



THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS™

☆ INTERNATIONAL ☆

Wednesday,
March 15, 2000

\$2 MILLION COLT TOPS BARRETT'S

Trainer Bob Hess thought he'd found a diamond in the rough when he saw a colt by St. Ballado--What a Reality (In Reality) gallop a few weeks ago, but the gig was up when the dark bay colt treated onlookers at Sunday's under tack preview for the Barretts March Sale of Two-Year-Olds in Training to a sizzling one-furlong drill in :10 flat. "When I saw :10, I was livid because now he was no secret," Hess explained. Hip number 44 was well known to bidders by the time he came through the ring at yesterday's auction in Pomona, California, forcing Hess to bid \$2 million to buy the two-year-old on behalf of David Shimmon. "He's the best horse I've seen at a two-year-old in training sale since Unbridled's Song," Hess said. "I liked his temperament. He's a late foal and nicely developed, but not overdeveloped. I saw him gallop three weeks ago and I loved him then." Shimmon, the 41-year-old chief executive officer of the Northern California pharmaceuticals company Kinetics, has a stable of approximately 20 horses. "He's just an outstanding animal," Shimmon said of his latest acquisition. "There is nothing about him we don't like." The sale-topping colt, from the consignment of Jerry Bailey Sales Agency, agent, tied the Barretts record set last year by a two-year-old Brocco colt. The underbidder on the precocious youngster was trainer Craig Lewis, acting on behalf of Al and Sandee Kirkwood. Lewis trained 1995 GI Santa Anita Derby winner Larry the Legend. The Kirkwoods' final bid on the Saint Ballado colt was \$1.7 million. Lewis, acting as agent for Tom and Beverly Burke, purchased the top filly of the one-day sale. He bid \$400,000 for hip number 154, a daughter of Crafty Prospector--Polish Sands (Polish Navy). Consigned by Donna M. Wormser, Inc., agent, the chestnut recorded the third fastest furlong work of :10.02 on Sunday. "I liked everything about her," Lewis said. "She's fast and she's made good. She looks very sound and is reasonably well bred." The selected sale average decreased 23.6 percent from 1999 and the median decreased 26.5 percent. Fifty four select two-year-olds were reported as not sold. Twenty California-bred two-year-olds were not sold.


Top Colts and Fillies p. 2

TDN TODAY

International 3 pages

SHIMMON BUYS INTEREST IN ANEES

Just minutes after acquiring the topper at last night's Barretts sale, David Shimmon shook hands with The Thoroughbred Corporation's Prince Ahmed Salman over a deal that makes him half owner of 1999 juvenile champion **Anees** (Unbridled). "Right after he bought the sale's topper, I walked over to congratulate him," explained the prince. "We talked for a few minutes and made the deal. He wanted a chance at the Kentucky Derby and thought this was a good way." The prince's racing manager Richard Mulhall and Shimmon's trainer Bob Hess will jointly make racing decisions for the colt. Alex Hassinger, Jr. will continue to train Anees and the three-year-old will still race in the colors of the Thoroughbred Corporation. Of his decision to sell a part interest in Anees to Shimmon, the prince said, "This is a very nice man and a good businessman. He's a gentleman and a scholar. I would never get a partner just because of his money." Reportedly, this is not the first time Shimmon has tried to buy an interest in Anees; a deal prior to last year's Breeders' Cup did not come to fruition and Shimmon was meeting the prince face-to-face for the first time last night. Anees, unraced since winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, is on target to make his three-year-old bow in Sunday's GII San Felipe S. at Santa Anita. To date, he has won two of four starts with a third in the GII Norfolk S. and earnings of \$609,200. The purchase price was not disclosed.



Barretts

EQUINE LIMITED

MARCH SALE
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2000

<u>SELECTED 2YOs</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
No. Sold	78	81
Gross	\$15,227,000	\$20,688,000
Average	\$195,218	\$255,407
Median	\$125,000	\$170,000
<u>CAL-BRED 2YOs</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
No. Sold	18	16
Gross	\$2,060,000	\$1,307,000
Average	\$114,444	\$81,688
Median	\$70,000	\$47,500

Colt by

SAINT BALLADO

sells for **\$2 MILLION** at Barretts March!





BARRETTS RESULTS TOP SIX COLTS

HIP#	SIRE	DAM	PRICE
044	Saint Ballado	What a Reality	\$2,000,000
	Consigned by Jerry Bailey Sales Agency, agent Purchased by David Shimmon		
069	Southern Halo	Cause I'm Special	\$900,000
	(\$145,000 yrl '99 KEESEP) Consigned by Kirkwood Stables, agent Purchased by Target Bloodstock		
199	Fly So Free	Heartlight	\$700,000
	(\$60,000 yrl '99 CALAUG) Consigned by Sequel Bloodstock, agent Purchased by Bob Baffert, agent		
128	Gone West	Laguna Seca	\$625,000
	(\$300,000 yrl '99 KEEJUL) Consigned by Sequel Bloodstock, agent Purchased by Kirkwood Thoroughbreds		
089	Storm Cat	Electric Society (Ire)	\$550,000
	(\$400,000 yrl '99 KEESEP) Consigned by H T Stables, Inc., agent for Cam Allard Purchased by Jenine Sahadi, agent for Team Valor		
094	Southern Halo	Fiery Summer	\$550,000
	(\$30,000 wnlg '98 KEENOV; \$67,000 yrl '99 KEESEP) Consigned by Donna Wormser, Inc., agent Purchased by North Hills Management		

TOP FIVE FILLIES

HIP#	SIRE	DAM	PRICE
154	Crafty Prospector	Polish Sands	\$400,000
	(\$37,000 wnlg '98 KEENOV; \$23,000 yrl '99 KEEJAN) Consigned by Donna Wormser, Inc., agent Purchased by Craig Lewis, agent		
002	Quiet American	Salt Cedar	\$300,000
	(\$95,000 yrl '99 KEESEP) Consigned by Jerry Bailey Sales Agency, agent for Bailey-Ellenbergl Select Purchased by Lane's End, agent for Skara Glen Stables		
104	Seattle Slew	Gils Magic	\$300,000
	(\$300,000 wnlg '98 KEENOV) Consigned by Sequel Bloodstock, agent Purchased by Kirkwood Thoroughbreds		
191	General Meeting	Bountiful V	\$300,000
	(\$47,000 yrl '99 BES OCT) Consigned by Equine Prep, agent Purchased by Gary Seidler		
121	Hennessy	Kirt's Pride	\$250,000
	(\$105,000 wnlg '98 KEENOV) Consigned by Sequel Bloodstock, agent Purchased by Shadai Farm		

☆ PREVIEW ☆

Thursday, Gulfstream Park

BONNIE MISS S.-GII , \$200,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m			
PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY WT
1	Bejoyfulandrejoyce	Dynaformer	Chavez 114
2	Marigalante	Silver Ghost	Sellers 114
3	Deed I Do	Alydeed	Smith 112
4	Kelly Pond	Deputy Minister	Day 112
5	Dinner Pardner	Formal Dinner	Prado 114
6	Cash Run	Seeking the Gold	Bailey 119

WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

FLORIDA DERBY-GI, \$750,000, GPX, 3-11, 3yo, 1 1/8m, 1:51 2/5, ft.

1--▲**HAL'S HOPE**, 122, c, 3, by Jolie's Halo

1st Dam: Mia's Hope (MGSW, \$327,739), by Rexson's Hope

2nd Dam: Pia Mia, by Pia Star

3rd Dam: Surprise Lady, by Discovery

O-Rose Family Stable; B/T-Harold J Rose (FL); J-R I Velez; \$450,000. Lifetime Record: 8-4-1-0, \$582,160.

In an era dominated by the Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector lines, Hail to Reason, particularly through Halo and Roberto, is bidding to become the "third force" in North American breeding. This was underlined over the weekend when one Halo grandson--Hal's Hope--captured the GI Florida Derby and another, More Than Ready (c, 3, Southern Halo--Woodman's Girl, by Woodman), ran a good second in the GII Louisiana Derby.

The Halo line would have been much better represented in this country had not Sunday Silence been exported to Japan, where he has been the dominant sire of the last decade. Sunday Silence's success caused a major demand for the Halo strain in Japan and in 1996, after siring just four crops in North America, Jolie's Halo, the sire of Hal's Hope, was also exported to Japan.

Pedigree Perspectives cont. p. 3

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



Pedigree Perspectives cont. from p. 2

At the time of his export Jolie's Halo had only been represented by his first crop of two-year-olds, so we knew little about him as a sire. His pedigree and race record, however, spoke volumes for his potential. Jolie's Halo was something of a late starter on the track: he didn't run until he was three, and started just twice at that age winning maiden and allowance races at Woodbine. At four he started out as if he might be a coming superstar, winning in succession the GIII Appleton H. by 4 1/2 lengths, the GI Donn H. by eight lengths, and the GI Gulfstream Park H. by three lengths. Oddly enough, after that sensational skein, Jolie's Halo rather lost his way, and he failed to add to his black-type tally through the rest of the season. The following year he briefly flashed his best form with a track-record equaling victory in the GI Philip H. Iselin H. After two unplaced efforts early in his six-year-old season, Jolie's Halo retired to Arthur Appleton's Bridlewood Farm in Ocala, Florida.

Jolie's Halo's stud career has steadily built momentum, and with his fourth crop now three, he has sired 10 stakes winners. The speedball American Champ and Lil's Golden Halo were members of his first crop, while his second featured the tough graded-stakes winning filly Cassidy and the third was headlined by GII Remsen S. winner Comeonmom. Hal's Hope and Scottish Halo (c, 3, Jolie's Halo--Scottische, by Deputy Minister), winner of the GIII Laurel Futurity, are members of his fourth and final U.S. crop.

Oddly enough, in view of the opening line of this article, we can note that while free of Northern Dancer and Mr. Prospector, Jolie's Halo has pedigree links to both. His sire Halo is out of Cosmah, a half sister to Northern Dancer's dam Natalma. His fourth dam Spinosa is a three-quarters sister to Sequence, the granddam of Mr. Prospector, and while Mr. Prospector's dam Gold Digger is by Nasrullah's son Nashua, Jolie's Halo's granddam Who's to Know, is by Fleet Nasrullah, a son of Nasrullah who is closely related to Gold Digger. It is also interesting to observe that Jolie's Halo is bred on the same Halo/Sir Ivor cross as one of Halo's best daughters Goodbye Halo. Halo and Sir Ivor are very closely related as both are by sons of *Turn-To, and their dams both have Pharamond II and *Mahmoud in the second generation.

Hal's Hope himself has an intriguing pedigree. He is out of multiple graded stakes winner Mia's Hope who, like Hal's Hope, was bred and trained by veteran conditioner Harold Rose. In turn, Mia's Hope is a daughter of the tough Florida-bred Rexson's Hope, a horse who enjoyed his biggest payday when taking the In Reality S. at two. Where things become really interesting is when

we observe that Rexson's Hope is by Rexson, who is out of Halo's three-quarters sister Royal Match, giving Hal's Hope the combination of Halo and Royal Match 2x4. In passing, it is also worth mentioning that Saint Ballado, another Halo son who began his stud career in Florida before moving, this time to Kentucky (although he was very nearly lost to Japan) has sired two stakes winners, including Grade I scorer Sister Act, out of mares which bring about a duplication of Cosmah. To return briefly to Hal's Hope, we should also mention that in addition to two crosses of Cosmah, a daughter of Almahmoud, he also has a second dam by Pia Star, whose dam Inquisitive, is by Mahmoud and bred on very similar lines to Almahmoud.

PEDIGREE SHORTS

It was a good weekend for Gone West, who was represented by the G3 Yukan Fuji Sho Crystal Cup winner Sweet Orchid (f, 3, Gone West--Kenbu {Fr}, by Kenmare {Fr}) and Wacky Becky (f, 3, Gone West--Lady Becker, by Nijinsky II), who broke her maiden when capturing the Sam Houston Oaks. Sweet Orchid is out of the French group winner Kenbu, and her second dam Tarlace (Ire) is by Targowice, who is by Round Table (by Princequillo) out of a Bold Ruler mare, and therefore bred on a reverse cross to Gone West's broodmare sire Secretariat (by Bold Ruler out of a Princequillo mare). Wacky Becky is out of a Nijinsky II mare, which gives the combination of the closely related Tim Tam (in Gone West) and Flaming Page (dam of Nijinsky II). In addition, she is part of the growing group of stakes winners to combine Gone West's sire Mr. Prospector with his close relative Alydar, sire of Wacky Becky's second dam. Gone West/Alydar looks particularly promising since Alydar's broodmare sire On-and-On is a half brother to Tim Tam, sire of Gone West's second dam Tamerett.

Woodman and Seattle Slew have been combining well, which is not surprising since together they give four crosses of *La Troienne, all through sisters/three-quarters sisters. There was another variation on the theme at the weekend when Burn Brightly (f, 4, American Chance--Handle With Care, by Woodman) won the Spring Fever S. at Oaklawn Park. She is out of a mare by Woodman and her sire American Chance is out of a mare by Seattle Slew.

Young Maryland sire Not For Love is making a very promising start to his career, and he was represented by another stakes winner from his first crop when Shopping For Love (f, 3, Not For Love--Instant Shopper, by D'Accord) won the Busher S. at Aqueduct on Saturday. Shopping For Love has a somewhat unusual pedigree pattern since both her sire and her broodmare sire are out of mares by Northern Dancer.

MIGHTY

*Winner of the \$750,000 Louisiana Derby (G2)
was sold for \$85,000 as a weanling by*

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THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

☆ AMERICAN EDITION ☆

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

DIFFERENT, ON TO ROYALTY DEAD Argentina's champion mare **Different (Arg)** (Candy Stripes) died in mid-February after producing a premature Deputy Minister foal at Lane's End Farm in Versailles, Kentucky, according to *Thoroughbred Times*. The foal, Different's first, also died. After a stellar Southern Hemisphere campaign in which she was named champion older mare, mare of the year and champion three-year-old filly, Different was purchased by Sid and Jenny Craig and began her North American campaign in 1996. She won the GI Three Chimneys Spinster, GI Beverly Hills H. and GI Chula Vista H. The eight-year-old mare won nine of 19 starts and was on the board in eight other races. She earned \$1,349,802. The *Thoroughbred Times* also reports the death of **On to Royalty** (On to Glory). The 15-year-old mare was the dam of GI Preakness S. winner **Louis Quatorze** (Sovereign Dancer) and Grade I winner **Royal Indy** (A.P. Indy). She died on Feb. 4 after foaling a colt by Banker's Gold. In addition to that foal, On to Royalty has a four-year-old named **King of Cats** (Storm Cat) and a three-year-old named **Deputy Royal** (Deputy Minister), both unraced. She was sold to John R. Gaines Thoroughbreds, in foal to Banker's Gold, for \$550,000 at last year's Keeneland November sale.

FAST FILLY TOPS SECOND OBS SESSION Hip 330, a gray filly from the first crop of champion Maria's Mon, flashed a quarter in :21 1/5 to top the second session of the Under Tack Preview for the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's March Sale of Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training yesterday in Florida. A pair of juveniles stopped the clock a tick slower in :21 2/5, including Hip 310, a gray colt by freshman sire Fastness (Ire), and Hip 385, a dark bay or brown filly by Montbrook. Three youngsters breezed a furlong in :10 1/5, including Hip 273, a Valid Appeal filly who is a full sister to stakes winner Valid Affect; Hip 300, a Seeking the Gold colt produced from a half sister to champion Arazi; and Hip 328, a Sultry Song filly. A Brocco colt, selling as Hip 455, recorded the session's fastest three-furlong time of :34 4/5. The regular Under Tack Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 18-19. The two-day March Sale is set for Tuesday and Wednesday, Mar. 21-22.

☆ FLORIDA ☆

Hialeah-at-Gulfstream at Hialeah?

The upcoming Hialeah-at-Gulfstream meet could have a new wrinkle. According to published reports, the meet could include the possibility of running one day a week of turf racing at Hialeah. The proposal would allow for the running of turf maiden races not normally run at Gulfstream and would alleviate concerns about the condition of the Gulfstream turf course. Fans would not attend Hialeah, but the signal of the races would be sent back to Gulfstream.

☆ INDUSTRY INFO ☆

Krantz Elected to NTRA Board:

Bryan G. Krantz, president and general manager of Fair Grounds, has been elected by the Southern Region of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations to succeed Doug Donn, former president of Gulfstream Park, as its representative on the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Board of Directors. "I'm pleased that my peers in the Southern Region have the confidence in me to nominate me to this post and hopefully I can do some good work," said Krantz. "I'm looking forward to getting started." The NTRA is governed by a Board of Directors composed of the NTRA Commissioner and CEO, five racetrack representatives and five horsemen's representatives.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15:

03-25 \$100,000 *Bourbonette Breeders' Cup, TP, 3yo, f, 8f, (100)*

03-26 \$150,000 *Santa Ana H.-II, SA, 4yo/up, f/m, 9fT, (150)*

07-01 \$150,000 *Arlington Classic-II, AP, 3yo, 9fT, (300)*

07-23 \$200,000 *American Derby-II, AP, 3yo, 9.5fT, (300)*

08-19 \$400,000 *Secretariat-I, AP, 3yo, 10fT, (300)*

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, MARCH 16:

03-26 \$600,000 *Explosive Bid H.-III, FG, 4yo/up, 9ft, (150)*



TDN TODAY

American 2 pages

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WRITERS UP

NTRA MARKETING SUMMIT

by *Richard Eng*

The highlights of the second and final day of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association Marketing Summit at The Orleans hotel and casino in Las Vegas, NV centered around the announcements of multiple \$1 million promotions aimed at increasing on-track attendance.

The three promotions were the \$1 Million Mystery Mutuel Voucher, the \$1 Million Down the Stretch Sweepstakes, and \$1 million for correctly selecting the 1-12 jockey's order of finish in the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship at Lone Star Park.

"The proliferation of shows like 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' and 'Who Wants To Marry A Millionaire' is proof of the appeal," said Rich Muhlstock, NTRA director of marketing.

Keith Chamblin, NTRA vice president of industry relations and marketing, described the \$1 Million Mystery Mutuel Voucher as "the industry's largest ever national direct mail" promotion.

The mass mailing will occur in front of the August 6 "America's Day at the Races" campaign. Coupons will be issued as inserts in the NTRA Fan Guides. Fan Guides are primers aimed at novice and first time race goers.

Vouchers are redeemable at participating NTRA race-tracks and OTBs on Sunday, August 6. One of the vouchers is worth \$1 million.

In the Down the Stretch Sweepstakes track promotion, fans will be drawn at random on-track to participate. They must then correctly select the winners of six designated races.

"You have to offer \$1 million to break through the clutter," said Remi Bellocq, director of marketing at Santa Anita. "Even in Los Angeles, \$1 million will get their attention."

In conjunction with the NTRA All-Star Jockey Championship on June 23, fans will attempt to select the dozen jockey's order of finish 1-12.

In other reports, Muhlstock described the new "NTRA Racing Experience" that will be used to increase awareness. Housed in a 60-foot long mobile trailer, it will be used in conjunction with major races and is available for rental by member racetracks.

Ky Mortenson of NTRA stated that "new applicants will receive \$240 worth of premiums for their \$25 NTRA membership fee."

Victor Espinosa of Equibase detailed a new "fan-friendly program" using bar graphs and pie charts versus traditional past performance lines.

Dan Metzger, president of Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Association, announced improvements in the Claiming Crown set for August 6 at Canterbury Park.

Additional presentations were made by Steve Crist, editor and publisher, *Daily Racing Form*, John Hindman, director of publicity, Television Games Network, T. Pat Stubbs, director of corporate development/simulcasting, Del Mar, and Damon Thayer, director of marketing, Breeders' Cup.

"Every single one of these programs are designed to benefit the membership," concluded Chamblin.

"Whether it's group purchasing, co-ops, the 2000 ad campaign. They are meant to help racetracks draw more customers and reduce expenses."

Representatives came from as far away as Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Jamaica, and Brazil. Attendance was up 10 percent over 1999.

BREEDERS' EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-PHA, \$24,008, 4yo/up, a1m70yd, 1:42 3/5, ft. PRIVATELY HELD (h, 6, Private Account--Aviance {Ire} {G1SW-Ire}, by Northfields) Lifetime Record: 11-5-1-3, \$89,251. O/T-Daniel J Lopez. B-Flaxman Holdings Ltd (KY). *Full to Chimes of Freedom, MG1SW-Ire & GB, \$503,431; and Piquetnol, G1SP-Fr; 1/2 to Imperfect Circle (Riverman), SW & G1SP-GB, \$117,448.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Sunny Colebrook, f, 3, Sunny's Halo--Our Dilla, by Our Michael. PHA, 3-14, (C), 6f, 1:13. B-J W Backer & Robert C Keller (Ky). *\$14,000 yrl '98 KEESEP.
Roses and Diamonds, f, 4, Grub--Flying Flamingo, by Be a Rullah. TAM, 3-14, 7f, 1:26. B-Cynthia A Crandall (FI).
+ No Respect, f, 4, Spy Signal--Shannon M. B., by Key to the Kingdom. SPT, 3-14, (S), 6f, 1:14 1/5. B-Sharon Kirby (II). *1/2 to Shannon's Innocent (Accused), SW, \$266,504.



Midway, KY (606) 873-9600

Multiple graded stakes winner from the Mr. Prospector-Northern Dancer cross.

SOUVENIR COPY

His first foals arrive in 2000.



THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

★ EUROPEAN EDITION ★

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

★ CHELTENHAM ★

HAT TRICK FOR ISTABRAQ

Istabraq (Ire) (Sadler's Wells {USA}) survived a Monday evening scare (after blood was reported from one of his nostrils) to reappear for his third consecutive G1 Smurfit Champion Hurdle yesterday at Cheltenham. Although trainer Aidan O'Brien had stressed it was a 'borderline' decision to go for the race, in the end, it certainly didn't look so, as the champion reeled in the front-runners before powering away for his third consecutive victory in the race. This was an emotional moment for his connections, after a traumatic night and morning. Istabraq has for so long hinted at greatness, and there is no question that now he has shown it to us.

3.15 Cheltenham, Smurfit Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy-G1, (Class A), 3-14, £250,000, 4yo/up, 2 1/16mT, 3:48.00, gd.

ISTABRAQ (IRE) (g, 8, Sadlers Wells {USA}--Betty's Secret {USA}, by Secretariat {USA}), drifted from 1-3 to 8-15 before the start, and settled in mid-division behind the freewheeling 1997 G1 Champion Hurdle Make A Stand (GB) (Master Willie {GB}), who went almost half-a-furlong clear. As the leader came back to the field past halfway, Istabraq made his move on the inside rail alongside Blue Royal (Fr) (Dauphin Du Bourg {Fr}). As soon as they rounded the turn, the favourite was asked the question and he responded in his customary style to shake off that challenger and win going away by four lengths, establishing a new course record. He is a half-brother to Secreto (USA) (Northern Dancer), G1SW-GB. Lifetime Record: 24-21-3-0, £998,702.

O-J P McManus; B-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd; T-Aidan O'Brien; J-Charlie Swan.

2.00 Cheltenham, Capel Cure Sharp Supreme Novices' Hurdle-G1, (Class A), 3-14, £80,000, 4yo/up, 2 1/16mT, 3:51.70, gd.

SAUSALITO BAY (GB) (g, 6, Salse {USA}--Cantico {GB}, by Green Dancer {USA}), was a talented handicapper on the flat for Ian Balding. Sent off here at 14-1, he led from the start with the short-priced favourite Youlneverwalkalone (Ire) (Montelimar {USA}) in close contention. When that horse's challenge was brushed off after the second last fence, the danger came from Best Mate (Ire) (Un Desperado (Fr) on the far side of the track, but he held on gamely to win by three-quarters of a length. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, £59,510.

O-The High Street Racing Syndicate; B-Littleton Stud; T-Noel Meade; J-Paul Carberry.

2.35 Cheltenham, Irish Independent Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase-G1, (Class A), 3-14, £115,000, 5yo/up, 2mT, 3:46.30, gd.

TIUTCHEV (GB) (g, 7, Soviet Star {USA}--Cut Ahead {GB}, by Kalaglow {Ire}), sent off at 8-1, followed a fast early pace set by the Irish challenger Frozen Groom (Fr) (Bering {GB}). As he crept slightly closer before halfway, travelling and jumping well, he settled in behind the leader with Cenkos (Fr) (Nikos {GB}) alongside. When the pace quickened a half-mile out, the jockey picked him up and the response off the final bend was impressive, coming away to win in style by 8 lengths, setting a new course record in the process. Lifetime Record: 18-7-3-1, £125,468.

O-The Liars Poker Partnership; B-Exors of the Late Mrs D M de Rothschild; T-Nick Henderson; J-Mick Fitzgerald.

FLAGSHIP TAKES ON EIGHT IN CHELTENHAM CHASE

Flagship Uberalles (Ire) (Accordion {Ire}), at odds-on, is a strong favourite for today's G1 Champion Chase at Cheltenham, with a total of eight rivals lining up to take him on. His main opponents will be Nordance Prince (Ire) (Nordance {USA}), Direct Route (Ire) (Executive Perk {Ire}) and Edredon Bleu (Fr) (Grand Tresor {Fr}). If the favourite justifies his odds, he will provide his trainer, the rising star Paul Nicholls, with back-to-back successes in the race following last year's triumph by Call Equiname (GB) (Belfort {Fr}).

★ FRANCE ★

Yesterday's Results:

PRIX MONTENICA-Listed, FF260,000, Maisons-Laffitte, 3-14, 3yo, c/g, 1mT, 1:49.10, vsf.

1--#CRYSTAL D'ASS (FR), 123, c, 3, Northern Crystal (GB)--Asslana (USA), by Al Nasr (Fr). O-N Tada; B-Mme M Barth; T-Tony Clout; J-Thierry Gillet; FF140,000. Lifetime Record: MGSP, 9 starts, 3 wins, 4 places, FF496,000.

2--Kick Boxer (Fr), 123, c, 3, Exit To Nowhere (USA)--Kapuchka (Ire), by Soviet Star (USA). FF48,000.

3--Boutron (Fr), 128, c, 3, Exit To Nowhere (USA)--Vindelonde (Fr), by No Lute (Fr). FF36,000

Margins: SNK, 1HF, 1HF. Odds: 17-10, 2-1, 9-1. Also ran: Lasting Life (Ire), Homme De Paques (Fr), Darjeeling (Fr), Encore Bien (USA), Hittite (Fr).

Prix Montenica, Cont., p. 2



IDRIS Champion Older Horse

Quadruple Group Winner - won 11 races 2-6 years, by Ahonoora

40 First Crop Two Year Olds 2000 – Fee: £4,000 Oct 1

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Prix Montenica, Cont.

The most experienced runner in the field, Crystal D'Ass finished in the money in three Group races last season, notably second in the G3 Prix de Conde and second again in the G3 Prix Thomas Bryon in mid-November. Making his first start of the season, he went straight to the front from his wide draw, relaxed well in front, leading from the rank Lasting Life (Ire) (Rainbows For Life {Can}). Still in command two furlongs out, he easily saw off the challenge of Lasting Life and was then strongly put to the test by Kick Boxer, who looked the probable winner inside the final half-furlong, but, under a hands and heels ride, Crystal D'Ass stayed on well to collect his first stakes win. "Last season, I thought that he would be a staying type," said trainer Tony Clout, "but after today's race I can't say it for sure as our jockey, Thierry Gillet, took the field at a slow pace and it was not a real stamina test. I will study all options with his owner before making a decision about where to go next."

3.00 Maisons-Laffitte, Prix Ksamando (Mdn.), FF180,000, 3-14, Unraced 3yo, 71/2T, 1:39.50, vsf. **MIRACULOUS (FR)** (c, 3, Linamix {Fr}--Bernique {USA} {SW, GSP-USA, \$122,033}, by Affirmed {USA}), settled in second as Yankee Doodle Boy (Ire) led, quickened well two furlongs out and ran on well under a hands and heels ride to comfortably resist the late move of Heavenly Fancy (USA) (Holy Bull {USA}) along the rail by a half-length, winning at odds of 11/10. The first two finished three lengths clear of the rest in the field of five. Lifetime Record: 1 start, 1 win, FF90,000. O/B-Jean-Luc Lagardere; T-Andre Fabre; J-Olivier Peslier.

4.35 Maisons-Laffitte, Prix Androcles (Cond.), 3-14, FF110,000, 3yo, 11/4mT, 2:15.70, vsf. **LE MERITANT (FR)** (c, 3, Funambule {USA}--Garmeritte {Fr}, by Garde Royale {Ire}), at the generous odds of 32-1, was another horse to benefit from the initiative of Davy Bonilla here. Always going easily in front, he set a sensible pace before lengthening away from Flemming (USA) (Green Dancer {USA}) to score by a comfortable four lengths. He is a half-brother to Trait de Genie (Fr) (Diamond Prospect), 2x Hwt. Older Horse, 11-14f-Swi, MSW-Swi, MSW & GSP-Fr. Lifetime Record: 4 starts, 1 win, 1 place, FF90,000. O-J Bouchara; B-Bertrand de Tarragon; T-A Lyon; J-Davy Bonilla.

★ BRITAIN ★

Yesterday's Results:

1.45 Southwell, Bet Direct From Littlewoods Classified S. (Class F) (Cond.), 3-14, £3,255, 3yo/up, 7f (AWT), 1:31.70, std.

ODDSANENDS (GB) (g, 4, Alhijaz {GB}--Jans Contessa {GB}, by Rabdan {GB}), the 7-2 favourite, made the advantage he had stolen before the straight count here, his jockey allowing him to use his stride to power clear of Indian Swinger (Ire) (Up And At'Em {GB}) to win by three lengths. Lifetime Record: 13-2-2-1, £12,736. O-Harrowgate Bloodstock Ltd; T-David Barron; J-Carl Lowther.

★ UNITED STATES ★

EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS IN AMERICA:

8th-PHA, \$18,888, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:10 1/5, ft.
INVERGORDON (GB) (g, 5, Efisio {GB}--Kintail {GB}, by Kris {GB}) Lifetime Record: 26-8-2-2, \$71,983. O-Home Team Stables. B-Sir David Wills (GB). T-Scott A Lake.

Today at Santa Anita:

SASIN (IRE) (f, 3, Last Tycoon {Ire}--Skisette {Ire}, by Malinowski) made two starts in France, finishing far back in each, including a 14th-place in her most recent Sept. 14 at Saint-Cloud. Formerly trained by Carlos Laffon-Parias, she takes on 10 other maiden fillies in a one-mile test on the Santa Anita turf. Lifetime Record: 2-0-0-0, \$0.
 O-William McAlpin. B-Mrs. D. Hutch (Ire); T-Patrick Gallager.

★ UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ★

ELEVEN DAYS...AND COUNTING...TO WORLD CUP

Richard Hannon is a trainer accustomed to travel, and he will undertake another journey with one of his stable stars again today when **Bold Edge (GB)** (Beveled {USA}) flies to Dubai ready for racing in the \$1 million Listed Dubai Golden Shaheen on Dubai World Cup night. Bold Edge can lay claim to being one of Europe's top older sprinters, having been rated 117 in the International Classifications last year. The rating was on the strength of victories in the G2 Cork & Orrery S. and the G2 Diadem S. at Ascot, as well as his second place behind champion European sprinter Stravinsky (USA) (Nureyev {USA}) in the G1 July Cup at Newmarket. "Bold Edge leaves (today), and he looks good," said Hannon. "We worked him at Newbury on Sunday and we were pleased with him. He's a hard horse to get fit, but hopefully that gallop will have put him right. If he hits the gate like he normally does the kickback won't be a problem. He's got 10 days out there so we can work him twice to get him ready."

★ MAIDEN WINNERS ★

Miraculous (Fr), c, 3, Linamix (Fr)--Bernique (USA) (SW, GSP-USA, \$122,033), by Affirmed (USA). Maisons-Laffitte, France, Prix Ksamando (Mdn.), 3-14, 3yo, 7 1/2fT, FF90,000 to winner. B-Jean-Luc Lagardere.
Le Meritant (Fr), c, 3, Funambule (USA)--Garmeritte (Fr), by Garde Royale (Ire). Maisons-Laffitte, France, Prix Androcles (Cond.), 3-14, 3yo, 11/4mT, FF55,000 to winner. B-Bertrand de Tarragon. *1/2 to Trait de Genie (Fr) (Diamond Prospect, 2x Hwt. Older Horse, 11-14f-Swi, MSW-Swi, MSW & GSP-Fr.