

## SAINT-ALARY LOSES G1 TAG AS EUROPE DROPS 12 STAKES RACES



The Prix Saint-Alary will be run as a Group 2 in 2024 | *Scoop Dyga*

Twelve fewer black-type races will be run in Europe in 2024 following the approval of the programme by the European Pattern Committee (EPC) which sounded a note of caution regarding "the reported increasing exports of quality horses overseas".

France's Prix Saint-Alary will have been downgraded from Group 1 to Group 2 status and is one of five Group races to have been demoted, while Britain's G3 Sovereign S., traditionally run at Salisbury, will not be staged.

In Ireland, the Salsabil S. has been upgraded from a Listed race to a Group 3, and a new Listed contest has been introduced at Gowran Park in late July, which is to be run over 12 furlongs and is for three-year-olds only.

Denmark is to stage a new black-type race after Klampenborg's Golden Mile for three-year-olds was upgraded to Listed status. The EPC ratified a total of 826 black-type races, down from 838 in 2023, comprising 415 Group races (418 in 2023) and 411 Listed races (420).

EPC chair Jason Morris said, "This year will see another contraction in the number of Pattern and Listed races to be staged throughout Europe, with the total number having declined from 852 races in 2022 to 826 in 2024. **Cont. p3**

## 'NOTHING HAS MADE ME MORE NERVOUS THAN DANCING WITH THE STARS'

*By Brian Sheerin*

Legendary jumps jockey Davy Russell says he hasn't thought about emulating Nina Carberry's achievements in flying the flag for racing by winning Ireland's version of Dancing With The Stars and revealed that riding in the Grand National or the Gold Cup does not compare to the nerves that come with competing on the show.

Russell, who bowed out from the saddle in December 2022 before briefly returning to race-riding for his long-time ally Gordon Elliott after Jack Kennedy broke his leg the following January, has heaped praise on his dancing coach Kylee Vincent.

He explained, "I've a brilliant teacher in Kylee. She has an outstanding way of coaxing me into being able to do the dances. I have no step now. I couldn't dance a step if my life depended on it before the show." **Cont. p5**

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Dan Ross breaks down the issues with Computer Assisted Wagering (CAW) for the racing industry in the Golden State.

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**Le Kerry (Fr) (Gemix {Fr}), a 3-year-old son of Snow Berry (Fr) (Dream Well {Fr}), topped the first day of the Arqana February Mixed Sale when selling to SAS Ecurie De Launay for €200,000. See page 8 for more. | Elise Fossard**

**BRAVE EMPEROR PRIMED FOR QATAR**

**9**

Multiple group winner Brave Emperor (Ire) (*Sioux Nation*) is ready to go for a tilt in Qatar this coming weekend.

**LUXEMBOURG DEFECTS FROM SC FOR UNDERCARD**

**9**

Aidan O'Brien runner and multiple Group 1 winner Luxembourg (Ire) (*Camelot {GB}*) will run in the G2 Neom Turf Cup instead of the G1 Saudi Cup.

**KILDARE DOPING INVESTIGATION ENDS**

**10**

An equine doping investigation, which began after a 2021 raid at a County Kildare yard, has concluded. A ruling is pending.

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## 2024 European Pattern Announced Cont. from p1

The European Pattern Committee continues to enforce the most stringent international quality control measures so that the racing and breeding industries can have the utmost confidence in the quality of European black type.

"However, this also reflects a worrying overall decline in the ratings of European black-type races, with an increasing number of races coming under review and many three-year-old races in particular struggling to achieve their required parameters. The reported increasing exports of quality horses overseas is of concern to the EPC, and the major European racing nations are committed to working together to ensure the continued production and retention of sufficient high-class horses to sustain our domestic and international programmes, with a particular focus on the middle distance and staying race areas."

### Downgraded Races for 2024

#### France

- Group 1 Prix Saint-Alary downgraded to Group 2

#### Germany

- Listed Grosser Preis von Rossman loses Listed status
- Listed Grosser Preis der VGH Versicherungen loses Listed status
- Listed Bwin Sommerpreis loses Listed status

#### Ireland

- G3 Gladness downgraded to Listed
- Listed Patton loses Listed status

#### Italy

- G2 Premio Presidente della Repubblica downgraded to Group 3
- G3 Premio Carlo d'Alessio downgraded to Listed
- Listed Pisa loses Listed status
- Listed Regione Toscana loses Listed status
- Listed Emanuele Filiberto loses Listed status
- Listed Tadolina loses Listed status
- Listed Criterium Varesino Mem Virginio Curti loses Listed status
- Listed M.Se Ippolito Fassati di Balzola loses Listed status

#### Sweden

- Listed Jagersro Sprint loses Listed status

#### Turkey

- G2 Bosphorus Cup downgraded to Group 3

Cont. p4

€17,500 LF





## THE MAGIC BULLET!

Much too good for his **French Derby** competition, he showed a new dimension in the **Saudi Cup** where the American dirt experts were no match for his turn of foot. Switching back to the turf, he reeled in the Japanese raiders in the **Dubai Sheema Classic**. And back in his homeland, he nailed it again in the **Juddmonte International Stakes**. *All in record or near-record time...* With his pedigree, his *versatility* comes as no surprise.

**Gr.1** Prix du Jockey-Club

**Gr.1** Dubai Sheema Classic

**Gr.1** Juddmonte International Stakes

Saudi Cup

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# MUTASAABEQ

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Mutasaabeq represents the best of breeding and both his sire and his maternal family have a rich heritage of producing successful stallions.

His sire Invincible Spirit has delivered around 150 black-type winners in his long career, and some of his sons have proved to be potent at stud themselves – not least I Am Invincible, a multiple champion sire in Australia, and Kingman, who has quickly established himself as a major force in Europe.

2023 Group 1-winning sprinters Regional and Shaquille are by other sons of Invincible Spirit who have stood in Britain. Invincible Spirit's half-brother Kodiak is also one of Europe's leading sires, supplying among others the elite sprinters Campanelle, Fairyland, Hello Youmzain and Tiggy Wiggy.

Out of the outstanding 1,000 Guineas and Coronation Stakes heroine Ghanaati, by Giant's Causeway – the breed-shaping sire of Shamardal and, notably, the damsire of Kentucky stallion sensation Gun Runner.

Ghanaati is a half-sister to Champion Stakes runner-up Mawatheeq and Oaks third Rumoush and to the dam of 2023 Tattersalls Stakes winner and Dewhurst runner-up Alyanaabi. She is out of the dual Listed winner Sarayir, a daughter of Mr Prospector's blue hen mare Height Of Fashion.

Fillies' Mile and Princess of Wales's Stakes winner Height Of Fashion is best remembered for her top-class sons Nashwan, Unfuwain and Nayef, all of whom sired multiple winners at the highest level. She is also the ancestress of Baaeed, officially rated the best horse to have raced in Europe since Frankel and now an exciting young sire, and his dual Group 1-winning full-brother Hukum.

Furthermore, Height Of Fashion was a three-parts sister to Burghclere, whose Group 1-winning daughter Wind In Her Hair became the dam of Japan's exceptionally gifted champion and epoch-defining sire Deep Impact. There are few better stallion-making families in the stud book.

There is also compelling evidence of quality in Mutasaabeq's more recent pedigree, as every one of Ghanaati's other six progeny to have raced also won, including the highly rated Afaak and Wafy.

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## 2024 European Pattern Announced Cont.

There have also been some adjustments to notable Pattern races. In France, the G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud will move one week earlier, reverting to its traditional slot at Saint-Cloud's fixture on June 30, as will the G2 Prix Eugene Adam. Saint-Cloud has also gained the G1 Prix Royal-Oak from ParisLongchamp. Both German Guineas will be run nine days earlier, with the G2 German 2000 Guineas scheduled for May 20 and the G2 German 1000 Guineas to be run on May 26. The G2 Grosser Preis der Badischen Wirtschaft will be pushed back to June 2.

In Britain, there have been alterations to the race conditions for two black-type juvenile races. For the Listed Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot, horses will no longer be eligible to qualify via their dam's performance. The race reverts to a stallion-only qualification, as was the case prior to 2019. The horse's sire must have won over at least 10 furlongs. In the G3 Acomb S., the win restriction has been removed from the race conditions to boost the potential pool of eligible horses.

There will also be two changes to race titles in Britain in 2024: Haydock's G3 Pinnacle S. will be renamed as the Lester Piggott S., and the Listed Ben Marshall S. at Nottingham will become the Robin Hood S.

## 'At Risk' Races for 2025

A total of 42 Pattern and Listed races have been classified as at risk of a potential downgrade in 2025, including the G1 Commonwealth Cup, run over six furlongs for three-year-olds only at Royal Ascot. The breakdown by country is as follows:

Britain - 3  
France - 6  
Germany - 7  
Ireland - 5  
Italy - 20  
Turkey - 1

## Britain's Dismay at Group 1 Veto

In Britain, "notable increases to minimum values" have been announced for Pattern and Listed races, while the ongoing strategic review of the programme has led to the voluntary deletion of three black-type races for 2024--the G3 Sovereign S., York's Listed Ganton S. and the Listed Scarborough S., which is run at Doncaster. This follows the removal of 11 Group 3 and Listed races in 2023.

The BHA Flat Pattern Committee had sought upgrades to Group 1 status for the City Of York S. at the Ebor Festival and the Long Distance Cup on British Champions Day, both of which were turned down by the EPC.

"After more than a decade of building towards Britain's first 7f Group 1 in the City Of York Stakes, with the open encouragement of the EPC, the race achieved the required rating parameter in 2023," said Ruth Quinn, the BHA's director of international racing and development.

"Sadly, however, it seemed the committee could not support this upgrade unanimously at this time. We remain hopeful of working with the committee to demonstrate why our ambition would be of collective benefit to the European Pattern, in the same way as we will for the Long Distance Cup on QIPCO's British Champions Day in order for that too to become a long-awaited and much-deserved Group 1 race."

She continued, "We in Britain continue to believe that European racing is stronger on the worldwide stage when we work together."

"The Pattern Committees have much to contribute within the wider strategy for the sport, particularly in terms of incentivising the continued production and retention of sufficient high-class horses to uphold our place on the international stage. The particular focus on the middle-distance and staying horses must continue--an area which the FPC has helped champion for some time as has been highlighted in the past."

Cont. p5

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**2024 European Pattern Announced Cont.**

She added, "Our Pattern remains strong, but there are some distinct signs of fraying in certain areas and the industry needs to address these with some urgency."

As already noted, the G1 Commonwealth Cup has been placed on the watch list for a potential downgrade, depending on its performance this year, along with the G2 Temple S. at Haydock Park and the G3 Chester Vase.

**France Frustrated by Saint-Alary Demotion**

Despite its move forward in the calendar last year to "Poules d'Essai Sunday", which brought about an upturn in the number of runners to 10 from six the previous year, the Prix Saint-Alary obtained a rating of just 107.75 in 2023. From 2021 to 2023 its average was 108.42, which is below the required rating of 111 for a Group 1 for three-year-old fillies.

In a press release from France Galop, deputy managing director Henri Pouret said, "The demotion of the Prix Saint-Alary to Group 2 is particularly frustrating but it falls within the framework of the quality control rules established by the EPC. This event should lead us to reflect broadly on the subject of Listed and Group races which have not reached the required level in recent years. To this end, the President of France Galop, Guillaume de Saint-Seine, recently decided to create a specific Committee for French Group and Listed races."

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# ST MARK'S BASILICA

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## COOLMORE

**Davy Russell Cont. from p1**

He said, "It's amazing how my coach can turn somebody like me around within the space of a week to be somewhat reasonable at dancing. A lot of the credit goes to her."

Carberry, widely considered one of the greatest amateur riders of all time, famously won the competition in 2022 after hanging up her saddle four years previously. Russell explained that, while he consulted Carberry before accepting the invitation to take part in the competition, nothing could have prepared him for the amount of work that goes into preparing for each live show.

He said, "Nina was obviously very supportive of me because not only did she do it but she also won it. The rest of the lads were laughing at me. They thought it would be great craic of a Sunday evening watching me go and make an eejit of myself on National television.

Thankfully, it's gone the other way around. Now they are tuning in on the Sunday night to see how I get on and to support me. But come here, I was on the same page as them when I started--I'm pleasantly surprised by how it's going but the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes is phenomenal."

What's making Russell's progression on the reality television series all the more impressive is that the Cork native is balancing practicing along with raising a young family and tending to over 50 horses on his farm.

However, Russell admitted to being put to the pin of his collar at present and is desperately seeking a full-time worker to help out at the burgeoning National Hunt breeding and pinhooking operation.

"It's very hard at the moment," he said. "I have great help at home but it's not easy. This week took its toll because Edelle [Russell's wife] was away and I am down a member of staff on the farm. I'm actually in dire need of somebody coming on board.

"We've 15 broodmares on the farm. All of them bar one are National Hunt-bred. On top of the 15 mares, we have their progeny coming through--foals, yearlings, two-year-olds and three-year-olds so we've well over 50 horses here. It's a full-time job in itself."

He added, "I had somebody working with me and they let me down. It seems to be a common theme in the industry at the moment. Nobody seems to have any regard for anyone and staff seem to just jump around. It's very hard to get somebody to stay in the one place. That's my experience anyway. I would love if somebody came to me and wanted to get involved in the place. Whether that was buying into a mare or pinhooking foals along with working here full-time, I don't know. I'd be open to whatever. Like, if I was getting a

few quid on something, I'd love to see the person working for me get a few quid as well. So, I'm open to anything really."

Russell's Whitebarn Stud has enjoyed some decent paydays in recent times but few will top last year's result at the Tattersalls Ireland Derby Sale when a Cima de Triomphe (Ire) gelding who was bought for just €5,500 on behalf of his kids rocked into €54,000 at the premier store sale.

He reflected, "I had a great year. A lot of that would be down to Peter Vaughan of Moanmore Stables. I do a lot of work with Peter." [Cont. p7](#)



**Davy Russell: is taking part in Ireland's Dancing With The Stars**  
*Racingfotos.com*

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**The Aga Khan's Haras de Bonneval Roster Features Newcomers Erevann and Vadeni**





**Picked up for just €5,500 at Osarus, this Cima De Triomphe gelding made €54,000 at last year's Tattersalls Ireland Derby Sale**  
*Tattersalls Ireland*

**Davy Russell Cont.**

Russell said, "My kids had an excellent year as well. They sold a Cima de Triomphe gelding for €54,000. They started off with two cows and we put them in calf. Out of that, Peter bought them a yearling and they sold him and got a few quid but nothing major, just a couple of grand profit. I gave €5,500 for the Cima de Triomphe horse for them in Osarus in France and then they got €54,000 for him at the Tattersalls Ireland Derby Sale last year so they were over the moon with that."

Russell has also dipped his toe in the breeze-up game from time to time through his association with the Vaughans but it was a certain **Siyouni (Fr)** filly by the name of Expressiy (Fr) who gave him one of his most memorable results in that sphere back in 2017 when selling for €260,000 at Arqana.

"I am involved in the breeze-ups but my involvement doesn't extend beyond being an investor. Peter and Patrick Vaughan do all the work with the breeze-up horses. We bought a Bolt d'Oro horse in America last year and he seems to be going quite well. I had a lovely **Not This Time** horse last year but we just about wiped our nose with him at the Dubai Breeze-Up Sale."

He added, "It's very funny actually, I got a great touch with a **Siyouni** filly at Arqana a few years ago. I was heading out for a beginners' chase on a 10-1 shot at Kilbeggan as the filly was going through the ring. Lorcan Wyer [clerk of the course] was telling me to get a move on but, as this filly was rocking into €200,000, I told him I wasn't going anywhere."

"She made €260,000 in the end. I had her with John Cullinan and I really enjoyed the experience. The filly [Expressiy] turned out to be okay, too, as she went and got black-type for Godolphin. I got down to post in time for the beginners' chase on Burndown (Ire) (Presenting {Ire}) and, while he could only

finish third, it ended up being an enjoyable day!"

The decorated rider, who partnered his first winner 25 years ago and will forever be associated with horses like Tiger Roll, Weapon's Amnesty and more, can be backed at 10-1 to win the competition outright. However, the aim is a simple one heading into this Sunday's performance: don't mess up.

"I just don't want to f\*\*\* up," Russell said. "I built my career on that mindset. I used to go to Cheltenham with one thing on my mind and that was to not f\*\*\* up. The only way of doing that is by putting in the work but it's a lot of work to do."

"I have an awful problem learning the steps and then, when I learn the steps, I then have to put it to music and then you have to have your facial expressions ready as well. To do all of that in six days and then to walk out live on television and bang, get it out in one go, it's not easy."

He added, "All of my life, nothing ever made me nervous. Riding any horse in any of those big races never made me nervous. But the show two weeks ago, I have never felt nerves like that. I was shaking like a leaf. Maybe it was stepping into the unknown that made me nervous, I don't know. Thankfully this week was a bit more comfortable and I am starting to enjoy it now."

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**Russell celebrated sales success with future stakes winner Expressiy, who made €260,000 at Arqana's May Sale in 2017.**

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# EUROPEAN NEWS

## GEMIX COLT LEADS THE WAY AT ARQANA

Unraced three-year colt **Le Kerry (Fr)** (Gemix {Fr}) headed the first day of Arqana's February Sale when sold for €200,000 to Ecurie de Launay. Offered as lot 60 by Karwin Farm, the son of Snow Berry (Fr) (Dream Well {Ire}) was bred by Haras de Maulepaire and is from a family of prolific jumps winners. His dam is a half-sister to Le Berry (Fr), who is also by the Grade 1-winning hurdler Gemix and was himself the winner of 11 races over jumps, including the G1 Prix Maurice Gillois. The further family also includes the Melbourne Cup and Caulfield Cup winner Dunaden (Fr).

After signing for the grey, Jerome Glandais of Ecurie de Launay, who was buying on behalf of Ecurie Sofiane Benaroussi said, "It's a very nice family and we bought her sister by Doctor Dino in November. We haven't decided on a trainer yet but he will stay in France."



Le Kerry | Zuzanna Lupa

A total of 111 horses changed hands in Deauville on Tuesday from 148 to pass through the ring. The clearance rate dropped by 3% from last year to 75%, but across the board figures were close to those achieved in 2023 from a similar sized offering. At €1,685,000 the turnover receded by 5%, while the average of €15,149 was down by just 1%.


Horses in training filled much of the top of the leader board, with Stuart Boman of Blandford Bloodstock going to €80,000 early in the day for lot 6, the three-year-old **Princess Child (Fr)** (Dariyan {Fr}), who was runner-up in the Listed Prix Herod last year for Laura Lemiere. Out of a half-sister to the G3 Prix La Force winner Chilean (GB) (Iffraaj {GB}), the filly also won three

times in Madrid in 2023.

David Skelly and Charlestown Racing also gave €80,000 for **Titanium (Fr)**, a five-year-old son of **Zarak (Fr)** who has won six races and been Listed-placed for Alessandro Botti over the last two seasons. Offered as lot 85, the gelding's full-brother was sold for €160,000 to Alex Elliott at the BBAG Yearling Sale last September.

The action resumes at Arqana on Wednesday at 11 a.m. local time with a final session of breeding and young stock.

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SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING STATS FOR THE:

**ARQANA FEBRUARY MIXED SALE**

SESSION TOTALS	2024	2023
• Catalogued	191	191
• Number Offered	148	147
• Number Sold	111	115
• Not Sold	37	32
• Clearance Rate	75%	78%
• High Price	€200,000	€240,000
• Gross	€1,681,500	€1,759,000
• Average (% change)	€15,149 (-1%)	€15,296
• Median (% change)	€7,000 (-12.5%)	€8,000

## SALES TOPPERS

### ARQANA FEBRUARY MIXED SALE DAY 1

Lot	Name	Status	Price (€)
60	<b>Le Kerry (Fr)</b> <i>(c, 3, Gemix--Snow Berry {Fr}, by Dream Well {Fr})</i> <i>Bred by SCEA de Maulepaire (Fr)</i> <i>Consigned by Karwin Farm</i> <i>Purchased by SAS Ecurie de Launay</i>	Horse-in-Training	200,000
6	<b>Princess Child (Fr)</b> <i>(f, 3, Dariyan {Fr}--Princesse Li {GB}, by Dawn Approach {Ire})</i> <i>Bred by Mme Lisa Lemiere Dubois (Fr)</i> <i>Consigned by Haras de la Beauvoisiniere</i> <i>Purchased by Blandford Bloodstock</i>	Horse-in-Training	80,000
13	<b>Rue Barbizon (Fr)</b> <i>(f, 4, Morandi {Fr}--Rue Ravignan {Ire}, by Bahri)</i> <i>Bred by Jacques Beres (Fr)</i> <i>Consigned by Regis Schmidlin</i> <i>Purchased by Highflyer Bloodstock</i>	Horse-in-Training	80,000



**Toppers Cont.**

**85 Titanium (Fr)** **Horse-in-Training** **80,000**  
 (g, 5, **Zarak {Fr}**--**Kyurem {Ire}**, by **Verglas {Ire}**)  
 Bred by **SCEA Haras de la Perelle (Fr)**  
 Consigned by **A & G Botti**  
 Purchased by **David Skelly/Charlestown Racing**

## BRAVE EMPEROR RETURNS TO ACTION IN QATAR



**Brave Emperor** | Scoop Dyga

The multiple Group winner **Brave Emperor (Ire)** (**Sioux Nation**) will attempt to conquer another frontier with his first run in Qatar at the weekend.

Having won races in Britain, France, Germany and Italy, as well as picking up prize-money and black type in Sweden, the Middleham Park Racing representative will make his four-year-old debut in Doha in the Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Cup at the Amir Sword meeting on Saturday, in a race worth more than £225,000 to the winner.

Trained by Archie Watson, Brave Emperor has now won nine of his 15 starts, including the G2 Premio Vittoria di Capua as well as two Group 3 races in Germany and the G3 Prix Daphnis in Deauville.

Middleham Park Racing's Tim Palin said, "He's the second top-rated for the race, he definitely deserves his chance and it's fantastic prize-money.

"It's going to be the experience of a lifetime for the half a dozen owners going over. They've tasted success in Milan and Sweden, twice in Germany and in France as well."

Bred by Caroline Hanly and Sean Ronan from the **Holy Roman Emperor (Ire)** mare Roman Gal (Ire), Brave Emperor was bought as a yearling at Goffs UK by Robson Aguiar for £19,000. He is one of three Group 2 winners for his sire **Sioux Nation** and his top scorer by number of wins and prize-money earned in

Europe, with a total haul of £321,288. **Sioux Nation** is also responsible for Helene Feeling (Ire), who has added four wins in Hong Kong to his two in Britain (under the name of Indian Dream) and now has earnings in excess of £1 million.

Palin added of Brave Emperor, "We bought him privately as a two-year-old just before the breeze-ups. He's been an absolute revelation for us and everybody has experienced a fantastic journey with him. Hopefully he'll continue to acquit himself well on Saturday."

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## LUXEMBOURG OUT OF SAUDI CUP, AS ISOLATE DRAWS INTO THE FIELD

Multiple Group 1 winner **Luxembourg (Ire)** (**Camelot {GB}**), who was slated to make his dirt debut in the \$20-million G1 Saudi Cup later this month, will not run in the 1800-metre main track affair, according to the latest list of probables released by the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia. With Luxembourg's absence, multiple group winner **Isolate** (Mark Valeski) draws into the main body of the field for trainer Doug Watson and owner RRR Racing.

The Coolmore partners' runner, a winner of the 2023 G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup, the 2022 G1 Irish Champion S. and 2021 G1 Futurity Trophy for trainer Aidan O'Brien, has been re-routed to the \$2-million G2 Neom Turf Cup over an extended mile and a quarter earlier on the card. He ran second in both the 2023 Irish Champion S. in September and missed by only a nose to Hong Kong standout Romantic Warrior (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) in the G1 Hong Kong Cup.

Kieran Cotter is also planning to send his stable star **Matilda Picotte (Ire)** to Riyadh, where her intended target is the G2 1351 Saudi Turf Sprint.

Third in last year's 1,000 Guineas, the daughter of **Sioux Nation** ended 2023 with back-to-back wins in the G3 Sceptre S. at Doncaster and the G2 Challenge S. at Newmarket.

"She's doing fantastic, she had a break for six or seven weeks out at grass and then prior to Christmas we got an invitation to run in the Sprint," Cotter said.

"She's back in and being prepared for that, we're delighted with her and she leaves for Saudi on Saturday morning to run the following Saturday.

"She flies from Shannon to Stansted and then it's direct to Riyadh. Door to door it's a 20-hour journey, which is no more than from here to Newmarket and she's a very good traveller."

He added of the Turf Sprint, which is worth \$2 million, "It's serious money and we had to take the opportunity. Our main target this year is to try to win a Group 1 with her and it's a Group 2, but if she's a Group 1 horse she'll have to go close."

**Cont. p10**

**Luxembourg Cont.**

He said, "A few of the owners are going, there'll be enough there to make a bit of noise anyway! She's never run a bad race so it's all to play for."

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Luxembourg | [Racingfotos.com](#)

**KILDARE DOPING INVESTIGATION CONCLUDES**

An equine doping investigation, which began after a raid near Monasterevin in Co Kildare in November of 2021, has now concluded, *RTE Sport* reported on Tuesday.

Products that were not licenced for equine dispensation in Ireland were found at the site of the raid among other items. A statement issued the day after the raid described the operation of searches and seizure of products "as part of an ongoing investigation into equine doping".

A case file was sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) after a period of intelligence sharing with both international and Irish agencies. The investigation was conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). The DPP has yet to rule on whether there is sufficient evident to pursue criminal proceedings.

"Regarding enforcement actions arising the specific operation highlighted, the department's investigation is now concluded and a case file has been submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions," a DAFM statement issued in response to queries about the status of the investigation read in part.

Hair and blood samples were taken from racehorses at the yard before they were allowed to leave the premises by Irish Horse Racing Board chief veterinary officer and head of anti-doping Dr. Lynn Hillyer. All the samples tested negative for prohibited-at-all-times substances.

The statement continued: "With regard to the query on wider equine doping activities, while the department, for operational reasons, does not comment on ongoing investigations or provide details of investigating officers, a central function of the department is to strategically support agencies and other relevant bodies to investigate non-compliances, or incidents across the agri-food industry.

"In this context, the department works closely with other national agencies/bodies, including An Garda Siochána and the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board, in the investigation of equine related alleged offences. The department also engages with other international enforcement authorities, as necessary, in this regard including the sharing/receiving of intelligence."

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**OBSERVATIONS**  
on the European racing scene

**HOW THEY FARED**

**17.30 Newcastle, Mdn, £11,400, 3yo, 7f 14y (AWT)**

**My Cloud (Ire) (Blue Point {Ire})**, the €325,000 Arqana May Breeze-Up half-brother to Palace Pier (GB), made a big move approaching two out and looked the likely winner only to be outstayed close home.

**BRITAIN**

**Tuesday's Results:**

**3rd-Newcastle, £11,400, Mdn, 2-13, 3yo, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:26.74, st.**

**QUIET RESOLVE (IRE) (c, 3, Showcasing {GB}--Stylish Design**

**{Fr}, by Henrythenavigator)**, third over six furlongs here last

month, tracked the leader in second throughout the early

stages. Working hard to get to My Cloud (Ire) (Blue Point {Ire})

inside the final furlong, the 5-1 shot managed that 100 yards out

before outstaying that rival to score by a neck. The unraced dam

is kin to four black-type performers headed by the G3 Prix Andre

Baboin winner Starlish (Ire) (Rock Of Gibraltar {Ire}). Also

connected to the G3 Flying Five S. winner and the G1 Nunthorpe

S. and G1 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp-placed

Eveningperformance (GB) (Night Shift), her 2-year-old colt is by

King Of Change (GB) while she also has a yearling son of

Kuroshio (Aus). Sales history: €36,000 Wlg '21 GOFNO1;

€30,000 Ylg '22 TATIRY; €75,000 2yo '23 TATGOR. Lifetime

Record: 3-1-0-2, \$10,534.

O-Ontoawinner 8; B-Martha Kellaghan (IRE); T-Richard Fahey.



# FRANCE

**CONDITIONS RESULTS:**

**3rd-Marseille-Borely, €22,000, 2-13, 4yo/up, 10 1/2fT, 2:16.10, vhy.**

**SWING FOR ME (GB) (c, 4, Wootton Bassett {GB}--Sing For Me {Fr}, by Siyouni {Fr})** Lifetime Record: 12-6-2-0, €108,640.

O-Ecurie Antonio Caro; B-L Baudron (GB); T-Jean-Claude Rouget. \*€125,000 Ylg '21 ARQOCT.

**1st-Marseille-Borely, €15,000, 2-13, 4yo, 10 1/2fT, 2:16.10, vhy.**

**TAMARISKE (GER) (f, 4, Mastercraftsman {Ire}--Taraja {Ger} {GSW-Ger}, by High Chaparral {Ire})** Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-0,

€36,700. O-Ecurie Gribomont & Ecurie du Sud; B-Gestut Hachtsee (GER); T-Patrice Cottier.

Click [HERE](#) to read today's edition of



Highlights Include:

Talking Points From Day 3 At Classic

420k North Pacific Filly Tops Final Day

TTR Value Buy: 140k Capitalist Filly

TTR Breeder Focus: Kia Ora Stud

Te Akau's Walker To Call Victoria Home

**2024 Japanese Group Races**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>
Feb. 17	G3 Diamond S. G3 Kyoto Himba S.
Feb. 18	G1 February S. G3 Kokura Daishoten
Feb. 25	G2 Nakayama Kinen G3 Hankyu Hai
Mar. 2	G3 Yukan Fuji Sho Ocean S. G2 Tulip Sho
Mar. 3	G2 Hochi Hai Yayoi Sho
Mar. 9	G3 Laurel R.C. Sho Nakayama Himba S.
Mar. 10	G2 Hochi Hai Fillies' Revue G2 Kinko Sho




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# COMPUTER ASSISTED WAGERING: 101 FOR CALIFORNIA STAKEHOLDERS



Santa Anita | Benoit

by Dan Ross

Last June, Pat Cummings, executive director of the National Thoroughbred Alliance and former executive director of the Thoroughbred Idea Foundation, issued a stark warning about the encroaching impacts from Computer Assisted Wagering (CAW) to the men and women trying to forge a living through horse racing in the Golden State.

CAW players constitute a small group of mostly anonymous, high-volume gamblers with an outsized impact on the betting markets--including in California--due to their use of sophisticated wagering technologies and the inducements offered to them in the form of attractive rates and rebates not available to the average punter.

At the time, CAW play was the main source of handle growth in California, which by extension “is contributing the lowest percentage for purses” and thereby presenting “a serious, long-term concern for California and its horsemen,” wrote Cummings.

Cummings's detailed study appears prescient. Since then, several reports have illustrated the extent of California's purse account woes.

Cont. p3

## A TASTE OF LA DOLCE VITA IN VERSAILLES

by Chris McGrath

"La vita è una combinazione di magia e pasta." (Life is a combination of magic and pasta.) Such was the opinion of a man who should know, in Federico Fellini. And the great Italian director would surely have savored the slice of life, understood in those terms, now available in the heart of Woodford County, Ky. Because Vallozzi's restaurant, which recently opened in downtown Versailles, does not confine its excellence solely to the kitchen. This is a house of true pedigree and style, surely destined to become an institution of the Bluegrass, both for those blessed to live here and those of us who must settle for regular visits from farther afield.

For while it may be new to this part of the world, there is nothing tentative or experimental about what they're doing at Vallozzi's in Versailles. **Cont. p11**

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

### SAINT-ALARY LOSES GROUP 1 TAG AS EUROPE DROPS 12 STAKES RACES


The total number of black-type races run in Europe in 2024 will drop 12 to 826 after the European Pattern Committee (EPC) approved the 2024 programme.

## GOLDENCENTS

### FASTEST 3YOS ON DERBY TRAIL

	Prep	Beyer
<b>Mystik Dan</b>	<b>Southwest</b>	<b>101</b>
Hades	Holy Bull	90
Track Phantom	Lecomte	90
Catching Freedom	Smarty Jones	87

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MITOLE	7	44	0
MAXIMUS MISCHIEF	7	50	0
AUDIBLE	6	47	2
OMAHA BEACH	6	36	1
FLAMEAWAY	6	38	0
VINO ROSSO	5	43	0

*\* Among Top 7 second-crop sires by earnings*



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**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**



Folks dress in their Mardi Gras finest at Fair Grounds on Tuesday. | Hodges Photography

**CASA CREED TO MISS SAUDI SOJOURN**

**14**

Four-time Grade I winner Casa Creed (Jimmy Creed) has been forced out of the Feb. 24 G2 1351 Turf Sprint at King Abdulaziz Racecourse because of a fever.

**DELANY RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL**

**15**

Trainer Sarah Delany was scheduled to be released from a Houston, Texas hospital Tuesday after undergoing spinal surgery due to an injury suffered at Delta Downs Wednesday morning.

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## Computer Assisted Wagering: 101 for California Stakeholders (cont. from p1)

To explain the recent 25% purse cuts at Golden Gate Fields, the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) said the track's purse account was over \$3 million in the red. Purse cuts at Santa Anita stem from a near \$4-million purse account overpayment. During the January California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) meeting, it was explained that Del Mar's purse account was overpaid by \$2.1 million.

A complicated set of factors determine purse revenues. Field sizes, for example, are arguably the biggest architects of how much is wagered on an individual race. But CAW play has grown exponentially as a percentage of overall handle in recent years, giving it a key role in the sport's future in California. Why?

Unlike other states where purses are supplemented from alternative gaming like slot machines and casinos, California is reliant solely on betting to generate purse revenues. In other words, California more than any other major jurisdiction needs to thoughtfully manage its betting revenues--including from CAW--if it's to remain a healthy enterprise long into the future.

The problem with CAW--like so many aspects of the sport--is that it has long been shrouded in ambiguity.

To help peel back this opaque curtain, the TDN sought answers to some basic questions about how leaders in the Golden State manage such an influential part of the industry:

What CAW-related information is shared between whom? What oversight mechanisms are in place? If the state's horsemen and women feel they aren't getting a fair deal, can they leverage what they see as a better one? And where do state regulators fit into the scheme?

### What is CAW?

In short, CAW players--frequently registered in offshore tax havens--use sophisticated digital tools and teams of staff to spot exploitable deficiencies in the betting pools, and to scour reams of betting and past performance data to identify winning opportunities at high rates of success.

Even individually, they can bet huge. Indeed, last year the *Financial Times* estimated that just two individual CAW players each wager "on the order of \$1bn a year" on State-side racing alone.

In the U.S., CAW players largely wager through a handful of CAW agents' betting platforms, which in many ways act as glorified ADWs.

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- CUPID (TAPIT)
- DIVINING ROD (TAPIT)
- ECLIPTICALSPRALINE (ECLIPTICAL)
- ENGAGE (INTO MISCHIEF)
- FIRST MONDAYS (CURLIN)
- FRIESAN FIRE (A.P. INDY)
- GALAWI (IRE) (DUBAWI-Ire)
- GOLDEN LAD (MEDAGLIA D'ORO)
- GREAT NOTION (ELUSIVE QUALITY)
- HOLY BOSS (STREET BOSS)
- HOPPERTUNITY (ANY GIVEN SATURDAY)
- IRISH WAR CRY (CURLIN)
- KOBE'S BACK (FLATTER)
- LONG ON VALUE (VALUE PLUS)
- LONG RIVER (A.P. INDY)
- MADEFROMLUCKY (LOOKIN AT LUCKY)
- MOSLER (WAR FRONT)
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**Cont.**

The biggest in terms of handle is the Elite Turf Club, majority owned by The Stronach Group (TSG), which also owns the Santa Anita and Golden Gate Fields racetracks in California. The New York Racing Association (NYRA) also owns a portion of Elite Turf Club.

Other key CAW platforms include Racing and Gaming Services (RGS), and Velocity, owned by Churchill Downs.

The bettors who aren't privy to the same rates and rebates as these deep-pocketed gamblers (more on this in a bit) argue that CAW players are driving the average gamblers away from the sport in droves, to the point where it's killing the betting markets and hurting purse revenues. Indeed, if CAW players become too big a percentage of the pools, their impacts become magnified and they essentially "cannibalize" the markets.

TOC president Bill Nader has pinned this tipping point at about 25% of the betting pools. Cummings's June 2023 report found that back then, CAW play in California often surpassed that benchmark.

CAW proponents counter that these well-capitalized gamblers provide vital liquidity and efficiency to the betting pools. Without them, these proponents argue, the sport would be significantly poorer, and that by sheer volume of play, they help prop-up purse accounts.

Indeed, the loss of just one major CAW player could hit a track's handle hard. This also means, however, that the biggest individual CAW players have historically been able to wield no inconsiderable leverage to negotiate their terms of play.

**What Portion of CAW Play Goes to Purses?**

To understand what part of the betting dollar goes to purses, there are two terms of note: Host fees and Takeout rates.

"Takeout" is the percentage sliced out of every dollar wagered.



Bill Nader | HKIR photo

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and in just the last two weeks: **ENDLESSLY** – winner El Camino Real Derby,  
**TUMBARUMBA** – winner **G3** Fred Hooper S., **HAMMERSTEIN** – 2<sup>nd</sup> **G3** Kitten's Joy S.,  
**STYLE POINTS** – 2<sup>nd</sup> **G3** Sweetest Chant S., and more ...



**REAL VALUE**



This pie is divvied up various ways, including a portion funnelled into the purse account. Bets wagered on-track direct the largest slice back into the purse account. Bets wagered through ADW and CAW platforms direct the smallest amounts.

Takeout varies on several things like the host track state and bet type. But takeout is determined by track management and regulators and is non-negotiable. A general rule of thumb is an average 20% blended takeout rate across the different pools.

For CAW play, when the term “rates” are mentioned, what is meant are host fees, and these are negotiable.

Host fees are what any wagering outlet pays to track operators for the contractual right to import a simulcast signal. A wagering outlet could be another racetrack, an ADW platform (like FanDuel) or a CAW platform (like Elite Turf Club).

TDN spoke with several track and industry executives about the state of CAW play today. These experts said that CAW host fees for the premium tracks typically vary between 6% and 8%.

After breeders' premiums and other minor deductions have been removed, host fees are roughly split 50/50 between the track and the purse account in California.

Therefore, if Santa Anita beamed its signal to a location at a host fee rate of 6%, roughly 3% of the total amount handled on that signal at that location will flow back into Santa Anita's purse account.

## Primary Oversight of Agreements

Before the beginning of each meet in California, the tracks present the TOC with a list of individual host fees charged to each location that receives its simulcast signal. For that track's meet to go ahead, the TOC must first sign this document, said Scott Daruty, president of both TSG's Monarch Content Management and of the Elite Turf Club.

“Before the Santa Anita meet opens, we give them a list of every location and price that Santa Anita is sold for,” said Daruty. “They [the TOC] either approve it or they don't.”

The list includes host fees the track charges CAW betting platforms. If the host fee of an individual CAW player deviates from that afforded an overall CAW platform, that too would have to be divulged, said Daruty.

“If there was an individual deal [between a single CAW player

and the track], that would have to be disclosed to the TOC,” said Daruty.

TOC president Bill Nader said that he has signed all such agreements since joining the organization in October of 2022.

Nader said he was unable to disclose what the host fees that CAW players receive. All host fees are private (not just for CAW players). But Nader described the negotiation of these fees as a “moving target as to how you get this right and how you get it right across all customer segments.”

## Where Do Rebates Come From?

The way Nader and other experts explain it, the amount CAW players are “rebated” can be broadly calculated with this

simple equation:

Rebate = Takeout minus Host Fee (plus any other associated minor fees). The smaller the host fee, typically the bigger the rebate.

Let's use the 20% blended takeout rate among the pools. And let's say the host fee (plus other associated fees) that the CAW player pays comes to 5%. The rebated discount for the CAW players, therefore, could be a maximum 15% on every dollar wagered (though more on this in the next section).



**Scott Daruty**  
*Horsephotos*

Virginia Thoroughbred Association  
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It's also important to note that bets with higher takeout rates leave the door open to potentially higher rebates. The seemingly counter-intuitive goal is that this leads to higher overall handle.

Several experts said the most successful CAW players can consistently win at an average rate of around 92%. At that rate, for example, a 15% rebate would see the player enjoy a 7% profit margin. According to Daruty, a 92% win-rate isn't typical.

"That's someone really hitting it out the park," he said.

The bigger the rebate CAW players receive, therefore, the greater their overall profit. And the greater their overall profit, the more they're likely to wager. As one expert put it, "it's like a high-yield investment account."

Indeed, former Australian bookmaker Tom Waterhouse recently said he was considering investing venture capital funds into horseracing-focused professional betting syndicates that receive these huge rebates.

"[Gambling] is a three trillion-dollar industry, and most people lose. The edge is against you," said Waterhouse. "But there are a few groups globally that are able to find an edge."

These rebates are usually returned daily--typically the following morning, said Scott Finley, former NYRA director of simulcasting with a long career in the pari-mutuel betting industry.

"In some cases, they might be done weekly," Finley added. "But the general idea is, the quicker you front that money back to the CAW players, they're just going to churn that money and bet more. Remember, there's no credit betting allowed anywhere in the U.S. These are all true advanced deposit wagering accounts."

The TOC, said Daruty, is not privy to the rebate rates that CAW players receive.

"I'm not sure the TOC has ever made that request," said Daruty, when asked why this information isn't shared with the organization. "But if they were to make that request, I think our response would be to politely deny it."

When asked why the TOC hasn't asked Elite for rebate data, Nader said that he can get a "very good idea of what the gross rebate would be" by looking at the takeout on the different bet types. "I can work that out," he said.

### What's in it for Elite?

All of which begs the question: What's in it for a CAW platform like the Elite Turf Club?

According to Finley, CAW platforms typically retain between 0.5% and 1.25% as a commission from the amount their players wager.

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**Cont.**

“It’s all based on individual contracts between the [CAW platform] and their player teams,” Finley explained, about how these commissions are negotiated.

As an idea of what kind of number this commission might generate, Elite Turf Club handled over \$180 million on Santa Anita’s races during 2022, according to the CHR’s **statistical operation reports**. At Del Mar during 2022, Elite handled just over \$146 million.

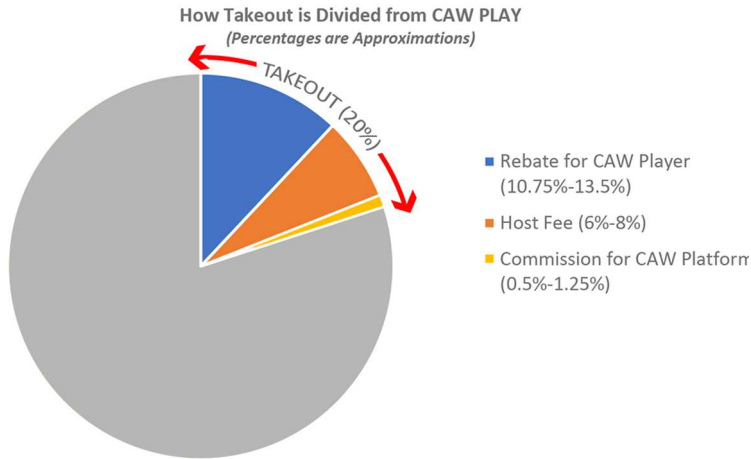
Daruty said he was not at liberty to comment on the Elite Turf Club’s commission rate.

When asked how, between the host fee and the CAW commission, it appeared that TSG was essentially double-dipping, Daruty said the company’s tracks and Elite Turf Club performed two separate functions.

“It’s only double-dipping if you’re getting paid twice for doing the same thing.

“This isn’t double-dipping because it’s two completely different services. In fact, I think it’s to the horsemen’s benefit that we’re operating Elite because they’re getting more visibility and more knowledge,” said Daruty.

“If it was a third-party operator, they might not be getting that, but they’d still be paying the same fee,” Daruty added.



**Individual Deals with the Tracks**

At last year’s **Global Symposium on Racing** in Arizona, Cummings raised the issue of individual players and their representatives negotiating directly with the tracks to receive favorable host fee rates. Some of these deals

were negotiated years ago.

“There is undoubtedly a concern when one or two of the biggest players in the sport go door to door across this country and ask a track operator for a discount. Not a rebate--a discount on the host fee,” said Cummings.

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John Woodford, chief executive of GWG Group, a Las Vegas-based LLC that provides domestic and international services to CAW players, said that while GWG does not have any such “bespoke” deals for its individual players, such agreements are unsurprising given the amounts sometimes wagered.

“It’s the same for other industries,” explained Woodford, “if you’re a significant contributor or participant.”



Pat Cummings | *The Jockey Club*

Last year, the *Financial Times* reported that just two individual CAW players that wager through the Elite Turf Club--Elite 17 and Elite 2--had significantly increased their wagering on California horse racing over the past 15 years.

Since that story came out, the CHRB stopped publishing wagering data showing individual CAW accounts--which it had done since 2008--and now pools these numbers together under the CAW platform. In fairness to the CHRB, however, no other jurisdiction publicly discloses this individual information either.

In this vacuum of individual player data, however, it begs the question: Are any CAW players still privy to favorable deals directly negotiated with California racetracks? Several sources consulted for this story said that at least one player still enjoys such a deal.

Nader declined to answer the question directly, but said that discussions with the tracks are ongoing, and that over the past year, the TOC had successfully negotiated better rates for its constituents. “Everything is a work in progress,” he said.

### TOC Leverage?

If the TOC believes the horsemen and women don’t receive a fair deal in these negotiations, it can refuse to sign the document authorizing tracks to send out their signals, essentially causing a simulcasting blackout. Nader calls this threat the “nuclear option.”

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**Cont.**

When asked if during his time the TOC has considered using this option during CAW negotiations, Nader responded that it should be used only as a “last resort.”

“You never really want to do that. If there's a complete breakdown, perhaps. But it should never come to that,” said Nader.

The TOC has deployed this “nuclear option” before in contentious simulcasting disputes. Back in 2008, the TOC withheld Hollywood Park's signal over multiple weeks to increase the amount ADWs were contributing to the purse account.

The move--**which reportedly cost** Hollywood Park some \$500,000 a day in lost revenues--was deeply unpopular with both the ADW platforms and the tracks.

“It didn't make me the most popular guy in racing to the effect I got death threats against me and my family,” said then TOC president Drew Couto, who explained that during the simulcasting blackout, TVG repeatedly shared on-air his personal and home telephone numbers.

“They encouraged their disgruntled viewers to call and let their disappointment be known,” said Couto. “It also led to several death threats being called into the offices. The TOC had to close down for a few days while we addressed the security issues.”

But the TOC's hard-line stance in 2008 ultimately led to a better rate for the state's horsemen and women.

“They came around because we cut off the signal,” said Couto. “You have to have a strong board that says, ‘we will weather the storm. But at the end of that, we will come out with better rates.’ And those better rates will help us put on a better product. And that better product will hopefully appeal to players who want to bet eight-horse fields rather than four-horse fields.”

Couto said the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 gives the TOC the authority to dictate rates and fees.

“The TOC has used that structure in the past to set the rates, to set access, to determine who has access, and to control the use of our product,” said Couto. “It's not the racetrack's product.”

When asked about this authority apparently afforded the TOC through the Act, Nader stressed the ecosystem nature of the industry.

“I would see it more as a 50-50 partnership between the tracks and the horsemen, especially in a state where there's no other purse-enhancing supplements. That's how the tracks get paid as well,” Nader said. “I think what makes this sport so uniquely spectacular is the competition on the track and the competition on the Tote,” Nader added. “For us, it's more finding the right balance across all segments.”

**CHRB'S Role**

The TOC isn't the only guardrail to ensure that CAW fee agreements are drafted with horse racing's long-term interests front and center.

While the CHRB does not routinely see those documents, “The CHRB has full legal authority to review any agreement if that were to become warranted,” wrote CHRB spokesperson Mike Marten in written responses to several questions.

The CHRB, wrote Marten, has not yet exercised that legal authority.

In response to questions concerning betting integrity, Marten wrote that, “We understand that Monarch pays special attention to CAW companies (i.e. Elite and RGS) whereby each of the CAW players undergoes repeated, extensive background checks every six months.”

**Cont. p10**



**Betting at Saratoga | Horsephotos**



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**Cont.**

Marten added that the **Thoroughbred Racing and Protective Bureau**--a subsidiary of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations of North America--has "performed a thorough investigation of many wagering sites, including Elite and RGS, as part of its service to the racing associations."

The CHRБ, Marten wrote, "also has access to those reports if warranted." And he added how, "sparked by concerns about the individual locations/operators," the CHRБ "some years ago" obtained an unspecified number of these TRPB reports from its client racetracks.

The review resolved any concerns, "so no was action taken," he added.

**Conflicts of Interest?**

Eagle-eyed observers of California's racing product and betting markets might have noticed the ownership makeup of recent GII San Pasqual S. winner, Newgrange.

Since at least September of 2022, Newgrange has been owned by a group that includes Little Red Feather, Rockingham Ranch and David Bernsen.

Bernsen is the founder of GWG Group. One part of Bernsen's role at the GWG Group has been to represent individual CAW players in their negotiations with the tracks, but Woodford said that Bernsen hasn't run or managed the company for the past couple of years, and is now focused on industry initiatives "outside of the CAW sector," including racehorse ownership.



**Newgrange** | Benoit

Little Red Feather's managing partner is TOC chairman, Gary Fenton. Bernsen and Fenton, therefore, appear to sit on opposite sides of the CAW table. Does their ownership connection in Newgrange rise to a conflict of interest on the part of the TOC chairman?

Both Nader and Fenton said it doesn't. Nevertheless, Fenton said that he has recused himself from all CAW-related matters before the TOC since April of 2023 to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest.

"Incidental co-ownership of a horse isn't considered a conflict by the TOC, but I made sure Bill and members of the board were aware. Still, due to the sensitive nature of simulcast rates, and out of an abundance of caution, when a matter connected with David [Bernsen] came up for the first time, I recused myself. Virtually all owners who serve on industry boards face similar instances," wrote Fenton, in a statement.

Several experts interviewed for this story described TSG's ownership of both Elite Turf Club and two of the state's racetracks as a dynamic that does indeed rise to that level.

Daruty, however, refuted any conflict-of-interest accusations, and pointed to the historical ownership relationship between tracks and wagering outlets.

Though the nature of these "betting platforms" has evolved over the years--from on-track Tote windows to off-track-betting hubs to ADWs--the racetracks have always been part of the ownership mix, he said.

Daruty added, "This is just one more example of that."

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**Cont. from p1**

Those clients whose own work is predicated on a faith in the "page" will be reassured to know themselves to be in the hands of a family whose flair for the restaurant business, one barely less competitive than the horse trade, has been tried and trusted across three generations.

Julian Vallozzi's grandmother started selling homemade gnocchi out of her Pennsylvania basement 69 years ago, prompting such demand that she soon opened a small restaurant in Latrobe. Assisted by her son Ernie, Julian's father, they moved to premises at Greenburg that have become a local byword for authentic Italian cuisine across four decades. Julian has already successfully expanded the family firm into downtown Pittsburgh

and last September, having long been enchanted by the locality and made good friends here, contributed to the increasing culinary vitality of the Bluegrass by converting what was once

the police station in the historic center of Versailles.

And there is a corresponding confidence of touch to everything about this place: an eye for the magic, that is, as well as the pasta. Be in no doubt, Vallozzi and his team have absolutely prioritized "la cucina" as the principal object of the exercise. My companions, rotating every dish to be sampled as suited, scored every forkful with high or full marks across the board. But of course even this is only half the battle, when getting the rest of the experience wrong could

unravel any amount of good work in the kitchen. As it is, the quality of the fare is admirably complemented by the ambience.



**Charlie O'Connor, far right, with Team Vallozzi's**  
*Catlyn Treadway photo*

## Sarah Delany Martinez Medical Recovery Fund




Sarah Delany, who trains along with her husband Benny Martinez, was injured Wednesday morning at Delta Downs when she was kicked by a horse in the back of her neck. The local Lake Charles, Louisiana hospital sent her via CareFlight to Houston, where she underwent emergency surgery.

"She was kicked in the back of the neck, and had spinal surgery, as well as fusion," said family friend Brian Poppenberg, "and luckily enough, she has feeling in all extremities, but recovery will be lengthy. Let me express that she and her husband are a small barn outfit, and absolutely love the horses, and this will be a difficult time for her as the trainer and her husband."

Delany had a second surgery Sunday morning, and it is expected to be a long road back for her. Please consider a donation, no matter how big or small, to help this wonderful woman and her family.

**Donate Now**

 Nicole Snyder is organizing this fundraiser.







Catlyn Treadway photo

The space is intimate but uncluttered. The service nailed that precarious equilibrium between attention and intrusion: ever alert and obliging, but with none of the ceremonious falsity that can stifle an atmosphere in more pompous settings. And actually much the same could be said of the music. I shouldn't think many people even notice it, but that's because it is not only scrupulously unobtrusive but also immaculately selected. At least that's how it struck me, the evening we were there, as one of a diminishing number who might recognise Paul Desmond and Gerry Mulligan from their own record collections!

Yes, I know: records are not how most people "consume" (ugh) their music nowadays, but perhaps that also indicates the kind of person, this reviewer included, for whom Vallozzi's can push at an open door. Because this is a venue with a nice touch of the old school. Not, as already indicated, in terms of formality but simply insofar as it's quite hard, nowadays, to find what used to be called "class." That word can mean different things in different contexts. Suffice to say that when you're out with a bunch of nice people for an evening, it means that the vibe should be relaxed and unhurried, while assuring you that your needs will be observed and served to the highest standards.

Of course, those needs start with what is set down between your knife and fork. And let's get one thing out there right away. You're not going to go home from Vallozzi's hungry. At the same time, however, they have mastered the perennial challenge of Italian cuisine, substantial as it tends to be. The art is to untether the volume by tenderness and flavor. (It's rather similar to the way Renaissance architecture gives a delicacy and lightness to stone, inherently the heaviest of materials.) Pasta dishes are the most basic measure of that aspiration, and here there's no mistaking a generationally honed instinct to float it from the plate. The stakes quality, in the pasta, naturally traces to the fillings and sauces.



Catlyn Treadway photo

Of the several sampled by our party, the roasted pork agnolotti (\$32) probably reached the winner's circle, its black garlic and truffle cream achieving a critical smoky lightness. (Much as a truffle hound would enjoy a median consistency-springy, not soggy or dry-in bounding along the forest floor!)

The seafood similarly maintained a balance in its full-on combinations-try ziti (\$34) with shrimp, octopus, mussels and smoked puttanesca, or lobster risotto (\$50) with shrimp, scallop and roasted red pepper-while the pappardelle Bolognese (\$30) met a more basic challenge in allowing the heavy livestock (beef, veal and pork) to stroll free. Next time I'm definitely going to try the roasted beet and goat cheese caramelle (\$26), with what sounds a dashing combination of fennel, saffron butter and mint.



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**Steak Tagliata** | *Catlyn Treadway photo*

But I'm presenting this all out of sequence, because we tried to do this the Italian way and treat the pasta as an intermediate dish between antipasti and main courses. And the opening salvo from the kitchen had been outstanding. The run for the roses here was octopus on grilled potatoes, charred shishitos, salsa rossa and chickpea puree (\$20). This dish may not be for the fainthearted but it was superbly tender and given full rein by its supporting flavors. But the antipasti were black-type all the way. Arancini (\$14), which can be heavy and greasy in the wrong hands, were spot on; calamari (\$20) gave a pleasing way out for those daunted by the octopus; and the steak tagliata (\$20) was almost rare and tender enough to ingest with a straw, brilliantly set against arugula, grilled sweet potatoes and, the coup de grace, a sunny egg!

The more wholesome of our party fought back against all this flat-out indulgence with a couple of salads: the chopped (\$12)--comprising pepperoncini, red onion, garbanzo beans, tomato, cucumber and Italian dressing--was applauded as fresh and crisp, and there was a warm endorsement for the fruity kick of dried cranberries in the kale (\$12) with carrots, cauliflower, almonds, feta, albeit the quinoa content evidently proved a little more elusive than the tomato vinaigrette. But you can see the problem brewing here. After all this on the first circuit, generously served and flavored as it was, few retained the stamina for mounting an assault on the deeper menu. The pizzas are apparently celebrated (though modestly priced at \$14 to \$16) and the steak tagliata antipasto gave total confidence that any bistecca would weigh in at full value (\$65), whether 8oz center cut CAB filet mignon or 16oz prime strip. We will leave for another time the chicken saltimbocca (\$32), promising as it sounds of a variation on the customary vitello; fans of the latter, meanwhile, can try to knock it out of the park with a 16oz veal chop parmesan (\$70) with spaghetti, red sauce and provolone.

Rallying gamely, however, we did share a couple of dishes that confirmed a similar expertise for surf as for turf: scallops (\$52) sweetly elevated by butternut squash puree, spaetzle, apples and golden raisins; and salmon (\$33) likewise made to sing by fennel, pancetta, brussels sprouts and fregola.

And then, heroically, one or two in the party demonstrated the truth of the old principle that appetite can always renew for dessert. Their choice of those good old stand-bys, cannolis (\$10) and tiramisu (\$10), demonstrably met the standards of all that had gone before--with notes of subtlety reported, in both cases, within the necessary richness.

Those may be staple desserts, but overall this felt like a strikingly ambitious "racecard," its range matched by elements of uncommon creativity and innovation. That might feel like a gamble, in a small midwestern town, but of course the Thoroughbred brings plenty of cosmopolitan palates to this neighborhood; while it has been a work of decades for your hosts to hone a formula that could work anywhere. It was good to see Vallozzi's Versailles so busy on a midweek in February, due reward for the partners--who include a couple of familiar faces in our community, in Charlie O'Connor (of Ashford) and Jon Rabinowitz (valued service on the KHRC)--for their vision in introducing a top-class restaurant to a neighborhood where business is so often mixed with pleasure.

If our own party somewhat overshot in ordering, then Vallozzi's will just have to become a regular so that we can work our way through the options at a more temperate rate. Because if you could only come here once, you might decide that Fellini had named one of his most famous films--8½--for the minimum number of dishes to which any single diner could reduce such an extensive and interesting menu.

**Vallozzi's, 108 Court Street, Versailles, KY 40383. (859) 682-5120. [www.vallozzis.com](http://www.vallozzis.com)**

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**Steak Vallozzi** | *Catlyn Treadway photo*

## CASA CREED TO MISS SAUDI SOJOURN

**Casa Creed** (Jimmy Creed), who had been scheduled to run in the G2 1351 Turf Sprint at King Abdulaziz Racecourse Feb. 24, didn't make Tuesday's flight overseas after a fever last week forced him to miss a workout, reports the *DRF*. Owned by Lee Einsidler and Mike Francesa, the multiple Grade I winner finished runner-up in the race in 2022-23.

"He's been under tack for some light exercise, but his bloodwork wasn't completely normal yet," Mott told *DRF* Tuesday. "It was just a week ago that he developed a fever. It hasn't been enough time. He could get sick from the flight and we don't want one halfway across the world and have him sick."

According to Mott, the 8-year-old may be shipped to Dubai for the G1 Al Quoz Sprint Mar. 30. He finished fifth on Dubai World Cup Day in 2022.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DETECTION OF BANNED DRUGS IN HORSES

As a Clinical Pharmacologist (human) and an avid horse player, I have grown tired of these instances of biologic samples from horses having banned substances found and the "interesting" explanations as to how the exposure happened. One recent example was a story of a horse in which three samples of blood had metformin (a drug used to treat type II diabetes in humans) detected. The explanation was that a groom and later the trainer was taking metformin and "touched the horse's face."

This explanation is questionable from a clinical pharmacology standpoint. Metformin for human use is a film coated tablet (coated with a polymer). Unless the individual taking the tablet crushes or chews it (and puts a finger in the mouth), handling the film coated tablet does not transfer metformin to the hands. Additionally, published data shows that the amount of metformin absorbed from an oral dose in a horse ranges from 3.9-7.1% (fed vs fasted state) which is minuscule. Finally, the suggested dose of metformin in horses for approved use is 15 mg/kg (7.5 grams in a 500 kg horse) versus a usual 500 mg dose in a human. Thus, horse exposure from a human dose (by rubbing the face) or even putting a finger/hand in the horse's mouth would be quite a stretch of science.

This story is not the only one that *TDN* readers have seen over time. We have been subjected to stories of a horse with detectable betamethasone in his blood supposedly not from an intraarticular injection but due to use of a topical product, a horse with dextromethorphan in the blood due to a groom using a cough syrup and urinating in the stall and many other stories. These explanations stretch the science of clinical pharmacology to unreasonable levels.

I'd like to offer my human-based clinical pharmacology expertise to HISA/HIWU to "solve" these human-based inaccurate explanations in terms of horse exposures to banned drugs, gratis.

Horse racing is a great sport with a long tradition. Unfortunately, stories of horses having banned substances (no matter how low the exposure) is a negative for a sport where interest at least in the USA is declining and groups like PETA show up to protest at large racing venues putting more negative attention to the sport. But, worst of all, use of banned substances is bad for the horses and aren't the horses our primary interest/concern?

Sincerely,

Joseph S. Bertino Jr., PharmD, FCP, FCCP  
Guilford, New York

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### DERBY FUTURE WAGER POOL 4 OPENS FRIDAY

The Pool 4 future wager for the GI Kentucky Derby will open Friday and will close Sunday. The 39 individual 3-year-olds listed in the future wager field are led by Grade I winner **Locked (Gun Runner)**, who is 10-1 on the morning line. "All other 3-year-olds" is the wager's 2-1 morning-line favorite.

The fourth of six future wagers opens at noon ET Friday and closes at 6 p.m. Sunday. Click [here](#) for the complete field.


Other future wager dates are set for Mar. 15-17 and Apr. 4-6. The lone Kentucky Oaks Future Wager will coincide with Kentucky Derby Future Wager Pool 5.

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### PARX CANCELS TUESDAY RACING


With a winter storm bearing down on the Philadelphia area, Parx was forced to cancel its live race card Tuesday. It was the sixth time the Pennsylvania oval has canceled racing due to weather this year.

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February 7, 2024

**Ken McPeck Discusses Big Weekend at Oaklawn with Southwest Winner Mystik Dan**





## SARAH DELANY TO LEAVE HOSPITAL, LONG ROAD AHEAD

Trainer Sarah Delany was scheduled to be released from a Houston, Texas hospital Tuesday after undergoing spinal surgery due to an injury suffered at Delta Downs Wednesday morning. Delany, who trains alongside her husband Benny Martinez, was injured Wednesday morning at Delta Downs when she was kicked by a horse in the back of her neck, according to family friend and client Brian Poppenberg. The local Lake Charles hospital sent her via CareFlight to Houston, where she underwent emergency surgery.

"This morning I spoke with her husband Benny, and she is being released to go home to today," said Poppenberg via email to the TDN. "Benny has family that will be staying with Sarah 24/7 and a nurse will be at their home every other day, as she navigates the process of recovery. She is only able to walk, talk, sit, and sleep. In my conversation with Benny, and after talking to Sarah, he will continue taking care of the barn, with the help of some new hires to assist in everything Sarah does."

A Gofundme page has been started for Delany to raise the needed funds for her care. Poppenberg said that Darley had offered a season to **Mystic Guide** to be auctioned off with all monies raised to go to Delany's care, and that details regarding that auction will be forthcoming.

"Huge thanks to them for stepping up," said Poppenberg. "Please continue to help Sarah and Benny, through this long road."

Sarah Delany's Gofundme page may be accessed [here](#).

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## HOTY TO BE ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL CTBA AWARDS DINNER MAR. 12

The 2023 California-bred Horse of the Year will be announced at the CTBA Awards Dinner and Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 12 at Le Meridien Hotel in Arcadia, CA.

The finalists for Horse of the Year are (in alphabetical order) **Ceiling Crusher** (Mr. Big), **Kings River Knight** (Acclamation) and **The Chosen Vron** (Vronsky).

For ticket information for the Awards Dinner and Annual Meeting, click [Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner | CTBA](#) or contact Christy Chapman at [Christy@ctba.com](mailto:Christy@ctba.com).



**Ceiling Crusher** | Sarah Andrew

### **Other Cal-bred champions to be recognized at the banquet:**

**Champion Two-Year-Old Male** – Yo Yo Candy, bred by Checkmate Thoroughbreds, owned by Happy Tenth Stable and trained by Daniel Velazquez.

**Champion Two-Year-Old Female** – Grand Slam Smile, bred by owners Mr. & Mrs. Larry Williams and trained by Steven Specht.

**Champion Three-Year-Old Male** – One in Vermillion, bred by Richard Barton Enterprises, owned by Jonathan Kalman, trained by Esteban Martinez.

**Champion Three-Year-Old Female** – Ceiling Crusher, bred by Harris Farms, owned by Wonderland Racing Stables, Todd Cady, Tim Kasparoff and Ty Leatherman, trained by Doug O'Neill.

**Champion Older Male** – The Chosen Vron, bred by Tiz Molly Partners, owned by Eric Kruljac, Robert Fetkin, John Sondereker & Richard Thornburgh, trained by Eric Kruljac.

**Champion Older Female** – Closing Remarks, bred by owner Harris Farms, trained by Carla Gaines.

**Champion Sprinter** – The Chosen Vron, bred by Tiz Molly Partners, owned by Eric Kruljac, Robert Fetkin, John Sondereker & Richard Thornburgh, trained by Eric Kruljac.

**Champion Turf Horse** – Closing Remarks, bred by owner Harris Farms, trained by Carla Gaines.

Seeing  
**RED?**

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

**Champion Sire of California Conceived Foals by Earnings –**  
Grazen, property of Nick Alexander.

**Champion Sire of California Conceived Foals by Number of  
Winners –** Stay Thirsty, property of Terry Lovingier.

**Champion Sire of California Conceived Foals by Turf Earnings –**  
Grazen, property of Nick Alexander.

**Champion Sire of California Conceived 2-Year-Olds by Earnings**  
– Stay Thirsty, property of Terry Lovingier.

**Trainer of the Year –** Eric Kruljac.

**Broodmare of the Year –** Lutess, owned by Connie & Mike  
Pageler.

**Champion Breeder of California Foaled Thoroughbreds by  
Earnings –** Richard Barton Enterprises.

**CTBA Hall of Fame –** Russell Drake, Clay Murdock, Soviet  
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**Snow blankets Monmouth Park Racetrack in Oceanport, New Jersey on Tuesday**

*Photo By Bill Denver/EQUI-PHOTO*



**Saturday, Fair Grounds #14, post time: 7:17 p.m. EST**

**RISEN STAR S.-GII, \$400,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Tizzy Indy	Take Charge Indy	Calumet Farm	Desormeaux	Graham	122
2	Awesome Ruta	Mendelssohn	Tri-Star Racing, LLC & Cimarron TTT Farms LLC	Foster	Murrill	122
3	Honor Marie 🌿	Honor Code	Ribble Farms LLC, Eiserman, Michael H., Silver, Earl I., Fishbein, Kenneth E. and Fishbein, Daniel	Beckman	Bejarano	122
4	Sierra Leone	Gun Runner	Magnier, Mrs. John, Tabor, Michael B., Smith, Derrick, Westerberg, Smith, Brook T. & Brant, Peter	Brown	Gaffalione	122
5	Moonlight	Audible	Town and Country Racing & Madaket Stables LLC	Pletcher	Geroux	122
6	Real Men Violin 🌿	Mendelssohn	Tilted Shamrock Stables	McPeck	Hernandez, Jr.	122
7	Hall of Fame	Gun Runner	Magnier, Mrs. John, Tabor, Michael B., Smith, Derrick, Westerberg, Gandharvi & Smith, Brooke T	Asmussen	Santana, Jr.	122
8	Catching Freedom 🌿	Constitution	Albaugh Family Stables LLC	Cox	Saez	122
9	Cardinale	Speightstown	Stonestreet Stables LLC	Pletcher	Prat	122
10	Resilience	Into Mischief	Bushnell, Emily and Waldman, Ric	Mott	Velazquez	122
11	Track Phantom 🌿	Quality Road	L and N Racing LLC, Brewster, Clark O., Caroom, Jerry and Breeze Easy, LLC	Asmussen	Rosario	122
12	Bee Dancer	Bee Jersey	Charles E. Fipke	Stewart	Lanerie	122

**Breeders:** 1-Calumet Farm, 2-Brian Levings, 3-Royce Pulliam, 4-Debby M. Oxley, 5-Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC, 6-Newtown Anner Stud, 7-Earle I. Mack LLC, 8-WinStar Farm, LLC, 9-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 10-Pam & Martin Wygod, 11-Breeze Easy, LLC, 12-Charles E. Fipke

**Saturday, Fair Grounds #13, post time: 6:48 p.m. EST**

**RACHEL ALEXANDRA S. PRESENTED BY FASIG-TIPTON-GII, \$300,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Tarifa	Bernardini	Godolphin, LLC	Cox	Prat	122
2	Pennick 🌿	Hard Spun	Ulwelling, Al and Bill	Scherer	Loveberry	122
3	Perfect Shot 🌿	Gun Runner	Whisper Hill Farm, LLC	Asmussen	Rosario	122
4	Intricate 🌿	Gun Runner	Bradley Thoroughbreds, Laura Leigh Stable, Estes, Scott and Cambron Equine, LLC	Walsh	Gaffalione	122
5	Alpine Princess 🌿	Classic Empire	Full of Run Racing II, LLC & Madaket Stables LLC	Cox	Geroux	122
6	V V's Dream 🌿	Mitole	MJM Racing and Magdalena Racing	McPeck	Hernandez, Jr.	122
7	West Omaha	West Coast	Gary and Mary West	Cox	Saez	122

**Breeders:** 1-Godolphin, 2-Anderson Farms Ont. Inc., 3-Sierra Farm, 4-LBD Stable, LLC, 5-Betz/DJ Stables/Peter V.Lamantia/Classic Empire Syndicate, 6-Mark Stansell, 7-Gary & Mary West Stables, Inc.



## THE SIGN OF SUCCESS

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

KEENELAND

**Saturday, Fair Grounds #11, post time: 5:50 p.m. EST****MINESHAFT S. PRESENTED BY RELYNE GI BY HAGYARD-GIII, \$250,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Red Route One	Gun Runner	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC	Asmussen	Rosario	118
2	Hayes Strike	Connect	Dixiana Farms LLC	McPeek	Cohen	118
3	Best Actor 🦄	Flatter	Gary and Mary West	Cox	Prat	120
4	Gasoline	Curlin	Harrell Ventures, LLC and CHC INC.	Pletcher	Velazquez	120
5	Notary 🦄	Street Sense	Antonio Donato	Hernandez	Gutierrez	120
6	Dubuyhnell 🦄	Good Magic	West Paces Racing LLC & Stonestreet Stables	Gargan	Saez	120
7	Money Supply 🦄	Practical Joke	Jordan V. Wycoff	Sharp	Gaffalione	120
8	Happy American 🦄	Runhappy	Neil L. Pessin	Pessin	Loveberry	118
9	Smile Happy 🦄	Runhappy	Lucky Seven Stable	McPeek	Hernandez, Jr.	118

**Breeders:** 1-Winchell Thoroughbreds, LLC, 2-Dixiana Farms, LLC, 3-E. H. Beau Lane, Gail McMichael Lane, J. B. Lane Orem & Michael Orem, 4-China Horse Club International, LTD., 5-John Gardiner & Frank McEntee, 6-Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC, 7-Jeff Little, Teresa Little, Marilyn Little & William Lynn, 8-Claiborne Farm, 9-Moreau Bloodstock Int'l Inc. & White Bloodstock LLC

**Saturday, Laurel #8, post time: 4:02 p.m. EST****BARBARA FRITCHIE S.-GIII, \$200,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Last Leaf 🦄	Not This Time	Monarch Stables, Inc.	Kenneally	Cruz	122
2	Prodigy Doll 🦄	Shanghai Bobby	HnR Nothhaft Horse Racing, LLC	Schoenthal	Barbosa	122
3	Freccia d'Argento 🦄	Liam's Map	Lugamo Racing & J R Sanchez Racing Stable	Sanchez-Salomon	Cruz	122
4	Disco Ebo	Weigelia	Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC	Reid, Jr.	Pennington	122
5	Apple Picker	Connect	Michael Dubb	Russell	Russell	122
6	Intrepid Daydream	Jess's Dream	Miller Racing LLC	Joseph, Jr.	Toledo	122
7	Bluefield	Field Commission	Edward A. Seltzer	Joseph, Jr.	Rodriguez	122
8	Continentalcongres	Constitution	R. Larry Johnson	Trombetta	Karamanos	122
9	Beneath the Stars	Connect	Team Gaudet, David Bernsen & Susanna Wilson	Gaudet	Lyapustina	122

**Breeders:** 1-Khalid Mishref Alkahtani, 2-Tolo Thoroughbreds & Michael A. Spirito, 3-Rusty Roberts, 4-St. Omer's Farm, 5-Michael Dubb, 6-Paul L. Fowler, Jr., 7-Ed Pendray & Edward A. Seltzer, 8-R. Larry Johnson, 9-Sparks View Farm LLC

**Saturday, Laurel #9, post time: 4:33 p.m. EST****GENERAL GEORGE S.-GIII, \$200,000, 4yo/up, 7f**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	No Cents	Goldcents	de Tomaso, Isabelle and Hope Jones	Lynch	Lopez	122
2	Cowan 🦄	Kantharos	Built Wright Stables, LLC.	Ginter, Jr.	Barbosa	122
3	Post Time	Frosted	Hillwood Stable LLC	Russell	Russell	122
4	Nimitz Class	Munnings	Qatar Racing, Black Type Thoroughbreds, Swinbank Stable, Steve Adkisson & Campeche Stable	Weaver	Toledo	124
5	Seven's Eleven	Bandbox	The Cottonwood Stable LLC	Mancilla	Cruz	122
6	Greeley and Ben	Greeley's Conquest	DEA Thoroughbred Racing LLC	De Paz	Rodriguez	122
7	Tenebris 🦄	Violence	Thoroneck Corp and Floresta	Tessore	Barbosa	122

**Breeders:** 1-Hope Jones & Isabelle de Tomaso, 2-Hill 'n' Dale Equine Holdings, Inc., 3-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman & Milton P. Higgins III, 4-Arrowwood Farm, 5-Cottonwood Stable LLC, 6-Millard R. Seldin Rev. Trust, 7-ERJ Racing, LLC



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**Saturday, Fair Grounds #12, post time: 6:19 p.m. EST****FAIR GROUNDS S. PRESENTED BY HORSE RACING NATION-GIII, \$175,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Johnny's Fireball 🌿	Tonalist	AJ Suited Racing Stable, D C Racing & Brilliant Racing	N Casse	Santana, Jr.	120
2	Chasing the Crown	Skipshot	Paradise Farms Corp., Staudacher, David & Carlesimo, Angelo	Maker	Loveberry	118
3	Strong Quality	Quality Road	Barber, Gary and Kinsman Stable	M Casse	Geroux	122
4	Rising Empire 🌿	Empire Maker	Welch, Russell and Leonard, Ran M.	Walsh	Saez	118
5	Palazzi 🌿	Pioneerof the Nile	John C. Oxley	M Casse	Gaffalione	122
6	Duke of Carthania 🌿	Constitution	Yovani Munoz	Munoz	Pedroza, Jr.	118
7	Money Supply 🌿	Practical Joke	Jordan V. Wycoff	Sharp	Ashton	118
8	Camp Hope 🌿	Summer Front	Walking L Thoroughbreds, LLC	McPeek	Hernandez, Jr.	118
9	Harlan Estate 🌿	Kantharos	Graham Grace Stable	Beckman	Cannon	122
10	Beatbox 🌿	Pioneerof the Nile	Comestro, Rob and Ganje, Jeff	DeVaux	Rosario	118
11	Gigante 🌿	Not This Time	Diamond T Racing LLC and Iapetus Racing LLC	Asmussen	Morales	122
12	English Tavern 🌿	English Channel	Romans, Jr., Jerry and Smith, Hamilton A.	Lovell	Torres	120

**Breeders:** 1-R. S. Evans, 2-Mikhail Yanakov, 3-Kinsman Farm, 4-Gainesway Thoroughbreds LTD., 5-HnR Nothhaft Horseracing LLC & Pioneerof the Nile Syndicate, 6-Machmer Hall, 7-Jeff Little, Teresa Little, Marilyn Little & William Lynn, 8-Bret Jones, 9-Tall Oaks Farm, 10-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC, 11-Ann Mudge Backer & Smitten Farm, 12-Dr. Charles H. Huber & English Channel Co-Owners

**Saturday, Gulfstream #11, post time: 5:07 p.m. EST****ROYAL DELTA S.-GIII, \$150,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Soul of an Angel	Atreides	James, Gerald and Hall Performance LLC	James	Lopez	120
2	Maryquitecontrary	First Dude	Rodney G. Lundock	Plesa, Jr.	Panici	120
3	Magical Lute	Maclean's Music	Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC	Wilkes	Egan	118
4	Yuki (Chi)	The Lumber Guy	Haras Lizzie, Inc.	Sanchez	Reyes	120
5	Tizzy in the Sky	Sky Kingdom	KimDon Racing, LLC	Pletcher	Ortiz, Jr.	118
6	Honor D Lady 🌿	Honor Code	Final Furlong Farm and Madaket Stables LLC	Joseph, Jr.	Ortiz	123
7	Rosie's Halo	Jess's Dream	Sean Defreitas	Joseph, Jr.	Castellano	118
8	Opus Forty Two	Mendelssohn	Mark B. Grier	Delacour	Centeno	120
9	Imonra	Violence	Vegso Racing Stable	Joseph, Jr.	Zayas	118
10	Libban	Laoban	C2 Racing Stable LLC and Braverman, Paul	Joseph, Jr.	Gonzalez	118
11	Nostalgic	Medaglia d'Oro	Godolphin, LLC	Mott	Alvarado	120

**Breeders:** 1-Westbrook Stables, 2-R. G. Lundock, 3-Whitham Thoroughbreds, LLC, 4-Haras Lizzie, 5-Westrock Stables LLC, 6-William Harrigan & Mike Pietrangelo, 7-Colin Mouttet & Paul Mouttet, 8-Rose Hill Farm & John Trumbulovic, 9-Vegso Racing Stable, 10-Southern Equine Stables, LLC, 11-Godolphin

**Sunday, Sunland #9, post time: 6:17 p.m. EST****SUNLAND PARK DERBY-GIII, \$400,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	No Trouble 🌿	World of Trouble	Jim Volk	Marr	Tohill	122
2	Surroundedbyangels	Smiling Tiger	Jeremy Ramsland	Hone	Medellin	122
3	Curlin's Kaos	Clubhouse Ride	Zephyr Racing LLC and Pais, Alfred	Garcia	Herrera	122
4	Lucky Jeremy 🌿	Lookin At Lucky	Jeremy Ramsland	Morey	Ramos	122
5	Stronghold	Ghostzapper	Waller, Eric M. and Waller, Sharon	D'Amato	Fresu	122
6	Alotaluck	Sir Prancealot (Ire)	Eleanor Martin	Garrett	Ceballos	122
7	Da Ringo 🌿	Union Rags	Cecil Peters	Gonzalez, Jr.	Juarez, Jr.	122
8	Informed Patriot 🌿	Hard Spun	Robison, J. Kirk and Robison, Judy	Asmussen	Rosario	122

**Breeders:** 1-Hill 'n' Dale Syndicated Stallions, Inc. & Sheltowee Farm, 2-Willow Tree Farm & G. W. Thomas, 3-James Shenouda & Alfred Pais, 4-Mr. & Mrs. Craig L Minten, 5-Eric Waller & Sharon Waller, 6-Eleanor Martin, 7-WinStar Farm, LLC, 8-Gainesway Thoroughbreds LTD & WhisperHill Farm

## MO TOWN'S DONCHO EARNS 'TDN RISING STAR' BADGE AT FAIR GROUNDS



Doncho | Hodges Photography

JAL Racing's **Doncho** (g, 3, **Mo Town**--Sassy Redhead, by Henny Hughes) backed up his big figure debut win with another eye-catching performance for trainer Michelle Lovell, this time for **'TDN Rising Star'** honors in an optional claimer in the Big Easy on the Mardi Gras Tuesday program.

The even-money favorite forced the issue from an outside second, poked his head in front approaching the quarter pole and blasted off for home to win by an impressive 4 1/2 lengths while stopping the clock for six furlongs in a very sharp 1:09.52. **Cats By Five** (**Audible**) was second.

The 3-year-old gelding earned a 94 Beyer Speed Figure in a front-running, five-length debut score at odds of 21-1 at Fair Grounds Dec. 30.

Doncho, a \$32,000 Keeneland September yearling turned \$72,000 OBS June bullet breezer (:9 4/5), is the first **'TDN Rising Star'** for young sire **Mo Town**. The 2016 GII Remsen S. winner and 2017 GI Hollywood Derby winner also received the **'Rising Star'** nod in his second career start.

Doncho's unraced dam Sassy Redhead, a \$14,000 RNA most recently at the 2019 KEENOV sale, is also represented by a 2-year-old filly by Lord Nelson. Sassy Redhead was bred to **Idol** for 2024. This is the extended female family of GISWs Madcap Escapade (Hennessy), Mi Sueno (Pulpit) and Dubai Escapade (Awesome Again).



VIDEO

Mo Town  
at Ashford Stud



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## NEW TDN RISING STAR

7th-Fair Grounds, \$58,000, Alw (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$100,000), 2-13, 3yo, 6f, 1:09.52, ft, 4 1/2 lengths.

**DONCHO**, g, 3, by **Mo Town**

1st Dam: **Sassy Redhead**, by Henny Hughes

2nd Dam: **Sass Me**, by Carson City

3rd Dam: **Sassy Pants**, by Saratoga Six

Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$66,000. Click for the **Equibase.com chart** or **VIDEO**, sponsored by **FanDuel TV** and for the free **Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree**.

O-JAL Racing; B-Susan Young (KY); T-Michelle Lovell. \*\$12,000 RNA Ylg '22 KEEJAN; \$32,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP; \$72,000 2yo '23 OBSOPN.

BORN, RAISED AND SOLD BY  **NICKY DRION THOROUGHBREDS**



### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**MARDI GRAS S.**, \$99,000, Fair Grounds, 2-13, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2ft, 1:03.66, gd.

1--**OVA CHARGED**, 118, m, 6, **Star Guitar--Charged Cotton (SW, \$162,741)**, by **Dehere**. O-Brittlyn Stable, Inc.; B-Brittlyn, Inc. (LA); T-Shane Wilson; J-Jose Andres Guerrero. \$60,000. Lifetime Record: GSP, 14-11-1-0, \$548,780.

2--**Oeuvre**, 120, m, 5, Shackleford--Love This Kitten, by Kitten's Joy. O/B-Richard Perkins (IL); T-Chris M. Block. \$20,000.

3--**Redefined**, 120, f, 4, More Than Ready--Mrs. Boss (Brz), by Wild Event. (\$150,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP; \$450,000 3yo '23 FTKHRA). O-Horseshoe Racing LLC; B-Abdulrahman Aljasmii (KY); T-Michelle Lovell. \$10,000.



LANE'S END SALES GRADUATE



Margins: 5 1/4, 3, 1. Odds: 2.80, 1.50, 4.70.

Also Ran: Breeze Easy (GB), Poppy Flower, Dana's Beauty, Jumpin Judy, Brandon'smylawyer, Sweet Temperament. Scratched: Carimba, Lady Hideaway, Naughty Lottie.

Winning machine Ova Charged made it three straight victories for Shane Wilson with this impressive performance, her first on the lawn since capturing the 2022 Page Cortez S. at Fair Grounds. Backed as the second choice here, she vied for command from the inside, let it out a notch on the far turn and dropped the hammer in the stretch to win for fun. Ova Charged,





**Ova Charged** | Hodges Photography

runner-up for previous trainer Jose Camejo in the 2021 Gill Victory Ride S. at Belmont Park, won her last two starts against state-breds in New Orleans--the Louisiana Champions Day Ladies Sprint S. Dec. 9 and the Bob F. Wright Memorial S. Jan. 6. The winner's dam, purchased by these connections for \$150,000 in foal to **Street Sense** at the 2015 KEENOV sale, produced a filly by **Not This Time** in 2023. She was barren for 2024.

"Ova Charged had run one time on the turf," Wilson said. "And it was her largest margin of victory, seven lengths the one time she ran on the turf, so it was always the goal to get her back on the turf. Her mother never won a race on the dirt. Her mother was a turf-stakes route winner who never won going short or on the dirt." **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

## ALLOWANCE WINNERS

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### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**5th-Fair Grounds, \$60,000, Alw (C)/Opt. Clm (\$80,000), 2-13, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:09.68, ft, 3/4 length.**

**SURVEILLANCE (g, 7, Constitution--Majorelle, by Mizzen Mast)** continued his love affair with the main track at Fair Grounds, annexing his sixth win from seven-career attempts over the surface. The 2-1 chance sat the trip in third as the heavily favored Marsalis (**Curlin**) and Kavod (Lea) sped through fractions of :21.68 and :44.87. Surveillance ranged up at the top of the stretch under confident handling and kicked past a very game Kavod in the stretch to score by 3/4 of a length. Surveillance

capped a three-race winning streak--all in stakes at Fair Grounds--with a win in the off-the-turf 2023 Duncan F. Kenner S. He was winless in his last six trips to the post, including a rallying second behind Kavod in a local optional claimer last Jan. 19. The winner's dam had a colt by **Flameaway** in 2023 and was bred back to El Deal. Sales history: \$40,000 Wlg '17 KEENOV; \$25,000 Ylg '18 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: MSW, 29-7-4-6, \$563,837. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-Big Chief Racing, LLC, Rocker O Ranch, LLC & J. Keith Desormeaux; B-Kendall E. Hansen, M.D. Racing, LLC (KY); T-J. Keith Desormeaux.

## Rebecca Maker Rehab Graduate

## MAIDEN WINNERS

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### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**9th-Fair Grounds, \$57,000, Msw, 2-13, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:45.53, ft, 3/4 length.**

**PRETTY ANA (f, 3, Quality Road--Quiet Giant {GSW, \$405,389}, by Giant's Causeway),** a half-sister to leading young sire **Gun Runner (Candy Ride {Arg})**, Horse Of The Year, Ch. Older Dirt Male MGISW-USA, G1SP-UAE, \$15,988,500, dug down gamely to earn her diploma at second asking here. Pretty Ana was previously third, beaten 5 1/4 lengths, as the even-money favorite after an eventful trip over this same course and distance on debut Jan. 18. Favored at that same price once again this time, the Three Chimneys homebred broke on top and took the field of nine to the backstretch. She was hounded by **Mischievousness (Maximus Mischief)** through a half mile in :49.23 and appeared to be in deep water as that one looked to be going the better of the two approaching the quarter pole. **Mischievousness** enjoyed a narrow advantage in the stretch, but **Pretty Ana** battled back gamely along the inside to turn back that foe and win by 3/4 of a length. **Quiet Giant**, a half-sister to Horse of the Year **Saint Liam (Saint Ballado)** and GISW **Funtastic (More Than Ready)**, produced a colt by **Quality Road** in 2023. She was not bred for the 2024 season. The **Quality Road/Giant's Causeway** cross is also responsible for GSW **Friar's Road**. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, \$39,920. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O/B-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC (KY); T-Steven M. Asmussen.

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# BUZZ WORTHY 3YOs



## BEELINE

An impressive frontrunning 1 ¼-length debut winner at Gulfstream Park and full-brother to Black-type stakes-winner Topsy

Breeder: **Charles Fipke**  
Owner: **Vintage Thoroughbreds LLC, Scott Estes, and Brian Hanley**



## BEE DANCER

Won on debut at Fair Grounds Race Course, entered in **\$400,000** Risen Star S. (G2) awarding 50 Kentucky Derby qualifying points to the winner

Owner/Breeder: **Charles E. Fipke**

# BEE JERSEY

JERSEY TOWN - BEES, BY RAHY | FEE: **\$5,000**

FAST **G1** WINNER FROM THE **SPEIGHTSTOWN** SIRE-LINE

WINNER OF THE **STALLION-MAKING MET MILE (G1)**  
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**SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14**  
 2024 Stud Fees Listed

**Dreamliner** (More Than Ready), CI-The Speedhorse Farm  
 9 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners  
 4-Mahoning Valley, 2:08 p.m. EST, Alw 6f, Reigning Dream, 7-2

**Flameaway** (Scat Daddy), Darby Dan Farm, \$15,000  
 200 foals of racing age/24 winners/4 black-type winners  
 1-Penn National, 6:00 p.m. EST, Alw 5 1/2f, Devine **Flameaway**,  
 8-1  
 \$4,000 OBS OCT yrl

**Force the Pass** (Speightstown), Saudi Arabia  
 37 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners  
 5-Charles Town, 8:53 p.m. EST, Msw 6 1/2f, Pass the Cash, 4-1

**Lord of Greatness** (Greatness), Flowing Acres Farm  
 3 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners  
 8-Charles Town, 10:17 p.m. EST, Msw 4 1/2f, Seattle Prince,  
 12-1

**Lost Treasure (Ire)** (**War Front**), Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa  
 19 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners  
 8-Charles Town, 10:17 p.m. EST, Msw 4 1/2f, Defiant Giant, 8-1

**Mitole** (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, \$15,000  
 294 foals of racing age/40 winners/2 black-type winners  
 5-Charles Town, 8:53 p.m. EST, Msw 6 1/2f, Noble Obsession,  
 20-1  
 \$15,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$7,000 RNA EAS MAY 2yo  
 5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 6 1/2f, Raconteuse, 12-1  
 \$60,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$70,000 FTK OCT yrl



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**Omaha Beach** (**War Front**), Spendthrift Farm, \$40,000  
 291 foals of racing age/29 winners/3 black-type winners  
 7-Gulfstream, 3:10 p.m. EST, Aoc 6 1/2f, Caitlinhergrtness, 2-1  
 \$65,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$160,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$375,000 OBS APR  
 2yo  
 7-Gulfstream, 3:10 p.m. EST, Aoc 6 1/2f, Launch, 3-1  
 \$50,000 KEE SEP yrl

**Vino Rosso** (**Curlin**), Spendthrift Farm, \$20,000  
 309 foals of racing age/28 winners/2 black-type winners  
 5-Charles Town, 8:53 p.m. EST, Msw 6 1/2f, La Macchina Rossa,  
 8-1  
 \$52,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$63,000 EAS MAY 2yo  
 5-Gulfstream, 2:10 p.m. EST, Msw 1mT, Luna Love, 15-1  
 \$55,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$50,000 KEE SEP yrl



**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

**5th-Turf Paradise, \$31,000, (NW2X)/Opt. Clm**  
 (\$20,000-\$25,000), 2-13, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:16.10, ft, neck.  
**PRESENT TIME (f, 4, Carpe Diem--I Know That Mom, by Distorted Humor)** Lifetime Record: 8-3-2-0, \$74,640. O-Reunion  
 Racing Stables LLC. & EIK Ranch LLC.; B-Upon Downs Farm &  
 Winstar Farm, LLC (KY); T-Kevin Eikleberry. \*\$40,000 Ylg '21  
 KEESEP.



**ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Debt Paid, c, 3, Collected--Prisoner's Dilemma, by Blame.** Fair  
 Grounds, 2-13, 5 1/2fT, 1:05.59. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-2,  
 \$48,340. B-Fred W. Hertrich III & Robert L. Tribbett (KY).  
 \*\$35,000 RNA Ylg '22 KEESEP; \$35,000 2yo '23 OBSAPR.



**Cypress Gold, c, 3, Goldcents--Penrose, by Lemon Drop Kid.**  
 Fair Grounds, 2-13, (S), 1 1/16mT, 1:48.27. Lifetime Record:  
 4-1-0-0, \$37,320. B-Clyde James Taylor (LA).



Seeing  
**RED?**

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

**ONE DAY ONLY STALLION SEASON AUCTION**

# LEXITONIAN



**FEBRUARY 16**  
**9AM – 9PM EST**



Visit: [stallionseason.cbo.io](https://stallionseason.cbo.io)

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**Carpe Diem**, Present Time, f, 4, o/o I Know That Mom, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 2-13, Turf Paradise

**Collected**, Debt Paid, c, 3, o/o Prisoner's Dilemma, by **Blame**. MSW, 2-13, Fair Grounds

**Constitution**, Surveillance, g, 7, o/o Majorelle, by Mizzen Mast. AOC, 2-13, Fair Grounds

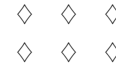
**Goldcents**, Cypress Gold, c, 3, o/o Penrose, by Lemon Drop Kid. MSW, 2-13, Fair Grounds



**Mo Town**, Doncho, g, 3, o/o Sassy Redhead, by Henny Hughes. AOC, 2-13, Fair Grounds

**Quality Road**, Pretty Ana, f, 3, o/o Quiet Giant, by Giant's Causeway. MSW, 2-13, Fair Grounds

**Star Guitar**, Ova Charged, m, 6, o/o Charged Cotton, by Dehere. Mardi Gras S., 2-13, Fair Grounds



## TODAY'S FEATURED REPLAY



**Doncho (Mo Town)** earns his **'TDN Rising Star'** badge. [\(click to watch\)](#)

# TDN SALES STATISTICS

TDN Sales Statistics is a customized statistical tool to analyze sires' cumulative annual sales performance.

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