

PRINCE CORTEZ
 carrying hopes in Risen Star
 p. 3-4

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THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008

**HEADLINE
 NEWS**

ALEXANDER TANGO'S DAM TOPS TATTS

House In Wood (Fr) (Woodman), the dam of the ill-fated GI Garden City S. heroine Alexander Tango (Ire) (Danhill Dancer {Ire}), topped yesterday's one-day



House in Wood - Top Lot
www.tattersalls.com

Tattersalls February Sale in Newmarket. Philip Brady of Graigue Park Stud in Co Tipperary, who previously co-owned the mare, bought out his partners by bidding 450,000gns. Agent Charlie Gordon-Watson was underbidder. "I originally bought her with a couple of friends for a fun business venture [in Decem-

ber 2002] for 32,000gns, and she went on to produce a Grade I winner, which was fantastic," said Brady, who has around 20 mares. "I was very interested in buying her, and I thought beforehand that myself and Coolmore were the two likeliest people to get her, but then Charlie started bidding for her. I said to him afterwards that I didn't know if I should be saying thanks or no thanks to him! But I thought she was good value, and the highest bidder got her." House In Wood, a half-sister to G2 Prix Niel winner Housamix (Fr) (Linamix {Fr}) and Grade I-placed Housa Dancer (Fr) (Fabulous Dancer), was covered by Oasis Dream (GB), and her foal is likely to be offered later this year. A granddaughter of French champion juvenile filly Hippodamia (Hail to Reason), House in Wood has a two-year-old filly by Refuse to Bend (Ire) and a yearling colt by Rock of Gibraltar (Ire). **Cont. p2**

TATTERSALLS FEBRUARY SALE

	2008	2007
No. Catalogued	290	329
No. Offered	231	251
No. Sold	153	191
No. 100K+	2	3
RNAs	78	60
% RNA	33.8%	23.9%
Gross	2,250,500gns	2,268,000gns
Average (% change)	14,709gns (+23.9%)	11,874gns
Median (% change)	5,000gns (-9.1%)	5,500gns

SANTA ANITA GETS 2009 BREEDERS' CUP

On the heels of yet another cancellation at Santa Anita (see ATW, p1), Breeders' Cup Limited officials announced yesterday that the Arcadia, California track has been awarded the 2009 Breeders' Cup World Championships. The 25th Breeders' Cup will take place Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6-7. Santa Anita, already the host of this year's Cup, will be the first track to have the event in consecutive years. "We are excited about the prospect for consecutive years in America's second largest media market," said Breeders' Cup Chairman Bill Farish. Santa Anita is a fantastic venue, and the Oak Tree Racing Association has been a great partner during our 25-year history." The Breeders' Cup currently consists of 14 races with purses totalling \$25.5 million. The decision followed a lengthy review process by the Breeders' Cup Host Site Selection Committee, which included discussions with multiple racing venues in different regions, and the committee's recommendation was unanimously approved by the

Breeders' Cup Board of Directors. Breeders' Cup officials stressed that future host sites would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. "We will pursue discussions for the 2010 Breeders' Cup and years beyond with Churchill Downs, Del Mar and the New York Racing Association, among others," said Greg Avioli, president and chief executive officer of Breeders' Cup Ltd. The Breeders' Cup inaugurated its two-day format in 2007 at Monmouth Park, and the 2008 event will feature three new races: the \$1-million Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, \$1-million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf and the \$500,000 Breeders' Cup Marathon. "We are pleased that Breeders' Cup has placed this confidence in Oak Tree and our Santa Anita management team to host the Breeders' Cup in consecutive years," said Sherwood Chillingworth, Oak Tree's executive vice president. "We're delighted to be selected again. 2008 will be the third time that I have been involved in the hosting of a Breeders' Cup, and I never tire of it."



Horsephotos

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Tattersalls February cont.

There was one other six-figure lot, **Fortunately (GB)** (Forzando {GB}), the only mare offered in foal to Giant's Causeway. The seven-year-old was a stakes winner in Britain and at Del Mar. Agent Will Edmeades paid 130,000gns for the bay mare, with fellow agent Geoffrey Howson the underbidder. "She's been bought for a client to board at Kirtlington Stud, and was a lovely, correct, classy mare," Edmeades commented. He added, "She has to be tough to have won a listed race on both sides of the pond. Trainer Mark Johnston--who developed Shamardal (Giant's Causeway) as an unbeaten juvenile before becoming a multiple Group 1 winner for Godolphin at three--paid 95,000gns for the stakes-placed mare **Woodlass** (Woodman). The eight-year-old, currently in foal to Dansili (GB) on a May 14 cover, will visit Johnston's former trainee. "I've got four and a half mares now and keep them at home; they just board with Paul Venner when they go and visit a stallion," said Johnston. "Sheikh Mohammed gave me a nomination to Shamardal, and this mare will go to him." Woodlass's first foal is a two-year-old colt by Dynaformer, and she has a yearling filly by Cadeaux Geneux (GB). Complete results are available on www.tattersalls.com.

TATTERSALLS FEBRUARY - TOP 5 LOTS

Hip	Name	Status	Price (gns)
63	House in Wood (Fr)	i/f Oasis Dream (GB)	450,000
	<i>(m, 11, Woodman--Housatonic, by Riverman)</i>		
	Consigned by Lewinstown		
	Purchased by Graiguenoe Park Stud		
60	Fortunately (GB)	i/f Giant's Causeway	130,000
	<i>(m, 7, Forzando {GB}--Lucky Dip {GB}, by Tirol {Ire})</i>		
	Consigned by the Castlebridge Consignment		
	Purchased by Will Edmeades Bloodstock Ltd		
43	Woodlass	i/f Dansili (GB)	95,000
	<i>(m, 8, Woodman--Vitola {GB}, by Sallust {Ire})</i>		
	Consigned by Aston Mullins Stud		
	Purchased by Mark Johnston Racing Ltd		
259	Solent Ridge (Ire)	In Training	90,000
	<i>(c, 3, Namid {GB}--Carrozzina {GB}, by Vettori {Ire})</i>		
	<i>(9,500gns wnlg '05 TATDEC; £11,000 '07 GOFMAR)</i>		
	Consigned by Uplands Stables		
	Purchased by Kern/Lillingston Association		
40	Mednaya (Ire)	B'mare Prospect	90,000
	<i>(m, 5, Anabaa--Sopran Dandy {Ire}, by Doyoun {Ire})</i>		
	Consigned by Snailwell Stud		
	Purchased by Allevamento dei Lagoni		

☆ RESULTS ☆

Thursday, Nad al Sheba, Dubai

SHEIKH MAKTOUM BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM CHALLENGE ROUND 2-G3, \$200,000, 2-7, NAD, NH4yo/up/SH3yo/up, 1800m, 1:49.06, gd.

1--**@LUCKY FIND (SAF), 125, g, 5, by Rich Man's Gold**

1st Dam: Little Erna (SAf), by Ernani (Ire)

2nd Dam: Little Hope (SAf), by Ellidor (Fr)

3rd Dam: Let's Hope So (SAf), by African Hope (Ire)

O-Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohd bin Khalifa Al Maktoum; B-C W Nelson & J Mahony (SAF); T-Mike de Kock; J-Kevin Shea; \$120,000. Lifetime Record: G1SP-SAf, 11-6-4-0, \$280,640. *1/2 to Pay the Piper (SAf) (Saumarez {GB}), MSW-SAf.

2--**Kandidate (GB), 125, h, 6, Kabool (GB)--Valleyrose (Ire), by Royal Academy.** (30,000gns wnlg '02 TATDEC; 26,000gns '03 yrl TATOCT). O-The Exors of the late A J Richards; B-Proton Partnership; T-Clive Brittain. \$40,000.

3--**Imperial Star (Ire), 125, h, 5, Fantastic Light--Out West, by Gone West.** (220,000gns yrl '04 TATOCT). O-HRH Princess Haya; B-Deerfield Farm; T-K McEvoy. \$20,000.

Margins: 2 1/4, 7, HD.

Also Ran: Jack Sullivan, Quorum (Ger), Delude (Ire), Boscobel (GB), Etihaad (GB), Sahara Sphinx, Rampallion (GB), Eu Tambem (Brz), West Virginia.

Mike de Kock and Kevin Shea teamed up to land the big event of the evening when South African invader Lucky Find (SAf) proved best in the G3 Maktoum Challenge Round 2. Marking his debut in the UAE with a sound victory on opening night of the Carnival Jan. 17, the grandson of Forty Niner was facing a more accomplished bunch this time, including defending champ Kandidate (GB), winner of the G3 September S. at Kempton; and MGSW West Virginia, third in the GI Pimlico Special, GI Stephen Foster H., and GI Whitney H. last year. Content to track leader Kandidate in the early going, the chestnut eased to the fore 300 meters from the wire and drew clear to score comfortably. "He improved tremendously from his first run, so we were very confident," said winning trainer Mike de Kock. "We'll go for the third round of the Maktoum Challenge next [Mar. 6] and, hopefully, he could be a Dubai World Cup horse." [Click for the Racing Post chart](#)



Andrew Watkins

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ATKINS LIVING HER DREAM

For Susie Atkins the road to owning and breeding her own racehorses has been a pleasant surprise.

"I think it's a dream," Atkins, a 61-year-old Illinois native, said. "We really didn't even know that this is what we wanted to do, but it just evolved. We were definitely fans first, fans of the Kentucky Derby, if you can believe it."

Atkins and her husband Clinton first embarked on racehorse ownership about five years ago. The couple originally had horses with Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, but eventually decided to expand their Thoroughbred interests. They purchased the former



Prince Cortez Coady Photography

Mare Haven Farm in Lexington and combined their initials to rename the property CASA Farm.

Explaining the decision to buy the farm, Atkins laughingly said, "When the horses would be laid up--this is how dumb I am--when the horses are laid up, it costs that much money to have them boarded. But, heck, if we had a horse farm, we wouldn't have to pay that. But you know how silly that idea is--I don't think you save money that way."

But, with farm in hand, Atkins found another direction to travel--breeding her own racehorses.

"I didn't really know that that's what I wanted to do until we got the farm," she admitted. "It seemed like we started to get some fillies and I knew I didn't want to part with them. And I have a wonderful neighbor, Roxanne Martin, and she has been in the horse business forever and I think she was our mentor. She breeds horses and so I'd go over and watch her and help her and it just became more and more interesting. That's what I wanted to do."

Cont. p4

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James Underwood's European Racing And Breeding Digest, 1st August 2006.

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TDN Feature Presentation cont.

Currently, CASA Farm has six broodmares and the leader of the band is multiple graded stakes winner **Baghdaria** (Royal Academy). The Atkinses purchased Baghdaria privately, and she went on to win the 2006 renewals of the GIII Indiana Breeders' Cup Oaks and GIII Iowa Oaks. She was seventh in that year's GI Breeders' Cup Distaff.

"She's a prima donna," Atkins joked of her stable star. "She likes to have everything just right. She doesn't like to be very hot and she doesn't like to be very cold. And she doesn't like winter. But she's very lovable. She's really, really a sweet girl. She's here on the farm and she's going to go to A.P. Indy in the spring."

While the Atkinses currently have only one horse in training, he could prove to be an exciting one. Susie Atkins will be in New Orleans this weekend to watch her unbeaten three-year-old **Prince Cortez** (Repent) go postward in the GIII Risen Star S. at the Fair Grounds.

The colt was an easy winner of his debut at Mountaineer last October and of a Tampa Bay allowance in December. He became a stakes winner in Delta Downs's Jan. 18 Triple Sec S., but Atkins admitted the Risen Star will be a big step up in competition for Prince Cortez.

"It's a major step," she said. "We just want to see what he can do and where his comfort level is. And this is a total learning experience."

Whatever happens on Saturday, Atkins is enjoying living a dream she didn't even know she had.

"I really participate with the horses," she said. "I like to know them all real well. Horses are just magic animals and it's something I've always wanted to be a part of and my husband wanted it just as much as I did."

Clinton Atkins is the owner of several companies, mostly real estate development firms, but Susie Atkins sounds right at home on CASA Farm.

"I spend a good part of the time in Kentucky," Atkins explained. "Right now it's breeding time and it's winter—you just like to stay close to the farm."

Except, maybe, for the occasional weekend trip to New Orleans.

- *Daily Racing Form* reports that **Check It Twice** (Repent) will skip the Risen Star, according to trainer Todd Pletcher. The What a Pleasure S. winner could make his next start in the Sam F. Davis S. at Tampa Bay Downs Feb. 16.

RECENT WINNERS - GIII RISEN STAR S.

Year	Winner (Sire)	Trainer	Time
2007	Notional (Tiznow)	O'Neill	1:44.18
2006	Lawyer Ron (Langfuhr)	Holthus	1:43.13
2005	Scipion (A.P. Indy)	Biancone	1:44.54
2004	Gradepoint (A.P. Indy)	Howard	1:45.36
2003	Badge of Silver (Silver Deputy)	Werner	1:42.99
2002	Repent (Louis Quatorze)	McPeck	1:43.86

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☆ PREVIEW ☆

Sunday, Santa Anita

LA CANADA S.-GII, \$200,000, 4yo, f, 1 1/8m (AWT)

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	WT
1	Dawn After Dawn	Successful Appeal	Gomez	116
2	Caressive	A.P. Indy	Bejarano	116
3	Tough Tiz's Sis	Tiznow	Espinoza	123
4	Say You Will (Ire)	A.P. Indy	Flores	116
5	Down	Mr. Greeley	Solis	116
6	Bahia Rosa (Arg)	American Chance	Berrio	116

Sunday, Santa Anita

SAN VICENTE S.-GII, \$150,000, 3yo, 7f (AWT)

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	WT
1	Georgie Boy	Tribal Rule	Bejarano	122
2	Massive Drama	Kafwain	Gomez	119
3	Red Hot Flame	Malek (Chi)	Blanc	115
4	Into Mischief	Harlan's Holiday	Espinoza	119
5	Cardinal Zin	Whywhywhy	Solis	115

TDN TODAY

Headline News..... 4 pages

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NORTH AMERICA

**NEW YORK FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
EXPECTED BEFORE SHUTDOWN**

Senator Joseph Bruno, in a blog posted Wednesday on his website at senatorbruno.com, said that he expects there will be an agreement on the New York racing franchise before the



Sen. Joseph Bruno
senatorbruno.com

New York Racing Association's current extension expires Feb. 13. In the blog, Bruno stated, "Last December, NYRA was threatening to close down racing in New York. That didn't happen in December and it isn't going to happen now. In fact, I believe that an agreement on a racing framework will be announced very shortly. The agreement will be similar to the one we could have announced last December before the franchise

expired." A member of Bruno's staff confirmed the statement Thursday, saying, "The 13th marks the end of the current extender, and we anticipate a final agreement prior to that." The framework of the agreement now on the table would grant NYRA a 25-year franchise, but would include reviews every four years to ensure that certain benchmarks in areas such as finances, backstretch conditions and attendance are being met. If NYRA does not meet the requirements, it would risk losing the franchise. The proposal would also limit the current NYRA Chairman, C. Steven Duncker, to just one more four-year term, and would limit future chairmen to two four-year terms.

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

SANTA ANITA CANCELS FRIDAY CARD Santa Anita announced that today's card has been cancelled due to a one-day delay in the last phase of its main track renovation. Track President Ron Charles said, "We know and deeply regret that the lost days have inconvenienced many horsemen and fans. At this point, as painful as it is to everyone to miss another day, an extra 24 hours is absolutely necessary to make sure that we allow Pro-Ride the time to complete this massive project according to their exact specifications. Our track crews have been working from 7 a.m. until after midnight every day, and will continue to do so until we get this finished." He added, "We will def-



Benoit Photo

initely race on Saturday. [Pro-Ride's] Ian [Pearse] agrees, and is very confident that the process is going well now. The portions of track that have been completed so far are as good as we expected. We have become increasingly encouraged that this new surface is going to be what we had hoped--a good, consistent and kind surface that we all believe will drain properly for the rest of the meet." Saturday's card will feature three stakes races, including the GI Las Virgenes S. and GI Santa Maria H., as well as a Pick Six carryover of \$181,514. Friday's card will be redrawn and used on the meet's first make-up day, Wednesday Feb. 13. Pearse, founder of Australia's Pro-Ride, said the delay was due to the track's wetness after rains on Sunday. "We expected to make substantial progress starting late Sunday," said Pearse. "We began amending the track, but the uneven drainage left it very wet in places and drier in others. The binder and polymer application is the most crucial piece of the renovation puzzle, and it cannot be done properly unless the surface is consistent, which delayed the initial application of the polymer until Monday."

"He's proving quite a versatile and consistent sire...I'd say he's underrated by the market now."

— Bill Oppenheim
TDN 2/6/08

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News Today cont.

CHURCHILL ANNOUNCES \$11 MILLION

STAKES SCHEDULE Churchill Downs has announced a stakes schedule worth \$11 million--the second highest in track history--for its 2008 Spring and Fall Meetings. The track will host 45 stakes races, including



Horsephotos

a record 38 graded events, headlined by the 134th running of the \$2-million GI Kentucky Derby. "Churchill Downs is proud to present a stakes schedule for 2008 that again offers wonderful opportunities to compete against top-notch horses in every age group and division," said

Ben Huffman, racing secretary at Churchill Downs. "We appreciate the efforts of our Churchill Downs-based horsemen and owners and trainers from across North America to support our stakes programs in recent years, and we look forward to working with them again as they bring their talented horses to race in stakes competition at the home of the Kentucky Derby." The Apr. 26-July 6 Spring Meet will feature 31 stakes worth \$8.1 million. The Oct. 26-Nov. 29 Fall Meet will feature 14 stakes events worth \$2.9 million. In all, Churchill will conduct five Grade I races, 11 Grade II contests and 22 Grade III events, and the Fall Meet will again feature a pair of "Stars of Tomorrow" cards Nov. 1 and Nov. 29, respectively. For more information, go to www.churchilldowns.com.

CALDER ESTABLISHES TURF MILLION Calder Race Course has announced a new event, the Turf Million, to be held Apr. 26, the opening Saturday of the track's 2008 season. Four turf stakes worth \$1.15

Turf Million

million will be contested that day. The featured race will be the GIII Calder Derby, the purse of which has been doubled to

\$400,000. The nine-furlong race for three-year-olds was previously contested during the track's Festival of the Sun card in October. The Calder Derby will be accompanied by the nine-furlong \$200,000 Calder Oaks for three-year-old fillies, the \$250,000 Bob Umphrey Turf Sprint H. at five furlongs and a new race, the \$300,000 Mairzy Doates H. at 11 furlongs for distaffers. "By holding these significant races on the first Saturday of our Calder Meet, we expect to attract horses still in South Florida from the winter season," said Calder President Ken Dunn. "With the large purses, we also anticipate heavy interest from horsemen all over the country." Racing Secretary Mike Anifantis added, "We are confident that we can build on the quality of the Calder Derby by holding it on this new marquee day. Also, the Turf Million is a great opportunity for horsemen with grass horses in various divisions." The track will also introduce a new bet that day, the "Calder Derby/Kentucky Derby Double" wager. Bettors will be challenged to pick the winner of the Calder Derby and the winner of the GI Kentucky Derby, to be run a week later at Churchill Downs May 3.



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★ GULFSTREAM ★

Yesterday's Results:

8th-GPX, \$59,500, Alw, Opt. Clm.
 (\$100,000-\$80,000), NW2\$6MX, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:46, fm.
 1--**MINISTER'S JOY, 118, h, 6, Deputy Minister--**
Meghan's Joy (MSP), by A.P. Indy. O-Stuart S Janney III; B-Stuart S Janney (KY); T-Claude R McGaughey III. Lifetime Record: 31-6-6-5, \$267,220. * 1/2 to Hunting (Coronado's Quest), GSW, \$230,925.
 2--**National Captain (SAf), 118, h, 6, Captain AI (Saf)--**
National Secret (SAf), by Secret Prospector.
 3--**Barastraight (GB), 118, r, 5, Barathea (Ire)--**
Straight Lass (Ire), by Machiavellian. (€90,000 yrl '04 DEAAUG).
 Margins: HD, HD, 3/4. Odds: 4.60, 1.90, 44.70.

Minister's Joy was along in the final strides to post a mild upset and his first victory in nearly a year. An allowance winner at this meet last Feb. 19, the bay had been shut out in nine subsequent appearances, capped by a sixth to Einstein (Brz) in a one-mile allowance at this oval Jan. 11. Allowed to trail for the opening six furlongs, Minister's Joy commenced his bid turning for home, responded when asked for his best and outslugged favored National Captain for the win.

[Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8:
 02-18 \$250,000 *Southwest-III, OP, 3yo, 8f*
 (300)

TOMORROW, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9:
 02-23 \$100/50,000a *Tampa Bay Breeders' Cup, Tam,*
4yo/up, 8.5fT (100)
 02-23 \$100/50,000a *Bayou H., FG, 4yo/up, f/m, a9fT*
 (100)

www.stakesdigestweekly.com



TODAY'S
INSIGHTS

The Idea is Excellence.

2:15p HRTV 3rd-GPX, \$42K, Msw, 3yo, f, 1m
QUIET NOW (Tiznow) makes her debut here for trainer Todd Pletcher and owner/breeder Edward Evans. The gray filly, a daughter of SW & GSP Quiet Dance (Quiet American), is a half-sister to the ill-fated Horse of the Year and \$4-million earner Saint Liam. **C. R. Princess (Officer)** comes into her bow off a Jan. 31 bullet at Payson Park. The California-bred is a half to MGSW & MGISP Classy Cara (General Meeting). brisnet.com pps

3:55p HRTV 6th-FGX, \$39K, Msw, 3yo, f a1mT
TALKIN INDIAN (Indian Charlie) was knocked down for \$160K as a KEESEP yearling, a reasonable price given the fact that she is a half-sister to MGISW Better Talk Now (Talkin Man). She sports a series of moderate works for her debut. **Olemiss Rebel (Sky Classic)** has finished unplaced in three consecutive off-the-turf races, but this half to fan favorite and 15-time stakes winner Sarah Lane's Oates hopes to try the infield today. brisnet.com pps

4:11p HRTV 7th-GPX, \$42K, Msw, 3yo, 1m
TOOLS FOR THE JOB (Forest Wildcat), a son of owner Elizabeth Valando's GSW & GISP Take the Cake (Fly So Free), makes his three-year-old bow today. A promising third in an Aug. 1 Saratoga maiden, the chestnut has been away since finishing up the track at the Spa Aug. 29. **Empirior (Empire Maker)**, a \$300K KEESEP yearling, is a son of Ninth Inning (Meadowlake), winner at two of the GII Astarita S. brisnet.com pps

All times Eastern Standard Time

TDN TODAY

Around the World. **10 pages**



**FANTASTIC FIRST FOALS
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Gulfstream Report cont.

6th-GPX, \$43,500, Alw, Opt. Clm. (\$62,500-\$57,500), NW1X, 4yo/up, 1mT, 1:34, fm.

BUJAGALI (c, 4, Johannesburg--River Melody, by Riverman) was well beaten in a pair of starts on the main track, but graduated by 6 1/4 lengths in a seven-furlong turf maiden at Belmont Oct. 3. Stretched to two turns, the bay was a pacesetting third to War Monger in the Oct. 24 Rutgers University S. at Monmouth, but was most recently a disappointing seventh over this turf course Jan. 10. Favored here at 9-5, the \$170,000 KEESEP yearling and \$475,000 KEEAPR juvenile hit the gates running and never looked back, scoring by a length over La Neige (GB) (Royal Applause {GB}). Lifetime Record: SP, 6-2-0-1, \$69,910. [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

O-Jeff Singer. B-Golden Gate Farm & Henri Mastey (KY). T-Kiaran P McLaughlin.

4th-GPX, \$48,000, Msw, 3yo, f, 1 1/16mT, 1:43, fm. SCOLARA (f, 3, Quiet American--Millie's Delight, by El Gran Senor) had just one rival beat through the opening six furlongs of her Nov. 4 debut over the Churchill turf course, but rallied late to finish second by 3/4 of a length. The even-money favorite in her sophomore bow at Calder Jan. 2, the homebred blew the first turn, but recovered to be a good third. Rated in midpack here by Kent Desormeaux, the half-sister to Platinee (Gulch), SP, \$165,161, was eased out for the stretch drive and surged past Tale of a Lady (Tale of the Cat) for a convincing 2 1/4-length victory as the 11-10 chalk. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, \$40,920. [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

O/B-Haras Santa Maria de Araras SA (FL). T-William I Mott.

★ **"TDN Rising Star"** ★

7th-GPX, \$40,000, Msw, 3yo, 6f, 1:09 1/5, ft.

+ **UNDERSTATEMENT, c, 3, by Distorted Humor**

1st Dam: Emotional Outburst, by Capote

2nd Dam: Joy to Raise, by Raise a Man

3rd Dam: Joy to Tell, by Tell

A 3/4-brother to the good distaffer Roar Emotion (Roar), MGSW, \$635,912, Understatement was purchased for \$1.05 million by WinStar Farm on day one of the 2006 Keeneland September sale. Turned over to Todd Pletcher, the bay colt trained forwardly at Palm Beach Downs ahead of his debut, including a bullet five furlongs in 1:00 4/5 Jan. 26. Sent off the 13-10 chalk to score at first asking, Understatement sped to the early lead, raced well within himself on the front end and drew clear to best Keep Laughing (Distorted Humor) by three lengths in an impressive and professional effort. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$24,000. [Click for the brisnet.com chart.](#) [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#) O-WinStar Farm LLC. B-Brenda Jones (KY). T-Todd A Pletcher.

TODAY'S VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

Fasig-Tipton February Mixed Sale
Hip #506 Daughter of Forestry.
 Out of a 3/4 sis to dam of 2008 Derby Contender COWBOY CAL (c. by Giant's Causeway) (G3)

Hip #507 Daughter of Unbridled's Song.
 1/2 to SW DESERT GOLD (\$243,438) out of a full sister to BC Sprint (G1) winner & Graded-Stakes producer DESERT STORMER (G1)

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8th-AQU (Appealing Guy S.) Be Bullish (Pure Prize)

flies home to post an impressive victory.

8th-GPX (Alw \$59K) Minister's Joy (Deputy

Minister) gets up in the shadow of the wire.

6th-GPX (Alw \$43K) Bujagali (Johannesburg) leads 'em on a merry chase.

4th-GPX (Msw \$48K) Scolara (Quiet American) rolls home an easy winner.

7th-GPX (Msw \$40K) Understatement (Distorted Humor) becomes a ★ **"TDN Rising Star"** ★.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a ▲ will denote a first-time Grade/Group 1 winner, a + will indicate first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.

TDN CRITERIA

The races covered in the TDN are as follows:

- Stakes** - purses of \$45,000/up
- Allowance Races** - purses of \$20,000/up
- Optional Claiming Races** - purses of \$20,000/up and a minimum claiming price of \$25,000
- Maiden Special Weight Races** - purses of \$18,000/up
- Maiden Claiming Races** - purses of \$18,000/up and a minimum claiming price of \$40,000

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★ NEW YORK ★

Yesterday's Results:

APPEALING GUY S., \$67,000, AQU, 2-7, (S), 3yo, 6f, 1:12 1/5, ft.

1--**#BE BULLISH, 118, g, 3, Pure Prize--Smart Holly, by Smarten.** O/B-Carol & Herbert Schwartz (NY); T-Scott M Schwartz; J-Charles C Lopez; \$40,200. Lifetime Record: 6-3-0-1, \$107,750. *1/2 to Tom's Thunder (Thunder Puddles), MSW, \$463,485.

2--**Piquante Cat, 118, g, 3, Performing Magic--Hasty Cat, by Tabasco Cat.** O-Obviously NY Stable. \$13,400.

3--**That'srightofficer, 118, c, 3, Officer--Jerome's Folly, by Turkoman.** (\$60,000 2yo 2007 FTMMAY). O-Clear Stars Stable. \$6,700.

Margins: 3 1/4, NK, 3. Odds: 4.40, 3.50, 3.30.

Be Bullish was fourth to a talented New York-bred in Beijing House in a Nov. 8 allowance over this main track before finishing third in his inner-track debut Nov. 30. He snapped a three-race skid in his latest, defeating Another Foose (City Zip) in a Jan. 3 allowance over track and distance. The fourth choice in a good betting affair, Be Bullish caboosed the field as Piquante Cat bowled along on the front end. His pink tack caught the eye in the stretch and he managed to bridge a six-length gap in the final furlong to win going away. [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

★ WEST ★

Yesterday's Results:

3rd-BMX, \$39,584, Alw, Opt. Clm. (\$80,000), NW3X, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:08 2/5, ft.

VICARINO (c, 4, Vicar--September Passion, by Wolf Power {SAf}) won two of his three starts at two, including Fresno's Harvest Festival Futurity S., but made just one appearance in 2007, taking the Stinson Beach S. Jan. 1. The bay needed the race when third over the Golden Gate Tapeta Jan. 13 and made good on a promise of 2-5 here. Quickest into stride, Vicarino never had an anxious moment, drawing off to score by a handy seven-length margin. The winner, a \$15,000 KEEJAN short yearling, made \$62,000 as an OBSAUG yearling and \$150,000 at the 2006 OBSMAR two-year-old sale. Lifetime Record: MSW, 6-4-1-1, \$97,925.

O-Harry J Aleo. B-Hopewell Investments LLC (KY). T-Greg Gilchrist.

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: editor@thoroughbreddailynews.com.

NTRA REPORT FROM CAPITOL HILL



SENATE FARM BILL CONFEREES ANNOUNCED

Six Democrats and five Republicans have been named as Senate conferees for the Farm Bill. The roster consists of Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Patrick Leahy (D-VT); Kent Conrad (D-ND); Max Baucus (D-MT); Blanche Lincoln (D-AR); Debbie Stabenow (D-MI); Saxby Chambliss (R-GA); Richard Lugar (R-IN); Thad Cochran (R-MS); Pat Roberts (R-KS); and Charles Grassley (R-IA).

The Farm Bill passed the House last summer. The Senate version of the Farm Bill, which includes the [Equine Equity Act](#), passed in December.

Once the House names its conferees, the process of resolving differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the Farm Bill will begin in earnest. Leaders from the House Agriculture Committee have been working on key issues for nearly two months and should name conferees soon. There is intense lobbying to pass the Farm Bill as the spring planting season draws near and pressure rises on farmers and ranchers.



For more information contact Joe Bacigalupo, Director of Membership Development, (800) 792-6872, ext. 677 or visit www.SupportHorseRacing.org.

★ AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS ★

IN BRITAIN:

Mischief Making, f, 3, Lemon Drop Kid. See "Britain."
Yakimov, g, 9, Affirmed--Ballet Troupe, by Nureyev. Southwell, Britain, 2-7, Hcp, 4yo/up, 7f (AWT). B-Jane & Jeff Wooder. *\$85,000 yrl '00 KEESEP; 42,000gns HIT '03 TATAUT.

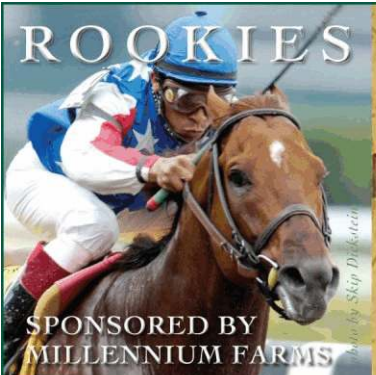
IN ITALY:

Shamateur, c, 3, Macho Uno--Wild Fashion (MSW, \$365,605), by Once Wild. Varese, Italy, 2-6, Cond, 3yo, 1 5/16m (AWT). B-Adena Springs. *\$45,000 2yo '07 ADNMAR.

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

Date	Race	Track
Feb. 9	GI Santa Maria H.	Santa Anita
	GI Las Virgenes S.	Santa Anita
	GII Forward Gal S.	Gulfstream
	GII San Antonio H.	Santa Anita
	GIII Risen Star S.	Fair Grounds
	GIII Silverbulletday S.	Fair Grounds
	GIII Fair Grounds BC H.	Fair Grounds
	GIII Mineshaft H.	Fair Grounds
Feb. 10	GII La Canada S.	Santa Anita
	GII San Vicente S.	Santa Anita





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First-crop starters to watch: Friday, February 8

Sire (Sire's Sire), Farm, 2005 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/SW Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)

- ALDEBARAN** (Mr. Prospector), Darby Dan, \$50K, 150/11/0
5-DED, Msw, 1m, The Debonair Slew, 4-1
- COMIC GENIUS** (Unbridled), Doubletree, \$3K, 50/5/0
8-SUN, Msw, 5 1/2f, Skar, 5-2
- DESERT WARRIOR** (Deputy Minister), McMahon, \$3K, 87/9/0
8-AQU, Alw, 1m, Beequeone
- EMPIRE MAKER** (Unbridled), Juddmonte, \$100K, 185/8/3
7-GP, Msw, 1m, Empirior, \$300K KEE SEP yrl, 10-1
- HARLAN'S HOLIDAY** (Harlan), Airdrie, \$18K, 169/25/4
7-AQU, Alw, 1 1/16m, Shot Gun Holiday, \$80K OBS MAR 2yo
- MAYAKOVSKY** (Matty G), Mill Creek, \$3K, 56/3/0
7-AQU, Alw, 1 1/16m, Alexandros
- MILWAUKEE BREW** (Wild Again), Adena South, \$15K, 161/20/0
1-OP, Msw, 1 1/16m, Hangover, \$115K OBS APR 2yo
- 3-GP, Msw, 1m, Mascara, \$20K ADS SPR 2yo, 3-1
- NAJLAN** (Runaway Groom), Hopewell, \$8K, 128/10/0
9-TP, Msw, 6f, Mud Creek
- PAYNES BAY** (Mr. Prospector), Norse Ridge, \$3K, 82/4/0
8-AQU, Alw, 1m, Crane Bay
- SKY MESA** (Pulpit), Three Chimneys, \$30K, 177/12/1
3-GP, Msw, 1m, Ready to Fly, \$210K ADS SPR 2yo, 8-1
- SLIGO BAY (IRE)** (Sadler's Wells), Adena South, \$10K, 128/11/1
10-FG, Msw, 1 1/16mT, Bride of the Bay, \$19K TEX APR 2yo, 10-1
- SMOOTH JAZZ** (Storm Boot), Cloverleaf II, \$3K, 70/12/1
7-DED, Aoc, 1m, Inca River, \$5K OBS AUG yrl, 10-1



EUROPE

★ BRITAIN ★

EPSOM APPOINT NEW MD

Nick Blofeld has been appointed the new Managing Director at Epsom Downs Racecourse, it was announced yesterday. Having undertaken the acting role after Stephen Wallis stepped down, Blofeld was handed the opportunity to take on the position on a full-time basis. "It is a wonderful opportunity and I am thrilled to accept this appointment," he commented. "Epsom Downs is currently undergoing a period of exciting transition with a new hotel opening this year and the new grandstand well under way and due for completion in spring 2009, when we return to an expanded race programme."

STOUTE FINED OVER VISIT AFFAIR

Sir Michael Stoute has been fined £1,300 following the discovery of a prohibited substance in the G2 Lowther S. runner-up **Visit (GB)** (Oasis Dream {GB}). Khalid Abdullah's juvenile tested positive for a metabolite of the tranquillizer acepromazine (ACP) following the York contest in August and was duly disqualified. With the source of the substance remaining unknown, the British Horseracing Authority panel imposed the fine, which includes £300 for the trainer's failure to record the administering of ACP to horses in his yard.

TDN Euro is:

- England:** Sean Cronin (*CAFE Racing*)
Tom Frary (*CAFE Racing*)
- France:** Claude Beniada
- Germany:** Christa Riebel
- Ireland:** Dave Keena
- Italy:** Giorgio Barsotti



Next stop is \$300,000 Frank E. Kilroe Mile (G1) on March 1 at Santa Anita.

BERNSTEIN SIRES SPEED!

Champion miler STORM MILITARY scores 104 BRIS SPEED RATING, second-fastest of the week in Thunder Road Stakes at Santa Anita on Feb 2nd.

Storm Cat — La Affirmed, by Affirmed | 2008 fee: \$20,000

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British Report cont.

Yesterday's Results:

Southwell, 4.00, Hcp, £3,800, 3yo, 1 3/8m (AWT), 2:26.92, stn.

MISCHIEF MAKING (f, 3, [Lemon Drop Kid](#)--Fraulein {GB} {GISW, SW-Eng, GSP-Ire, \$549,033}, by [Acatenango](#) {Ger}), runner-up on Lingfield's polytrack last time Jan. 19, started as the 9-4 favorite. She raced under restraint in rear early and made progress wide on the back straight. The homebred swooped to lead with a furlong remaining before drawing away to best Gayanula (Yonaguska) by 2 1/2 lengths. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, £3,142.

O/B-Cliveden Stud; T-Ed Dunlop.



DRC AND TATTS JOINS FORCES The Dubai Racing Club and Tattersalls have entered into a partnership to host a revised format of the annual Dubai International Racing Carnival Horses in Training Sale held at Nad al Sheba in Dubai. The two-day sale, which will be moved forward on the schedule, will include a DIRC session where horses that have competed at the Carnival can be put up for auction. The sale will be held Mar. 4-5, preceding the 'Super Thursday' card held at Nad al Sheba Mar. 6. "The new session of the sale is open to all horses who were eligible to race during the Carnival and with the quality of horses we have had here in 2008, it promises to attract the attention of buyers worldwide," said Dubai Racing Club Chief Executive Officer Frank Gabriel Jr. Approximately 200 international competitors have arrived, or are due to arrive, in Dubai for this year's Carnival. Gabriel added, "With the growth of the Carnival, has come an ever-increasing demand from owners to have horses compete here, and this is a prime opportunity for them to purchase a Carnival candidate for the following year."

Yesterday's Results:

CAPE VERDI-Listed, \$150,000, Nad al Sheba, 2-7, NH4yo/SH3yo + , f/m, 1600mT, 1:40.05, gd.

1--**SUN CLASSIQUE (AUS), 135, f, 5, Fuji Kiseki (Jpn)--Elfenjer (Aus), by Last Tycoon (Ire)).** O-L Cohen & W V Rippon; B-L Cohen; T-Mike de Kock; J-K Shea; \$90,000. Lifetime Record: G1SW-SAf, 13-6-2-1, \$254,066.

2--**Many Colours (GB), 129, f, 4, Green Desert--First Of Many (GB) by Darshaan (GB).** \$30,000.

3-- **Classy-Lady (Brz), 120, f, 4, Fahim (GB)--Hiparca (Brz), by Troyanos (Brz).** \$15,000.

Margins: 2 1/4, NK, HF.

Cape Verdi S. cont. p8

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Cape Verdi S. cont.

Sun Classique (Aus), a two-time Group 1 winner in her native country, rounded out her 2007 campaign with a three-year-old filly championship in that country and quickly picked up where she left off in this seasonal bow. Settled in mid-division along the rail early,



Andrew Watkins photo

the chestnut made smooth progress to challenge after three quarters, took command a furlong from home and drew clear to post the comfortable win.

"She traveled so well, I was always confident we would win," said winning rider Kevin Shea.

"She was a champion in South

Africa and is a really exciting prospect." Trainer Mike de Kock, who also teamed with Shea to win the G3 Maktoum Challenge Round 2 with Lucky Find (SAf) yesterday evening, indicated that the five-year-old will be pointed toward the Listed Balanchine Feb. 22.

HANDICAP RESULTS:

Nad al Sheba, \$175,000, 19.45, NH4yo/SH3yo+, 1300mT, 1:18.87, gd.

SO WILL I (GB) (g, 7, Inchinor {GB}--Fur Will Fly {GB}, by Petong {GB}) Lifetime Record: SW-Fr, 21-3-1-4, \$218,743. O-Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Mrs M Campbell Andenaes; T-Doug Watson. *27,000gns '02 yrl DONSEP; 160,000gns '03 TATAUT.

Nad al Sheba, \$120,000, 20.45, NH4yo/SH3yo+, 1500mT, 1:32.19, gd.

INSTANT RECALL (IRE) (g, 7, Indian Ridge {Ire}--Happy Memories {Ire}, by Thatching {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 36-6-5-4, \$162,407. O-Salman Mussallam Al Shalahi; B-Frank Dunne; T-Musabah Al Muhairi. *140,000gns yrl '02 TATOCT; 35,000gns HRA '04 TATHIT.

Nad al Sheba, \$120,000, 22.30, NH4yo/SH3yo+, 2000mT, 2:05.53, gd.

BEFORE YOU GO (IRE) (g, 5, Sadler's Wells--Here On Earth, by Mr. Prospector) Lifetime Record: 18-5-1-1, \$160,339. O-Salman Mussallam Al Shalahi; B-Frank Dunne; T-Musabah Al Muhairi. *100,000gns yrl '04 TATOCT.

Nad al Sheba, \$110,000, 20.15, NH4yo/SH3yo+, 1400m, 1:23.94, ft.

ALMARAM (h, 8, A.P. Indy--Beraysim {GB}, by Lion Cavern) Lifetime Record: 22-5-3-3, \$189,024. O-Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Darley Stud Management LLC; T-Dhruba Selvaratnam.

**BREEDERS' EDITION
AMERICA**

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-OPX, \$34,000, NW1X, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 1/5, ft.

PRO PINK (f, 4, Touch Gold--Field of Dreams, by Meadowlake) Lifetime Record: GSP, 17-2-4-1, \$146,521. O-Joseph F Novogratz. B-Peter E Blum (KY). T-McLean Robertson. *\$25,000 yrl '05 KEESEP.

8th-CTX, \$27,000, 2-6, NW3LX, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:30 2/5, my.

ON MY HIP (f, 4, Polish Miner--Swedish Crystal, by Ogygian) Lifetime Record: 11-5-2-0, \$93,683. O-Larry E Rabold. B-Gordonsdale Farm (WV). T-Sтивен R Brown.

8th-TPX, \$24,600, NW1X, 4yo/up, f/m, 1m (AWT), 1:40 2/5, ft.

TRANQUILITY (f, 4, Fusaichi Pegasus--Tomorrows Angel, by Unbridled's Song) Lifetime Record: 11-2-1-5, \$48,045. O-Naveed Fazli. B-Donald S & R Mary Zuckerman, as Tenants by the Entireties (KY). T-Kellyn Gorder. *\$29,000 HRA '08 KEEJAN.

7th-TAM, \$20,400, Opt. Clm. (\$32,000), NW2X, 4yo/up, 1m40y, 1:39 2/5, ft.

RIVERSRUNRYLEE (g, 4, Outflanker--Ponderway, by Prized) Lifetime Record: 21-4-4-0, \$55,355. O-L & D Farm. B-L & D Farms & A Pendleton (FL). T-J Camilo.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Vocalize, g, 3, Concorde's Tune--Silk'nblue, by Blue Buckaroo. TAM, 2-7, 1m40y, 1:42 2/5. B-Joanna Reisler (FL).

Monte Bajo (Fr), g, 4, Distorted Humor--River Sans Retour (Fr), by Vacarme. BMX, 2-7, 1m, 1:35 2/5. B-San Gabriel Inv Inc & Robert Gelinger (FR). *€100,000 yrl '05 DEAAUG; \$350,000 2yo '06 FTFEB. **1/2 to Fantastic Filly (Fr) (Myrakalu {Fr}), MGSW-US, \$249,400.

Yolo, f, 4, Dixieland Band--Romy (MGSW, \$636,627), by Slew Machine. TPX, 2-7, 1m (AWT), 1:40 2/5. B-William Pacella, Ron Schwed & Joseph Rizza (KY). *Full to My Ro, MSW, \$184,242.

Fly the North Wind, c, 4, Vicar--Elmira Gulch (SP), by Gulch. AQU, 2-7, (S), 1m70y, 1:44. B-South Gate & Denlea Park LLC (NY). *\$11,000 yrl '05 KEEJAN.

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BREEDERS' EDITION EUROPE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

FRANCE, Salon-de-Provence, 12.35, 2-7, €27,000, 3yo, 1 1/4mT, 2:09.21, gd/sf.

CORSEURASIAN (FR) (c, 3, Hamas {Ire}--La Corsasienne {Fr}, by Sky Lawyer {Fr}) Lifetime Record: 11 starts, 3 wins, 5 places, €41,650. O/B-Ecurie Chandre-Cozzi; T-Mlle F Forneron.

FRANCE, Salon-de-Provence, 1.35, 2-7, €16,000, 4yo, 1 1/2mT, 2:38.97, gd/sf.

BESCA BONITA (FR) (f, 4, Maille Pistol {Fr}--Bescate {Fr}, by Johnny O'Day) Lifetime Record: 13 starts, 2 wins, 5 places, €26,150. O-Ecurie Camacho Courses; B-Mat Daguzan-Garros & R Sabatier; T-F Rossi.

FRANCE, Salon-de-Provence, 2.35, 2-7, €16,000, 4yo, 1 1/8mT, 1:54.14, gd/sf.

ALJORIEN (FR) (c, 4, Majorien {GB}--Grace Royale {Ire}, by Marignan) Lifetime Record: 8 starts, 3 wins, 4 places, €30,950. O-Jean-Claude Seroul; B-M & Mme C la Lay & Mlle A le Lay; T-Jean-Claude Napoli. *Full to Major Grace (Fr), MSP, \$155,328.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY...

February 8, 1941... Whirlaway began his three-year-old season with a win in a six-furlong allowance race at Hialeah.

February 9, 1940...After a year's absence from competition, **Seabiscuit**, champion handicap horse of 1937 and 1938, returned to racing at Santa Anita, where he finished third in a handicap race. Seabiscuit ran three more races in 1940, concluding his career with a win in the Santa Anita H.

TDN PROGENY PP COUNTS TOP 20 GENERAL SIRES FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS

Sire	Total Listings	Unique Progeny	Stakes Horses	Gr. Stk Horses
Giant's Causeway	88	60	24	6
Langfuhr	75	51	18	7
Sadler's Wells	75	49	22	18
Unbridled's Song	75	45	19	5
Distorted Humor	74	49	16	9
Not for Love	74	46	18	1
Stormy Atlantic	74	45	16	6
Tale Of The Cat	70	49	17	5
A.P. Indy	69	49	19	11
Lemon Drop Kid	64	36	18	7
Smart Strike	63	48	16	8
Fusaichi Pegasus	61	45	8	4
Awesome Again	60	34	12	8
Dynaformer	59	46	12	9
Storm Cat	59	43	16	8
Malibu Moon	58	34	17	1
Mr. Greeley	58	34	15	7
Danehill Dancer (Ire)	55	45	15	8
Rock of Gibraltar (Ire)	55	40	15	6
City Zip	53	36	9	0

TDN Progeny PP Counts is an informational tool designed to let you identify at a glance the stallions with the greatest number of significant progeny over the past several months or year. Select a sire category, a time frame and a sort criteria, and the list indicates how many times their progeny have appeared in Progeny PPs for that period. Progeny PP Counts reflect Northern Hemisphere racing only, and contain winners covered in the TDN, as well as graded and group stakes-placed performers, listed stakes-placed performers in Europe, stakes-placed performers in North American stakes of \$50,000 and up, and the progeny of freshman and sophomore stallions in North American stakes of \$50,000 and up. Click [here](#) to run a TDN Progeny PP Counts report.

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Take Two
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Owner of MONTEREY JAZZ
(c, 4, Thunderello--Reefside, by Dynaformer)
Consigned by **Classic Bloodstock (Danzel Brendemuehl), Agent II**
\$85,000 2yo OBS April 2006
Lifetime Record: MGSW, 11-5-0-3, \$347,740.

According to team member Jeff Metz, Class Racing Stable was started "with the little guy in mind." The partnership was created in 1996 by Joe Masino, who got together with three of his friends and claimed a few horses to race in his native California. Masino, who had worked as a manager for a bottled water producer, turned Class Racing into a full-time project 10 years ago, and the stable has grown to include about 70 partners and more than 30 horses.

Ironically, the star of the stable is anything but a little guy. Standing about 17 hands, **Monterey Jazz** (Thunderello) gained the stature to go with his size when he galloped to a 4 1/2-length victory in the GII Strub S. at Santa Anita. When Class Racing bought the colt at OBS April two years ago, they hoped they had a stakes horse on their hands.



Benoit Photo

Metz, who grew up around horses, worked his way up from exercise rider to assistant trainer to trainer on the California circuit. He started out breaking the babies for Class Racing, but now helps Masino manage the partnerships, and he signed the ticket on Monterey Jazz.

"He was about as big then as he is now, and he worked a quarter in :21 4/5 like it was nothing," Metz said. "He was very nimble and athletic for such a big, mature two-year-old."

"We also were hoping that, with the speed from his sire Thunderello, and the stamina from Dynaformer on the mare's side, he would be able to sprint and go long, and race on dirt and turf."

Monterey Jazz, who races in the name of Class Racing and one of its majority partners, Tom Arndt's A & R Stables, has lived up to those expectations. Last year, he broke his maiden in a grass sprint at Golden Gate, captured a 6 1/2-furlong allowance race on the dirt at Fairplex, then stretched his speed to a mile and took a turf allowance at Hollywood in November and the GIII Sir Beaufort S. at Santa Anita in December. Looking for new worlds to conquer in 2008, trainer Craig Dollase targeted the Strub going nine panels on the Cushion, and Monterey Jazz got it done in 1:45.66, just 1/100 off the track record.

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"As fast as he runs, it's surprising that he can go that far, but he has one of those strides that is just effortless," Metz explained. "If they let him go, he'll be out there on a lonely lead, and if they go with him, he might get tired, but so will they. They're darned if they do and darned if they don't."

Class Racing knew Monterey Jazz had that speed before they added him to the string.

"We've had a higher success rate with the two-year-olds in training sales, and that's one of the advantages," Metz said. "You get to watch them work out, you get to see their stride. At the yearling sales, you watch them walk back and forth, and you are hopeful."

"One of the disadvantages is that some pinhookers have to push the horses pretty hard to get that good workout," he added. "But, with Monterey Jazz, the consignor was also the breeder. Danzel Brendemuehl had the horse all the way along, and we felt good about that. And we saw that he did hold up to the strenuous work."

Monterey Jazz has handled everything that has been thrown at him so far, so his connections will up the ante yet again for his next start, pointing him for the Mar. 1 GI Santa Anita H.

"We're taking it in steps," Metz said. "It's a mile and a quarter, but we hope he can use his efficient stride to get position early, and then keep on going."

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