

**Miswaki Mare Tops  
Day 3 at Goffs  
p.3 atw**

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**TDN**  
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

**HEADLINE  
NEWS**

DELIVERED EACH NIGHT  
BY FAX AND INTERNET

**THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 2004**

**VICTORY MOON EYES REVENGE IN DUBAI**

Trainer Mike de Kock's **Victory Moon (SAf)** (Al Mufti) will be looking to exact revenge against veteran **State Shinto** (Pleasant Colony) in the G3 Maktoum Challenge Round II, Thursday's featured event of the ongoing Dubai International Racing Carnival at Nad al Sheba. The four-year-old South African-bred, who won the 2003 UAE Derby, ran out of real estate when a fast-closing third in the first round of the Jan. 29 Challenge and should appreciate the added 200 meters this time out. That's not to take away from the eight-year-old State Shinto, who found daylight through the lane after being bottled up and outfinished a game **Tropical Star (Ire)** (Machiavellian) for the narrow head victory. Also in the mix is



**Victory Moon**  
Andrew Watkins photo

**Inamorato** (Tale of the Cat), trained by Saeed bin Suroor and ridden by Frankie Dettori, who conquered Victory Moon by six lengths last year in the Listed Al Bastikiya. Trainer Ed Dunlop saddles **Anani** (Miswaki), his first runner of the Dubai Racing Carnival. The colt, who will be ridden by Jamie Spencer, was a half-length runner-up in the G3 Frankfurt Trophy last November.

Thursday, Nad al Sheba, post time: 9:15 p.m.

**SHEIKH MAKTOUM BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM**

**CHALLENGE ROUND II-G3, \$200,000, 4yo/up, 1800m**

| SC | PP | HORSE               | SIRE            | TRAINER    |
|----|----|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1  | 1  | Anani               | Miswaki         | Dunlop     |
| 2  | 2  | Blatant (GB)        | Machiavellian   | Mohammed   |
| 3  | 5  | Dinyeper (GB)       | Vettori (Ire)   | Kasar      |
| 4  | 8  | Dutch Gold          | Lahib           | Brittain   |
| 5  | 4  | Inamorato           | Tale of the Cat | bin Suroor |
| 6  | 9  | St Expedit (GB)     | Sadler's Wells  | Bouresly   |
| 7  | 7  | State Shinto        | Pleasant Colony | Al Kurdi   |
| 8  | 3  | Tropical Star (Ire) | Machiavellian   | Al Raihe   |
| 9  | 6  | Victory Moon (SAf)  | Al Mufti        | de Kock    |

All carry 125 pounds.

**TDN TODAY**

**Headline News ..... 1 page**

**KEENELAND CATALOGS 265 FOR APRIL SALE**

Keeneland announced yesterday that 265 horses, three more than last year, will be cataloged for the 12th renewal of the April Two-Year-Olds In Training Sale, which will be held Tuesday, April 13. Included in the catalog are 11 horses--two-year-olds in training and horses of racing age--which are part of the dispersal from the Estate of Jeanne G. Vance. The single-session sale will feature a string of progeny by accomplished stallions, including Deputy Minister, Rahy and Seattle Slew as well as freshman sires, Chester House, Chief Seattle, Commendable, Dixie Union, Fusaichi Pegasus, Giant's Causeway, High Yield and Lemon Drop Kid. The complete catalog of Keeneland's April Sale can be found at [www.keeneland.com](http://www.keeneland.com).



**CANDY RIDE WORKS**

Undefeated **Candy Ride (Arg)** (Ride the Rails) had his first official workout Wednesday at Santa Anita since winning the GI Pacific Classic last August. The colt covered a quarter mile in :24 2/5 and galloped out three panels in :36. "He went super," said trainer Ron McAnally.

★ **TRIPLE THREATS** ★

**Lion Heart and Fire Slam Work**

Michael Tabor and Derrick Smith's **Lion Heart** (Tale of the Cat) worked six furlongs in 1:12.60 Wednesday morning at Santa Anita as trainer Patrick Biancone tightens the screws on the colt for an upcoming start in the GII San Rafael S. at Santa Anita Mar. 6. The move was the third fastest of 13 at the distance yesterday for last year's winner of the GI Hollywood Futurity and the GII Hollywood Prevue S. Also on the work tab, **Fire Slam** (Grand Slam) breezed five panels in 1:01.80 Wednesday morning at the Fair Grounds in preparation for his next start in the GII Louisiana Derby over that track Mar. 7. Fire Slam's time was the fastest of 15 works over a sloppy Fair Grounds main track yesterday.

**DONERAILE COURT**

*Sire of 21 first crop winners including*

**RULER'S COURT**, winner of the Norfolk Stakes-GII by a record 14 lengths in stakes record time, was named Co-Highweight Two Year Old at 126 lbs. on the Experimental Free Handicap



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★ GULFSTREAM ★

**Yesterday's Results:**

**8th-GPX, \$46,000, Alw, Opt. Clm.** (\$100,000),  
NW2\$6M, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:03 1/5, ft.

1--**LILAH, 110, m, 7, Defrere--Dixie Rouge (MSP), by Dixieland Band.** (\$58,000 wlng '97 KEENOV; \$130,000 yrl '98 KEESEP). O-Hobeau Farm; B-Jayeff "B" Stables, A Goldberg & W Lyster (KY); T-H Allen Jerkens. Lifetime Record: 23-6-9-1, \$242,170. \*In for a tag.

2--**Greattobeloved, 119, f, 4, Peaks and Valleys--Well Taught, by Beau Genius.** (\$30,000 yrl '01 CBSSEP).

3--**Self Rising, 115, m, 5, Hansel--My Necessity, by Ziggy's Boy.**

Margins: 5, HD, NO. Odds: 5.00, 17.00, 57.90.

Lilah, runner-up in a pair of money allowance races at the Big A in November, was caught wide in her most recent and could do no better than fifth against Gulfstream optional claimers Jan. 11. Smartly ridden by her regular rider, apprentice Shannon Uske, Lilah lay in fifth off snappy early fractions, kicked into gear with a three-wide move down the lane and sprinted away confidently by open lengths. Longshots Greattobeloved and Self Rising earned place and show honors, respectively, setting up a healthy \$4,296 \$2 trifecta. Favored Zawzooth (Unbridled's Song), returning from a 2 1/2-month respite, broke awkwardly and finished seventh.

**STAKES CLOSINGS**

**TODAY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12:**

02-22 \$250,000 Gulfstream Park Breeders'

Cup H.-I, GP, 3yo/up, 12fT (250)

[www.stakesdigestweekly.com](http://www.stakesdigestweekly.com)



**3rd-GPX, \$38,000, Alw, NW3X, 4yo/up, f/m, a9fT,**  
1:54 2/5, fm.

**BOANA (GER) (m, 6, Goofalik--Borama {Ger} {SP-Ger}, by Meinberg {Ger})** had placed in Group 3 company in Germany, but had been competing in U.S. allowance company since 2002. The bay won June 29 at Arlington before posting three straight runner-up finishes, then ran eighth in the Gil Long Island H. Nov. 15 and was given some time off. Sent off at 6-1 for her return to action, the German-bred was forced to steady early and raced near the back of the pack, but rallied up the fence and drew off to post a five-length triumph. Miss Hellie (A.P. Indy) was second. Lifetime Record: GSP-Ger, 24-4-9-1, \$161,148.

O-Gary A Tanaka. B-K Rahlfes (GER). T-Roger L Attfield.

★ NEW YORK ★

**Yesterday's Results:**

**NIJANA S., \$60,950, AQU, 2-11, (R), 3yo, f, 1 1/16m,**  
1:47 1/5, ft.

1--**#EXCLUSIVELY WILD, 115, f, 3, by Elusive Quality**

**1st Dam: Holy Bolla, by Once Wild**

**2nd Dam: I'm Just Costin, by Blade**

**3rd Dam: Twirlwind, by Al Hattab**

O-Robert W Rosenthal, Dominick A Schettino & M Jester; B-John Napolitano (KY); T-Dominick A Schettino; J- Castellano; \$36,570. Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$56,542.

2--**Tempting Note, 117, f, 3, Editor's Note--Tempt, by Devil's Bag.** (\$15,000 yrl '02 FTMSEP). O-Connie Scherr. \$12,190.

3--**Taittinger Rose, 115, f, 3, Menifee--La Rosa, by Wild Again.** O-Mike G Rutherford. \$6,095.

Margins: 4, NK, 1 1/4. Odds: 25.25, 2.85, 4.60.

*Nijana S. cont. p2*

**Grade I Winner & Millionaire**

**STEPHEN GOT EVEN**

*A.P. Indy--Immerse, by Cox's Ridge*

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*Nijana S. cont.*

Exclusively Wild kicked away smartly to post her first stakes victory. The bay filly debuted for a \$75,000 tag and duly won Nov. 2 at Aqueduct, but couldn't muster a challenge in a six-furlong allowance over this surface Dec. 11 and wound up ninth. Forwardly placed by Javier Castellano, the longshot came through a narrow opening along the rail, shifted gears and quickly opened on her rivals.

★ EAST ★

**Yesterday's Results:**

**7th-LRL, \$25,000, Alw, NW1X, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:45, ft.**

**BLAZING FREEDOM (c, 4, Gone West--Drums of Freedom, by Green Forest)**, a full to Proud Citizen, GSW & MGISP, \$638,822, had taken his time breaking his maiden, but appears to have figured out this game. Conditioned by Bill Mott for his first five career starts, the \$460,000 KEESEP yearling was sidelined from June until December, finishing fifth in his first start for Rodney Jenkins. The bay turned things around last out, wiring Laurel foes by 7 1/2 lengths Jan. 19, and was bet down to 3-2 this time. Never far from the front, the Centennial Farms colorbearer took over at will and galloped off into the sunset to win by 10 3/4 lengths under a hand ride. Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-0, \$37,725. O-Centennial Farms. B-Edmund J Loder (KY). T-Rodney Jenkins.

**6th-LRL, \$24,000, Msw, 3yo, 1 1/16m, 1:46 4/5, ft.**

**HAUL AWAY JOE (c, 3, Ordway--True to the Flag, by Admiral's Flag)** came from way out of it to finish fourth going seven panels Jan. 25. Adding Lasix for the stretch-out to two turns, the 5-2 second choice was away slowly before commencing a four-wide run on the far turn. The dark bay hit the front in midstretch and went on to graduate by 1 3/4 lengths over Magazine (Fortunate Prospect). Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$15,120.

O-Navair Stable. B-C A Hill Jr (KY). T-Gregg McCarron.

The **brisnet.com** 'Race of the Day' is the 8<sup>th</sup> Race (N1X Alw) at Aqueduct. For pps and a complete race analysis, click [here](#).

★ SO. CALIFORNIA ★

**Yesterday's Results:**

**THUNDER ROAD H.**, \$71,350, SAX, 2-11, 4yo/up, 1mT, 1:34 2/5, fm.

1--**SINGLETERY, 117, c, 4, Sultry Song--Joiski's Star, by Star de Naskra.** (\$3,200 yrl '01 KEECT). O-Little Red Feather Racing; B-Disler Farms Ltd (KY); T-Donald Chatlos Jr; J-V Espinoza; \$42,810. Lifetime Record: 11-4-3-1, \$289,632.

2--**Inesperado (Fr)**, 118, h, 5, Zayyani (Ire)--Ile Mamou, by Ela-Mana-Mou. \$14,270.

3--**Apache Wings**, 116, h, 6, Virginia Rapids--Astreak, by Green Forest. (\$12,000 yrl '99 KEEJAN; \$17,000 yrl '99 OBSAUG). \$8,562.

Margins: 1, HF, HD. Odds: 9.30, 2.30, 18.50.

Singletary, winner of Del Mar's GIII La Jolla S. last August, faded late to finish fifth after setting the pace in his latest in the nine-furlong Del Mar Derby Sept. 6. Let go at generous odds this time, the bay chased early, mounted his challenge three deep at the top of the stretch and rallied late for the score.

**3rd-SAX, \$56,336, Alw, Opt. Clm.** (\$62,500), NW2X, 4yo/up, 1 1/4mT, 2:00 1/5, fm.

**ALL THE BOYS (h, 7, Foreign Survivor--Dearness, by Affirmed)**, second in the 1 3/4-mile GI San Juan Capistrano Invitational H. last April, went missing for eight months before filling out the bottom half of the exacta at this level over trip and track Dec. 29. Sent postward the crowd's 2-1 second choice to improve, the seven-year-old veteran led the field through honest fractions, then kicked clear by daylight two furlongs out. The late-closing favorite Urban King (Ire) (Desert King {Ire}) came calling late, but couldn't catch All the Boys, who found the wire a nose ahead of his game rival. Lifetime Record: GISP, 22-5-2-1, \$206,910. O-JPF Investments I LLC. B-C Frank Hopkins (MD). T-Paul G Aguirre.

(So. Cal cont. p3)

**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](mailto:mediavista@aol.com).



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(So. Cal cont.)

**5th-SAX, \$52,000, Alw, Opt. Clm.** (\$40,000), NW1X, (S), 4yo/up, f/m, 1mT, 1:36 3/5, fm.

**DEPUTY TOMBE (f, 4, Deputy Commander--Epi Tombe, by Chief's Crown)** broke her maiden two back going a panel longer against statebreds at Hollywood Dec. 11 before finishing fourth over track and distance Jan. 15. Off slowly this time, the 5-2 chance was far back early, swung three wide to take command at the sixteenth pole and inched clear late to score by 3/4 of a length over Proud Nicole (Proud Irish). Lifetime Record: 7-2-0-2, \$69,440.

O/B-St George's Farm (CA). T-Patrick Gallagher.

**Valenzuela Meets with Stewards:**

Jockey Patrick Valenzuela, who contacted Santa Anita Park stewards Sunday for the first time since his suspension Jan. 23, was scheduled to attend a meeting yesterday with senior steward Pete Pedersen, stewards Ingrid Fermin and Tom Ward, and the California Horse Racing Board's regional supervisor, Mike Kilpack. Valenzuela has been on the sidelines since taking off his mounts Jan. 22, when he informed stewards that he would miss that afternoon's mounts because of a twisted ankle. According to the terms of his license, Valenzuela was required to submit to a mandatory drug test that afternoon, but the jockey failed to fulfill that obligation, so his license was summarily suspended.

**SOPHOMORE SPOTLIGHT**

**First-time starters/stakes runners: Thursday, Feb. 12**

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

**ACCELERATOR** (A.P. Indy), Dead, 120/13/0

6-TP, Msw, 1 1/16m, Moody Mama

**DONERAILE COURT** (Seattle Slew), Hill 'n' Dale, \$8K, 122/22/3

4-GG, Alw, 6f, Madrone, \$50K OBS APR 2yo

7-OP, Msw, 1 1/16m, Cowboy Court, \$11K KEE SEP yrl

**HORSE CHESTNUT (SAF)** (Fort Wood), Claiborne, \$10K, 94/6/0

7-OP, Msw, 1 1/16m, Chicago Al, \$52K KEE SEP yrl

**LIL'S LAD** (Pine Bluff), Lane's End, \$10K, 107/12/1

6-TP, Msw, 1 1/16m, Carolina Lily, \$6K KEE SEP yrl

**MAZEL TRICK** (Phone Trick), Airdrie, \$13K, 150/16/1

3-LRL, Msw, 6f, Wicked Man, 9-5

**VICTORY GALLOP** (Cryptoclearance), WinStar, \$15K, 144/15/2

7-OP, Msw, 1 1/16m, Victorytonitehey, \$27K FTK OCT yrl



**IRELAND**

**MISWAKI MARE TOPS GOFFS THIRD SESSION**

Miss Queen, a 10-year-old mare by Miswaki selling as [lot 605](#), topped yesterday's penultimate session of the Goffs February Mixed Sale at a bid of €120,000 from

John McCormack Bloodstock. The winning chestnut, from the draft of Tipper House Stud, was bred to Desert Prince (Ire) last spring, but is believed not to be in foal. Her 2003 foal, by Fantastic Light, brought €130,000 to top Tuesday's session.

Out of the multiple-stakes-winning Mount Hagen (Fr) mare Empress Jackie, Miss Queen is a half sister to

Tajannub (Dixieland Band), a Group 3 winner in England. Average on the session was down slightly, from €12,378 last year to €11,815 in 2004, while median enjoyed a respectable eight-percent gain, from €5,500 to €6,000. The fourth and final session gets underway today. It should be noted that the 2003 February Sale consisted of only three sessions. For complete results, go to [www.goffs.com](http://www.goffs.com).



Lot 605 goffs.com

| GOFFS FEBRUARY STATISTICS    |  |             |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|
| WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2004 |  |             |
|                              |  |             |
| <b>SESSION TOTALS</b>        | <b>2004</b>                                      | <b>2003</b> |
| No. Offered                  | 221  | 173         |
| No. Sold                     | 162  | 123         |
| RNAs                         | 59   | 50          |
| % RNA                        | 26.7%  | 29%         |
| Gross                        | €1,914,100                                       | €1,522,500  |
| Average (% change)           | €11,815 (-4.5%)                                  | €12,378     |
| Median (% change)            | €6,000 (+8%)                                     | €5,500      |
| <b>CUMULATIVE</b>            | <b>2004</b>                                      | <b>2003</b> |
| No. Offered                  | 576  | 531         |
| No. Sold                     | 407  | 375         |
| RNAs                         | 169  | 156         |
| % RNA                        | 29.3%  | 29%         |
| Gross                        | €3,421,100                                       | €3,387,800  |
| Average (% change)           | €8,405 (-4.5%)                                   | €8,799      |
|                              | <a href="http://www.goffs.com">www.goffs.com</a> |             |

**BREEDERS' CUP STAKES CLOSINGS**

|  | CLOSES | TRACK | RACE                                  | CONDITIONS       | PURSE     | RUNS |
|--|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|------|
|  | 2-7    | TAM   | Tampa Bay Breeders' Cup S.            | 3yo/up, 1 1/16mT | \$100,000 | 2-14 |
|  | 2-12   | GP    | Gulfstream Park Breeders' Cup H. (GI) | 3yo/up, 1 3/8mT  | \$250,000 | 2-22 |

**Breeders' Cup. Building Quality in Racing All Year Long.**



## ★ EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS ★

### IN HONG KONG:

**Healthy Wealthy (GB)**, g, 4, **Desert Prince (Ire)**--Rensaler, by Stop the Music. Happy Valley, 2-11, Hcp., 1800mT. B-Cheveley Park Stud Ltd. \*80,000gns yrl '01 TATOCT. \*\*1/2 to Never Force (Full Out), MSW, \$239,074; Jovial (GB) (Northern Jove), GISW, \$868,475; and Brave Note (Ire) (Dancing Brave), GSW-US, MGSP-Fr, \$538,968.

## BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

### ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**7th-AQU**, \$44,000, NW1X, (S), 3yo, f, a1m70yd, 1:45 2/5, ft.

**JUDY SODA (f, 3, Personal Flag--Nikki Tootsie, by Waquoit)** Lifetime Record: 7-2-0-1, \$59,944. O/B-Scott S Solar (NY). T-Louis N Meittinis.

**2nd-AQU**, \$43,000, NW2L, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12 3/5, ft.

**OUR ROYAL DANCER (f, 4, Roy--Lisa Danielle, by Wolf Power {SAf})** Lifetime Record: 13-2-2-2, \$87,970. O/B-Morton Fink (KY). T-Bruce N Levine.

**8th-LRL**, \$31,360, Opt. Clm. (\$40,000-\$35,000), NW2\$X, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 3/5, ft.

**UMPATEEDLE (m, 5, Suave Prospect--Missy McKee, by Silver Deputy)** Lifetime Record: 33-9-4-3, \$217,120. O-Michael J Gill. B-John B Porter (FL). T-Mark Shuman.

**10th-SUN**, \$30,547, 2-10, NW4L, (S), 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:14 3/5, ft.

**HESA BAD CAT (c, 4, Devon Lane--Roman Fascination, by Romeo)** Lifetime Record: MSW, 12-4-7-1, \$181,770. O-Marjorie A Martin. B-W L Mooring (NM). T-Cal E Martin. \*\$35,000 yrl '01 RUIAUG.

**11th-SUN**, \$26,666, 2-10, NW1RX, 3yo, 1m, 1:36 2/5, ft.

**HI TECK MAN (c, 3, Claudius--Missy Cherub {SW}, by Corwyn Bay {Ire})** Lifetime Record: MSW, 7-5-2-0, \$115,876. O-R Hassel or Bonnie V Sprayberry. B-R Spraberry Hassel (TX). T-Johnnie L Nall.

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Bela Carol**, f, 3, **Charismatic--Make Smoke**, by Saratoga Six. MNR, 2-10, 1m, 1:40 2/5. B-Thomas/Lakin/Kintz (Ky). \*\$32,000 yrl '02 KEESEP. \*\*1/2 to Bela Cifra (Secreto), MSW & G1SP-Brz; Miss Huff N' Puff (Seattle Dancer), GSW-US, \$170,960.

**Knight of Darkness**, c, 3, **Helmsman--Kiwi** (GSP, \$158,575), by Classic Go Go. AQU, 2-11, (C), 6f, 1:12 3/5. B-Don Trefry (Fl). \*\$21,000 2yo '03 OBSAPR.

**Soldier of Fame**, g, 3, **Lost Soldier--Gold N Delicious** (GSW & GISP, \$529,108) \$529,108, by Gold Alert. GPX, 2-11, (C), a1 1/8mT, 1:57 2/5. B-John Franks (Fl).

**Icicle Charlie**, c, 3, **Rodeo--Breezethruthetrees** (SP), by Big Spruce. AQU, 2-11, (S), a1m70yd, 1:44 3/5. B-Cedar Meadow Inc (NY). \*Won by 12 1/2 lengths.

**Katee Kris**, f, 4, **Boone's Mill--Benza**, by Slew o' Gold. AQU, 2-11, (S), 6f, 1:14 1/5. B-Sтивен Brown (NY). \*\$4,000 yrl '01 FTNAUG; \$18,000 2yo '02 OBSAPR.

**Mark of Courage**, g, 4, **Colonial Affair--Honor Award**, by Palace Music. SAX, 2-11, (S), (C), 6 1/2f, 1:17. B-Ed & Sharon Hudon (Ca).

## BREEDERS' EDITION EUROPE

### CONDITIONS RESULTS:

**ITALY, Naples, 2.30**, 2-10, €13,005, 3yo, 1 1/8mT, 1:50.48, gd.

**GUGLIELMO TELL (IRE) (c, 3, Idris {Ire})--Spugnola {Ire}**, by Law Society) Lifetime Record: 12 starts, 4 wins, 4 places, €43,350. O-Scuderia Ri.Ma.; B-Villa Dosia SRL; T-F & L Camici.

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Blu Desire (Ity)**, f, 3, **Ashkalani (Ire)**--Storm Desire, by Diesis (GB). Naples, Italy, 2-10, Mdn, 3yo, f, 1 1/8mT. B-Azienda Agricola Loreto Luciani.

**Come What July (Ire)**, g, 3, **Indian Rocket (GB)**--Persian Sally (Ire), by Persian Bold (Ire). Lingfield, Britain, 2-11, Mdn, 3yo, 1 1/4m (AWT). B-Pat Beirne. \*Ir£6,500 wnlg '01 GOFNOV.

**Zilzip (Ire)**, g, 3, **Zilzal**--Glowing Wave, by Sea Hero. Angers, France, 2-11, Mdn, 3yo, c/g, 1 5/16m (AWT). B-Ecurie Skymarc Farm. \*26,000gns yrl '02 TATOCT.



## Equine Vision Stallion of The Week

### GRAND SLAM

Sire of Master David, winner of the Sham S. at Santa Anita on Sunday.

[Click here](#) for his **Virtual Stallion Guide** imagery and information or [click here](#) for his TDN Progeny PPs

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## WRITERS UP

### A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY REPEATING?

by *Jessica Martini*

Stop me if you've heard this one before. A solid young European performer is purchased by an Irishman training in America and brought to the U.S., where his name starts popping up in rich three-year-old races across the country. Trainer Niall O'Callaghan, who followed that pattern with recent graded stakes winners Keats and Wiseman's Ferry, hopes the story repeats itself with his newest acquisition, Old Deuteronomy.

His emphasis on finding three-year-olds to race in the United States may be recent, but O'Callaghan, who has been training on his own since 1990, has conditioned numerous other U.S. stakes winners who began their careers in Europe.

"We had good luck buying horses at reasonable prices back in the '90s that we bought in Europe," O'Callaghan said of such horses as Miss Caerleona, Volochine and Inkatha. "They were turf horses. But recently, I've been trying, if I can, to get a three-year-old."

Of the change, he explained, "I feel like it's a prime year--it's the primest year that horse has. While most European horses have more prize money to run for here when they are five, six or seven, the three-year-old scene, I think is the most economically viable. There are a lot of spots in different categories. Every state has a derby and maybe even a prep for it. And, while very few of them are easy to win, there may not be as much depth in some of them and you can get second or third. If you keep picking up a check in all those places, a horse can earn a good bit of money real quick without necessarily being a top horse."

As an early example, O'Callaghan points to American Chance, who won the GII Jersey Derby for him in 1992.

"We stretched American Chance out in the Jersey Derby when it was \$300,000," the trainer said. "He was second in the Illinois Derby at \$500,000. That season he also equaled the track record in the [GIII] Lafayette at Keeneland going short. It's true that he was a better horse a little shorter, yet he had the ability to go a mile and an eighth and therefore ran for twice the prize money. Wiseman's Ferry and Keats were similar."

Keats and Wiseman's Ferry both began their racing careers in Europe with Aidan O'Brien, but went on to graded success for O'Callaghan in the U.S.

"What you expect and hope is that, at least they've got a two-year-old year under them and they're kind of set in their growth and their mind," O'Callaghan explained. "And they've been running, so you assume they're sound."

During his juvenile campaign in Europe, Keats was fourth in the 2000 G3 Norfolk S. He ended his two-year-old season with a third-place effort in the GIII Iroquois S. at Churchill Downs in his first start on the dirt. As a three-year-old, he went on to win the GII Lexington S., ran in the Kentucky Derby and ultimately finished his career with earnings of \$462,854.

Wiseman's Ferry was second behind champion Johannesburg in the 2001 G3 Anglesey S. and was fourth in the G1 Phoenix. Racing for O'Callaghan as a three-year-old, the chestnut won the GIII Lone Star Derby, the GIII West Virginia Derby and defeated subsequent Belmont S. winner Sarava to win a Keeneland allowance. He was second in the GII Ohio Derby and made a classic appearance in the Belmont. He ended his career with earnings of \$825,117.

"You're hoping that they've already shown some ability and that they might also be able to convert over to the dirt," O'Callaghan said of the quest to find a good European horse who will make a consistent U.S. performer. "You hope that they'll show the same ability on the dirt that they've shown on the turf. That might put you in a league where you can go to other places and run in races."

Old Deuteronomy could be another to fit the profile. Racing for O'Brien last year, the son of Storm Cat out of the Seeking the Gold mare Jewel in the Crown was second behind the highly regarded One Cool Cat in the G1 Phoenix. He was purchased by O'Callaghan for a new partnership and has been working at Payson Park since late January.

O'Callaghan hopes Old Deuteronomy will make a successful transition to the dirt, beginning with an allowance race sometime in mid-March.

"I try to buy them nowadays to hope they can run on the dirt," O'Callaghan admitted. "There are plenty of turf races, but there are a lot of tracks in the Midwest that have bigger dirt three-year-old races." Old Deuteronomy, like Keats and Wiseman's Ferry before him, may soon be on a tour of those Midwestern derbies and derby preps, but there is a fall back. "If he can't run on the dirt, if his form is not as good, then you hope to have the turf angle." If memories are anything to go by, this should be some show.

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