daddy	HRH Racing and Kenneally, Eddie	Kenneally	Castellano	8-1
5	The Player	Street Hero	Bradley, William B. and Hurst, Carl	Bradley	Borel	5-2
6	Thirstforlife 🐾	Stay Thirsty	Wesley E. Hawley	Hawley	Lanerie	8-1
7	First Premio 🐾	Pure Prize	Team Valor International	Casse	Beschizza	8-1
8	Team Colors	Street Cry (Ire)	Joseph Allen LLC	Sweezey	Velazquez	12-1

Breeders: 1-Halo Farms, 2-Brereton C. Jones, 3-Palides Investments N.V., Inc., 4-Brereton C. Jones, 5-Carl Hurst, Fred Bradley & WilliamBradley, 6-Camas Park Stud, 7-Ronald G. McPeek, 8-Joseph Allen

Saturday, Laurel Park, post time: 4:30 p.m. EST

GENERAL GEORGE S.-GIII, \$250,000, 4yo/up, 7f

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Cowboy Mz	Friesan Fire	Morris E. Kernan, Jr.	Zulueta	Sanchez	118
2	Awesome Banner	Awesome of Course	Jacks or Better Farm, Inc.	Decker	Acosta	118
3	Sonny Inspired	Artie Schiller	D Hatman Thoroughbreds	Schoenthal	Quinones	118
4	It's the Journey	Mineshaft	R. Larry Johnson	Trombetta	Pimentel	118
5	Ballivor	Hard Spun	Michael Scheffres	Mancilla	Hamilton	118
6	Something Awesome	Awesome Again	Stronach Stables	Corrales	Trujillo	118
7	Fellowship	Awesome of Course	Jacks or Better Farm, Inc.	Decker	Hamilton	118
8	Grasshoppin	Cat Thief	Michael W. Jester	Gonzalez	Russell	118
9	Great Stuff 🐾	Quality Road	Bruce Golden Racing	Jacobson	Davis	118
10	Do Share	Candy Ride (Arg)	The Estate of Anthony Miuccio	Rice	Franco	118

Breeders: 1-Hope Hill Farm, 2-Jacks or Better Farm Inc., 3-Mr. & Mrs. Charles McGinnes, 4-Larry Johnson, 5-Timothy Rooney, 6-Adena Springs, 7-Jacks or Better Farm Inc., 8-Michael W. Jester, 9-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 10-Colts Neck Stables, LLC.

TDN Rising Stars

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Saturday, Laurel Park, post time: 5:00 p.m. EST





BARBARA FRITCHIE S.-GII, \$300,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Divine Miss Grey 	Divine Park	Corms Racing Stable	Gargan	Carmouche	118
2	Boule	Exchange Rate	Juddmonte Farms, Inc.	Mott	Franco	118
3	Sky Flower	Flower Alley	Ronald Clark	Brooks	Garcia	118
4	Frisky Whiskey	Milwaukee Brew	David Hakola & Lucid Dream Racing	Salazar	-	118
5	Tazkeya	Blame	Shadwell Stables	Pino	Sanchez	118
6	Berned 	Bernardini	Three C Stables, West Point T'bred & Robert Masiello	Motion	Lynch	118
7	Moiety	Bernardini	Godolphin Racing, LLC	Harty	Trujillo	118
8	Bishop's Pond 	Curlin	Dubb, Michael, Bethlehem Stables LLC & The Elkstone Group LLC	Servis	Montanez	118
9	Ms Locust Point 	Dialed In	Reichenberg, Jim and Cash is King LLC	Servis	Vargas, Jr.	118
10	Quezon	Tiz Wonderful	Marc Keller	Ribaud	Rocco, Jr.	118
11	Highway Star	Girolamo	Broman, Sr., Chester and Mary	Ubillo	-	124

Breeders: 1-Brereton C. Jones, 2-Juddmonte Farms Inc, 3-Candy Meadows LLC, 4-Andy Stronach, 5-Shadwell Farm, LLC, 6-AR Enterprises, LLC., 7-Darley, 8-Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Kaster, 9-Lesley Campion, 10-Apache Farm LLC, 11-Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman

Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 5:05 p.m. EST

RACHEL ALEXANDRA S.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Actress On Board	Langfuhr	Margaret Keach	Bennett	Pedroza	20-1
2	Testing One Two	Star Guitar	Brittlyn Stable, Inc.	Arceneaux	Saenz	6-1
3	Classy Act 	Into Mischief	Carl R. Moore Management LLC	Calhoun	Castellano	6-1
4	Wonder Gadot 	Medaglia d'Oro	Gary Barber	Casse	Velazquez	4-1
5	She's a Julie 	Elusive Quality	Whispering Oaks Farm LLC	Asmussen	Lanerie	12-1
6	Heavenly Love	Malibu Moon	Debby M. Oxley	Casse	Leparoux	6-1
7	Patrona Margarita	Special Rate	Craig D. Upham	Calhoun	Hernandez, Jr.	6-1
8	Monomoy Girl 	Tapizar	Dubb, Monomoy Stables, LLC, The Elkstone Group LLC & Bethlehem Stables LLC	Cox	Geroux	8-5

Breeders: 1-Margaret Keach, 2-Brittlyn, Inc., 3-George Krikorian, 4-Anderson Farms Ont. Inc., 5-Godolphin, 6-Debby Oxley, 7-Craig D. Upham, 8-FPF LLC & Highfield Ranch



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Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 5:35 p.m. EST

FAIR GROUNDS H.-GIII, \$150,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	Thatcher Street	Street Sense	Bloch, Randall L., Milner, Phil, Seiler, John and Amtietan, LLC	Wilkes	Hernandez, Jr.	12-1
2	Zulu Alpha	Street Cry (Ire)	Calumet Farm	Howard	Mena	20-1
3	Galton	Offlee Wild	Michael M. Hui	Maker	Castellano	5-1
4	One Mean Man	Mizzen Mast	Hillerich Racing, Inc. and Flint, Bernard S.	Flint	Albarado	12-1
5	Granny's Kitten	Kitten's Joy	Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K.	Maker	Leparoux	8-1
6	Mr. Misunderstood	Archarcharch	Flurry Racing Stables LLC	Cox	Geroux	3-1
7	Applicator	Henrythenavigator	Olympia Star, Inc.	Yanakov	Gilligan	12-1
8	Synchrony	Tapit	Pin Oak Stable	Stidham	Bravo	9-2
9	High Noon Rider 🦄	Distorted Humor	GenStar Thoroughbreds	Cox	Bridgmohan	6-1
10	Tiz a Slam	Tiznow	Chiefswood Stable	Attfield	Lanerie	20-1
11	Great Wide Open (Ire)	Starspangledbanner (Aus)	M and J Thoroughbreds LLC and Riverside Bloodstock, LLC	Murphy	Beschizza	20-1
12	Catcho En Die (Arg)	Catcher In The Rye (Ire)	Mack, Earle I. and Wachtel, Adam	Mott	Velazquez	8-1

Breeders: 1-Randy Bloch, et al, 2-Calumet Farm, 3-Flaxman Holdings Limited, 4-Bernard Flint & Ron Hillerich, 5-Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey, 6-Athens Woods, 7-Mikhail Yanakov, 8-Pin Oak Stud, LLC, 9-Flaxman Holdings Limited, 10-Chiefswood Stables Limited, 11-Newtown Anner Stud, 12-Livschitz, Jorge Eduardo

Saturday, Santa Anita Park, post time: 6:00 p.m. EST

BUENA VISTA S.-GII, \$200,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Insta Erma	Pioneerof the Nile	Medallion Racing, Premier Racing Club, Jerry McClanahan, & Christopher Johnson	Baltas	Blanc	120
2	Madam Dancealot (Ire)	Sir Prancealot (Ire)	Slam Dunk Racing	Baltas	Nakatani	122
3	Sweet Charity (Fr)	Myboycharlie (Ire)	Hronis Racing LLC	Sadler	Bejarano	120
4	Madame Stripes (Arg)	Equal Stripes (Arg)	Gainesway Stable	Drysdale	Desormeaux	122
5	Thundering Sky	Sky Mesa	Matthew Schera	Weaver	Maragh	120
6	Sassy Little Lila 🦄	Artie Schiller	Drown, Jeff and Ryan, Michael J.	Mandella	Prat	120
7	Fault 🦄	Blame	Agave Racing Stable & Little Red Feather Racing	D'Amato	Franco	122
8	Pricedtoperfection 🦄	Temple City	Madaket Stables LLC & Head of Plains Partners LLC	Cassidy	Smith	120
9	Juno (Brz)	Setembro Chove (Brz)	Team Valor International	Drysdale	Talamo	120

Breeders: 1-Zayat Stables, LLC, 2-Tally-Ho Stud, 3-Hubert Honore, 4-Alvarez, Gustavo Javier, 5-Almar Farm, LLC, 6-Dr. John A. Chandler, 7-Claiborne Farm, 8-Bobfeld Bloodstock, Inc & Joseph Creek, 9-Stud Chesapeake

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Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 6:03 p.m. EST




RISEN STAR S. PRESENTED BY LAMARQUE FORD-GII, \$400,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ML
1	High North 	Midnight Lute	Shortleaf Stable, Inc.	Cox	Lanerie	15-1
2	Noble Indy 	Take Charge Indy	WinStar Farm LLC and Repole Stable	Pletcher	Velazquez	5-1
3	Givemeaminit	Star Guitar	Valene Farms LLC	Stewart	Bridgmohan	15-1
4	Snapper Sinclair 	City Zip	Bloom Racing Stable LLC	Asmussen	Beschizza	8-1
5	Instilled Regard 	Arch	OXO Equine LLC	Hollendorfer	Castellano	8-5
6	Supreme Aura 	Candy Ride (Arg)	Stallionaire Enterprises LLC	Stidham	Bravo	8-1
7	Bravazo	Awesome Again	Calumet Farm	Lukas	Stevens	8-1
8	Kentucky Club	Oxbow	Calumet Farm	Lukas	Graham	30-1
9	Principe Guilherme	Tapit	Three Chimneys Farm	Asmussen	Geroux	7-2
10	Ebben 	Trappe Shot	Craig Aguiar	Margolis	Saez	30-1

Breeders: 1-Mercedes Stables LLC, 2-WinStar Farm, LLC, 3-Clear Creek Stud LLC, 4-K & G Stables, 5-KatieRich Farms, 6-St George Farm, LLC, 7-Calumet Farm, 8-Calumet Farm, 9-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC, 10-Hinkle Farms

Saturday, Oaklawn Park, post time: 6:09 p.m. EST

BAYAKOA S.-GIII, \$150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Polar River 	Congrats	Valentin Bukhtoyarov & Evgeny Kappushev	Walsh	Contreras	115
2	Sully's Dream 	Colonel John	Ebert, Ralph, Waresk, Patrick and Waresk, Michael	Ortiz	De La Cruz	117
3	Farrell	Malibu Moon	Coffeepot Stables	Catalano	Hill	122
4	Streamline	Straight Line	Nancy A. Vanier & Cartwright T'breeds V LLC	Williamson	Stevens	119
5	Torrent	Blame	Westrock Stables LLC	Moquett	Cohen	119
6	Terra Promessa	Curlin	Stonestreet Stables LLC	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	119
7	Defy 	Into Mischief	Foster Racing Stables	Hartman	Cabrera	115

Breeders: 1-Bob McCann, Mark Kelder & Doug Richards, 2-Glendalough LLC, 3-Coffee Pot Stable, 4-Nancy Vanier, 5-Westrock Stables, LLC, 6-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 7-Hart Farm



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2018 Leading Fifth-Crop Sires by Earnings

for stallions standing in North America through Tuesday, February 13th

Earnings and Black-type represents worldwide figures & stud fees are for 2018

Rank	Stallion	BTW	BTH	GSW	GSH	G1SW	G1SH	Starters	Wnrs	Highest Earner	Earnings
1	Quality Road <i>(2006) by Elusive Quality</i>	1	2	1	2	--	--	84	24	\$70,000 <i>Great Stuff</i>	\$798,094
											<i>Stands: Lane's End Farm KY Fee: \$70,000</i>
2	Munnings <i>(2006) by Speightstown</i>	2	2	1	1	--	--	66	19	\$64,800 <i>Om</i>	\$573,325
											<i>Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$25,000</i>
3	Blame <i>(2006) by Arch</i>	1	5	--	--	--	--	74	14	\$49,800 <i>Ms Bad Behavior</i>	\$533,696
											<i>Stands: Claiborne Farm KY Fee: \$12,500</i>
4	Warrior's Reward <i>(2006) by Medaglia d'Oro</i>	3	3	--	--	--	--	87	21	\$65,000 <i>Battle Station</i>	\$513,790
											<i>Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$5,000</i>
5	Super Saver <i>(2007) by Maria's Mon</i>	2	3	--	--	--	--	81	16	\$90,000 <i>Mourinho</i>	\$477,726
											<i>Stands: WinStar Farm KY Fee: \$35,000</i>
6	Kantharos <i>(2008) by Lion Heart</i>	2	3	--	--	--	--	65	11	\$105,000 <i>World of Trouble</i>	\$464,434
											<i>Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: \$15,000</i>
7	Lookin At Lucky <i>(2007) by Smart Strike</i>	1	3	1	2	--	1	72	10	\$120,000 <i>Accelerate</i>	\$414,128
											<i>Stands: Ashford Stud KY Fee: \$17,500</i>
8	Midshipman <i>(2006) by Unbridled's Song</i>	1	4	--	1	--	--	55	8	\$85,650 <i>In the Navy Now</i>	\$396,241
											<i>Stands: Jonabell Farm KY Fee: \$8,500</i>
9	Concord Point <i>(2007) by Tapit</i>	1	3	--	2	--	--	22	5	\$45,000 <i>Exclamation Point</i>	\$278,931
											<i>Stands: Hill 'n' Dale Farms KY Fee: Private</i>
10	Tale of Ekati <i>(2005) by Tale of the Cat</i>	--	1	--	1	--	--	54	9	\$78,810 <i>Anna Perenna</i>	\$249,802
											<i>Stands: Darby Dan Farm KY Fee: \$7,500</i>
11	Discreetly Mine <i>(2007) by Mineshaft</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	67	9	\$40,200 <i>Full House</i>	\$249,675
											<i>Stands: Lane's End Farm USA (Dead/Ret/Exp)</i>
12	Desert Party <i>(2006) by Street Cry (Ire)</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	49	10	\$30,745 <i>Desert Affair</i>	\$246,661
											<i>Stands: Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions NY Fee: \$2,500</i>
13	Majesticperfection <i>(2006) by Harlan's Holiday</i>	--	1	--	--	--	--	45	8	\$46,200 <i>Our Majesty</i>	\$235,729
											<i>Stands: Airdrie Stud KY Fee: \$10,000</i>
14	Temple City <i>(2005) by Dynaformer</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	52	6	\$102,000 <i>Kimbear</i>	\$218,209
											<i>Stands: Spendthrift Farm KY Fee: \$15,000</i>
15	Hold Me Back <i>(2006) by Giant's Causeway</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--	49	12	\$29,430 <i>Blacktieandtux</i>	\$209,979
											<i>Stands: Irish Hill Century Farm NY Fee: \$5,000</i>

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FLORIDA

Wednesday's Results:

6th-GP, \$43,000, Msw, 2-14, 3yo, f, 7 1/2ft, 1:29.93, fm.

MITCHELL ROAD (f, 3, English Channel--Quake Lake, by War Chant) was overtaken late to finish second by a neck in her 1 1/16-mile unveiling over this course Dec. 23 and was hammered down to 4-5 favoritism to go one better here. Taking up her preferred position at the head of affairs, the homebred clicked off comfortable early fractions of :23.82 and :48.23. American Frolic (Blame) turned up the heat in the lane, but Mitchell Road kept on finding to hold that rival at bay by a half-length. It was another 3 1/4 lengths back to Joy of Treasure (Kitten's Joy) in third. The winner's dam Quake Lake, a half-sister to GSW & MGISP millionaire Breaking Lucky (Lookin at Lucky), has only produced one foal since Mitchell Road, a now-2-year-old colt by Lookin at Lucky. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$33,780. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.**

O-Joseph V. Shields, Jr.; B-J. V. Shields (KY); T-William I. Mott.

Another Webb Carroll Training Center Graduate

9th-GP, \$43,000, Msw, 2-14, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:43.83, ft.

COACH ROCKS (f, 3, Oxbow--Mexican Moonlight {SW & GSP, \$195,918}, by El Prado {Ire}) hit the board in a trio of turf attempts and was returned to the main track Dec. 17 here in Hallandale, finishing second to Barrier Island (Speightstown), who was third in the Gasparilla S. next out. Fifth last time in a seven-furlong event over this strip Jan. 27, the 5-1 shot broke alertly and swiftly seized control, clocking a comfortable opening half in :48.77. Showing the way into the lane, the bay powered clear to win for fun by eight lengths over heavy favorite South of the Shore (Union Rags). Skeptic (Tiznow) finished another eight lengths back in third. Coach Rocks is the seventh winner from the first crop of GI Preakness S. hero Oxbow (Awesome Again). The winner is a half to O'Prado Ole (English Channel), MGSP, \$234,073. Her SW & GSP dam Mexican Moonlight's most recent produce is an English Channel filly born May 14 of last year and she was not bred back. Sales history: \$125,000 Ylg '16 FTSAUG; \$95,000 2yo '17 FTFMAR. Lifetime Record: 7-1-3-1, \$79,982.

Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by Fasig-Tipton.

O-Roddy J. Valente & RAP Racing; B-Calumet Farm (KY); T-Dale L. Romans.

CENTRAL U.S.

Oaklawn Boosts Purses Again:

Oaklawn will be increasing purses for the 18th consecutive season effective Saturday, Feb. 17. Allowance and maiden special weights will see \$3,000 bumps, with purses for allowances ranging from \$79,000 to \$83,000 and maiden purses up to \$78,000. All claiming and maiden claiming races with claiming prices of at least \$30,000 will see \$2,000 purse increases. "Our goal is to offer the best purses in the country along with the most competitive racing," General Manager Wayne Smith said. "These increases are another step in that direction and our fans are responding. We are attracting some of the largest crowds in racing. And, our fans are getting to see some of the best owners, trainers and jockeys from all over the country competing for record purses. We couldn't be more excited heading into the final two months of our season."

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*FTFAUG/FTFMAR grad **Coach Rocks** (Oxbow) romps in a Gulfstream maiden special weight.*

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7th-TAM, \$27.5K, Alw/OC (\$75K), 3yo, 1m 40yds, 3:51 p.m. ET

Robert and Lawana Low's **MAGNUM MOON (Malibu Moon)** looks to take his record to two-for-two in this competitive event. The \$380,000 KEESEP buy was quite impressive when graduating by 4 1/2 lengths in his six-panel debut for Todd Pletcher at Gulfstream Jan. 13 and enters this off a half-mile bullet in :48 3/5 at Palm Beach Downs Jan. 13. Out of an unraced daughter of GSW & GISP Win McCool (Giant's Causeway), Magnum Moon hails from the family of GISW Harmony Lodge (Hennessy) and MGSW & GISP millionaire Graeme Hall (Dehere). **TJCS PPs.** --@CDeBernardisTDN

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INDUSTRY INFO

500+ Retired Racehorses Helped by New Vocations in 2017:

The New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program saw 398 Thoroughbred and Standardbred racehorses go through its program in 2017--a 10% increase compared to 2016. An additional 125 horses remained in the program throughout last year, and received rehabilitative care or transitional placement with the goal of placement in 2018. New Vocations received 976 applications from individuals interested in horse adoption. That number falls in line with past years.

"New Vocations' biggest accomplishment in 2017 was getting its Mereworth facility fully up and running, which played a major role in increasing the number of horses adopted," said Program Director Anna Ford. "Receiving nearly 1,000 applications was great, but unfortunately it didn't translate into 1,000 adoptions. The majority of the equestrian world wants the perfect 'flawless' horse, and the number one reason a horse comes to us is because of an injury."

Reiterating the difficulties in finding new homes for horses who have suffered past injuries, a release from New Vocations said, "The program will also focus on working diligently to refute the stigma associated with many common racing injuries and expanding its educational efforts to help encourage more informed adoptions. In March, New Vocations will announce a

TAKE NOTICE: THREE-YEAR RACEHORSE DEPRECIATION RETROACTIVELY RETURNS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

President Trump recently signed into law the Bipartisan Budget Act, a bill that among other measures extends retroactively for fiscal year 2017 uniform three-year racehorse depreciation, an important tax provision supported by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) that expired in 2016 alongside certain other expired tax provisions. The bill also funds the federal government until March 23.

Three-year depreciation is an investment incentive for racehorse owners that had been in place for several years before expiring at the end of 2016.

"We wish to thank Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for his continued support for our industry," said NTRA President and CEO Alex Waldrop. "We've worked with the Leader for over a decade on our industry's unique issues, and we appreciate his continued efforts."

Prior to the 2008 Farm Bill, which became effective January 1, 2009, racehorses 24 months of age and younger when purchased and placed in service, were depreciated on a seven-year schedule that did not accurately reflect the length of a typical racehorse's career; only racehorses over 24 months old were depreciated using a three-year schedule.

The NTRA will continue to advocate for tax policies that accurately reflect our unique industry.

For more information contact Joe Bacigalupo (859) 422-2677 or visit www.SupportHorseRacing.org



NTRA REPORT FROM CAPITOL HILL

strategic incentive geared specifically to change the public's perception of retired racehorses, their past and what they can accomplish in the future. It's believed that this push in education, and the creation of additional incentive programs, will benefit not only the New Vocations program, but any organization that relies on educated adopters to home retired racehorses."

For more information, visit www.horseadoption.com.

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First-/second-crop starters to watch: Thursday, Feb. 15

Farm and fee represent current information

Data Link (War Front), Claiborne Farm, \$7,500

186 foals of racing age/14 winners/1 black-type winner
9-GP, Aoc 1 1/16mT, PASS IT ON, 7-2

Rookies cont.

Graydar (Unbridled's Song), Taylor Made Stallions, \$15,000
193 foals of racing age/25 winners/1 black-type winner
7-TAM, Aoc 1m, ARAZI LIKE MOVE, 12-1
\$42,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$35,000 OBS MAR 2yo

Indian Evening (Indian Charlie), Victory Rose Thoroughbreds,
\$3,000
36 foals of racing age/5 winners/1 black-type winner
8-SA, Msw 6 1/2f, LORD RAYLEIGH, 7-2

Paynter (Awesome Again), WinStar Farm, \$25,000
218 foals of racing age/17 winners/1 black-type winner
9-GP, Aoc 1 1/16mT, LENAMARIE, 9-2
\$335,000 FTS AUG yrl

Society Rock (Ire) (Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}), Tally-Ho Stud, \$8,000
200 foals of racing age/29 winners/1 black-type winner
9-GP, Aoc 1 1/16mT, SO HI SOCIETY (IRE), 3-1
€5,000 TIR SEP yrl; £62,000 GOF BRE 2yo; €180,000 ARA RC 2yo

BREEDERS' EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

10th-GP, \$44,000, (S), (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$16,000), 2-14,
4yo/up, f/m, 7 1/2fT, 1:29.68, fm.

O. K. KAY (f, 4, English Channel--My Secret Brook, by Montbrook) Lifetime Record: 11-2-4-1, \$91,160. O/B-George Vires (FL); T-Jane Cibelli. *1/2 to Dark Thunder (Trippi), SW, \$194,170.

5th-HOU, \$20,500, 2-14, (NW1X), 4yo/up, 1 1/16m (off turf),
1:46.41, gd.

VANDERBOOM RIDGE (g, 7, Borrego--Cristina Ridge, by Come Summer) Lifetime Record: 36-9-5-4, \$105,153. O-Bryan Brunell; B-Winchester PlaceThoroughbreds, LLC (KY); T-Mindy J. Willis.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Even On the Run, f, 3, Even the Score--Sisters Five, by Najran.
MVR, 2-14, (S), 6f, 1:15.49. B-Robin L. Murphy (OH).

Sarala, f, 3, To Honor and Serve--Miss Smart Money, by Smart Strike. HOU, 2-14, 1m (off turf), 1:41.66. B-Scott Pierce (OK).
*\$11,900 RNA Ylg '16 OKCYRL; \$17,000 2yo '17 TTAAPR.

El Banilejo, g, 4, Successful Appeal--Thin Air, by Mt. Livermore.
MVR, 2-14, 6f, 1:13.74. B-Longitude Farm, LLC & Walmac Farm LLC (KY). *\$17,000 Ylg '15 KEESEP; \$14,000 2yo '16 OBSAPR.

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