



THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS™ ☆ INTERNATIONAL ☆

Wednesday,
February 23, 2000

NUREYEV MAY START BREEDING SEASON

Nureyev (Northern Dancer) has improved enough from a circulatory problem to possibly begin the breeding season this week, according to a report in *The Blood-Horse*. "He seems to be doing better and is probably as good as he's going to get," Walmac International's owner John T L Jones, Jr. said yesterday. "He's been free of discomfort for about a week, so tentative plans are to begin breeding him this week."

PURSE INCREASE FOR MELBOURNE CUP The 2000 running of the Foster's Melbourne Cup will be worth A\$2 million to the winner. The 140th edition of Australia's most famous race will be run at Flemington on Nov. 2. "The Foster's Melbourne Cup has already achieved formidable international status and it is widely regarded as the world's premier staying event," said Victoria Racing Club Chief Executive Brian Beattie. "A first prize of \$2 million can only enhance its international prestige."

☆ RESULTS ☆

Sunday, Kyoto Racecourse, Japan

KYOTO KINEN-G2-Jpn, ¥123,280,000, Kyoto Racecourse, 2-20, 4yo/up, 1 3/8mT, 2:13 4/5, fm.

- 1--**T.M. OPERA O (JPN)**, 125, c, 4, Opera House (GB)--Once Wed, by Blushing Groom (Fr). O-Masatsugu Takezono; B-Kineusu Bokujo; T-Ichizo Iwamoto; J-Ryuji Wada; ¥64,896,000. Lifetime Record: 12-5-3-3. *1/2 to Channel Four (Jpn) (Northern Dictator), MSP-Jpn, \$817,854.
 - 2--**Narita Top Road (Jpn)**, 128, c, 4, Soccer Boy (Jpn)--Floral Magic, by Affirmed. O-Hidenori Yamaji; B-Sasaki Bokujo; ¥26,256,000.
 - 3--**Stay Gold (Jpn)**, 128, h, 6, Sunday Silence--Golden Sash (Jpn), by Dictus (Fr). O-Shadai Race H.; B-Shiraoi Farm; ¥16,128,000.
- Margins: NK, 1, NO. Odds: 1.90, 2.90, 5.60.

T.M. Opera O went on a four-race winning streak last spring, culminating with a win in the G1 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas). The consistent four-year-old, rested after a third in the G1 Japanese Derby, was on the board in four subsequent graded stakes, including a third-place finish in the G1 Arima Kinen in his last start as a three-year-old Dec. 26. T.M. Opera O and 1999 Japanese St. Leger winner Narita Top Road commenced runs together on the final turn and dueled to the wire with the former just getting the better of his rival at the line.

Saturday, Tokyo Racecourse, Japan

DAILY HAI QUEEN CUP-G3-Jpn, ¥76,930,000, Tokyo Racecourse, 2-19, 3yo, f, 8fT, 1:36.1, fm.

- 1--**#@FUTURE SUNDAY (JPN)**, 117, f, 3, by Sunday Silence--Ask Rosier (Jpn), by Real Shadai. O-Toshihiro Hiroaki; B-Kawakami Bokujo; T-Masanori Ito; J-Norihiro Yokoyama; ¥40,651,000. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0.
 - 2--**La Vie Est Belle**, 117, f, 3, Crafty Prospector--Persian Flute (Jpn), by Persian Boy (GB). O/B-Hidekazu Date; ¥16,186,000.
 - 3--**Gemmy Dress (Jpn)**, 117, f, 3, Tony Bin (Ire)--Brilliant Cut (Jpn), by Northern Taste. O-Teruya Yoshida; B-Shadai Farm; ¥10,093,000.
- Margins: 1 1/2, NK, 1 1/4. Odds: 61.20, 5.00, 28.10.

CURRENCY CONVERSIONS

	US\$/unit	GB£/unit
Australian dollar	0.6239	0.3870
Japanese yen	0.00953471	0.00577092
U.S. dollar	1.65220	1.00

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TDN TODAY

International 3 pages

\$1.2-million top price filly

Taylor Made Keeneland July Sales Graduate and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1 winner **CASH RUN** won the Davona Dale S.-G2 at Gulfstream Park.

Congratulations to owner Padua Stable and breeder R.S. Evans.

March 1 is the deadline for Keeneland July nominations. Call us.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Bill Oppenheim



THE CASE FOR A REAL GLOBAL PROGRAM NOW

E-Betting, they call it. Well, you know what that E-dash stands for here in the 21st century, don't you... E-mail, E-commerce, the Eenternet. The future is now, really, before we expected it, but here it is, upon us.

What used to be called 'British bookmakers' have now realized the potential that is really out there for gambling on horse racing. I say 'used to be British' because the British government, ironically at the forefront of promoting E-commerce, is so totally urbanized that they apparently regard the voluntary revenue stream generated by gambling on horse racing as somehow mixed up with 'countryside' pursuits, and therefore, I guess, passe--that was something people did in the last century.

There's not a lot of confidence that Gordon Brown's upcoming budget is going to cut the betting tax enough to bring this E-commerce back into Britain. That's a problem, but it's a problem of British racing. To international E-commerce, it really won't matter. As I understand it, the technology already exists to enable people to bet simultaneously on a race which takes place halfway across the world. The pictures may not be TV-quality yet, but they will be.

This scenario creates almost unimaginable potential for the international horse racing industry. I was told the other day about a generation of 28-year-old zillionaire urbanites who sit at their desks in The City (London, or wherever) and do everything on the Internet. When their horse works in the morning, the trainer has it videoed, and the owner--or syndicate member--can see the horse's work for themselves by 11 a.m. The technology is there.

As you know, I lived in Kentucky for 15 years and had occasion to comment from time to time on the politics of mostly American racing. Now multiply the fractured nature of American racing (overcome at least enough to enable the transmission of signals and co-mingling of pools across state lines) by all the major racing countries. Though there is an admirable amount of international discussion and co-operation in some areas, the time has come to address the problem of international co-ordination in the development of championship racing

programs--an international racing circuit. Golf and Tennis have done it. Now we have to do it. We have to find a way to showcase our top horses on a true, defined international championship circuit--as long as the industry now has the ability to ship horses really long distances, and the really top races are spaced far enough apart (six weeks to two months?) to allow horses to recover from the trip and perform at their peak potential.

Some of this is already taking shape. The development of a genuine high-class racing program in the UAE (preps and the UAE Derby, for example), and in South Asia--Hong Kong and now Singapore--raises interesting possibilities for the spring of each year. So far this expansion has concentrated on older horses, who must be an easier ship anyway; and in Godolphin, Sheikh Mohammed is evolving the prototype of an international racing outfit prepared to 'go where the work is.' Ironic, really, because his motivation isn't gambling--he is a great sportsman--yet it is his outfit which shows the way.

It will be difficult to organize, and perhaps, for racing, too difficult. But in a century where power is centered, now more than ever, in the cities, horse racing has to raise its game. We have to be able to convey to those city dwellers the power, the majesty--and some more great entertainment values, like gambling--of the Thoroughbred racehorse. We have the technology. Now we must develop the will, and the organization; because, now more than ever, Grow, or Die.

One final thought--here I'm harking back to my column of last week, thinking of M. Romanet's proposals about co-ordinating the European Derbys, and my comments about three-year-olds. Somehow, this globalization has to happen with three-year-olds, too, not just with older horses. Yes, they do become identifiable stars, and the older they get, and the longer they're around, the more potential there is for racehorses--like Cigar--to become household names. But three-year-olds are breedmakers, and there has to be an international circuit for them, too, so studmasters and breeders can correctly identify the best stallion prospects. If the truth be known, two-year-old form may still be the best pointer--look at the race records of Deputy Minister and Storm Cat, between them the leading American sire each of the last three years--but whether two-year-olds can, or even need to be, shipped around to this extent is debatable.

Ordway

Salt Lake --Priceless Countess, by Vaguely Noble

\$5,000 LF

Grade 1 Winner

Won Champagne-G1, placed Hopeful-G1, BC Juvenile-G1, etc.

Important Male Line, Sire Family

Grandson of Leading Sire DEPUTY MINISTER, family of EASY GOER, PRIVATE ACCOUNT, BUCKPASSER and WOODMAN



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WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

BARBARA FRITCHIE H.-GII, \$200,000, LRL, 2-19, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:24 3/5, ft.

1--**TAP TO MUSIC**, 115, m, 5, by Pleasant Tap

1st Dam: Nuryette, by Nureyev

2nd Dam: Stellarette, by Tentam

3rd Dam: Square Angel, by Quadrangle

(\$200,000 wing '95 KEENOV). O-Stronach Stable; B-Warner L Jones Farm, Inc (KY); T-Joseph Orseno; J-J Bravo; \$120,000. Lifetime Record: GISW, 14-6-1-2, \$785,981. *1/2 to Boss Soss (Sauce Boat), MSW, \$186,256; Northern Afleet (Afleet), MGSW & GISP, \$626,670.

Breeders, and for that matter pedigree advisors, have a tendency to be very quick to write off a sire. Sometimes such judgment can be premature, and it looks as if one example of a horse who was disregarded too soon is Pleasant Tap.

It took a little while for Pleasant Tap to get into gear, and this led to him being dismissed as another disappointing son of Pleasant Colony, who for all his merits as a sire and his potential as a broodmare sire, really hasn't got the job done as a sire of sires. It now looks, however, as if some time was all that was needed for things to come right. On reflection, this is hardly surprising when one looks at Pleasant Tap's pedigree and race record. In addition to being a son of Pleasant Colony, he is out of a mare by another stout, late-maturing horse, Stage Door Johnny. On the racecourse, Pleasant Tap was a talented runner at two (when he captured the Sunny Slope S.), at three (when he won the Gil Malibu S.) and at four (when he took a second in the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint). It was as a five-year-old that he really hit his stride, winning four graded stakes, including the GI Suburban H. and GI Jockey Club Gold Cup, and earning a title as champion older male.

In addition to the likelihood that his stock were going to take time, Pleasant Tap has also had less numerical opportunity than some of his contemporaries, with only 126 named foals in his first three crops. Since those three crops have now produced 11 stakes winners--seven in 1999--including Tap to Music and other graded stakes scorers Pleasant Breeze and Sapphire n' Silk, his statistics look pretty healthy.

Pleasant Tap already seems to be developing a marked affinity for Northern Dancer, who appears in seven of his stakes winners. The influence of Nearctic and his family is particularly strong in the distaff side of Tap to Music's pedigree. Her dam Nuryette has Nearctic 3x4, and Nuryette's third dam Nangela is not only by Nearctic, but has Nearctic's three-quarters sister Sybil's Niece as her own third dam.

Pleasant Tap's affinity with Northern Dancer/Nearctic should not be surprising. Through his grandsire His Majesty, Pleasant Tap carries Alibhai, a close relative to Nearctic's dam Lady Angela. Pleasant Tap's broodmare sire Stage Door Johnny brings a horse called *Ballymoss into the equation. Ballymoss is by Mossborough, a very close genetic relative to Nearctic. Ballymoss's broodmare sire Singapore is a three-parts relative to the dam of Mahmoud (sire of Northern Dancer's second dam). To finish the story, Pleasant Tap's granddam is a daughter of Polynesian, the sire of Northern Dancer's broodmare sire Native Dancer. So, Pleasant Tap has a pedigree which strongly connects to the background of Northern Dancer.

Incidentally, Pleasant Tap's three-quarters brother Go For Gin also made a quiet start with his two-year-olds last year. There is a whisper or two about some of his three-year-olds, however, so it might be worth giving him some time before a verdict is passed, too.

PEDIGREE SHORTS

The extremely tough and consistent New York-bred **Biagio's Rose** (m, 6, Polish Numbers--Fois Gras by, Barachois) ran the race of her life on her 40th start to take the Gill Rare Treat H. at Aqueduct on Monday. Biagio's Rose is inbred 3x3 to Northern Dancer in the male line of both her sire and her dam. As is often the case when this pattern is successful, there are other close relationships in the pedigree. Here we can note that Polish Numbers is out of a mare by Buckpasser, a horse whose immediate pedigree features Bull Dog, Man o' War, Blue Larkspur, and inbreeding to Teddy. Biagio's Rose's second dam is by Flag Raiser, a horse whose pedigree also features Bull Dog, Man o' War, Blue Larkspur, and inbreeding to Teddy close up.

We have frequently mentioned how fond we are of the pattern of inbreeding to a sire through the male line and through a daughter in the tail-female line. The Vice Regent line is one which particularly seems to benefit from variations on this theme. Another example is **Miss Seffens** (f, 3, Dehere--Noise Enough, by Bold Ruckus), who maintained an unbeaten record with a win in the Martha Washington S. Miss Seffens, who is by a grandson of Vice Regent, has Nearctic in her male line and also in her female line as the sire of her third dam.

Arrowfield bred DANZERO (Aus) - 2 Grl winners from his first crop

STANDING AT CHEVELEY PARK STUD, UK IN 2000

Other Arrowfield stallions now on the Northern Hemisphere shuttle: **BARYSHNIKOV** (Haras d'Etreham France), **FLYING SPUR** (Irish National Stud) **BROCCO & END SWEEP** (Shadai Stallion Station, Japan).

Contact: John Messara tel 612 9223 8277 fax 612 9223 5795 Email: bjr@arrowfield.com.au



Where breeding is everything.



THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

☆ AMERICAN EDITION ☆

Wednesday, February 23, 2000

☆ FLORIDA ☆

K One King Returns Thursday:

K One King (Apalachee), off since coming out of an eighth-place finish in last year's Kentucky Derby with chips in his knee, will return to the races in an allowance race at Gulfstream on Thursday. A two-time stakes winner, the colt was runner-up behind Stephen Got Even in the GII Gallery Furniture.Com S. before his Derby run. In Thursday's 1 1/16-mile ninth race, K One King will face six rivals, including GII Arkansas Derby winner **Certain** (Out of Place).

☆ MIDWEST ☆

Madame Equis Coming to America:

Peruvian champion **Madame Equis** (Per) (Book the Band {Ire}--Universitaria {Per}, by One Moment) is scheduled to arrive at Walmac International in Lexington, Kentucky on Wednesday to begin her career as a broodmare. The move is a joint venture agreement between her owner Jorge Nicolini and Walmac. Madame Equis is the only filly or mare to ever win the G1 Clasico Asociacion Latinoamericana de Jockey Clubs. The mare is scheduled to be bred to **Stravinsky**.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23:

- 03-04 \$1,000,000 **Santa Anita H.-I, SA**, 4yo/up, 10f, (100)
- 03-04 \$250,000 **Pan American H.-II, GP**, 3yo/up, 12fT, (250)
- 03-04 \$200,000 **San Rafael-II, SA**, 3yo, 8f, (200)
- 03-04 150,000 **Bayou Breeders' Cup H.-FG**, 4yo/up, f/m, 9fT, (50)
- 03-05 \$200,000 **Arcadia H.-II, SA**, 4yo/up, 8fT, (150)
- 03-05 \$200,000 **Orchid H.-II, GP**, 3yo/up, f/m, 12f, (250)

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24:

- 03-05 \$500,000 **New Orleans H.-III, FG**, 4yo/up, 9f, (150)



TDN TODAY

American 2 pages

☆ EAST ☆

Yesterday's Results:

7th-TAM, \$10,500, Msw, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12, ft. + **OUTAGAL** (m, 5, Out of Place--Magal {GSW, \$332,541}, by Hooched) scored smartly in her belated debut. Off alertly, the 5-2 second choice vied for the lead, shook free nearing the eighth pole and powered away for a 6 1/4-length success. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$6,900.

O/B-Ray Tamargo (FL). T-Raymond Tamargo Jr.

New Bill to Aid Calder:

Florida State Representative Stan Bainter from Lake County introduced a three-part legislative bill that will help Calder. The bill includes a provision to increase the tax credits Calder receives if the Breeders' Cup comes to town from \$800,000 to \$950,000. The \$950,000 is a maximum figure for lost revenue for the three days the track has to close for future Breeders' Cup events held in Florida. The bill also asks the state to reduce its tax on handle from 2.4 percent to 0.2 percent. The third part of the bill requests permission to receive and rebroadcast out-of-state races after 7 p.m. on any day during its licensed race meet. The legislative session begins March 7.

☆ SO. CALIFORNIA ☆

Monrovia Regraded:

The American Graded Stakes Committee has reinstated the Grade III status of the Monrovia H., run Dec. 31 of last year. The Santa Anita race was first downgraded when the race came off the turf. The committee upheld the downgrade at a Jan. 12 meeting, but that decision was appealed. After a second meeting, the grade was restored. Show Me the Stage won the race which was reduced to four starters because of the change to the main track.

TELL IT TO THE TDN...

Want to send a "Letter to the Editor" of the *Thoroughbred Daily News*? Our address is 811 River Rd., Fair Haven, NJ, 07704; or send a fax to: (732) 747-8955; or an e-mail to: mediavista@AOL.com.

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☆ FOREIGN ☆

AMERICAN-BRED WINNER IN ITALY:

Rob's Thought, c, 3, **Robin Des Pins**--Joyous Thoughts, by Tom Rolfe. Napoli, 2-22, Premio Realista (Cond.), 3yo, 1 1/16mT, \$6,609 to winner. O-S.ra A Casazza; B-Gary Beck & Kim Creek; T-G Matrullo. *\$28,000 yrl '98 KEESEP.

BREEDERS' EDITION

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Blue Gin, f, 3, **Go For Gin**--G. U. Blues, by Dixieland Band. PHA, 2-22, 6f, 1:11 2/5. B-Thomas L Nichols (Ky). *\$10,000 yrl '98 KEESEP; \$19,000 yrl '98 FTKOCT; \$27,000 2yo '99 OBSMAR.
 + **Outagal**, m, 5, **Out of Place**--Magal (GSW, \$332,541), by Hooched. TAM, 2-22, 6f, 1:12. B-R Tamargo (Fl).



FOALING NEWS

RUNAWAY FAIR LADY, 12, **Runaway Groom**--T.N.T. Gal (Baldski)
 Foal born 2-2-00, a colt by Gold Fever.
 Will be bred back to Miswaki.
 Owned by Cashmark Farm.
 Boarded at Grass Valley Farm, Paris, KY.
 Accomplishments: SW, \$127,790.

FANTASY ANGEL, 5, **Saint Ballado**--Tales of Long Ago (Raise a Cup)
 Foal born 2-3-00, a filly by Coronado's Quest.
 Will be bred back to Unbridled.
 Owned by Ms. Helen Andrews.
 Boarded at Viking Stud Farm, KY.
 Accomplishments: GSW, \$150,820.

ROSIE O'GRETA, 7, **Flight Over**--Trust Greta (Centrust)
 Foal born 2-3-00, a colt by Joyeux Danseur.
 Will be bred back to Deputy Commander.
 Owned by Lewis Lakin & James Kintz.
 Boarded at Lakland LLC Farm, Versailles, KY.
 Accomplishments: GSW, \$132,544.

RUZNAMA, 7, **Forty Niner**--Last Feather (*Vaguely Noble)
 Foal born 2-3-00, a filly by Danzig.
 Will be bred back to Danzig.
 Owned by/boarded at Shadwell Farm LLC, KY.
 Accomplishments: MSW & GSP-GB.

FATEFUL BEAUTY, 11, **Turkoman**--Poster Beauty (Codox)
 Foal born 2-3-00, a colt by You and I.
 Will be bred back to Mt. Livermore.
 Owned by Barry K. Schwartz.
 Boarded at Stonewall Farm, Granite Springs, NY.
 Accomplishments: Dam of David (Mt. Livermore), MSW, \$202,090.

CALLING YOU, 6, **Peterhof**--Surprise Attack (Secretariat)
 Foal born 2-3-00, a filly by Grand Slam.
 Will be bred back to A.P. Jet.
 Owned by/boarded at Sugar Maple Farm, NY.
 Accomplishments: SW, \$179,646.

ARCHES OF GOLD, 11, **Strike Gold**--Pittsy (Shecky Greene)
 Foal born 2-4-00, a filly by El Prado (Ire).
 Will be bred back to Touch Gold.
 Owned by Adena Springs.
 Boarded at Adena Springs Canada, ONT.
 Accomplishments: GSW & GISP, \$434,006.

SCRATCH PAPER, 9, **Notebook**--Deluxe Flight (Crozier)
 Foal born 2-4-00, a filly by Touch Gold.
 Will be bred back to Forestry.
 Owned by/boarded at BryLynn Farm in Reddick, FL.
 Accomplishments: GSW, \$272,514.

STARRY ICE, 6, **Ice Age**--Forumstar (Inherent Star)
 Foal born 2-4-00, a colt by Skip Away.
 Will be bred back to Forestry.
 Owned by Jerry Dutton & Harold Greene.
 Boarded at Elm Tree Farm, Paris, KY.
 Accomplishments: GSW, \$209,300.

QUAKER BONNET, 10, **On to Glory**--Good Routes (Pass Catcher)
 Foal born 2-4-00, a filly by Unbridled's Song.
 Will be bred back to Touch Gold.
 Owned by/boarded at BryLynn Farm in Reddick, FL.
 Accomplishments: MSW, \$246,430.

Outstanding value for 2000: \$30,000

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THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

★ EUROPEAN EDITION ★

Wednesday, February 23, 2000

NO JOKE--JESTER TOPS AGAIN AT ADELAIDE

The popular sire accounted for the Session One sale topper when hip 95 brought \$230,000 and now he's done it again. Sold yesterday as hip 257, a colt by champion Rory's Jester out of American-bred mare Veronical topped the second select session of the Magic Millions yearling sale at Adelaide, Australia. The bay hails from a strong American family, which includes top sire and MGISW Broad Brush (USA) (Ack Ack {USA}), as well as Hay Halo (USA) (Halo {USA}) and Breeders' Cup Juvenile fourth and G2 Gimcrack S. winner Mull of Kintyre (USA) (Danzig {USA}). Consigned to the sale by Sharondon Park Stud, he was purchased by B J Smith. The afternoon's second-highest seller was hip 217, a colt by Danehill (USA) from Snow Wonder (Aus). The half brother to G1 Manikato S. winner You Remember (Aus) (Gold Carat {USA}) was sold from the consignment of Wood Nook Farm to Donald Baertschiger. The sale continues today with the Summer Session.

MAGIC MILLIONS SALE--TOP FIVE LOTS

Lot	Sex	Sire	Dam	Price (Aus\$)
257	c	Rory's Jester (Aus)	Veronical (USA)	160,000
Consigned by Sharondon Park Stud Purchased by B J Smith				
217	c	Danehill (USA)	Snow Wonder (Aus)	120,000
Consigned by Wood Nook Farm Purchased by Donald Baertschiger				
181	f	Rory's Jester (Aus)	Rare Moon (Aus)	115,000
Consigned by Gawler Park Stud Purchased by Rick Hore-Lacy				
289	f	Geiger Counter (USA)	Balmoral Gold (Aus)	110,000
Consigned by A.J. Crabb & Sons Pty. Ltd. Purchased by Magic Millions (as agent)				
344	c	Rancho Ruler (Aus)	Deep Titian (Aus)	105,000
Consigned by Oakford Thoroughbred Farm Purchased by R O'Gorman for T.W.F.				

ASCOT MIXED SALE A SUCCESS

It was a promising start at Ascot yesterday for auctioneers Russell, Baldwin and Bright as a healthy clearance rate of 83.8 percent at the Ascot February sale led to a huge hike in gross receipts versus 1999. Last year 55 of the 92 horses offered were sold, grossing 61,305 guineas, but this year 78 of the 93 horses offered found new homes, with the gross rocketing up by more than 48 percent to 89,410 guineas. The average rose only slightly from 1,115 guineas to 1,146 guineas. The overall sale topper was nine-year-old gelding **Flying Eagle (GB)** (Shaadi {USA}), sent up from trainer Gary Moore's Ingleside Stables and bought by a cash buyer for 7,500 guineas. Out of the multiple French Group 3 winner Fly Me (Fr) (Luthier {Fr}), a full-sister to the G1 Grand Prix de Paris winner Galiani (Fr), Flying Eagle is a half-brother to the French stakes winner Fixed Wing (Ire) (Kris {GB}). To date he has won eight times on the flat and four times over hurdles. RBB representative Richard Botterill was pleased with the overall result. "There was a good crowd, with a good atmosphere and horses were selling, which is the most important thing. We're very happy with our first sale here," he commented.

TOP 3 LOTS--ASCOT FEBRUARY SALE

Lot	Horse	Price (Gns)
33	Flying Eagle (GB)	7,500
<i>(g, 9, Shaadi {USA}--Fly Me {Fr}, by Luthier {Fr})</i> Consigned by Ingleside Stables Purchased for Cash		
77	Mr. Magget	4,400
<i>(Salluceba--Linda Dudley {GB}, by Owen Dudley {GB})</i> Consigned by Ridgeway Paddocks Purchased for Cash		
70	Woodland King (Ire)	3,200
<i>(King's Ride--Bilma {Ire}, by Glenstal {USA})</i> Consigned by Ridgeway Paddocks Purchased by G Bloom		

MAGIC MILLIONS SALE Tuesday, February 22, 2000

SESSION	2000
No. Sold	141
Gross (Aus \$)	\$5,137,000
Average	\$36,433
CUMULATIVE	
No. Sold	285
Gross (Aus \$)	\$9,975,500
Average	\$35,002

ASCOT MIXED SALE Tuesday, February 22, 2000

	2000	1999
No. Sold	78	55
Gross (gns)	89,410	61,305
Average	1,146	1,115
Median	900	740



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★ ITALY ★

Yesterday's Results:

4.20 Napoli, Premio Realista (Cond.), L22,950,000, 3yo, 1 1/16mT, 1:47.70, sf.

ROB'S THOUGHT (USA) (c, 3, Robin Des Pins {USA}--Joyous Thoughts {USA}, by Tom Rolfe {USA}). Lifetime Record: 25 starts, 1 win, 12 places, L58,361,000. O-S.ra A Casazza; B-Gary Beck & Kim Creek; T-G Matrullo; J-V Varriale. *\$28,000 yrl '98 KEESEP.

2.25 Napoli, Premio Red Dream (Cond.), L19,125,000, 4yo/up, 5fT, 0:58.60, sf.

GUERAZZI (IRE) (h, 6, Petorius {Ire}--Settling Down {USA}, by Topsider {USA}). Lifetime Record: 60 starts, 12 wins, 26 places, L254,575,000. O-Red Stars; B-Angelo Crucianelli; T-V Zito; J-M Cangiano.

★ BRITAIN ★

VALUE ADDED TAX AND RACING

The Commissioners of Customs and Excise yesterday started a High Court case over whether trainers must pay Value Added Tax when their apprentice jockeys ride in races. Lawyers say a win for the VAT man will mean that British-based trainers will face owing millions of pounds in back tax. The Commissioners are challenging a VAT tribunal ruling that trainer Ron Hodges was not liable for VAT on fees from owners when his apprentice jockeys rode in Flat races and conditional jockeys took part in jump races. Jeremy Hyam, appearing for the Commissioners, argued the VAT tribunal, sitting at Bristol in November, 1998, made several legal errors. If the relationship between the trainers and the jockeys amounted to a contract of employment then the Hodges were liable to VAT at the standard rate of 17.5 percent. Hyam argued there was a sufficient overlap through the contract for the trainers to be liable. The defence said it was neither illogical nor perverse for the tribunal to have held that no VAT was payable on riding services because they were provided by the jockey, who was not a taxable person registered for VAT, and not by the trainer. Jeremy Wood, solicitor for the Hodges, said outside court, "This is a test case."

O'BRIEN: OFFSHORE BETTING A LEGITIMATE THREAT

Mike O'Brien, the Home Office minister responsible for betting, yesterday revealed that the British government is taking seriously the threat from offshore betting. But he stopped short of saying that measures to reduce betting tax will feature in the Chancellor Of Exchequer's Budget Mar. 21. He was speaking at bookmakers' trade body BOLA's annual general meeting where the heads of Britain's two largest bookmakers, Chris Bell of Ladbrokes and John Bown of William Hill, called for the government to reduce betting tax from 6.75 percent to three percent.

★ SWEDEN ★

SWEDEN TO HOST EUROPE'S RICHEST DIRT RACE

The profile of dirt and all-weather racing across Europe will be raised even further tomorrow when a delegation headed by Bo Gillborg, from the Jagersro race-track in Sweden, arrives at Wolverhampton racecourse to promote Europe's richest open dirt race, the Skr 1 million (£72,449) Listed Per-Erik Pramms Memorial to be run at Jagersro May 14. Gillborg will be trying to persuade British trainers to send runners for a race which may eventually become part of a formal series of Europe-wide dirt races. That subject will also be on the agenda as it is a favoured cause of Wolverhampton supreme Richard Muddle. Discussions have taken place on the subject in the past, with Muddle at the forefront, but there has yet to be a formal plan put in place. Prize money for the Per-Erik Pramms Memorial has been increased by a staggering 150 percent, from last year's Skr 400,000, and is second only to the (restricted) Swedish Derby in terms of prize money for a European dirt race. Bjorn Eklund of the Swedish Jockey Club is enthusiastic about attracting foreign entries for this year's renewal and said, "We very much look forward to the race this year especially with its prize money increase. It's a big step up but there has been a lot of interest already, especially from British trainers. If we can attract some foreign runners I hope the race will prove to be extra special this year." The Per-Erik Pramms Memorial is run over 1730 metres (1 mile 143 yards) and is for three-year-olds and upwards. There will be a maximum of twelve runners. All runners will be elected according to the handicapper's rating and their will be a travel allowance for all foreign-trained runners.

★ SINGAPORE ★

TEAM EUROPE READYING FOR SINGAPORE

The definitive list of European entries for the S\$3 million (£1,088,281) Singapore Airlines International Cup to be run at Kranji Mar. 4, will be confirmed on Friday. The team numbers five at present: Francois Doumen's **Jim And Tonic (Fr)** (Double Bed {Fr}); Jean de Roualle's **Barbola (GB)** (Diesis {GB}); John Hammond's **Fragrant Mix (Ire)** (Linamix {Fr}); Ed Dunlop's **Monsajem (USA)** (Woodman {USA}); and Barry Hills' **Showboat (GB)** (Warning {GB}). Monsajem's on-off participation is back on at the moment. They may also be joined by another Ed Dunlop trained horse, **Night Style (Fr)** (Night Shift {USA}), who is entered for the "consolation" race the \$750,000 (£272,070) Singapore Plate. Godolphin will be represented by **Sea Wave (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells {USA}) in the International Cup and by **Grazalema (USA)** (Storm Bird {Can}) in the Plate. Both races are for three-year-olds and up over ten furlongs on turf with a maximum field of 16. The main race will be run under lights at 9:40 p.m., local time. Declarations to run and the barrier draw will be made at 7pm, local time, next Thursday, Mar. 2.



★ FRANCE ★

THE BOY IS BACK IN TOWN

Olivier Peslier, France's leading jockey, has finished his working stint in Japan and has returned to France. He was back at work straight away, exercising horses for Andre Fabre at Les Aigles training ground yesterday morning. He will resume race riding in his native land March 1 when the Paris season begins in earnest at Saint-Cloud. On the same evening he will fly to Singapore where he will ride the Jean de Roualle-trained **Barbola (GB)** (Diesis {GB}) in the newly created Singapore Airlines International Cup at Kranji racetrack Mar. 4. Peslier was enthusiastic about his stay in the land of the rising sun and won his first Japanese Group One race last Sunday, the one mile G1 February S. He rode **Wing Arrow (Jpn)** (Assatis {USA}) to come from behind with a late run to beat fifteen opponents. Peslier explained, "It was a very special moment as it was my first Group One win in Japan, but it was also the last runner for 71-year-old trainer Yoshimo Kudo, who has now retired. The crowd of about 88,000 people waved goodbye to me with their programmes and called my name during the few minutes when I returned after winning the race. They were all fantastic with me in France and I will not forget it."

LORD OF MEN HAS FIRST MARES IN FOAL

Lord Of Men (GB) (Groom Dancer {USA}), a champion at two when he accounted for the 1996 G1 Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp in the colours of Sheikh Mohammed, started his new career as a stallion in France recently. He is based at the Haras du Logis and has a book of 98 mares to cover for his first season at stud. The son of Groom Dancer could not have got off to a better start as the first two mares he covered have been scanned in foal.

FRANCE GALOP BLOWS COLD ON NASAL STRIPS

France Galop, the supreme authority of French racing has ruled against the use of nasal strips in all French races. The decision was made during a committee meeting held Feb. 10 and was included in the Racing Rules to take immediate effect.

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★ SWITZERLAND ★

ALL BLADE A SURE BLADE

Stall Weissenstein's six-year-old gelding **All Blade (Ger)** (Sure Blade {USA}) ran away with the American Express-Grosser Preis von St. Moritz on Sunday. The chestnut is trained by the leading Swiss trainer Urs Suter who moved to Iffezheim near Baden Baden only last December. All Blade, ridden by leading German jockey Andrasch Starke, took the lead halfway down the back straight and soon put some ten lengths between himself and the rest. In the straight, the gelding ran on well, increasing his winning margin to more than 14 lengths. The Grosser Preis von St. Moritz offered a purse of SwF111,111 (£43,010) this year and represents the seasonal highlight of snow-racing on the frozen Lake St. Moritz.

★ UNITED STATES ★

EUROPEAN-BRED WINNER:

Sideburn (Ire), c, 3, **Catrail (USA)**--Saderlina (USA) (MSP-Fr), by Sadler's Wells (USA). Bay Meadows, 2-21, Maiden race, 1 1/16m, 1:43 3/5, \$16,500 to winner. B-Knocktoran Stud (Ire). *26,000gns wnl '97 TADEF; 38,480gns yrl '98 AFAUG.

★ MAIDEN WINNERS ★

Spanish Star (GB), g, 3, **Hernando (Fr)**--Desert Girl (GB), by Green Desert (USA). Wolverhampton, England, Bet Direct "Todays Best Bets" Maiden S. (Class D), 2-22, 3yo/up, 1 1/2m (AWT), £2,782 to winner. B-Granham Farm. *20,000gns yrl '98 TAOCT.

Rob's Thought (USA), c, 3, **Robin Des Pins (USA)**--Joyous Thoughts (USA), by Tom Rolfe (USA). Napoli, Italy, 2-22, Premio Realista (Cond.), 3yo, 1 1/16mT, L12,750,000 to winner. B-Gary Beck & Kim Creek. *\$28,000 yrl '98 KEESEP.

FOALING NEWS:

SIYADAH (USA), 6, Mr. Prospector (USA)--Roseate Tern (GB) (Blakeney {GB})
Foal born 2-8-00, a colt by Swain (Ire).
Will be bred back to Bahri (USA).
Owned by/boarded at Shadwell Farm LLC, KY.
Accomplishments: SW-GB.

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