



FASIG-TIPTON'S DECEMBER DIGITAL SALE SETS WORLD RECORD



\$750,000 sales topper Allez Marie | Fasig-Tipton

In what is believed to be a world record for a Thoroughbred auction conducted exclusively online, Fasig-Tipton's December Digital Sale closed its two-day run Wednesday evening with gross sales of \$10,031,000. With more than 1,200 bidders registered, 401 horses changed hands at an average of \$25,015.

"We're ecstatic over the results of the December Digital Sale, and over 2024 overall," said Fasig-Tipton Director of Digital Sales Leif Aaron. "We've done over \$10,000,000 in sales over the last few days, with more than \$45,000,000 in gross over the year. We couldn't be happier that buyers and sellers are putting that level of trust in Fasig-Tipton Digital."

In 2024, Fasig-Tipton's digital platform has grossed just over \$45,500,000. During the year, 1,417 horses have sold from 1,789 offered, equaling a 79% clearance rate.

Wednesday's session topper was **Allez Marie** (Unbridled's Song) (hip 337), who sold for \$750,000 to Three Chimneys Farm. A daughter of GI Kentucky Oaks winner Summerly (Summer Squall) and producer of four stakes horses as well as Dec. 1 Churchill maiden winner Running Away (Gun Runner), she is in foal to **Elite Power** and was consigned by Three Chimneys.

Other top sellers Wednesday included \$510,000 purchase and Three Chimneys-consigned **Lovely Carina** (Pioneerof the Nile) (hip 314), also signed for by Three Chimneys and in foal to **Nyquist**. *Cont.*

FIERCENESS UNDERGOES MINOR SURGERY; SHOULD STILL BE ON TRACK FOR A SPRING CAMPAIGN *by Bill Finley*

Since finishing second in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic, 'TDN Rising Star' **Fierceness** (City of Light) has undergone what owner Mike Repole described as minor elective surgery on a hind ankle. The news was broken by Dave Grening in the *Daily Racing Form* on Sunday and reiterated Tuesday by trainer Todd Pletcher at the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program's Global Symposium on Racing, at which Pletcher was a featured speaker.

"We had two vets look at him and one guy said you'll just turn him out for 60 days and there'll be no issue," Repole said.

"The other guy said maybe we should get it fixed now. I didn't even know if it was the right front or left front and then I find out it is in a hind leg. That's how minor it was. We didn't have to do the surgery. It was elective."

Cont. p3

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

ONE OUT, ONE IN FOR THE DENNIFFS WITH BELOVED FAMILY AT TATTERSALLS DECEMBER

Fiona Denniff speaks on the sale of her 850,000gns **Frankel** (GB) filly at Tattersalls.



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Thursday, December 12, 2024



2024 in photos: May 31. Kenny and Sonny McPeek keep an eye on things from the trainer's stand at Saratoga Race Course. | Sarah Andrew

4 | TAKEOUT IS THE FOCUS AT WEDNESDAY SYMPOSIUM PANEL

A different slicing of the takeout pie could equate to a way for tracks to "have your cake and eat it too," according to economics expert Marshall Gramm. T.D. Thornton has more.

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Racetrackers mourn Eddie Truman, a trainer as renowned for his patience with the Thoroughbred as for a perennially genial disposition.

10 | FILLY BEATS THE BOYS IN JAPANESE KENTUCKY DERBY POINTS RACE

A filly took down the colors of her male counterparts, as Myriad Love (Jpn)--a daughter of the expatriated 2013 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile upsetter New Year's Day--proved narrowly best to remain perfect in three trips to the races.

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Fasig-Tipton December Digital Sale, cont. from p1

Dream Big Racing LLC paid \$450,000 for **Girls Secret** (Giant's Causeway) ([hip 308](#)), in foal to **Constitution** and dam of GSW & MGISP Will's Secret (Will Take Charge).

"The team at Fasig-Tipton made selling Take Charge Tressa and Girls Secret a very streamlined, easy process," said Case Clay, who consigns as Case Clay Thoroughbred Management, agent. In addition to the aforementioned Girls Secret, he also consigned **Take Charge Tressa** (**War Front**) ([hip 335](#)), a full-sister to MGISW and young sire Omaha Beach and a half-sister to champion Take Charge Brandi (Giant's Causeway). In foal to **Tapit** and already a graded producer, the mare sold for \$320,000 to Solis/Litt. "It is a very user-friendly platform on which everyone is participating. The sellers were happy with the sales results."

Tuesday's results can be [seen here](#). The digital sale included horses of racing age, racing/broodmare prospects, broodmares, broodmare prospects, weanlings, and yearlings.

Full results from both days of the Fasig-Tipton December Digital Sale are [available here](#).

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Fierceness, cont. from p1



Fierceness | Sarah Andrew

"The surgery was on a Wednesday," Repole said. "(Senior Advisor, Repole Stables) Ed Rosen asked me on Friday how the surgery went for Fierceness? My reply was I didn't even check in with Todd. Let me check in on him. That's how serious it was. He was under for a full 15 minutes. It was done by Dr. (Larry) Bramlage and Dr. (Wesley) Sutter. I let Todd make the decision on whether he should have the surgery."

Repole said that in no way will the surgery impact what should be a challenging schedule in 2025 for his homebred. **Cont.**



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Fierceness, cont.

“He’s coming back 1000%,” he said. “He’s 100% fine. I have to win three races next year, the Met Mile, the Whitney and the Breeders’ Cup Classic. He’ll have races in between, but those are the three races I have to win.”

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DIFFERENT SLICING OF TAKEOUT PIE COULD EQUATE TO A WAY FOR TRACKS TO 'HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO' by T.D. Thornton

No industry gathering at which Thoroughbred executives discuss pricing issues is immune from the intertwined topic of death and taxes. In the pari-mutuel world, that means talking about takeout, or, more specifically, how the disparate fees that different classes of bettors must pay for the privilege of placing wagers are killing off smaller-scale casual horseplayers.

A Wednesday panel discussion at the Global Symposium on Racing hosted by the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program in Tucson was the latest Thoroughbred confab at which the takeout issue got batted around like a piñata.

But instead of just griping about the problem, a session titled "How Do We Keep Racing Relevant in the Evolving Wagering Landscape?" yielded one very specific suggestion from an

economics expert who is also a Thoroughbred owner and horseplayer about how two of the nation's premier boutique-meet tracks could get others in the industry to follow along with lowered takeouts.

Marshall Gramm, a professor and chair of the Department of Economics at Rhodes College in Memphis, outlined how Keeneland Race Course and Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, in particular, could both be best positioned to experiment with lower takeout rates. **Cont.**



Sarah Andrew

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Wednesday's Symposium, cont.

In this current era of pari-mutuels, the setting of takeout rates is complicated by opaque contractual agreements related to host fees--the charge advance-deposit wagering (ADW) outlets pay to track operators for the right to import a simulcast signal--plus betting-volume rebates that are individually negotiated and paid by tracks and ADWs to computer-assisted wagering teams (CAWs).

CAWs are **largely anonymous individuals or entities** that are permitted to tie sophisticated wagering technologies directly into tote systems to bet vast sums in the final moments before a race's start that try to take advantage of pari-mutuel market inefficiencies that the general public can't see.

Gramm began his takeout riff by responding to an audience member's postulation that tracks like Keeneland and Del Mar might be the least incentivized to lower takeouts, because casual horseplayers seem to flock to those signals regardless of the rates imposed upon them.

On the contrary, Gramm responded, he believes those two meets have the most to gain from experimenting with lowered takeouts.

"They're the ones who have to do it. The smaller tracks, the ADWs won't let them. If a smaller track reduced takeout, [the ADWs] would make them reduce host fees, so they can't do it,"

Gramm said.

"Churchill Downs having a higher takeout on [GI Kentucky] Derby weekend?" Gramm asked rhetorically, "I totally get it. That's totally understandable. The Derby's a 20-horse field" and a product that's very much in demand, he said.

"But Keeneland is in such a unique position--they don't own an ADW, but they have real market power. So if I were Keeneland, here's what I'd do: I'd lower takeout, especially on tris, supers [and other exotic bets to] 18%. I'd keep host fees the same."

"All you lose," Gramm continued, "is the margin on your on-track players. The CAWs, they're getting their rebates cut. But their effective takeout's the same. And then you could go and advertise, 'Hey, we have the lowest takeouts, across every pool, in the country.'"

"TwinSpires, Xpressbet, NYRA Bets, they may not like it. But they're not going to cut your signal off. So [Keeneland] and [Del Mar] have a unique opportunity to actually experiment with lowering [the] takeout, and you don't have to move your host fee along with it. I would love to see that happen."

Gramm said he has "tried to press this point" to industry leaders, using the 18% rate for exotics as a number that might be more palatable to bet-pricing executives even when he believes that actual takeout rate should really be several points lower than that. **Cont.**

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Wednesday's Symposium, cont.

"I'd love it to be 14-16% across the board, and I'd like to lower the [pricing] gap between [CAW] teams and recreational players," Gramm said.

Wouldn't the big-volume CAW teams balk at having their rebates cut, and thus walk away from horse betting?

Gramm didn't buy that reasoning.

"They're looking at their takeout rate, not the size of their rebate. In fact, the teams should benefit, because if takeout comes down, people will bet more and more into those pools, and they'll churn more. So it's a win/win," Gramm said.

"That would be my message to Keeneland and Del Mar. Let's give it a try. Let's see what would happen. And give it a try over a sustained period of time. Don't do it one meet and say it didn't work; [that lowering] takeout doesn't work. You've got to give it time," Gramm said.



Marshall Gramm | Lucas Marquardt

"And remember, there are all sorts of other factors. It's not like we're looking at this in a vacuum. Any sort of theory would say if you lower price, it's going to increase handle. Other factors may be driving handle down. But here is a way that you can

have your cake and eat it too," Gramm said.

At a different point in the discussion, panelists were asked to gaze into their crystal balls and predict what the biggest change in horse racing's betting landscape might be five years from now.

Matt Feig, the chief operating officer of NYRA Bets, said the "exasperation of the seasonality of our sport" will be a challenge that needs to be addressed.

"We're kind of seeing it now, where you get into the fall, which used to be really robust

from a wagering standpoint," Feig said.

But now, Feig explained, "there is some stagnation that's happening in [the third quarter of the year]." **Cont.**

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Darley

Wednesday's Symposium, cont.

Feig continued: "And that's something that needs to be looked at from an industry standpoint, [by] making sure that we align our track schedules and content to look at the new landscape. Because what's happened three years ago, four years ago, isn't the same any more with the different wagering opportunities that are out there, especially in the fall.

"It's going to be important to make sure that horse racing is aligned from a content-filler [standpoint]," Feig summed up. "But also, we have to make sure that we're not on top of [pro and college football] and kind of drowned out by it."

Nelson Clemmens, the owner and chief executive the simulcast service provider AmWest Entertainment as well as a Thoroughbred owner and breeder, touched upon the consolidation and reduction of racetracks as a troublesome trend.

"Five years from now, if the worst happens--and we know the dynamics within the industry--we might not have an 'A' track west of the Mississippi," Clemmens said. "I trust it won't probably be that dire. But the way that we operate, our industry has to [restructure into] a more aligned industry."

Zach Taylor, the North American director of sales for the technology and tote services firm Global Tote, said that, "It's a very real possibility that maybe some tracks aren't here [in five years]. But if it's done in a measured way, organized and planned out, it could very well be a boon for the wagering industry."

Gramm said that one way or another, five years from now will be a benchmark for horse racing, because that time frame will represent roughly a decade since the national legalization of sports wagering.

Sports betting initially was proclaimed to be a positive for the racing industry because it was assumed that many tracks would get sports betting licenses, and separately, horse racing would be able to ride the wave of sports betting to a higher profile.

But racing's relationship with sports betting--which does not generate direct revenues earmarked for purses like pari-mutuel horse betting does--could turn out to be having an erosive effect on the Thoroughbred industry.

"Will we look back on this, and this will be another one of those things that we hoped was going to change the game, like **American Pharoah** winning the Triple Crown [in 2015] and the [2002] Seabiscuit book [by Laura Hillenbrand]?" Gramm asked. "Or will [sports betting] be something that we'll be able to capitalize on?"

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CALIFORNIA MAINSTAY EDDIE TRUMAN

PASSES AGED 77 by Dan Ross



Eddie Truman | Benoit

Eddie Truman, a trainer as renowned for his patience with the Thoroughbred as for a perennially genial disposition, has passed at the age of 77.

"A great horseman and an even greater individual," said veteran trainer Gary Stute.

"I never heard him say a bad word about anybody--anybody--and on the racetrack, that's few and far," Stute added. "Once you met him, you stayed friends with him. The ultimate honest good person."

Over a career spanning nearly 50 years, Truman trained 763 winners and collected \$15.7 million in earnings. He had his big days as a trainer. Go West Marie (Western Fame) won four stakes races and was just a length away from winning the 2015 GIII Las Cienegas Stakes.

Irish Import Casino King (Ire) (Fairy King) showed up time after time in some ferocious bouts on the turf, including a clear second behind triple Grade I winner Bienamado (Bien Bien) one June at Hollywood Park, a second-place finish in a Grade II at Woodbine and a stakes victory at Remington Park.

But it was the skill and patience that Truman deployed with the horses in his care--especially the wayward types--that stood him apart.

As he told the *TDN* earlier this year upon his retirement, "to see a horse get good and see them just develop, get confidence, that was really fantastic to me--more so than even having a real nice horse that just goes out there and wins every time," said Truman, at the time. "Maybe they weren't great horses, but they would go out there and perform for you," he said.

Truman was born in Kansas, on a small holding where his family rebroke horses ruined under other hands, in the process cementing the foundations of his horsemanship.

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"We didn't buck-break them out or anything like that. This is where dad had the edge--our horses never bucked. No. As soon as we got them out of the pen, we'd take them out in a plowed field," Truman told the *TDN* in February.

"It was deep stuff, so they couldn't do too much. But it really taught us, all of us, to be kind, gentle hands, and to let horses relax--correct them, but then give them a chance. It was good."

Good for horse. Good for rider. "We learned some really valuable horsemanship that way," said Truman.

Truman started as a jockey before his voice broke. He rode his first winner, a match race, aged 12.

At 16, he followed into the professional ranks his brother, Jerry, already an established jockey. Truman was contracted to the owner of the Chicago Blackhawks. He was the leading rider at Sportsman Park. But weight gains soon put paid to any long career in the saddle.

A brief period training was followed by stints doing all sorts--international backpacker, paddock judge, exercise rider. In the early 1970s, Truman was assistant to Hall of Famer Bobby Frankel. In 1974, he took out his license again.

"When I started, we got lucky. We claimed a horse that won like six out of nine races. Claimed another one that won four out of five. We would run them where they belonged. Run them up north," said Truman, in February. **Cont.**

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Darley

Eddie Truman, who passed away this week, was profiled in the TDN in February by Dan Ross.



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Eddie Truman, cont.

"That was one of my favorite games: Claim a horse here [Santa Anita, Hollywood Park] while they were in jail, run them up north, win, come back here, run them for what I claimed them for--I'd already won a race with them--and go on. You build up their confidence. Confidence--it's a big thing. People don't understand that."

Truman was wirily trim as a bantamweight boxer, thanks in part to a lifetime in the saddle, horse and bike. Even into his sixties, Truman could be seen of a morning bobbing on horseback around Del Mar and Santa Anita (sometimes in shorts, to the consternation of anyone with skin on their knees).

"The most generous, giving guy you could ever come across who would help anybody. But the things he loved the most were his horses and his bicycle," said XBTB presenter Zoe Cadman. "I don't think I ever rode as fast to Del Mar [from Sierra Madre] as the year I rode with Eddie. He rode me out the saddle. He was a true machine. I ran into him two weeks ago at the end of his 70-mile bike ride and he wouldn't even blow out a candle."

Truman's passing was reportedly sudden. "He did 60 miles on Sunday. He couldn't have been fitter or stronger," said Craig Barnfather, a former exercise rider who frequently cycled with Truman. Barnfather credits the former trainer with helping to turn his life around decades ago.

"I introduced him to these guys on Sunday. I said, 'Eddie, what did you tell me 32 years ago? Bike or coffin?' He said, 'Yes. This guy was on the fast lane to death.' Everybody else saw me as a dumb drunk. But he never ever made me feel like that," Barnfather recalled.

"All I can say about Eddie is he was everything I wanted to be," said former trainer Matt Chew. "Upbeat. Positive. Always there to lend a helping hand to anybody that needed it. Just an all-round good guy."

Bloodstock agent John Fulton concurred. "We lost the best person that I have ever known. My best friend for 51 years. He kept me grounded and taught me so much about what really matters in life. You could never find anyone who would have a bad word to say about Eddie. He was everyone's friend and will be missed by so many."

Throughout, Truman balanced his professional and personal lives, never letting the two intermingle. No social gatherings at the barn. No long evening fireside chats on the telephone, all shop talk with the owners. No busman's holidays, families in tow. **Cont.**

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Eddie Truman, cont.

"I wanted to spend time with my family. So, that's the road I chose," Truman said, in February. "And I never really regretted my choice that way."

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FILLY MYRIAD LOVE BEATS THE BOYS IN JAPANESE KENTUCKY DERBY POINTS RACE

by Alan Carasso

In the last two years in particular, the \$468,241 Listed Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun--the second of four legs on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby--has been won by horses that went on to become significant players on the world stage.

The 2022 renewal was taken by Derma Sotogake (Jpn) (Mind Your Biscuits), subsequent winner of the G2 UAE Derby, a participant in the 2023 GI Kentucky Derby and cracking second in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic at season's end. Last year's running was won by Forever Young (Jpn) (Real Steel {Jpn}), victorious in the 3-year-old features in Saudi Arabia and Dubai, third in the Derby before closing the year with a good third in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic.

For the first time since the Speightstown filly Rieno Tesoro accomplished the feat back in 2016, a filly took down the colors

of her male counterparts, as **Myriad Love (Jpn)**--a daughter of the expatriated 2013 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile upsetter New Year's Day--proved narrowly best to remain perfect in three trips to the races.

Away alertly from gate 10, Myriad Love dueled outside of a rival passing under the line for the first time, but was content to allow Carrot Farm's **Holy Grail (Jpn)** (Nadal), the field's other filly, to take up the running into the first turn. Chasing from second down the back of the track, Myriad Love was sent into the lead midway on the second turn and about 400 meters from home and held sway late to deny **Happy Man (Jpn)** (Danon Legend) and Ryusei Sakai, who was aboard Forever Young last year. **Soldier Field (Jpn)** (Le Vent Se Leve {Jpn}), whose sire won this in 2017, won a photo for third over odds-on **Natural Rise (Jpn)** (Kizuna {Jpn}), last-out winner of the first leg in the series, the Cattleya Stakes (allowance) at Tokyo Nov. 23.

A maiden winner at first asking over seven furlongs at Chukyo Sept. 16, Myriad Love was exiting a facile success in the Listed Edelweiss Sho at Mombetsu Oct. 31.

One of two stakes winners for New Year's Day, Myriad Love is out of a half-sister to One Millionth (Jpn) (Gold Allure {Jpn}), a two-time listed winner on the tracks of the National Association of Racing. Third dam Difficult produced G1 February Stakes hero Testa Matta (Tapit), now a productive sire in Korea. **Cont.**

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Myriad Love, cont.



Myriad Love | Horsephotos/Tomoya Moriuchi

With the victory, Myriad Love picks up 20 points and assumes the top spot on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby. If she were to win the series, which continues with the Hyacinth Stakes in February and the Fukuryu Stakes (allowance) in March, ownership may opt to instead use the automatic invitation to run in the GI Longines Kentucky Oaks.

Wednesday's Results:

ZEN-NIPPON NISAI YUSHUN (Jpn-G1)-Listed, ¥71,400,000 (\$468,241), Kawasaki, 12-11, 2yo, 1600m, 1:42.40, gd.

1--**MYRIAD LOVE (JPN)**, 121, f, 2, by **New Year's Day**

1st Dam: **Ladybird (Jpn)**, by **Smart Falcon (Jpn)**

2nd Dam: **She's Impossible**, by **Yankee Victor**

3rd Dam: **Difficult**, by **Concern**

(¥27,000,000 Ylg '23 JRHAJUL). O-Asuka Shiraishi; B-Northern Farm; T-Koichi Shintani; J-Atsuya Nishimura; ¥42,000,000.

Lifetime Record: 3-3-0-0, \$452,576. *1/2 to **Steelblue (Jpn)** (Rulership {Jpn}), GSP-Jpn, \$230,889.

2--**Happy Man (Jpn)**, 123, c, 2, Danon Legend --Belle Mure (Jpn), by King Kamehameha (Jpn). O-Shigehisa Tanabe; B-Kuwata Bokujo; T-Ryo Terashima; J-Ryusei Sakai; ¥14,700,000.

3--**Soldier Field (Jpn)**, 123, c, 2, Le Vent Se Leve (Jpn)--I'll Go Back (Jpn), by Ammirare (Jpn). (¥8,250,000 Ylg '23 JBBAUG).

O-Honjo Inc; B-Good Luck Farm; T-Hiroto Kawashima; J-Fuma Ono; ¥8,400,000.

Margins: 3/4, 1HF, NO. Odds: 4.60, 7.30, 11.90. **Click for the [goracing.jp chart](#) and [VIDEO \(SC 10\)](#).**

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JUSTIFYABLE PEDIGREE

By a champion,
1/2 to a champion

HEARTLAND
Chestnut Colt; foaled 2021

Justly	Scat Daddy	Johannesburg
Stage Magic	Low Style	Ghostzapper
Cat Thief	Megal Illusion	Storm Cat
In Her Glory	Train Robbery	Miswaki
	Forever Waving	

By **JUSTIFY** (2015). Horse of the year, Triple Crown winner of \$3,798,000, Kentucky Derby [G1] (CD, \$1,432,000), etc. Sire of 3 crops of racing age, 710 foals, 343 starters, 33 black-type winners, 2 champions, 167 winners of 293 races and earning \$27,126,974, including Just F Y I (champion, \$1,711,250), Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies [G1] (SA, \$1,040,000), etc., Learning To Fly (champion in Australia, \$1,190,496, Yarraman Park Reising S. [G2], etc.), City of Troy [G1] (hwt. in Europe, England and Ireland).

1st dam
SAMBUCA CLASSICA, by Cat Thief. Placed at 3, \$8,663, in Canada. (Total: \$13,896). Dam of 10 registered foals, 10 of racing age, including a 2-year-old of 2024, 9 to race, 7 winners, including—

CLASSIC EMPIRE (c. by Pioneer of the Nile), 5 wins to 3, \$2,520,220, champion 2-year-old colt, Breeders' Cup Juvenile [G1] (SA, \$1,100,000), Arkansas Derby [G1] (OP, \$600,000), Claiborne Breeders' Futurity [G1] (KEE, \$300,000), Bashford Manor S. [G3] (CD, \$59,520), 2nd Preakness S. [G1] (PIM, \$300,000), 3rd Lambholm South Holy Bull S. [G2] (GP, \$34,300). Sire.



HEARTLAND
JUSTIFYABLE

NEW FOR 2025
Fee: 10,000 S&N

WINSTAR

BEST OF THE 2024 TDN WRITERS' ROOM

2024 marked another successful year for the TDN Writers' Room, which is presented by Keeneland and hosted by the team of Bill Finley, Zoe Cadman and Randy Moss. This week we look back on a few of our favorite guests throughout the year.

First, we checked in with **Richard Migliore** ahead of a historic Belmont Stakes weekend. 'Richie' reminisced on Belmonts past and shared what he was looking forward to most for the first-ever 'Belatoga.'

"I can already feel the energy that's been in town," Migliore said as he called in from the famous Saratoga picnic tables a few days before the big event. "Saratoga always holds that kind of energy and you feel the charm of it, the mystique of Saratoga, but it's amped up even more here. I don't want to say it's going to be a madhouse, but it's going to be on the edge of chaos."



Click here for our 'Best Of' edition of the TDN Writers' Room

Then ahead of the Saratoga Race Meet, we talked with **Flavian Prat**, who decided to move his tack to New York in 2022 and wow, does the decision seem to have paid off this year. Prat would go on to establish a new record for stakes wins by a jockey at Saratoga.

"I'm riding for great connections," Prat said when asked about his decision to relocate. "I'm very fortunate. My agent is doing a great job so everything is going well right now. It felt like it was the right move at the right time. I was in California for six or seven years and it felt like it was time to do something and explore the East Coast. I had the opportunity to ride for some trainers there so I felt like it was the right time to

do it."

Mike Repole's passion for horse racing was as evident as ever when he joined the show the week just after Fierceness (**City of Light**)'s Travers victory. **Cont.**

JUSTIFYABLE SPEED

5 1/2 furlongs in **1:03.20**, fastest 2YO time between **SARATOGA** and **DEL MAR** with a **90 BEYER**



HEARTLAND
JUSTIFYABLE

NEW FOR 2025
Fee: 10,000 S&N

WINSTAR

TDN Writers' Room, cont.

The outspoken owner and breeder discussed his leading 3-year-old colt as well as the changes he's looking to bring about with the National Thoroughbred Association.

"I think we're making a lot more progress than people think," Repole said when asked about his fledgling organization. "There has been more talk over the past 10 months than there has ever been. Many people agree with what I'm saying. The only negative feedback I get is they don't like the style. You know what? Other styles haven't worked for 40 years."

Aidan O'Brien, who had one of the talking horses of the year in City of Troy (**Justify**), checked in to the Writers' Room ahead of this year's Breeders' Cup. O'Brien not only talked about his star 3-year-old, but he also looked back on Breeders' Cup pasts and shared how much he enjoys the championship meet.

"It's unique isn't it?" noted O'Brien. "I think you have to experience it to believe it with the atmosphere and the hype. It's just very special. All the best horses are there and it's the ultimate test."

The TDN Writers' Room is also presented by **WinStar Farm**, **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders' Association**, **West Point Thoroughbreds**, and **XBTv.com**. Watch out for a special holiday episode next week on the TDN Writers' Room.

[Click here](#) to watch the show.

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

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CLASSIC CAUSEWAY RETIRED TO CRESTWOOD FARM

Classic Causeway (Giant's Causeway--Private World, by Thunder Gulch), winner of the 2022 GI Caesars Belmont Derby Invitational Stakes, has been retired to Pope McLean's Crestwood Farm for the 2025 breeding season. He will stand for \$6,500 live foal.

"We are thrilled to have Classic Causeway at Crestwood Farm," McLean said. "He was precocious at two, and a Grade I winner at three. He was versatile on both dirt and turf, with earnings over \$1.5 million. His sire Giant's Causeway is a top sire of sires, with **Not This Time** proving to be an elite sire."

Owned by Old Kentucky Home LLC, bred by Kentucky West Racing LLC and Clarke M. Cooper Family Living Trust and trained by Ken McPeck, Classic Causeway also won the GII Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby and GIII Sam F. Davis S. He was third in the GI Claiborne Breeders' Futurity. Classic Causeway posted a record of 24-4-3-4 and \$1,519,651 in earnings.

"Classic Causeway as a racehorse was one of the soundest, toughest horses I've trained," McPeck said. **Cont.**

JUSTIFYABLE LOOKS

“He'd just stand there like a statue; **perfectly square, perfectly balanced** with that lovely shoulder and head out in front of him...He was just head and shoulders above anything else we had on the farm.”

- **David Hanley**, WinStar Sr. VP/Bloodstock Services



HEARTLAND
JUSTIFYABLE

NEW FOR 2025
Fee: 10,000 S&N

WINSTAR

CLASSIC CAUSEWAY

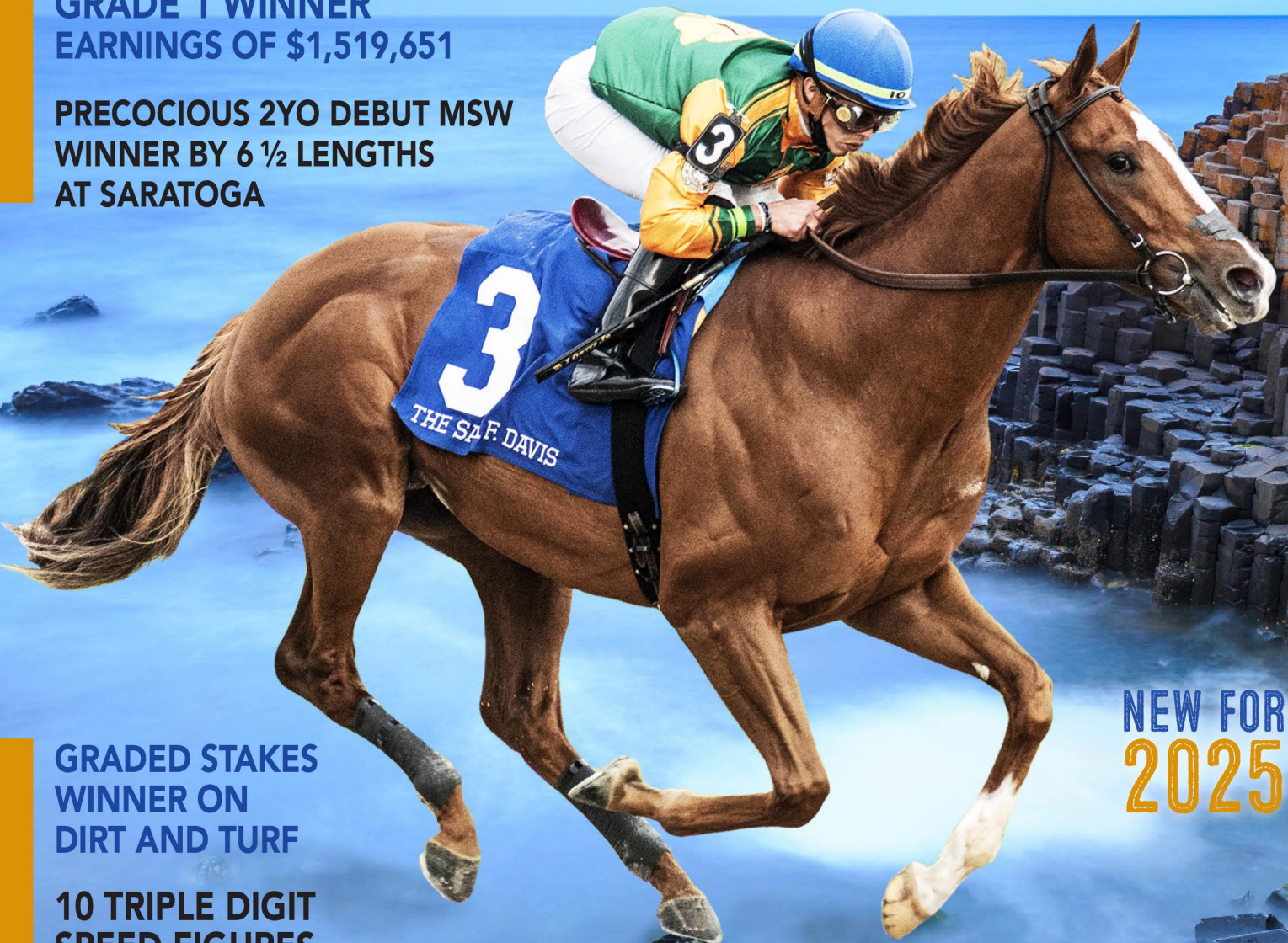
THE LAST G1 WINNING MILLIONAIRE
BY THREE TIME CHAMPION SIRE

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

— SIRE OF NOT THIS TIME —

GRADE 1 WINNER
EARNINGS OF \$1,519,651

PRECOCIOUS 2YO DEBUT MSW
WINNER BY 6 ½ LENGTHS
AT SARATOGA



GRADED STAKES
WINNER ON
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Classic Causeway to Crestwood, cont.



Classic Causeway | Sarah Andrew

"His natural early speed and being a son of Giant's Causeway gives him every chance as a sire."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SANTA ANITA AT 90 YEARS--A PERSONAL RETROSPECTIVE

Southern California, not known for tradition, has a rich and wonderful history in the world of horse racing. Santa Anita was built in 1934 and they got it right. The track embraces the San Gabriel mountains, which loom in the forefront on an incredibly large piece of land by Southern California standards. Bob Baffert has called Santa Anita the most beautiful in the country.

From almost any angle, fans get a good view of the horses. Santa Anita is the Wrigley Field of horse racing. Fans can get just feet away from horses, jockeys, and trainers. Just how close? Fans yell out encouragement to their jockey as the horses pass out of the walking ring to go onto the track. If a horse rears in the walking ring, people have to scamper away. That's how close! I have been to other historic tracks like Churchill Downs and Saratoga and you can't quite get that same intimacy.

And what about the horses? And the great races that have

taken place at Santa Anita? What a history! The statue of the great Seabiscuit stands as the first testament to that history. I have seen the brilliant Spectacular Bid, perhaps the greatest horse to ever look through a bridle according to his trainer, Bud Delp, win the Santa Anita Handicap under the legendary Bill Shoemaker. More history. Another Triple Crown winner, Affirmed, won the Santa Anita Handicap a different year. I remember trainer Laz Barrera remarking: "they can't beat Affirmed." No they couldn't.

In the heady days of Santa Anita's past, where weekend crowds often topped 50,000 people, you would see everyone you wanted to know or maybe some you didn't want to know. They came from everywhere. They were everywhere. People on the walkway with the newspaper or the *Racing Form*. People studying the horses as they came onto the track. My dad would bribe the ushers with a win ticket so we could go upstairs on the biggest days. I saw the owners and trainers there. I stood in the walkway and there was Farrah Fawcett in her prime Charlie's Angels days standing next to George Hamilton, maybe four feet away from me. No big deal. One day, an inebriated Mickey Rooney came up to me, pulled some money out and asked me if I would go and place a bet for him. I was all of 14!

Other people. My dad's friend, unshaven, who drove a beat up car, always in tattered clothes, throwing away \$2,000 worth of tickets onto the floor at a time when houses only cost \$25,000. Ten feet away was John Forsythe sitting in his box, not a hair out of place, just like on the television show: *Dynasty*. **Cont.**



Santa Anita | Horsephotos



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Santa Anita thoughts in letter to the editor, cont.

Trainer Charlie Whittingham walking by, always without an expression on his face, whether he had won the feature race or not. Usually he had won. Santa Anita was pure spectacle: of humans shining at one another. It was Kentucky Derby day every day. It was a little city where you would see your racetrack friends and cheer or commiserate together depending how your horse did. And then come back for more.

The greatest asset of Santa Anita is that it is always waiting to be discovered, again and again. While horse racing today has much more competition from other sports and other avenues of betting, it is still as it was, a spectacle of horses and people. While crowds are down from its halcyon past, I still see groups of the young new faces strolling in awestruck at what they have discovered. I still notice children mesmerized by seeing a horse just four feet away for the first time and think back to my first experience. The big days like opening day or the Santa Anita Derby are still magic. At the 2023 Breeders' Cup held at Santa Anita, I ran into a co-worker and her husband by chance who heard about the event and just came out rather innocently to see what it was all about. The husband exclaimed to me, beside himself with emotion, "Wow, this is like a giant party."

--Armen Antonian

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY IS IN GRAVE DANGER

I read with interest the [article of *The Thoroughbred Report* titled "Dogs Gone: New Zealand bans greyhound racing from 2026,"](#) dated Dec. 12. The article starts with the sentence, "There are only five nations globally where greyhound racing still operates being New Zealand, USA, Ireland, Australia, and Britain, but this is set to change with an announcement by New Zealand MP Winston Peters that greyhound racing will be banned in NZ from 2026."

I was not aware that racing greyhounds is still legal in the United States. According to Wikipedia, "as of 2024, only two tracks currently conduct actual live racing onsite, both in West Virginia." I would imagine this is a reference to Wheeling Island and the other Mardi Gras Casino resort. (Grey2K confirms that West Virginia is the only state where dog racing is legal.)

I have made this point in the past, but the Thoroughbred industry is in grave danger. I know one business analyst that specializes in corporate consulting and he can imagine the Thoroughbred industry being gone in 20 years. **Cont.**

NTRA HORSE PAC®

Horse PAC® is the Political Action Committee of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. The PAC supports federal candidates who:

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- Understand horse racing's issues
- Have racetracks, OTBs, ADW facilities, breeding farms, training centers and other equine venues in their Districts
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Greyhound racing concerns in letter to the editor, cont

To be frank, based on numerous comments on social media dedicated to those who are in the Thoroughbred industry or are fans, whenever this possibility of demise is brought up, someone angrily bashes the observation.

I repeat a history lesson: New York once effectively banned horse racing in an act called the “Hart–Agnew Law.” According to Wikipedia, “Numerous Saratoga businesses went bankrupt, hotels suffered a sharp decline in guests, and real estate values collapsed.” What I am saying is doom and gloom is a real possibility. This is a time to engage with those that have expertise in public relations and image management.

Unfortunately, there are plenty in the industry that want rah-rah-rah articles that are “upbeat and positive” about horse racing. It is a silly angle: critics of horse racing are not going to be assuaged by relentless rah-rah-rah published by the Thoroughbred industry publications. Rather, this is a time to look outside of the industry for attitudes that may affect the industry.

At some time, almost all major businesses have some sort of image problem. Some are minor, some are serious, and some are existential. This is an existential problem. And it isn't just facing bans like greyhound racing bans. It's potential fans gravitating to other forms of gambling or entertainment that they do not perceive as harmful to animals. It's the possibility of states pulling the rug out of subsidies. According to NewJersey.com, in an article published September 17, 2024, “NJ will give \$20M in taxpayer money each year to subsidize horse racing purses.” The article continues, “Critics such as Peter Chen, a policy analyst with the progressive think tank New Jersey Policy Perspective, took a different stance. He said the subsidies were ill-fitted at a time when New Jersey residents have been struggling with inflation and the cost of living.”



Sarah Andrew

Now when one throws in perceptions of animal cruelty into the mix, subsidies could easily go. Heck, there is even a website dedicated to ending horse racing subsidies.

They write: “Three billion dollars in casino revenue has already been used to prop up the horse racing industry, and these increased subsidies are now expected to cost taxpayers at least \$1 billion every four years. Residents of New York should be the recipients of these casino profits, not the 11 Thoroughbred and harness tracks. Millions of private businesses in the state have operated entirely without casino subsidies. Why does horse racing receive this corporate welfare?”

Of course, apart from an outright subsidy, there is the issue of getting a state casino license in the first place because one has horse racing, wherein the applicant might not have been successful had they not been a race track.

There are benefits to the Thoroughbred industry, including promotion of green spaces for farms, which economists call an “externalized benefit.” An "externalized benefit" is a benefit created and externalized to others, which is not reflected in profits or otherwise enjoyed by the party that created the benefit. For instance, race tracks help build the surrounding area's tourism, such as at Saratoga. That is the argument for subsidies. **Cont.**



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Greyhound racing concerns in letter to the editor, cont

But this is not a piece about the wisdom or lack thereof of government subsidies or licensing favoritism for casinos. Rather, it is about the stark reality that this favoritism for race tracks can be greatly abated by the public thinking that the horse racing industry is cruel to the horses.

But love blinds, and I have seen countless comments on social media on how horse racing is too hard on its dopers or others that give the business a black eye. It is time to bring in outside consultants that are not so mired in love for the horse racing industry that they do not have a clear head about what needs to be done to preserve the industry. Again, failures do not necessarily mean outright bans: it could be diminished subsidies, withdrawn (or not issued) "racino" licenses so that race tracks can have accompanying casinos, or the simple act of a potential horse race bettor not betting on horses.

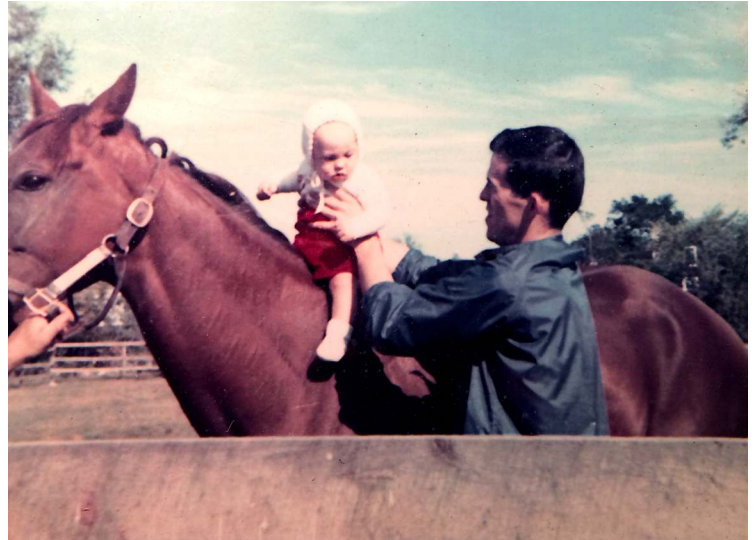
Perceptions of animal cruelty have real world effects, and New Zealand's new ban on greyhound racing is the latest example.
 --Rinaldo Del Gallo, III
 The author is a horse racing fan.

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HOW I GOT HOOKED ON RACING: TDN CORRESPONDENT T.D. THORNTON

For the past few 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.

I grew up in Salem, New Hampshire, which decades ago was the home of Rockingham Park. My parents were schoolteachers, and my dad, Paul, was the high school baseball and basketball coach. Everyone in town seemed to have some sort of connection to the track, and my father started training a handful of Thoroughbreds the same year I was born, in 1968.



T.D. Thornton meets a horse for the first time with his father Paul in 1968 | Courtesy T.D. Thornton

My earliest memories are of the small farm (long since razed and redeveloped) where my dad boarded his horses, just down the road from Rock's back stable gate. We'd eat breakfast at the track kitchen, then back at the barn, before I was old enough to do chores, my father would corral me in a stall with a rambunctiously playful goat to keep me occupied and out of trouble.

The spectacle of the "old Rock" on summer afternoons was the allure. I remember being mesmerized by the flashing lights and hypnotic clicking of the tote board. The ritualistic chaos of race days struck me as important and noble, yet also like a swirling, enthralling carnival. The crescendo of the crowd during a stampeding stretch drive left me wanting more, every time.

I recall being five or six and watching my dad--no-nonsense and focused like when he coached sports--saddling racehorses on the other side of the fence in the paddock. Children were not permitted in the enclosure, so I couldn't follow my father there. I didn't have my path figured out, but I knew I wanted to end up on the other side of that fence, where the horses, jockeys and my dad were--the epicenter of action. **Cont.**

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Hooked on Racing: T.D. Thornton, cont.

The summer I was 12, Rockingham Park burned down. The charred grandstand symbolized the end of an era for many, including my dad, who decided to give up his modest stable rather than make the daily 70-mile round-trip to Boston to train and race at Suffolk Downs.

A scaled-down version of the "new Rock" opened in 1984, coinciding with the year I got my driver's license. On weekdays, high school would get out at 2:30 p.m., and I'd rush over in time for the seventh race, when the admission gates were left open and you could catch the last few races for free. On Fridays and Saturdays, the Thoroughbreds switched to racing at night. I went nearly every weekend, absorbed in the challenge of handicapping.

In 1986, I went off to college. I loved reading and writing, and began to harbor a fantasy about how great it would be if I could someday con some employer into paying me to write about racehorses. The University of New Hampshire was only 45 miles north of the Rock, so I was endlessly borrowing cars or imploring fraternity brothers to cut classes and drive down to the track with me.

After writing for the school paper, I landed a series of journalism internships and soon found myself reporting from the New Hampshire bureau of the *Boston Globe*. In the spring of 1990, I talked an editor into letting me do a feature about struggling, low-level trainers at Rockingham.

The very same day Unbridled won the GI Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in front of 128,257 fans, I stood under a leaky shedrow on the rainy Rock backstretch, interviewing a down-on-his-luck horseman about a \$3,500 claimer named More Fog. I might as well have been in heaven.

That first turf writing assignment led to subsequent brushes with good karma that have kept me immersed in the sport the past 35 years.

The final twist to this tale is that not only did my dad first hook me on racing, but I got to hook him back. After being away from horses for 15 years--but with a son who in the interim had gone to work in the racing industry--my dad returned to training in 1995, campaigning a competitive stable on the New England/Tampa circuit until he retired in 2007.

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Medallion Racing had a dream year in 2024, capped off by Porta Fortuna, who was named the Cartier Champion 3-Year-Old Filly. Click the photo above to watch our video on the partnership. | Megan Coggin photo

WEEKLY RULINGS



WEEKLY STEWARDS AND COMMISSIONS RULINGS, DEC. 5-11

by Dan Ross

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

NEW HISA/HIWU STEWARDS RULINGS

The following rulings were reported on HISA's "rulings" portal and through the HIWU "pending" and "resolved" cases portals.

Resolved ADMC Violations

Date: 12/10/2024

Licensee: Roderick Rodriguez, trainer

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

Explainer: Medication violation for the presence of Phenylbutazone—a controlled substance (Class C)—in a sample taken from Bernardo's Legacy, who won at Gulfstream Park on 10/26/24.

Date: 12/09/2024

Licensee: Moshe Mark, trainer

Penalty: A written Reprimand (per 9/26/23 HISA Guidance). Final decision by HIWU.

Explainer: Vets' list medication violation for the presence of Omeprazole (GastroGard)—a controlled substance (Class C)—in a sample taken from Chocolate Shake on 10/17/24.

Date: 12/09/2024

Licensee: Juan Aguirre, trainer

Penalty: Disqualification of Covered Horse's Race results, including forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points, and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable); A written Reprimand (per 9/26/23 HISA Guidance). Final decision by HIWU.

Explainer: For the presence of Omeprazole (GastroGard)—a controlled substance (Class C)—in a sample taken from Future Flay, who finished sixth at Mahoning Valley on 10/19/24.

Date: 12/05/2024

Licensee: Francisco Rodriguez, trainer

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

Explainer: Medication violation for the presence of Methocarbamol—a controlled substance (Class C)—in a sample taken from Wrong Direction, who was third at Pleasanton on 10/19/24.

Pending ADMC Violations

12/11/2024, Bonnie Lucas, trainer: Pending medication violation for the presence of Methamphetamine—a banned substance—in a sample taken from Thencomemorning, who won at Delaware Park on 5/23/24.

12/10/2024, Stuart Williams, trainer: Pending medication violation for the presence of Gabapentin—a controlled substance (Class B)—in a sample taken from Pandora's Gift, who finished third in the G2 Franklin S. at Keeneland on 10/13/24.

12/09/2024, Steve Knapp, trainer: Pending vets' list medication violation for the presence of Acepromazine—a controlled substance (Class B)—in a sample taken from Duty First on 11/7/24.

12/06/2024, Emma Gaffney, trainer: Pending vets' list medication violation for the presence of Triamcinolone—a controlled substance (Class C)—in a sample taken from Fight Til Dawn on 11/6/24.

12/05/2024, Happy Alter, trainer: Pending vets' list medication violation for the presence of Acepromazine—a controlled substance (Class B)—in a sample taken from Love Paradox on 10/11/24.

Violations of Crop Rule

The HISA rulings website is currently experiencing technical difficulties, a possible fix for which could come around the middle of December, according to a HISA spokesperson.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Jack Christopher (Munnings) was a "TDN Rising Star"

Visit the **TDN Rising Stars** section of our website



MINNESOTA SURGERY AND SPORTS MEDICINE SPECIALIST INSTALLED AS AAEP PRESIDENT

Dr. Tracy Turner, partner in Turner Wilson Equine Consulting in Stillwater, Minnesota, was installed as president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) during the President’s Luncheon Dec. 10 at the AAEP’s 70th Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida, the organization said via a press release Tuesday.

Retired from private practice late in 2023, Dr. Turner concentrated exclusively on equine sports medicine, lameness and surgery at Turner Equine. He established the practice in 2016 following 12 years with Anoka Equine Veterinary Services in Elk River, and he was in academia for 23 years. Dr. Turner received his veterinary degree from Colorado State University in 1978.

An AAEP member since 1986, Dr. Turner previously served on the board of directors from 2017-2019; as chair of the Farrier Liaison Committee; and as member of the Educational Programs and Student Relations committees as well as the Foundation Advisory Council.

Dr. Turner has served as president of the Minnesota Horse Council, Minnesota Association of Equine Practitioners, and the American Academy of Thermology; and on the board of directors of the American Academy of Equine Sports Medicine.

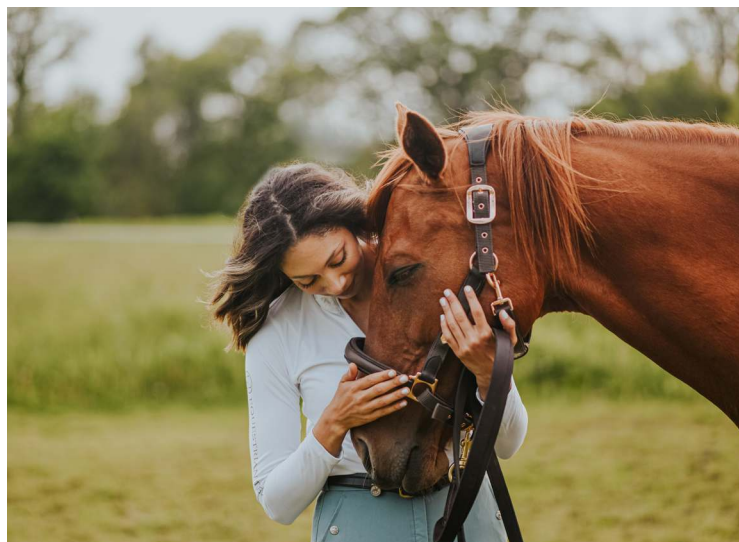
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MAREWORTHY ACADEMY OFFERS FREE HORSE OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Mareworthy Charities has launched Mareworthy Academy, an eight-week program beginning in January and specifically designed to teach aspiring horse owners how to care for horses.

"There's a widespread misconception that horse ownership is only for experienced equestrians or those planning to ride competitively," says Mareworthy Charities Executive Director Kyle Rothfus. "This limiting belief prevents many compassionate individuals from considering adoption, particularly of retired broodmares who have so much love to give. Through Mareworthy Academy, we're challenging these assumptions and opening doors for people who may have never thought horse ownership was possible for them."

The program, which is free, focuses on how retired Thoroughbred broodmares can be the right choice as first horses for new owners.



Courtesy Mareworthy Charities

The program offers eight weeks of self-guided e-learning with live sessions; four weeks of hands-on volunteer experience; instruction in horse care, health management, and ownership preparation; real-world application of skills at equine non-profits; and a curriculum ranging from basic care to emergency preparedness.

"These magnificent mares have spent their lives nurturing the next generation of racehorses. They deserve retirement with dignity, and many make perfect companions for first-time horse owners who want to provide a loving forever home," said Rothfus.

"By removing both educational and psychological barriers to horse ownership, we're not just teaching skills--we're expanding the pool of qualified adopters who can provide loving homes to retired broodmares. Our goal is to show that with proper education and support, providing a forever home to a retired broodmare is an achievable and rewarding experience for many people who may have never considered it possible."

For more information, visit mareworthy.com/academy.

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Saturday, Los Alamitos #8, post time: 7:00 p.m. EST

LOS ALAMITOS FUTURITY-GII, \$200,000, 2yo, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Gaming 🌿	Game Winner	Michael E. Pegram, Karl Watson, and Paul Weitman	Baffert	Prat	120
2	Mellencamp 🌿	Constitution	SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Dianne Bashor, Determined Stables, Robert E. Masterson, Tom J. Ryan, Waves Edge Capital LLC & Catherine Donovan	Baffert	Kimura	120
3	Getaway Car 🌿	Curlin	SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables LLC, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Dianne Bashor, Determined Stables, Robert E. Masterson, Tom J. Ryan, Waves Edge Capital LLC & Catherine Donovan	Baffert	Hernandez	120
4	Rank 🌿	Honor A. P.	Calumet Farm	O'Neill	Fresu	120
5	Journalism	Curlin	Bridlewood Farm, Don Alberto Stable, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Elayne Stables 5 LLC, and Robert V. LaPenta	McCarthy	Rispoli	120

Breeders: 1-Mt Brilliant Farm & Ranch, LLC, 2-Breeze Easy, LLC, 3-Blue Heaven Farm & Curlin Syndicate, 4-Scott Pierce, 5-Don Alberto Corporation

2025 Keeneland Sales Dates

April Selected Horses of Racing Age Sale

April 25

September Yearling Sale

September 8-20

November Breeding Stock Sale

November 4-12


November Horses of Racing Age Sale

November 13



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MAIDEN WINNERS

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PROUD TO REPRESENT TOP HORSEMEN

IN ORDER OF PURSE:

9th-Tampa Bay Downs, \$32,000, Msw, 12-11, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:24.69, gd, 4 1/4 lengths.

INTO AMORE (f, 3, Into Mischief--Embellish the Lace {GISW, \$441,540}, by Super Saver) made the trip up off a solid worktab at Palm Beach Downs and was made the 7-5 choice to get her career off to a winning start. Ridden along to take up a chasing role in second down the backstretch beneath Pablo Morales, the homebred was more or less on even terms approaching the stretch and asserted through the final furlong to take it in decisive fashion. Embellish the Lace was one of three to succeed at Grade I level from the first crop of GI Kentucky Derby winner Super Saver, taking out the 2015 Alabama Stakes for Alex and JoAnn Lieblong and trainer Tony Dutrow. Super Saver's other top-level scorers from that first crop included Claiborne stallion **Runhappy** and Competitive Edge.



Embellish the Lace won the 2015 GI Alabama Stakes in the colors of owners Alex and JoAnn Lieblong | Coglianese

After failing to meet her reserve at \$1.9 million at the 2015 Fasig-Tipton November Sale, Embellish the Lace returned to that venue 12 months later and was hammered down to China Horse Club for \$2.4 million. The mare is the dam of three winners from as many to race, and her yearling filly by **Quality Road** was purchased by the Lieblongs for \$500,000 at this year's Keeneland September Sale. After failing to produce a foal this season, she was mated to the CHC part-owned **Life Is Good**.

Sales history: \$295,000 RNA Ylg '22 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$18,880. [Click for the Equibase.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#), sponsored by **FanDuel TV**.

O/B-CHC Inc (KY); T-Todd A Pletcher.

 **HIGHGATE SALES GRAD** 

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AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS

ABROAD

IN IRELAND:

Sweet Illusions, f, 2, Get Stormy. See "[TDN Europe--Ireland](#)"



U.S. BRED & SIRE
WINNERS IN JAPAN

by Alan Carasso

Sunday's Results:

6th-Kyoto, ¥14,880,000 (\$98,357), Allowance, 2yo, 1200m, 1:11.2, ft.

AMERICAN STAGE (c, 2, Into Mischief--Bonita Mia, by Warrior's Reward) had not missed the top three while favored in his four prior trips to the races and was exiting a 12-length graduation over a sloppy local strip going this distance Nov. 2 in which he set a juvenile course record. The \$500,000 Keeneland September yearling purchase hit the ground running from the outside gate in a field of 10, set the pace in the hands of Ryusei Sakai and never felt the crop in the final 400 meters, scoring by four solid lengths. A half-brother to Super Chow (Lord Nelson), MGSW, \$804,920; and Princess Indy (Lord Nelson), SW, \$271,400, American Stage is out of an unraced half-sister to GI Acorn Stakes-winning '**TDN Rising Star**' Carina Mia (Malibu Moon). The latter was acquired by Shadai Farm in foal to **Uncle Mo** for \$2.6 million at Fasig-Tipton November in 2021, and her most recent produce, a colt by Epiphaneia (Jpn), fetched better than \$2.3 million at this year's JRHA Select Foal Sale. Bonita Mia is also kin to MG1/GISW Miss Match (Arg) (Indygo Shiner). This is also the family of Argetinian champion and MG1SW Miss Linda (Arg), who won the GI Overbrook Spinster Stakes in this country. Bonita Mia is also the dam of a yearling filly by Authentic, a weanling full-sister to American Stage and was most recently bred back to Authentic. Sales history: \$500,000 Ylg '23 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 5-2-2-1, \$127,001.

O-Yoshizawa Holdings; B-Spendthrift Farm LLC (KY); T-Yoshito Yahagi.

5th-Kyoto, ¥13,720,000 (\$90,703), Newcomers, 2yo, 1800mT, 1:50.4, gd/fm.

ERIKA ENDIVE (f, 2, **Oscar Performance**--**Going Day** {SP-Fr}, by **Daylami** {Ire}), a \$235,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling, became the fourth winner from as many Japanese starters with this debut success. Three wide, handy and in the breeze down the back after departing from gate 10, the bay filly was poised three deep as the field neared the straight. In with every chance passing the furlong pole, Erika Endive was kept to her task by Kohei Matsuyama and poked her head in front in the dying strides to score narrowly as the 24-5 fourth choice in the wagering. She is the fourth winner from as many starters in Japan for her sire and became his 99th individual winner in the process. Nicoma Bloodstock acquired the French listed-placed then 11-year-old **Going Day** for \$85,000 in foal to Lonhro (Aus) at the 2014 Keeneland November Sale, and the family has since taken flight. **Going Day**, the dam of **Daylight Ride** (El Prado {Ire}), SP, \$184,141, is a daughter of **Antics** (Unbridled), herself responsible for two-time Eclipse Award and two-time Grade I winner **Covfefe** (Into Mischief). The latter's first foal **Ellen Jay** (**Constitution**) won the Glen Cove Stakes at Aqueduct in November. **Antics** also produced **Albiano** (Harlan's Holiday), a Group 2 winner and twice placed at Group 1 level in Japan and the dam of Group 3 winner **Avverare** (Jpn) (**Duramente** {Jpn}). **Going Day** is the dam of a weanling full-sister to **Erika Endive** and was covered by both **Oscar Performance** and **Aloha West** for her 2025 foal. Sales history: \$235,000 Ylg '23 FTSAUG. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$47,993. O-Masahiro Miki; B-P Headley & Nancy Bell & NATO (KY); T-Tatsuya Yoshioka.



FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
2024 Stud Fees Listed

Authentic (Into Mischief), Spendthrift Farm, \$50,000
160 foals of racing age/19 winners/1 black-type winner
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Hope Diamond, 12-1
\$200,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$125,000 OBS APR 2yo
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Undisputed Victory, 8-1

Game Winner (**Candy Ride** {Arg}), Lane's End Farm, \$20,000
118 foals of racing age/10 winners/1 black-type winner
4-Penn National, 7:42 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Alyvia Mavis, 8-1
\$37,000 SAR AUG yrl; \$15,000 RNA FTJ UN 2yo

Global Campaign (**Curlin**), WinStar Farm, \$12,500
123 foals of racing age/15 winners/2 black-type winners
9-Gulfstream, 4:39 p.m. EST, Msw 1mT, Campaign Secret, 8-1
\$100,000 OBS APR 2yo

Improbable (City Zip), WinStar Farm, \$15,000
128 foals of racing age/17 winners/1 black-type winner
3-Turfway, 6:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, I'll Stop Talking, 15-1
\$75,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$50,000 OBS MAR 2yo

Instagrاند (Into Mischief), Taylor Made Farm, \$7,500
136 foals of racing age/20 winners/1 black-type winner
9-Gulfstream, 4:39 p.m. EST, Msw 1mT, Sheshimaintenance, 20-1

Instilled Regard (Arch), Taylor Made Farm, \$7,500
50 foals of racing age/8 winners/1 black-type winner
5-Turfway, 7:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Jenuth, 8-1
3-Turfway, 6:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, Poverty With Aview, 20-1
\$47,000 RNA FTK JUL yrl

Seeking the Soul (Perfect Soul {Ire}), Ocala Stud, \$5,000
20 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
9-Gulfstream, 4:39 p.m. EST, Msw 1mT, La Cyber, 12-1
\$30,000 FTK OCT yrl

Tiz the Law (**Constitution**), Coolmore Ashford, \$20,000
98 foals of racing age/19 winners/5 black-type winners
3-Turfway, 6:55 p.m. EST, Msw 1m, What About Q, 9-2
\$50,000 KEE SEP yrl

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: THURSDAY, DEC. 12
2024 Stud Fees Listed

Flameaway (Scat Daddy), Darby Dan Farm, \$15,000
200 foals of racing age/72 winners/7 black-type winners
4-Penn National, 7:42 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Tesoro Rossa, 12-1
\$37,000 RNA OBS OCT yrl

Maximus Mischief (Into Mischief), Spendthrift Farm, \$25,000
232 foals of racing age/92 winners/9 black-type winners
4-Turf Paradise, 4:03 p.m. EST, \$40K Glendale Overnight S., 1m,
Don't Bring Crazy, 5-2
\$60,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$140,000 KEE SEP yrl



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ADDITIONAL RACING

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

7th-Mahoning Valley, \$33,700, (S), 12-11, (NW2L), 2yo, f, 6f, 1:13.46, my, 9 lengths.

BELLE BOTTOMS (f, 2, Tapiture--Bellamy Brooke, by Bellamy Road) Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-1, \$59,220. O-Marion F Gorham; B/T-Robert M Gorham (OH).

6th-Tampa Bay Downs, \$32,500, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$16,000), 12-11, 3yo/up, 7f, 1:24.35, gd, 2 1/2 lengths.

EJTIMAA (g, 3, Candy Ride {Arg}--Talaayq {SP}, by Distorted Humor) Lifetime Record: 8-3-1-0, \$52,475. O/T-Michael Dini; B-Shadwell Farm LLC (KY).

3rd-Mahoning Valley, \$25,900, 12-11, (NW2L), 2yo, 6f, 1:13.99, my, 2 1/4 lengths.

CINCAZUL (c, 2, Bernardini--Knarsdale {SP, \$103,692}, by Medaglia d'Oro) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, \$27,230. O-Grier Brunson & Zane Kiehne; B-2500 Determined Stud (KY); T-Wesley A Ward. *\$500,000 Ylg '23 FTKOCT.

8th-Turf Paradise, \$22,500, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$12,500-\$16,000), 12-10, 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:16.11, ft, 2 1/4 lengths.

LANSDOWNE (GB) (g, 6, Markaz {Ire}--My Lucky Liz {Ire}, by Exceed And Excel {Aus}) Lifetime Record: 29-7-5-5, \$209,018. O-Rick, Lana & Clayton Wiest & Todd Fitch; B-Tom Radley (GB); T-Robertino Diodoro. *£16,000 Ylg '19 GOFFPR. **1/2 to Twilight Jet (Ire) (Twilight Son {GB}), Hwt. 3yo-Ire at 5-7f, GSW-Eng, GSW-Ire, \$207,278.


7th-Mountaineer Casino & Resort, \$20,564, (S), 12-10, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:08.87, sy, 1 1/4 lengths.

MY LUCKY DEIA (f, 3, Lea--Quilt, by Pulpit) Lifetime Record: 15-2-2-4, \$42,900. O/T-J Michael Baird; B-O'Sullivan Farms & Eric Steinmann (WV).

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Call It a Night, g, 3, Malibu Moon--Taste's Classylady, by Afleet Alex. Mahoning Valley, 12-11, 6f, 1:13.98. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-0, \$23,619. B-Old Tavern Farm LLC (NY). *\$95,000 Wlg '21 FTNMIX.

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Bernardini, Cincazul, c, 2, o/o Knarsdale, by Medaglia d'Oro. ALW, 12-11, Mahoning Valley

Candy Ride (Arg), Ejtimaa, g, 3, o/o Talaayq, by Distorted Humor. AOC, 12-11, Tampa Bay

Into Mischief, Into Amore, f, 3, o/o Embellish the Lace, by Super Saver. MSW, 12-11, Tampa Bay

Lea, My Lucky Deia, f, 3, o/o Quilt, by Pulpit. ALW, 12-10, Mountaineer

Malibu Moon, Call It a Night, g, 3, o/o Taste's Classylady, by Afleet Alex. MSW, 12-11, Mahoning Valley

Markaz (Ire), Lansdowne (GB), g, 6, o/o My Lucky Liz (Ire), by Exceed And Excel (Aus). AOC, 12-10, Turf Paradise

Tapiture, Belle Bottoms, f, 2, o/o Bellamy Brooke, by Bellamy Road. ALW, 12-11, Mahoning Valley

A photograph of a red barn with a large Christmas wreath hanging on the front. The wreath is made of green pine branches, pinecones, and a large red bow. The barn has a wooden door with a white X-shaped frame. There are two small square lights on either side of the door. The scene is set in a snowy landscape with small evergreen trees in the foreground. The sky is light blue with falling snow.

Christmas Barn

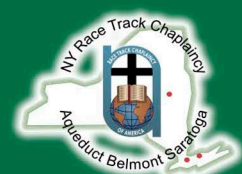
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ONE OUT, ONE IN FOR THE DENNIFFS WITH BELOVED FAMILY AT TATTERSALLS DECEMBER



Fiona and Mick Denniff | Tattersalls

By Adam Houghton

And breathe. If you listen carefully enough, you can almost hear the collective exhale from all of those invested in the bloodstock industry and its transfer market, as we near the conclusion of another dizzying year on the merry-go-round that is the European sales calendar.

The relentless nature of it can have a bewildering effect at the best of times, but this year the sums changing hands were often so astronomical that you could be forgiven for mistaking what were you watching for a mirage. Only during the Sceptre Sessions at the Tattersalls December Mares Sale, when auctioneer Alistair Pim referred to his relationship with Amo Racing founder Kia Joorabchian as "a bromance", were we sure that we'd been right all along.

That exchange occurred during the sale of this year's Irish Oaks winner You Got To Me (GB) (Nathaniel {Ire}) for 4,800,000gns, on what was the highest-grossing day in European auction history with turnover of 55,168,500gns. Remarkably, it came just four days after another extraordinary session at Park Paddocks during the December Foal Sale, when the total spend of 30,906,000gns was a record for a single day at a European foal sale. [Cont. p3](#)

BLUE POINT BREEDING RIGHT SELLS FOR €430,000

A breeding right in **Blue Point (Ire)** sold for €430,000 to an unnamed buyer on Darley's **winning bid** platform on Wednesday.

The son of Shamardal sired 2024 G1 Irish 2000 Guineas and G1 St James's Palace Stakes hero Rosallion (Ire), as well as his third Group 1 winner in Kind Of Blue (GB). In his second crop, he is credited with seven black-type performers including Group 2 winner Sky Majesty (Ire).

On the sales front, his 2024 yearlings have sold for up to €850,000. Fully booked at a fee of €100,000 for 2025 at Kildangan Stud in Ireland, Blue Point will see his third crop take to the track next year.

[Share this story](#) 



Blue Point | Darley/Marc Ruhl

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

FIERCENESS UNDERGOES MINOR SURGERY; SHOULD STILL BE ON TRACK FOR A SPRING CAMPAIGN

G1 Breeders' Cup Classic runner-up and 2023 American Champion 2-Year-Old Male **Fierceness** (City Of Light) had minor surgery on Wednesday. The Repole Stable's homebred has been handed a trio of big race targets for 2025: the Met Mile, the Whitney and the Breeders' Cup Classic, according to owner Mike Repole.

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Thursday, December 12, 2024



Kentucky-bred Sweet Illusions (Get Stormy) won a Dundalk maiden on debut on Wednesday. From the family of Arc second Muftaker, she was a \$28,000 Fasig-Tipton October yearling. | Racingfotos.com

6 | PERSIAN KING SHARE STARS AT AUCTAV

*A share in the son of **Kingman (GB)** brought €140,000 from Broadhurst Agency.*

6 | A LATE ADD-ON TO THE ARQANA ONLINE SALE IS A CITY LIGHT SHARE

*A late addition to the December Sale is a share in young sire **City Light (Fr)**.*

6 | DUBAI SHEEMA CLASSIC NEXT TARGET FOR GIAVELLOTTO

*The G1 Hong Kong Vase hero will resurface in Dubai in the G1 **Sheema Classic**.*

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Fiona & Mick Denniff/Frankel Filly Cont. from p1

So many people put in so many hours of hard work, to make days like that happen, that it becomes an impossible task to do all of their stories justice. Of course, it's the job of those on the press bench to try, but the thing about merry-go-rounds is that you often don't have a chance to stop and reflect on all of the events that played out until you eventually step off it.

Now, back on terra firma, there was one result from that record-breaking day at the December Foal Sale that we felt it important to go back and acknowledge. To recap, it was another session dominated by the Amo team who topped the buyers' list, just as they already had done at Book 1 of the October Yearling Sale and as they would later do at the December Mares Sale.

When it came to the weanlings, Joorabchian spent a total of 4,675,000gns on a group of four, headed by Whitsbury Manor

Stud's **Frankel (GB)** filly out of Suelita (GB) (Dutch Art {GB}), making her a full-sister to the Classic winner **Chaldean (GB)**, who equalled the long-held record-high price set by Padua's Pride (Ire) (Caerleon), way back in 1997, at 2,500,000gns.

Naturally, it was a transaction which attracted plenty of media attention, but it also had the unintended consequence of rather marginalising the sale of another **Frankel** filly who had gone the way of Amo just two lots earlier, that consigned by Hazelwood Bloodstock on behalf of breeders Fiona and Mick Denniff.

At 850,000gns, the sale was the most lucrative result the Denniffs have been involved in at public auction in over two decades of breeding racehorses, but Fiona is philosophical when

reflecting on the circumstances that rather robbed them of their moment in the sun, with any lingering regrets felt more for the filly's sake than her own. **Cont. p4**



Lot 943, the **Frankel** filly out of Auria | Tattersalls

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£32,000 Oct 1, SLF. Dalham Hall Stud, UK

A peerless list of trainers are taking charge of the World Champion miler's first crop...

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6-time Gr.1 winner by **Deep Impact** out of **Rhododendron** – a Gr.1 winner at 2, 3 and 4yrs

Champion at 2, Horse of the Year at 3 by **Justify** out of Fillies' Mile winner **Together Forever**

Group 1-winning 2YO by **Dubawi** out of 7-time Group 1 winner **Minding**

COOLMORE

Fiona & Mick Denniff/Frankel Filly Cont.

"We did always love that filly," Fiona says of the first foal out of their homebred Listed winner Auria (GB) (Muhaarar {GB}). "She was a complete mini-me of her mother but with the most delightful temperament. Everything we asked of her, she delivered and delivered. We went in hoping that she would be appreciated the way we appreciated her."

"I must admit that we went to look at some of the other Frankels, and we thought that we looked very favourable against them, but to make the kind of money she made was stunning. I think I'm still a bit shell-shocked."

She continues, "It was just a shame for her that she was two lots before the Suelita filly because she got kind of lost. I understand why--the Suelita was the big one--but it seemed a shame for the filly because she was so nice and she deserved her moment in the spotlight which she probably didn't get."

The Denniffs themselves are no strangers to the spotlight, having bred a whole host of talented winners at their Nottinghamshire stud, many from the immediate family of the Frankel filly.


Auria herself is a half-sister to the multiple Group 2 winner Beat The Bank (GB) (Paco Boy {Ire}), as well as the G3 Chipchase Stakes heroine and G1 Sprint Cup third Chil Chil (GB) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}). Their dam, the Listed-placed Diktat (GB) mare

Tiana (GB), is one of 12 winners out of Fiona and Mick's beloved Hill Welcome (GB) (Most Welcome {GB}), the mare who has done so much for them since they bought her for just 3,000gns at Doncaster back in 2001. Now 26, Hill Welcome is reportedly still going strong in retirement, "rugged up and pampered".

"She has been incredible," Fiona adds of Hill Welcome's legacy. "For someone to be able to go and buy a mare for that kind of money, and to produce the family that she has produced, it's extraordinary. We feel so lucky and so blessed--words fail me really."

The Frankel filly is not the only member of the Hill Welcome dynasty to have provided the Denniffs with a significant result in the sales ring this year. At the Goffs Premier Yearling Sale they sold a Havana Grey (GB) colt out of Guarded Secret (GB) (Bated Breath {GB})--one of Hill Welcome's few offspring not to win a race--for £140,000, after which an emotional Fiona needed her husband to do most of the talking as she blinked back the tears during the post-sale media debrief.

"That was because we'd lost the mare [Guarded Secret]," Fiona is able to muster now. "We bred her and bought her back, and I just thought it was sad because she was a young mare. That was why I was so emotional that day, quite unlike me really. If you'd spoken to us after the Frankel foal, I wasn't anything like as emotional." [Cont. p5](#)




THUNDER MOON


HIS FIRST FOALS AVERAGED €44,000

AT THE BREEDING STOCK SALES


MORE THAN 7 TIMES HIS STUD FEE




Lot 503 sold for **€68,000**
by Etreham
to MAB Agency



lot 765 sold **€48,000**
by Arcadia
to Pegasus Bloodstock



Lot 601 sold for **€45,000**
by Hoguenet
to Paragon Bloodstock Agency




Lot 570 sold for **€42,000**
by Bourgeauville
to Pegasus Bloodstock

«I was highly impressed by the physique of every Thunder Moon. I saw at the sales this week, and apparently I was not the only one, as all the good judges were on them.»

Peter Vaughan, Moanmore Stables

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Fiona & Mick Denniff/Frankel Filly Cont.

Despite the sad loss of Guarded Secret, the Denniffs still have eight mares descended from Hill Welcome on the farm, many of whom they sold as foals or yearlings, before buying them back in their later years.

The latest example of that practice is the three-year-old Cuban Melody (GB) (Havana Grey {GB}), who is out of the five-time winner Jacquotte Delahaye (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}). She in turn is out of Hill Welcome's Group 3-placed daughter Mary Read (GB) (Bahamian Bounty {GB}), whose other progeny include the soon-to-be-pensioned Dubai Bounty (GB) (Dubai Destination), the dam of the high-class sprinter Kachy (GB) (Kyllachy {GB}) among others.

Having been sold to Highclere for 155,000gns at Book 2 of the October Yearling Sale, Cuban Melody won once in eight starts for Andrew Balding, before being reacquired by the Denniffs for 34,000gns at the December Mares Sale. The decision to do so wasn't taken lightly, having committed to reducing their number of mares earlier this year, but the Denniffs devotion to this family is such that they simply couldn't turn the opportunity down when it came to the crunch.

"There aren't many of them that have escaped me!" Fiona

jokes of their monopoly on the family. "I went to see Cuban Melody twice and I thought 'no, I mustn't buy another one back because I need to stick with my reduction in numbers'. But I just couldn't walk away from her. She's beautiful and we loved her before we sold her."

She adds, "We did cut back a lot this year. I have to keep one eye on the economics and I think everyone in the industry, as a whole, will be reducing a little bit. But then I'm retiring Dubai Bounty. She's not getting any younger, so she'll have her final foal in the new year and then Cuban Melody can step into her shoes as it were."

Succession plans might already be in place when it comes to the broodmare band at home in Nottinghamshire, but who each of them will be visiting next year in terms of stallions is still very much up in the air, according to Fiona. The only mating arrangement said to be set in stone is that for Auria, who will understandably return to Frankel in 2025, having been covered by his 2,000 Guineas-winning son Chaldean this season.

It's the logical choice given what played out with the Frankel filly at the December Foal Sale, although anyone with even a basic understanding of the Denniffs' usual way of doing things would argue that the decision to send Auria to the Juddmonte behemoth was out of character in the first place. **Cont. p6**



**ARQANA
ONLINE**

ONLINE SALE
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**13 STALLION SHARES &
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"But I've always liked sprinters and, when we started, you couldn't have gone and bought a deep, middle-distance pedigree for three grand. It would have been impossible and I think that would still be the case."

–Fiona Denniff

Fiona & Mick Denniff/**Frankel** Filly Cont.

Indeed, embark on a quick scan of the stallions whose names appear in parenthesis throughout this article, and you'll soon discover that the Denniffs have an affinity for those with more of a sprinting background--albeit few would argue that **Frankel** probably would have won a July Cup had he been given the opportunity to try.

"It was a complete departure," Fiona says of the decision to send Auria to Banstead Manor. "But she was a very good racemare and I wanted to get her to the best stallion that I could possibly get her to. That is **Frankel** really, isn't it?"

"I think people forget that **Frankel** had a lot of speed. He was the most fabulous racehorse and when we were able to send her there it was a no-brainer."

She continues, "I've not really changed what I do. Yes, the thing with Auria would suggest I'm going down a different route, but that's possibly just a natural progression with us trying to improve our own pedigrees and to find what will suit them.

"But I've always liked sprinters and, when we started, you couldn't have gone and bought a deep, middle-distance pedigree for three grand. It would have been impossible and I think that would still be the case. I couldn't go clutching my three grand and buy a good enough pedigree that would produce me a middle-distance family.

"That is why I started with sprinters. We wanted to hit the ground running and I think with a sprinter you can do that. You need to invest a little bit more into middle-distance horses because they just take a bit longer--that's just a fact."

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EUROPEAN NEWS

SHARE IN PERSIAN KING SELLS FOR €140,000 AT AUCTAV WINTER BREEDING SALE

The Auctav Winter Breeding Sale concluded on Wednesday, and a 1/50th share in **Persian King (Ire)** brought €140,000 on a private bid to top proceedings.

Sold as lot 8, the share was acquired by Broadhurst Agency. Persian King stands at Haras d'Etream and has 16 winners worldwide in his first crop.

Three other lots made €25,000 or more, with a 1/48th share in **Nirvana Du Berlais (Fr)** (lot 4) making €50,000 from B & R Consulting. The stallion resides at Haras de la Hetraie, while his eldest foals are 3-year-olds this year. Another share (1/50), this time in Haras de Montaigne's **Beumec De Houelle (Fr)** (lot 11), was purchased for €31,000 by PB Bloodstock Services, while Jessica Rainer bought a 1/60th share in Haras du Petit Tellier's group sire **The Grey Gatsby (Ire) (lot 13)** for €27,000.

Of the 20 lots offered, nine sold for a gross of €283,000. The average was €31,444 and the median was €17,000.

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CITY LIGHT SHARE LATE ADDITION TO ARQANA ONLINE DECEMBER SALE

A 1/60th share in **City Light (Fr)** will be offered as lot 13 of Arqana Online's December Sale, the sales company announced on Wednesday.

The leading sire of 3-year-olds in France by number of winners, the son of **Siyouni (Fr)** stands at Haras d'Etream. The share gives the right to two coverings per year.

City Light's third crop will race next year, and he has sired 60 winners to date. Mimos (Fr) took the G3 Prix Miesque, while listed winner La Guapisima (Fr) was second in the G3 Preis der Winterkonigin.

The sale will take place from 3-5 p.m. French time on Tuesday, Dec. 17. For the full catalogue, please visit [Arqana's website](#).

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SHEEMA CLASSIC NEXT TARGET FOR GIAVELLOTTO

Scuderia la Tesa and Vaibhav Shah's **Giavellotto (Ire)** (Mastercraftsman {Ire}) is targeting the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic on Dubai World Cup night, Apr. 5. [Cont. p7](#)

Giavellotto Cont.

Said trainer Marco Botti of his new G1 Longines Hong Kong Vase hero, “I think we’ll skip Saudi for sure and head to Dubai. After the other day we’ll think about the Sheema Classic, that will be his next target all being well.

“He is definitely a horse who enjoys travelling. He enjoys being away from the yard and it gives us chance to target those kind of races that have huge prize-money.

“The Sheema Classic will be tough--at that time of year the Japanese horses tend to target it, but he likes going left-handed.”

Third in the 2022 G1 St Leger, the chestnut won the G2 Yorkshire Cup in May of 2023 and doubled up in the 2024 edition before adding the G2 Princess Of Wales’s Stakes in July. He last ran third to Kyprios (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) in the G1 Irish St Leger in September.

Added the trainer of Giavellotto’s long-term future, “He’s still an entire. He was a tricky horse when he was younger but he’s got better with age. We were hoping that when his racing days are over he could get a little job as a stallion, it would probably be a National Hunt one but he’s a good-looking horse, so hopefully we can find him a nice place.”

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Giavellotto | [Racingfotos.com](#)

MARIE’S ROCK STARS, AS DECEMBER NH HUNT SALE ENDS AT GOFFS

Dual Grade 1-winning hurdler **Marie’s Rock (Ire)** (Milan {GB}) (lot 704) topped the third and final session of the Goffs December NH Sale on Wednesday.

The daughter of Grade 3-winning jumper By The Hour (Ire) (Flemensfirth) brought €155,000 on the bid of Coolmara Stables. She was consigned by Clonbonny Stud.



Marie’s Rock in the ring | *Goffs*

Closutton Stables’ **Pink In The Park (Ire)** (Walk In The Park {Ire}) (lot 713) was next at €120,000, with Powerstown signing the ticket. The listed chase winner is Grade 1-placed over hurdles.

During the day’s session, 139 lots sold from 211 offered (66%) for a gross of €2,536,200. The average was €18,247 and the median was €11,000. Overall, 672 horses visited the ring with 439 (65%) marked as sold for an aggregate of €7,525,900 (-8%). The cumulative average was €17,144 (-2%) and the median settled at €11,500 (-4%).

“The highest priced NH mare and foal at public auction for the third successive year is a fitting tribute to the progress that the Goffs December NH Sale has made over the last decade,” said Goffs Group chief executive Henry Beeby in his end-of-sale statement. “From small beginnings our NH Team have worked tirelessly with NH breeders to provide a market that is now the first choice for so many in the category. We are proud that Goffs is now seen as the market leader by so many in the NH world whether it is for the mares and foals this week or in the store sector with the Arkle Sale.

“Despite the week starting with a major storm that caused a huge amount of turmoil and presented major travel issues for horses and people, buyers have flocked to Kildare Paddocks in their droves with significant numbers from the UK whilst, of course the record-breaking foal is destined for France. We are grateful for every entry, every bid and all the support we receive as we continue to recognise that we are nothing without our clients and their indulgence.

“All that said, we acknowledge the challenging nature of the NH market away from the headlines. Whilst our clearance rate has improved it is not where we would all like to see it and the sales ring can be a lonely place if you don’t have exactly what the market wants.” **Cont. p8**

Goffs December NH Sale Cont.

Beeby added, "As ever, our commitment to Irish breeders remains steadfast. We will work for you and do everything in our power to create the most vibrant market for every horse you entrust to us. That is the point of Goffs and why we exist. From foal to mare, Flat and National Hunt, €1,000 lots to seven-figure sales toppers, the team at Goffs is passionate about what we do and how we do it. We are here to serve at all levels of the market and will continue to provide a viable, transparent and appropriate sale for every category, deriving pleasure and satisfaction for each and every sale regardless of price or category as long as our clients are happy or, at a minimum, satisfied.

"To provide that service, we will continue to engage with HRI, ITM, ITBA and every breeder or potential vendor. We will continue to invest in Kildare Paddocks and in Irish Racing as we believe passionately in Irish horses, Irish racing and the Irish thoroughbred industry.

"In closing I repeat our thanks to every vendor and each purchaser for the trust both entities place in Goffs with every transaction. Nothing is taken for granted and we remain as ambitious as ever for every visitor to our sales. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of all the staff who work literally night and day to show and present the horses at each sale. They are so often the unsung heroes of the act but their dedication and obvious love for each horse in their care is always a joy to see whilst the camaraderie and support offered across each sale is inspiring.

"For now, we wish all Goffs clients a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to welcoming each and every one back to Kildare Paddocks in 2025."

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RICHARD FULLER JOINS JOCKEY CLUB STEWARDS

The Jockey Club has announced that Richard Fuller will join its board of stewards for 2025 - a role equivalent to that of non-executive director.

A member of The Jockey Club since 2019, Fuller is also chair at Kempton Park racecourse as well as being a board director of pub and hotel operator, Fuller Smith and Turner PLC. He is also Chairman of the Point-to-Point Racing Company, a trustee of the Wavertree Education Trust, chairman of the Cotswold Cider Company and a former Chairman of the Point-to-Point Owners and Riders Association. His wife Charlotte trains jumpers while daughter Page is a jump jockey.

The Board of Stewards from January 2025 will be:
Baroness Harding of Winscombe (senior steward)
The Lord Grimthorpe (deputy senior steward)

Mr Richard Fuller
Mr William Rucker
Mr William Sporborg
Mr Tim Syder
Mr Sam Waley-Cohen
Lady Carolyn Warren
Mr William Wyatt

The Jockey Club has also elected five new members in owner-breeders Emma Banks and Jayne McGivern, Nottingham racecourse chair Jeremy Bradbeer, Racing Welfare trustee Johnny Eddis, and Matthew Lohn, chair of Newmarket Racecourses.

Commenting on the appointments, Baroness Harding, senior steward of the Jockey Club, said, "We are delighted to announce the election of five new members of The Jockey Club. They all bring them with them a wealth of experience from the wider world as well as a keen interest and involvement in the sport of horseracing.

"It is also fantastic to be welcoming Richard Fuller to the board of stewards from the start of next year. His extensive involvement with Kempton Park over the past few years has been hugely valued and with a strong background in the hospitality sector and racing he will prove a great addition to the board."

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Richard Fuller

BRITISH SALES UNITE TO BOOST ROR FUNDING

From January 2025, a new mandatory levy will be collected from sales companies, vendors and purchasers across the board at British auction houses. This will provide vital extra funding for racehorse aftercare through British racing's official charity Retraining of Racehorses (RoR). [Cont. p9](#)

RoR Funding Boost Cont.

A £6 contribution will be made to the RoR from Goffs UK, Tattersalls and ThoroughBid from each lot sold. A further £3 will be collected from the vendor of each lot as well as £3 from the purchaser. This includes online sales, with the respective sales companies providing the framework to collect this money on behalf of the RoR.



A funding boost from the sales will aid more Thoroughbreds in a secondary career | Emma Berry

The extra funding will be used to deliver "ambitious objectives for 2024-2026, including the traceability of horses bred for racing, enhanced educational outreach to owners, and expanded welfare programmes to ensure that no racehorse faces an uncertain future after racing", according to a statement released by the RoR on Wednesday.

The charity's managing director David Catlow said, "This new funding agreement is a vital step forward for RoR and the thousands of former racehorses we support. The generosity of Goffs UK, Tattersalls and ThoroughBid highlights their shared commitment to our mission. With this increased funding, we are better positioned to deliver on the goals outlined in the **RoR Strategy 2024-2026**."

He continued, "This funding sets a benchmark for racehorse welfare that we hope all other industry stakeholders will follow. It also strengthens RoR's role as the agreed provider of aftercare support, enabling us to enhance our capacity to meet our strategic goals.

"Further funding announcements involving additional key racing stakeholders are anticipated in early 2025, reinforcing the collective effort to safeguard the future of former racehorses."

Tim Kent, managing director of Goffs UK, which staged 11 sales in Britain during 2024, said, "Goffs UK is proud to support

RoR through this enhanced funding model, ensuring vendors and purchasers play a part in the essential work of retraining and rehoming former racehorses. Together with Tattersalls and ThoroughBid, we are helping to create a sustainable future for these horses once their racing careers have ended."

Tattersalls has just brought the curtain down on a record-breaking year of trade at Park Paddocks in Newmarket, resulting in 1,785 horses being offered during its December Sale, which turned over the equivalent of £141million in nine days. Tattersalls chairman Edmond Mahony commented, "Tattersalls continues to support RoR's Showing Series, and this new funding model further cements our commitment to RoR. We are pleased to be part of this industry initiative. RoR's work is fundamental to the Thoroughbred industry, not only in promoting welfare but also in demonstrating the versatility of these horses beyond racing. Through this initiative, Tattersalls reaffirms its dedication to the long-term care and retraining of racehorses, ensuring they have the opportunity to thrive in new careers."

James Richardson, CEO of ThoroughBid, which hosts monthly online auctions, added, "We are delighted to be part of this collaborative effort to enhance funding for RoR. Online bloodstock sales play an equally important role in supporting the welfare and future careers of former racehorses, and we are proud to help ensure they can thrive in their lives after racing."

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FIRST-SEASON SIRE WITH RUNNERS

Thursday, December 12, 2024:

UNITED KINGDOM

Arizona (Ire) (No Nay Never), Coolmore Stud
66 foals of racing age/10 winners/1 black-type winner
17:30-CHELMSFORD CITY, 10f, **Jackrabbit (Ire)**
€40,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2023

Circus Maximus (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), Coolmore Stud
49 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners
18:00-CHELMSFORD CITY, 7f, **Circus of Rome (GB)**
€15,000 Goffs February Sale 2023

Kameko (Kitten's Joy), Tweenhills Stud
87 foals of racing age/14 winners/2 black-type winners
17:30-CHELMSFORD CITY, 10f, **Orchestral Wave (GB)**
25,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 3) 2023;
34,000gns RNA Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up & HIT Sale 2024



Latrobe has a runner at Chantilly | Zuzanna Lupa

Shaman (Ire) (Shamardal), Yeomanstown Stud
104 foals of racing age/11 winners/0 black-type winners
14:17-NEWCASTLE, 6f, **Final Angel (Ire)**
£34,000 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
18:30-CHELMSFORD CITY, 8f, **No Release (GB)**
11,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 3) 2023
18:30-CHELMSFORD CITY, 8f, **Perfect Parole (GB)**
26,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 3) 2023
18:00-CHELMSFORD CITY, 7f, **Pink Petunia (GB)**

FRANCE

Fighting Irish (Ire) (Camelot {GB}), Haras d'Annebault
11 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
1-CHANTILLY, 1600m, **Ride On (Fr)**
€19,000 RNA Arqana Deauville Summer Mixed Sale 2024

Hello Youmzain (Fr) (Kodiac {GB}), Haras d'Etreham
111 foals of racing age/20 winners/2 black-type winners
3-CHANTILLY, 1600m, **Pinya (Fr)**
€32,000 Arqana Deauville Yearling Sale V2 2023

Latrobe (Ire) (Camelot {GB}), Haras d'Etreham
37 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
3-CHANTILLY, 1600m, **Latrobe Sky (Fr)**

Maximum Security (New Year's Day), Coolmore Ashford
88 foals of racing age/15 winners/0 black-type winners
1-CHANTILLY, 1600m, **Justify Twin Cen (Ire)**

Romanised (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}), Haras de Bouquetot

85 foals of racing age/11 winners/0 black-type winners
3-CHANTILLY, 1600m, **Gast A Gast (Fr)**
€18,000 Arqana Deauville October Yearlings 2023

Sottsass (Fr) (Siyouni {Fr}), Coolmore Stud
98 foals of racing age/11 winners/0 black-type winners
3-CHANTILLY, 1600m, **Arnaga (Ire)**
€10,000 Arqana Deauville Nov. Yearling Sale 2023; €30,000
RNA Arqana May 2yo Breeze Up 2024; €27,000 Arqana
Deauville Summer Mixed Sale 2024

Stunning Spirit (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}), Haras de Beaumont
18 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners
3-CHANTILLY, 1600m, **Happy Spirit (Fr)**

OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

DEBUT FOR SIYOUNI'S DEAUVILLE AUGUST SENSATION

12.35 Chantilly, Debutantes, €30,000, 2yo, f, 8f (AWT)
TIGRESS OF GAUL (FR) (Siyouni {Fr}) is a significant presence in this newcomers' event, having cost €700,000 when the joint-second highest-priced filly at last year's Arqana Deauville August Yearling Sale. Owned by Jose Aguirre-Moreno and her breeder Ecurie des Monceaux, the Tim Donworth trainee is out of a half to Invincible Spirit's crack miler and sire Charm Spirit (Ire).

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BRITAIN

Wednesday's Results:

UNIBET WILD FLOWER STAKES-Listed, £45,000, Kempton, 12-11, 3yo/up, 11f 219y (AWT), 2:32.43, st/sl.

1--**CHAMPAGNE PRINCE (GB), 130, c, 3, Lope De Vega (Ire)--Maid Up (GB) (GSW-Eng, \$175,493), by Mastercraftsman (Ire). 1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN.** (230,000gns Ylg '22 TATOCT). O-Mr P W Harris; B-Brightwalton Bloodstock Ltd (GB); T-Jane Chapple-Hyam; J-William Buick. £25,520. Lifetime Record: 10-4-2-0, \$99,618.

2--**Eydon (Ire), 134, h, 5, Olden Times (GB)--Moon Mountain (GB), by Frankel (GB).** O-Prince A A Faisal; B-Nawara Stud Limited (IRE); T-Andrew Balding. £9,675.

3--**Fantasy Believer (Ire), 134, g, 7, Make Believe (GB)--Avizare (Ire), by Lawman (Fr). 1ST BLACK TYPE.** (£38,000 Ylg '18

GOUKPR; 30,000gns HRA '21 TATAHI). O-Chris & David Stam; B-Rathasker Stud (IRE); T-Ed Walker. £4,842. Margins: 3/4, 1HF, 14. Odds: 2.00, 1.63, 25.00. Also Ran: Power Of Destiny (GB), Beeley (GB). Scratched: Dolce Courage (GB).

Three-from-four on the all-weather prior to this first black-type assignment, Champagne Prince was sent forward to take advantage of the apparent front-runner's bias on the card and responded with a game effort to register his breakthrough win.

The winner is the first foal out of the dam, who was successful in the G3 March Stakes and second in the G2 Lillie Langtry Stakes and who hails from the Juddmonte family of the G2 Celebration Mile scorer and G1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes runner-up Zacinto (GB) (Dansili {GB}). She has the unraced 2-year-old filly Kon Tiki (GB) (Night Of Thunder {Ire}), a yearling colt by Too Darn Hot (GB) who was a 97,000gns purchase by Powerstown Stud at Tattersalls October Book 1 and a filly foal by **Kingman (GB)**.



Champagne Prince | [Racingfotos.com](https://www.racingfotos.com)

4th-Kempton, £9,900, Novice, 12-11, 2yo, 7f (AWT), 1:26.99, st/sl.

HAPPY BANNER (IRE) (c, 2, Starspangledbanner {Aus}--Lady Clinch {Ire}, by High Chaparral {Ire}), third last month in a Newcastle novice, was sent off to make his experience count in front. Always too strong for his rivals, the 15-8 second favourite stayed on to secure a 1 1/2-length success from Jarham (GB) (Territories {Ire}). The dam, whose yearling is a full-sister to the winner and who also has a filly foal by **Sioux Nation**, is out of the Group 3-placed Tamazug (GB) (Machiavellian) whose trio of stakes performers are headed by the GIII Providencia Stakes and GIII Senorita Stakes runner-up Sterling Crest (Ire) (**No Nay Never**). From the family of the brilliant Arc hero Sakhee, she is

also connected to this year's GIII Matron Stakes third Yougottahavehope (**Twirling Candy**). Sales history: €230,000 Ylg '23 GOFOR. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, \$7,834. O-Mr Lee Man Bun; B-Mr Chris Clinch (IRE); T-Ed Walker.

5th-Kempton, £9,900, Novice, 12-11, 2yo, 7f (AWT), 1:27.03, st/sl.

JOLLY ROGER (IRE) (c, 2, Dark Angel {Ire}--Threading {Ire} {GSW & G1SP-Eng, \$419,565}, by Exceed And Excel {Aus}), third on debut over six furlongs at Newmarket last month, soon held the lead crossing from his wide stall. Kicking into the clear in early straight, the 5-4 favourite stayed on powerfully to score by three lengths from Winston's Warrior (Ire) (**Churchill {Ire}**). The winner is the second foal out of the talented dam, who captured the G2 Lowther Stakes and was runner-up in the G1 Coronation Stakes. Out of an unraced full-sister to the great Dubai Millennium (GB) descended from Fall Aspen, her yearling filly is by **Sea The Stars (Ire)**. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, \$8,398. O-Rabbah Racing; B-Godolphin (IRE); T-Simon & Ed Crisford.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Molveno (GB), c, 2, Almanzor (Fr)--Clotilde (GB) (SP-Eng), by Dubawi (Ire). Kempton, 12-11, 8f (AWT), 1:39.96. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, \$5,723. B-Chasemore Farm (GB). *\$2,000gns Ylg '23 TATOCT.

Nanny Park (GB), f, 2, Golden Horn (GB)--Meet Me Halfway (GB), by Exceed And Excel (Aus). Kempton, 12-11, 8f (AWT), 1:42.24. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$6,715. B-Des Thurlby (GB).

IRELAND

Wednesday's Results:

5th-Dundalk, €18,000, Mdn, 12-11, 2yo, 7f (AWT), 1:28.16, st.

SPYCRAFT (FR) (c, 2, Siyouni {Fr}--Joie de Vivre {Fr}, by Invincible Spirit {Ire}), sent off the 10-11 favourite, raced behind the early pace. Staying on strongly to reel in Nepal (Ire) (Camacho {GB}) with half a furlong remaining, the newcomer was pushed out to record a half-length success. "The penny didn't really drop with him until I got stuck into him half a furlong from the finish and then he won snug at the line," jockey Declan McDonogh said. "I'd say there is bags of improvement in him--he's a nice type, he's quite sharp and he'll hopefully be nice." The winner is the second foal and first runner for the unraced dam, a granddaughter of the G1 Irish 1,000 Guineas, G1 Sun Chariot Stakes and G1 Nassau Stakes heroine Halfway To Heaven (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}).



Spycraft | Racingfotos.com

5th Dundalk Cont.

Therefore connected to the distinguished dynasty of Magical (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}) and Auguste Rodin (Ire) (Deep Impact {Jpn}), her yearling son of Almanzor (Fr) was a 40,000gns purchase by Richard Hughes at Tattersalls October Book 1. Sales history: €78,000 Wlg '22 ARQDEC; 310,000gns Ylg '23 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$11,370. O-John C Oxley; B-SARL de Chambure Haras d'Etream & Gestut Zur Kuste Ag & SARL (FR); T-Joseph O'Brien.

Purchased by Justin Casse

3rd-Dundalk, €15,000, Mdn, 12-11, 2yo, f, 8f (AWT), 1:41.82, st. SWEET ILLUSIONS (f, 2, Get Stormy--New Regime, by Declaration Of War), sent off at 17-2, tracked the leaders throughout the early stages. In front a furlong from home, the

newcomer dug deep to prevail by a neck from Heather (Ire) (Camelot {GB}). The winner is the first foal out of the unraced dam, a relative of the Arc runner-up Muhtaker who also has a yearling filly by Demarchelier (GB), a colt foal by Karakontie (Jpn) and who has been bred to Spun To Run this year. Sales history: \$11,000 RNA Wlg '22 KEENOV; \$28,000 Ylg '23 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$9,475. O-Bronsan Racing & Justin Edward Casse; B-John O'Meara (KY); T-Joseph O'Brien.

Purchased by Justin Casse

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mint Man (GB), g, 3, Due Diligence--Ahwahnee (GB), by Compton Place (GB). Dundalk, 12-11, 5f (AWT), 1:00.18. Lifetime Record: 16-1-5-2, \$27,644. B-Whitsbury Manor Stud (GB). *31,000gns Ylg '22 TATOCT. **Full to Streamline (GB), GSW-Eng.

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