

## ALAN PORTER ON TEXCESS

...p. 5

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# TDN

THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS  
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8, 2004

## HEADLINE NEWS

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### STORM BIRD DEAD

**Storm Bird** (Northern Dancer--South Ocean, by New Providence), the European champion who went on to sire top stallion Storm Cat, was euthanized at Ashford Stud in Kentucky Dec. 3 following a bout of colic. He was 26. "Storm Bird has been at Ashford for longer than any of us," said Ashford Manager Dermot Ryan. "He will be missed by us all, but particularly by Richard Barry, who has looked after him since the early days. He has been buried close to the stallion yard where seven of his grandsons will stand this coming breeding season." Bred by E.P. Taylor in Canada, Storm Bird was purchased by European racing magnate Robert Sangster for \$1 million at the Keeneland July Sale. The son of Northern Dancer went undefeated in his juvenile year and was named champion two-year-old in Ireland and England in 1980.



**Storm Cat, the leading sire son of Storm Bird**

*Tony Leonard photo*

Dr. William Lockridge and Robert Hefner purchased a majority interest in Storm Bird the following year and, after an unplaced effort in his lone start as a three-year-old, retired the bay to Ashford in Kentucky. Storm Bird's biggest success at stud came early, when he sired a muscular dark bay out of the Secretariat mare Terlingua, later named Storm Cat. That horse won the GI Young America S. at two in 1985, but would really make a name for himself in the breeding shed at Overbrook Farm in Kentucky. Storm Cat went on to lead the juvenile sire list a record seven times and is the sire of 129 stakes winners to date. He commands the Northern Hemisphere's highest stud fee at \$500,000. Storm Bird was also responsible for 1990 GI Preakness S. winner Summer Squall, a successful sire in his own right, as well as champion Bluebird, sire of no fewer than 70 stakes winners. Storm Bird, who has 62 stakes winners to date, was pensioned from stud duties in 1999. For a listing of Storm Bird's Grade/Group I winners as a sire and broodmare sire, see p2

### Finding a Home at Ashford...

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### TOP PRODUCER BLITEY DEAD AT 28

GSW **Blitey** (Riva Ridge--Lady Pitt, by Sword Dancer), dam of three Grade I stakes winners, was euthanized Nov. 26 at Claiborne Farm near Paris, Kentucky, according to *The Blood Horse*. The 28-year-old mare, who had been pensioned since 2000, was buried at Claiborne's Marchmont cemetery. Racing in the colors of her breeder, Ogden Phipps, the bay won eight of 23 career starts, including the GII Maskette S. and GII Test S. in 1979. Retired with \$297,746 in earnings, the mare proved even more valuable in the breeding shed, producing



**Dancing Spree winning the BC Sprint in 1989**

*breederscup.com*

1989 GI Breeders' Cup Sprint champion Dancing Spree (Nijinsky II); Fantastic Find (Mr. Prospector), winner of the 1990 GI Hempstead H.; and GI Ballerina H. victress Furlough (Easy Goer). In addition, Blitey is the dam of the unraced mare Oh What A Dance (Nijinsky II), the dam of sophomore filly champion Heavenly Prize (Seeking the Gold). The winner of eight Grade I events from 1993 to 1995, including the Frizette S. at two and the Alabama S. the following season, Heavenly Prize is the dam of GSW Pure Prize and Good Reward, winner of the GI Hollywood Derby Nov. 28.



**Great-Grandson Good Reward winning the Nov. 28 Hollywood Derby**  
*Benoit photo*

### CHAMPIONS Sired BY STORM BIRD

Balanchine (Hwt. 3yo-Ire at 11-13 1/2f)

Bluebird (Ch. Sprinter-Ire)

Indian Skimmer (Ch. Mare-Eng{x2}, Ire & Fr)

Mukaddamah (Hwt. 3yo-Fr at 7-9 1/2f)

Prince of Birds (Co-Ch. Miler-Ire)



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Grade 1 winner Afleet Alex,  
as well as Grade 3 winner G P Fleet.



☆ RESULTS ☆

Tuesday, Utsunomiya, Japan,

**TOCHIGI MARRONIER CUP-G3-NAR**, ¥30,000,000 to winner, Utsunomiya, 12-7, 3yo/up, 1400m, 1:27, hy.

1--**NOBO TRUE**, 130, h, 8, by Broad Brush

1st Dam: **Nastique (MGISW, \$843,121)**, by Naskra

2nd Dam: **La Fantastique**, by \*Le Fabuleux

3rd Dam: **Witherite**, by Ky. Colonel

(\$110,000 yrl '97 KEESEP; \$200,000 2yo '98

FTFFEB). O-Ikebata Inc; B-Mr & Mrs J S Moss;

T-Hideyuki Mori; J-N Yokoyama. Lifetime Record:

MG1SW-Jpn, 62-11-11-10, ¥598,066,000.

\* 1/2 to Thunder Kitten (Storm Cat), GSW, \$253,138.

2--**Bamboo Boca (Jpn)**, 123, c, 4, Forty Niner--Spring Bamboo (Jpn), by Wassl Touch. O/B-Bamboo Farm.

3--**Seeking the Dia**, 123, c, 3, Storm Cat--Seeking the Pearl, by Seeking the Gold. O-Yoichi Aoyama;

B-Jayeff B Stables.

Margins: NK, HD, 1. Odds: 7.70, 27.20, 1.80.

Sunday, Cidade Jardim, Brazil

**GP JOSE GUATHEMOZIN NOGUEIRA-G1**, R45,217, Cidade Jardim, 12-5, 3yo, f, 2400m (off turf), 2:30, my.

1--**MAMANGAVA (BRZ)**, 123, f, 3, by Much Better (Brz)

1st Dam: **Ubacaba (Brz)**, by Western

2nd Dam: **Burnside (Brz)**, by Jasmin (Brz)

3rd Dam: **Resolucao (Brz)**, by Lear Jet (GB)

O-Stud Robinson; B-Haras Ponta Pora; T-V S

Lopes; J-S Generoso; R27,404. Lifetime Record:

13 starts, 3 wins, 3 places.

2--**Programa do Faxina (Brz)**, 123, f, 3, Fast Gold--Eu Te Adoro (Brz), by Van Houthen (GB). R8,221.

3--**Allez Chiara (Brz)**, 123, f, 3, Fantastic Dancer (Brz)--Allez Rossa (Brz), by Thundering Force. R5,481.

Margins: 5, 1.

Friday, Taruma, Brazil

**GP PARANA-G1**, R49,368, Taruma, 12-3, 3yo/up, 2400mT, 2:36.5, fm.

1--**DA-LHE GRISON (BRZ)**, 115, c, 3, by Burooj (Ire)

1st Dam: **Goodbye (Brz)**, by Tokatee

2nd Dam: **Almond Eyes (Brz)**, by Present the Colors

3rd Dam: **Lindos Ojos (Brz)**, by Sabinus (Brz)

O/B-Haras Clemente Moleta; T-P Nickel; J-N Souza; R29,920.

2--**Special Day (Brz)**, 115, c, 3, Cacao (Arg)--Kaaluna (Brz), by Cavo d'Oro (GB). R8,970.

3--**Fort Bird (Brz)**, 130, c, 4, Soberbo (Brz)--Dolly Bird (Brz), by Seattle Song. R5,984.

Margins: 2HF, 3/4.

**STORM BIRD**

(1978-2004)

Grade/Group I Winners as a Sire

<b>Winner</b>	<b>Broodmare Sire</b>
Balanchine	Affirmed
Bluebird	Sir Ivor
Classy Mirage	Riva Ridge
Indian Skimmer	*Vaguely Noble
Magical Wonder	Crimson Satan
Pacific Squall	Ruffinal
Personal Hope	Alydar
Prince of Birds	Key to the Mint
Storm Cat	Secretariat
Summer Squall	Secretariat

Grade/Group I Winners as a Broodmare Sire

<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sire</b>
Avanzado	Luhuk
Birdstone	Grindstone
Bird Town	Cape Town
Danendri	Danehill
Flanders	Seeking the Gold
India Brava	Fast Gold
Medicean	Machiavellian
Storm Tower	Irish Tower
Thunder Gulch	Gulch

Courtesy WerkThoroughbred Consultants.

**TDN TODAY**

Headline News ..... 6 pages

**War Chant**

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**FROM THE DESK OF...**

Bill Oppenheim



**A CALL TO ARMS**

When I wrote last week about the billion dollars' worth of auction sales generated just in the major Northern Hemisphere sales the last six months, it got me thinking. It got me thinking about the sales and about how odd it is that, in some ways now, a lot of people who could own boats but who instead own Thoroughbreds get more of a buzz going to the sales and being involved in that side of the business than they get going to the races.

Then it occurred to me that if there is a billion dollars' worth of auction sales every year, what could possibly be the value of the total breeding and sales sector of the Thoroughbred business? Who knows? It's a few billion dollars anyway--10 billion or 20 billion. I doubt anyone actually knows. In any case, maybe those of us on the breeding and sales side of the game have been too willing to let the confusion and lack of direction on the racing side dictate policy to us. Maybe it's time our side really considered organizing to achieve the common good of promoting and expanding the marketplace for the breeders' product.

You've all heard of A.P. Indy, of course. Now I'd like to introduce you to a brainchild of mine, which I call A.P. BASSH--an Association of Professional Breeding And Sales Sector Horsepeople. So, instead of being "bashed" for our conduct and business practices by well-meaning amateurs and part-timers who might or might not offer us a place at the big table, perhaps we need to have a table--and a unified voice--of our own.

In an industry in which the characters are notoriously independent and highly individualistic, are such proposals (a) necessary, and (b) achievable? Well, of course such a proposal is necessary, even though the "other" side of the industry is littered with organizations and initials, some of which purport to represent our sector, and some of which do include representation (although never a unified policy) from us.

But I'm talking about something different, an organization which represents only the breeding and sales sector--and which organization (A.P. BASSH, as a working title) would then be responsible for supplying committee members for other industry organizations, such as "The Satish Committee," whose report we are all awaiting, some more eagerly than others. If for no other reason, we should organize so the rest of the industry will have to look elsewhere for its scapegoats.

Is it achievable? I hope so. That very individuality which attracts many to the industry in the first place has proved counter-productive in this regard. I don't know if it actually is possible for people in our sector of the industry to unite, in some way, for the common good. But I do know this: well-meaning amateurs and part-timers haven't achieved it. Maybe breeding and sales sectors professionals, who make their living in the industry, can. But I'm not talking about another set of initials, with some nominal membership fee, which employs no one and achieves nothing. We have enough of those already. No, in this organization, we pay real money for membership (\$250 per person per year, say), we employ a couple of sharp people who can execute policy, and we intend to achieve real results for our membership--including such things as an agreed-upon and signed-up-to code of ethics. I'm talking about an international organization, too, by the way, one recognized around the world, but with domestic branches addressing domestic problems, and an international committee which addresses international issues. Why not? Imagination plus financing can equal real forward progress.

But then, what could we really achieve? To some extent, we can't even know that yet; but I can tell you two things for sure: (1) we can prevent our side of the industry from being the scapegoat for the other side's incompetences (which are many), simply by being organized, having a collective voice, and using it; and (2) we can do an awful lot to make the outside world (including the racing sector) understand, realize, and appreciate the breeding and sales sector.

*Bill Oppenheim cont. p4*

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**Bill Oppenheim cont.**

But whatever the racings side's shortcomings, say this for them: they protect one another's back. Bans on jockeys, trainers, owners, veterinarians found guilty of wrongdoing are enforced across the spectrum of racing organizations. Our side of the industry has no such agreements; every man for himself is the rule. This organization would change that. Once a code of ethics is adopted, an agent, trainer, veterinarian, owner, farm or sales company, if caught gouging any of the above, for example, would be welcome nowhere.

**The Smarty Fallacy...**

One other example: how many times have you read what a travesty it is that Smarty Jones was retired to stud "prematurely?" We've all taken a hammering for this. We're the bad guys that have robbed the racing public of another star who could help promote racing to the outside world. I think I remember saying something at the time like "when the Smarty Joneses can make \$40-million racing for three years, they'll stay in training." It's an economic imperative that horses are worth money--this is a business. Even the racing public, even the gamblers, would understand it all in 30 seconds if we explained it to them properly. So that's one of the jobs for A.P. BASSH--tell our side of the story, how it really is.

So, who are "we?" I count nine "interest groups" on the breeding and sales side and, if I'm missing anybody, apologies, and by all means let's add them in. My nine to start with are:

- ▶ **Breeders**
- ▶ **Consignors**
- ▶ **Buyers** (yes, they get a seat at our table)
- ▶ **Bloodstock Agents**
- ▶ **Sales Companies**
- ▶ **Sales Vets**
- ▶ **Journalists** (breeding & sales sector only)
- ▶ **Advisors and Consultants**
- ▶ **Trainers** (insofar as they are a part of the buying and selling process)

You know the old saying "if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." We've taken a beating, and swallowed the premise that we're part of the problem for long enough. Now let's be part of the solution. Our part of the business is practically a textbook capitalist model, demonstrating the principle of Supply and Demand in really quite a pure form. The industry as a whole may do a terrible job of organizing and promoting itself, and our own breeding and sales sector has, too. We clearly can't change the whole scene, as much as breeders and others from our sector have tried. But we can stand up for ourselves. We have plenty to talk about, and it can make a positive difference for all of us. It's time we tried.

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<u>Sire</u>	<u>Winners</u>
Mr. Prospector (Raise a Native)	16
<a href="#">Sadler's Wells</a> (Northern Dancer)	14
Rainbow Quest (Blushing Groom)	13
Seattle Slew (Bold Reasoning)	13
<a href="#">Danzig</a> (Northern Dancer)	12
Caerleon (Nijinsky II)	10
<a href="#">Woodman</a> (Mr. Prospector)	10
<a href="#">Nureyev</a> (Northern Dancer)	9
Darshaan (Shirley Heights)	8
<a href="#">Miswaki</a> (Mr. Prospector)	8
Shirley Heights (Mill Reef)	8
Alleged (Hoist the Flag)	7
Alydar (Raise a Native)	7
Be My Guest (Northern Dancer)	7
Forty Niner (Mr. Prospector)	7
<a href="#">Gone West</a> (Mr. Prospector)	7
Relaunch (In Reality)	7
<a href="#">Royal Academy</a> (Nijinsky II)	7

*Compiled by [Werk Thoroughbred Consultants](#), specialists in assisting breeders in their stallion selection and buyers in their auction purchases.*

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## WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

### Saturday, Delta Downs

**BOYD GAMING'S DELTA JACKPOT S.**, \$1,000,000, DED, 12-4, 2yo, 1 1/16m, 1:48 1/5, ft.

1--**TEXCESS**, 119, g, 2, by In Excess (Ire)

1st Dam: **Danish Alamode**, by Regal Classic

2nd Dam: **Stray Flight**, by Viceregal

3rd Dam: **Barn Swallow**, by Mongo

(\$85,000 2yo '04 BESMAY). O-Paul G Aguirre & Omar Aldabbagh; B-Ron E Gomez (CA); T-Paul G Aguirre; J-V Espinoza; \$600,000. Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, \$725,427. \*1/2 to Gimme the Willys (Walter Willy {Ire}), SP, \$312,290.

Although it doesn't carry Grade I status, the Delta Jackpot, with its \$1-million purse, is the second richest race for juveniles run in this country. The most recent renewal drew runners from training centers all over the country, but was taken in impressive style by California invader Texcess.

Texcess's sire In Excess may well be the best U.S. sire standing outside of Kentucky, a status which would have been hard to predict when he retired to start his stud career at Vessels Stallion Farm in California. In Excess did take to stud an impressive race record. The Irish-bred began his racing career in England, where he won three times at two and three without earning black-type. Brought to the U.S., In Excess was initially campaigned on turf. He took three stakes events as a three-year-old, including the GIII Volante H. and GIII San Gabriel H. At four, In Excess moved on to the dirt and proved to be a revelation, taking the GII San Fernando S., GI Whitney H., GI Woodward S., GI Suburban H. and GI Metropolitan H. Kept in training for another year, In Excess failed to recapture his four-year-old form, but did take second in the GII San Antonio H. and third in the Metropolitan H. and GI Carter H.

What made stallion stardom unlikely for In Excess was his pedigree. His sire Siberian Express, a son of Caro, had flashed ability on occasion, most notably



**In Excess (Ire)**

*vesselsstallionsfarm.com*

with an impressive victory in the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2000 Guineas), but overall was a most inconsistent runner. At stud, Siberian Express sired a total of 12 stakes winners from just over 300 foals, but In Excess aside, only two other graded stakes winners. The distaff side of In Excess's pedigree gave even less cause

for optimism. The dam Katando, a daughter of the English sprinter (and disappointing sire) Saulingo, was also granddam of Irish group winner Smart Guest, but under the next two dams, the only stakes winners to be found were in Venezuela and Tasmania.

However, In Excess has not only exceeded expectations, but has done so royally. To date he has 37 stakes winners in his first eight crops. They include Musical Chimes, who took the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulaches (French 1000 Guineas) in Europe, and the GI John C. Mabee H. in the U.S.; Indian Charlie, winner of the GI Santa Anita Derby who suffered his only defeat in five starts when third in the GI Kentucky Derby; and other graded scorers Romanceishope, Above Perfection, Icecoldbeeratreds, Excessive Pleasure, Icantgoforthat and In Excessive Bull.

Texcess's dam Danish Alamode never ran, but she has previously produced the tough filly Gimme the Willys (by the Sadler's Wells horse Walter Willy), a stakes-placed earner of \$312,290. Danish Alamode herself owns a most unusual pedigree. She is by Canadian champion two-year-old and Prince of Wales S. winner Regal Classic, a son of Vice Regent, and her dam Stray Flight is a daughter of Vice Regent's brilliant brother Viceregal.

*Alan Porter cont. p6*

**18** individual 2-YEAR-OLD winners in 2004 including **HONOR THE FLAG** unbeaten 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-length winner of the **E. L. GAYLORD MEMORIAL S.** on 11/26.

Also **3** other stakes winners since October 22 viz. **DISCREET HERO** (Mountaineer Mile H.), **CODE OF ETHICS** (Summertime Promise S.) and **BATTLE WON** (Woodford County S.).

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Therefore, Danish Alamode has the siblings 2x2. In addition to Danish Alamode, Stray Flight also produced Ever Steady (by the Briartic horse Steady Growth and inbred 3x4 to Nearctic), a four-time stakes winner in Canada at two and three; and the Apalachee filly, Sparrow Lake, twice a stakes winner in Canada at two and subsequently dam of the stakes-winning Meadowlake filly, Dreamy Maiden. Stray Flight's dam Barn Swallow was a 3/4-sister to Favorable Turn, a Turn-to horse who won the Saratoga Special at two and the Seminole H. and Donn H. at four.

Texcess's pedigree is quite an outcross with no ancestor appearing in both parents within five generations. The cross the pedigree represents--that of In Excess over Northern Dancer-line mares--has been one of his most successful, accounting for Musical Chimes, Indian Charlie, Above Perfection, Excessivepleasure and In Excessive Bull, five of his first eight graded stakes winners. That Northern Dancer, a son of Nearctic, should work well here is not totally surprising, since In Excess has Owen Tudor (reverse Hyperion/Pharos cross to Nearctic), Alibhai (bred on the same cross as Nearctic's dam), and, tucked away in the female line of his broodmare sire, a stallion called Lighthouse II, who is bred on very similar lines to Nearctic.

The close inbreeding to siblings Vice Regent/Viceregal in the pedigree of Texcess's dam, may have had a particularly notable effect here. In addition to being by Nearctic's son Northern Dancer, Vice Regent and Viceregal are out of the mare Victoria Regina, a daughter of the top-class French horse Menetrier. Menetrier was by a son of Fairway out of a mare by Gold Bridge. If we look at the pedigree of the sire of the second dam of In Excess, the excellent English sprinter Vilmorin, we can note that he is by Gold Bridge out of a mare by Fairway, and thus is bred on the reverse cross to Menetrier.

Reports indicate that Texcess may be pointed towards the GII San Rafael S. as a first step on the road to the GI Kentucky Derby. Should he prove talented enough, Texcess would appear to have a good chance of staying the trip, at least against his fellow three-year-olds in the spring. In Excess himself won the 10-furlong Suburban in a new track-record-time of 1:58.1, and his GI Kentucky Derby third was out of Soviet Sojourn, a precocious two-year-old who never won beyond seven furlongs. Texcess's half sister Gimme the Willys is a winner at up to 11 furlongs, and his maternal grandsire Regal Classic won the Prince of Wales at 9 1/2 furlongs, and was second in the Queen's Plate and Molson Export Challenge at 10 furlongs.



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## HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL RACES PAST WINNERS

### Hong Kong Cup

2003	Falbrav (Ire) (Fairy King)
2002	Precision (Fr) (Anabaa)
2001	Agnes Digital (Crafty Prospector)
2000	Fantastic Light (Rahy)
1999	Jim and Tonic (Fr) (Double Bed {Fr})
1998	Midnight Bet (Housebuster)
1997	Val's Prince (Eternal Prince)
1996	First Island (GB) (Dominion)
1995	Fujiyama Kenzan (Jpn) (Lucky Cast)

### Hong Kong Vase

2003	Vallee Enchantee (Fr) (Danehill)
2002	Ange Gabriel (Fr) (Kaldounevees {Fr})
2001	Stay Gold (Jpn) (Sunday Silence)
2000	Daliapour (Ire) (Sadler's Wells)
1999	Borgia (Ger) (Acatenango {Ger})
1998	Indigenous (Ire) (Marju {Ire})
1997	Luso (GB) (Salse)
1996	Luso (GB) (Salse)
1995	Partipral (Procida)

### Hong Kong Mile

2003	Lucky Owners (NZ) (Danehill)
2002	Olympic Express (GB) (Bishop of Cashel {GB})
2001	Eishin Preston (Green Dancer)
2000	Sunline (NZ) (Desert Sun {GB})
1999	Docksider (Diesis {GB})
1998	Jim and Tonic (Fr) (Double Bed {Fr})
1997	Catalan Opening (NZ) (Kaapstad {NZ})
1996	Monopolize (Aus) (Rubiton {Aus})
1995	Monopolize (Aus) (Rubiton {Aus})

\*Run as Hong Kong Bowl over 1400m to 1998

### Hong Kong Sprint

2003	Silent Witness (Aus) (El Moxie)
2002	All Thrills Too (NZ) (St Covet {Aus})
2001	Falvelon (Aus) (Alannon {Aus})
2000	Falvelon (Aus) (Alannon {Aus})
1999	Fairy King Prawn (Aus) (Danehill)

# A MILLION-DOLLAR BABY FOR... IN EXCESS IRE

Two-year-old **TEXCESS (\$725,427)** takes the  
**\$1 million Delta Jackpot S.** on December 4!

 **NORTH AMERICA** 

**NUMBERS UP AT FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC**  
Figures for the two-day Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December Mixed Sale, which concluded Monday in Timonium, Maryland, increased across the board, with the average up a whopping 42 percent over last year's auction. During Monday's final session, which featured weanlings, top price was paid for [hip 330](#), a son of Malibu Moon out of Aileen's Countess (Dancing Count). The dark bay colt was consigned by Hargett Farms and was purchased for a sale-topping bid of \$160,000 by Josham Farms. Fasig-Tipton sold 363 horses at the auction for a gross of \$3,862,300. The average was \$10,640--up from \$7,506 a year ago--while the median rose 38 percent to \$5,100.



**FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC DECEMBER  
MONDAY, DEC. 6, 2004**

<u>SESSION TOTALS</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
No. Offered	255	225
No. Sold	214	195
RNAs	41	30
% RNA	16.1%	13.3%
Gross	\$2,378,500	\$1,610,000
Average (% change)	\$11,114 (+34.6%)	\$8,256
Median (% change)	\$5,000 (+25%)	\$4,000
<u>CUMULATIVE</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
No. Offered	460	465
No. Sold	363	360
RNAs	97	105
% RNA	21.1%	22.6%
Gross	\$3,862,300	\$2,702,300
Average (% change)	\$10,640 (+41.8%)	\$7,506
Median (% change)	\$5,100 (+37.8%)	\$3,700

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**KEENELAND ANNOUNCES SPRING STAKES SCHEDULE**

Keeneland Race Course, in Lexington, Kentucky, has announced its stakes schedule for spring of 2005. The three-week meet, which runs from Apr. 8 through Apr. 29, features 19 stakes races--15 of them graded--worth \$4,125,000. As always, the \$750,000 GI Toyota Blue Grass S., to be held Saturday, Apr. 16, will serve as a key prep for the Kentucky Derby. The Vinery Madison S. for fillies and mares four-years-old and up, which in a short time has been increased from \$100,000 to \$175,000 to \$200,000, has been elevated to Grade III status for 2005. A pair of races have seen significant purse increases--the GIII Jenny Wiley S. has been bumped from \$100,000 to \$200,000, while the GII Commonwealth Breeders' Cup H. has gone from \$250,000 to \$400,000. For a complete listing of stakes, visit [www.keeneland.com](http://www.keeneland.com).

★ **NEW YORK** ★

**Fast Decision to Milfer Farm:**

Graded stakes winner **Fast Decision** (Gulch--Demi Souer, by Storm Bird) has been retired to stud and will stand the 2005 season at Milfer Farm in Unadilla, NY. The five-year-old enjoyed his best year in 2002, when he counted the GIII Withers S. among his victories. He retires with four wins in 18 starts and earnings of \$191,366. Fast Decision, whose dam is a half sister to Dehere, is bred along the same lines leading sire Thunder Gulch, who is also by Gulch out of a Storm Bird mare. A stud fee has not been determined. For more information, visit [www.milferfarms.com](http://www.milferfarms.com).

**STAKES CLOSINGS**

**TODAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8:**  
12-20 \$150,000 **Dahlia H.-II, Hol, 3yo/up, f/m,**  
8.5fT (150)

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



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★ EUROPE ★

**FINE MOTION HEADING STATESIDE** Japanese champion **Fine Motion (Ire)** (Danehill--Cocotte {GB}, by Troy {GB}) has been retired from racing and will likely begin her broodmare career in the U.S., according to the Japan Association for International Horse Racing. Her trainer, Yu Ito, has stated that she may be covered by Kentucky Derby hero and promising young stallion Fusaichi Pegasus. "I believe it is a good time for her to start her breeding career while she still has enough energy to fulfill her second job as a broodmare," Ito said. "I cannot wait to see her first crops back on races a few years later." Produced by the stakes-placed Cocotte, Fine Motion is a 3/4-sister to European champion Pilsudski (Ire) (Polish Precedent), winner of Group 1 events in England, Ireland, Germany and Japan as well as hero of the GI Breeders' Cup Turf at Woodbine and twice runner-up in the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Named champion three-year-old filly in Japan, Fine Motion landed the G1-Jpn Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup during that campaign. In all, she won eight of 15 career starts for earnings of over \$4.2 million. She is also a half sister to GSW Glowing Ardour (GB) (Dancing Brave) and a full sister to SW Baraka (Ire).



**Fine Motion**  
JRA photo

★ AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS ★

**IN FRANCE:**

+ **Melanosporum**, c, 2, **Royal Anthem**. See "France"

**Baccino**, g, 6, **Twining**--Bering Down, by Bering (GB). Deauville, 12-7, Hcp, 4yo/up, 7 1/2f (AWT). B-Matt Duffy. \*\$42,000 wnl '98 KEENOV; \$37,000 yrl '99 KESEP. \*\*1/2 to Yolo Lady (Eastern Echo), SW & MGISP, \$349,240.

**IN ITALY:**

**Miss Archidamia**, f, 2, **Summer Squall**. See "European Breeders' Edition"

**IN BRITAIN:**

**Old Bailey**, g, 4, **Lit de Justice**--Olden Lek (SP-US, \$154,568), by Cozzene. Southwell, 12-7, Hcp, 3yo/up, 6f (AWT). B-B Hunter. \*\$8,000 yrl '01 KESEP.

★ FRANCE ★

**Yesterday's Results:**

**Deauville, 1.35, Mdn**, €16,000, unraced 2yo, c/g, 7 1/2f (AWT), 1:31.20, stn.

+ **MELANOSPORUM** (c, 2, **Royal Anthem**--Innes, by **A.P. Indy**) arrived at the track with a glowing reputation, going postward as the 19-10 pick. Settled off the pace in midfield from the outset, the dark bay colt was ridden along to challenge with 1 1/2 furlongs remaining and was punched out inside the final furlong to safely account for Reflex (Fr) (Octagonal {NZ}) by two lengths. A \$32,000 KESEP yearling, Melanosporum is a grandson of the top U.S. turf mare Kostroma (Ire) (Caerleon). He marks the fourth winner for his first-crop sire (by Theatrical {Ire}). Lifetime Record: 1 start, 1 win, €8,000.



France Galop

O-A Holmes; B-Kennelot Stables Ltd; T-Jean-Claude Rouget.

**Deauville, 2.05, Mdn**, €16,000, unraced 2yo, f, 7 1/2f (AWT), 1:32.30, stn.

+ **ALPHABETIQUE (FR)** (f, 2, **Zieten**--**Ambra** {Fr} {SW & GSP-Ger}, by **Acatenango** {Ger}) stalked the lead in fourth from the bell and moved into a challenging position at the top of the stretch. Showing a fine turn of foot to seize the initiative approaching the final furlong, the 83-10 chance lengthened clear in the closing stages to defeat Fujairah (Swi) (Sri Pekan) by an easy three lengths. Lifetime Record: 1 start, 1 win, €8,000. O/B-Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges; T-Yves de Nicolay.

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 **SOPHOMORE SPOTLIGHT**

**First-time starters/stakes runners: Wednesday, Dec. 8**

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

- ARCHERS BAY** (Silver Deputy), 102/34/1  
4-WO, Stk, 1 1/16m, Kent Ridge  
4-WO, Stk, 1 1/16m, Arch Hall
- CRYPTO STAR** (Cryptoclearance), Murmur, \$4K, 75/19/1  
8-PIM, Msw, 5 1/2f, +Lexi Star, \$9K EAS SEP yrl, 10-1
- MENIFEE** (Harlan), Stone, \$15K, 84/36/4  
5-PIM, Msw, 5 1/2f, +Sky Burner, 10-1

 **FRESHMAN FOCUS**

**First-crop progeny to watch: Wednesday, Dec. 8**

*Sire (Sire's Sire), Farm, 2001 Fee, #2yos/Winners/SW  
Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*

- CAPE CANAVERAL** (Mr. Prospector), Overbrook, \$10K, 58/13/3  
6-PIM, Alw, 1 1/16m, Cape Cosmo, 9-2  
7-TP, Msw, 1m, Whistling Straits, \$25K OBS FEB 2yo
- CATIENUS** (Storm Cat), Highcliff, \$4K, 47/14/1  
8-TP, Alw, 1m, Cat Shaker, \$2K FTK OCT yrl
- SUCCESSFUL APPEAL** (Valid Appeal), Walmac, \$5K, 45/15/5  
8-PIM, Msw, 5 1/2f, Sun Appeal, \$17K EAS MAY 2yo, 8-1
- UNBRIDLED JET** (Unbridled), Country Life, \$8K, 67/2/0  
8-PIM, Msw, 5 1/2f, +Unbridled Valay, 20-1

**BREEDERS' EDITION  
AMERICA**

**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

**9th-MNR, \$32,400**, 12-6, NW3L, 3yo/up, f/m, a1m70yd, 1:46 2/5, ft.  
**SHAKE ME DOWN** (f, 3, Frisk Me Now--Seeking Glory, by Bounding Basque) Lifetime Record: 12-3-2-0, \$65,009. O/T-Charles Michael Lake. B-Penn Farm (KY).

**9th-PHA, \$29,600**, NW3\$6MX, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:24 2/5, sy.  
**GOLDDIGGER BEWARE** (f, 4, Prenup--Flagnlinda, by Shimatoree) Lifetime Record: MSP, 17-6-6-2, \$155,289. O-William J Hartwell. B-Frances M Hartwell (PA). T-John C Servis.

The **brisnet.com** 'Race of the Day' is the 9th Race, \$46,000 Allowance, at Aqueduct. For pps and a complete race analysis, click [here](http://www.brisnet.com).

**10th-PHA, \$22,726**, NW2X, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09 1/5, sy. **CURB** (g, 4, Indian Charlie--Devilish Intent, by Full Pocket) Lifetime Record: 21-3-6-4, \$122,140. O-Joseph E Besecker & Leo Gaspari St Et Al. B-Glenary Farm, Inc (KY). T-Scott A Lake. \*\$4,000 wlng '00 KEENOV; \$31,000 yrl '01 TEXAUG; \$90,000 2yo 2002 OBSMAR. \*\*1/2 to Wantin An Havin (Tsunami Slew), Ch. Older Mare-Jam, MSW-Jam; Sintress (Gold Legend), SW, \$110,621.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Saharan Sunrise**, f, 2, **Silver Ghost**--Key to the Road, by Strawberry Road (Aus). MNR, 12-6, a1m70yd, 1:48. B-Kevin G Pipes (Ky).  
**Storm Capsule**, g, 4, **Service Stripe**--Eloquent Miss Rex, by Rexson. MNR, 12-6, 6f, 1:13 1/5. B-Pope McLean (Ky).

**BREEDERS' EDITION  
EUROPE**

**CONDITIONS RESULTS:**

**ITALY, Naples, 5.05**, 12-6, €19,125, 3yo/up, 11f 55ydsT, time: n/a, hy.  
**DARREL (GB)** (g, 6, Distant Relative {Ire}--Besadar, by Silver Hawk) Lifetime Record: GSP-Ity, 44 starts, 15 wins, 13 places, €230,646. O-Scuderia La Selva Oscura; B-Scuderia Curtasse SAS; T-Raffaele Biondi.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Miss Archidamia**, f, 2, **Summer Squall**--Tracks of My Tears (GB), by Damister. Naples, Italy, 12-6, Cond, 2yo, 1 1/4mT. B-C.A.M.M.A. SAS.  
**Prosperous (Fr)**, c, 3, **Highest Honor (Fr)**--Prusse, by Ogygian. Deauville, France, 12-7, Cond, 3yo, 6 1/2f (AWT). B-Alec & Ghislaine Head. \*€10,000 yrl '02 DEAOCT.  
**Song of Vala (GB)**, g, 3, **Peintre Celebre**--Yanka, by Blushing John. Southwell, Britain, 12-7, Mdn, 3yo, 1m (AWT). B-Mrs C L Parker.

**2005 BARRETT'S SALES DATES\***

<b>January Winter Mixed Sale</b>	<b>Jan. 24-25</b>
<b>March Sale of Selected 2YO in Training</b>	<b>Mar. 15</b>
<b>May Sale of 2YO in Training</b>	<b>May 16 &amp; 17</b>
<b>Summer Sale of 2YO in Training and HRA</b>	<b>June 28</b>
<b>Fall Sale of Preferred Yearlings</b>	<b>Oct. 4</b>
<b>Fall Mixed Sale</b>	<b>Oct. 24-25</b>

\*Dates subject to change  
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