



AMO HITS THE TARGET AGAIN AT 4.8 MILLION FOR OAKS WINNER YOU GOT TO ME



Kia Joorabchian's Amo Racing has purchased 10 lots at the December Mares Sale for a gross of 8,375,000gns so far, including Tuesday's 4.8m gns topper, You Got To Me | Tattersalls

By Brian Sheerin and Adam Houghton

The sale of Irish Oaks heroine You Got To Me (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}) during Tuesday's Sceptre Session at the Tattersalls December Mares Sale boiled down to a head-to-head between Kia Joorabchian and Newsells Park Stud owner Graham Smith-Bernal, with the Amo Racing founder once again underlining his burning desire "to compete" after coming out on top with a bid of 4.8 million guineas.

The bidding war which pit Joorabchian and Smith-Bernal against one another was a far cry from what we witnessed at Park Paddocks nine weeks earlier, when the pair were united in their joy after Amo bought the Newsells Park-consigned **Frankel (GB)** filly who topped Book 1 of the October Yearling Sale at 4.4 million guineas.

This time the result was bittersweet for the team at Newsells Park who, having raced You Got To Me through one of their bloodstock syndicates and in partnership with Valmont, were in the position of being both consignor and underbidder.

American-based trainer Will Walden, bidding for Woodford Thoroughbreds' John Sykes, was also still in the reckoning as the fee being commanded reached 4 million. However, as has so often been the case in recent weeks, it was a determined Joorabchian who came away with the spoils in the shape of the three-year-old who also has a runner-up finish in the G1 Yorkshire Oaks to her name from eight career starts for Ralph Beckett.

"We've got to compete," Joorabchian said of his motivation to complete the purchase, in part down to him now having three stallions based at Tally-Ho Stud to support.

"We've been trying to compete for many, many years and probably burnt so much cash trying to pick the next one. We've three or four stallions now--Bucanero [Fuerte], Persian [Force] and King Of Steel is the obvious one. I'm going to try and back King Of Steel as much as I can and people who back him will get my backing as well. That's how I look at it." **Cont. p3**

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

ANNAPOLIS HELPING BASS HIT THE HIGH NOTES

Chris McGrath speaks with owner Ramona Bass on **Annapolis (War Front)**.



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Wednesday, December 4, 2024



Captains of industry: Teruya Yoshida, back row centre, in the ring at Tattersalls with Tony, Henry and Roger O'Callaghan | Emma Berry

13 | HH THE AGA KHAN HONOURED AT HRI AWARDS

His Highness The Aga Khan received the Contribution to the Industry Award at the ceremony on Monday night.

18 | THE FOXES GALLOPS AHEAD OF HONG KONG START

The King Power Racing runner warmed up for an appearance in Sunday's G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup with a gallop at Sha Tin.

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Tattersalls December Cont. from p1

Whether You Got To Me will be among King Of Steel's first book of mares in 2025 is seemingly open to debate, however, with the real possibility remaining that she could stay in training at Beckett's Kimpton Down Stables as a four-year-old.

"I don't know," Joorabchian replied when the topic of future plans was put to him. "It's a very good question. Obviously, Beckett wants her back and I said as long as he doesn't injure her he can have her back! I'm thinking about it.

"He's done a wonderful job with her and I can't just say, 'take that away'. If I was going to another country, maybe. But no, she stays with Beckett."

He added, "We were getting to a point where we felt that this is well overpriced, but she could be very cheap in the long run.

We don't know. At least we know she's proven and she won the Irish Oaks. I am so happy because the guys who own her, Valmont, are dear friends of mine. They are people that I have a partnership with in other horses. Buying this back means that everything they have bought with me is free."

It was Alex Elliott who bought You Got To Me on behalf of Valmont for 200,000gns at Book 1 of the October Yearling Sale, before Newsells bought into the filly during her three-year-old campaign.

Julian Dollar, manager at Newsells Park, offered his commiserations to Smith-Bernal in missing out on retaining the Classic winner as he said, "She's very special to us. Graham was very, very keen to keep her, as you could tell, and the syndicate were

very keen to stay in, which was great, but there's a level."

Smith-Bernal added, "The fact that she is by Nathaniel made her extra special." [Cont. p4](#)



You Got To Me will stay with Beckett | Tattersalls

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You Got To Me's trainer Ralph Beckett (l) and Alex Elliott | Tattersalls

Tattersalls December Cont.

The fevered environment which has surrounded the top end of the market at Tattersalls ever since Book 1 back in October continued on what turned out to be the highest-grossing sale in European auction history. A clearance rate of 85%, achieved through the sale of 200 fillies and mares, brought turnover of 55,168,500 gns, up by 14% on this day last year, which saw 175 sold. The average remained steady at 275,843gns, but indicating the strength of the middle tier, the median was up by 30% at 120,000gns.

Coolmore Believe in Boughey

Coolmore Stud paid the ultimate compliment to George Boughey by securing Group 2-winning sprinter Believing (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}) at 3 million gns before confirming that the Newmarket handler's stable star would be kept in her familiar surroundings with the ambition of bagging a breakthrough success at the highest level in 2025.



MV Magnier signed for one mare on Tuesday in Believing | Tattersalls

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Billed as one of the main attractions of the Sceptre Sessions, Believing did not disappoint. It's been a similar story on the track as, along with scoring a Group 2 success, she has been placed four times at the highest level.

“Amazing,” Boughey beamed shortly after the hammer fell. “She’s been a model of consistency throughout her career and showed very well here at the sale. The fact that she’s a Group 1 racing prospect was a huge thing to get her value over 2 [million].

“She has a chance of going on and winning a Group 1 next year and I’m delighted for MV Magnier and Coolmore who supported the stallion Mehmas at Book 1. We’d spoken about it before and there was a bit of a plan to go on next year so we’re delighted. She stays in training and will come back to us. She’s a beautiful outcross to all of their stallions and it made plenty of sense for them.”

He added, “Having Cachet last year and Believing coming back, I had my suspicion that she would make where she did. It’s great for Highclere to have such good fillies to race. And for their shareholders, who are a great group of owners who travelled around the world with her. It’s the perfect ending for both them and us. We’ve had a few horses together [with Coolmore] recently and we’re delighted to have a filly to race at such a high level and for such a big operation.” **Cont. p5**



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Highclere's Harry Herbert | Tattersalls

Tattersalls December Cont.

It was at this sale 12 months ago that Boughey sold his 1,000 Guineas winner Cachet (Ire) (Aclaim {Ire}) for 2.2 million gns to Katsumi Yoshida. Like Cachet, Believing was owned by Highclere Thoroughbreds, and is another high-profile graduate from the breeze-up circuit, having been sourced from Michael Fitzpatrick at the Craven Sale in 2022.

Highclere's Harry Herbert said, "I was hearing from Jake [Warren] and the team at the stud that all the key people were on her, but we've seen so many disappointments in the ring, buying, selling and the rest of it. When it happens for the 20 shareholders after the journey they've had, from the breeze-ups when she was bought for 110,000gns to 3 millions gns, it's remarkable."

He added, "I understand she may be staying with him [Boughey]. She's been phenomenal and very unlucky not to be a Group 1 winner. It's so incredible to have a filly who looks like that, with that incredible will to win, consistency and speed. I think the fact she's staying with George is a wonderful bonus as well. We'll follow her wherever she goes."

Stewart Makes His Voice Heard

He hasn't gone away, you know. Major American player John Stewart may not have been at Tattersalls in person but he played a significant role in the buoyancy of the second of the Sceptre Sessions, spending 6.15 million gns on four elite prospects to race on either in America or Europe.

The largest outlay from Stewart came for the final wildcard of the Sceptre Sessions, the G1 Prix Marcel Boussac winner Vertical Blue (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}), who, having been bought through Paul Nataf by trainer Francis Graffard for €50,000 15 months ago, returned to the ring to make 3.2 million gns. **Cont. p6**

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Tattersalls December Cont.

Stewart is already an owner in Graffard’s Chantilly stable, as the majority shareholder of the Group 1 winner Goliath (Ger), and the trainer will no doubt be hoping to retain this Classic prospect for next season.

“I think she will,” he said. “I just spoke to John [Stewart] and I would be surprised if he doesn’t send her back to me.”

Graffard added, “It’s a beautiful sale and I’m very pleased for the owner. They have had a lot of fun with this filly and I think they will be delighted with the price. For the whole team at home it will be very good to have her back. She’s a great filly and a great prospect. It’s a new owner so I’ll have to discuss plans with him. I don’t see why she wouldn’t turn up in a Guineas and then I think she can stay 10 furlongs, so why not the French Oaks? It depends, maybe he would like to send her to America to race as well. We have plenty of options. He’s a great owner, a fantastic man with a



Resolute’s John Stewart | Sarah Andrew

very different view of racing. It’s a very positive attitude and exciting for us. I hope we can bring him the results and make sure he stays in the business.”

Stewart’s opening salvo had been to buy the first of the elite Sceptre group through the ring—another Mehmas juvenile in the Group 3-placed Tales Of The Heart (Ire) for 650,000gns—but that was merely a warm-up.

Bidding online, he claimed the first seven-figure of the session, the G1 Irish 1,000 Guineas runner-up A Lilac Rolla (Ire) (Harry Angel {Ire}) at a million gns, but he was still full of running by the time Village Voice (GB) (Zarak {Fr}) entered the ring.

Eventually seeing off underbidder John Sykes and Will Walden at 1.3 million gns for the G3 Prix de Flore winner, Stewart told TDN, “The

fillies and mares are coming to America to dominate Keeneland. We are specifically looking for turf fillies that like soft ground. I told people I was serious. 2024 was just a sample of what is to come from Resolute.” [Cont. p7](#)

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Bill Oppenheim | Tattersalls

Tattersalls December Cont.

He added, "I was the underbidder on Believing too. That sucked. But I gave it a good run."

The very happy team behind four-year-old Village Voice included bloodstock agent Patrick Cooper of BBA Ireland, who bought the daughter of the **Street Sense** mare Sensible Way for 38,000gns at the Tattersalls Guineas Breeze-up Sale, along with pedigree expert and journalist Bill Oppenheim and Tattersalls' marketing director Jimmy George.

"It's a fantastic result. Couldn't be happier," said Oppenheim. "Jimmy and I were really just passengers. It was Patrick who found her, and Jessie and Kate [Harrington] who developed her and all thanks go to them, because they're the ones who made it happen.

"The great thing is that she's probably better now than she has ever been in her life. She looks, to me, the best she's ever looked, and I hope whoever has bought her will go on and give her a career as a five-year-old because I think she'll be a Group 1 horse for sure."

He added, "Patrick is a great judge and we're really lucky that he includes us. This is probably about the fourth horse we've had together in about 15 years that has turned out to be really good. They obviously cover the bad ones that haven't turned out so well. Nobody seems to remember those, including us. One of

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the things that we have always understood about this game is that you have to hit a home run to stay in business.

"I've been very lucky in my career to be involved in some very good horses with other people. Now we'll have to have Patrick go out and find another one."

Life-Changing Result For Coleman With The Palace Girl

They say a racehorse can change your life. Trainer Kevin Coleman and bloodstock agent Sean Grassick might well agree after selling €30,000 yearling purchase The Palace Girl (Ger) (Areion {Ger}) for a cool 1.55 million gns to Woodford Thoroughbreds.

The stars aligned leading up to the Sceptre Sessions. On the day that the Atomic Racing-owned filly made a hugely eye-catching debut to finish second to the highly-touted Giselle (Ire) in a Curragh maiden, her half-sister Tamfana (Ger) (Soldier Hollow {GB}) landed the Group 1 Sun Chariot Stakes at Newmarket.

Like Tamfana, The Palace Girl was sourced by Coleman and Grassick at the BBAG September Yearling Sale for what is looking increasingly good value. Usually, when a filly with her profile comes on the market, they are sold privately. But that pedigree update persuaded connections to roll the big dice in the ring. And boy did it pay off. [Cont. p8](#)



The Palace Girl | Tattersalls



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Tattersalls December Cont.

Coleman joked, "I was hoping she'd make three million but sure we'll take it! Look, it's only money and it still doesn't beat the buzz of winning a race--even a class 5 at Southwell. It's different. I suppose, we were offered a lot of money privately. I turned down a lot of money. Did I think she was going to make this money? No. But I did think she was going to make a lot of money so it was on me coming here."

The trainer added, "I just knew when they saw the physical, it was going to happen. She's beautiful. Obviously she had to be to make that. But, obviously the pedigree update, the company she kept on debut at the Curragh and obviously how she showed this week, she's a very nice filly. Everyone is delighted. It just means we can pay for the yearlings we bought this year! So it's all rolled back in again. But, we've never had anything like this one. We knew that a long, long time ago. I just hope to God she will go on and do what we think she will do."

Lumiere Rocks Into 1.3 Million To Grand Stud

Fresh from spending \$6 million on the Grade 1 winner **McKulick (GB) (Frankel {GB})** when she topped last month's 'Night of the Stars' at Fasig-Tipton, Japan's Grand Stud added to their blossoming broodmare band with another seven-figure purchase on Tuesday when going to 1.3 million guineas to secure last year's G2 Blandford Stakes winner and G1 Prix de l'Opera third **Lumiere Rock (Ire) (Saxon Warrior {Jpn})**.

Grand Stud bred the recent Cattleja Stakes winner **Natural Rise (Jpn) (Kizuna {Jpn})**, who is said to be "the number one dirt two-year-old in Japan at the moment", and the burgeoning operation seems hell bent on improving the quality of its 60-strong broodmare band if their recent exploits in the sales ring are anything to go by. They also signed for the GII Flower Bowl Stakes winner **Idea Generation (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire})** at 900,000gns. **Cont. p9**



Emmanuel de Seroux signed for Lumiere Rock for Grand Stud
Tattersalls

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2	Lope De Vega	€175,000	3	\$6,767,848
3	Sea The Stars	€250,000	1	\$6,679,461

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Tattersalls December Cont.

Emmanuel de Seroux of Narvick International, who signed the docket on behalf of Grand Stud, said of Lumiere Rock, “She was a very good racemare and she has a very good pedigree. We like **Saxon Warrior**, obviously, being from the Deep Impact line. She has a very good conformation and was a very attractive mare for them to join the stud.”

He added, “We’re just building up the mares at the moment and don’t have that many racing.”

Talking Points

- Away from the Sceptre Sessions, **Blackbeard's** sister Run Away (Ire) (**No Nay Never**) reached 650,000gns to Henri Bozo's Ecurie des Monceaux, who were buying out Sheikh Fahad Al Thani in the partnership. Placed at Listed level in France for Andrew Balding when running in the colours of David Howden along with partners Qatar Bloodstock and Monceaux, the filly, who was originally 'sold' for €2.6 million to Richard Knight as a yearling, will "bring something new" to the French stud, according to Bozo. He confirmed that Howden was remaining in the partnership.
- Whatton Manor Stud have enjoyed a productive sale so far, with 16 lots selling for a total of 1.67 million gns, figures which could have looked better still had Zero Gravity (GB) (Dansili {GB})--the dam of star filly Kalpana (GB) (Study Of Man {Ire})--not failed to find a buyer at 575,000gns during Monday's Sceptre Session. On Tuesday, Whatton Manor were responsible for the Shamardal mare Gumriyah (GB), the dam of last year's G3 Hampton Court Stakes runner-up Exoplanet (Fr) (**Sea The Stars {Ire}**), and a half-sister to Classic heroine Legatissimo (Ire) (Danehill Dancer {Ire}), who was bought by Gary Hadden, on behalf of Craig Bennett's Merry Fox Stud, for 625,000gns. “We hoped we'd get her for a bit less,” Hadden said of the purchase. “But quality is hard to buy and, hopefully, in the long term it is a family we can develop and the value will come over a couple of generations.”
- Another Ralph Beckett-trained mare, River Of Stars (Ire) (**Sea The Stars {Ire}**), who was last seen finishing runner-up in a Group 1 over 1m6f at ParisLongchamp, went the way of Oakley Creek online for 1,650,000gns. A quick scan on Google reveals that Oakley Creek is a walkway in Auckland, New Zealand. Given Yulong's penchant for bidding online, along with their creative approach to signing for big-money lots, it wouldn't be the wildest guess as to what colours River Of Stars will line out in when next seen. The same could be said for the Henry de Bromhead-trained stayer Term Of Endearment (GB) (**Sea The Moon {Ger}**), a winner of a Group 2 over 1m6f at Goodwood, who went the way of Red Bank (also online) for 1.3 million gns. **Cont. p10**



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Philippa Cooper and Tom Goff | Tattersalls

Thought for the Day

It remains an oddity of this great business that a buyer can achieve overnight celebrity status within our own little bloodstock bubble. Make no mistake, there are big personalities at play when it comes to fighting it out for the most sought-after prospects in the ring. The owners who spend big at the sales will dominate the headlines from October onwards, regardless of how their steeds may be performing on the racecourse. There are few other sports in which the big players can bolster their own profile, not by taking out the biggest prizes on the pitch or on the track, but by sticking their chests out at the sales. It is one of the fascinating aspects of the sales season.

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Buy of the Day

Prix de l'Abbaye winner Mabs Cross (GB) (Dutch Art {GB}) is yet to breed a winner but, sold in foal to Havana Grey (GB), she could prove to have been well bought by Blandford Bloodstock's Tom Goff on behalf of Barronstown Stud. For starters, her covering sire can do little wrong and Dutch Art is a hugely respected broodmare sire. Mabs Cross was one of the fastest horses of her generation and, at just 10 years of age, there should be plenty of foals to look forward to with her yet.

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SESSION TOPPERS
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TATTERSALLS DECEMBER MARES SALE DAY 2
TUESDAY'S TOP LOTS

- | Lot | Name | Status | Price (gns) |
|--------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| 1753 | You Got To Me (GB) | Horse-in-Training | 4,800,000 |
| | <i>(f, 3, Nathaniel {Ire}--Brushing {GB}, by Medicean {GB})
 Bred by Dullingham Park Stud & Sarabex (GB)
 Consigned by Newsells Park Stud, Ltd.
 Purchased by Amo Racing</i> | | |
| 1770A | Vertical Blue (Ire) | Horse-in-Training | 3,200,000 |
| | <i>(f, 2, Mehmas {Ire}--Krunch {GB}, by Sea The Stars {Ire})
 Bred by Haras du Mont dit Mont (Ire)
 Consigned by Graffard Racing
 Purchased by Resolute Bloodstock</i> | | |

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| 1740 | Believing (Ire) | Horse-in-Training | 3,000,000 |
| | <i>(f, 4, Mehmas {Ire}--Misfortunate {Ire}, by Kodiak {GB})
 Bred by M. Mullen & Cloneymore Farm (Ire)
 Consigned by Highclere Stud
 Purchased by MV Magnier</i> | | |
| 1750 | River Of Stars (Ire) | Horse-in-Training | 1,650,000 |
| | <i>(m, 5, Sea The Stars {Ire}--Amazone {Ger}, by Adlerflug {Ger})
 Bred by Dr Klaus Schulte (Ire)
 Consigned by Kimpton Down Stables
 Purchased by Oakley Creek</i> | | |
| 1770B | The Palace Girl (Ger) | Horse-in-Training | 1,550,000 |
| | <i>(f, 2, Areion {Ger}--Tres Magnifique {Fr}, by Zoffany {Ire})
 Bred by Gestut Etzean & Hans-Helmut Rodenburg (Ger)
 Consigned by Slievebrook House
 Purchased by D, Woodford Thoroughbreds, LLC</i> | | |
| 1743 | Village Voice (GB) | Horse-in-Training | 1,300,000 |
| | <i>(f, 4, Zarak {Fr}--Sensible Way, by Street Sense)
 Bred by Malih Al Basti (GB)
 Consigned by Simmonstown Stud
 Purchased by Resolute Bloodstock</i> | | |



12
 Blacktype 3YOs
 in Europe in 2024.
 Only **DUBAWI, FRANKEL,**
GALILEO, NIGHT OF THUNDER,
LOPE DE VEGA, KIINGMAN
 and **SEA THE STARS**
 have more!

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750,000gns

CHURCHILL

COOLMORE 2025 FEE: €25,000

Toppers Cont.

- 1748 Lumiere Rock (Ire) Horse-in-Training 1,300,000**
(f, 4, Saxon Warrior {Jpn}--Last Gold {Fr}, by Gold Away {Ire})
Bred by The Last Partnership (Ire)
Consigned by The Castlebridge Consignment
Purchased by Narvick/Grand Stud

- 1757 Tem Of Endearment (GB) Horse-in-Training 1,300,000**
(m, 5, Sea The Moon {Ger}--Miss You Too {GB},
by Montjeu {Ire})
Bred by Mr Andrew Whitlock (GB)
Consigned by Imperium Sales
Purchased by Red Bank

- 1735 A Lilac Rolla (Ire) Horse-Out-of-Training 1,000,000**
(f, 3, Harry Angel {Ire}--Mejala {Ire}, by Red Ransom)
Bred by John Cullinan (Ire)
Consigned by Athassel House Stud
Purchased by Resolute Bloodstock

- 1737 Deadly Nightshade i/f to Wootton Bassett (GB) 900,000**
(m, 4, Justify--Fabulous {Ire}, by Galileo {Ire})
Bred by Orpendale/Chelston/Wynatt (KY)
Consigned by Norelands
Purchased by Haras des Monceaux

- 1762 Idea Generation (Ire) Horse-in-Training 900,000**
(f, 4, Dubawi {Ire}--Knocknagree {Ire}, by Galileo {Ire})
Bred by Epona Bloodstock, Ltd. (Ire)
Consigned by European Sales Management
Purchased by Narvick/Grand Stud


- 1722 Sweety Dream (Fr) i/f to Night Of Thunder (Ire) 775,000**
(m, 9, Dream Ahead--Excellent Girl {GB},
by Exceed And Excel {Aus})
Bred by Aleyrion Bloodstock, Ltd. (Fr)
Consigned by Oghill House Stud
Purchased by Amo Racing

- 1758 Oujda (Fr) Horse-Out-of-Training 750,000**
(f, 4, Sioux Nation--La Conseillante, by Elusive Quality)
Bred by SCEA du Grand Chene & Haras du Bois (Fr)
Consigned by The Castlebridge Consignment
Purchased by Woodford Thoroughbreds, LLC

- 1761 Joie De Soir (Ire) i/f to Justify 750,000**
(m, 6, Fastnet Rock {Aus}--Highest Ever {Ire}, by Galileo {Ire})
Bred by Coolmore (Ire)
Consigned by The Castlebridge Consignment
Purchased by Marlhill House Stud

- 1747 Frangipani (Ger) i/f to Sea The Moon (Ger) 725,000**
(m, 10, Jukebox Jury {Ire}--Firedance {Ger}, by Lomitas {GB})
Bred by Graf & Graf von Stauffenberg (Ger)
Consigned by The Castlebridge Consignment
Purchased by Willingham

- 1723 Bighearted (GB) i/f to Modern Games (Ire) 700,000**
(m, 8, Farhh {GB}--Bianca Nera {GB}, by Salse)
Bred by R. Frisby (GB)
Consigned by Lanwades Stud
Purchased by Hillwood Bloodstock



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SPONSORS OF THE FOLLOWING STATS FOR THE:

TATTERSALLS DECEMBER MARES SALE DAY 2

SESSION TOTALS	2024	2023
• Catalogued	289	274
• Number Offered	235	221
• Number Sold	200	175
• Not Sold	35	46
• Clearance Rate	85%	79%
• No. 500K+	30	26
• High Price	4,800,000gns	4,500,000gns
• Gross	55,168,500gns (+14%)	48,167,000gns
• Average (% change)	275,843gns (+0.2%)	275,240gns
• Median (% change)	120,000gns (+30%)	92,000gns

CUMULATIVE	2024	2023
• Catalogued	593	572
• Number Offered	496	463
• Number Sold	423	373
• Not Sold	73	90
• Clearance Rate	85%	80%
• No. 500K+	35	29
• High Price	4,800,000gns	4,500,000gns
• Gross	78,124,000gns (+22.7%)	63,644,300gns
• Average (% change)	184,690gns (+8.2%)	170,628gns
• Median (% change)	80,000gns (+33.3%)	60,000gns

EUROPEAN NEWS

'ONE OF US': HH AGA KHAN HONOURED AT HRI AWARDS



HH Aga Khan, right, with his multiple Group 1 winner Dalakhani
Scoop Dyga

His Highness the Aga Khan has been acknowledged for his significant involvement in racing and breeding in being given the Contribution to the Industry Award at the annual Horse Racing Ireland Awards on Monday evening.

"With these awards, we celebrate something more profound than achievements and investments," said HRI Chairman Nicky Hartery. "His Highness the Aga Khan is not just a valued partner of the Irish racing community; he is one of us. We feel that he is part of the very fabric of our industry, and we have claimed him as one of our own."

"We are forever grateful for all His Highness has done for Irish horse racing. His vision, dedication, and generosity has enriched our sport and strengthened our community in ways that will endure for generations."

Aidan O'Brien was the recipient of the Flat Award after a season which saw him crowned champion trainer in both Ireland and Britain, with his National Hunt counterpart Willie Mullins also achieving that same notable double. Mullins was duly given the National Hunt Award.

The Flat Achievement Award went the way of Gerry Keane, who was represented by Royal Ascot winner Crystal Black (Ire), ridden by the trainer's son, champion jockey Colin Keane, during a memorable season. Champion apprentice James Ryan received the Emerging Talent Award.

Suzanne Eade, chief executive of HRI, said, "It was an honour to celebrate Irish racing and breeding this evening and give due recognition to those who make our industry the incredible success it is. We owe His Highness the Aga Khan so much and I hope that tonight's recognition goes some way towards acknowledging his immense contribution, wonderful generosity and an unwavering support of our industry."

The 22nd Horse Racing Ireland Award Winners:

- Contribution to the Industry: His Highness the Aga Khan
- Horse of the Year: Galopin Des Champs
- Emerging Talent Award: James Ryan
- National Hunt Award: Willie Mullins
- National Hunt Achievement Award: Tom Gibney
- Point-to-Point Award: David Christie
- Flat Award: Aidan O'Brien
- Flat Achievement Award: Gerry Keane
- Racecourse of the Year: Fairyhouse
- Ride of the Year Award: JJ Slevin

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ARQANA ADVISORY ON EHV-1 OUTBREAK IN PARIS



Horses will be tested beforehand and monitored throughout the sale
Zuzanna Lupa

Arqana has moved to allay concerns ahead of its Breeding Stock Sale following a reported outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) in two sport horses near Paris.

A statement released by the sales company on Tuesday read, "With just a few days to go before the Vente d'Eleavage, Arqana has sent all vendors a specific equine health protocol to follow as a result of a call for vigilance by the RESPE (equine infectious disease surveillance) after two cases of EHV-1 were reported in mid-November in sport horses located in the Paris region."

[Cont. p14](#)

EHV-1 Outbreak Near Paris Cont.

The statement continued, "To date, the crisis unit in place has not reported any significant change in the number of positive cases. Furthermore, no cases have been recorded among racehorses or bloodstock. However, Arqana has decided to be proactive and, in conjunction with France Galop, has put in place measures to ensure the health of the lots offered for sale. All horses will have been tested before arriving at the Deauville establishment and regular temperature readings will be taken (before and during the sale) to prevent any potential cases. The veterinary resources deployed by Arqana have been reinforced to ensure the best possible monitoring of the health of the horses at the Deauville sales."

The Arqana Breeding Stock Sale begins its four-day run on Saturday, December 7.

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APPOINTMENT OF NEW BHA CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON HOLD UNTIL 2025



Brant Dunshea: will serve as acting CEO | BHA

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) confirmed on Tuesday that the appointment of a new chief executive officer will be announced in the new year to allow the newly appointed BHA chair, Lord Allen of Kensington, to play a role in the recruitment process.

Upon the completion of Julie Harrington's term on Tuesday, December 31, the BHA's current chief regulatory officer Brant Dunshea will take on the role of acting CEO while the recruitment process is finalised.

Dunshea joined the BHA in March 2015. He was promoted to the role of director of integrity and regulatory operations in September 2016 and then chief regulatory officer in April 2018.

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JUNTA MARVEL LEADS GOFFS DECEMBER NH SUPPLEMENTS

Grade 3 bumper winner **Junta Marvel (Fr)** (Masked Marvel {GB}) (lot 750), in foal to Blue Bresil (Fr), is one of seven supplemental entries for the Goffs December NH Sale. Scheduled for Dec. 9-11, the sale features breeding stock and foals and begins at 10 a.m. each day.

A trio of mares join Junta Marvel--lot 751, **Happy Halo (Ire)** (Saint Des Saints {Fr}) in foal to Blue Bresil (Fr) and out of a full-sister to graded winner Royal Alphabet (Ire) (King's Theatr); **Sainte Baol (Fr)** (Saint Des Saints {Fr}) (lot 752) in foal to Poet's Word (Ire), and **Maggie Bugatti (Ire)** (Gentlewave {Ire}) (lot 753) carrying to Affinisea (Ire). There are also three more foals by Vadamos (Fr) (lot 686A), a colt, a Crystal Ocean (GB) filly (lot 686B); and a Nirvana Du Berlais (Fr) filly (lot 686C).

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FIRST-SEASON SIRE WITH RUNNERS

Wednesday, December 4, 2024:

UNITED KINGDOM

Circus Maximus (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Coolmore Stud
49 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners
16:40-KEMPTON PARK, 6f, **Saidha (GB)**
18,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2022

Ghaiyyath (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), Kildangan Stud
101 foals of racing age/10 winners/0 black-type winners
16:10-KEMPTON PARK, 7f, **Arabian Leopard (GB)**
58,000gns Tattersalls Somerville Yearling Sale 2023; 150,000gns Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Sale 2024

Hey Gaman (GB) (New Approach {Ire}), Haras du Taillis
10 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
11:50-LINGFIELD PARK, 7f, **Magic Glow (Fr)**
€11,000 Osarus September Yearling Sale 2023

Kameko (Kitten's Joy), Tweenhills Stud
87 foals of racing age/14 winners/2 black-type winners
17:10-KEMPTON PARK, 6f, **Berkshire Kameo (GB)**
52,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2022; €90,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale (Book 1) 2023
18:10-KEMPTON PARK, 8f, **Kamekist (GB)**
45,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2022; 85,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2023; 105,000gns Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Sale 2024
16:10-KEMPTON PARK, 7f, **Lady Mariko (GB)**



Shaman has runners in Britain and Ireland on Wednesday
Yeomanstown Stud

Legends of War (Scat Daddy), March Hare Stud
14 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
16:40-KEMPTON PARK, 6f, **Jorp (GB)**

Persian King (Ire) (Kingman {GB}), Haras d'Etreham
105 foals of racing age/14 winners/0 black-type winners
12:50-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, **Pershalla (GB)**
50,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2023
12:20-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, **Princess Qajar (GB)**
12,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 3) 2023

Pinatubo (Ire) (Shamardal), Dalham Hall Stud
110 foals of racing age/21 winners/1 black-type winner
17:40-KEMPTON PARK, 8f, **Spectacular View (GB)**
270,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2022
12:20-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, **Texas Starlight (Fr)**
€185,000 Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale 2023
16:10-KEMPTON PARK, 7f, **Volcanic Dancer (GB)**

Shaman (Ire) (Shamardal), Yeomanstown Stud
104 foals of racing age/11 winners/0 black-type winners
12:50-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, **Africa Charm (Ire)**
€16,000 Goffs February Sale 2023; £36,000 Goffs UK Premier Yearling Sale 2023

Without Parole (GB) (Frankel {GB}), Newsells Park Stud
53 foals of racing age/12 winners/0 black-type winners
12:20-LINGFIELD PARK, 8f, **Pink Petunia (GB)**
16:10-KEMPTON PARK, 7f, **Trumpress (GB)**
40,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2022; 30,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 3) 2023

IRELAND

Arizona (Ire) (No Nay Never), Coolmore Stud
66 foals of racing age/10 winners/1 black-type winner
4-DUNDALK, 8f, **City Pass (Ire)**
€11,500 RNA Goffs February Sale 2023; €8,500 RNA Goffs Autumn Yearling Sale 2023
4-DUNDALK, 8f, **Temps Leve (Ire)**
€10,000 RNA Goffs Orby Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2023
3-DUNDALK, 7f, **Wizard of Odds (Ire)**
€10,000 RNA Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling Sale Part II 2023

Earthlight (Ire) (Shamardal), Kildangan Stud
113 foals of racing age/18 winners/1 black-type winner
3-DUNDALK, 7f, **Nyman (Ire)**
€38,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2022; £70,000 Goffs UK Premier Yearling Sale 2023; 50,000gns RNA Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Sale 2024

Hello Youmzain (Fr) (Kodiac {GB}), Haras d'Etreham
111 foals of racing age/19 winners/2 black-type winners
1-DUNDALK, 5f, **Hello Luna (Fr)**
€85,000 Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale 2022; €220,000 Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale 2023; €220,000 Arqana May 2yo Breeze Up 2024

Shaman (Ire) (Shamardal), Yeomanstown Stud
104 foals of racing age/11 winners/0 black-type winners
4-DUNDALK, 8f, **Vihova (GB)**
€12,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2022; €28,000 Goffs Autumn Yearling Sale 2023

OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

TOP-PRICED BOOK 1 FILLY SET FOR KEMPTON DEBUT

16.10 Kempton, Nov, £6,800, 2yo, f, 7f (AWT)
Shadwell's **ALFAREQA (GB)** (Frankel {GB}) is an Owen Burrows-trained daughter of G1 Cheveley Park Stakes victrix Millisle (Ire) (Starspangledbanner {Aus}) and was the top-priced filly when knocked down for 1.6-million guineas at last year's October Book 1 sale. She faces a baker's dozen in this unveiling, including The Thoroughbred Corporation's **Sand Gazelle (GB)** (Frankel {GB}), a 425,000gns October Book 1 graduate out of a half-sister to G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine Bluestocking (GB) (Camelot {GB}), representing Team Gosden; and the once-raced Andrew Balding trainee **Thaisa (GB)** (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), who is a half-sister to the stable's ill-fated five-time Group 2 winner Beat The Bank (GB) (Paco Boy {Ire}).

Observations Cont.**12.20 Lingfield, Nov, £6,300, 2yo, f, 8f 1y (AWT)**

Lord Lloyd-Webber's homebred **JOYFUL SOUND (GB) (Masar {Ire})** is the penultimate foal out of stellar producer Claba Di San Jore (Ire) (Barathea {Ire}) and encounters seven rivals in this debut for the Ed Walker yard. The February-foaled chestnut is a half-sister to Group 1 winners Crackerjack King (Ire) (Shamardal), Awelmarduk (Ire) (Almutawakel {GB}) and Jakkalberry (Ire) (Storming Home {GB}) and to stakes-winning G2 Oaks d'Italia runner-up Joyful Hope (GB) (Shamardal)

17.40 Kempton, Nov, £6,800, 2yo, 8f (AWT)

Rockcliffe Stud homebred **KOMODO ISLAND (GB) (Frankel {GB})**, another notable newcomer for the Ed Walker yard, is a full-brother to G1 Falmouth Stakes heroine Snow Lantern (GB) out of four-time Group 1 winner Sky Lantern (Ire) (Red Clubs {Ire}). Rivals include Cayton Park Stud's **King Of Narnia (GB) (Kingman {GB})**, who is a half-brother to four stakes performers headed by multiple Group 1-winning dual South African champion Oh Susanna (Aus) (Street Cry {Ire}) and the dual Group 1-placed Signore Fox (Aus) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), representing John and Thady Gosden; and fellow debutant **Shipshape (Ire) (New Bay {GB})**, who is a 105,000gns Book 2 half-brother to the multiple Group 1-placed dual Group winner Swingalong (Ire) (Showcasing {GB}), from the Ralph Beckett stable.

18.10 Kempton, Nov, £6,800, 2yo, 8f (AWT)

Nat Rothschild's unraced **NOBLE HORIZON (GB) (Kingman {GB})**, is a homebred half-brother to three stakes performers out of G1 Irish Oaks heroine Great Heavens (GB) (Galileo {Ire}), herself a daughter of storied blue hen Magnificent Style (Silver Hawk). The William Haggas trainee encounters one dozen rivals headed by Juddmonte's **Modernise (GB) (Frankel {GB})**, who is a Harry Charlton-trained half-brother to the dual Grade I-placed Grand Jete (GB) (Dansili {GB}); and Godolphin's 400,000gns Book 1 graduate **King's Norton (GB) (Dubawi {Ire})**, who is a gelded son of G1 1000 Guineas and G1 Sun Chariot Stakes heroine Billesdon Brook (GB) (Champs Elysees {GB}), from the Charlie Appleby nursery.

HOW THEY FARED

14.30 Deauville, Mdn, €30,000, unraced 2yo, c/g, 9 1/2f (AWT)
Kindleo (GB) (Frankel {GB}), a full-brother to last term's G1 Prix de la Foret victrix and 'TDN Rising Star' Kelina (Ire), shaped with promise and made eye-catching late headway from off the pace to finish 3/4-of-a-length adrift of the winner in second.

15.05 Deauville, Mdn, €30,000, unraced 2yo, f, 9 1/2f (AWT)
Rooba (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), a half-sister to dual G1 Prix Royal-Oak hero Double Major (Ire) (Daiwa Major {Jpn}), was off the tempo for most of this unveiling and showed up well in the straight to finish just under 5 1/2 lengths behind the winner in fifth.

15.40 Deauville, Mdn, €30,000, 2yo, c/g, 7 1/2f (AWT)
Cualificar (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}), Godolphin's son of G1 Oaks heroine Qualify (Ire) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), followed up a debut third at Saint-Cloud last month with a 1 1/2-length fourth after blowing the start in this second outing.

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BRITAIN**Tuesday's Results:**

3rd-Newcastle, £6,300, Nov, 12-3, 2yo, 8f 5y (AWT), 1:43.20, st/sl.
GUNSHIP (IRE) (c, 2, Sea The Stars {Ire})--Lucky Clio {Ire}, by Key Of Luck found cover, lobbing along behind the leading duo, after an alert getaway in this debut. Nudged along soon after passing halfway, the 22-1 outsider came under sterner urging approaching the two pole and was driven out in the latter stages to prevail by a short-head from the fast-finishing Merchant (Ire) (Teofilo {Ire}). Gunship is the 11th of 12 foals and ninth scorer out of a half-sister to dual G2 Prix Daniel Wildenstein-winning sire Special Kaldoun (Ire) (Alzao) and Listed Prix Yacowlef third Privalova (Ire) (Alhaarth {Ire}). He is a half-brother to G1 Irish 2000 Guineas-winning sire Phoenix Of Spain (Ire) (Lope De Vega {Ire}), G3 Dee Stakes third Kingsdesire (Ire) (King's Best), G3 Royal Whip Stakes third Central Square (Ire) (Azamour {Ire}), the dual stakes-placed Lucky Beggar (Ire) (Verglas {Ire}) and a yearling filly by Dark Angel (Ire). Sales history: €175,000 Ylg '23 GOFOR. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$4,305.
O-Qatar Bloodstock Ltd, China Horse Club International & David Howden; B-Tourgar Bloodstock Ltd (IRE); T-James Ferguson.

3rd-Lingfield, £6,300, Mdn, 12-3, 2yo, 8f 1y (AWT), 1:37.28, st.
MARHABA GHAIYYATH (IRE) (c, 2, Ghaiyyath {Ire})--Zam Zoom {Ire}, by Dalakhani {Ire}), a Nov. 16 debut runner-up tackling an extended one mile at Wolverhampton in his only prior start, was well away from an outer gate and stalked the leader in second through halfway. Seizing a decisive advantage on the home turn, the 8-13 favourite was shaken up at the top of the straight and kept on in resolute fashion under a final-furlong drive to hold the late thrust of Circus Of Rome (GB) (Circus Maximus {Ire}) by a short-head, becoming the 10th winner for his freshman sire (by Dubawi {Ire}). **Cont. p17**

3rd-Lingfield Cont.

Marhaba Ghaiyyath is the latest of eight live foals and sixth scorer produced by an unraced half to G3 Winter Derby victor Nideeb (GB) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}) and the dual Group-placed Suegioo (Fr) (Manduro {Ger}). The March-foaled bay is a half-brother to dual Group-winning G1 Irish St Leger runner-up Fujaira Prince (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}), dual stakes-winning G3 St Simon Stakes second Nichols Canyon (GB) (Authorized {Ire}) and Listed Cheshire Oaks third Bright Approach (Ire) (New Approach {Ire}). Sales history: 28,000gns Ylg '23 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, \$7,392.

O-Jaber Abdullah; B-Ballymaglassan Farm Ltd (IRE); T-Charlie Johnston.

4th-Lingfield, £6,300, Mdn, 12-3, 2yo, 8f 1y (AWT), 1:39.50, st. BARIDI (GB) (c, 2, Sergei Prokofiev--Secret Hint {GB}, by Oasis Dream {GB}), seventh and adrift of Marhaba Ghaiyyath (Ire) (Ghaiyyath {Ire}) going an extended mile at Wolverhampton in his Nov. 16 debut when last seen, was under a firm grip trapped wide in a handy third through the initial fractions of this return. Inching ahead of Solar Pass (GB) (Phoenix Reach {Ire}) on the home turn, the 14-1 chance was shaken up in front approaching the furlong pole and driven out to contain that tenacious rival's rally by a neck, becoming the 26th winner for his freshman sire (by Scat Daddy). Baridi is the latest of three foals and second scorer thrown by a multiple-winning granddaughter of G1 Oaks d'Italia third Las Flores (Ire) (Sadler's Wells). Las Flores, in turn, is out of G1 Prix de la Foret heroine Producer (Nashua) and thus kin to G2 Royal Whip victor and multiple Group 1-placed sire Bach (Ire) (Caerleon) and stakes-winning G1 Irish 1000 Guineas runner-up Dancing Goddess (Nijinsky II). Sales history: 8,000gns RNA Ylg '23 TATOCT; 48,000gns RNA 2yo '24 TATJUL. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$4,305.

O-R Mills & Partner; B-Moyns Park Estate & Stud Ltd (GB); T-Stuart Williams.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Kammeel (GB), g, 2, Sergei Prokofiev--Hadeeya (GB), by Oratorio (Ire). Newcastle, 12-3, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:29.32. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, \$5,840. B-Kirtlington Stud & Mrs Sarah Hamilton (IRE). *27th winner for freshman sire (by Scat Daddy). **70,000gns Wlg '22 TATFOA; 115,000gns Ylg '23 TATOCT. ***1/2 to Ropey Guest (GB) (Cable Bay {Ire}), MGSP-Eng, \$378,567.

Steel Tiger (Ire), g, 3, Almanzor (Fr)--Mission Impassible (Ire) (GSW & G1SP-Fr, GISP-US, \$312,159), by Galileo (Ire). Newcastle, 12-3, 12f 98y (AWT), 2:48.81. Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-1, \$15,649. B-Haras d'Etream, Riviera Equine SARL & Gestut Zur Kuste AG (IRE). *€110,000 Ylg '22 ARQDOY.

FRANCE

Tuesday's Results:

2nd-Deauville, €30,000, Mdn, 12-3, unraced 2yo, c/g, 9 1/2f (AWT), 2:01.33, st.

FRANKLY GOOD CEN (FR) (c, 2, Frankel {GB})--Miss Melbourne {Fr} {SW-Fr}, by Kentucky Dynamite) soon found a comfortable rhythm tracking the leaders in third after a swift getaway in this newcomers' test. Relegated to fifth at halfway, the 3-1 second choice powered forward in the straight to launch his challenge entering the final furlong and was pushed out to deny Kindleo (GB) (Frankel {GB}) by 3/4-of-a-length in snug fashion. Frankly Good Cen is the fourth of five foals and second scorer produced by Listed Prix Occitanie victrix Miss Melbourne (Fr) (Kentucky Dynamite), herself the leading performer out of Listed Prix Petite Etoile third Miss Alabama (Fr) (Anabaa). Miss Alabama is a half-sister to G3 Prix Exbury victor Matarun (Ire) (Commanche Run {GB}) and dual stakes-winning sire Milford Track (Ire) (Fairly King). The April-foaled homebred chestnut is kin to a weanling filly by Kingman (GB). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €15,000. O/B-Yeguada Centurion SLU (FR); T-Victoria Head.



Frankly Good Cen | Scoop Dyga

3rd-Deauville, €30,000, Mdn, 12-3, unraced 2yo, f, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:59.37, st.

BADIE (FR) (f, 2, Le Havre {Ire})--Decize {Fr}, by Kentucky Dynamite) was the sharpest of one dozen into stride and seized an immediate lead in this debutantes' heat. Untroubled on the front end throughout, the 53-5 chance was shaken up with 300 metres remaining and coasted home in the latter stages to easily outpoint Kiamba (Ire) (Australia {GB}) by two lengths.

3rd-Deauville Cont.

Badie is the latest of seven foals and sixth scorer produced by a multiple-winning daughter of Ourika (Ire) (Danhill Dancer {Ire}), herself a winning granddaughter of G2 Prix d'Astarte victrix Navratilovna (Nureyev). The February-foaled homebred bay is a half-sister to G3 Prix des Chenes winner and G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere third Anodor (Fr) (Anodin {Ire}) and Listed Prix Tantieme third Suchet (Fr) (Cloth Of Stars {Ire}). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €15,000.

O-Mme Frederic Head; B-EURL Freddy Head (FR); T-V Head.

4th-Deauville, €30,000, Mdn, 12-3, 2yo, c/g, 7 1/2f (AWT), 1:31.30, st.

CAROMB (GB) (Showcasing {GB}--Ventoux {GB}, by Galileo {Ire}), runner-up over one mile at Chantilly in his Nov. 19 debut, stalked the pace in second for the most part here. Easing to the fore soon after turning for home, the 6-5 favourite came under pressure with 350 metres remaining and was ridden out inside the final furlong to defeat The Doctor (Fr) (Dabirsim {Fr}) by 1 1/4 lengths. Caromb is the seventh of nine foals and fifth scorer out of a winning half to multiple Group 1-winning European champion Special Duty (GB) (Hennessy), herself the dam of three black-type performers headed by last term's G1 Middle Park Stakes runner-up Task Force (GB) (**Frankel {GB}**). His dam Ventoux (GB) (Galileo {Ire}) is also kin to Listed Prix Servanne third Presidency (GB) (**Oasis Dream {GB}**) and to the dam of GI Breeders' Cup Mile-winning sire Expert Eye (GB) (Acclamation {GB}). The May-foaled homebred bay is a half-brother to last year's G3 Prix Daphnis third Colombier (GB) (**Kingman {GB}**) and a yearling colt and weanling filly by **Kingman {GB}**. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, €21,000.

O-Juddmonte Farms Inc; B-Juddmonte Farms Ireland Ltd (GB); T-Francis-Henri Graffard.

5th-Deauville, €30,000, Mdn, 12-3, 2yo, f, 7 1/2f (AWT), 1:30.15, st.

GHOUFRANN (IRE) (f, 2, Oasis Dream {GB}--Cale Lane {GB}, by Mastercraftsman {Ire}), fifth in this venue's Nov. 3 Listed Prix Zeddaan last month, broke on the lead and accepted a tow in a fifth after the opening exchanges. Making smooth headway in the straight, the 33-10 favourite launched her bid with 300 metres remaining and kept on strongly under whipless rousting to assert by 1 1/2 lengths from Marooned (Fr) (Toronado {Ire}). Ghoufrann, half-sister to a yearling colt by Galileo Gold (GB), is the second of three foals and first scorer out of a multiple-winning half-sister to G2 Temple Stakes runner-up Ainsdale (GB) (Mayson {GB}). The April-foaled bay's second dam Brunni Heinke (Ire) (Dutch Art {GB}) is a half-sister to G1 Prix Maurice de Gheest-winning sire Garswood (GB) (Dutch Art {GB}) and G2

Debutante Stakes third Zagitova (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}). Zagitova, in turn, is the dam of stakes-winning G1 Criterium International third Portland (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}). Sales history: 33,000gns Ylg '23 TATSOM; £85,000 2yo '24 GOFBRE. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, €24,000.

O-Mansour Aguel; B-Clearwater Stud (IRE); T-Hedi Ghabri.



Ghoufrann | Scoop Dyga

WORLDWIDE NEWS

THE FOXES POISED FOR LONGINES HONG KONG CUP RUN

Andrew Balding has given a positive update on his G1 Longines Hong Kong Cup entry **The Foxes (Ire) (Churchill {Ire})**, who is set to face Hong Kong superstar Romantic Warrior (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) on Sunday. He won a listed race at Newcastle over Group 1 winner Dubai Honour (Ire) (Pride Of Dubai {Aus}) last month and galloped at Sha Tin on Tuesday morning.

"He's got a fair bit to find with Romantic Warrior but I think we are certainly in the mix with the others," said Balding. "He has come out of his recent win at Newcastle very well and I can't feel we could have him any better. He's a horse we have always thought a lot of."

The King Power racing runner won the G2 Royal Lodge Stakes at two and the G2 Dante Stakes at three, before running second in the GI Belmont Derby Invitational Stakes. The Foxes was fourth in the G1 Juddmonte International Stakes in August of 2023 and did not grace the racecourse again that year, after some setbacks. **Cont. p19**

The Foxes Cont.

Third in the Winter Derby Trial Conditions Stakes this January, he was unplaced in the G2 Neom Turf Cup in February, and was ninth in the G3 Earl Of Sefton Stakes in April. Given another lengthy break, he returned to run fifth in the G3 Darley Stakes in October prior to his listed victory at Newcastle.

“We had issues with him straight after he returned from New York,” added Balding, who won the G1 Hong Kong Vase in 2004 with Phoenix Reach (Ire) (Alhaarth {Ire}). “But with plenty of time off and careful rehabilitation, he seems right back to his best. He showed that he was back on his A game when he beat Dubai Honour at Newcastle.

“We haven’t had a horse for Hong Kong for several years. But it’s always something we would like to do. I think The Foxes is quite similar to Phoenix Reach, to be honest.”

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The Foxes on Tuesday | Hong Kong Jockey Club

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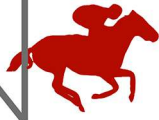
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ANNAPOLIS HELPING BASS HIT THE HIGH NOTES



Ramona and Perry Bass II leading in **Annapolis** | *Coady Media*

by Chris McGrath

When her many friends think of Ramona Bass, the first thing they picture is a smile as wide as all outdoors. And if you're used to the wide skies of South Texas, that is saying plenty. No country for old men, they call it, but from girlhood onward it has suited Bass just fine—and her own border story has instead been one that savors All The Pretty Horses.

Its latest chapter concerns her "beautiful boy" **Annapolis**, who entered her life as the bonus in the package with the \$4-million purchase of My Miss Sophia (Unbridled's Song) at the 2018 Keeneland November Sale. The GI Kentucky Oaks runner-up was then pregnant by Bass's favorite stallion, **War Front**, and from the moment their son stood up from the foaling straw it was clear that the mare was going to pay her way.

"Oh my gosh, he was a spectacular foal," Bass recalls. "Really something from day one. The mare was a huge stretch, quite terrifying actually. But when Steve [Young, agent] showed her to me, she was such a queen. And then Seth [Hancock] told me, 'You buy that mare.' So we did!"

Sent to his dam's trainer Todd Pletcher, **Annapolis** was an unbeaten graded stakes winner at two, and as a sophomore beat his seniors in the GI Coolmore Turf Mile (stakes record). But his pedigree certainly entitled him to try the main track—My Miss Sophia is a half-sister to a GI Florida Derby winner, from a family strewn with elite dirt performers—and that was very much the intention when **Annapolis** was derailed by injury in January.

'NATIONWIDE SEARCH' FOR NEW MARYLAND TRACK SUPERINTENDENT

by T.D. Thornton

On Tuesday—just two weeks after two horses died on Laurel Park's dirt surface and not even 24 hours after Laurel announced its track superintendent would be retiring immediately—the head of the new non-profit organization that will run both Laurel and Pimlico Race Course starting in 2025 told the Maryland Racing Commission that an immediate search is underway for an expert to quell the main-track woes that have intermittently plagued Laurel the past two decades.

"We will obviously do a search nationwide for a winter-weather superintendent. It's a very important position. It's a high priority for us. We will take our time and try to find the right person that fits our racetrack moving forward," said Bill Knauf, the president and general manager of The Maryland Jockey Club Inc., the new 501(c) (4) organization that has been granted state authority to manage and operate Thoroughbred horse racing at Laurel and Pimlico. **Cont. p7**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

YOU GOT TO ME 4.8M STAR AT TATTERSALLS

Amo Racing bought G1 Irish Oaks heroine **You Got To Me (GB)** (Nathaniel {Ire}) for 4.8 million gns during the Sceptre Sessions of the Tattersalls December Mares Sale on Tuesday.

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Wednesday, December 4, 2024



2024 in photos: June 3. Under the supervision of Kenny and Sonny McPeck, Mystik Dan cools out after a gallop as Thorpedo Anna prepares for training at Saratoga. | Sarah Andrew

10 | LICENSE TRANSFER HITS A SNAG IN MARYLAND

A license transfer that is needed for a new, non-profit group to take over the running of Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course starting on the first of the year got pushed off the agenda at Tuesday's Maryland Racing Commission meeting.

12 | KENTUCKY, ILLINOIS LABS' REACCREDITATION PROCESS EXTENDED

The Racetrack Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTTC) has afforded the University of Kentucky's Equine Analytical Chemistry Lab (EACL) and the University of Illinois Chicago's (UIC) Analytical Forensic Toxicology Laboratory additional time in their efforts to seek reaccreditation from the organization.

13 | BRIAN GRAVES JOINS TDN WRITERS' ROOM PODCAST

Gainesway's Brian Graves discusses hot-starting *McKinzie*, farm stalwart apit, and the historic nursery's four new stallions on the Writers' Room Podcast.

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Annapolis Helping Bass Hit the High Notes

(cont. from p1)

Suddenly he was on his way to Claiborne, with barely any time to retrieve the head start enjoyed by all the other new sires.

"It wasn't the best of timing," Bass acknowledges. "But we all went to work, bought him some nice mares and started politicking. Of course, I wasn't very quiet about him. I was pushing a little. Well, maybe a lot! Only for the Fort Worth Zoo, which has been my life's work for 40 years, do I otherwise act this way. I hope people don't start running the other way when they see me!"

To do so, however, would be to reverse every instinct for enjoyment-and, as it turned out, **Annapolis** himself was all the salesman needed.

"A lot of people got very excited very quickly," Bass says. "He's a big, strong horse with a lot of bone, and wonderful balance

and disposition. He's just gorgeous, really. And of course he's so beautifully bred. I was really thrilled with the interest. He ended up with 149 mares, which is what I consider a full book."

After that remarkable response, against the clock, **Annapolis** is now recruiting his second book. And what makes the momentum behind him so fulfilling is that a Claiborne stallion brings his owner right back to the future. To understand that, however, we must return to what was once called the Wild Horse Desert.

"But we do have shade," Bass protests, when you suggest that six generations on a cattle ranch-founded in the era of border bandits, tribal raiders and Texas Rangers-give her family history the widest of those wide horizons. "We have

trees! South Texas is actually very pretty. We have beautiful wildflowers, when it rains. And, yes, trees: gorgeous live oaks, and mesquites, and many others."



Ramona and Perry Bass with agent Steve Young (left) and Richard Mandella (right) | Benoit

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A friend from New York, though pleasantly surprised not to find herself in a literal desert, was told she couldn't leave early on a Sunday because everybody would be out with the quail hunt. Like, everybody. Not to worry, she replied, she would just get a cab. Bass raises an expressive eyebrow. "Okay, girl, you find a cab out here." So it's trees, yes; taxis, no. And the women go shooting same as everyone else.

"All of us grew up with wildlife, cattle, hunting," Bass says. "Even if people weren't ever on a ranch, that's all part of the Texas character. Texans are very proud of their heritage, and still think of themselves as independent, loyal, and probably pretty outspoken. We were a republic for nine years, and no-one ever forgets that. And that country stayed wild a long time. We were still getting bandits down there in the 1900s. I have a photo of my great uncle at the ranch with Pancho Villa."

But the Lonesome Dove heritage--and Bass remembers devouring that epic in three days straight, pregnant on the porch, resting the book on her bump as though to inculcate border lore into the next generation while yet unborn--in her family's case dovetailed usefully with another trademark Texas saga, the kind chronicled in Giant.

For it was oil that enabled her father, Arthur A. Seeligson Jr., to fund the love of racehorses he shared with his daughter.

"My husband Lee calls horses 'Ramona's affliction,'" says Bass. "In my case, it's an inherited condition. It was not so, for my father. My grandparents were rather serious, and very perplexed by horseracing and gambling. But one summer [ranching neighbor] Bob Kleberg--whose granddaughters are some of my dearest friends--took my father to Saratoga for a visit, and the rest is history.

"Dad took a share in Graustark, and bought Brown Berry who became our blue hen. It turned out to be quite the nick. From their matings we had major stakes winners not only in America but Europe as well. It was the best of times. Dad loved horses, and so did I. I'd always go to the track with him when no-one else would. Growing up, every August the whole family would leave Texas lock, stock and barrel, to be in La Jolla for Del Mar. Every year of my life. I have pictures in the winner's circle when I was probably three years old."

It wasn't just about the sire, naturally, and Bass stresses equal gratitude to the dam. ("Thank goodness," she says, "for my beautiful, talented, organized and always loving mother, who kept the whole family in order--and still does!") But when Bass referred to Texans as "pretty outspoken," her father was no exception.

"He was a character," she says. "But outspoken in a gentlemanly kind of way. When we say 'character,' it's a positive. It means a person stands out and isn't afraid to be different or unique. And he was always very funny. I miss him a lot. I was so lucky because Dad always told me I could do anything I set my mind to. And I believed him."

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One of the most fortunate introductions made in those years was to Claiborne, where Seeligson stood Brown Berry's best son. Bass alleges that she was already 20 when Avatar won the 1975 Belmont Stakes, a claim that shakes either her own credibility or that of one's math teacher. Regardless, it's a memory that keeps her young.

"He had run second to Foolish Pleasure in the Derby, and probably would have won but for an incident with a horse called Diablo, appropriately named Devil!" Bass recalls. "So Avatar should have been one of the favorites for the Belmont, but wasn't." She breaks into that smile again. "I tell you, they didn't exaggerate too much, in the Seabiscuit film, about how the East Coast looked at **West Coast** horses! Tommy Doyle worked him a mile and a half the Wednesday before the race. Do that today, they'd say you were crazy. But those horses were warriors."



Ramona Bass | Courtesy R Bass

Poignantly, Bass recalls that there was a proposal for the three Classic winners to square off in a decider. Her father rejected the idea, as not suiting Avatar, and the match instead devised for Foolish Pleasure ended in the indelible tragedy of Ruffian. Overall, however, to the young Bass that era ignited an undying passion. While her parents raced all over, "our horses were based in Southern California and we were there a lot, which certainly didn't hurt my feelings!" And actually Brown Berry had already produced a Derby favorite in Unconscious, albeit that ended in anti-climax (fifth and injured).

"Apparently Unconscious was named for a gambling term," Bass explains. "If you're gambling unconscious, you can't lose. Personally I think owning these horses is gamble enough. But all month in La Jolla, Dad and his friends would sit on the beach playing backgammon and then go to Del Mar in the afternoon."

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At 3 1st **Travers S. [G1]**, by 5¼L. (pictured)
1st **Jim Dandy S. [G2]**
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Now, nearly half a century later, Bass has a stallion at Claiborne herself. **Annapolis** looks excitingly qualified to contest the same vacancy among turf stallions, following the loss of English Channel and Kitten's Joy, that has catapulted **Oscar Performance** to stardom-with the bonus of those stellar dirt names in his pedigree.

"People see **Annapolis** as real value," Bass says proudly. "He's not a \$12,500 horse, but we decided to start there because he didn't come in before January. Really, if you look around, he's probably more like a \$20,000-\$25,000 horse."

So now Bass can joke about herself as an "inherited affliction" for Claiborne, and likewise for Richard Mandella, who trains most of her horses just as he previously trained for her father. Above all, the "affliction" has joyously infected her son Perry.

"So our relationship is the same as I had with my father," Bass says. "It was actually Dad who started taking Perry to Del Mar when he was four. He'd feed him chocolate sundaes all day to keep him quiet. So when he got home, it was just a sugar-high nightmare. But Perry became as obsessed as I am, which is lovely for me. Thankfully he does all the things I don't like, i.e. keeping the books! I just love being with the horses, picking them out at sales and planning matings together. We're a breed-to-race outfit, after all, but we do sell when necessary. Anyway, it's such fun for Perry and me to have this together. My

girls aren't a bit interested-and my husband just thinks we're crazy."

In every other way, happily, Lee has proved a blessed match. "We came from the same world, our families had been friends for generations, and he was at Yale with my brother-but we just kept missing each other," Bass says. "And thank goodness, because I was the sit-in-the-front kind of student, raising my hand all the time, trying to be good. I think Lee had a little more fun than I did. But we ended up meeting at a good age, I was 27, and so often in life timing is everything. And he has really been such a good sport about all this."

How could he not, when confronted daily by that smile? For others, certainly, her enthusiasm is contagious-not least the breeders lining up for **Annapolis**.

"I've never had a stallion before, so this is all new to me," Bass says. "But it's great to bring things full circle with Claiborne. He looks a man now. Coming off the track, he still looked a boy. But his lovely personality hasn't changed. He's a fun character. Sleeps all day, and a real baby about his peppermints. His man Rodeo has cared for a lot of stallions, over the years, and says **Annapolis** is the easiest he's ever been around. He just walks up, does his duty, turns around and walks back. No scene, no yelling, no bucking or kicking. Of course I'm prejudiced, but he's just a special horse."

For a new year of quality, look to January



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My Miss Sophia has lately been "married" to **Gun Runner** with such persuasive results-Don Robinson is breaking a yearling filly, with a weanling colt next-that she's back in foal to the Three Chimneys champion. And very soon we'll start finding out whether **Annapolis** can extend her dynasty. For now, Bass is just glad to see him given every chance. "We're so grateful to our wonderful and loyal friends, who were first in to support us," she says. "And to those shareholders and breeders who stepped right up. I do believe in him-and thankfully I'm not alone."

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'Nationwide Search' for Maryland Track Superintendent *(cont. from p1)*

Although Maryland racing is in the midst of a private-to-public management flux that will see the state take ownership of Pimlico and rebuild it (with the three-year goal of eventually ceasing racing at Laurel and consolidating all Maryland racing at the new "Pimlico Plus"), the decades-long pattern of main-track safety difficulties at Laurel hasn't changed much, and those issues have once again percolated to crisis level.

After years of freeze/thaw and drainage troubles, Laurel's main track was closed for five months in 2021 for an emergency rebuild from the base up. But eight horses died from fractures

while racing or training over that new track within weeks of its opening as the weather turned colder, leading to weeks-long halts in racing through winter of 2021-22.

The fatality spike quieted for more than a year, then in **April 2023**, five more main-track equine fatalities at Laurel caused the closure of the track for another week.



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1/ST Racing (The Stronach Group), which is the current (but outgoing) owner of Laurel and Pimlico, hired veteran racing surface maintenance manager Ken Brown to oversee those tracks in September 2023.

Things went generally well early on during Brown's watch--he was a former decades-long member of the Maryland track surfaces team, but had moved on to be the superintendent at Delaware Park and Colonial Downs before being lured back to Laurel and Pimlico.

But this fall, after weeks without significant rain followed by downpours, problems began to crop up. Since Nov. 17 there have been two reported equine fatalities at Laurel.

One was **Calle de Oro (Hard Spun)**, a 2-year-old colt trained by Jose Corrales who was favored in a \$20,000 claimer when he suffered a catastrophic injury near the three-eighths pole and had to be euthanized on the track.

Another was **Overwish (Curlin)**, a 3-year-old filly with a 2-for-3 record from trainer Brittany Russell's stable who sustained an open fracture to her right front cannon bone while galloping out at the mile pole after a four-furlong workout, requiring euthanization.

Trainer Gary Capuano also reported during the Dec. 3 commission meeting that during the same time frame, one of his trainees stumbled during a morning workout, unseating the

exercise rider, who fractured a cheekbone.

After the two fatalities, jockeys and track management had clashing ideas about the track's safety and its maintenance procedures, leading to the cancellation of three programs at Laurel for the Friday-Sunday period of Nov. 22-24.

Brown's retirement, announced by 1/ST Racing on Monday, Dec. 1, was effective immediately.

His interim replacement is Danny Finke, who has 40 years of experience on Maryland track crews.

When the commission on Tuesday asked for an explanation of what's going on with the Laurel surface, Mike Rogers, the executive vice president for 1/ST Racing, chose to address the issue by reading into the record an eight-minute prepared statement prior to fielding questions from commissioners.

Horsemen, jockeys, and 1/ST Racing have all had differing opinions over the past week about everything from sealing, floating and harrowing protocols to the binding ability of the track's cushion to how fast the tractors pull the equipment around the oval.

Rogers stated that as all parties try to work toward a consensus, helpful pieces of data are in the pipeline.

He said Overwish's necropsy report was delivered yesterday, and that Maryland's safety and welfare committee is scheduled to review it Thursday.

The figures speak for themselves!

Year	Fee	Yr/s Sold	Average	Top Colt	Top Filly	Returns
2024	\$35,000	82	\$157,000	\$900,000	\$520,000	Stud Fee x 4½!
2023	\$22,500	80	\$154,000	\$575,000	\$700,000	Stud Fee x 7!

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 A M E R I C A

2025 FEE: \$75,000

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ANNAPOLIS
War Front - My Miss Sophia
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PRINCE OF MONACO
Speightstown - Rainier
\$30,000 **NEW**



BLAME
Arch - Liable
\$25,000



RUNHAPPY
Super Saver - Bella Jolie
\$7,500



BRIGHT FUTURE
Curlin - Sophia's Song
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SILVER STATE
Hard Spun - Supreme
\$15,000



DEMARCHELIER (GB)
Dubawi (IRE) - Loveisallyouneed (IRE)
\$5,000



WAR FRONT
Danzig - Starry Dreamer
\$75,000



FIRST SAMURAI
Giant's Causeway - Freddie Frisson
\$5,000



WAR OF WILL
War Front - Visions of Clarity (IRE)
\$20,000



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Samples from the track's cushion are being tested by outside labs to compare them to previous versions of the Laurel surface that had been deemed safe, and also to those of other comparable tracks considered safe, Rogers said.

The national Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory will be at Laurel Dec. 4 to do biomechanical hoof testing on the surface, which Rogers said should yield additional info to help make decisions moving forward.

Rogers also said that the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority has inspected Laurel's surface and found no glaring inconsistencies. He noted that the track has been able to handle four days of racing in a row (Nov. 28-Dec. 1) without any safety incidents.

When asked specifically about Brown's departure, Rogers explained the situation by reading into the record the press release about Brown's retirement that 1/ST Racing had distributed Monday.

Rogers went off-script at the end to add, "Mr. Finke will lead the team for the month of December."

Knauf, whose non-profit team takes control of operations from 1/ST Racing on Jan. 1, 2025, added that even after the search for a new superintendent is concluded, Finke will still retain a job on the Laurel/Pimlico maintenance team if he so chooses, as will all other current members of that crew.

With the management transition looming, Rogers urged all stakeholders to take into account what other racing industry leaders have underscored in the past regarding safety crises--that it can be difficult to pinpoint direct causes of racetrack accidents, which are often multi-factorial.

"There are other contributing factors," Rogers said. "I know it's easy to point to the racetrack. But there are a lot of other contributing factors that can lead to a catastrophic breakdown. And generally, having these meetings with the necropsy [report] educates all of us as to other, maybe, contributing factors."

David Richardson, the executive director of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, summed up the situation this way: "The base appears to be in very good condition. There have been no complaints about the base of the racetrack. The concern is with the material itself, the new material that was added a just few weeks ago, and whether that sufficiently holds water or drains properly.

"We want a safe track," Richardson continued. "We want to work with Maryland Jockey Club and have a safe track. [But] there is still some concern amongst people as to where we stand."

Capuano said the problems at Laurel are not persistent--but they're not exactly new, either.

Cont. p10

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“It goes back a few years, in the same kind of issues [and] it wasn't right when they came in and re-did the track [two decades ago],” Capuano said. “And then a couple years ago, we had to try to re-do it again. And it was just a matter of the right material mixed in to make it hold together.”

“We've been working with this for a long time, trying to get it right,” Capuano said.

“It should be easy. The technology, the equipment, the science,” Capuano quipped, noting that in reality, maintaining a racetrack is far from simple. “You would think that it would just be a push-button, easy thing to take care of.”

Technology is helpful, Capuano continued. “But it's nothing like the [maintenance team] guys walking in the dirt that have that experience [to] know what it's like. They know what [the track] needs.

“I mean, nothing's perfect,” Capuano summed up. “Things are going to happen. But if we have the confidence that we send [horses] out there and [management's] done the best they can, that's all we're looking for.”

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MARYLAND: LICENSE TRANSFER HITS SNAG, TRAINING CENTER SELECTED, TRACK ROTATION NOW UNLIKELY FOR PIMLICO

by T.D. Thornton

A license transfer that is needed for a new, non-profit group to take over the running of Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course starting on the first of the year got pushed off the agenda at Tuesday's Maryland Racing Commission meeting because of concerns over the lack of documentation for how the incoming entity will meet an estimated \$6-million budget shortfall for 2025.

But executives from the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority (MTROA), which is facilitating the state-approved change of control of the two tracks from 1/ST Racing (The Stronach Group) to a new, 501(c) (4) management organization called Maryland Jockey Club, Inc., explained to the commission that both the money from the state and its proper paperwork are in the pipeline, and that the delay is related to a series of state-level sign-offs that are part of a complex process.

Commissioners seemed to understand that line of reasoning and didn't press the MTROA on the issue. An attorney for the commission suggested that the board could schedule another meeting, even on short notice, in the next few weeks just to deal with that one crucial license-transfer item.

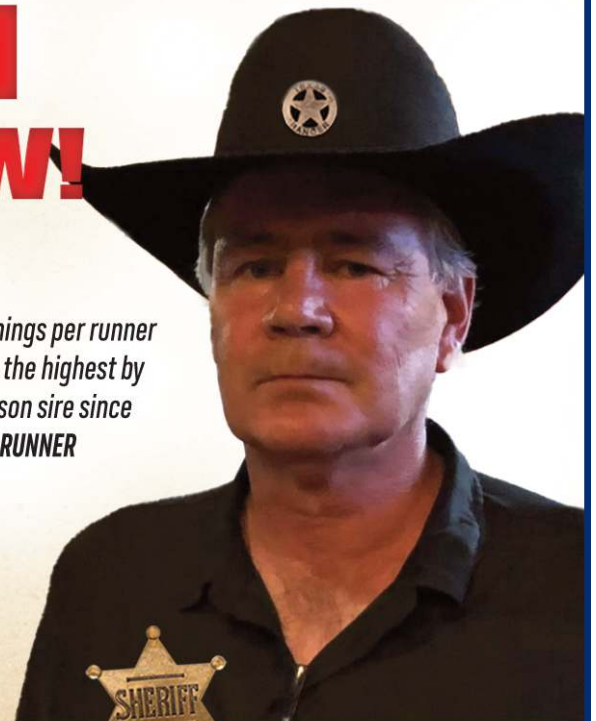
LAYING DOWN THE LAW!

2024 Leading First Crop Sires (by BTWs)

Rank	Sire	Foals	BTWs	GSWs	Progeny Earnings
1	TIZ THE LAW	89	5	2	\$2,543,857
2	Vekoma	149	4	1	\$2,582,429
3	Complexity	98	3	2	\$1,839,980
-	Thousand Words	110	3	1	\$1,718,918
5	McKinzie	145	2	2	\$2,593,007
-	ECHO TOWN	56	2	0	\$867,253

Bloodhorse.com 12/03/24

Average earnings per runner of \$57,815 - the highest by a first season sire since GUN RUNNER



Tiz the Law...has a much bigger second book to launch next year (154 live foals)  Chris McGrath, TDN

11-length winner at Churchill Downs!
BOOK'EM won an allowance last weekend to make it three straight wins

COOLMORE
A M E R I C A

2025 FEE: \$30,000

Six months ago, following more than a decade of **speculation and planning**, the state announced its intent to acquire Pimlico with the goal of transforming it into Maryland's lone premier Thoroughbred track. Pimlico will close after the 2025 GI Preakness S. for its gutting and redevelopment, and all mile-track racing in the state will shift to Laurel for at least two years, with the state leasing it from 1/ST Racing through Dec. 31, 2027, for one dollar per year.

When the new Pimlico opens, racing at Laurel will cease. While all this happens, a new off-track training facility is to be developed. All of these racing and training operations will be controlled by the new non-profit Maryland Jockey Club.

J. Michael Hopkins, the commission's executive director, pre-empted the Dec. 3 agenda item about the license transfer by stating that the commission doesn't have all the documentation it needs to take up the issue right now.

"We have received their five-year projections for income and expenses," Hopkins said. "And the first year, they are projecting a loss of \$6 million. And we are working with the MTROA to [ascertain] how that \$6 million will be guaranteed for payment to cover those losses. We are still discussing with them how they'd like to present that to the commission in its final version.

"We understand that it's partially a budget amendment that would be coming forward, and some form of a loan to the non-profit, so that operating expenses would be covered for the first calendar year," Hopkins said.

"But that has not occurred yet," Hopkins continued. "So that's what we're waiting on right now. So part of the commission's concern, I think, [is that] until we have further assurances of the coverage of those expected losses for the first calendar year, [the commission has reluctance about] moving forward on transferring a license at this time."

Swata Gandhi, the MTROA's deputy executive director, explained what needed to happen for the money to be released by the state.

"This was part of the statute that was passed, where \$10 million is going to be made available with a budget amendment to the MTROA, and we are able to send it to a not-for-profit for working capital," Gandhi said.

"Everything has been submitted to the Department of Budget Management," Gandhi said, adding that the next steps require sign-offs from that department and the governor for the money to flow.

"We've been told that's going to happen in the next two weeks," Gandhi said.

Marc Broady, the MTROA's executive director, said that once those sign-offs occur, the commission will get the documentation it needs to proceed with the license transfer.

ANSWER KEY for December 3 TDN Crossword

presented by 

1	B	A	R	O	D	A			5	J	O	N	E	S				
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12	O	M	A	H	A	B	E	A	C	H		13	S	O				
	O		R					C		K				W				
14	D	15	O	S		16	W	17	A	R	R	I	O	18	R			
		N			19	M	I	L	E		E		O		N			
20	Z	E	D	A	N			21	T	22	E	S	23	T	I	24	N	G
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34	P	I	N	H	O	O	K	E	R	S			35	F	T			

"We'll make sure to get it to you as we have it. Some things are still being determined," Broady said. "This is a complicated process, and we're all here for the same reason, to make sure that the Maryland racing industry is improved significantly and remains strong for decades to come.

"We're working on it. We will have documentation evidencing the arrival of the funds of the budget amendment," Broady said. "It's a state process, but it's in the works. It's just a matter of days at this point before it's sent over, and we will have documentation evidencing that the Maryland Jockey Club has more than sufficient funds to cover any losses, and most importantly operations, because that's what the money is there for."

Separately, regarding the training center, the MTROA board has made its decision on a site, but can't yet make that location public, Gandhi said.

"The site was approved at the last MTROA board meeting in a closed session. There are a few items that still need to be tied up before we can make an official announcement. But we expect to make that announcement this month, I would say in the next 10 days," Gandhi said.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (MTHA) didn't speak on the issue, but its website on Monday did post related **updates about the changeover**.

Darley



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“As the MTROA continues in the schematic-design phase for new Pimlico Race Course, it appears a major change to the original plans will be made,” the MTHA website stated in a Dec. 2 update.

“It’s highly likely we’ll be taking another look at not rotating the track,” the MTHA quoted Greg Cross, the MTROA chairman, as saying during a Nov. 15 meeting.

“Plans have called for removing the existing dirt track and turf course, moving the footprint and constructing new surfaces,” the MTHA website stated. “That would require purchase of property from the adjacent LifeBridge Health Sinai Hospital.”

Cross, according to the MTHA website, said not rotating the surfaces would preserve history and acknowledge concerns in the Park Heights community. He also said it would “shorten the build-out of the property and reduce construction costs.”

According to the MTHA website, the MTROA is projecting “a 1% increase in daily pari-mutuel handle in 2025 based upon the expectation that fewer racing dates at Laurel and Pimlico will result in an increase in the quality of the racing product. Laurel will be dark in July and August under a cooperative agreement with Colonial Downs in Virginia.”

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RMTC: KENTUCKY, ILLINOIS LABS' REACCREDITATION PROCESSES EXTENDED

by Dan Ross

The Racetrack Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) has afforded the University of Kentucky's Equine Analytical Chemistry Lab (EACL) and the University of Illinois Chicago's (UIC) Analytical Forensic Toxicology Laboratory additional time in their efforts to seek reaccreditation from the organization.

News of the UIC Lab losing its RMTC accreditation broke in **early September**. The facility was initially issued a 60-day accreditation suspension period.

According to RMTC executive director Michael Hardy, the RMTC's executive committee approved an additional 60-day extension to the laboratory's suspension “to provide them ample opportunity to fully remediate any remaining non-compliances that they have.”

The full reasons behind the lab's initial accreditation suspension remains unclear. Dr. Mary Scollay and Ben Mosier, the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit's (HIWU) chief of

science and executive director respectively, explained in a **September TDN Q&A** that the laboratory had failed several external quality assurance samples.

Hardy said he was unable to expand upon the specific ongoing non-compliance issues that led to the 60-day extension period, other than to point to the organization's **code of standards**.

The 60-day extension will conclude at the end of January, “at which point, the status of their RMTC accreditation will be determined,” said Hardy.

The RMTC suspended the UK lab's accreditation **back in March**. HIWU and the University of Kentucky subsequently issued separate reports into multiple alleged management and operational failures at the lab under the leadership of its former director, Scott Stanley.

Stanley subsequently issued a response through his attorney to the allegations levelled against him, categorically denying them and claiming they were made without evidence. He also criticized the logistical challenges of running a lab under HIWU's regulatory oversight, including from the implementation of a new information management system, the increased workload, and from resource limitations.

Under the leadership of interim director Cynthia Cole, the UK Lab has spent months working to fix a series of operational and managerial issues in its efforts to regain RMTC accreditation, the deadline for which was the beginning of the month.

As a part of the RMTC's reaccreditation process, the lab was required to undergo an on-site assessment by an independent auditor. But that audit was delayed due to travel disruptions resulting from the recent hurricanes in Florida, pushing a final determination back a few weeks.

That independent audit has since gone ahead, “and the materials from that audit have been submitted,” said Hardy, about the UK Lab. “That is under review right now. And the [Horserace Testing Laboratory Committee] should have enough information to make a determination on their status within a couple weeks.”



Listen to this week's podcast
December 3, 2024

Gainesway's General Manager Brian Graves looks ahead to breeding season with a stallion roster that includes four new recruits





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BRIAN GRAVES JOINS TDN WRITERS' ROOM TO TALK MCKINZIE, TAPIT, AND THOSE FOUR NEW STALLIONS *by Sue Finley*



Click to watch Brian Graves on the Writers' Room *Fasig-Tipton photo*

With four new stallions standing at the farm in 2025, perhaps no farm had a better recruiting year than Gainesway. Their general manager, Brian Graves, appeared on this week's TDN Writers' Room podcast to discuss those new recruits—Muth, Seize the Grey, **Tapit** Trice, and Charge It. But the quartet isn't all that's going on at Gainesway, where their first-crop stallion **McKinzie** is one of three stallions vying for 2024's leading freshman sire, along with Vekoma at Spendthrift and Coolmore's **Tiz the Law**.

"We're busy here," said Graves. "You know, that's that's the way you want to be if you're in the stallion business. We're happy to have the action."

As a dual Grade I-winning of Arrogate, Seize the Grey, said Graves, "has had a lot of shows at the farm and is off to a really great start. He's gotten a ton of mares right out of the bat. And so we're really excited about the potential of what he offers breeders just with his size and strength. His good looks are just a throwback to Arrogate who was cut out to be a good horse and I think that that blood doesn't want to die."

The farm stalwart, **Tapit**, who is 23, "is doing great," said Graves. "Last year, **Tapit** bred 80 mares. This year will probably breed 60, 70 mares again. He's doing quite well. He's active on the general sire list, and he's still producing Grade I winners, like Arthur's Ride this year. In addition to that, he had several graded stakes winners, Grade II winners, Grade III winners. He's still a force. He can't quite breed the numbers to keep him as a number one stallion anymore on the general sire list, but he's very consistent and he can still get you a Grade I winner. And people understand the power of **Tapit**."

Hoping to fill those footsteps one day is **McKinzie**, said Graves. "He's a breath of fresh air to Gainesway and to be in a position now where he's the leading freshman sire today just makes everyone around here very proud."

New stallion Muth "has just been a brilliant horse from the word go," said Graves. "And I saw him as a marquee kind of stallion acquisition opportunity for Gainesway."

Elsewhere on the podcast, which is also sponsored by the **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders' Association**, **West Point Thoroughbreds**, **XBTV.com**, and the **Kentucky Thoroughbred Association**, we took a look at the **WinStar** stallion **Two Phil's** in the **fastest horse of the week** segment. Zoe Cadman and Randy Moss also talked about the breakdowns that have plagued Woodbine and the new 14-day rule instituted there, and celebrated the incredible year put together by Kenny McPeck.

To watch the podcast, [click here](#). To listen to it as an audio podcast, [click here](#).

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NYRA RELEASES 2025 RACE DATES; EXPANDS BELMONT AND JULY 4 FESTIVALS

The 2025 Belmont Stakes Racing Festival, held at Saratoga Race Course in 2024 due to the ongoing construction at Belmont Park, has been expanded and will be held across five days—from June 4 through June 8—at the upstate racetrack in 2025, the New York Racing Association announced Tuesday. Saratoga will also play host to the extended July 4th Racing Festival, which is traditionally held at Belmont Park, from July 3 through July 6. The July 4th Racing Festival will serve as the conclusion of the 2025 Belmont at the Big A spring/summer meet.



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“There is nothing in sports that compares with the energy at Saratoga Race Course, and we join the fans in looking forward to another spectacular season of racing in 2025,” said NYRA President and CEO David O’Rourke. “While Saratoga is rightly defined by history and tradition, NYRA is thrilled to bring the Belmont Stakes and a special July 4th Racing Festival to Saratoga while a new Belmont Park takes shape on Long Island.”

NYRA’s 2025 racing schedule will include 200 live race days held between Aqueduct Racetrack and Saratoga Race Course. The fall and spring/summer meets normally held at Belmont Park will take place at Aqueduct Racetrack in 2025, including the period between the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival and July 4th Racing Festival.

Following the close of the 2024 Aqueduct fall meet Dec. 29, the track’s 49-day winter meet begins Jan. 1 and continues through Mar. 30.

With the exception of opening week, live racing will be conducted Thursday-Sunday from the week of Jan. 9 through the week of Feb. 27. Aqueduct will host a Presidents’ Day card Feb. 17 and will offer three-day race weeks Friday-Sunday throughout the month of March.

The 15-day Aqueduct spring meet will run from Apr. 3 through Apr. 27, with racing conducted Thursday-Sunday.

The NYRA circuit will remain at Aqueduct for the Belmont at the Big A spring/summer meet, which will open May 1 and continue through July 6.

The 40-day summer meet at Saratoga will open July 10 and continue through Labor Day, Sept. 1. Following the four-day opening week, live racing will be conducted Wednesday-Sunday with the exception of closing week, which will conclude on Monday, Sept. 1.

The NYRA circuit will return downstate for the 32-day Belmont at the Big A fall meet, which will open Sept. 11 and continue through Nov. 2.

A 27-day fall meet at Aqueduct will draw the curtain on live racing at NYRA in 2025, opening Nov. 6 and continuing through Dec. 31.

For the 2025 calendar of live race dates, visit [NYRA.com/2025](https://www.nyra.com/2025).

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COLONIAL DOWNS SEASON EXPANDS TO 44 DAYS IN 2025

Colonial Downs will host an expanded 44 days of live racing in 2025, led off by a special three-day Virginia Derby meet from Mar. 13 through Mar. 15, followed by the track's traditional summer meet from July 9 through Sept. 13.

The \$500,000 Virginia Derby, a points race on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, will transition to the dirt and be held Mar. 15, anchoring a new three-day spring meet which will also include the \$250,000 Virginia Oaks, a Kentucky Oaks points race. The winning horse in each race will receive 50 points to the GI Kentucky Derby or the GI Longines Kentucky Oaks, respectively. The second- through fifth-place finishers will earn 25-15-10-5 points on a sliding scale.

Colonial Downs' summer schedule expands to 41 days for 2025, with racing Wednesday through Saturday. Racing will also be offered on Labor Day, Sept. 1.

The Colonial Downs Festival of Racing and its three graded stakes races is slated for Aug. 9.

"We're excited to bring Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks qualifying races to Virginia for the first time in 2025," Senior Director of Operations Frank Hopf said. "We look forward to an outstanding 2025 season with participation from horsemen not only from Virginia, but also from throughout the Mid-Atlantic as we expand our summer dates."

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MESSIER, CHEWING GUM NEW TO ROCKRIDGE ROSTER IN 2025

Rockridge Stud, with a pair of new stallions in 2025, has released its stud fees for next year's breeding season. New to the New York operation next year are **Chewing Gum (Candy Ride {Arg})**, winner of the 2022 Gil Joe Hernandez Stakes and runner-up in the 2021 GI Jaipur Stakes, and three-time graded winner **Messier (Empire Maker)**, who was second in the 2021 GI Santa Anita Derby. Chewing Gum's fee is private and Messier will stand his initial season at stud for \$5,000 LFSN.

Rockridge Stud, in partnership with WinStar Farm, Taylor Made Stallions, Fortune Farm, and Mill Creek Farm, will stand **Americanrevolution (Constitution)** for \$12,500 LFSN.

In partnership with Irish Hill/Dutchess View Stallions, Waldorf Farm, and Hidden Lake Farm, **Mind Control (Stay Thirsty)** will stand for \$8,000 LFSN.

Slumber (GB) (Cacique {Ire}) will stand for \$7,500 LFSN, as will **War Dancer (War Front)**. **Disco Partner** (Disco Rico)'s fee is private.

Rockridge will give breeders the opportunity to see Chewing Gum and Messier at Mill Creek Farm in Stillwater Dec. 14 from 11 a.m.-noon. Light refreshments will be served.



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The annual Rockridge Stud stallion show will be held Jan. 25 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. A full lunch buffet will be served and there will be drawings for free seasons to each stallion.

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OPEN LETTER TO THE INDUSTRY

THE SOLUTION TO THE AFTERCARE PROBLEM... AND MORE by Nick Larkin

Supply, Meet Demand

Producing horses with exceptional speed inherently produces many more lacking that singular talent. Everyone in the business knows this by-product is the primary cause of the aftercare problem.

The volume of over-supply is enormous. Visibility, awareness and legitimate concern over what happens to these unwanted horses grows constantly. The social license implications of this dilemma are intensifying into a serious threat to an industry already buffeted by other storms and controversies. Everyone understands these facts and many feel this intrinsic challenge may be insurmountable.

Yet fundamentally, the solution to the aftercare problem is simple. Create a corresponding demand for these horses.

To be effective the demand must accurately match thoroughbreds, requiring their distinct blend of speed, stamina and agility, except not overly favoring a subset of the population such as gender, physique or disposition. The demand must be at least equivalent in scale and have varied preferences to match the number and diversity of horses. It must also be enduring, giving horses a lifelong purpose including residual value when their athletic capabilities decline in later years.

A demand with these criteria can only come from an equestrian sport.



Nick Larkin during his eventing career | courtesy Nick Larkin

The State of Equestrian Competition

Regrettably there are no traditional equestrian sports that favor the full-thoroughbred horse. Western disciplines much prefer the short range speed and cow-sense of the quarter horse. English disciplines want the impressive movement and predictable disposition of the Warmblood. A quarter century ago, the sport of eventing did lean toward the thoroughbred because the cross country component played a far greater role in the competition. Warmblood breeders and special interests will be sure eventing does not reverse course.

Furthermore, virtually all traditional disciplines have become very exclusive, shutting out the vast majority of equestrians and barring access to new-comers that lack the substantial resources needed to participate. This exclusionary mixture is why efforts to incentivize thoroughbreds in traditional sports have found a hard ceiling. However, it also points to an enormous untapped

resource that can be converted into the critical piece missing from thoroughbred aftercare.

Indeed, both horses and people are looking for a new competitive opportunity.

Connecting Horses and People

Unwanted thoroughbred horses and burgeoning exclusivity in equestrian disciplines were catalysts for creating the first new horse sport in a half century. Cross Country Equestrian (CCE) is a purpose-built remedy for both predicaments, connecting two sides by filling the void between them.

CCE is an objectively scored competition based on cross country jumping. Competitors score points by jumping obstacles and incur penalties for errors and time faults. Speed and stamina are important so thoroughbreds have a distinct advantage. CCE has unique flexibility and innovative optionality that make it friendly to all levels of experience, significantly safer than comparable sports, and exciting for everyone including spectators.

After years of development, CCE was launched in late 2023. This year saw over two dozen competitions in eight states and developing the framework of a sophisticated internet based sport management system. The 2025 schedule has several large-scale competitions as CCE progresses toward an international debut. CCE is exciting, fun and prioritizes the partnership that is the foremost attraction of riding sports. It has proven itself to the first group of equestrians and they want more. CCE is set to expand. That is where the thoroughbred industry can step up.



Rider in a CCE competition | courtesy Nick Larkin



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Mutual Benefits

Hoping a systemic problem will fix itself or an outsider will clean up the mess is unrealistic. As the entity responsible for generating the unwanted supply of horses, the entire thoroughbred industry should do whatever is needed to develop a corresponding demand.

Accountability is important and righteous, but there is a tremendous hidden opportunity that goes far beyond virtue signaling or leveraging good deeds for positive publicity. The solution to the aftercare problem can also alleviate and potentially resolve several major issues confronting thoroughbred racing. To see how, requires stepping back to get a wider perspective and thinking differently.

Fundamentally, racing must grow a significantly larger audience if it and the affiliated businesses behind racing are to thrive. On a similarly elemental level, where to look for an audience interested in horses is patently obvious--people that already like horses. A thoroughbred-centric equestrian sport that harmonizes with racing would merge the thoroughbred world with a multitude of displaced and disenchanting equestrians looking for a new home. That would fill the follower deficit with the best type of fans--enthusiastic, knowledgeable people that actively support everything thoroughbred.

Broadening the definition and image of thoroughbred sport will naturally widen exposure and appeal. Observing regular people actively involved with thoroughbreds makes the entire scene relatable and inviting. Authentically focusing on the horse, showcasing their engaging life-stories, displaying perpetual compassion and providing immersive experiences is compelling and retains fascination.

The potential benefits to the existing industry are open-ended. Collaborations where racecourses and training centers function as CCE incubators for horses and people, rather than laying dormant between meets. Extending revenue, employment and relevance between seasons. Some venues will open their track, infield and surrounding areas to competitions, filling grandstands, restaurants and even betting windows. Wider exposure will likely generate unexpected outgrowth such as track-based therapy programs or additional entertainment-based opportunities. The infrastructure is already there. Why not use it to advance and enlarge the thoroughbred enterprise?

A Bright Future

Imagine an expansive thoroughbred industry that involves the horse well beyond the first few years of speed. Retirement and vocational programs are comfortably overseeing the horses unable to perform in active roles. Horses are sought after and valued, in all their variety. The organizations and small businesses that form the aftercare pipeline are no longer backlogged as the demand matches or exceeds the supply.

The upstream and downstream advantages are countless. The optics are overwhelmingly positive and the public majority supports the business that fully embraces and revolves around the central figure - the thoroughbred horse.

CCE and the Cross Country Equestrian Association are ready to make this happen. Are you?

There are numerous ways to support CCE and end the aftercare problem. Get involved by joining, participating or sponsoring competitions, courses, and ongoing development.

Visit www.CrossCountryEquestrianAssociation.com or contact us at contact@CrossCountryEquestrianAssociation.com Nick Larkin, a native of New Zealand now living in Lexington, Kentucky, is a world-class event rider, instructor, trainer and the pioneer of CCE, with experience organizing and competing in equestrian sports, breeding, racing and steeplechasing. He has been hands-on, full-contact horses for almost four decades.

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HOW I GOT HOOKED ON RACING:

TDN PUBLISHER SUE FINLEY & COLUMNIST BILL FINLEY

For the past two weeks, we have been telling you how some of racing's biggest names fell in love with the sport. Now it's our turn. Here are some of the stories behind the bylines you see every day in the TDN.

Sue Finley, Publisher



Sue Finley

My parents both loved to go to the racetrack, and they would drag me and my brother when we were young. I was completely bored by it. But when I was 15, they told me that an 18-year-old jockey was going for the Triple Crown on a horse named Affirmed, and I found it fascinating that someone pretty much my age was about to achieve something so incredible.

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THREE CHIMNEYS

Inquiries to Rebecca Nicholson
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I went with my parents and my best friend, and I still remember where we sat—section R on the third floor of the Belmont grandstand. We went back and forth to the paddock all day, saw the horses and jockeys up close, and marveled at the huge posters decorating the walls at Belmont about how the Thoroughbred racehorse was the fastest animal in the world. And when Affirmed and Steve Cauthen came down the stretch, hanging on to a slim lead over Alydar, we screamed our heads off. I was hooked, and we started going to the races every weekend, and I learned everything I could about handicapping and pedigrees.

My parents were \$2 bettors, and nothing made my father happier than to go to the track with \$10, and come home with \$12, "after gas and tolls," as he'd say. "Where else can you have a day out and end up with more money than where you started?" he'd ask people.

Six years later, as I was graduating from NYU with a degree in journalism, I went out to Belmont Park and asked if they needed a free intern on their press staff. I've worked in horse racing pretty much every day since.

Bill Finley, columnist



Bill Finley | *Sue Finley photo*

With an older brother and father who loved the sport, I can remember going to the racetrack when I was six or seven. I would often go with my dad, who would give me maybe \$10 to bet with for the day. Largely betting in favorites to show, I won money the first 11 times I went to the track. Easy game? Right?

My family was living in Philadelphia at the time and we made frequent to Garden State, Atlantic City, Delaware Park and the racetrack formerly known as Keystone. But I liked all sports back then and was a rabid fan of the Phillies, Eagles, 76ers and Flyers. The track was fifth on the list.

That changed for me when I was 11 years old and was hit by a car and broke my femur on my right leg. It took months for me

to recover, which included a long stint in a pediatric rehabilitation hospital in Atlantic City. I was placed in a body cast.

After several months I still had a cast on, but a smaller one and I was finally able to get around on crutches. To celebrate my release from the hospital, my parents decided to treat me to a trip to Saratoga. I had never been before.

As luck would have it, they picked the week that a horse named Secretariat was entered in the 1972 Sanford Stakes. He was not even the favorite in the race. Linda's Chief was. But, even at this early point in his career, some were saying that Secretariat was on his way to stardom and I came to expect that he was going to put on a show. He won the Sanford and I was sold. He, of course, became my favorite horse and I would see him run later that same year in the Garden State Stakes.

I would have been a racing fan had it not been for Secretariat, but my love affair with him was what moved me into the super-fan category. I saw his 1973 Preakness and Belmont in person and was mesmerized by his Belmont, the greatest performance in the history of the sport.

The '70s were a great time to be a racing fan. You had Seattle Slew, Affirmed, Forego, Ruffian, Spectacular Bid and so many others. I liked them all, but not in the way that I liked Secretariat. If not for him, I don't think I would have made a career as a turf writer. Thanks, Big Red.

J.N. Campbell, Staff Writer



J.N. Campbell

I started a new job at the Kentucky Horse Park while I was in graduate school for history in Lexington. I didn't know really anything about horses or racing, but I was interested in museums after doing an internship at the Smithsonian.

The entry-level position was the chance to be what they call a museum technician which means you assist with the care and handling of objects.

The day I started at the International Museum of the Horse the curator told me she had some exhibit cleaning that I could do. She takes me to this case and inside were the Triple Crown trophies of Secretariat and Seattle Slew. So, I polished them. Once I was done she told me to follow her. We go into the Calumet trophy room and she says “hey, we can't stop now, you're on a roll!”

When lunch came around the curator told me that if I wanted to eat out back that I might enjoy seeing the horses that were part of the Hall of Champions. I had no clue what she was talking about. She said the latest member was arriving that day and he was pretty special. It was Cigar.

Getting to see him up close and learn about the history of this sport really resonated with me. I went to Keeneland that same year, stood there in the paddock, watched the post parades and I was hooked. That was 25 years ago and I'm still as enamored as the day I got to polish those trophies and first saw Cigar.

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PEACE AND JUSTICE TO STAND AT IRISH HILL AND DUTCHESS VIEW STALLIONS IN 2025

Peace and Justice (War Front) will stand the upcoming breeding season at Irish Hill and Dutchess Views Stallions for an advertised fee of \$7,500 S&N. The 14-year-old is the sire of graded stakes winner Dontlookbackatall, as well as stakes winners Like a Saltshaker and Capo.

“We are very excited to bring a proven stallion like Peace and Justice with his credentials and numbers to New York,” said Steven W. Young. “With the advent of a third racing surface, combined with the purse parity coming to the state, Peace and Justice should do very well.”

For breeding inquiries: Moe Scavullo (518) 398-5666, Steve Young (323) 646-5663, or Rick Burke and Bill Leak (518) 584-1515.

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TEN INDUSTRY GROUPS PLEDGE FUNDING FOR AAEP BIOMETRIC SENSOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Ten Thoroughbred industry and charitable organizations have pledged funding for the American Association of Equine Practitioners' wearable biometric sensor research project. Six sensor manufacturers have been selected to participate in the year-long study.

Wearable biometric sensors, which have shown promise as an early warning system for identifying racehorses at increased risk

of musculoskeletal injury, are designed to capture data on a horse's movement patterns during high-speed events.

The following organizations have contributed a total of \$785,000 to fund the research project, which will run Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025: Breeders' Cup Limited; Fasig-Tipton; The Foundation for the Horse (the charitable arm of the AAEP); Keeneland Association; Kentucky Thoroughbred Association; New York Racing Association; New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association; Oak Tree Racing Association; Ocala Breeders' Sales Company; and Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.

“The AAEP is excited to be on the forefront of sensor technology. We see this as a transformational opportunity to further protect the health of our equine athletes,” said Katie Garrett, DVM, DACVS, AAEP president and The Foundation for the Horse board chair. “We are incredibly grateful to the Thoroughbred industry groups who share our goal and are making this project a reality.”

Each sensor manufacturer has been asked to recruit 100 2-year-old Thoroughbreds to wear its sensor during the year-long study. Data will be collected on each horse during this period and analyzed to determine accuracy of the sensor.

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The Kentucky Derby Museum's 2nd annual Derby in December event welcomed hundreds of guests Tuesday for a day packed with Derby-themed fun, festive activities, and community celebration. The free-admission event was presented in partnership with Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby Festival.

“The Kentucky Derby may take place once a year on the first Saturday in May, but around here it's a year-round celebration,” said Mike Anderson, Churchill Downs Racetrack President. “We're thrilled to partner with our valued neighbors, the Kentucky Derby Museum, to commemorate Derby in December and honor the upcoming 100th anniversary of the colorful and iconic phrase ‘Run for the Roses.’” | *Kentucky Derby Museum*



HARD HELD

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There had been 376 two-year-old races at the distance at Churchill since 1992. In the 377th, the **Hard Spun** colt Keep It Easy won the 6.5f Ed Brown in a **new juvenile track record**, running an 87 Beyer.

Easy? Well, it is when you know how...



Darley

HALL OF FAME RIDERS LINE UP FOR JOCKEYS AND JEANS FUNDRAISER AT GULFSTREAM JAN. 11

Angel Cordero, Jerry Bailey, Steve Cauthen, Julie Krone, Edgar Prado, Pat Day, Laffit Pincay, Ramon Dominguez, Jean Cruguet and Chris McCarron are just a few of the names confirmed to attend the 10th annual Jockeys and Jeans event at Gulfstream Park Jan. 11. Proceeds from the event go to the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF).

Other riders confirmed to attend include Jose Santos, Jorge Velasquez, Earlie Fires, Alex Solis, Bill Boland, Mike Manganello and current riders John Velazquez, Javier Castellano and Joel Rosario.

The event, to be held in the Flamingo Room overlooking Gulfstream, includes lunch, a meet and greet with all guests, autographs, photos, live and silent auctions, and a free collectible giveaway.

Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at <https://pdjf.org/purchase-tickets/>.

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PRAIRIE MEADOWS ANNOUNCES 2025 DATES

Prairie Meadows will host 80 days of live racing in 2025, with the season scheduled to begin May 9 and conclude Sept. 27. The meet opens with 20 days of Thoroughbred-only racing from May 9 through June 14, followed by 60 days of a mixed Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse schedule June 15 through closing day.

Live racing will be offered on a Friday to Monday schedule, with exceptions on the first and last weekend of the season when there is no racing on Sunday or Monday, and also no racing Monday, July 7. There will be live racing on Thursday, July 3 kicking off the July 4th holiday weekend of racing.

The first condition book, along with stall applications, is expected to be available in early February.

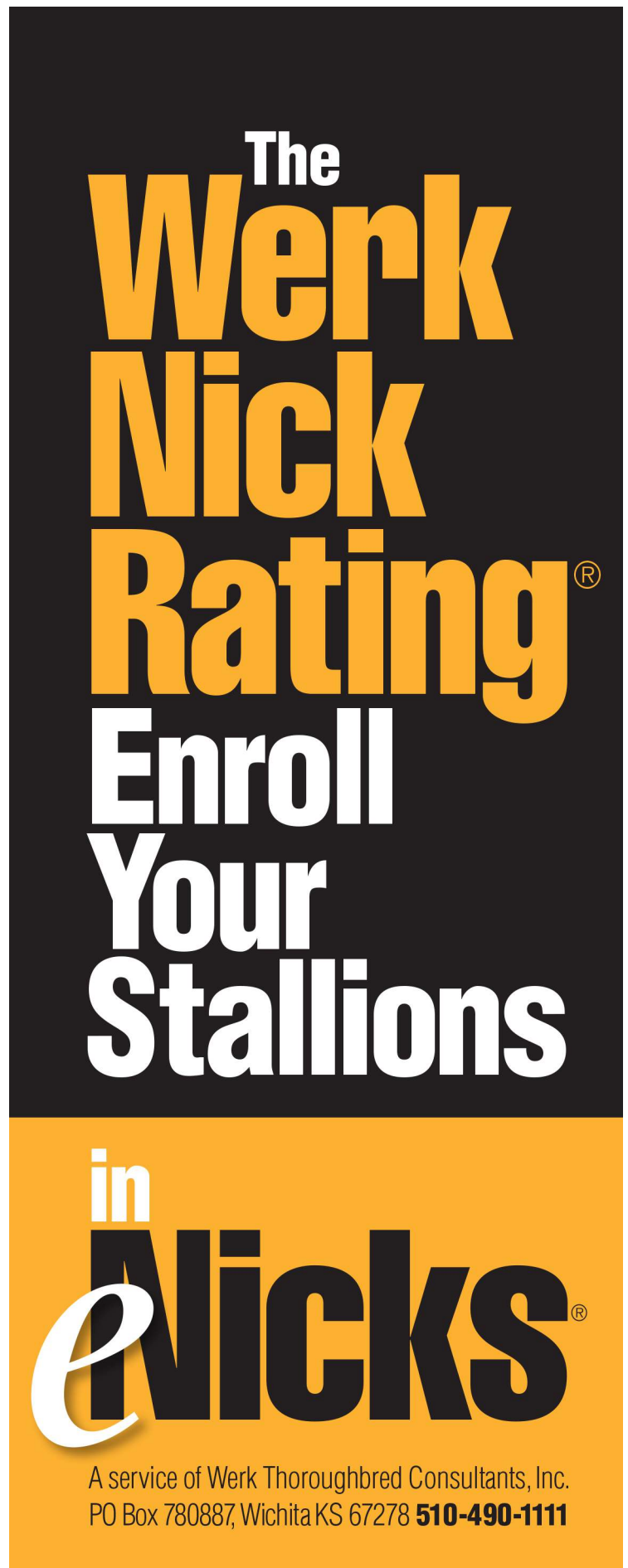
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Saturday, Aqueduct #7, post time: 2:36 p.m. EST

REMSSEN S.-GII, \$250,000, 2yo, 1 1/8m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Tux	Tapit	LNJ Foxwoods	Mott	Alvarado	118
2	Aviator Gui	Uncle Mo	Three Chimneys Farm, LLC	Brown	Franco	118
3	Poster	Munnings	Godolphin, LLC	Harty	Prat	120
4	Studlydoright	Nyquist	David R. Hughes	Robb	Perez	120
5	Keewaydin	Instagrand	OXO Equine LLC	Brown	Davis	118
6	Surfside Moon 🦄	Malibu Moon	Manor Stable and Mair Lee Stables	Lawrence II	Carmouche	118
7	Gun Trader 🦄	Tom's d'Etat	Uriah St. Lewis	St. Lewis	Martinez	118

Breeders: 1-LNJ Foxwoods, 2-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC, 3-Godolphin, 4-Glenangus Farm LLC, 5-Terrazas Thoroughbreds, LLC, 6-Equine Farm LLC, 7-St. Elias Stables, LLC

Saturday, Aqueduct #8, post time: 3:05 p.m. EST

DEMOISELLE S.-GII, \$250,000, 2yo, f, 1 1/8m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Muhimma 🦄	Munnings	Shadwell Stable	Cox	Geroux	118
2	Liam in the Dust 🦄	Liam's Map	Storyteller Racing and Schroeck, Michael	Brisset	Prat	118
3	Fortuna Mia	Vekoma	KEM Stables	Rice	Cancel	118
4	Carmen's Candy Jar 🦄	Vino Rosso	Repole Stable	Pletcher	Ortiz, Jr.	118
5	Michelle	Street Sense	Nice Guys Stables	Russell	Davis	118
6	Bless the Broken	Laoban	Cypress Creek Equine	Walden	Vazquez	118
7	Five a Side	Spun to Run	Main Line Racing Stable and Avalon Racing Stables	Servis	Rosario	118
8	Beauty Reigns	Into Mischief	Bushnell, Emily and Wygod, Pam	Mott	Alvarado	118
9	Tip Line 🦄	Nyquist	Uriah St. Lewis	St. Lewis	Martinez	118
10	Ballerina d'Oro	Medaglia d'Oro	Rodeo Creek Racing, LLC	Brown	Davis	118

Breeders: 1-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC, 2-Don Alberto Corporation & W. S. Farish, 3-Tyler B. Jones, 4-Repole Stable, Inc., 5-Colts Neck Stables LLC, 6-Cypress Creek Equine, LLC, 7-Porta Pia Stables LLC, 8-Wygod Equine, LLC, 9-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding, 10-Rock Ridge Thoroughbreds, LLC

**For global opportunity,
look to January**



**Keeneland January
Horses of All Ages Sale**
Sale Begins Monday, Jan. 13

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Saturday, Aqueduct #9, post time: 3:35 p.m. EST

CIGAR MILE H. PRESENTED BY TWINSPIRES.COM-GII, \$500,000, 3yo/up, 1m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Book'em Danno 🦄	Bucchero	Atlantic Six Racing, LLC	Ryan	Ortiz, Jr.	120
2	Nelson Avenue	Into Mischief	Photos Finish LLC	Potts	Davis	118
3	Repo Rocks 🦄	Tapiture	Double B Racing Stables	Ness	Silvera	120
4	Vinsanity 🦄	Tapiture	Next Level Stables	Arriaga	Martinez	112
5	Mullikin 🦄	Violence	Siena Farm LLC and WinStar Farm LLC	Brisset	Prat	124
6	Law Professor	Constitution	John Holleman	Atras	Carmouche	119
7	Locked 🦄	Gun Runner	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Walmac Farm	Pletcher	Velazquez	119
8	Pipeline	Speightstown	John D. Gunther	DeVaux	Alvarado	118
9	Senor Buscador	Mineshaft	Joe R. Peacock, Jr.	Fincher	Rosario	122
10	Coastal Mission	Great Notion	Jeff C. Runco	Runco	Bocachica	121
11	Post Time	Frosted	Hillwood Stable LLC	Russell	Russell	124

Breeders: 1-Gregory J. Kilka & Bright View Farm, 2-Godolphin, 3-Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III, 4-Hartwell Farm Inc., 5-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding, 6-Twin Creeks Farm, 7-Rosa Colasanti, 8-Eurowest Bloodstock Services LTD., 9-Joe R Peacock Sr. & Joe R Peacock Jr., 10-Coleswood Farm, Inc., 11-Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Dr. BrookeBowman & Milton P. Higgins III

Saturday, Aqueduct #4, post time: 1:08 p.m. EST

GO FOR WAND S.-GIII, \$200,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Tizzy in the Sky	Sky Kingdom	KimDon Racing, LLC	Pletcher	Prat	123
2	Stonewall Star	Flatter	Barry K. Schwartz	De Paz	Velazquez	121
3	Occult 🦄	Into Mischief	Alpha Delta Stables LLC	Brown	Ortiz, Jr.	121
4	Movie Moxy 🦄	Street Sense	Rice, Linda and Marequest	Rice	Lezcano	121
5	Comparative	Street Sense	Godolphin, LLC	Cox	Franco	125
6	Rachel's Rock	Jess's Dream	Ten Strike Racing, Four Corners Racing, Broadview Stables and Cory Moelis Racing LLC	Giangiulio	Carmouche	121
7	Ain't Broke	Dialed In	Ronald P. Stewart	Rice	Cancel	121
8	Shidabhuti 🦄	Practical Joke	Peter M. Brant	Brown	Davis	125

Breeders: 1-Westrock Stables LLC, 2-Stonewall Farm, 3-Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC, 4-Bonne Chance Farm, LLC, 5-Godolphin, 6-Jacks or Better Farm Inc., 7-John Kerber, 8-Gabriel Duignan & Gerry Dilger

For exceptional choices in the new year, look to January



Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale
Sale Begins Monday, Jan. 13

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Constitution	3	\$110,000
Into Mischief	3	\$250,000
Curlin	3	\$225,000
Gun Runner	3	\$250,000
Not This Time	3	\$175,000
Nyquist	3	\$175,000
Uncle Mo	1	\$125,000
Justify	1	\$250,000

Constitution

2025 Fee: \$110,000

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

5th-Parx Racing, \$50,400, Msw, 12-3, 2yo, 1m 70y, 1:47.82, ft, 1 1/2 lengths.

NATIONAL LAW (c, 2, Constitution--Susie's Baby, by Giant's Causeway) provided some very anxious moments for his backers as the even-money favorite at third asking here. He



National Law | *Equi-Photo*

stalked the early leaders from an outside third and took over midway on the far turn. He kicked for home as the one to catch, and, after opening a seven-length lead at the stretch call, things began to get quite interesting. National Law drifted out badly to the outer rail down the lane, but maintained a clear enough advantage beneath Paco Lopez to graduate in dramatic fashion by 1 1/2 lengths.

After a [video surfaced on X](#) of Lopez striking National Law in the face with the crop on the gallop out, trainer Jorge Duarte, Jr. said on the platform, "Jockeys are the toughest athletes. We have mental health involved already anyone who saw the whole stretch run would say Paco was outstanding keeping the horse safe."

A rallying fourth on debut sprinting at Monmouth Park July 28, he switched to grass with a well-beaten fifth going 1 1/16 miles at Colonial last time Sept. 7. Susie's Baby, also responsible for an [Uncle Mo](#) filly of 2023, was bred to [Gun Runner](#) for 2025. The winner is a half to Family Way ([Uncle Mo](#)), GSW & MGISP,

\$1,002,860. Sales history: \$250,000 Ylg '23 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$33,625. [Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.](#)

O-Colts Neck Stables LLC; B-Diamond Creek Farm (KY); T-Jorge Duarte, Jr.

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 FIRST & SECOND-CROP
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FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4

2024 Stud Fees Listed

Improbable (City Zip), WinStar Farm, \$15,000

128 foals of racing age/17 winners/1 black-type winner
8-Zia, 5:21 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Golden Serenade, 20-1
\$50,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$20,000 EAS MAY 2yo

Maximum Security (New Year's Day), Coolmore Ashford, \$7,500

88 foals of racing age/15 winners/0 black-type winners
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Talent Show, 3-1

Reved Up (Candy Ride {Arg}), River Oaks Farm, \$2,000

15 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners
1-Remington, 7:30 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Tough Trooper, 8-1

Volatile (Violence), Three Chimneys Farm, \$15,000

125 foals of racing age/23 winners/1 black-type winner
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Tarragon, 10-1
\$135,000 KEE SEP yrl



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SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4
2024 Stud Fees Listed

Enticed (Medaglia d'Oro), Mountain Springs Farm, \$5,000
 158 foals of racing age/53 winners/3 black-type winners
 1-Remington, 7:30 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, l'm Enticing, 10-1

Mitole (Eskendereya), Spendthrift Farm, \$15,000
 296 foals of racing age/114 winners/8 black-type winners
 1-Remington, 7:30 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Mi Saturday, 5-2



ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

4th-Zia, \$64,500, (S), 12-3, (NW1X), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.31, ft, 3/4 length.

HEZEKIAH'S RULE (g, 3, Conquest Mo Money--Rules Like a Girl, by Roman Ruler) Lifetime Record: SP, 6-2-0-1, \$88,554.
 O/B-Nancy L. Lock (NM); T-Joel H. Marr. *1/2 to My Boanerges (Diabolical), MSW, \$274,420.

7th-Mahoning Valley, \$30,400, 12-3, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10.46, ft, 1 1/2 lengths.

WINE AND WAVES (f, 3, Vino Rosso--Malibu Pier {MGSW & GISP, \$466,200}, by Malibu Moon) Lifetime Record: 11-2-1-1, \$52,198. O-Imaginary Stables; B-Spendthrift Farm LLC (KY); T-Jeffrey A. Radosevich. *\$100,000 RNA 2yo '23 EASMAY. **1/2 to Coasted (Tizway), SW & GISP, \$366,066; Malibu Stacy (Tizway), MGSP, \$355,560.



4th-Mahoning Valley, \$27,400, 12-3, (NW2X), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:35.12, ft, 1/2 length.

DOCTOR NASH (g, 5, Practical Joke--Popstar, by Medaglia d'Oro) Lifetime Record: 22-6-2-5, \$224,716. O-John Steve Cannon; B-Lauren West, Val A. Henson & Potomac Bloodstock LLC (KY); T-John Steve Cannon. *\$135,000 Ylg '20 FTKOCT.



4th-Turf Paradise, \$22,500, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$12,500-\$16,000), 12-3, 3yo/up, f/m, 7 1/2ft, 1:30.61, fm, 1/2 length.

CHASINGSERENDIPITY (m, 6, Vancouver {Aus}--Box Office Queen {SP, \$102,040}, by Pulpit) Lifetime Record: 19-4-1-4, \$92,525. O-Lauri Seymour; B-Highfield Investment Group Inc. (KY); T-Vladimir Cerin. *\$9,000 RNA Ylg '19 FTKOCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mo Money Molly, f, 2, Conquest Mo Money--Molly My Love, by Dome. Zia, 12-3, (S), 6f, 1:11.66. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$33,000. B-Mark & Annette McCloy (NM). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Bye Bye Holley, f, 2, Marking--Annis, by Texas Glitter. Zia, 12-3, (S), 6f, 1:11.25. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$34,650. B-Fincher Racing LLC (NM). *\$44,000 Ylg '23 RUINMY. **1/2 to Proceed (Desert God), MSW, \$468,329.

My Peaches Q, g, 2, Train Rider Blues--Baby Lets Rock, by Attila's Storm. Zia, 12-2, (S), 6f, 1:12.41. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$33,100. B-Luis Carlos Velazquez (NM).

Ice Again, c, 3, Keen Ice--Card Club, by Awesome Again. Zia, 12-3, 6 1/2f, 1:17.25. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-1, \$29,793. B-Calumet Farm & Michael Cline (KY). *\$7,000 Wlg '21 KEENOV; \$14,000 RNA 2yo '23 TTAAPR.



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Conquest Mo Money, Hezekiah's Rule, g, 3, o/o Rules Like a Girl, by Roman Ruler. ALW, 12-3, Zia

Conquest Mo Money, Mo Money Molly, f, 2, o/o Molly My Love, by Dome. MSW, 12-3, Zia

Constitution, National Law, c, 2, o/o Susie's Baby, by Giant's Causeway. MSW, 12-3, Parx Racing

Keen Ice, Ice Again, c, 3, o/o Card Club, by Awesome Again. MSW, 12-3, Zia

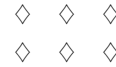
Marking, Bye Bye Holley, f, 2, o/o Annis, by Texas Glitter. MSW, 12-3, Zia

Practical Joke, Doctor Nash, g, 5, o/o Popstar, by **Medaglia d'Oro**. ALW, 12-3, Mahoning Valley

Train Rider Blues, My Peaches Q, g, 2, o/o Baby Lets Rock, by Attila's Storm. MSW, 12-2, Zia

Vancouver (Aus), Chasingserendipity, m, 6, o/o Box Office Queen, by Pulpit. AOC, 12-3, Turf Paradise

Vino Rosso, Wine and Waves, f, 3, o/o Malibu Pier, by Malibu Moon. ALW, 12-3, Mahoning Valley



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After drifting to the outer rail, **Constitution's** National Law graduates in dramatic fashion at Parx | *Equi-Photo*