



## RAFHA'S INFLUENCE PREVAILS THROUGH HER DOMINANT SONS



Rising 27, Invincible Spirit's sire line continues to develop  
 across the world | *Racingfotos*

By John Berry

It has been a basic tenet of bloodstock since the early days that Classic form is to be respected when a colt or a filly retires to stud. Some Classic results stand out, with the 1984 Prix du Jockey-Club often cited thanks to Darshaan (GB) leading home Sadler's Wells and Rainbow Quest in a trifecta of future superstar sires. As regards fillies, the 1990 Prix de Diane takes some beating, with Rafha (GB) coming home ahead of Moon Cactus (GB) and Colour Chart. All three ended up breeding at least one Group/Grade 1 winner, but ultimately the significance of the result goes way beyond merely first-generation success. Rafha and Moon Cactus were both daughters of Kris (GB) (Sharpen Up), an outstanding miler who became champion sire of Great Britain and Ireland in 1985 when his oldest offspring were 3-year-olds, thanks largely to the terrific season enjoyed by Britain's Fillies' Triple Crown heroine Oh So Sharp (GB). Oh So Sharp became an excellent broodmare, responsible for Rosefinch (Blushing Groom {Fr}) who edged out Dancing Brave's full-sister Jolypha in the G1 Prix Saint-Alary in 1992. Rafha and Moon Cactus, though, did even more to advertise Kris's talent as a sire of broodmares.

Cont. p3

## TDN HORSES OF THE YEAR: BIG ROCK

Continuing the profiles of the favourite horses of TDN Europe's editorial team in 2023, Emma Berry selects the French raider who took QIPCO British Champions Day by storm.

I'd been impressed by Christopher Head since the day I first visited his stable in July 2019 and found him on the end of a broomstick sweeping the floor outside the rented boxes of the five horses he had in training at that time.

His ascent has been rapid, and by now his string must be 20 times that size. And, yes, he has a surname that would open doors in France and beyond, but it is hard not to respect the progress made within the short time Head has been training. In 2023, his first Classic win with Blue Rose Cen (Ire) (Churchill {Ire}), who had also been his first Group 1 winner in the previous season's Prix Marcel Boussac, was followed by his first Group 1 success outside France.

Cont. p7

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### '24 VALUE SIRES - PART 4: INTO THE TEENS

Chris McGrath examines stallions standing between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for the upcoming breeding season.

  
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**Thursday, December 28, 2023**



*The Irish National Stud's Phoenix of Spain was represented by his 20th first-crop winner when Lady of Spain won on Wolverhampton debut Wednesday.*

| Irish National Stud

**DEBUT WINNERS AT WOLVES, PORNICHET**

**8**

*Lady of Spain (Ire) (Phoenix of Spain {Ire}) belied odds of 9-1 to open her account at first asking at Wolverhampton, while Al Shaqab homebred Um Wadi (Ire) (Toronado {Ire}) followed suit at rough odds at Pornichet-La Baule.*

**SHIN EMPEROR GOES FOR GROUP 1 GLORY**

**9**

*Shin Emperor (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr}), the 2022 Arqana August topper, looks to carry his unbeaten streak to three in Thursday's G1 Hopeful S. at Nakayama. On Friday, Ushba Tesoro (Jpn) (Orfevre {Jpn}) faces a stiff challenge in defence of his title in the G1 Tokyo Daishoten at Ohi.*

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**The Influence of Rafha cont. from p1**

Moon Cactus bred four stakes winners including the 1995 G1 Oaks heroine Moonshell (Sadler's Wells) and her younger full-brother Doyen, who excelled on firm ground in the summer of 2004 when firstly breaking Ascot's 12-furlong track record in the G2 Hardwicke S. at the Royal Meeting and then following up over course and distance five weeks later with a superb win in the G1 King George VI And Queen Elizabeth S.

Ultimately, though, Rafha has proved the most influential of these eminent matrons. Her legacy continues to expand, 33 years after her Prix de Diane triumph, and she is now even more revered than she was on that glorious summer's afternoon when she galloped to Classic glory at Chantilly.

It is not unfair to say that Rafha did not produce a racehorse of the distinction of either Moonshell or Doyen (or, indeed, of Colour Chart's GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-winning daughter Tempera), but four of the seven black-type performers whom she produced were stakes winners. Easily the pick of these was Invincible Spirit (Ire) (Green Desert). Trained, as his mother had been, for owner/breeder Prince AA Faisal by John Dunlop, Invincible Spirit was a tough sprinter who raced for four seasons, winning a listed race as a 2-year-old and at Group 3 level at four before enjoying his best campaign as a 5-year-old in 2002, taking the G3 Duke of York S. over six furlongs in the spring and the G1 Haydock Park Sprint Cup over the same distance in the autumn, putting in his best performance on the 17th and final start of his career.

A first-season stud fee of €10,000 was fair for Invincible Spirit when he started out at the Irish National Stud as a 6-year-old in 2003. He had maybe lacked some of the precocity that a lot of the breeders who patronise sprinting stallions like to see, but he was a Group 1-winning sprinter and had shown himself to be a durable one at that. Furthermore, it helped that he was a son of Green Desert (Danzig) who was very popular at the time, buoyed in part by his superb son Oasis Dream (GB), who had been an outstanding 2-year-old in 2002, most notably breaking Newmarket's six-furlong juvenile track record when winning the G1 Middle Park S.

Green Desert, himself formerly an outstanding sprinter, was already on the way to being respected as a sire of sires, not least because his Group 1-winning son Cape Cross (Ire) was starting to do well. Curiously, Cape Cross ultimately became best known for his Derby and Oaks winner Sea The Stars (Ire), Golden Horn (GB) and Ouija Board (GB) but that slight anomaly shouldn't deflect attention away from the fact that Green Desert was a terrific conduit of Danzig's speed. Oasis Dream has been much more typical of the Green Desert line, becoming an absolute stalwart of the ranks of British-based sprinting sires over an extended period, just as his father was before him. **Cont. p4**

**CLASSIC SIRE!**



**BLUE ROSE GEN**

- 2022 **Champion 2YO in France**
- 2022 Prix Marcel Boussac-Gr.1 by 5 lengths
- 2023 Poule d'Essai des Pouliches-Gr.1
- 2023 Prix de Diane-Gr.1 by 4 lengths
- 2023 Prix de l'Opera-Gr.1



**VADENI**

- 2022 **Champion 3YO in Europe**
- 2022 Prix du Jockey Club-Gr.1 by 5 lengths
- 2022 Eclipse Stakes-Gr.1

**LEADING 3RD CROP SIRES IN EUROPE 2023**

Sire	2024 Fee	GSWs	G1Ws	Earnings
1 <b>CHURCHILL</b>	€30,000	7	1	€5,963,050
2 <b>ZARAK</b>	€60,000	8	1	€4,234,033

Arion Pedigrees, 6/12/23

**CHURCHILL**

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**Rafha cont.**

Invincible Spirit was an immediate success as a stallion. He had his first runners in 2006 and got off to a flying start when his first runner Spoof Master (Ire) won Britain's first 2-year-old feature of the new season, the Brocklesby S. Invincible Spirit continued to churn out winners as the year went on, so much so that his fee rose from €10,000 to €35,000 for the 2007 season. Invincible Spirit's position was further consolidated in 2007 when his first 3-year-olds included the G1 Prix du Jockey-Club hero Lawman (Fr), whose Classic triumph was instrumental in Invincible Spirit's fee shooting up again to €75,000 in 2008. Also running for Invincible Spirit in 2007 was the very fast 2-year-old filly Fleeting Spirit (GB), winner of the G3 Molecomb S. and G2 Flying Childers S. as well as being runner-up in the G1 Cheveley Park S. and G2 Lowther S. She subsequently developed into a wonderful sprinting mare, arguably her sire's second-best daughter behind Moonlight Cloud (GB), and her finest hour came when she won the G1 July Cup as a 4-year-old. With his career thus heading onwards and upwards, Invincible Spirit ultimately had his fee peaking between 2016 and 2019, when his nominations cost €120,000.



**Kodiak and Mick Kinane** | *Racingfotos*

Although Rafha ended up as the dam of four stakes winners, her second most-distinguished child was not one of them. Kodiak (GB) can be described as a three-parts brother to Invincible Spirit, as each is by a son of Danzig, Kodiak being by Danehill. Like Invincible Spirit, Kodiak was a tough sprinter, but unlike his superior sibling, he couldn't quite manage to score in stakes company, his four wins (from 20 starts) consisting of a maiden-race success and three triumphs in handicap company.

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**Rafha cont.**

He did at least manage a couple of minor placings in stakes company, finishing second in the G3 Hackwood S. over six furlongs at Newbury and fourth in the G1 Prix Maurice de Gheest over 1300m at Deauville as a 5-year-old in 2006.

Under normal circumstances, Kodiak's achievements would perhaps not have been enough to secure him a place at stud. However, there's nothing quite like being in the right place at the right time. As the 2006 racing season drew to a close, it was clear that Invincible Spirit was about to be priced out of reach of many of the Irish small breeders who had used him so satisfactorily in his early years. At the time Danehill was at the peak of his popularity as a sire of sires, so it made sense for Tally-Ho Stud to take a chance that Invincible Spirit's fast three-parts brother by Danehill might appeal to many breeders and might become a successful sire.

That was the theory and, happily, it proved to be a sound one. Kodiak started out at a fee of €5,000 in 2007 (which had to be lowered to €4,000 a couple of years later), but once he began to have runners in 2010, he soon started to pay back many of those who had put their faith in him. He quickly established himself as an ultra-reliable source of tough, precocious and very fast horses, both colts and fillies. In a pleasing piece of symmetry, 10 years after retiring to stud, he was standing at a fee 10 times higher than it had been at the outset. The price subsequently continued to rise after that and, now aged 22, he is still churning out fast, precocious horses such as 2023 G2 Lowther S. heroine Relief Rally (Ire), who recently sold for 800,000gns at the Tattersalls December Mares Sale.

It is frequently noted that the 1993 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine Urban Sea (Miswaki) usually has two sons in the top five of the General Sires' Table of Great Britain and Ireland. The 2019 season was her piece de resistance, as her two Derby-winning children Galileo (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) and **Sea The Stars (Ire)** occupied the first two places in the championship.

Under the circumstances, the fanfare justly directed at Urban Sea possibly takes some of the spotlight away from Rafha, whose feat of also having two sons consistently in the upper echelons of the sires' championship should not be underestimated.

The six seasons 2015 to 2020 inclusive were particularly good ones for Rafha with both Kodiak and Invincible Spirit featuring in the top 10 every year. Kodiak in particular has been remarkably consistent. He first broke into the top10 of the sires' table in 2015, having finished 15th in 2014 (in which year Invincible Spirit achieved his best position, finishing second to Galileo). From 2015 until this current season Kodiak has never been out of the top 10, and he regularly tops the table for the most number of winners in a season.

In one sense, Rafha's sons merit even greater respect than do Urban Sea's stars. Galileo and **Sea The Stars** were Derby winners who started out covering high-class mares from the outset but Invincible Spirit and Kodiak did not have that luxury, having instead had to 'make their own luck' as stallions. Despite these relatively humble beginnings at stud, the influence of both Invincible Spirit and Kodiak will not end when they cease to have runners because they have already started to establish their own sire lines.

Just as Lawman was Invincible Spirit's first headline-maker as a racehorse, so he was his first successful son at stud. Lawman's first crop included G1 St James's Palace S. winner Most Improved (Ire) and the star of his second crop was G1 Irish 1000 Guineas and G2 Rockfel S. winner Just The Judge (Ire). G1 Racing Post Trophy winner Marcel (Ire) and G1 St Leger winner Harbour Law (Ire) followed, although--disappointingly--Lawman seems subsequently to have fallen out of commercial favour, notwithstanding that he is still in action at Haras du Mazet in France (having started out in Ireland at Ballylinch, where his fee peaked at €25,000).

**Cont. p6****Another Gr.1 success for****AWTAAD****An exceptional year for the sire is enhanced by his daughter Anisette's second Grade 1 victory in 2023****Winner of:** American Oaks (Gr.1), 1m2f, Santa Anita**Owner:** Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners**Breeder:** Morera Partnership**Trainer:** Leonard Powell+44 (0) 1842 756963 | [nominations@shadwellstud.co.uk](mailto:nominations@shadwellstud.co.uk)

**SHADWELL**

**Rafha Influence cont.**

The popularity of Invincible Spirit's best son **Kingman (GB)**, winner of four consecutive Group 1 mile races as a 3-year-old in the summer of 2014, shows no sign of waning. An immediate hit at stud with his first-crop son **Calyx (Ire)** winning the G2 Coventry S. in June 2018, **Kingman** has gone from strength to strengt and consistently posts eye-catching statistics when measured by totals of individual stakes winners or black-type ratios. With, to name but three sons, **Calyx** at Coolmore, four-time Group 1 winner Palace Pier (GB) at Dalham Hall and three-time Group 1 winner Persian King (Ire) at Haras d'Etreham, **Kingman** could well become a notable sire of sires. **Calyx** currently lies in third place in the 2023 first-season sires' table for Britain and Ireland. Invincible Spirit's grandson thus sits ahead of three sons of Invincible Spirit with their first juveniles this year: Inns Of Court (fourth), Invincible Army (eighth) and



**Ghostwriter is a Classic candidate for Invincible Spirit in 2024 | Racingfotos**

2019 2000 Guineas winner **Magna Grecia (12th)**. All have a chance to become established as long-term residents of the stallion ranks in this part of the world, joining their elders Territories (Ire) and Mayson (GB) and Swiss Spirit (GB).

The 2011 crop which featured **Kingman** also contained Charm Spirit (Ire), winner of three Group 1 mile races during the 2014 season. He, too is currently in vogue thanks to his very fast son Shaquille (GB), winner during the summer of the G1 Commonwealth Cup and the G1 July Cup. Shaquille looks sure to be popular at Dullingham Park, where he will have a first-season fee in 2024 of £15,000. Another likely future flag-bearer for Invincible Spirit's line is his three-time Group 2-winning son **Mutasaabeq (GB)** who starts off at the National Stud in 2024 at a fee of £6,500.

**Cont. p7**

*Another*  
**MAGIC G1**

**CAMPIONESSA**  
*Contributer-Bella Carolina*

**AUCKLAND TC ZABEEL CLASSIC G1**  
\$60,000 2019 Magic Millions Gold Coast National Yearling Sale  
Earnings: NZ\$936,590  
Breeder: Simms Davison  
Vendor: Westbury Stud (As Agent)  
Buyer: DC Ellis  
Owners: Te Akau Campionessa Syndicate (Mgr: Karyn Fenton-Ellis MNZM)  
Trainers: Mark Walker & Sam Bergerson

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## Rafha cont.

Kodiak, too, is well represented by sons and grandsons at stud. As was the case with their father, Ardad (Ire), Kodi Bear (Ire), Prince Of Lir (Ire) and Coulsty (Ire) all started out without any significant blaze of publicity. Each has done plenty to raise his profile since starting to have runners, while Ardad's three-time Group 1-winning first-crop son Perfect Power (Ire) is about to stand his second season at Dalham Hall Stud. The one drawback for the furtherance of the line is that Prince Of Lir's fastest son, G1 Nunthorpe S. winner Live In The Dream (Ire), is a gelding.

Sons of Kodiak who have yet to have runners include the dual Group 1-winning sprinter Hello Youmzain (Fr), G2 Coventry S. winner Nando Parrado (GB) and G2 Flying Childers S. winner Ubettabelieveit (Ire). Furthermore, this year's G1 Prix Jean Prat winner Good Guess (GB) will join his father on the Tally-Ho roster in 2024 at a fee of €17,500.

Elsewhere, Best Solution (Ire) had his first 2-year-old runners this year in Germany, in which country he recorded two of his three Group 1 victories (at, untypically for the progeny of Kodiak, 2400m). International stud success for stallions sired by Rafha's sons is, of course, commonplace. Most notably, Invincible Spirit briefly shuttled to Australia early in his career and there produced the tough sprinter I Am Invincible (Aus) who has become astonishingly prolific sire of stakes winners of all ages. He deservedly became Australia's champion sire in 2021/22, retained the title last term, is currently leading the standings this season, and is already respected as a sire of sires. The Invincible Spirit horses Cable Bay (Ire), National Defense (GB) and Shalaa (Ire) have all enjoyed success at stud in both hemispheres, while Cable Bay is about to get under way as a sire of sires with his fast son Dragon Symbol (GB) retiring to Whitsbury Manor Stud.



Dragon Symbol enters stud at Whitsbury Manor in 2024 | *Racingfotos*

Invincible Spirit's G1 King's Stand S.-winning son Profitable (Ire) has headed out to Turkey ahead of the 2024 season, notwithstanding that he started out well on the Darley roster in Ireland with his first crop of juveniles containing 2021 G2 Queen Mary S. heroine Quick Suzy (Ire). Looking to spread Rafha's influence even farther afield will be the Invincible Spirit horse Digital Age (Ire), a Grade I winner in the USA in 2020 of the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic S. over nine furlongs on a firm turf track at Churchill Downs. Digital Age stands in South Africa at Mauritzfontein Stud. It should also be mentioned that the treble Group 1 winner Mishriff (Ire), a great grandson of Rafha through his female line, and successful on turf and dirt, is about to make his belated debut at Sumbe in France.

To return to Invincible Spirit and Kodiak, their success at stud has been one of the most heartening bloodstock stories of the 21st century to date. The sire-sons of each look set to ensure that this story will run and run, not to mention that each has plenty of good racehorses still to come. Most obviously, Invincible Spirit's unbeaten 2-year-old son Ghostwriter (Ire) stamped himself as a serious Classic prospect for 2024 when he extended his winning run in the G2 Royal Lodge S. at Newmarket at the end of September. Being represented by a 2000 Guineas winner at the age of 27 would be unusual, but for the redoubtable Invincible Spirit, it may well happen.

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## TDN Horse of the Year cont. from p1

**Big Rock (Ire)** first caught the eye with his dominant performance in the G3 Prix La Force at Longchamp. Off he went in front, and when Padishakh (Fr) came for him in the straight, he kicked again, repelling that challenger and ultimately winning eased down. This he repeated, even more impressively, when winning the G3 Prix de Guiche at Chantilly, with Aurelien Lemaitre simply having to coax him with hands and heels to put five lengths between himself and Horizon Dore (Fr). The runner-up would go on to record four straight stakes wins including two Group 2s.

Big Rock stepped up to the G1 Prix du Jockey Club and, for much of the race, the front-running son of Rock of Gibraltar (Ire) looked as though he would once again have things all his own way before Ace Impact (Ire) set sail from the back of the pack. Chalk and cheese in their running styles, the trail-blazing Big Rock and stalking Ace Impact set the French scene alight this year. While the latter continued to storm through his season unbeaten, deploying a similarly devastating late turn of foot to win the Arc before retiring to stud, Big Rock thrice ran into just one that would get the better of him.

**TDN Horse of the Year cont.**

They were good ones, mind. Inspiral (GB) took his scalp the next time in the G1 Prix Jacques Le Marois, and then Sauterne (Fr) in the G1 Prix du Moulin. But then came Ascot.

There is often much gnashing of teeth in the build-up to QIPCO British Champions Day, which is usually accompanied by typically wet autumn weather, making the ground testing. It was no problem for Big Rock, however, who coped with the soft ground just as he had done in his five-length romp at Chantilly in May, turning his seasonal finale into a procession.

This time it was a six-length pasting he gave his rivals in the G1 Queen Elizabeth II S., making all to rout a quality field that included the multiple Group 1 winners Tahiyra (Ire), Nashwa (GB), Paddington (GB) and Chaldean (GB). A dazzling performance to cut through the gloom of the day.

Big Rock looks a big star in the making for his late sire who had his own dazzling brand of magic over a mile, and the Yeguada Centurion homebred has a strong pedigree to recommend him once he makes it to stud. His Aga Khan-bred dam, by **Sea The Stars (Ire)**, is out of a half-sister to one of that stallion's best sons, the dual Derby winner Harzand (Ire). But before we even think about his stallion career, let's applaud his owner Leopoldo Fernandez Pujals for allowing him to race on and enjoy Big Rock back on the track in 2024.

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## BRITAIN

**Wednesday's Results:**

**5th-Wolverhampton, £9,950, Nov, 12-27, 2yo, 8f 142y (AWT), 1:49.58, st.**

**LADY OF SPAIN (IRE) (f, 2, Phoenix Of Spain {Ire}--Navette {Ire}, by Invincible Spirit {Ire})** tracked the leaders in a handy fourth after the opening exchanges of this unveiling. Looming large off the home turn, the 9-1 chance tanked to the front approaching the final furlong and thundered clear in hand to easily account for Brodie's Boy (Fr) (Cloth Of Stars {Ire}) by an unextended four lengths, becoming the 20th winner for her freshman sire (by Lope De Vega {Ire}). Lady Of Spain is the third of five foals and second scorer produced by an unraced half-sister to dual Group 2-winning G1 Queen Anne S. and G1 Lockinge S. runner-up Real World (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}) and the stakes-winning G2 May Hill S. second Dubai Fountain (Ire) (Teofilo {Ire}). Her second dam Nafura (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) is kin to Group 1-winning sires Librettist (Danzig) and Dubai Destination (Kingmambo). The January-foaled bay is kin to a yearling colt by Dark Angel (Ire) and a weanling colt by Mehmas (Ire). Sales history: 16,000gns Wlg '21 TATFOA; 40,000gns Ylg '22 TATOCT. Lifetime Record:

1-1-0-0, \$4,195.

O-L Boros, R&S Marchant, Toudo LLC; B-Littlejohn Bloodstock Ltd (IRE); T-Roger Varian.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Completely Random (GB), c, 2, Havana Grey (GB)--Random Success (Ire)**, by Shamardal. Wolverhampton, 12-27, 6f 20y (AWT), 1:15.28. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$7,837. B-Beckhampton & Inglett (GB).

## FRANCE

**Wednesday's Results:**

**5th-Pornichet-La Baule, €16,000, Mdn, 12-27, 2yo, 8 1/2f (AWT), 1:42.07, st.**

**UM WADI (IRE) (f, 2, Toronado {Ire}--Labrega {GB}, by Cacique {Ire})** broke well from an outer gate and was trapped three wide off the tempo in seventh through halfway. Powering by rivals on the home turn, the 88-5 chance seized control in early straight and lengthened clear in impressive style before gearing down to easily outclass Mara Wood (Fr) (Birchwood {Ire}) by a facile 9 1/2 lengths. Um Wadi, half to a yearling filly by Mehmas (Ire), is the first of two foals produced by a winning granddaughter of the stakes-winning Posteritas (Lear Fan), whose leading performer is G1 Prix Jean Prat hero Mutual Trust (GB) (Cacique {Ire}). The February-foaled homebred bay hails from the family of G1 Just A Game S. victrix Antonoe (First Defence). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €8,000. **Video, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** O/B-Al Shaqab Racing (IRE); T-Edouard Monfort.

**CONDITIONS RESULTS:**

**7th-Pornichet-La Baule, €14,000, Cond, 12-27, 4yo/up, 15 1/2f (AWT), 3:17.83, st.**

**BLACK HAWK (FR) (g, 5, Scissor Kick {Aus}--Kataragama {GB}, by Hawk Wing)** Lifetime Record: 34-5-6-6, €99,060. O/T-Michel Drean; B-Gestut Zur Kuste AG (FR). \*€18,000 Ylg '19 ARQOCT; £30,000 2yo '20 ARQJUL.

**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Medina Gold (Fr), f, 3, Seahenge--Eva Kant (GB) (SP-Fr & lty, \$147,134), by Medicean (GB).** Pornichet-La Baule, 12-27, 10 1/2f (AWT), 2:10.86. B-SCEA Haras de Gratte Panche & S Torgeman (FR). \*€15,000 Ylg '21 ARQNOV; €47,000 2yo '22 ARQMAY.

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## FIRST-SEASON SIRE WITH RUNNERS

### UNITED KINGDOM:

**Blue Point (Ire)** (Shamardal), Kildangan Stud

161 foals of racing age

18:30-NEWCASTLE, 6f, Hand Jive (GB)

18:30-NEWCASTLE, 6f, Reprised (GB)

**Calyx (GB)** (Kingman {GB}), Coolmore Stud

103 foals of racing age

18:00-NEWCASTLE, 6f, Filly One (Ire)

£16,000 Goffs UK Oct HIT & Yearling Sale 2022

18:00-NEWCASTLE, 6f, Himawari (GB)

20,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2021; £32,000 Goffs

UK Premier & Silver Yearlings 2022

### FRANCE:

**City Light (Fr)** (Siyouni {Fr}), Haras d'Etream

90 foals of racing age

1-DEAUVILLE, 1900m, Hillsboro (Fr)

**Fas (Ire)** (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), Haras de Saint-Vincent

30 foals of racing age

1-DEAUVILLE, 1900m, Prokoviev (Fr)

**Taj Mahal (Ire)** (Galileo {Ire}), Haras de la Haie Neuve

46 foals of racing age

1-DEAUVILLE, 1900m, Laurella Bere (Fr)

€8,000 Arqana Deauville September Yearling Sale 2022

1-DEAUVILLE, 1900m, Private Cave (Fr)

Bred by Ecurie des Monceaux, the chestnut is—as has been well documented—a full-brother to G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner **Sottsass (Fr)** and was hammered down to trainer Yoshito Yahagi for a sales-topping €2.1 million at last year's Arqana August Sale in Deauville. The colt has done little to suggest his connections' lofty opinions are misguided, as he was visually impressive in taking out his maiden at first asking over 1800 metres at Tokyo Nov. 4 and he made it two-from-two with a half-length success in the G3 Kyoto Nisai S. Nov. 25, successfully stretching out to Thursday's distance. Yahagi has tabbed Bauyrzhan Murzabayev to ride.



Arqana August topper Shin Emperor looks to make it three out of three in Thursday's Hopeful S. | JRA

“He has a lot of potential and it’s not often you get to work with a horse with a pedigree like he has, so I’m feeling the pressure,” said assistant trainer Yusaku Oka. “He’s still mentally immature, but he has shown a high level of ability and with his European bloodline, I think the tough turf at Nakayama will suit him. He has a lot of power and he should be able to handle the hill in the stretch. He already experienced the trip to Kanto for his debut, so I’m not worried there. I’m hoping he’ll do his best.”

**Regaleira (Jpn)** (Suave Richard {Jpn}), one of two fillies taking on the boys here, graduated in a July 9 newcomers' event at Hakodate and most recently resumed with a sound third-place effort behind the talented JRHA Select Yearling Sale topper Danon Ayers Rock (Jpn) (Maurice {Jpn}) in the Listed Ivy S. at Tokyo Oct. 21. Christophe Lemaire sticks with the filly for Equinox (Jpn)'s trainer Tetsuya Kimura.

Bricks and Mortar is in a good battle for second spot on the list of leading first-crop sires in Japan by progeny earnings behind Suave Richard, and **Gonbade Qabus (Jpn)** stands a good chance to solidify that position Thursday.

## WORLDWIDE NEWS

### SHIN EMPEROR HAS MUCH IN HIS FAVOUR IN HOPEFUL *by Alan Carasso*

Perfect in two starts, including a victory over 2000 metres already at this early stage in his career, Susumu Fujita's **Shin Emperor (Fr)** (Siyouni {Fr}) can well and truly stamp himself a leading contender for next year's Japanese Classics when he takes on a full field in Thursday's G1 Hopeful S. at Nakayama, the final top-level event on the JRA circuit for 2023.

**Hopeful S. Preview cont.**

The dark bay colt opened his account at first asking in a 1600-metre newcomers' contest at headquarters June 10 and was not seen for four months thereafter, returning to cause a mild upset in the G3 Saudi Arabia Royal Cup over the identical course and distance Oct. 7. He must negotiate an extra two furlongs here, but on pedigree it is clearly well within his reach.

**Velociraptor (Jpn)** (Suave Richard {Jpn}) also brings an unblemished record into the Hopeful, having won his maiden over nine furlongs at Tokyo June 24 before adding a Sept. 23 conditions test at Hanshin over the same trip.

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**USHBA TESORO NO SURE THING IN TOKYO**

**DAISHOTEN DEFENCE** by Alan Carasso



**Ushba Tesoro** | Dubai Racing Club

While the final of the roughly two dozen Group 1 races on the Japan Racing Association was scheduled for Thursday, the Tokyo Daishoten--the only recognized international Group 1 event and pattern race of any variety on the National Association of Racing circuit--takes place Friday afternoon at Ohi Racecourse in the Japanese capital.

Under normal circumstances, the discussion of the 2000-metre dirt affair would begin and end with **Ushba Tesoro (Jpn)** (Orfevre {Jpn}), whose victory here 12 months ago catapulted him to future success on the world stage in the G1 Dubai World Cup. Set for a start in the G1 Breeders' Cup Classic almost before he even got his picture taken at Meydan, the 6-year-old impressed in his local prep prior to departing for America in late September. He certainly didn't run a poor race at Santa Anita, as he was left entirely too much to do and wound up fifth behind White Abarrio (Race Day). It's just 55 days since a trip to the States and back again, not to mention a race in between, and he could be vulnerable.

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That theory might ring true no matter the competition, but **Mick Fire (Jpn)** (Sinister Minister) will present a stiff challenge in a race that could very well propel him to overseas targets. The 3-year-old colt is unbeaten and--really--unchallenged in seven career starts to date, all on the NAR. All but one of those starts have come at Ohi, including the Listed Japan Dirt Derby back in July, and he prepped for this with a defeat of 2023 GI Santa Anita Derby runner-up Mandarin Hero (Jpn) (Shanghai Bobby) in the Derby Grand Prix (allowance) over the course and distance Oct. 1.

While dual Group 1 winner Lemon Pop (Lemon Drop Kid) swerves this event in favour of potential appearances in the Middle East over the coming months, those that finished immediately behind him in the G1 Champions Cup three weekends ago take their chances. **Wilson Tesoro (Jpn)** (Kitsan Black {Jpn}) flashed home strongly to finish runner-up at Chukyo, outfinishing **Dura Erede (Jpn)** (Duramente {Jpn}), who caused a major boilover in last year's Hopeful S., but seems to have found a home on the dirt. Bauyrzhan Murzabayev rides.

The 3-year-old **King's Sword (Jpn)** (Sinister Minister) is another talented dirt runner for his sire and punched his ticket to the Daishoten with an easy victory over **Notturmo (Jpn)** (Heart's Cry {Jpn})--second in this last year--in the Listed JBC Classic over the course and distance Nov. 3.

[Share this story](#)

**Thursday, Nakayama, Japan, post time: 3.40 p.m.**

**HOPEFUL S-G1**, ¥135,800,000, 2yo, 2000mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Gonbade Qabus (Jpn)	Bricks and Mortar	K Matsuyama	Hori	123
2	Velociraptor (Jpn)	Suave Richard (Jpn)	Tosaki	Takano	123
3	Ammothyella (Jpn) (f)	Bricks and Mortar	Fujita	Matsunaga	121
4	Admiral Ship (Jpn)	Gold Ship (Jpn)	H Doyle	Aizawa	123
5	Sunrise Zipangu (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Sugawara	Otonashi	123
6	Shin Emperor (Fr)	<b>Siyouni (Fr)</b>	Murzabayev	Yahagi	123
7	Ten Ace One (Jpn)	World Ace (Jpn)	K Yokoyama	Okubo	123
8	In the Moment (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Sasaki	Tanaka	123
9	Tariff Line (Jpn)	Satono Diamond (Jpn)	Marquand	Koga	123
10	Sirius Colt (Jpn)	Makfi (GB)	Miura	Munakata	123
11	Shonan la Punta (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Sameshima	Takano	123
12	Di Speranza (Jpn)	Rulership (Jpn)	Morris	Yoshioka	123
13	Regaleira (Jpn) (f)	Suave Richard (Jpn)	Lemaire	Kimura	121
14	Hortobagy (Jpn)	Kinshasa no Kiseki (Jpn)	Imamura	Terashima	123
15	Win Maximum (Jpn)	Kitasan Black (Jpn)	Matsuoka	Hatakeyama	123
16	Century Bond (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Take	Shono	123
47	<del>Sunrise Earth (Jpn)</del>	<del>Rey de Oro (Jpn)</del>	<del>Scr</del>	<del>Scr</del>	<del>Scr</del>
18	Mr G T (Jpn)	Duramente (Jpn)	Sakai	Yahagi	123

**Breeders:** 1-Shadai Corporation Inc, 2-Shadai Farm, 3-Kuwata Bokujo, 4-Seiichi Serizawa, 5-Oiwake Farm, 6-Ecurie des Monceaux, 7-Northern Farm, 8-North Hills Co Ltd, 9-Northern Farm, 10-Chiyoda Farm Shizunai, 11-Shadai Farm, 12-Tanikawa Stud, 13-Northern Farm, 14-Tanikawa Stud, 15-Cosmo View Farm, 16-Chiyoda Farm Shizunai, 17-Northern Farm, 18-Northern Farm

**Friday, Ohi, Japan, post time: 3.40 p.m.**

**TOKYO DAISHOTEN-G1**, ¥170,000,000, 3yo/up, 2000m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	King's Sword (Jpn)	Sinister Minister	M Iwata	Terashima	126
2	Notturmo (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	Take	Otonashi	126
3	Tenkaharu (Jpn)	King Kamehameha (Jpn)	Sakai	Yahagi	126
4	Mangan (Jpn)	I'll Have Another	Sasagawa	Ishii	126
5	Ushba Tesoro (Jpn)	Orfevre (Jpn)	Kawada	Takagi	126
6	Dura Erede (Jpn)	Duramente (Jpn)	Murzabayev	Ikezoe	123
7	Gloria Mundi (Jpn)	King Kamehameha (Jpn)	Marquand	Okubo	126
8	Mick Fire (Jpn)	Sinister Minister	Mikamoto	Watanabe	123
9	Wilson Tesoro (Jpn)	Kitasan Black (Jpn)	Hara	Kotegawa	126

**Breeders:** 1-Nisshin Farm, 2-Shimokobe Farm, 3-Northern Farm, 4-Okada Stud, 5-Chiyoda Farm Shizunai, 6-Northern Farm, 7-Northern Farm, 8-Takahashi Farm, 9-Ryoken Farm

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## VALUE SIRES FOR 2024 PART 4: INTO THE TEENS



Mitole | Sarah Andrew

by Chris McGrath

Today we'll consider some of the sires standing between \$10,001 and \$19,999. For a long time, I called this the **Lookin At Lucky** zone. But don't worry, we won't be deploring his neglect yet again: he's staying in Chile, where they evidently appreciate him rather more.

Plenty of horses in this bracket have recently relinquished their brief window of commercial opportunity, and are now hanging around to discover whether they might join the very small group whose first runners generate a fresh vogue. Even with the newcomers out of the equation--we gave them a separate assessment, to open the series--we're left with three groups still untested on the track: those expecting their first foals; those who have just sold their first weanlings; and those actually about to dip a toe in the water with their first runners.

Pending that crossroads, many find themselves somewhat adrift against a bunch of older sires who have survived that test. These fit this tier either because they are losing stature or, more cheerfully, because they have carved out a viable niche as an affordable source of winners.

First the young guns. Of those who sent their first yearlings to auction this year, the ones who really nailed it, unsurprisingly, vaunted the kind of speed that pinhookers crave.

Cont. p3

## AT 2 1/2-YEAR MARK, BETTORS-VS.- BAFFERT LAWSUIT ON CUSP OF GETTING BOOTED BACK TO ORIGINAL COURT

by T.D. Thornton

The New Jersey-based lawsuit in which a group of bettors are alleging they were cheated out of their property by Bob Baffert when his betamethasone-positive trainee, Medina Spirit, crossed the finish wire first in the 2021 GI Kentucky Derby and purportedly prevented the plaintiffs from cashing winning tickets on the runner-up is on the cusp of being transferred back to a federal court in California where it was first initiated 2 1/2 years ago.

In a Dec. 22 filing in United States District Court (District of New Jersey), the judge in the case ordered both sides to file letters by Jan. 15 "if either party wishes to explain why this case should NOT be transferred back to the Central District of California." **Cont. p11**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### THE INFLUENCE OF RAFHA

The exploits of Urban Sea and her impact on the Thoroughbred breed are well known, but John Berry suggests not selling Rafha too short based on her stallion sons and their descendants.

  
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**11** Grade 1 Stakes Horses (#1 by %),

**12** Graded Stakes Winners (#1 by %),

**24** Graded Stakes Horses (#1 by %),




**16** Stakes Winners and

**34** Stakes Horses (#1 by %)



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**Thursday, December 28, 2023**



**2023 in photos: August 27.** In a new TDN tradition, Robert Mallari and Jena Antonucci take the Travers canoe painted in the silks of Blue Rose Farm's Arcangelo (Arrogate) on its maiden voyage into Saratoga's infield pond. | Sarah Andrew

**TINA BOND ELECTED NYTHA PRESIDENT**

**12**

*Tina Marie Bond, who previously served as co-vice president of the organization, has been elected to her first term as president of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.*

**WEEKLY RULINGS**

**12**

*Round-up of stewards rulings from across the country for the week of December 19-25.*

**FAVORITE MOMENTS: MADELINE ROWLAND**

**14**

*Jockey Madeline Rowland shares her favorite moment of 2023.*

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## Value Sires for 2024: Into the Teens *(cont. from p1)*

**VOLATILE** burned brightly in a light career, not seen again after confirming his Grade I caliber against a small but select field in the Vanderbilt. His 112 Beyer in the Aristides S. (1:07.57) was the highest of 2020 and duly secured 181 mares the following spring. Himself an \$850,000 yearling, with a GI Test/GI Ballerina winner as granddam, his \$125,431 average was boosted by a spectacular \$1.15 million docket for a Book 1 filly at Keeneland in September. Nudged back up to \$15,000 (from \$12,500), **Volatile** has three hefty books behind him and will be the horse to beat for the freshman title next year.



**Volatile** | Sarah Andrew

But not even his median yield of 4.3 on his opening fee (\$75,000/ \$17,500) could match that of **COMPLEXITY**, whose \$65,000 median (never mind his average \$90,400!) multiplied his \$12,500 fee by 5.2. **Complexity** started with some serious volume by the restrained standards of his farm, and then followed through with another three-figure book in his second season. He was clearly in the same vicinity as **Volatile** as a mature horse (110 Beyer in the GII Kelso) but was the more accomplished juvenile, wiring a Saratoga maiden (90 Beyer) before a decisive success in the GI Champagne S. on his second start. His half-sister ran second in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, so their unraced dam is obviously channelling the good stuff.

**VEKOMA** is meanwhile working the Spendthrift system with remarkable efficiency, having started out (at \$20,000) with staggering volume, entertaining at least 200 mares in each of his first three seasons. This year he processed 102 of his first yearlings at \$98,432, albeit was unsurprisingly stretched somewhat thinner by a median of \$60,000. Though confined to eight starts across three seasons, he was class from beginning to end, posting big numbers for his Grade I double in the Carter and Met Mile.



# TONALIST

Tapit - Settling Mist, by Pleasant Colony

“ What Country Grammer has represented much more fairly is **ALL THE TOUGHNESS** one would **HOPE TO INHERIT FROM TAPIT OVER PLEASANT COLONY.**

It's heartening to see that this **was recognized by as many as 115 mare owners last spring.** ”

- Chris McGrath, **TDN Value Sires** 12/21



**LANE'S END**

Fee: \$10,000

lanesend.com | t: 859.873.7300

From a stallion-producing family, he's a horse I've liked all the way through and everything is in place for him to look after many (albeit probably not all!) of his (very many!) clients at \$15,000.

Among those in this intake offering rather more stretch, one or two suffered horrible yearling medians relative to conception fee. But one who made a solid start off \$12,500 was Bolt d'Oro's half-brother **GLOBAL CAMPAIGN**: 74 yearlings sold at \$63,195 (median \$43,500). This was a more talented animal than generally appreciated and I can see him proving himself a bargain gateway to **Curlin**. A closer look at his family shows that it tends to produce faster types than are associated with the seeding sires, and **Global Campaign**'s first crop of 126 live foals may surprise a few people with their dash.

Of those who sold their first weanlings this fall, meanwhile, the one that will sort out the sheep and the goats is **KNICKS GO**. No questioning his talent, it was just never quite obvious where it all came from--albeit his dam maintained stakes speed through four seasons. Those who didn't require a more familiar pedigree were delighted to see a Horse of the Year introduced at just \$30,000. Well, now they can get him for half that, even though he's still nearly 18 months away from the opportunity to demonstrate whether or not he can replicate his brilliance! At this money, some people will surely want to roll the dice.

Even as it is, his weanlings sold a little better than those of **SILVER STATE**. But it's very early days for the latter, whose pedigree in contrast elucidates all the class he manifested as a runner. A friendly clip to \$15,000 should hopefully keep him in the game because this horse equipped to prove a really wholesome influence.

The subsequent intake features some truly frightening books, but I will resist dwelling on that here. Suffice to say that those playing a longer game might quite like a filly by either **SPEAKER'S CORNER** or **MYSTIC GUIDE**. Both have taken an early trim at Darley, respectively to \$17,500 and \$12,500, and their pedigrees shout distaff influence.

We'll have to see how many of the youngsters will endure even in this relatively modest tier, a few years from now. Nor does a flying start bring any guarantees, as **UNION RAGS** could caution them. The halving of his fee to \$15,000 acknowledges the way he has faltered, having stood at \$60,000 between 2018 and 2020. Trade for his latest yearlings made this further cut imperative, but he's still the same horse that so quickly came up with five Grade I winners. Hopefully he will find a little oxygen now that he has descended to more accessible altitudes.

Studmate **DAREDEVIL** has taken his second cut since returning to the U.S., now down to \$15,000, but of course it's only in 2024 that we'll get to assess the first juveniles conceived after Swiss Skydiver prompted his urgent repatriation. Their sales performance demanded a mild trim in fee, but he could easily be poised for fresh momentum.



# THE FACTOR

War Front - Greyciousness, by Miswaki

“...a **STELLAR LIFETIME RATIO** of **TWO WINNERS** to **THREE NAMED FOALS.**”

- Chris McGrath, **TDN Value Sires** 12/21

**TOP 10 GENERAL SIRE** by Winners

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including **UNDEFEATED APPEAL FACTOR**



**LANE'S END**

Fee: \$10,000

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**MENDELSSOHN** has also taken consecutive cuts, similarly now available at \$15,000. He has so far been more about quantity than quality but his supporters will hope that he can still emulate four others, standing at the same fee, who have all done admirably to create a lasting foothold in this most slippery of markets.


The first of these, **DIALED IN**, is something of a blue-collar hero. He maintains such high volume--corralled 175 mares last spring, his 10th at stud--that it will always be hard, with the raw materials available at this level, to make his ratios "sing". But Defunded has once again shown the caliber within his competence as his third elite scorer. **Dialed In** gets his work done at a fair tariff, and will keep plugging away to leave behind many of those now starting at multiples of his fee.



**Cairo Prince** | Sarah Andrew

**CAIRO PRINCE** has also created a sustainable brand for himself through six crops, as attested by a solid book of 129 mares last spring. A set-your-clock black-type producer throughout, he's now entering the territory where he can legitimately prove a mare--and of course he gets such a nice type, the average (\$54,194) and median (\$40,000) of his latest yearlings duly best among this proven quartet.

**MIDSHIPMAN** is a true yeoman and it's typical of this business that he should have had a quieter year (by his very special standards) both on the track and in the sales ring after finally doubling his fee to \$20,000 last year--due recognition for having punched above weight for so long. His lifetime stats remain ridiculous for a stallion who has largely been a four-figure cover: 47 stakes winners at 6.4 percent of named foals, nine at graded stakes level; and 101 black-type performers overall, at 13.7 percent. The trim back to \$15,000 brings him back towards the reach of breeders who most appreciate just what he can do for their mares.



# HONOR A. P.


Honor Code - Hollywood Story, by Wild Rush


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- Chris McGrath, **TDN Value Sires** 12/21

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# Brilliant winner of a sire-making race

Won the **Travers Stakes-Gr.1** earning a **112** Beyer Speed Figure, the highest of any 3YO on dirt in 2022.

His winning distance of **5¼ lengths** has been bettered only 3 times since 1979 – by **Arrogate**, **Bernardini** and **Tiz The Law**.

**ALSO A STAKES-WINNING 2YO BY 6½ LENGTHS!**

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Bred on a similar cross to  
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**Fee: \$40,000**



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**KANTHAROS**, who has really pulled himself up by his bootstraps, had another very solid year on the track. He has made the same slip in fee, reflecting a tepid book of mares last spring and a challenging yield on yearlings conceived at \$30,000. But that was an experience shared by many sires exposed to a porous middle market, and the fact is that **Kantharos** lurks only just outside the top 10 in the 2023 general sires' list with a dozen stakes winners, including a couple at graded level. His lifetime ratio of stakes runners--11 percent of named foals--remains outstanding for a horse whose first five books were compiled in Florida at just \$5,000.

He sired two Grade I winners at that fee, and now has another millionaire in Grade II winner Bay Storm. The first of his two \$30,000 books were juveniles this year, and we know how they will keep thriving. That guarantees **Kantharos** imminently entry into the top 20 active sires on lifetime earnings. All he needs to do is supplant... **Lookin At Lucky!**

Seeing  
**RED?**

Click on a **stallion's name** to learn more about them on their page on the farm's website.

**VALUE PODIUM**

**Bronze: CONNECT**

**Curlin--Bullville Belle (Holy Bull)**

**Lane's End \$15,000**

Amid all this talk about stud fees being too high, credit is overdue to Lane's End for anticipating the mood in the room. From **Flightline** down, the farm made 11 cuts across their 2024 roster. All were meaningful, and some nearly brutal, effectively conceding that one or two stallions were drifting into trouble and needed some decisive help. Bravo! The very opposite of burying your head in the sand, and in the present environment I hope it works out both for the farm and its clients.

One stallion who can certainly benefit is **Connect**, restored from \$25,000 to his 2021 fee of \$15,000 after the crop conceived that year returned a tepid median (albeit a perfectly acceptable \$45,774 average) at the yearling sales. He'd also suffered a real slump in his book last spring, down to 45 from 172 in 2022! But we're accustomed to seeing horses treated like this, once they have served their commercial purpose, and should sooner marvel at the impression he must have made with his first crop to get such a big book (up from 93 in 2021) in his fifth year at stud.

# BAHAMIAN SQUALL

GRADED STAKES WINNER BY SIRE OF SIRES GONE WEST

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Sure enough, only **Gun Runner** and **Practical Joke** banked more prizemoney as freshmen in 2021, and only **Gun Runner** had more winners. Unfortunately **Connect** did not then consolidate especially well, but he has made a timely return to form this year with eight stakes winners, three at graded level, plus a GI Kentucky Oaks third in The Alys Look. Moreover, his first-crop flagship, the juvenile Grade I winner Rattle N Roll, failed by just half a length to add another elite score in the GI Stephen Foster S. That horse was a \$55,000 weanling but has now banked \$1.7 million across three seasons.



**Connect** | Sarah Andrew

**Connect's** pedigree is not without its challenges but he's another to bring **Curlin** within range and had real prowess as a racehorse, a blip in the Travers his only defeat in seven starts (four triple-digit Beyers) up the grades after debut. He outkicked none other than **Gun Runner** in the GII Pennsylvania Derby and, while he won't be doing that again any time soon, he's actually siring winners at a higher percentage of named foals.

With that bumper crop of weanlings in the pipeline, and now a lenient fee, this looks a good time to re-**Connect**.

**Silver: KARAKONTIE (Jpn)**  
**Bernstein--Sun Is Up (Jpn) (Sunday Silence)**  
**Gainesway \$15,000**

How pleasing to see this undervalued stallion moving his book back up last year, up to 86 from 48. Perhaps his hour has come at last, now that the minority prepared to breed to a quality turf sire in the Bluegrass have been deprived of English Channel and Kitten's Joy.

If you're enlightened enough to see the growing need for turf quality in the U.S., then you might also recognize that you don't always have to fly first class to Tattersalls. With a fifth crop on the track, **Karakontie** has still only had 174 starters, but seven have won graded stakes.

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For the second year running, moreover, he had an elite scorer in She Feels Pretty, winner of the GI Natalma S. before failing by barely half a length to overcome a wide trip in the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf. **Karakontie**'s premier earner Princess Grace meanwhile continued to thrive in Australia, missing Group 1 scores by a neck and half a length.



**Karakontie** | Sarah Andrew

Even after a hike from \$10,000, **Karakontie** is an awful lot of horse for this fee. He converted some of the most regal blood in the book--his third dam is Miesque herself--into a turn of foot that won him a Group 1 at two and then a mile Classic, before doing all he could to endear the American market in the GI Breeders' Cup Mile. Don't forget that he restores Sunday Silence to the Bluegrass through his dam, herself out of a half-sister to Kingmambo. His international pedigree and participation alike are a measure of our debt to the program that produced him.

The American market has not really grasped its privilege, with this horse, but the elevation in his fee tells you everything you need to know: he's being used by people who want to breed a runner, whether in their own silks or to boost a mare.

Actually, **Karakontie** is perfectly capable of a home run at the sales, including the \$525,000 filly at Keeneland in September whose buyers will have been delighted to see her full-sister (who herself made \$280,000 the previous year) win the Tepin S. last month. His lesser specimens may struggle commercially, until the environment improves, but that won't trouble those eccentrics who calculate value according to the odds of ending up with a runner.

**Gold: MITOLE**  
**Eskendereya--Indian Miss (Indian Charlie)**  
**Spendthrift \$15,000**

How naive of me to imagine that all those commercial breeders who flocked to the new sires in 2020 wanted nothing more than to land on the champion freshman of 2023. Because

Mitole, as he closes in on those laurels, finds himself the only one of the four Spendthrift sires dominating this table to remain on the same fee in 2024.

Now, clearly this farm needs no help in how to make their remarkable machine run smoothly. The Spendthrift team know that Mitole was the one who took the biggest slide of the quartet, in the inevitable slackening of demand for their second crop of yearlings. But they had already ensured that these were conceived more affordably, trimming him from \$25,000 in his debut season to \$15,000. That was partly a concession to the Covid market, but it also offered such obvious value about a champion sprinter that he maintained the enthusiastic support of 184 mares even last spring, after topping 200 in each of his three previous seasons.



**Mitole** | Louise Reinagel

In other words, the system is functioning smoothly and Mitole has played his part so well that he approaches the winning post with a narrow advantage over Maximus Mischief (my serial "gold" pick, I might add, after starting at \$7,500!) by prizemoney and also a wafer-thin one by individual winners (32 from 79 starters).

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Whether or not he holds out, Mitole is the only one of the four to have a graded stakes scorer--and so joins **Flameaway** and Solomini in what has been a weirdly unproductive group, by that measure--in GIII Pocahontas S. winner/GI Alcibiades runner-up V V's Dream.

The precocious Maximus Mischief has shown a lot more of his hand (77 starters from 122 named foals) and remember that Mitole (79 from 145) himself only squeezed in a single start at two, in late November. It was as a 4-year-old that he racked up his four Grade Is--including that resonant Met Mile/Breeders' Cup Sprint double, and a stakes record at the intermediate distance in the Forego. So it seems fair to suggest that he has only just got started.

By now Mitole has surely stifled misgivings about his sire, himself after all a brilliant performer and a conduit of corresponding genes. Eskendereya's fifth dam is Cosmah, and doubles up her half-sister's son Northern Dancer top and bottom. It was presumably his unfashionable sire that confined Mitole to \$20,000 as a yearling--but then along came kid brother Hot Rod Charlie (Oxbow), himself a \$17,000 short yearling, to reiterate the merit of a family cultivated by the late Edward A. Cox Jr.

Hot Rod Charlie has now followed Eskendereya to Japan, where they have made a habit of exposing crass commercial

trends in Kentucky. But here's a horse making the family assets work even in this less imaginative environment, and his debut at the 2-year-old sales--behind only Omaha Beach in the key freshman medians--suggest that Mitole will be taking out a long lease on the attention of pinhookers.

## VALUE PODIUM



**MITOLE**  
Spendthrift | \$15,000



**KARAKONTIE**  
Gainesway | \$15,000



**CONNECT**  
Lane's End | \$15,000



# The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Eclipse Awards

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## Sires In The Teens: Breeder Selections

*Aidan O'Meara, Stonehaven Steadings*

### **Gold Medal:** Volatile

One of the best angles for success in the commercial breeding field is identifying a future leading stallion in the early stages and this sometimes requires taking a leap of faith breeding when their first runners are about to run. **Volatile** has been the breakout star at the yearling sales this year, mirroring his sire's first crop results a few years back. He's a beautifully built horse himself and passed his physique on with remarkable consistency. He's been very well supported by breeders and will have plenty of ammo in his first few crops to give him every opportunity. If his offspring have legitimate ability, he will skyrocket up the stallion ranks and \$15,000 will look like the deal of the decade.



Aidan O'Meara | Keeneland

### **Silver Medal:** Connect

The crop of 2021 has all been overshadowed by **Gun Runner's** incredible achievements, but **Connect** has been quietly developing a very solid career for himself. He has shown consistency with three graded stakes winners again this year and a strong supporting cast of stakes horses. He has also shown the ability to get the all-important high-class horse with Rattle N Roll. He measures well in all statistical categories and looks to be a stallion that can establish himself long term in the mold of a **Midshipman/First Samurai/Blame** type.

### **Bronze Medal:** Audible

The Spendthrift quartet has garnered most of the attention from this year's freshmen and rightly so but one horse is simmering just below these and that horse is **Audible**. His 14% stakes horses with his first 2-year-olds cannot be ignored and his own racing career suggests there is more improvement to be had as they mature. He's a beautiful horse that can throw the right kind as witnessed by his first crop of yearlings. \$15,000 is

very intriguing for a horse with some potential future upswing and worst-case scenario has shown plenty of ability for longer term success at this price point.

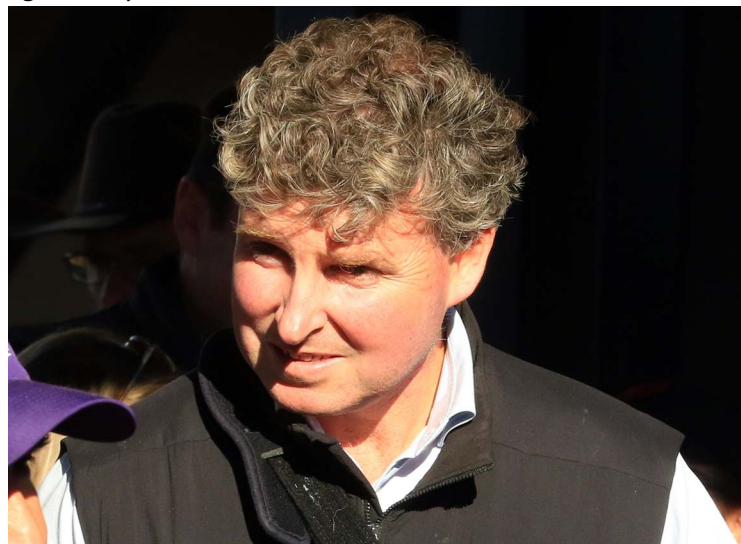
*Peter O'Callaghan, Woods Edge Farm*

### **Gold Medal:** Midshipman

This stallion has been very good to us both on the track and in the sales ring. We recently bred first-time-out 2-year-old winner **Midshipman's** Dance; pinhooked Grade II winner Special Reserve; bred Leucothea and co-bred Amidst Waves, both of whom are multiple stakes winning 2-year-olds. He is a very consistent and well-respected sire, standing for an affordable \$15,000. You can sell one well at the sales and he produces winners every weekend at the track.

### **Silver Medal:** Mitole

Obviously a brilliant racehorse and looks to be turning out some good 2-year-old winners this second half of the year. Must be a horse worth a punt at \$15,000. We are breeding to him again this year.



Peter O'Callaghan | Fasig-Tipton

### **Bronze Medal:** Vekoma

A brilliant racehorse, a high class 2-year-old who trained on, winning some high-profile races in the GII Bluegrass S. going two turns at three. Then winning the GI Carter H. and GI Met Mile at four in impressive fashion. Furthermore, he is a very well-bred son of **Candy Ride (Arg)**, out of the GISW **Speightstown** mare Mona De Momma from the family of Mr. Greeley.

He is a good-looking horse who seems to sire plenty of good-looking stock. We have bred to him each year and have bought foals by him in each crop, he has not let us down so far.

I think he is a horse with a legitimate shot to be a sire standing at an affordable fee of \$15,000.

# THE PERFECT SPRINGBOARD INTO 2024

Darley



Two G1 juveniles, two placed in G2s and two Stakes winners: **Street Sense's 2023 two-year-olds go into their sophomore season in top form**, with Otto the Conqueror winning the \$300k Springboard Mile. Just imagine...

**\$60,000** S&N





## Bettors-Vs-Baffert Lawsuit (cont. from p1)

The judge explained his rationale: “This case relates entirely, or all-but-entirely, to alleged events at a 2021 horse race in Kentucky,” the judge wrote. “And this case was originally filed by the Plaintiffs in the Central District of California, before the Plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed their claims and re-filed them here. This is a case, in short, that has little, if anything, to do with New Jersey.”

The **original version of the suit**, led by Michael Beychok, the winner of the 2012 National Horseplayers Championship, was filed in California four days after Baffert's May 9, 2021, disclosure that Medina Spirit had tested positive for betamethasone after winning the May 1 Derby.

It wasn't until Aug. 22, 2023, that the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's disqualification of Medina Spirit from the 2021 Derby--which also affirmed the elevation of runner-up **Mandaloun** as the official winner--was sustained after a long administrative appeals process.

Baffert, plus his incorporated racing stable, were named as the defendants back in 2021, and the plaintiffs' California-filed version of the suit made it a point to note that “Venue is also proper for these claims in this Court because Defendants reside and transact their affairs and conduct business in the State of California and, specifically, through this District.”

The more than 30 class members of that suit chose the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) Act as a tool to try and collect damages. In addition, they sought an order from the judge stating that Baffert must divest himself from the sport.

RICO is a sweeping 1970 federal statute initially designed to combat the Mafia. But in a legal sense, it has long since lost its “organized crime” stigma. RICO today is rarely used to go after stereotypical “godfather” figures. Instead, RICO has evolved as a civil litigation component, and is most often asserted by purported victims of white-collar crimes, such as mail and wire fraud.

Two months after its initial filing, the class-action complaint was withdrawn from the California federal court on July 22, 2021. One day later, an amended version of it resurfaced in New Jersey.

The New Jersey complaint from July 23, 2021, alleged that, “[Baffert's] multiple and repeated acts of doping and entering

horses into Thoroughbred races, including the Kentucky Derby, constituted racketeering activity.”

In subsequent court documents, the plaintiffs explained why they believed New Jersey should now be the proper venue. They cited a legal precedent that involved a case in which the act of simulcasting a race into New Jersey from another state “permits the Court to exercise personal jurisdiction over it.”

The plaintiffs also alleged that Baffert's purported doping fraud included his occasional starts at Monmouth Park.

But as far back as September 2021, when Baffert first moved for dismissal of this lawsuit, his court filing termed that switch from California to New Jersey “blatant forum shopping” because the new venue has “no meaningful connection to the allegations raised in their Complaint.”

The term “forum shopping” refers to the practice of litigants

angling to get their case heard in the court thought most likely to result in a winning outcome. It is not illegal or unethical to forum shop, but judges can and do let parties know if they believe lawyers are stretching legal boundaries by trying to get their cases heard in venues that are most favorable to them.

Another Baffert filing, on Jan. 12, 2022, again alleged that the plaintiffs were off base in attempting to litigate the matter in New Jersey.

“The law is clear that there

must be case-specific contacts with the forum state...” that filing stated. “Even if one were to accept Plaintiffs' tinfoil conspiratorial premise that Baffert engaged in a nationwide racketeering scheme to defraud individuals he never met, Plaintiffs would still have to establish that at least some of the alleged illicit conduct actually occurred in New Jersey. They have utterly failed to do so. This matter has zero connection to New Jersey and it must be dismissed.”

Earlier this year, **a federal judge in Kentucky dismissed** a similar (but entirely separate) class-action lawsuit initiated against Baffert by a group of horseplayers who alleged negligence, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment because their losing pari-mutuel bets on the 2021 Derby also weren't honored as winners.

Baffert's attorney in the New Jersey case, W. Craig Robertson III, made sure the judge in New Jersey was aware of that Kentucky dismissal when considering the motion to dismiss, which is still active and has yet to be ruled upon.



**Bob Baffert** | *Benoit*

“Identical to this case, the [federal complaint in Kentucky] was commenced by a purported class of aggrieved gamblers against [Baffert] asserting claims connected to pari-mutuel payouts from the 2021 Kentucky Derby,” Robertson wrote in a July 26, 2023, letter to the U. S. District Court of New Jersey.

“The Western District of Kentucky dismissed those claims as a matter of law,” Robertson continued. “Specifically, the Court held that Kentucky’s Rules of Racing govern all bets placed on the Kentucky Derby and because the Rules are clear that all payouts are final based on official race-day results, aggrieved gamblers have no injury at law and no viable cause of action even if race results are later altered.

“Similarly here, [Baffert seeks] dismissal of the case before Your Honor due to a lack of cognizable injury, whether under the RICO statute or otherwise,” Baffert’s attorney wrote.

Counsel for the plaintiffs responded with their own letter to the judge Aug. 7, writing that the Kentucky decision “has no relevance or merit to the present matter” and that the “causes of action brought by the present Plaintiffs in this action are separate, distinct, and dissimilar from the claims brought by separate parties” in the dismissed Kentucky lawsuit.

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## TINA BOND ELECTED NYTHA PRESIDENT

Tina Marie Bond, who previously served as co-vice president of the organization, has been elected to her first term as president of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association.

“I am honored to be chosen as the next president of NYTHA,” said Bond. “It is an important time for our industry and the future of horse racing. I look forward to working with NYRA and the New York breeders to continue the great work of keeping New York racing at the top of our industry. We have the best owners, the best trainers, the best employees, and soon we will have the best facilities. I want to thank Joe Appelbaum and our past board members for all of their work and support. And I want to congratulate our new board—I look forward to working with all of you.”

Also in NYTHA election results released Wednesday, owner/directors to the board are: Tom Bellhouse, Dan Collins, Sanford Goldfarb, Dr. Jennifer White, Aron Yagoda, and alternate Andrew Aaron.

Trainer/Trainer-Owner directors are: Jena Antonucci, David Donk, David Duggan, James Ferraro, John Terranova, and alternate Linda Rice.

“I’d like to recognize everyone who put themselves out there to run for a position,” said outgoing NYTHA president Joe Appelbaum. “NYTHA’s strength is in our community and the

more that participate, the better. Good luck to the incoming board, they are going to need our support.”

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## WEEKLY RULINGS

### DECEMBER 19-25

Every week, the *TDN* posts a roundup of the relevant Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) related rulings from around the country.

Among the key rulings from the last week, trainer Bonnie Lucas was suspended seven days after a post-race Xylazine positive in a sample taken from Tankinator, who was injured and vanned off in a race at Parx Racing on Nov. 7. Xylazine is a Class B controlled medication under HISA that can be used to sedate racehorses.

It remains unclear whether Tankinator was euthanized as a result of his injuries sustained that day.

The 5-year-old gelding was having his first race for Lucas, having been claimed out of the Webster Gayle barn on Oct. 21. In a post-race sample taken Oct. 21, Tankinator tested positive for the corticosteroid Dexamethasone, a controlled medication commonly used as an anti-inflammatory.

**NEW HISA/HIWU STEWARDS RULINGS**

The following rulings were reported on HISA's "rulings" portal and through the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit's (HIWU) "pending" and "resolved" cases portals.

**Resolved ADMC Violations****Date: 11/13/2023****Licensee: Librado Barocio, trainer****Penalty: A fine of \$500; imposition of 1.5 Penalty Points.****Admission.**

**Explainer:** For the presence of Phenylbutazone—Controlled Medication (Class C)—in a sample taken from Sugar Fish. This was a possible violation of Rule 3312—Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

**Date: 11/13/2023****Licensee: Librado Barocio, trainer****Penalty: Treated as 1 violation with Sugar Fish under 09/08/23****HISA Guidance. Admission.**

**Explainer:** For the presence of Phenylbutazone—Controlled Medication (Class C)—in a sample taken from Barristan the Bold. This was a possible violation of Rule 3312—Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

**Date: 11/08/2023****Licensee: Ilmar Loaiza, trainer**

**Penalty: Disqualification of Covered Horse's Race results, including forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points, and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable); a fine of \$500; imposition of 1.5 Penalty Points. Admission.**

**Explainer:** For the presence of Dexamethasone—Controlled Medication (Class C)—in a sample taken from Roseinthesky, who finished second at Finger Lakes on 11/8/23. This was a possible violation of Rule 3312—Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

**Date: 11/07/2023****Licensee: Bonnie Lucas, trainer**

**Penalty: 7-day period of Ineligibility, beginning on December 27, 2023; Disqualification of Covered Horse's Race results, including forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points, and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable); a fine of \$1,000; imposition of 2 Penalty Points. Admission.**

**Explainer:** For the presence of Xylazine—Controlled Medication (Class B)—in a sample taken from Tankinator, who was pulled up and vanned off in a race at Parx Racing on 11/7/23. This was a possible violation of Rule 3312—Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

**Date: 09/28/2023****Licensee: Terry Eoff, trainer**

**Penalty: Disqualification of Covered Horse's Race results, including forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points, and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable); a fine of \$500; imposition of 1.5 Penalty Points. Admission.**

**Explainer:** For the presence of Methocarbamol—Controlled Medications (Class C)—in a sample taken from Kentucky Dawn, who finished second at Remington Park on 9/28/23. This was a possible violation of Rule 3312—Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

**Pending ADMC Violations****Date: 12/08/2023****Licensee: Victor Barboza, trainer****Penalty: Pending****Alleged violation: Medication violation**

**Explainer:** A possible violation of Rule 3314—Use or Attempted Use of a Controlled Medication Substance or a Controlled Medication Method—on the horse, Long Range Toddy. This is also a possible violation of Rule 4222—Intra-Articular Injections Within Seven (7) Days of Timed and Reported Workout.

**Date: 10/30/2023****Licensee: Robert Fiesman, trainer****Penalty: Pending****Alleged violation: Medication violation**

**Explainer:** For the presence of Phenylbutazone—Controlled Medication (Class C)—in a sample taken from Little Four, who was euthanized after breaking down in a race at Mahoning Valley on 10/30/23, [according to Equibase](#). This is a possible violation of Rule 3312—Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

**Date: 10/06/2023****Licensee: Luis Mendez, trainer****Penalty: Pending****Alleged violation: Medication violation**

**Explainer:** For the presence of Methocarbamol—Controlled Medication (Class C)—in a sample taken from Big Celebration, who finished third at Santa Anita on 10/6/23. This is a possible violation of Rule 3312—Presence of Controlled Medication Substance and/or its Metabolites or Markers (Post-Race/Vets' List).

**Violations of Crop Rule**

One important note: HISA's whip use limit is restricted to six strikes during a race.

**Mahoning Valley**

Erik Barbaran – violation date Dec 19; \$250 fine, eight-day suspension, no further details of ruling

**OTHER KEY RULINGS**

The TDN also publishes a roundup of key official rulings from the primary tracks within the four major racing jurisdictions of California, New York, Florida and Kentucky.

Here's a primer on how each of these jurisdictions adjudicates different offenses, what they make public (or not) and where.

The following was taken from the ARCI's "recent rulings" webpage, which isn't always updated contemporaneously.

**FLORIDA**

**Track:** Gulfstream Park

**Date:** 12/6/2023

**Licensee:** Alexis Camano, trainer

**Penalty:** suspended license

**Violation:** Unpaid financial obligations

**Explainer:** FINAL ORDER # 2022-051619 = F.S. VIOLATION - FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO TEIGLAND, FRANKLIN, & BROKKEN, D.V.M.'S, INC. - LICENSE SUSPENDED BEGINNING 12/6/2023 FOR A PERIOD EXTENDING UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS HAVE BEEN FULLY SATISFIED.

**Track:** Gulfstream Park

**Date:** 12/6/2023

**Licensee:** Aubrey Maragh, trainer

**Penalty:** 15-day suspension, \$1,500 fine

**Violation:** Medication violation

**Explainer:** FINAL ORDER 2023-003854 - F.S. 550.2415 VIOLATION = 5 HYDROXYDANTROLENE. "MODAZZLE" \$1500 FINE, 15 DAY SUSPENSION - DATES TO BE DETERMINED BY STEWARDS, AND RETURN OF PURSE IMPOSED

**Track:** Gulfstream Park

**Date:** 12/6/2023

**Licensee:** Andry G. Blanco, owner

**Penalty:** suspended license

**Violation:** Unpaid financial obligations

**Explainer:** FINAL ORDER # 2023-046372 = F.S. VIOLATION - FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO TEIGLAND, FRANKLIN, & BROKKEN, D.V.M.'S, INC. LICENSE SUSPENDED BEGINNING 12/6/2023 FOR A PERIOD EXTENDING UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS HAVE BEEN FULLY SATISFIED.

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**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT OF 2023: MADELINE ROWLAND**

As 2023 draws to a close, the TDN is asking industry members to name their favorite moment of the year. Send yours to [suefinley@thetdn.com](mailto:suefinley@thetdn.com)




In the Jaipur winner's circle | Sarah Andrew

Watching my favorite horse Caravel win [the GI Jaipur S.] live on Belmont S. Day.

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# TDN VALUE SIRE

## GOLD MEDAL

“One of the best angles for success in the commercial breeding field is identifying a future leading stallion in the early stages and this sometimes requires taking a leap of faith breeding when their first runners are about to run. Volatile has been the breakout star at the yearling sales this year, mirroring his sire’s first crop results a few years back.”






2024 Stud Fee: \$15,000 LFSN



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**Saturday, Gulfstream #11, post time: 5:04 p.m. EST**

**FT. LAUDERDALE S.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/8mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Marwad (GB)	Intello (Ger)	Rachid Racing Inc.	Moubarak	Murphy	121
2	Grand Sonata 	Medaglia d'Oro	Whisper Hill Farm, LLC	Pletcher	Gaffalione	121
3	Jerry the Nipper 	Liam's Map	Repole Stable	Pletcher	Ortiz	121
4	Main Event 	Bernardini	Harrell Ventures, LLC	Weaver	Castellano	121
5	Kingmax (Ire)	Kingman (GB)	Amo Racing USA	Delgado	Egan	121
6	Fort Washington	War Front	Allen Stable, Inc. and Magic Cap Stables	McGaughey III	Saez	121
7	Stone Age (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Westerberg, Peter M. Brant, Mrs. John Magnier, Derrick Smith, and Michael B. Tabor	Brown	Velazquez	121
8	Red Run	Gun Runner	Jordan V. Wycoff	Maker	Zayas	121
9	Running Bee	English Channel	Calumet Farm	Brown	Ortiz, Jr.	121
10	Henley's Joy	Kitten's Joy	Paradise Farms Corp. and David Staudacher	Maker	Lopez	121

**Breeders:** 1-Shadwell Estate Company Limited, 2-Whisper Hill Farm, LLC, 3-St. Elias Stable, LLC & Peta Ryan, 4-Godolphin, Eric Buckley & Elizabeth Buckley, 5-Sunderland Holding Inc., 6-Joseph Allen, LLC & White Birch Farm, Inc., 7-White Birch Farm, SC, 8-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC, 9-English Channel Co-Owners & Gordon Gilliam, 10-Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey

**Saturday, Santa Anita #1, post time: 3:00 p.m. EST**

**JOE HERNANDEZ S.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo/up, 6 1/2FT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Lucky Score 	Lookin At Lucky	Pantofel Stable, Wachtel Stable and Barber, Gary	Casse	Maldonado	125
2	Balnikhov (Ire)	Adaay (Ire)	Little Red Feather Racing, Madaket Stables & Old Bones Racing Stable, LLC	D'Amato	Fresu	123
3	Daniel's Magic	Magician (Ire)	S. J. S. Stables and Diamond, Lindy S.	Harty	Kimura	121
4	Forbidden Kingdom	American Pharoah	MyRacehorse and Spendthrift Farm LLC	Mandella	Prat	121
5	Peaceful Waters 	Dialed In	Hronis Racing LLC	Sadler	Berrios	121
6	I'm A Gambler (Ire)	No Nay Never	Red Baron's Barn LLC and Rancho Temescal LLC	Glatt	Dettori	121
7	Lovesick Blues	Grazen	Nicholas B. Alexander	Miyadi	Baze	121
8	Johnny Podres	Grazen	David A. Bernsen LLC & Mia Familia Racing Stable	Barocio	Frey	121
9	Tahoe Sunrise 	American Pharoah	Pegram, Michael E., Watson, Karl & Weitman, Paul	Baffert	Espinoza	119
10	Turn On The Jets (Ire)	Mehmas (Ire)	Benowitz Family Trust, CYBT, Nentwig, M & Pagano, R	D'Amato	Hernandez	121
11	Olympic Runner 	Gio Ponti	Gary Barber	Casse	Rispoli	121
12	Front Run the Fed 	Fed Biz	George A. Sharp	Caramori	Franco	121
13	Dancing Buck	War Dancer	J and N Stables and Diamond M Stable	Dutrow, Jr.	Maldonado	121

**Breeders:** 1-James Everatt, Janeane Everatt & Arika Everatt-Meeuse, 2-T. de La Heronniere & Gestut Zur Kuste AG, 3-SJS Stables, 4-Springhouse Farm, 5-Mark Toothaker & Keith Crupper, 6-Fullbury Ltd, 7-Nick Alexander, 8-Nick Alexander, 9-Mr. & Mrs. David Garner, 10-Mr D. Byrne, 11-Eutrophia Far



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Look for the  throughout the TDN graded stakes entries denoting Keeneland Sales Graduates.

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**Saturday, Gulfstream #8, post time: 3:32 p.m. EST****SUWANNEE RIVER S.-GIII, \$150,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 1mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Saffron Moon 🌿	Malibu Moon	CHP Racing	Brown	Gaffalione	121
2	Poca Mucha 🌿	Tourist	Pantofel Stable, Wachtel Stable, and Jerold L. Zaro	Mott	Lopez	121
3	Walkathon	Twirling Candy	Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC	Wilkes	Bravo	121
4	Full Count Felicia 🌿	War Front	Gold Square LLC	Russell	Ortiz, Jr.	123
5	Tequilera	Vancouver (Aus)	John T. Behrendt	Matz	Alvarado	121
6	Accomplished Girl 🌿	Street Boss	Gentry Farms	Joseph, Jr.	Zayas	120
7	Willakia	Tapit	Stonestreet Stables LLC	Motion	Velazquez	121
8	Sister Lou Ann	Frosted	Kenneth L. Ramsey	Joseph, Jr.	Ortiz	121
9	Fast as Flight 🌿	Air Force Blue	Jim and Susan Hill	Lynch	Saez	123
10	Messidor (Ire)	Vadamos (Fr)	Blue Devil Racing Stable	Clement	Castellano	121

**Breeders:** 1-Cove Springs Farm LLC, 2-Brownwood Farm, 3-Whitham Thoroughbreds, LLC, 4-Joseph Allen, LLC, 5-Helen K. Groves Revocable Trust, 6-Jack Swain III, 7-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 8-Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey, 9-Pursuit of Success, LLC, 10-Fairway Thoroughbreds

**Saturday, Gulfstream #10, post time: 4:34 p.m. EST****HARLAN'S HOLIDAY S.-GIII, \$150,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m**

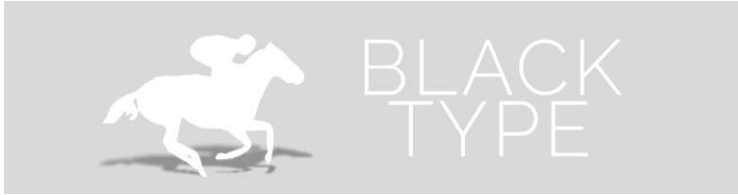
PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Dubyuhnell 🌿	Good Magic	West Paces Racing LLC & Stonestreet Stables LLC	Gargan	Saez	118
2	Ny Traffic	Cross Traffic	John Fanelli, Cash is King LLC, LC Racing LLC, Paul Braverman, and Team Hanley	Joseph, Jr.	Castellano	121
3	Grand Aspen	Dialed In	PRO Thoroughbred Enterprises	Pletcher	Ortiz	121
4	Blue Devil 🌿	Uncle Mo	MyRacehorse and Rocket Ship Racing, LLC	Hiles	Alvarado	121
5	Signator	Tapit	West Point Thoroughbreds, Woodford Racing, LLC, Gainesway Stable, Phipps Stable, Ken Langone, Edward J. Hudson, Jr., and Lane's End Racing	McGaughey III	Velazquez	118
6	O'Connor (Chi)	Boboman	Michael Iavarone, Julia C. Iavarone, and Fernando Vine Ode	Joseph, Jr.	Gaffalione	126
7	Octane	Brethren	Arindel	Alvarado	Zayas	121
8	Miles D 🌿	Curlin	Haras Lizzie, Inc.	Sanchez	Reyes	121
9	Gasoline	Curlin	Harrell Ventures, LLC and CHC INC.	Pletcher	Ortiz, Jr.	121
10	Steal Sunshine	Constitution	Carrie L. Brogden, Michael Iavarone, and Julia C. Iavarone	Dibona	Lopez	123
11	Lure Him In	Khozan	Double B Racing Stables	Wilensky	Gonzalez	121

**Breeders:** 1-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 2-Brian Culnan, 3-PRO Thoroughbred Enterprises, 4-Mt. Brilliant Farm & Ranch, LLC, 5-Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd., 6-Haras Carioca, 7-Arindel, 8-River Bend Farm, 9-China Horse Club International, LTD., 10-Machmer Hall, 11-Stonehedge LLC

**Saturday, Santa Anita #3, post time: 4:00 p.m. EST****ROBERT J. FRANKEL S.-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Lakota Spirit 🌿	Curlin	Brant, Peter M. and Shanahan, Mrs. Paul	D'Amato	Hernandez	121
2	Rebel Girl 🌿	Noble Mission (GB)	De Seroux, Laura and Naify, Marsha	Powell	Dettori	121
3	Angel Nadeshiko 🌿	Carpe Diem	U.S. Equine	Gallagher	Fresu	121
4	Luminiferous 🌿	City of Light	Nguyen, Calvin and Tran, Joey C.	Papaprodromou	Kimura	121
5	Oakhurst	Mr Speaker	Little Red Feather Racing	D'Amato	Prat	121
6	Yerwanthere (Ire)	Markaz (Ire)	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners	Gallagher	Rispoli	121

**Breeders:** 1-WinStar Farm, LLC, 2-Pamela Deegan & W. S. Farish, 3-Fred W. Hertrich III, 4-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding, 5-Vegso Racing Stable, 6-Kilnamoragh Stud



**IN ORDER OF PURSE:**

**MISS BEHAVIOUR S.**, \$200,000, Parx Racing, 12-27, (S), 2yo, f, 1m 70y, 1:51.38, gd.

1--**AOIFE'S MAGIC**, 125, f, 2, by Smarty Jones

**1st Dam:** Polarized, by Drosselmeyer

**2nd Dam:** Immune to Gloom, by Citidancer

**3rd Dam:** Sad Refrain, by Smarten

(\$16,000 Ylg '22 EASOCT). O-A and J Racing Stable LLC; B-Mohns Hill Farm LLC (PA); T-David Dotolo; J-Wilfred Vasquez. \$112,800. Lifetime Record: 4-4-0-0, \$261,600.



2--**Mary's Reward**, 120, f, 2, Warrior's Reward--Lovely Seniorita, by Not For Love. **1ST BLACK TYPE.** O-Run N Jump Farm; B-Mary R Szeyller (PA); T-Clovis Crane. \$37,600.

3--**Noisy On the Bay**, 117, f, 2, Boisterous--Sundays On the Bay, by Disco Rico. O-Whiskey Run Stables LLC; B-Glenn E. Brok LLC (PA); T-Edward J. Coletti, Jr. \$18,800.

Margins: 3, 3/4, 2HF. Odds: 0.70, 21.40, 1.40.

Also Ran: Namora, Maria Says So, Merrychill, Lucky Opportunity, Betsy Is the Gal. Scratched: Flamingo Way.



**Aoife's Magic** | *Equi-Photo*

Aoife's Magic, a perfect three-for-three to begin her career, including the Imply S. versus state-breds Sept. 23 and an optional claimer against open company Nov. 15, remained unbeaten while trying two turns for the first time here. The

heavy favorite vied for command through easy fractions of :25.13 and :50.83 and had plenty left for the stretch to win going away. After producing a filly by Smarty Jones this year, the winner's dam was bred back to that same sire for 2024. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

**WAIT FOR IT S.**, \$200,000, Parx Racing, 12-27, (S), 2yo, 1m 70y, 1:48.68, gd.

1--**UNCLE HEAVY**, 120, c, 2, by Social Inclusion

**1st Dam:** Expect Wonderful, by Tiz Wonderful

**2nd Dam:** Holiday Peace, by Harlan's Holiday

**3rd Dam:** Stilled, by Quiet American

**1ST BLACK TYPE WIN.** O-Milam Racing Stables; B-Barbara Reid (PA); T-Robert E. Reid, Jr.; J-Mychel J. Sanchez. \$110,400.

Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-0, \$156,080.

2--**Notice of Action**, 125, c, 2, Hoppertunity--Be a Gem, by Jump Start. (\$15,000 Ylg '22 EASOCT). O-Andy J. Hawthorne; B-Bryan Minnich (PA); T-Bobbi Anne Hawthorne. \$36,800.

3--**Addyson's Dream**, 117, g, 2, Uptowncharlybrown--Gumdrop, by Lemon Drop Kid. O-Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC; B-Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC (PA); T-Edward J. Coletti, Jr. \$18,400.

Margins: 1 1/4, 4 1/4, 5. Odds: 1.30, 1.20, 26.10.

Also Ran: Carcharoth, Love Shaq, Socially Awkward, Standpoint, Ridley Park, Blameitonmymomma. Scratched: Neon Deion, Zona de Amigos.

Uncle Heavy, a narrow debut winner over open company Oct. 23, dwelt at the start and was a disappointing fifth as the favorite in the Pennsylvania Nursery S. Nov 28. Backed as the second choice for this first attempt around two turns, he was off to a slow start and settled in sixth. He began to make his move



**Uncle Heavy** | *Equi-Photo*



while racing on the outside on the far turn and shot through an inviting opening along the inside in the stretch to post a career high. The winner's dam, also responsible for a colt by Peace and Justice of 2022, was bred to Weigelia for 2024. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**



**IN ORDER OF PURSE:**

**3rd-Parx Racing, \$71,620, Msw, 12-27, 2yo, 6f, 1:15.77, gd, head.**

**TREVISSO (c, 2, Kitten's Joy--Setubal, by The Factor),** given a 9-2 chance to fire at first asking, chased in fourth through fractions of :22.62 and :47.46. He tipped out at the top of the stretch to take on the top two, hit the front down the lane and held off a late charge from Dropline (Uncle Lino) to graduate by a head. The winner's dam had a colt by **Palace Malice** in 2022 and a filly by **Nyquist** in 2023. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$46,200. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-Runnymoore Racing, LLC; B-Gregory & Caroline Bentley Breeders (PA); T-Cathal A. Lynch.



**FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, DEC. 28**

*2023 Stud Fees Listed*

**Omaha Beach (War Front),** Spendthrift Farm, \$30,000

138 foals of racing age/22 winners/2 black-type winners  
9-Gulfstream, 4:02 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16m, Streamsong, 5-1  
\$450,000 KEE SEP yrl

**One Sided (Quality Road),** R. A. Rowe Farms

7 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners  
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:45 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, My Daniela, 5-2  
\$2,500 OTB OMX yrl  
1-Mahoning Valley, 12:45 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Spunky One, 3-1  
\$1,000 OTB OMX yrl

**SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, DEC. 28**

*2023 Stud Fees Listed*

**Funtastic (More Than Ready),** Three Chimneys Farm, \$5,000

45 foals of racing age/10 winners/2 black-type winners  
7-Turfway, 8:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, On the Cuff, 15-1

**Rivers Run Deep (Ready's Image),** Poplar Creek Horse Center, \$2,000

19 foals of racing age/5 winners/0 black-type winners  
2-Mahoning Valley, 1:12 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, River Hustler, 3-1



**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Duly Noted, f, 2, Grazen--Fragrant Harbor,** by Harbor the Gold. Golden Gate Fields, 12-26, 5 1/2f (AWT), 1:04.87. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$17,550. B-Charlie Dunn, Al Hodge & Ray McCanna (CA). \*1ST-TIME STARTER.



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**Grazen**, Duly Noted, f, 2, o/o Fragrant Harbor, by Harbor the Gold. MSW, 12-26, Golden Gate

**Kitten's Joy**, Trevesso, c, 2, o/o Setubal, by **The Factor**. MSW, 12-27, Parx Racing

**Smarty Jones**, Aoife's Magic, f, 2, o/o Polarized, by Drosselmeyer. Miss Behaviour S., 12-27, Parx Racing

**Social Inclusion**, Uncle Heavy, c, 2, o/o Expect Wonderful, by Tiz Wonderful. Wait For It S., 12-27, Parx Racing

## THIS DATE IN HISTORY...

**December 28, 1918...**Fire destroyed the grandstand at Fair Grounds. Three days later, workmen have a temporary facility ready for the opening of the 54-day meeting.

**December 31, 1966...**Buckpasser won the 13th consecutive race of his three-year-old campaign, taking the Malibu S. at Santa Anita Park. He was voted Horse of the Year and champion three-year-old and handicap horse.

**December 31, 1989...**Jockey Pat Day edged Angel Cordero Jr. as the year's leading jockey by just two wins after chartering a plane to Louisiana and riding Dana's Woof Woof and Miltons Magic to victory during the evening program at Delta Downs. Day won the title--his first--with 399 wins to Cordero's 397.

*Courtesy of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association.*



**Aoife's Magic** | Equi-Photo