

HIP HAPPENINGS AT KEEJAN

...p5

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HEADLINE NEWS

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TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 2004

HORSE OF THE YEAR HONORS FOR FALBRAV

He didn't top any category on the International Classifications, but Scuderia Rencati and Teruya Yoshida's **Falbrav (Ire)** (Fairy King) was Monday named the 2003



Falbrav Scoop/Dyga photo

British Horseracing Board's Horse of the Year. The new honors were unveiled alongside the 27th International Classifications at Portman Square in London. BHB Chairman Peter Savill was on hand to launch the inaugural awards. Falbrav, who enjoyed Group 1 successes in the Prix d'Ispahan, Eclipse S., International S., Queen Elizabeth II S. and Hong Kong Cup in 2003, also collected the newly devised BHB Middle Distance Championship by collecting the most points in Sandown's Eclipse, the King George at Ascot and the International at York. He received a glowing tribute from Savill, who commented, "It is with much pleasure that the award for Horse of the Year is made to Falbrav, who competed in 10 consecutive Group 1s...over an eight-month season. This doubles the BHB awards tally, as he collected the inaugural BHB Middle Distance Championship in the summer after his performances at Ascot, Sandown and York. He was talented, consistent and versatile at the very highest level and epitomised the benefits that can be reaped from keeping a top-class older horse in training." Falbrav's trainer Luca Cumani added, "Falbrav was a special horse, because not only is he beautiful, but he has the physical strength and mental strength which enabled him to run in and win so many top-class races across the world." **Year-end Awards cont. p4**

ON THE WAR PATH AT KEENELAND JANUARY

La Galerie (Arg) (Southern Halo), in foal to GI Breeders' Cup Mile hero War Chant (Danzig), brought a final bid of \$800,000 to share top honors at the opener of the Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale in Lexington yesterday. The eight-year-old mare, named champion juvenile filly in her native country after victories in the G1 Saturnino J. Unzue S. and G2 Gran Premio Carlos Casares, was consigned by Three Chimneys Sales, agent. She was purchased for \$140,000 as a yearling by Robert Clay and Cobra Farm, a price Clay believes to have been a record at the time for a yearling in Argentina. After her championship season, she was sent to the U.S. to continue her career with trainer John Kimmel. The bay was a four-time allowance winner and finished third in the GII Distaff Breeders' Cup H. and GII Genuine Risk H. in 2002. Rick Trontz signed the ticket on behalf of Mrs. Betty Mabee yesterday. "She's got Halo and a lot of good stuff in the pedigree," Trontz said. "It's a great outcross...look at all the Mr. Prospector and Northern Dancer stallions you can breed to. It's all blue sky." Also bringing \$800,000 Monday was the five-year-old broodmare **Spring Meadow** (Meadowlake). Consigned by Darby Dan Farm, agent, she was bought by Live Oak Stud. **KeeJan cont. p2**

HAWK WING TOPS THE CLASSIFICATIONS

It has been a long wait for Aidan O'Brien to join the magic 130 club in the International Classifications, but Susan Magnier's superb G1 Lockinge S. winner **Hawk Wing** (Woodman) finally made the breakthrough for his trainer this year. His 11-length romp at Newbury in May saw him achieve a rating of 133 pounds, one pound clear of His Highness the Aga Khan's G1 Prix du Jockey-Club and G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe hero **Dalakhani (Ire)** (Darshaan {GB}), the highest-rated sophomore. "Racing is all about opinion and interpretation and Hawk Wing has probably created a larger divergence of opinion among us than any other horse for a number of years," BHB Senior handicapper Nigel Gray commented yesterday. "In my personal opinion, Falbrav would have been my horse of the year too for the durability, versatility and top-class consistency that he showed. But we weren't able to reach a rating of any higher than 127 for him on the strength of his form." **Int'l Classifications cont. p4**

2004 INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS FOUR-YEAR-OLDS PLUS

HORSE	SIRE	RATING
Hawk Wing	Woodman	133
Mubtaker	Silver Hawk	130
Candy Ride (Arg)	Ride the Rails	127
Falbrav (Ire)	Fairy King	127
High Chaparral (Ire)	Sadler's Wells	127
Johar	Gone West	127
Mineshaft	A.P. Indy	127

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Keeneland January cont.

Stealing the Show....Mabee...

Betty Mabee has come a long way since she and her late husband John purchased their first two yearlings for a total of \$6,000 at the Del Mar yearling sale in 1957. The passing of John Mabee in April 2002 could have led his widow to divest her holdings, but she has nonetheless persevered and continues to maintain a sizable racing stable on the West Coast. The Mabees, who bought Golden Eagle Farm in Ramona, California in 1972, bred more than 130 stakes winners and earned three Eclipse Awards for outstanding breeder. Mrs. Mabee, now 83, signaled her continued commitment to the industry yesterday at Keeneland, adding to an already formidable broodmare band with the purchase of eight horses. "[Mrs. Mabee] is just trying to get some nice mares with new blood and some quality to add to the band," said Hopewell Farm's Rick Trontz, who is bidding on behalf of Mabee. "[Golden Eagle] had gotten rid of some mares and now they're trying to beef back up again." Trontz, who boards upwards of 20 mares for Mrs. Mabee, indicated that she had planned on attending the Keeneland November sale, but was forced to remain in Southern California due to the wildfires that raged not far from Golden Eagle. In addition to the session topper, Trontz acquired five other six-figure mares for Golden Eagle Monday, including the 10-year-old Heaven to Earth (Regal Classic), who was purchased for \$350,000. After producing Jade Hunter foals in 2000 and 2001, the attractive chestnut was sold for \$575,000 carrying a Thunder Gulch colt at the 2001 November Sale. A half sister to Colour Chart (Mr. Prospector), the dam of ill-fated Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies winner Tempera, Heaven to Earth is the dam of a yearling colt by Gone West and was sold carrying a foal by Mr. Greeley. She was consigned to the sale by Taylor Made Sales Agency. Trontz was also responsible for the purchase of Cee's Elegance (Cee's Tizzy). The winner of the GII A Gleam Invitational H., the gray mare earned over \$744,000 at the races and was hammered down for \$320,000 from the consignment of Taylor Made Sales Agency. Trontz said that there has been no decision as to what stallions the mares would visit this year, and that Mrs. Mabee will consider either racing or selling the offspring. "She's breeding for the commercial market," he explained. "You have to wait and see how [the foal] turns out before you decide what to do with it." Golden Eagle Farm has raced such stars as Best Pal, General Challenge, Excellent Meeting and Event of the Year, who stands for a 2004 stud fee of \$10,000 at the Ramona nursery.

Spring Is in the Air...

Graded-stakes winner **Spring Meadow** (Meadowlake--Go for It Lady, by Mr. Prospector), sold as a broodmare prospect, was the co-topper at yesterday's session, going to Live Oak Stud for \$800,000. The five-year-old was bought for \$200,000 by David Shimmon as a two-year-old and was campaigned by the Fog City Stable of Shimmon and Bob Bianco. Although based on the West Coast, the chestnut made a name for herself while racing in New York at three, finishing second to Carson Hollow in the GI Prioress S. at Belmont and third to You and the Prioress winner in the GI Test S. at Saratoga after being shut off at the quarter pole. She concluded the year with a runner-up finish to Got Koko in the GI La Brea S., began 2003 with a victory in the GIII Las Flores H. and went on to win stakes races at Delaware and Fairplex before retiring with earnings of \$496,123. Eric Hamelback, general manager of Live Oak Stud, thought she was the pick of the catalogue. "Typically we come into a sale, go through the catalogue and try to find the best mare in the sale," he said. "Michael Youngs and I thought that she definitely was the best. She had the pedigree, she had the race record." He added, "We do not intend to race her, but matings have not been determined. Obviously we can go several different ways. She's a wonderful mare, a wonderful physical, the phenotype was exactly what we wanted. We had her appraised a little bit less going in, but for \$800,000, we were very happy and we feel like we got our money's worth, whereas in November it was tough to get a horse for fair value." Davant Latham, an advisor to David Shimmon and Bob Bianco and the bloodstock director at Darby Dan Farm, was also pleased with the final bid. "We knew she had the potential to sell, but you never want to get your hopes too high," Latham said. "She was such a beautiful filly, such a classy filly, and was an inch away from winning the Test. It was fun to see her go through the sale. It was in some ways a bittersweet moment, for me and the people at Fog City, because she's been such a special filly. They were torn [about selling] because they're not in the breeding game, but if you're going to start, what a mare to start with. We're very happy that Live Oak got her. We know she'll have every opportunity she could possibly have."

Keeneland January cont. p3

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Keeneland January cont.

Adena Acquires Fleet Forever Partners...

Frank Stronach won a protracted bidding duel to claim 2002 Colleen S. winner **Forever Partners** (Not For Love) for \$410,000 yesterday. Bred by Timber Creek Farm, the four-year-old bay filly was originally purchased by Skeedattle Associates as a yearling for \$50,000 at the 2001 EASMAY sale. Campaigned by that ownership and trained by Tony Dutrow, the New Jersey-bred made an immediate impression at the races, breaking her maiden by a nose at first asking before posting an 11-length score in the Colleen, an effort for which she received a Beyer Speed Figure of 94. Shelved following a runner-up effort to Awesome Humor in the GI Spinaway S., she returned to take a Pimlico allowance last April before finishing an unlucky third in the GIII Miss Preakness S. in what would become her final start in May. "She was just a very, very fast filly...very talented," commented Dan Hall, manager of Stronach's Adena Springs Farm. "She stood out to me. She's got all the physical qualities that we like--she's a beautiful mare and she's very well-balanced. There could be a little more depth to her pedigree, but she had a lot of quality. She's really difficult to fault." Forever Partners was consigned to the sale by Taylor Made Sales Agency.

TOP FIVE BROODMARE/RACING PROSPECTS


- | | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Hip | Name | Covering Sire | Price |
| 163 | La Galerie (Arg) | War Chant | \$800,000 |
| | <i>(8, Southern Halo--Aquarelle, by Logical)</i> | | |
| | Consigned by Three Chimneys Sales, Agent | | |
| | Purchased by Betty L. Mabee/Hopewell Farm, agent | | |
| 343 | Spring Meadow | racing/b'mare prospect | \$800,000 |
| | <i>(5, Meadowlake--Go for It Lady, by Mr. Prospector)</i> | | |
| | Consigned by Darby Dan Farm, Agent V | | |
| | Purchased by Live Oak Stud | | |
| 345 | Virginie (Brz) | Giant's Causeway | \$550,000 |
| | <i>(10, Legal Case--Misty Moon {Brz}, by Baronius)</i> | | |
| | Consigned by Denali Stud (Craig Bandoroff), Agent XVI | | |
| | Purchased by Aki Kato, agent for Isami Nakamura | | |
| 93 | Forever Partners | racing/b'mare prospect | \$410,000 |
| | <i>(4, Not for Love--My New Pal, by Saratoga Six)</i> | | |
| | Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent IL | | |
| | Purchased by Frank Stronach | | |
| 300 | Star of Wicklow | Forest Wildcat | \$400,000 |
| | <i>(13, Fast Play--Bright Choice, by Best Turn)</i> | | |
| | Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent LXXVII | | |
| | Purchased by Gainesway Farm | | |

May Day...

He may be a May 22 foal, but a son of Unbridled's Song topped the yearlings at Keeneland January yesterday, bringing a final bid of \$230,000. Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency, Agent LXIV, the gray colt was purchased by Buzz Chace, agent for Bill Poston of Atlanta, Georgia. Poston plans to resell the horse later in the summer. "He's a little bit of a late baby, but he's got all the right parts," Chace said. "I think he's going to mature into a beautiful horse. He reminds me a lot of his father. I thought he was just outstanding." The yearling is out of a half sister to SW Fly North (Pleasant Colony), the dam of 2002 champion three-year-old filly Farda Amiga (Broad Brush).

All In The Family...

Denis Sheehy, acting as agent for an unnamed client who "has a stud farm in Country Cork, Ireland" went to \$160,000 to land a yearling filly by Maria's Mon, from the draft of Taylor Made Sales Agency. The second-best seller at the Keeneland January opener, the chestnut is the second foal from Primaly, who was named champion two-year-old in Canada after running second to Countess Diana in the 1997 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. Primaly is a daughter of Canadian Broodmare of the Year Primarily, who is also the dam of Sovereign Award winner Poetically. The family has been extremely live in this sales ring of late. At last year's November sale, Primaly was purchased by Haruya Yoshida for \$575,000 in foal to Fusaichi Pegasus, while Poetically was knocked down to B. Wayne Hughes for \$2.05 million carrying a foal by A.P. Indy. "The family was the attraction," Sheehy explained. "You're buying from a champion that bred two champions. We paid enough for it, but we wanted it. It's the only one we wanted. She's going back to race in Ireland and she'll be trained by either D.K. [Dermot] Weld or Kevin Prendergast."

	KEENELAND JANUARY STATISTICS		
	MONDAY, JAN. 12, 2004		
SESSION TOTALS	2004	2003	
No. Offered	322	316	
No. Sold	226	208	
RNAs	96	108	
% RNA	29.8%	34%	
Gross	\$14,861,100	\$10,683,200	
Average (% change)	\$65,757 (+28%)	\$51,362	
Median (% change)	\$30,000 (unch.)	\$30,000	
	www.keeneland.com		



Keeneland's January Horses of All Ages Sale

For updates and results, visit www.keeneland.com.

The sale continues through Friday, January 12.



Year-end Awards cont.

The BHB System...

Under the new BHB awards system, the highest-rated British-trained horses in their respective Classifications divisions were named as champions, with overseas horses eligible if the category-topping rating was achieved on a British racecourse. Among the juvenile colts, the panel could not split Abdulla Buhaleeba's G2 Vintage S. and G2 Champagne S. winner **Lucky Story** (Kris S.), Paul Dixon's G1 Dewhurst S. victor **Milk it Mick (GB)** (Millkom {GB}) and Juddmonte's disqualified G1 Middle Park S. scorer **Three Valleys** (Diesis {GB}).

International Classifications cont.

How the Classifications Work...

"We have to do what we think right on the information that is available to us," Nigel Gray explained. "We have to seek to reflect what happens on the racecourse. Isn't it possible that Newbury was the one occasion where Hawk Wing had everything in his favour and where he was able to show his real form for the first and only time? The problem with trying to find a rating for a top-class horse is trying to ascertain exactly how good he is. You have to take a view on Falbrav's victory in the International. We took the view that Darryll Holland went about 3 1/2 lengths clear before deciding that he'd done enough and easing up. We rated him as a winner by 3 1/2 or four lengths, but we couldn't justify going any further. We are giving a rating to a horse's performances, not just to the horse. We will never know if, given different circumstances, Falbrav would have beaten Hawk Wing over a mile or a mile and a quarter--wouldn't it be great to have found out? Falbrav is as good as 127. He might have been better. But what we can say is that through all our examination of Hawk Wing's win at Newbury, he must be rated higher." The Niarchos Family's **Bago (Fr)** (Nashwan), who closed out his unbeaten juvenile campaign in the G1 Criterium International at Saint-Cloud in November, is the top-rated two-year-old colt on 121 pounds. That rating makes him the lowest top-rated juvenile since Grand Lodge led the division in 1992.

BHB 2003 BRITISH FLAT RACING AWARDS

HORSE OF THE YEAR

Falbrav (Ire) (Fairy King) B-Azienda Agricola Francesca

CHAMPION TWO-YEAR-OLD COLTS

Lucky Story (Kris S.) B-WinStar Farm LLC

Milk it Mick (GB) (Millkom {GB}) B-Yvette Dixon

Three Valleys (Diesis {GB}) B-Juddmonte Farms

CHAMPION TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLY

Attraction (GB) (Efisio {GB}) B-Floors Farming

CHAMPION THREE-YEAR-OLD COLT

Alamshar (Ire) (Key of Luck) B-Aga Khan's Studs SC

CHAMPION THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLIES

Airwave (GB) (Air Express {Ire}) B-R T & Mrs Watson

Russian Rhythm (Kingmambo) B-Brushwood Stable

CHAMPION OLDER MALE HORSE

Hawk Wing (Woodman) B-Hill 'N' Dale Farm

CHAMPION OLDER FEMALE HORSE

Islington (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) B-Ballymacoll Stud

CHAMPION SPRINTER

Oasis Dream (GB) (Green Desert) B-Juddmonte Farms

CHAMPION MILER

Hawk Wing (Woodman) B-Hill 'N' Dale Farm

CHAMPION MIDDLE DISTANCE HORSE

Alamshar (Ire) (Key of Luck) B-Aga Khan's Studs SC

CHAMPION STAYERS

Bollin Eric (GB) (Shaamit {Ire}) B-Sir Neil & Lady Westbrook

Mr Dinos (Ire) (Desert King {Ire}) B-Mocklerstown House Stud

CHAMPION APPRENTICE Ryan Moore

CHAMPION JOCKEY Kieren Fallon

CHAMPION TRAINER Sir Michael Stoute

CHAMPION OWNER Khalid Abdullah

2004 INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

THREE-YEAR-OLDS

HORSE	SIRE	RATING
Dalakhani (Ire)	Darshaan (GB)	132
Alamshar (Ire)	Key of Luck	131
Oasis Dream (GB)	Green Desert	125
Dai Jin (GB)	Peintre Celebre	122
Empire Maker	Unbridled	122
Funny Cide	Distorted Humor	122
Kris Kin	Kris S.	122

TWO-YEAR-OLDS

HORSE	SIRE	RATING
Bago (Fr)	Nashwan	121
Attraction (GB)	Efisio (GB)	119
Grey Swallow (Ire)	Daylami (Ire)	119
Lucky Story	Kris S.	118
Milk it Mick (GB)	Millkom (GB)	118
One Cool Cat	Storm Cat	118
Three Valleys	Diesis (GB)	118

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Hip 393, Becky's Shirt (m, 13, *Cure the Blues--Thundertee, by Ye*)

Consigned by Hill 'n' Dale Sales Agency, agent

Three times placed in graded-stakes competition, Becky's Shirt is the dam of Cajun Beat (Grand Slam), who capped an outstanding three-year-old campaign with his powerful victory in the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint Oct. 25. He has since returned to take the GIII Mr. Prospector H. under top weight at Gulfstream Park Jan. 3. The bay carries a foal by Woodman, another Mr. Prospector-line stallion.

Hip 460, Defer West (m, 13, *Gone West--Defer, by Damascus*)

Consigned by Viking Stud Inc., agent for Helen T. Andrews (Twin Hopes Farm)

Defer West set a track record in winning a stakes at Retama Park in 1987 and clearly passed the speed gene on to her latest foal to make the races. Purchased for \$325,000 at last year's FTFFEB sale, Forest Music (Unbridled's Song) turned in arguably the most impressive debut performance of 2003, winning her six-furlong maiden by 8 1/2 lengths in 1:08 2/5, earning a Ragozin of 2 3/4. She has subsequently placed in the Mom's Command S. at Aqueduct. Defer West is also the dam of Shooter (Dehere), winner at two of the GIII Sapling S. She sells in foal to War Chant.

Hip 477, Elucidate (f, *Theatrical {Ire}--Mint Leaf, by Capote*)

Consigned by Viking Stud Inc., agent for Helen T. Andrews (Twin Hopes Farm)

Foaled last Jan. 4, this yearling filly is a half sister to Silver Minister (Silver Deputy), who kicked off the New Year with a five-length victory in the Turfway Prevue S. Jan. 3. The filly is out of Mint Leaf (Capote), who sold for \$180,000 in foal to Distorted Humor at last year's Keeneland November Sale, and is a half sister to MGSW Ide (Forty Niner).

Hip 558, Kirby Meadow (m, 13, *Meadowlake--Retinue, by Vice Regent*)

Consigned by Four Star Sales, agent

When Alphabet Soup won the 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic at Toronto's Woodbine Racetrack, he established a new track record of 2:01 in defeating Louis Quatorze and Cigar. That record stood until last summer when Phantom Light, a son of Alphabet Soup, charged home to win the GIII Dominion Day H. and equalled his sire's record in the process. That effort earned him a Sovereign Award as Canada's leading older horse. Kirby's Meadow sells in foal to Swain (Ire).

Hip 573, Luna Wells (Ire) (m, 11, *Sadler's Wells--Lunadix {Fr}, by Breton {GB}*)

Consigned by Lane's End, agent

A four-time pattern winner overseas, including a victory in the G1 Prix St Alary at three, Luna Wells was exported to the U.S. in late 1996, then returned to Europe, where she sold for 1.7 million guineas at the 1996 Tattersalls December sale. Returned to the U.S., she managed a third-place effort in the GII Las Palmas H. in 1997 the following season. A half sister to prominent stallion Linamix (Fr), Luna Wells is the lone mare in the catalogue in foal to Storm Cat.

Hip 684, Small Promises (m, 6, *Carson City--Promiseville, by Alwasmi*)

Consigned by Fred Seitz/Brookdale Farm, agent

Catalogued as a racing or broodmare prospect, Small Promises won a pair of restricted Canadian stakes and was second in the GIII Maple Leaf S. en route to being named the champion older mare of 2002. Kept in training last year, the gray mare placed in six of her eight trips to the post, including a runner-up finish to Allamerican Bertie in the GIII Sabin H. at Gulfstream Park.

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 2ND **G1 EPSOM DERBY** (TO EUROPEAN CHAMPION **GALILEO**).

COOLMORE



PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

FIRST LADY H.-GIII, \$100,000, GPX, 1-11, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:09 3/5, ft.

1--**HARMONY LODGE**, 119, m, 6, by [Hennessy](#)

1st Dam: **Win Crafty Lady (GSW, \$303,844)**,

by **Crafty Prospector**

2nd Dam: **Honeytab**, by **Al Hattab**

3rd Dam: **Get Up Honey**, by **Buckaneer**

(\$1,650,000 2yo 2000 FTFEB). O-Eugene & Laura Melnyk; B-Sabine Stables (KY); T-Todd A Pletcher; J-R Migliore; \$60,000. Lifetime Record: GISW, 19-10-1-4, \$735,120. *1/2 to Graeme Hall (Dehere), MGSW & GISP, \$1,147,441; and Win's Fair Lady (Dehere), MSW, \$150,485.

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#).

If you want to see a demonstration of Sod's Law, all you have to do is sell a struggling young stallion to Japan. In no time at all--as the owners of Wild Rush have recently witnessed--the stakes winners will then start to flow and the hitherto-neglected stallion will suddenly be back in the news. Unfortunately, most of these stallions are gone beyond recall by that time.

However, the Coolmore/Ashford team has, not for the first time, pioneered a system which effectively helps them have their cake and eat it. Instead of selling a young stallion when his popularity or results take a temporary dip, they have sometimes chosen to lease them to Japan. If those results continue to dip, the ticket to Japan eventually proves one way, but Coolmore has usually found that its faith in its stallions pays dividends in the long term.

One of the earliest examples of this was with the much-missed Danehill. Having started his career at a fee of 25,000 Irish guineas in 1990, Danehill's fee had fallen to only 9,000 Irish guineas in 1993 and 1994. Although his popularity began to rise again in 1995, Coolmore leased Danehill to Japan for the Northern Hemisphere season in 1996.

That was the year that Danehill moved up to fifth place on the Anglo-Irish stallion table and he never looked back on his return from Japan.

Royal Academy was another Coolmore stallion who spent the 1996 season in Japan, perhaps because he hadn't provided his patrons with much of a profit at the 1995 yearling sales. Since then, Coolmore has leased the likes of Thunder Gulch (1999), Hennessy (2001), Peintre Celebre (2001) and Spinning World (2002).

Thunder Gulch's departure was no doubt precipitated by the fact that he was approaching the traditionally difficult fourth season and his first yearlings had met with very mixed results at the sales. Peintre Celebre, for his part, had covered fewer mares in his second season than his first, so it made sense to try pastures new in his third season.

For Hennessy, a trip to the Orient became an option after his first runners had mainly failed to live up to expectations in 2000. Even allowing for the fact that these expectations had been boosted too high by a 1999 yearling average of nearly \$250,000 (off a \$40,000 fee), 11th place on the freshman sires' list was not good enough. A Group 3 win in Ireland by Perigee Moon and a \$27,000 stakes win by Airy Hill were not going to be enough to fill Hennessy's book in 2001, so off he went.

Hennessy's early results were particularly disappointing because precocity is one thing we have come to demand and expect from this male line. Hennessy's grandsire Storm Bird was unbeaten at two, winning four Group races on his way to the title of Europe's champion juvenile in 1980, and his sire Storm Cat has been champion sire of juveniles on no fewer than six occasions. Storm Cat owed his 1995 title largely to Hennessy's efforts. Maturing early, Hennessy quickly achieved a sequence of four impressive victories, notably gaining graded stakes successes by 5 1/2, 9 3/4 and 3 1/4 lengths. Hennessy also matched Storm Cat's feat of finishing a close second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Pedigree Insights cont. p7

ANOTHER EXCITING 3-Y-O COLT

His current 3-y-o crop includes the Stakes winning colts **HAJJI'S HONOR** and **LISSAU**, as well as the unbeaten **HOSCO** – now 3 for 3 after winning the **G3 San Miguel S.** at Santa Anita on Sunday.

But best of all, his best-bred crop of 2-y-o's will be running this year.

HONOUR AND GLORY

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G1 winner **Harmony Lodge** (by **HENNESSY**) won her second consecutive **G3 First Lady H.** also on Sunday.



Pedigree Insights cont.

Fortunately, Hennessy soon set about restoring his reputation. The Grade II successes of Distilled in the Illinois Derby and Keats in the GII Lexington S. provided a good start to 2001 and even better followed when Hennessy's second-crop juveniles began to show their paces. Johannesburg, a very good early-season juvenile, proved to be so much more, reeling off Group 1 wins in Ireland, France, England and the United States.

Hennessy also enjoyed success with GIII Cowdin S. Sunray Spirit, so he didn't have any difficulty in attracting mares on his return to Kentucky from Japan. With his 2002 fee set at \$45,000, he covered 146 mares.

But there is a downside to the concept of leasing stallions to Japan, and Hennessy is about to experience it—he has no juvenile crop to represent him in the West this year. The same applies to Peintre Celebre in Europe, but his problems may be delayed until 2005, when he will have to rely on a limited number of older horses and a batch of juveniles bred to go a distance.

Inevitably, these stallions will find it harder to take high rank on the stallion tables over the next two years. It remains to be seen whether breeders and buyers are going to make allowances for this, and I rather doubt that they will. My fear is that these stallions may again face dwindling demand in a year or two, causing further peaks and troughs later in their careers. The only way out is for these stallions to offset their lack of a whole crop by coming up with a star performer or two.

Hennessy might have had just such a star had Cactus Ridge not been retired after he'd won all four starts, but he does have Harmony Lodge working for him.

This mare is still going strong at the age of six, as she showed with her repeat victory in the GIII First Lady H. She had helped increase the hype surrounding Hennessy's first-crop juveniles, causing something of a sensation at Fasig-Tipton's two-year-old sale at Calder. The \$1,650,000 bid she drew from Eugene Melnyk constituted a record for a juvenile filly and the money looked well spent when she equalled the track record for 5 1/2 furlongs on her debut at Saratoga.

At that stage, it seemed fair to expect Harmony Lodge to develop into a leading juvenile, but her Saratoga race proved to be her only start at two. Indeed she hadn't won a graded stakes by the time she turned five, but she has made ample amends since and her recent Gulfstream win was her fifth at graded level.

In some respects, her record mirrors that of her dam Win Crafty Lady. A dual winner at two, Win Crafty Lady didn't become a graded winner until five, when she took the GIII Interborough H. over six furlongs.

Win Crafty Lady is by Crafty Prospector, a son of Mr. Prospector, whereas Diligence, produced by Harmony Lodge's second dam Honeytab, was by another son, Miswaki. Diligence, twice a graded winner at seven furlongs, is at stud in Florida, as is Win Crafty Lady's Dehere colt Graeme Hall, who earned over \$1.1 million.

Harmony Lodge ranks alongside Cactus Ridge and Distilled as one of three graded winners sired by Hennessy from granddaughters of Mr. Prospector. They represent four percent of his foals bred to this pattern and I will be surprised if there aren't plenty more good winners to come from this cross. Chances are, though, that we won't see them until next year.

TDN INSTA-TISTICS

Top 10 Freshman Sires of Weanlings of 2003

(Listed by Average Selling Price)

***** 2003 Weanling Sales *****							
Rank	Sire	Ring	Sold	Average	Median	TopColt	TopFilly
1	FANTASTIC LIGHT	1	1	\$280,000	\$280,000	***	\$280,000
2	TIZNOW	11	9	133,556	137,000	137,000	300,000
3	POINT GIVEN	16	15	122,667	105,000	355,000	275,000
4	EL CORREDOR	10	8	112,125	92,500	225,000	130,000
5	APTITUDE	11	8	111,125	81,000	75,000	205,000
6	GALILEO	2	2	80,000	80,000	110,000	***
7	FOREST CAMP	19	18	67,417	53,500	120,000	140,000
8	TALK IS MONEY	6	4	66,500	69,500	72,000	75,000
9	BROKEN VOW	11	11	57,364	45,000	120,000	105,000
10	ECTON PARK	9	8	54,938	29,000	250,000	50,000

For more in-depth coverage of sales and sires, read *Racing Update*. For subscription information, call 888-329-8729.

MAKE TRACKS

to Barn 21 Late Tuesday

#693 STEAL OF THE NIGHT • Her first foal, by GRAND SLAM, ran 2nd in a stakes since the catalog!



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TDN INSTA-TISTICS

Top 50 Sires of Weanlings of 2003

(Listed by Average Selling Price)

Rank	Sire	FY	***** 2003 Weanling Sales *****						*** 2003 Yearling Sales		
			Ring	Sold	Average	Median	TopColt	TopFilly	Sold	Average	Median
1	STORM CAT	F89	4	4	\$1,368.75	\$1,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$1,400.00	15	\$945.33	\$1,000.00
2	DANEHILL DANCER	F98	1	1	375.000	375.000	375.000	***	25	67,415	39,904
3	GONE WEST	F89	4	2	315.000	315.000	130.000	500.000	19	461,187	200,000
4	THUNDER GULCH	F97	4	4	282.500	140.000	800.000	230.000	56	115,134	75,000
5	DEPUTY MINISTER	F85	4	3	280.000	210.000	500.000	210.000	21	285,476	220,000
5	FANTASTIC LIGHT	F03	1	1	280.000	280.000	***	280.000	***	***	***
7	UNBRIDLED'S SONG	F98	6	4	221,250	187,500	400.000	175.000	40	272,188	200,000
8	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	F02	9	7	214,286	250.000	300.000	300.000	64	242,142	150,000
9	DYNAFORMER	F91	3	2	210.000	210.000	220.000	***	25	100,454	75,000
10	WAR CHANT	F02	6	5	181.000	150.000	250.000	230.000	16	208,000	200,000
11	SAINT BALLADO	F94	5	4	165.500	140.000	350.000	130.000	38	214,947	147,500
12	DIESIS	F85	4	4	162.500	115.000	140.000	370.000	20	199,168	103,249
13	FORTY NINER	F90	1	1	160.000	160.000	160.000	***	2	110.000	110,000
13	MACHIAVELLIAN	F92	2	2	160.000	160.000	***	180.000	28	303,163	210,477
13	ZAFONIC	F95	1	1	160.000	160.000	***	160.000	35	100,875	68,688
16	LEMON DROP KID	F02	9	5	159.600	90.000	140.000	460.000	38	217,147	132,500
17	SILVER DEPUTY	F90	7	6	138,833	100.000	350.000	210.000	26	157,762	142,500
18	RAHY	F91	4	3	137,333	155.000	200.000	57.000	17	155,856	70,000
19	PULPIT	F99	4	3	136.667	100.000	210.000	100.000	22	185,318	160,000
20	CHEROKEE RUN	F97	6	6	133.667	96.000	200.000	290.000	24	124,813	90,000
21	TIZNOW	F03	11	9	133,556	137.000	137.000	300.000	***	***	***
22	GRAND SLAM	F00	17	14	124,429	115.000	400.000	155.000	35	152,371	110,000
23	POINT GIVEN	F03	16	15	122,667	105.000	355.000	275.000	***	***	***
24	DIXIELAND BAND	F86	3	2	120.000	120.000	***	180.000	26	97,694	65,000
25	COZZENE	F87	3	2	115.000	115.000	150.000	80.000	15	188,213	180,000
26	TALE OF THE CAT	F00	13	11	113,364	85.000	250.000	145.000	34	109,470	61,500
27	EL CORREDOR	F03	10	8	112,125	92,500	225.000	130.000	***	***	***
28	APTITUDE	F03	11	8	111,125	81,000	75.000	205.000	***	***	***
29	HENNESSY	F98	16	14	109,429	95.000	200.000	130.000	***	***	***
30	SWAIN	F00	3	3	109,333	75.000	225.000	28.000	11	48,193	40,000
31	DISTORTED HUMOR	F00	13	10	107,500	39,500	350.000	150.000	35	106,229	45,000
32	FORESTRY	F01	10	6	105,833	65.000	250.000	75.000	25	249,920	190,000
33	FOREST WILDCAT	F98	11	7	102,857	90.000	185.000	90.000	34	113,000	65,000
34	GULCH	F90	10	7	102,714	82.000	220.000	145.000	16	91,125	37,500
35	MONTBROOK	F96	7	5	100.000	72.000	300.000	28.000	16	65,188	50,000
36	RED RANSOM	F92	12	12	97,750	100.000	205.000	190.000	17	142,514	150,000
37	CAT THIEF	F02	9	6	95,333	95.000	175.000	140.000	35	172,114	100,000
38	LURE	F96	2	1	95.000	95.000	95.000	***	2	26.000	26,000
39	CAPE TOWN	F00	8	6	94,833	66.000	170.000	145.000	28	49,927	27,500
40	HIGH YIELD	F02	17	13	93,846	80.000	335.000	115.000	44	114,030	78,500
41	EL PRADO	F94	5	5	89,400	100.000	150.000	42.000	16	164,354	102,500
42	MARIA'S MON	F98	6	6	86,667	77,500	85.000	185.000	48	57,317	41,000
43	DIXIE UNION	F02	10	6	83,667	70.000	50.000	150.000	34	112,050	85,000
44	STRAVINSKY	F01	23	18	81,944	70.000	180.000	195.000	27	85,886	60,000
45	ELUSIVE QUALITY	F00	18	13	81,538	57.000	175.000	290.000	15	48,400	35,000
46	AWESOME AGAIN	F00	3	2	81.500	81,500	115.000	48.000	23	154,391	75,000
47	GALILEO	F03	2	2	80.000	80.000	110.000	***	***	***	***
48	CARSON CITY	F92	5	4	78,750	50.000	200.000	15.000	42	112,349	77,500
49	CAPOTE	F89	3	3	78,333	75.000	90.000	***	18	113,111	51,000
50	NOTEBOOK	F91	3	2	75.000	75.000	95.000	55.000	9	57,444	40,000

 **NORTH AMERICA** 

★ **EAST** ★

Yesterday's Results:

10th-PHA, \$20,880, Alw, NW1X, 4yo/up, f/m, a1m70yd, 1:40 4/5, ft.

NEVER LEFT (f, 4, Seattle Slew--Safe Return, by Mr. Prospector) came home a 4 1/4-length winner in a \$100,000 optional claiming at the Meadowlands Oct. 22 before tiring late in her next two starts, including a \$40,000 optional claimer at Laurel Nov. 30. After a lackluster eighth in her latest, when cutting back to the sprinting ranks over this oval Dec. 23, the granddaughter of Sprint Champion Safely Kept went off a plump 7-1 shot. Just behind the early pace, Never Left took command after a half mile in :45.56, extended her lead turning for home and galloped under the wire an easy 8 1/4-length winner. Lifetime Record: 12-3-1-1, \$63,820.

O/B-Jayeff B Stables (KY). T-Paul Conrad.

The **brisnet.com** 'Race of the Day' is the \$35,000 10th race (allowance) at Sunland Park. For pps and a complete race analysis, click [here](#).

7th-PHA, \$24,396, Msw, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:10 4/5, ft. + **BOBBI'S GIRLS (f, 3, Dixie Brass--Barbarasgoneagain {SW, \$122,488}, by Lil Fappi)** hadn't knocked 'em dead in her morning works, but was live on the tote board for her debut and went postward as the well-supported 2-1 second choice. The Penn-bred bay was content to lay off the leaders up the backstretch and waited until midway through the turn to commence her rally. Moving well from there, she wrested control from longtime pacesetter Attitudeofgratitude (Ire) (Deputy Minister) and outfinished that foe to the wire by 1 1/4 lengths. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$15,960. O-Kamikaze Stable. B/T-Donald S Reeder (PA).

STAKES CLOSINGS

**TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14:
DUBAI WORLD CUP PROGRAM**

- 03-27 \$6,000,000 *Dubai World Cup-G1, Nad, 3yo/up, 2000m (0)*
- 03-27 \$2,000,000 *Dubai Sheema Classic-G1, Nad, 3yo/up, 2400mT (0)*
- 03-27 \$2,000,000 *Dubai Duty Free-G1, Nad, 3yo/up, 1777mT (0)*
- 03-27 \$2,000,000 *Dubai Golden Shaheen-G1, Nad, 3yo/up, 1200m (0)*
- 03-27 \$2,000,000 *UAE Derby-G2, Nad, NH&SH 3&4yo, Nad, 2000m (0)*
- 03-27 \$1,000,000 *Godolphin Mile-G2, Nad, 3yo/up, 1600m (0)*

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2004 STALLION SEASONS include:

A.P. INDY ■ BROAD BRUSH ■ COZZENE ■ DANZIG ■ DYNAFORMER ■ FORESTRY ■ JADE HUNTER ■ MT. LIVERMORE ■ SEEKING THE GOLD ■ SIR CAT

BROODMARES / BROODMARE PROSPECTS include:

INDYAN LIGHTNING – Young daughter of **A.P. INDY** out of a Stakes-Winning full sister to Champion **COMMON GROUNDS**. In foal to **CAME HOME**.

CALIFORNIA SUNSET – Three-year-old broodmare prospect by **DEPUTY MINISTER** out of a full sister to Champion **SUNSHINE FOREVER**.

RACEHORSES include:

ISLAND SAND – 4 starts, 2 wins, 1 second. Winner of 2 in a row; pointing to \$75,000 Busanda S. Jan. 25.

SHEZOSPIRITUAL – Stakes-placed filly was a **5 1/2-length** allowance winner at Santa Anita Jan. 7! Current earnings: **\$136,748**.



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR THIS WEEK'S COMPLETE LISTINGS

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★ NEW YORK ★

Aqueduct Dark Day Simulcasts Begins Jan. 21:

Aqueduct's dark day simulcasting schedule is slated to begin Jan. 21, with a card offering racing from Philadelphia Park (12:25 p.m.), Gulfstream Park (1:30 p.m.) and Turf Paradise (2:25 p.m.). Aqueduct, which will conduct special live racing cards on Monday, Jan. 19 (Martin Luther King Day) and Feb. 16 (Presidents Day), will also offer dark day simulcasting Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 17-18, Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8 and Mar. 15. Admission gates open at 11 a.m. daily.

★ CENTRAL ★

Got Koko Takes Texas Horse of the Year Title:

Grade I winner **Got Koko** (Signal Tap--Baby North, by Northern Baby) was voted Texas Horse of the Year for 2003, according to the Texas Thoroughbred Association Monday. The five-year-old, who also collected a divisional title among fillies and mares, will be honored at the TTA's gala awards banquet, which will be held at Sam Houston Race Park Jan. 17. Got Koko won three Grade II events in 2003, including the Lady's Secret Breeders' Cup H. at Santa Anita Sept. 28, when she finished ahead of 2002 Horse of the Year Azeri. Got Koko capped off the season with a third-place finish behind Adoration and Elloluv in the GI Breeders' Cup Distaff Oct. 25. Bred by Eileen Hartis, the bay is owned by Paul Leung and Aase Headley, whose husband Bruce trains the mare. Five other Texas-bred runners will also be recognized as divisional champions for their accomplishments during the past year: Champion 2yo Colt/Gelding--**There Goes Rocket** (Valid Expectations); Champion 2yo Filly--**Hay Lauren** (Hay Halo); Champion 3yo Colt/Gelding--**Call Me Lefty** (Aggie Southpaw); Champion 3yo Filly--**Lady Mallory** (Leo Castelli); Champion Older Horse--**Pioneer Boy** (Pioneering); Broodmare of the Year--**Baby North**.

TELL IT TO THE TDN...

Want to send a "Letter to the Editor" of the *Thoroughbred Daily News*? Our address is 27 Monmouth St., Red Bank, NJ, 07701; or send a fax to: (732) 747-8955; or an e-mail to:

mediavista@aol.com.

Yesterday's Results:

9th-FGX, \$32,000, Alw, Opt. Clm. (\$40,000), NW2X, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:46 2/5, ft.

PRINCESS PELONA (f, 4, El Prado {Ire}--Peachtree City, by Carson City) broke through by five lengths over this track last February and came back to make it two straight in a NW1X event at Keeneland Apr. 9 for trainer Gene Cilio. Shelved off that effort, the bay rewarded her new conditioner with a victory in her first start in over nine months. Hard held under regular jock Robbie Albarado, she was let loose leaving the backstretch and raced up to join the pacesetter City Rain (Carson City). Those two exchanged blows through a gutsy stretch duel, but Princess Pelona pulled clear late to register the 1 1/2-length victory at 9-2 odds. Lifetime Record: 5-3-1-0, \$75,372.

O-Pope McLean. B-Robert Keck, Pope McLean & John Downs (KY). T-Greg Geier.

7th-FGX, \$28,000, Msw, 3yo, 1 1/16m, 1:48, ft.

+ **CHIVALRIC** (c, 3, A.P. Indy--Ivor Jewel {MGSP-Fr}, by Sir Ivor) settled in midpack early before launching his bid approaching the second turn. Asked to slip through a tight spot along the rail, the reluctant 7-1 chance decided the overland route was a better way to go. Switched to the outside, the first-timer again found himself in tight quarters as a rival ducked in abruptly, but he muscled through with gusto and asserted well in the final strides to score by a 1/2-length margin over Fantasticat (Storm Cat). The winner is a half to Water Street (Storm Bird), MSW & GSP, \$268,051. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$16,800.

O/B-Dorothy S Long (KY). T-Steven M Asmussen.

★ INDUSTRY INFO ★

Racing Museum Historian to Retire:

Tom Gilcoyne, historian for the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, will retire at the end of January after volunteering at the museum for the past 15 years. "Being part of the National Museum of Racing was a great experience," said Gilcoyne. "It gave me the opportunity to take part in many phases of racing and to have an association with some of the people who run the great game that racing is." Museum Director Peter H. Hammell added, "It will be very difficult to replace Tom, a man who has forgotten more about racing than most people know." *Industry Info cont. p3*

👉 Wednesday

Hip 839

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The Last El Gran Senior Filly
Out of a Storm Cat Mare

From the Leading Broodmare Sire of
EMPIRE MAKER, VICAR, GRAND SLAM, etc.



Adena Springs Tops 2003 Breeders:

Adena Springs, with earnings of \$11,550,052, topped all individual breeders in North America in 2003, according to statistics released yesterday by The Jockey Club Information Systems Inc. Adena Springs, who bred the winners of 296 races from 1,956 starts, also leads a second breeders list that includes partnerships, although the nursery was not represented by any runners bred in partnership. Runner-up in the individual standings was John Franks, who bred the winners of 449 races from 3,367 starts for earnings of \$9,717,890. A complete list of the top 100 breeders of 2003 can be found, free of charge, at www.equineline.com.

 **SOPHOMORE SPOTLIGHT**

First-time starters/stakes runners: Sunday, Nov. 30

Sire (Sire's Sire), Farm, 2000 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/SW Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)

- CRAFTY FRIEND** (Crafty Prospector), Hopewell, \$8K, 170/11/1 8-PHA, Alw, 1m, Broadway Bernie, \$30K FTK OCT yrl, 5-1
- ORCHID'S DEVIL** (Forty Niner), 39/9/0 8-SUN, Msw, 6 1/2f, Hawthorne Devil, 6-1
- 9-SUN, Alw, 6f, Mark of Diablo, 9-2

 **AUSTRALASIA** 

MAGIC MILLIONS WRAP-UP

Magic Millions concluded a strong renewal of its Conrad Jupiters Yearling Sale Sunday on the Gold Coast. The Hong Kong bench was especially strong at the auction, but a dwindling supply of Danehill yearlings may have a negative impact on that market in the future. Asked about the importance of Danehill to Hong Kong's presence at Australian sales, Hong Kong trainer David Hayes said: "Danehill is why the Hong Kong buyers come, that is what gets their attention, and it will take a few years to find a replacement for Danehill in Hong Kong. They will still buy here, but they like proven stallions familiar to them, so their buying pattern won't be as obvious." Of this year's auction, Hayes added, "I think most vendors would be happy and as a buyer, it was hard to buy. I was impressed with Catbird (Aus), Fasliyev and King's Best among the freshman sires."

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Grant Pritchard Gordon, making his first foray from England to Magic Millions, bought three yearlings for A\$600,000. Of his experience at the auction, he said, "The sale was stronger than I expected; I had hoped to buy a couple of well-bred fillies but I was blown out completely on a couple of occasions and underbidder once. As long as the sale continues to have an international flavour, it will have international interest. Hopefully another stallion will come along in Danehill's place. There were international pedigrees and nice racy types, but, physically, it is a very tough sale to work, with the heat, particularly in the sale ring."

Australian trainer Lee Freedman, who purchased 12 yearlings for A\$1.01, commented, "I'm very happy with the horses we'll train by Agnes World, Lujain, Singspiel (Ire) and High Yield. Yes, the number of new sires each year represents a challenge, but I am very happy because it's new blood. This sale will become one of the great sales of the world, but it has outgrown the auditorium."

Vinery Stud, which consigned Friday's session-topping A\$800,000 Danehill colt, enjoyed a solid sale. The stud's Dr. Tom Simon said, "We have had a very satisfying sale, we'll take just one filly home and I am happy with the way More Than Ready sold [16 for A\$54,000]. The middle market has been very strong, but at the top end we are missing the top international buyers. There's such a lot of nice Danehills who sold for less than their value."

 **MIDDLE EAST** 

GODOLPHIN SWOOP FOR BADMINTON

Group 1 placed **Badminton (GB)** (Zieten), previously trained by Clive Brittain, has been transferred to Godolphin. The Darley-bred filly, who finished runner-up in the G2 Lowther S. at York in August before filling third spot in the G1 Cheveley Park S. at Newmarket in October, has been transferred by owner Sheikh Marwan Al Maktoum to the Dubai-based operation. Brittain told the *Racing Post* yesterday, "I think she could well turn out to be the most exciting three-year-old filly this year; I always thought she had quite a bit of improvement in her. I think she will prove a good acquisition and I wish Godolphin all the best." Badminton joins Godolphin's other recent recruits **Snow Ridge (Ire)** (Indian Ridge {Ire}), **Carry On Katie** (Fasliyev) and **Punctilious (GB)** (Danehill) as they prepare for the spring Classics.

**AN INVITATION:
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BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-FGX, \$38,500, NW2RT9MX, (S), 4yo/up,
1 1/16mT, 1:45 1/5, fm.

COACH RAGS (g, 8, Sky Classic--Blueyesnlonglegs {SW, \$120,356}, by Yesterdays Hero) Lifetime Record: MSW, 35-11-6-5, \$442,306. O/B-Vickie L Krantz (LA). T-Gary Palmisano.

BREEDERS' EDITION EUROPE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

FRANCE, Pau, 2.05, Cond, €15,000, 4yo, 1 3/16m (AWT), 1:59.00, std.

LUMINDA (IRE) (f, 4, Danehill--Luminosity {GB}, by Sillery) Lifetime Record: 12 starts, 2 wins, 8 places, €41,400. O-J Gispert; B-M3 Elevage; T-Francois Rohaut. *1/2 to Little Treasure (Fr) (Night Shift), SW-Fr & MGSW-US, \$305,215.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ **Mutawaja (Fr), f, 3, Double Bed (Fr)--Vashka,** by Alysheba. Pau, France, 1-12, Mdn, 3yo, f, 7 1/2 f (AWT). B-Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa al Nahyan.

Honest Injun (GB), c, 3, Efisio (GB)--Sioux (GB), by Kris (GB). Wolverhampton, Britain, 1-12, Mdn, 3yo, 7f (AWT). B-Guy Reed.

Quatzhill (Fr), c, 3, Sabrehill--Quatzie (Fr), by Johann Quatz (Fr). Pau, France, 1-12, Mdn, 3yo, c/g, 7 1/2 f (AWT). B-GFA Haras du Hoguenet and Mme Y Blaise. *€9,000 yrl '02 DEAOCT.

★ **Watch Out for "TDN Rising Stars" ★**
Stars of tomorrow grabbing the spotlight today...

WRITERS UP

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

by Lucas Marquardt

One is an undefeated Grade I winner whose facile victories have the West Coast dreaming they have a Kentucky Derby contender. The other banked over a million dollars in 2003 and won two Grade I races, one at a mile and a quarter, the other at seven furlongs. The connections of Lion Heart and Island Fashion, however, will not be holding their breath at the Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood, Florida, awaiting the announcement of champion two-year-old colt and



Lion Heart
Benoit photo

three-year-old filly, respectively. Neither horse was a finalist. Should they have been? Yeah, probably. But the timing of their primary accomplishments--in late December, well after the Eclipse Award ballots had been mailed--meant that many voters had already picked their winners. Ah well, there's always next year.

As beleaguered fans of college football will attest, any system to crown a champion short of a legitimate playoff format with a championship event will cause derision among the cognoscenti. In Thoroughbred racing, the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships, ostensibly, was to be such an event. And while many horses have been named Eclipse champion off a single North American start that just happened to be a Breeders' Cup win--Johannesburg, Bank's Hill (GB) and High Chaparral (Ire) are recent examples--many runners with legitimate claims to end-of-year honors who simply don't or can't make the Breeders' Cup aren't left out in the cold. *Writers Up cont. p5*

All horses in the *TDN* are bred in North America, unless otherwise indicated

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THINK POSITIVE. THINK IRISH-BRED.

European Champion 3-Year-Old.....	DALAKHANI (IRE)
European Champion Filly.....	ISLINGTON (IRE)
Jt European Champion 3-Year-Old (9.5-10.5f).....	ALAMSHAR (IRE)
Jt European Champion Stayer.....	MR DINOS (IRE)
Jt European Champion Stayer.....	VINNIE ROE (IRE)



Writers Up cont.

This year, neither four-time Grade I winner Mineshaft (older horse division) nor three-time Grade I winner Empire Maker (three-year-old male division) made the Breeders' Cup (both were retired off minor injuries in early October), yet both obviously deserved to be finalists. The Breeders' Cup is not, in fact, the end-all, be-all indicator of championship honors. So why, then, did many of the folks who vote on the Eclipse awards seemingly stop paying attention to racing after the Breeders' Cup and tune out while a pair of horses made a play for divisional superiority with some late-season heroics?

First, Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith's Lion Heart. The chiseled chestnut, who fetched a sale-topping bid of \$1.4 million at last year's Fasig-Tipton February two-year-olds in training sale, made his belated debut Oct. 24, winning a Santa Anita maiden by a length. Romping by six in his stakes debut, the Nov. 15 GIII Hollywood Prevue S., he wrapped up his season with a 3 1/2-length tally in the Dec. 20 GI Hollywood Futurity. Patrick Biancone, who trains the colt, thought the victory was enough to convince Eclipse voters. "He's an unbelievable horse," said the Frenchman. "I think the colts need a leader, and he is the leader."

The two-year-old colt division is, admittedly, a tight one. A case can be made for each of the three finalists: Action This Day won the big one--the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile; Birdstone took the GI Champagne S. with ease; and Cuvee, who won a trio of graded races, dominated by 8 1/4 lengths in the GI Futurity S. But in a system where voters have short memories and often make their picks on a what-have-you-done-for-me-lately mindset (does anyone remember Composure?), one certainly gets the impression Lion Heart's absence on the final ballot is due less to deductive reasoning and more to the fact that most voters had gone home for the holidays.

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A similar case can be made for Everest Stables' homebred Island Fashion. The big gray broke her maiden in the \$256,000 WinStar Oaks at Sunland in late March, then, two starts later, captured the one-mile GIII Delaware Oaks by 6 1/2 lengths in what would be her final start for trainer Nick Canani. Switched to



Island Fashion
Adam Coglianese

Barclay Tagg's barn, she promptly annexed the 1 1/4-mile GI Alabama S. by six. Two off-the-board efforts led to another trainer change, this time to Marcelo Polanco, under whose care Island Fashion put forth one of her best performances. Making her turf debut against older mares as an 87-1 bomb in

the one-mile GI Matriarch S. Nov. 30, she came roaring from the back of the pack and finished fourth, beaten just three-parts of a length.

By the time Island Fashion entered the gate as a 9-1 chance in the seven-furlong GI La Brea S. at Santa Anita Dec. 27, Eclipse voters had just two days before the Dec. 29 deadline to hand in their ballots. In another very tight division, some voters overlooked the importance of the La Brea. It can be assumed that Island Fashion's six-length runaway victory, which left her atop the division in North American earnings with over \$1.2 million, might have swayed a few opinions.

"If she wasn't nominated, who would you nominate?" asks Polanco. "Just look at her record. She won at four different tracks and she ran against the best three-year-old [Ellolov, one of the three Eclipse finalists in the division] in the La Brea and beat her by 12 lengths from the far outside post position. She galloped. She completely dominated.

"It's a slap in the face for her not to have been nominated," he added. "She's by far the best horse I've ever had."

Polanco's frustration is understandable. The job of those voting on the Eclipse Awards is to assess the accomplishments of horses that compete throughout the calendar year. Why send in the ballots early? Patience is a virtue, though we'll have to show some ourselves and wait a year to see if voters have heeded that wisdom.

"Maybe we can win [an Eclipse] this year," says an optimistic Polanco. "As long as you have a horse in the stall, there's a chance."

Flying High – ALOHA BOLD surged clear nearing midstretch to win the 6f Colonel Power H. on January 11.

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