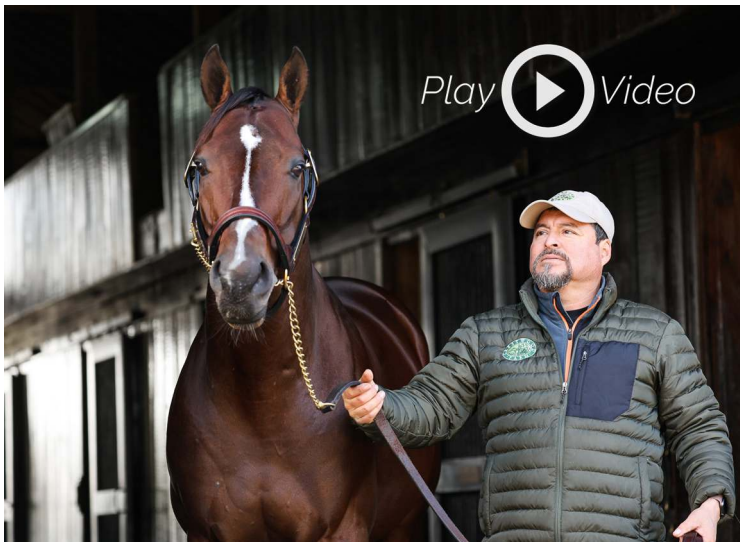




JUSTIFY
'The closest thing to perfection'
COOLMORE AMERICA

STAGE IS SET FOR ANOTHER GUNTHER MASTERCLASS



Click here for our visit with new sire Stage Raider, a half-brother to Justify, at Crestwood Farm | Katie Petrunyak

by Chris McGrath

In those days, everything on the waterfront was done by hand. John Gunther especially remembers the 120-lbs sacks of flour he had to haul onto Russian ships, month after month. But then the one thing he could always do was work. Back in Alberta, on the farm where he was raised, he would shift 10,000 bales of hay every summer.

Yet he has only ever been wiry in build. There has plainly always been some other source of strength. In the Latin phrase, *multum in parvo*: he condenses "much into little." Nobody should be surprised, then, if the program he has since developed at Glennwood Farm should have punched so far above weight; nor if its latest project, Crestwood rookie Stage Raider, now does exactly the same.

Back on the Vancouver docks, however, horses were doing him no good at all. Diligent as he was, he could never save any money; not with Exhibition Park right across from the pier.

Growing up, he had always adored horses. Following the death of his father, he'd been brought up by an uncle and aunt out on the prairies. He didn't dare ask for one himself, there wasn't the money, but would gaze longingly at any horse glimpsed when the school bus stopped at other farms.

Cont. p3

PEGASUS PREVIEW DAY AN EARLY PRESENT FROM GULFSTREAM PARK by Stefanie Grimm

If a Saturday of racing under palm trees and warm, sunny skies sounds just like something on your holiday wish list, look no further than Gulfstream Park's Pegasus Preview events with three graded stakes on offer ahead of January's main event, the GI Pegasus World Cup Invitational held Jan. 25.

On the dirt, a trio of 3-year-olds will face older horses in the 1 1/16-mile GIII Harlan's Holiday Stakes. Spendthrift Farm's **Tuscan Sky** (Vino Rosso), who won three of his first five starts including a 6 3/4-length romp in the Pegasus Stakes at Monmouth before going to the sidelines after the GI Haskell Stakes, returned at Aqueduct to just miss in the Discovery Stakes at 1 1/8 miles Nov. 3 in his first start off the layoff.

Trainer Todd Pletcher's sole runner in the field, the 5-2 morning-line favorite has certainly signaled his readiness with a pair of bullet works at Palm Beach Downs. **Cont. p7**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

HOWDEN LAUNCHES THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE PROGRAMME

David Howden launched the Thoroughbred Aftercare Programme (TAP) at Ascot on Friday.

“JUSTIFY has proved he possesses the scope to straddle the ocean and dominate in both America and Europe, on dirt and on turf, with the all-important juveniles as well as with Classic contenders.”

MICHELE MACDONALD, RP BLOODSTOCK REVIEW 12.15.24

LEADING NORTH AMERICAN SIRES 2024

RANK	SIRE	% BT PERFORMERS/RUNNERS
1	JUSTIFY	17.0%
2	Gun Runner	12.9%
3	Into Mischief	12.2%

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HORSE OF THE YEAR and back-to-back winner of the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile
Cody's Wish \$65,000 S&N

Out of Tapit's G1 Gazelle winner Dance Card, who ran a **105 Beyer when placed in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint**. She has also bred the dam of **East Avenue**, winner of the G1 Breeders' Futurity in the fastest time this century, running the highest Beyer for 20 years.

SEVEN TRIPLE-DIGIT BEYERS IN GRADED STAKES

- 112** G1 Met Mile
- 112** G1 Forego
- 107** G1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile, 2023
- 106** G1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile, 2022
- 105** G1 Churchill Downs
- 104** G3 Westchester
- 100** G2 Vosburgh

Darley

THE NYQLIST

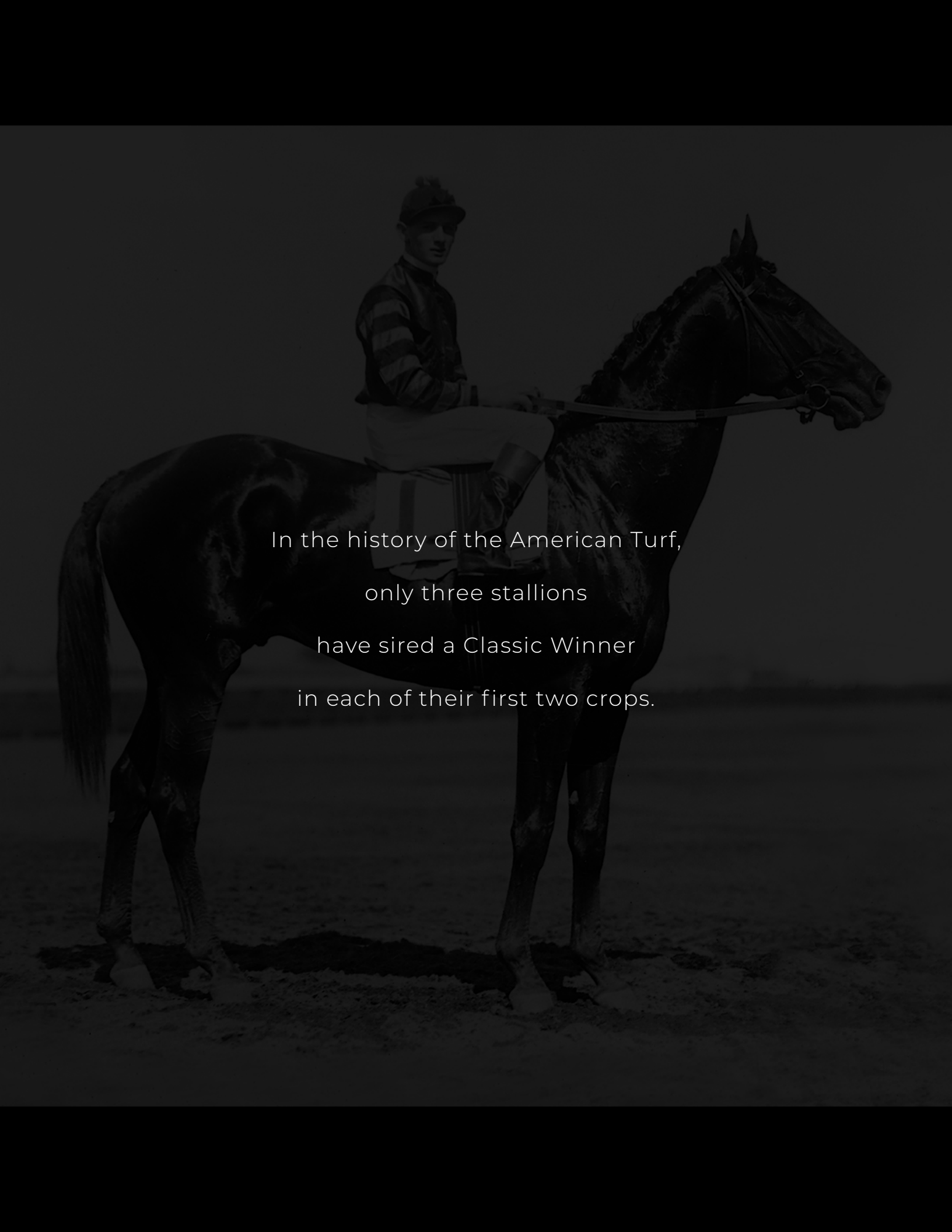
\$175,000 S&N



Champion-elect **Immersive** and Del Mar Debutante winner **Tenma** assert **Nyquist**'s status as the best sire of G1 juveniles since Danzig and the year's leading sire by percentage of G1-winning two-year-olds to runners. Also: two older G1 winners in 2024, **Randomized** and **Johannes**.

Latest yearling prices include **\$1.3m, \$1.2m and \$1.15m.**

Darley

A grayscale photograph of a jockey riding a horse, overlaid with white text. The jockey is wearing a striped shirt and a cap, and the horse is in profile, facing right. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

In the history of the American Turf,
only three stallions
have sired a Classic Winner
in each of their first two crops.

Man o' War

Gallant Fox

Good Magic

GOOD MAGIC
the classic sire

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Saturday, December 21, 2024



2024 in photos: August 3. Brittany Troxtell gives GI Whitney Stakes hero Arthur's Ride a smooch in the winner's circle. | Sarah Andrew

8 | MYSTIK DAN ARRIVES SAFELY AND GALLOPS AT SANTA ANITA

GI Kentucky Derby winner Mystik Dan (Goldencents) vanned nearly 1,900 miles from Fair Grounds in New Orleans to California.

TODAY'S GRADED STAKES

ET	RACE
4:22p	Harlan's Holiday Stakes-GIII, GP
4:52p	Ft. Lauderdale Stakes-GII, GP
5:22p	Suwannee River Stakes-GIII, GP

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Stage Raider, cont. from p1

The daydreaming had to end, though, when he left school and joined the many relatives he had working quayside.

"And I'd go over and blow my paycheck every weekend, gambling on those horses," he recalls. "I just loved racing so much. Until one day I met these stock promoters in a beer parlor, and they talked me into investing. So now I was instead putting all the money I could into this one stock. And it tanked. I lost it all."

And here's the bit that makes his daughter Tanya chuckle. Because John's reaction to this disaster was not to retreat, chastened or embittered, but to recognize the cue to his fortune.

"Having lost all that money, I thought, I've got to get into this!" he says. "Got to figure this out. So I left the waterfront that I loved and took the Canadian Securities Course."

"And, actually, this explains my dad to a T," says Tanya. "The stock had nose-dived. It was a miserable failure. That would put most people off, right? Not him. It was, 'No, now I got to conquer this thing.'"

John gives a shrug. "Anyway that's how I got into the brokerage business," he says. "And then I got lucky in the stock market and made some money."

Pure luck, plainly. Nothing to do with a stubborn persistence, nor self-belief, courage, enterprise, acuity. But whichever of these assets may have contributed to John's rise from longshoreman to corporate financier, a surplus remained to make Glennwood arguably the most influential farm of its size on the Turf today.

From around a couple of dozen mares, across 2018-19 the Gunthers famously produced winners of the U.S. Triple Crown, G1 St James's Palace Stakes and G1 Breeders' Cup Classic from the same crop. **Cont.**



Stage Raider | Katie Petrunyak

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THOROUGHBRED MARKET REPORT

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- #3 LIFETIME GRADED WINNERS

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Stage Raider, cont.

And now their footprint is expanding again, towards a potentially historic legacy. Glennwood's impact at stud in Europe extends between **Justify's** champion City of Troy, to the very promising Without Parole at Newsells Park; and the half-brother to **Justify** now starting in Kentucky duly demands far more attention than a single stakes success at Ellis Park might imply.

Stage Raider was delivered by Stage Magic (**Ghostzapper**) 12 days after her sophomore son claimed leadership of his crop in the GI Santa Anita Derby. After **Justify** proceeded to the Triple Crown, the Gunthers retained his sibling at \$950,000 as a yearling--and that looked another smart decision when he won his second start at Keeneland by over 10 lengths, making himself an automatic '**TDN Rising Star.**'

"It was quite exciting," Tanya recalls. "Stage Raider was the



John & Tanya Gunther | *Tattersalls*

talk of the talk of the town after that. Of course, he was by Pioneerof the Nile, who'd sired **American Pharoah**; and meanwhile his dam had come up with **Justify**. So you had Triple Crown on both sides of the equation."

But while Stage Raider followed up in a Belmont allowance, and only failed narrowly to follow up his Ellis success the following year in graded company, he never quite lived up to that early potential. Hence a restrained opening fee of \$6,500.

"But the days he put it out there and ran, he showed that he had a lot of talent," Tanya insists. "On his day, he was very good. And if he had some quirks, he was very game. He didn't

mind going inside or between horses, and could fight to the wire. You like to see that type of gutsiness in a racehorse. So it's not just his genes. It's not like he's one of those well-bred horses that never make it. He won almost half a million dollars." **Cont.**

InglisDigitalUSA.com

I'm very excited with the purchase of West Saratoga. He looks like a horse with a really nice future in the upcoming years in the UAE."

Doug Watson, 8-time UAE Champion Trainer, on the purchase of **West Saratoga** for **\$375,000** through Inglis Digital USA

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DECEMBER 2024

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CHAMPION 3YO
BY **NOT THIS TIME**
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\$200,000 etc.

GOLDEN PAL
DUAL BREEDERS' CUP
WINNER
BY **UNCLE MO**
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\$290,000, \$250,000,
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Stage Raider, cont.

She continued: "You don't do that without talent.

"He's not too big, for a 'Pioneer,' which I like: between 16 and 16.1. He was always really balanced, as a foal and all the way through. That's something we've seen in all our best horses. He's very correct too. So you can breed mares with a lot of different physicals to him."

Crestwood has carved an astute niche in the fiercely competitive Kentucky stallion market, lately achieving notable traction with Caracaro. "They're good at getting those sorts of horses off the ground, that might not be so obvious," Tanya says. "They really appreciate pedigree, and the right kind of matings, so we're excited to be working with a great group of guys."

Stage Raider's appeal, at a budget fee, can only be heightened by the unmissable functionality of the genes now being so expensively recycled by his half-brother.

"Justify is producing horses of all kinds, all over the world: Australia, England, America; dirt, turf; short, long," Tanya observes. "I haven't seen an American-bred horse do it quite like that, in my experience. And I'd like to think Stage Raider could be a real crossover stallion, too. When Justify went to stud, I remember wondering whether he could get turf horses? I figured yes, because you've got Scat Daddy, Ghostzapper, Pulpit. And here you've got Pioneer/Empire Maker, which we've seen work on different surfaces, and of course still Ghostzapper and Pulpit. So you've got real crossover scenarios there."

Tanya is also heartened by the impact made by the inexpensive first crop of Thousand Words, corroborating the impression made by other sons of Pioneer of The Nile that his premature loss is being redressed by his legacy as a sire of sires.

But the real lure for breeders will be the nearly mechanical replication of genetic excellence achieved by this extraordinary



Stage Raider | Coady

program. Though his stock has been divided either side of the ocean, potentially diluting his profile, Without Parole has already had a dozen winners from 45 named foals, including one that just missed a Breeders' Cup podium.

"We've been super-pleased how early some of them have been," Tanya remarks. "I was expecting them to be a little later, and I feel like the consensus is that he's improving the mares. Again, he has that balance, and a good keen mind. He always liked to do the job and wanted to do it well. And while this may sound crazy, sometimes I look at his offspring and see something in their eye, just an expression, that reminds me of him."

As will now be the case with Stage Raider, the Gunthers' own support has helped to establish Without Parole. That's challenging, when your horizons are broader than your numbers. But Glennwood, by departing from parochial conventions of commercialism, has reliably ended up creating demand for something different. That has required much patience, and no less imagination. John has been going to Tattersalls for 30 years, and in the 1990s sent a filly over to Dermot Weld in Ireland to win a stakes race on debut.

Then, having been present for that astounding exhibition in the G1 Queen Anne Stakes, they shipped a young Lemon Drop Kid mare to England in the hope that she might get to Frankel.

Stage Raider, cont.

Though her first foal by Speightstown had just won a couple of minor races for Shadwell in England, that hardly seemed likely to suffice.

"But that was Frankel's second year, and people were knocking his foals," John recalls.

"People were saying he wasn't stamping them," agrees Tanya. "So actually it was a moment where you could get to him, if you were keeping faith. And then the Speightstown went to Dubai and won the [G2] Godolphin Mile, and later the [GI Breeders' Cup] Dirt Mile. Because that was Tamarkuz. So the page proved up, just not at the time we were signing the contract."

When the resulting colt went to Tattersalls, John set a steep reserve after having allowed a Scat Daddy colt to slip through his grasp at Keeneland a few weeks previously.

"When we took Justify to the ring, we thought for sure we were going to RNA him," Tanya says. "Because he had failed, like, 10 or 12 vets. He'd had an OCD removed from his stifle. And Dad had a \$499,000 reserve so I was like, 'For sure, he's coming home.'"

"And I wanted him to," John confirms. "That's why I put a high number on him. But then he sells for \$500,000."

So John, determined to avoid a repetition, raised his original 600,000gns reserve on the Frankel colt to 675,000gns. Sure enough, he stalled at 650,000gns. As a result, 10 days after watching Justify win the GI Belmont Stakes, father and daughter were able to watch Without Parole carry their own colors to success at Ascot.

And, of course, there was more to come: Vino Rosso, the only other colt they'd sold alongside Justify in Book 1, came through at four to win the biggest prize in America.

Little wonder if people often ask for their secret. But Tanya, who has always done the matings, has never believed in short cuts: she isn't into nicks or genetic testing or heart scans. (It still tickles her that one predictive service declared Justify to be a sprinter.) Instead she delves deep into family; deep enough, for instance, that you find Without Parole's ninth dam is a sister to Man o' War.

People ask her derisively how genetic material can penetrate six or seven generations? "They just want a silver bullet," Tanya says. "But there never is one."

"First of all, you got to keep them alive. That's what I always say. And that's not as easy as people think, who haven't bred their own. Then you have to raise them right, so their bones grow, they're healthy, all of that. And then you've got to get them through prep, without them running through a fence, and finally hope they get into good hands. But yes, obviously before all that is trying to make the match right."

Nor does that ever reduce to any simple formula. **Cont.**

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Stage Raider, cont.

"I mean, it's like a ball and you look at all sides of it: pedigree, physicality, temperament, distance," Tanya continues. "You'd kind of have to get in my brain to understand how I look at matings. But you do start to understand your own families, and what they're producing."

Lessons for us all, then, in the way a generational force has been ignited in the breed. Tanya takes due pride in **Justify**, but stresses that her own input only paid off because of her father's vision.

"Dad doesn't really have any limitations on his imagination," she says. "He's always thought out-of-the-box, always set lofty goals. After **Justify** won the Triple Crown, he said, 'Well, now we have to do it in England.' And I'm like, 'Can we just enjoy it for a minute?!'"

But that, of course, is how a young longshoreman became one of the most respected breeders on the planet.

"My uncles and cousins on the waterfront probably thought I was crazy when I left," John ponders.

"Probably still do," his daughter replies.

But nobody should find anything crazy in the idea that **Justify's** half-brother might now rise in his slipstream.

"The mare's thrown very good physicals all along, so I like to think that Stage Raider will pass that along too," Tanya says. "Fingers crossed, he'll end up working for people who can't access **Justify's** genes. All anyone can ever do is work with these great pedigrees, here and in Europe, and figure out some sort of tapestry, some ways to blend things.

"I mean, you never imagine you could shape the breed or whatever. But it's kind of cool, one horse at a time, to try to do something special; to get the magic to happen again."

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Pegasus preview day, cont. from p1

He went four furlongs in :47 1/5 (1/30) Nov. 29 before going the same distance in :47 4/5 (1/24) just last week Dec. 14.

Gulfstream's perennial leading trainer Saffie Joseph, Jr. comes into Saturday's card heavy handed with no fewer than three runners in the Harlan's Holiday alone: **Cape Trafalgar** (Lord Nelson), **Digital Ops** (**Nyquist**) and **Super Corinto** (Arg) (Super Saver). The group all breaks outside of the Brian Lynch runner **Tumbarumba** (**Oscar Performance**), the sole Breeders' Cup runner in the field (fourth in the GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile).

On the grass, the boys prep for the GI Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational by going 1 1/8 miles in the GII Ft. Lauderdale Stakes. Again loaded here, Joseph, Jr. brings in 6-year-old **Cash Equity** (**Fr**) (Toronado {Ire}), **Saratoga Flash** (Laoban) and **Lorenz** (**Brz**) (Forestry).



DECEMBER 21

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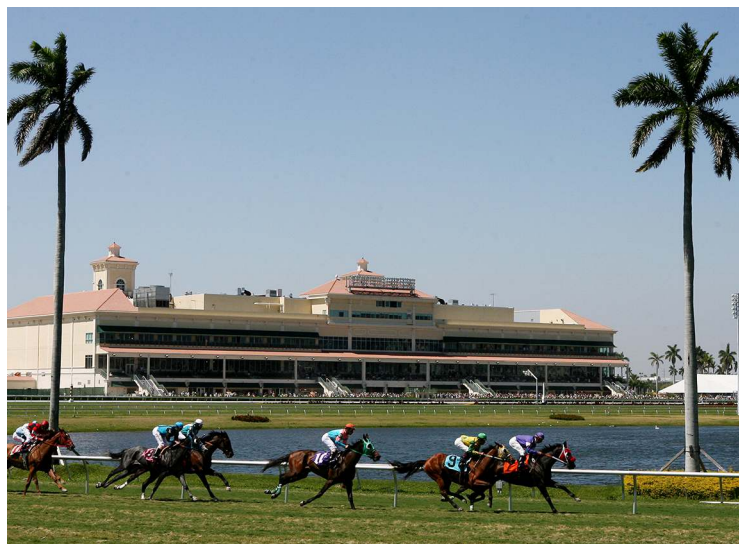
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Of Cash Equity, who drew the rail Saturday, Joseph said: "He's a horse that seems to run decent enough each time but never win, though he's picked up some big checks. A mile and an eighth is probably the perfect distance. He's drawn well. Maybe he can not be as far back this time and hopefully he can break through and get the win. I think he'll like the firmer turf at Gulfstream because he ran well at Kentucky Downs. It's a different course but it's a very firm turf also." **Cont.**



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2024 LEADING FIRST CROP SIRES IN NORTH AMERICA (By BTWs)

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1	TIZ THE LAW	89	5	2	10.4%	\$2,543,857
2	Vekoma	150	4	1	5.1%	\$2,582,429
-	Complexity	100	4	2	7.8%	\$1,839,980
4	Thousand Words	110	3	1	5.0%	\$1,718,918

Bloodhorse.com 12/17/24

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Chris McGrath, TDN

TIZ THE LAW

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Pegasus preview day, cont.

Joseph also admitted that, while Cash Equity has already proven his form towards the Pegasus Turf, his other runners had something left to run for.

“It’s a trial for them. It’s an exhibition to see if they’re good enough.”

Pletcher also wields a pair here in **Major Dude** (Bolt d'Oro) and Whisper Hill's **Grand Sonata** (Medaglia d'Oro) who gains blinkers off a Breeders' Cup run when 11th in the GI Breeders' Cup Turf.

Closing out Saturday's card, the fillies and mares go the flat mile in the GIII Suwannee River Stakes ahead of the GII Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational with a pair of runners making their first starts in the United States following careers overseas. Pletcher has the outside runner in South African import **Bless My Stars (SAf)** (Gimmethegreenlight {Aus}) who last ran in February but is a Group 1 winner in her native country. To the inside, French runner **Ribaltagaia (Blame)** last contested the G1 Prix de la Foret at Longchamp in October and comes over for trainer Gianluca Bietolini. The rail draw went to Glen Hill Farm homebred **Ocean Club (Curlin)**, who comes in off a short break dating back to her win in the GIII Noble Damsel going this distance at Aqueduct Sept. 21 for Jack Siston. Closer **Papilio (Ire)** (Starspangledbanner {Aus})'s last trip over the mile was a strong win at Keeneland in the GII Appalachian Stakes but that was over 20 months ago and she's only gone longer distances since for trainer Mark Casse and DJ Stable.

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MYSTIK DAN ARRIVES SAFELY AND GALLOPS AT SANTA ANITA, CITIZEN BULL WORKS

After vanning nearly 1,900 miles from Fair Grounds in New Orleans, GI Kentucky Derby winner **Mystik Dan** (Goldencents) arrived at Santa Anita in good order Wednesday night, got a rest day on Thursday, and stretched his legs on California soil for the first time Friday morning. Backed up to the seven-eighths pole around 8:15 a.m. local time under exercise rider Tony Gutierrez, Mystik Dan galloped about nine furlongs, then took two turns around the paddock before heading back to Barn 54, where he is staying.

Trainer Kenny McPeck was not on hand--he's scheduled to arrive next Thursday morning along with Mystik Dan's regular rider Brian Hernandez, Jr.--but McPeck's assistant Dermot Wagner oversaw the morning's activities alongside Greg Morehead, director of operations for McPeck Racing. Wagner and Morehead shared the driving duties for Mystik Dan's trip from Fair Grounds.

The Derby winner is entered to run in next Thursday's GI Malibu Stakes on Santa Anita's opening day. He'll break from



Mystik Dan gets his first feel of the Santa Anita surface | Zoe Metz

post six in his first start since an off-the-board finish in the GI Belmont Stakes.

In other Malibu news, three other members of field had their final works Friday: **Stronghold (Ghostzapper)** covered five panels in 1:01; **Winterfell** (Arrogate) worked four furlongs in :47.20; and **Senior Officer** (Into Mischief) worked a half in :48.

Also on the worktab was GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner **Citizen Bull** (Into Mischief), who worked for the second time since that win Nov. 1. He covered four furlongs in :49. Another notable worker was **Eagles Flight (Curlin)**, the winning half-brother to Horse of the Year **Flightline**, who put in five furlongs in 1:00.40.

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WEST POINT SETS RECORD IN BANNER YEAR

by Bill Finley

Flightline (Tapit) had gone off to stud and there weren't any horses at the start of 2024 on the West Point roster that looked to be headed for stardom. Terry Finley, the founder and president of West Point Thoroughbreds, wasn't expecting a bad year for his stable but he tried to be realistic about West Point's goals for the year.

“It wasn't like one horse made \$3 million for us this year,” he said. “It was a bunch of really hard knocking, or maybe even a little bit better than hard knocking, horses that stayed around a good part of the year. That's a big deal. If you stay around you can end up running at Kentucky Downs or some of the other tracks with the huge purses. When you're not on the sidelines, that makes an impact on your stats when it comes to earnings.”

With the final days of 2024 upon us, West Point has won 26 stakes races this year. According to Jeff Lowe, who works in communications and marketing for West Point, the 26 stakes wins established a new record for most stakes wins by a partnership. **Cont.**

West Point, cont.

The previous record, Lowe reports, was 22, set by Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners in 2022.

West Point horses have, through Thursday, earned \$9,533,183, the most ever for the stable.

“We are very, very proud,” Finley said. “How can you not be proud of the team, proud of the partners and everybody who works in our ecosystem? I am proud of the horses, too. I would not have expected it at the beginning of the year. It’s probably similar to what happens with a lot of people in the horse business when they have success. They look back and a lot of times people will say we didn’t truly see this coming. I’m in that camp. While I didn’t see it coming, all we try to do is work hard every day and make good decisions every day. I know that sounds like corporate speak, but I have always bought into that mantra. Those are the things that work, working hard and doing it every single day. Really that’s the No. 1 thing we can control. We are filled with pride and it just drives home the fact that nobody can do this by themselves. We see people time and time again try to do it themselves for whatever reason. You can’t do it that way. Truly, this is a team sport.”

It was horses like **Jaxon Traveler (Munnings)** who over achieved this year and helped set the record. Soon to be seven, he was bought for \$140,000 at the 2020 OBS April Sale. He’s gone over the \$1-million mark in earnings and won four stakes this year, including the GIII Whitmore Stakes.

While there’s nothing wrong with winning the Whitmore, West Point likes to aim high. Finley is encouraged that the stable appears to have a quality group of soon-to-be 3-year-olds who could be Derby material. He said that division is headed by GIII Bob Hope Stakes winner **Bullard (Gun Runner)**, **Sandman (Tapit)**, **Keep It Easy (Hard Spun)** and the undefeated Laurel Futurity winner **Pascaline (Upstart)**.

“We’ll take a week or so to really cherish the 26 stakes wins,” Finley said. “As we were getting close to the 20 mark I was saying wouldn’t it be nice to say we won a stakes every two weeks. We got there. I have asked my team to reflect and enjoy the great work we’ve all been part of. You’re not guaranteed anything in this sport and you’re not owed anything in this business. You’ve got to show up. One of the things I monitor and am always looking out for is that every member of the team is still passionate about the horses and our partners. I can look



Terry Finley | Sarah Andrew

every one of them in the eye and say that we are. This will be our 34th year. That’s a good feeling, to have done something for 34 years and to have had some success and still be unbelievably passionate about the industry and about our company. How lucky are we? That’s something I don’t take lightly.”

West Point’s success has been fueled not just by quality but by quantity. Finley started with one horse 34 years ago, a \$6,250 claimer. Since, the stable has grown steadily. They now have 123 horses in training and 22 yearlings. Are they nearing a tipping point where more is less?

“I’m not saying this would work with 300 horses, but I think our system has evolved where we’ve gotten better and we have worked on things,” Finley said. “It may be another cliché, but I’m a big proponent on getting better on a regular basis and never sitting back on our heels. We’re never in the back of the foxhole, we’re always forward. I think we could get bigger, I really do. Not a lot bigger, but after we’ve had a year like this one you start to

think I want more of this. That’s what we do as owners across the spectrum in the horse business. We’re not looking to get a whole lot bigger, but we had another good year bringing people into the business. We are also getting a good number of people who own horses joining up with us in joint venturers. More and more people are looking to do that, including breeders that want stay in as owners. And you get people who go to the big sales like Saratoga or the first couple of days at Keeneland and they realize they can’t bang heads. It doesn’t make sense to bang heads, so you see that a lot of the partnerships now are joining forces with other owners. We will continue to do that. With the right people, the right outlook and the right team, it’s a great way to do this.”

West Point will look to get 2025 off to a fast start when it runs **Maui Strong (Kitten’s Joy)** in the Jan 1. Dania Beach Stakes at Gulfstream.

Can West Point top 26 stakes wins in 2025? It won’t be easy but that’s because few things are easy in this sport. But West Point’s formula is working. Buy a lot of horses, spend a lot of money, team with quality trainers like Steve Asmussen, Shug McGaughey, John Sadler, Christophe Clement, Dale Romans, Dallas Stewart, and Cherie DeVaux and a top bloodstock advisor in David Ingordo and work really hard. Do all that and good things are bound to happen.

LADY AND THE CHAMP: VIVES POISED FOR ANOTHER CANADIAN RIDING TITLE IN 2024

by Christina Bossinakis

In September of 2022, an Ontario-bred by the name of **Patches O'Houlihan** kicked off his career at Woodbine, winning a 5 1/2-furlong test by 4 1/2 lengths. Less than two months later, 20-year-old Sofia Vives launched her career as a jockey while recording her first victory aboard **Bodacious Miss** (Bodemeister), also in a 5 1/2-furlong race at the Etobicoke oval. While over a year removed from joining forces, the son of Reload and the South Carolina native both rode the wave of 2023, capping off their respective seasons with a pair of divisional titles under their belts.

For Patches O'Houlihan, a 2023 campaign saw him win six of seven starts, including four stakes headed by the GIII Bold Venture Stakes and GIII Vigil Stakes. Trained by Robert Tiller on behalf of Frank Di Giulio, Jr., the homebred ultimately earned the Sovereign Award as Canada's Champion Male Sprinter for his 3-year-old campaign.

Also on an ascendent trajectory last year, Vives won 122 races from 764 starts, including 88 victories at her Woodbine base before concluding 2023 with \$3,569,901 in earnings. Her performance during her first full year in the saddle was good enough to earn her a Sovereign Award as the Outstanding Apprentice Jockey, also stamping her one of the finalists in that season's Eclipse Awards.

While each competitor hardly struggled without the help of the other, it is clear that the duo found something in each other over the course of this past season that has forged a meaningful, not to mention lucrative, connection.

"I am so grateful we got the opportunity on him and that I have gotten along with him so well is pretty amazing," said Vives.

Vives and Patches O'Houlihan's intersection point occurred at Woodbine last spring when introduced via Vives's agent at the time, Jordan Miller.

"In the mornings, it was just a job," she recalled. "But I learned that he's a completely different horse in the mornings to the afternoons. I was told not to worry about [the morning works] because in the afternoon he will give 110%."



Sofia Vives after winning this season's Woodbine Oaks aboard Kin's Concerto | Michael Burns

The duo debuted facing Ontario-breds in the six-furlong Pink Lloyd July 28.

"On race day, he is a beast," she affirmed. "He shows up and knows what to do."

Sent off second choice in the Pink Lloyd, named after another champion trained by Tiller, the gelding went to the front and never looked back, rolling home a six-length winner.

Having to work harder defending his title in the Aug. 23 Bold Venture, the champion had to dig deep to score by a neck in the 6 1/2-furlong contest. The pair also repeated in the Vigil ahead of an eyebrow raising score in the GII Nearctic over the Woodbine turf Oct. 5.

"He kind of took me to the outside rail and drifted pretty noticeably," she recalled.

Despite giving up all that ground, the gelding was able to overcome his transgression, proving he was much the best.

"Everyone is scared to run against him and he deserves the respect because he's earned it."

Favored in the Nov. 16 GII Kennedy Road, the team finished second, three-quarters of a length behind 3-1 second choice **Nobals** (Noble Mission {GB}), winner of last year's GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint.

"We drew an inside post, but he broke a half a millisecond slow," she said. "I had to kind of rush him to get position."

Despite his latest defeat, Patches O'Houlihan remains likely to garner another title as top Canada's sprinter in 2024.

"[Nobals] was just a better horse in the Kennedy Road, but that takes nothing away from Patches," she said. "He just got a little outdone that day. It took a Breeders' Cup winner to beat him that day. He's still amazing, no matter what."

'This is what I've always dreamed of doing'

In a concerted effort to extend her five-pound weight allowance, Vives registered only four wins from 16 starts in 2022 before pressing the pause button. However, that didn't mean that the rider was about to hang out on the beach working on her tan and sipping margaritas over the winter.

"Last year [2022-23], when I had stopped and got into a gym [in Ocala], the coaches really helped me out--strength wise and to help me gain some weight." **Cont.**

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Sofia Vives, cont.

"I was very motivated to get back to racing," she explained.

She continued, "At the beginning of [2024], I knew I was going to lose the bug but you have to take advantage of all the opportunities that you can get along the way and just go day-by-day with it."

Despite all her success during her title-earning campaign in 2023, there was one thing that had escaped her--win at the black-type level. However, that void didn't take long to fill, courtesy of the Josie Carroll-trained **Sabatini (Uncle Mo)** in Woodbine's Star Shoot Stakes last April.

Vives added eight more races at the stakes level in 2024, including the Woodbine Oaks with **Kin's Concerto (Mendelssohn)** and the GII Connaught Cup Stakes, courtesy of **Cruden Bay (Big Screen)**. In addition to a quartet of stakes wins with Patches O'Houlihan, she also reconnected with Sabatini last summer to take the GIII Selene.

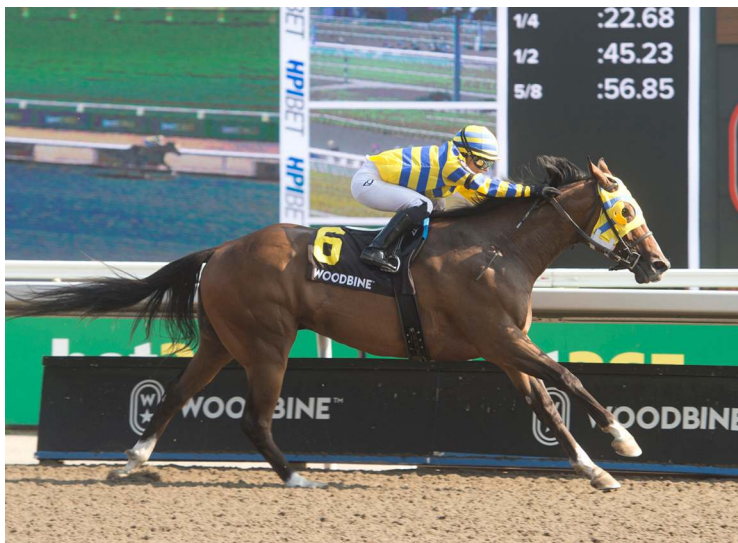
"Even after I lost the bug [in August], I would show up with a smile on my face and be nice and polite," she said. "The road is never clear up ahead. You don't always know which path to take and you always want to take the right one, but you have to go with your gut feeling."

Vives is in an enviable position where she could potentially win another Sovereign Award as the leading Canadian apprentice rider in 2024, largely due to her decision to curtail her 2022 season immediately after recording her fourth win. A total of nine riders have accomplished the double, including Kazushi Kimura in 2018-19.

With less than a month remaining in 2024, the rider has remained on pace with her 2023 stats, winning 87 races at a 16% clip while amassing over \$3.2 million. Principally riding in Canada, she also ventured south of the border to ride in New York and Pennsylvania.

She currently ranks fourth overall at Woodbine with 66 wins and over \$2.9 million in earnings.

"Numbers is not a big thing for me because I don't like to set numbers as goals just because if you don't meet them, you feel very let down," she explained. "I just want to stay positive and be happy. Also, continue to do right by the horses, owners and trainers. That's a pretty good goal for me."



Sofia Vives and Patches O'Houlihan roll to victory in the Pink Lloyd Stakes at Woodbine | Michael Burns photo

The 22-year-old has moved her tack to Aqueduct this winter, a move that appears to be the most logical for the young rider looking to branch out at this juncture in her young career. Her fiancée, jockey Keiber Coa, is also stationed in New York.

"I'll take it day-by-day and see what doors and opportunities open up and go on from there," she said. "Maybe I'll get a chance today that will completely change plans for years. I don't

know. Right now my brain is a sponge. I want to learn as much as I can from the colony [in New York] and see what happens in the springtime."

She added, "I would like to maintain what I have built and learn as much as I can. I am new to the New York circuit so I'd like to make some new connections here."

Highlighting her incoming connections, Vives recently switched her book to John Panagot, also the agent for New York-based Manny Franco.

"I would love to be able to ride in New York, ride at Belmont

when that opens up and go to Saratoga in the summer," she said. "I would love to learn as much as I can from the guys up here. To be able to learn from them is pretty cool."

'Be an inspiration'

Armed with the pedigree to be a rider, her father Lazaro Vives rode along the Midlantic circuit as a jockey before serving a 20-year-stint at Mark Casse's Ocala farm. The horseman currently works for OBS in Ocala, Florida, where Vives grew up.

"My dad always told me 'keep your ears and eyes open and your mouth closed,'" she said. "You can learn so much from watching and listening. Growing up, whenever I could I would go out to the farm and the track and watch them."

It was at the Hall of Famer's training center where she received much of her early education as a rider.

"Once I got going, [Lazaro] was breezing a lot of horses for Mark and breaking babies," she recalled. "It was actually cool to ride right alongside him and learn all the fundamentals from him. He's amazing on a horse and can get the horse to do whatever he wants them to do."

She added with a laugh, "To be able to see that is both good and bad. It's good because you get to see it close up but it's bad because he makes it look so easy. And it's not easy! He does everything so effortlessly and the horses respond to him so well." **Cont.**

Sofia Vives, cont.

What was one of the most valuable lessons she learned from her father?

“He had shown me how to break horses out of the gate and I think my dad is one of the quickest riders out of the gate,” she explained. “The race is often won or lost at the gate, so it's nice to have that background with him.”

According to Vives, Casse also played a big part in helping mould her career.

“Mark always said that I could ride races if I would finish school. That was my mom [Marie]'s rule too,” she conceded. “[Mark] has always been alongside me and has helped me find my footing at the track. He introduced me to Woodbine and gave me a shot.”



Sofia Vives and her parents Lazaro and Marie
Courtesy Sofia Vives

“Mark and Miss Tina [Casse] are always rooting for me and cheering me on. They have been along the whole journey with me. If I ever have questions, I know I can reach out and they'll pick up right away. They are family to me.”

Vives also points to other notable racing figures who influenced her career path.

“Growing up, I wanted to be like Johnny Velazquez and Mike Smith,” she said. “Just to ride next to them is an honor.”

“I really love watching Johnny ride. He always has himself in a good spot and he always gives the horse the best chance to win. He makes them all look good and he looks good on all of them. That's what I aspire to be like one day.”

While following the path and success of the legends of the game, Vives hopes that she too might one day be in the position to make a difference to a young up-and-coming rider.

“I believe you should be the person that you would want other people to want to be like as they got older. Be an inspiration. Do right by the animals.

“Thank God for all your blessings and carry on with the day.”

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**JOCKEY CLUB MARE INCENTIVE PROGRAM
ASSISTS BREEDERS WITH MATING PLANS**

The Jockey Club has rolled out a new pilot project, the Mare Incentive Program, that waives registration fees for certain 2026 foals of mares that meet certain criteria in order to assist breeders with their mating plans, the organization said in a press release early Friday.

“The Jockey Club is waiving registration fees for any 2026 foals of mares that are listed and that are introduced or returned to the breeding population in 2025 in an effort to stimulate interest in this group that appear to have left production,” said James L. Gagliano, president and COO of The Jockey Club. “We believe the complimentary software tool developed by TJC Innovations that prepares the report of these mares provides an invaluable asset for breeders as they consider potential matings.”

Each December, The Jockey Club will provide a list of the mares identified in the Mare Incentive Program through Interactive Registration (IR). The list for the 2025 breeding season is available now, and The Jockey Club Registry will waive the registration application fee for 2026 foals out of these mares.

“The Mare Incentive Program is an incredibly useful resource for the industry,” said Walker Hancock, president of Claiborne Farm. “We are excited to see where this may lead and hopefully some of these mares will re-enter breeders’ broodmare bands.”

“We are delighted to learn of The Jockey Club's initiative to waive the registration fees for foals from those mares that are not currently in the system,” said MV Magnier of Coolmore. “Anything we can do to bring these mares back into production is a positive for American breeding and racing. You never know from where the next champion will come.”

The criteria are for mares divided into two age groups. The first are for mares from six to nine years old as of January 1, 2025:

- A registered Thoroughbred
- Name registered with The Jockey Club
- No race starts in the past two years (2023 and 2024)
- Not reported as the dam of a foal in the past two years
- Not reported as covered by a stallion in the past two years
- Not exported to a foreign country from the USA, Canada, or Puerto Rico with the export as the last movement of record
- Not reported dead

Cont.

Mare Incentive Program, cont.



Mares and foals | Horsephotos

The second are for mares from 10 to 19 years old as of January 1, 2025. These mares must meet the criteria above and must have produced a registered foal in 2021 and/or 2022.

“When including both sets of mares, approximately 23,000 mares have been identified that could be introduced or returned to the breeding population,” said Jamie Haydon, deputy executive director of The Jockey Club. “We hope state breeding associations consider adding other incentives to get these mares into production and to get their foals registered.”

“With the current incentives, awards, and purse structure available to New York-breds, we are excited to have more participation in our program by everyone who will take advantage of the quality mares available to be found and covered using this tool,” said Najja Thompson, executive director of New York Thoroughbred Breeders.

The report of Mare Incentive Program mares is available to anyone with an IR account and is filterable by 12 data elements, including sire, dam sire, age, money earned, and class of race achieved. Users can also search by mare name. The list includes all mares that meet the criteria for their age group.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

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**PLEASANT ACRES STALLIONS RELEASES
STUD FEES FOR 2025**

Pleasant Acres Stallions outside of Ocala, Florida, who welcomed to its stallion roster this year 'TDN Rising Star' Champions Dream (*Justify*) and Mr Fisk (Arrogate), has released the farm's stud fee schedule, according to a Friday press release.

The 220-acre farm owned by Joe Barbazon and Helen

Barbazon added MGSW Mr Fisk after the homebred was retired by Sunny Brook Stables last month. The colt amassed a record of 11-5-2-0 and earnings of \$369,700. Mr Fisk will stand for \$8,500.

GSW Champions Dream will take up residence alongside Mr Fisk as the latest Pleasant Acres sire. Both the 4-year-old colt and his dam GSW Dancinginherdreams (*Tapit*) were named 'TDN Rising Stars' for their respective early efforts. Campaigned by Rosedown Racing, Champions Dream was retired in November and his fee comes in at \$5,000.

Both newly minted sires will join a stallion shedrow which includes 'TDN Rising Star' Doppelganger (Into Mischief) and GSW Verifying (*Justify*), who in their second year at stud both have a fee set at \$10,000.



Champions Dream | Sarah Andrew

Sire Roster/Stud Fee:

- Bodexpress: \$3,500
- Champions Dream: \$5,000
- Chess Chief: \$5,000
- Curlin's Honor: \$2,500
- Doppelganger: \$10,000
- Gunnevera: \$6,000
- Leinster: \$2,500
- Magic on Tap: \$5,000
- Mr Fisk: \$8,500
- Neolithic: \$5,000
- Simplification: \$6,500
- Verifying: \$10,000

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TDN Writers' Room of 2024



THE STREET FIGHTER RELOCATES TO RANCHO SAN MIGUEL

California-based **The Street Fighter** (Street Boss--Silver Swallow, by Alphabet Soup) will join the Rancho San Miguel roster for 2025. A winner at three and five who placed in Del Mar's California Dreamin' Stakes, The Street Fighter will stand for \$2,500, live foal guarantee.



©Mesaros

The Street Fighter | Ron Mesaros

The chestnut was bred in California by Bruce Headley and Andrew Molasky, trained by Headley until he passed away in 2021, and trained for his final starts that same year by Headley's daughter, Karen. The latter now owns him along with Marsha Naify, a longtime Headley client. Both will support The Street Fighter with their own mares.

"In many ways, The Street Fighter represents the culmination of Bruce Headley's unique ability to train and maintain durable, quality horses for the Southern California racing circuit," said Rancho San Miguel's Tom Clark. "This promising young stallion is strong and correct, with good bone, and we are pleased to offer him to **West Coast** breeders at an affordable fee that will help carry these versatile, proven bloodlines forward into the future."

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Saturday, Gulfstream #10, post time: 4:54 p.m. EST

FT. LAUDERDALE S.-GII, \$215,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/8mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Cash Equity (Fr)	Toronado (Ire)	Kenneth L. Ramsey	Joseph, Jr.	Zayas	121
2	Grand Sonata 🌿	Medaglia d'Oro	Whisper Hill Farm LLC	Pletcher	Gaffalione	126
3	Saratoga Flash	Laoban	Dailey Double Racing, LLC	Joseph, Jr.	Husbands	121
4	Major Dude	Bolt d'Oro	Spendthrift Farm LLC	Pletcher	Ortiz, Jr.	121
5	Win for the Money	Mohaymen	Live Oak Plantation	Casse	Davis	126
6	Lorenz (Brz)	Forestry	Daniel Alonso	Joseph, Jr.	Van Dyke	123
7	Siege of Boston	War Front	Joseph Allen LLC	Toner	Ruiz	121
8	Fort Washington	War Front	Magic Cap Stables	McGaughey III	Velazquez	126
9	Emmanuel 🌿	More Than Ready	Hui, Michael M., Chambers, Case, Staudacher, David, Paradise Farms Corp., Fugget About It Racing Stable and Forte, Phil	Maker	Castellano	123

Breeders: 1-S.C.E.A. Des Prairies, Thomas & Benoit Jeffroy, 2-Whisper Hill Farm, 3-McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, 4-Clearsky Farms, 5-Kenneth & Sarah Ramsey, 6-Haras Cifra, 7-Joseph Allen & White Birch Farm, Inc., 8-Joseph Allen, LLC & White Birch Farm, Inc., 9-Helen K. Groves Revocable Trust

Saturday, Gulfstream #9, post time: 4:24 p.m. EST

HARLAN'S HOLIDAY S.-GIII, \$165,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Tuscan Sky	Vino Rosso	Spendthrift Farm LLC	Pletcher	Velazquez	120
2	Tumbarumba	Oscar Performance	Wathnan Racing	Lynch	Gaffalione	123
3	Cape Trafalgar	Lord Nelson	Peachtree Stable	Joseph, Jr.	Ortiz, Jr.	121
4	Digital Ops 🌿	Nyquist	Jeffrey Drown	Joseph, Jr.	Davis	121
5	Vitality	Street Boss	Stronach Stables and Hunsburger, Joel B.	Ladouceur	Bravo	118
6	Steal Sunshine	Constitution	Michael & Jules Iavarone, Carrie L. Brogden, Kevin J. Pollard, Ed Gorry and David Menard	Dibona	Reyes	123
7	Rocket Can	Into Mischief	Frank Fletcher Racing Operations, Inc.	Mott	Alvarado	121
8	Super Corinto (Arg)	Super Saver	Jet Set Racing Stable	Joseph, Jr.	Zayas	121

Breeders: 1-Sierra Farm, 2-Coteau Grove Farms, 3-Spendthrift Farm, 4-Coffee Pot Stables, 5-Adena Springs, 6-Machmer Hall, 7-Woodford Thoroughbreds, 8-Firmamento

Saturday, Gulfstream #11, post time: 5:24 p.m. EST

SUWANNEE RIVER S.-GIII, \$165,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 1mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Ocean Club	Curlin	Glen Hill Farm	Sisterson	Gonzalez	125
2	Hollywood Walk	Animal Kingdom	R. Larry Johnson	Trombetta	Ruiz	121
3	Ribaltagaia 🌿	Blame	The Estate of Albert Frassetto	Bietolini	Alvarado	118
4	Papilio (Ire) 🌿	Starspangledbanner (Aus)	D. J. Stable LLC	Casse	Castellano	121
5	Swoonatra 🌿	Paynter	Douglas Self	Abreu	Perez	121
6	Charlie's Wish	First Dude	Royalight Racing, LLC	Fawkes	Vasquez	121
7	Be Your Best (Ire)	Muhaaraar (GB)	Michael J. Ryan	Joseph, Jr.	Zayas	125
8	Saffron Moon 🌿	Malibu Moon	CHP Racing	Brown	Gaffalione	121
9	Golden Hostess (SAf)	Gold Standard (SAf)	Cayton Park Stud	Motion	Velazquez	121

10	Be My Sunshine 🌿	Frosted	Kenneth L. Ramsey	Joseph, Jr.	Reyes	121
11	Breath Away (GB)	Bated Breath (GB)	Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Tango Uniform Racing and Steven Rocco	Clement	Davis	121
12	Bless My Stars (SAf)	Gimmethgreenlight (Aus)	Barber, Gary and Team Valor International LLC	Pletcher	Ortiz, Jr.	121

Breeders: 1-Glen Hill Farm, 2-R. Larry Johnson, 3-Mr. Wilbert Tan, 4-SCEA Marmion & Mr A. Jathiere, 5-Wes Self, 6-Three Gin Guys Stable, 7-St. Croix Bloodstock, 8-Cove Springs Farm, 9-Drakenstein Stud (Nom Mrs. G. A.Rupert), 10-Kenneth & Sarah K. Ramsey, 11-Highgate Stud, 12-Varsfontein Stud

Thursday, Santa Anita #8, post time: 5:30 p.m. EST

MALIBU S.-GI, \$300,000, 3yo, 7f

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Bentornato	Valiant Minister	Leon King Stable Corp.	D'Angelo	Saez	122
2	Pilot Commander 🌿	Justify	CSLR Racing Partners LLC	Baffert	Hernandez	120
3	Winterfell 🌿	Arrogate	SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Bashor, Dianne, Masterson, Robert E., Waves Edge Capital LLC, Donovan, Catherine and Ryan, Tom J.	Baffert	Velazquez	120
4	Senior Officer 🌿	Into Mischief	Gainesway Stable and Qatar Racing LLC	Cox	Prat	120
5	Imagination 🌿	Into Mischief	SF Racing LLC, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables, Stonestreet Stables LLC, Bashor, Dianne, Masterson, Robert E., Waves Edge Capital LLC, Donovan, Catherine and Ryan, Tom J.	Baffert	Rosario	122
6	Mystik Dan	Goldencents	Four G Racing, LLC, Valley View Farm LLC, Gasaway, Lance, And Hamby III, Daniel	McPeek	Hernandez, Jr.	122
7	Stronghold	Ghostzapper	Waller, Eric M. and Waller, Sharon	D'Amato	Fresu	122
8	Raging Torrent 🌿	Maximus Mischief	Great Friends Stables and Davis, Mark	O'Neill	Dettori	122

Breeders: 1-Tanma Corp, 2-A R Enterprises, Inc., 3-Adirondack Bloodstock, 4-2500 Determined Stud, 5-Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC, 6-Lance Gasaway, Daniel Hamby & 4GRacing, LLC, 7-Eric Waller & Sharon Waller, 8-Rodney J. Winkler & Alfonso Mazzetti

Thursday, Santa Anita #10, post time: 6:30 p.m. EST

LA BREA S. PRESENTED BY DON JULIO-GI, \$300,000, 3yo, f, 7f

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Splendor	Audible	Talla Racing LLC	Baffert	Rosario	120
2	Accuracy 🌿	Arrogate	Repole Stable	McCarthy	Rispoli	120
3	Kinza	Carpe Diem	Michael Lund Petersen	Baffert	Velazquez	122
4	Sugar Fish 🌿	Accelerate	Sweetwater Stable and Talla Racing LLC	Mullins	Baze	122
5	Ultimate Authority 🌿	Practical Joke	Amestoy, Leslie A., Amestoy, Jr., Pierre Jean and Beasley, Roger K.	Yakteen	Dettori	120
6	Kopion 🌿	Omaha Beach	Spendthrift Farm LLC	Mandella	Kimura	122
7	One Magic Philly	Good Magic	John Gallegos	D'Amato	Prat	122
8	Sandy Bottom 🌿	Omaha Beach	Daniell, James M. and Daniell, Donna	McCarthy	Saez	120
9	Hope Road	Quality Road	Cicero Farms LLC	Baffert	Hernandez	122
10	Tamara	Bolt d'Oro	Spendthrift Farm LLC	Mandella	Smith	120
11	Cavalieri 🌿	Nyquist	Speedway Stables LLC	Baffert	Fresu	120

Breeders: 1-The Elkstone Group LLC, 2-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding, 3-JD Business Ventures LLC, Brushy Hill Stable & Carpe Diem Syndicate, 4-George Gilbert, 5-Romar Farm LLC & BRS, 6-Tall Oaks Farm, 7-John Gallegos, 8-Spendthrift Farm LLC, 9-Cicero Farms LLC, 10-Spendthrift Farm LLC, 11-Alastar Thoroughbred Co, LLC

Thursday, Santa Anita #11, post time: 7:00 p.m. EST

AMERICAN OAKS-GI, \$300,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/4mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Omaha Girl 🌿	Omaha Beach	Amo Racing USA, LLC	Papaprodromou	Baze	124
2	Sakura Blossom 🌿	Classic Empire	California Racing Partners, Ciaglia Racing LLC, O'Donnell, Kevin F. and Pearson, Richard C.	Powell	Saez	124
3	Medoro	Honor Code	C R K Stable LLC	Eurton	Fresu	124
4	Kathynmarissa 🌿	American Pharoah	Michael Dubb	Dutrow, Jr.	Dettori	124
5	Watchtower 🌿	Demarchelier (GB)	Abbondanza Racing LLC, Aldabbagh, Omar and Iavarone, Michael	Baltas	Herrera	124
6	Strutting (GB)	Frankel (GB)	Yuesheng Zhang	McCarthy	Gonzalez	124
7	Vibez	Collected	Ciaglia Racing LLC, Exline-Border Racing LLC, Hausman, Richard and Zubok, Garrett	Eurton	Hernandez	124
8	She Feels Pretty 🌿	Karakontie (Jpn)	Lael Stables	DeVaux	Velazquez	124
9	Baltic Fire	Flameaway	Next Wave Racing LLC	Callaghan	Carmona	124
10	Chatalas	Gun Runner	Rancho Temescal Thoroughbred Partners, Agnew, Dan J. and Chatalas, William	Glatt	Prat	124
11	Mizzyaan	Justify	Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Maktoum	McCarthy	Rispoli	124
12	Valence	Violence	A. Jason Hall Stables, Baker, Stephen R. and Vanlandingham, Bill	Garrett	Kimura	124
13	Rashmi	Oscar Performance	Augustin Stables	Thomas	Rosario	124

Breeders: 1-Rosilyn Polan, 2-Small Batch Thoroughbreds & RobertFetkin, 3-Parks Investment Group, LLC, 4-Don Alberto Corporation, 5-White Birch Farm, Inc., 6-Via Lazio Partnership, 7-Exline Border Racing, LLC, CiagliaRacing, LLC, et al, 8-Payson Stud Inc, 9-Rose Hill Farm, 10-Dan Agnew, 11-Sheik Mohammed bin Khalifa al Maktoum, 12-Jason Hall, Stephen Baker, DavidBranch, and Bill Vanlandingham, 13-George Strawbridge Jr.

Thursday, Santa Anita #6, post time: 4:30 p.m. EST

LAFFIT PINCAY, JR. S.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	American Admiral 🌿	American Pharoah	Donnie Crevier	Yakteen	Kimura	121
2	Ashcroft	Munnings	GMT Racing Stables	Sadler	Rosario	121
3	J B Strikes Back 🌿	Goldencents	Purple Rein Racing	O'Neill	Dettori	119
4	Express Train 🌿	Union Rags	C R K Stable LLC	Shirreffs	Berrios	121
5	Lammas (GB)	Heeraat (Ire)	Charles, Ronald L. and Gordon, Samuel	Badilla	Hernandez	123
6	Katonah 🌿	Klimt	R3 Racing LLC	O'Neill	Fresu	121
7	Tarantino 🌿	Pioneerof the Nile	David A. Bernsen LLC and Rockingham Ranch	Eurton	Maldonado	121
8	Goldeneye 🌿	Hard Spun	David A. Bernsen, LLC and Stuart, John D.	Eurton	Prat	121

Breeders: 1-Dixiana Farms LLC, 2-EAS Equine Alliance, LLC, Craig Netwig & Debra Barkley, 3-Woods Edge Farm, LLC, 4-Dixiana Farms LLC, 5-Peter Onslow, 6-Haymarket Farm LLC, 7-Fred W. Hertrich III & John D. Fielding, 8-Elm Racing, LLC

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Thursday, Santa Anita #7, post time: 5:00 p.m. EST**SAN GABRIEL S.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/8mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Astronomer	Air Force Blue	Bamford, Alice and Tabor, Michael B.	Callaghan	Kimura	121
2	Easter (Fr)	Exosphere (Aus)	Madaket Stables LLC	D'Amato	Fresu	121
3	Cabo Spirit 🌿	Pioneerof the Nile	Kretz Racing LLC	Papaprodromou	Dettori	125
4	Johannes	Nyquist	CUYATHY LLC	Yakteen	Rispoli	125
5	Escape Artist 🌿	Good Magic	Les Blake	Knapp	Rosario	121
6	Dicey Mo Chara (GB)	Adaay (Ire)	Red Baron's Barn LLC and Rancho Temescal LLC	Powell	Velazquez	121
7	Mi Hermano Ramon	Creative Cause	Rancho Temescal Thoroughbred Partners and Red Baron's Barn LLC	Glatt	Berrios	125
8	Nineeventurbo 🌿	More Than Ready	Stepaside Farm LLC	Drysdale	Hernandez	121
9	Seal Team (GB)	War Front	Bass II, Perry R. and Bass, Ramona S.	Mandella	Prat	121

Breeders: 1-Alice Bamford, 2-Aleyrion Bloodstock Ltd., 3-WinStar Farm, LLC, 4-Cuyathy, LLC, 5-Grandview Equine, 6-Worksop Manor Stud, 7-Red Baron's Barn, 8-C. W. Swann & Wetherbee Holdings, Ltd., 9-Bass Stables LLC

Thursday, Santa Anita #9, post time: 6:00 p.m. EST**MATHIS MILE S.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo, 1mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	King of Gosford (GB)	Zoustar (Aus)	Benowitz Family Trust, CYBT, Gevertz, Saul, Nentwig, Michael and Peskoff, Jeremy	D'Amato	Prat	122
2	Atitlan	The Factor	John M. B. O'Connor	Shirreffs	Berrios	124
3	Curlin's Kaos	Clubhouse Ride	Zephyr Racing LLC and Pais, Alfred	Garcia	Ayuso	120
4	Siennesis (Ire)	Advertise (GB)	Little Red Feather Racing, Madaket Stables LLC and Strauss, William	D'Amato	Fresu	120
5	Stay Hot	Summer Front	Burns Racing LLC, Exline-Border Racing LLC, SAF Racing, Estate of Brereton C. Jones and Hudock, William Dan	Eurton	Hernandez	122
6	Heart Headed 🌿	Oscar Performance	Davis Racing LLC, Giordano, Louis A. and Mueller, Martin	Papaprodromou	Dettori	120
7	Call Sign Seven	Speightstown	Cannon Thoroughbreds LLC	McCarthy	Frey	120
8	Cathal (Ire)	No Nay Never	Diamond T Racing, LLC, Iapetus Racing, LLC, Lady Marion, LLC and Alphin, Richard	Sadler	Rosario	120
9	Lord Bullingdon 🌿	Lord Nelson	Colbart Stables & Coronado Hill Investments LLC	McCarthy	Rispoli	122

Breeders: 1-The Miss Sugars Partnership, 2-Anastasia Astrid Christiansen-Croy, 3-James Shenouda & Alfred Pais, 4-Ballylinch Stud & Ecurie Des Charmes, 5-Brereton C. Jones, 6-Alan Tennenbaum, 7-Willow Oaks Stable, 8-Moni Market, 9-Veloce LLC

Friday, Santa Anita #7, post time: 6:00 p.m. EST**ROBERT J. FRANKEL S.-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Mahina 🌿	Bolt d'Oro	U.S. Equine, Walter Burke, Aaron Sones, and Harry Wilson	Gallagher	Prat	121
2	Yerwanthere (Ire)	Markaz (Ire)	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners	Gallagher	Rispoli	121
3	Mrs. Astor	Lookin At Lucky	Augustin Stables	Thomas	Dettori	125
4	Rashmi	Oscar Performance	Augustin Stables	Thomas	Rosario	119
5	Omaha Girl 🌿	Omaha Beach	Amo Racing USA, LLC	Papaprodromou	Baze	121
6	Mouffy	Uncle Mo	Augustin Stables	Thomas	Cheminaud	125
7	Hang the Moon 🌿	Uncle Mo	CJ Thoroughbreds	D'Amato	Kimura	125

Breeders: 1-Spendthrift Farm, LLC, 2-Kilnamoragh Stud, 3-George Strawbridge Jr., 4-George Strawbridge Jr., 5-Rosilyn Polan, 6-George Strawbridge Jr., 7-Repole Stable Inc

Saturday, Fair Grounds, post time: 4:00 p.m. EST

GUN RUNNER S., \$100,000, 2yo, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Built	Hard Spun	Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners	Catalano	Lanerie	122
2	Render Judgment	Blame	Baccari Racing Stable LLC, Dream Walkin Farms, Inc., MJM Racing and Rocket Ship Racing	McPeck	Hernandez, Jr.	122
3	Magnitude	Not This Time	Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC	Asmussen	Ortiz	122
4	Chris's Revenge	Instagrand	Nice Guys Stables	Russell	Torres	122
5	Admiral Dennis	Constitution	Albaugh Family Stables LLC	Cox	Saez	122

Breeders: 1-Robert Low & Lawana Low, 2-Green Lantern Stables, 3-Ron Stolich, 4-Three Diamonds Farm, 5-WinStar Farm, LLC

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DEC. 21 INSIGHTS: WELL-CONNECTED DEBUTERS MAKE AN APPEARANCE IN THE SUNSHINE STATE



Tucson is a half-brother to 'TDN Rising Star' Kimari (pictured), who went on to claim Grade and Group 1 black type | Joe Labozzetta

3rd-GP, \$60k, Msw, 3yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:18p.m. ET

Fashionably late to the party, but making it to the races for the partnership of WinStar Farm, Siena Farm, and Rockridge Racing, **TUCSON** (*Constitution*) seeks to validate their patience against a field of experienced maidens over the main track. Hammered down for \$1.3-million at KEESEP in 2022 but later **having to be resold by Keeneland the following spring**, the chestnut has been working steadily for Todd Pletcher out at Palm Beach Downs. A half-brother to Grade I-winning and Royal Ascot Group 1-placed 'TDN Rising Star' Kimari (*Munnings*), Tucson hails from the female line of course record-setter MGSW Apolda (*Theatrical {Ire}*). **TJCS PPs**

6th-GP, \$65k, Msw, 2yo, 1 1/16mT, 2:46p.m. ET

Carrying the flag for WinStar Farm once again, this time in partnership with CHC, Inc. and Siena Farm, **CYBER SECURITY** (*Quality Road*) will be unveiled on the grass for trainer Todd Pletcher. Given morning line odds fo 12-1, he is a half-brother to GSW Carribean Caper (*Speightstown*), who claimed the GIII Dogwood Stakes and Listed *Runhappy* Audubon Oaks in 2021. Their dam Checkupfromzneckup (*Dixie Union*) joined the WinStar broodmare band in 2017 when she changed hands for \$825,000 at KEENOV. His half-sisters Bombdigitty (*Into Mischief*) and Dixie Tap (*Tapit*) brought \$600,000 at KEESEP in 2020 and \$990,000 at Fasig-Tipton Saratoga in 2021, respectively. The former went to Stonestreet Stables while the latter to the partnership of West Point, Scarlet Oak Racing, and

NBS Stable. Dixie Tap sold at KEENOV last year for \$340,000 to Rosilyn Polan. Most recently, this one's full-brother Tornado Road sold for \$1.15-million at KEESEP in 2022 to BK Stables. This is a very active extended family which includes the likes of A.P Indy and the recently departed Lemon Drop Kid.

To his inside is \$510,000 OBSAPR pick up **ROGER ROGER** (*Omaha Beach*) debuting in the colors of Spendthrift Farm for trainer Chad Brown. Another with a steady worktab, his dam Caxambas Pass (*Tiznow*) is a winning half-sister to MGSW Point of Entry (*Dynaformer*), MGSW Pine Island (*Arch*), SW Bokeelia Island (*Medaglia d'Oro*), and GSP Sail Ahoy (*Bernardini*). One of the dam's half-sisters produced the likes of GSW & GISP Great Island (*Scat Daddy*) and went on to become the granddam of GSW Surprisingly (*Mastery*). This is a very busy extended female family which includes names like 'TDN Rising Star' MGSW Guarana (*Ghostzapper*) and GI Breeders' Cup Distaff heroine Pleasant Home (*Seeking the Gold*). **TJCS PPs**

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

9th-Oaklawn, \$133,000, Alw, 12-20, (C), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09.55, ft, 1 1/2 lengths.

BANISHING (g, 4, *Ghostzapper*--*Dowager*, by A.P. Indy) is on a run of good form since winning a \$65,000 claimer at Keeneland Oct. 18., just missing by a head in a Churchill Downs allowance spot Nov. 6 and posting a career high Beyer Speed Figure of 95 in victory going seven furlongs Nov. 23. Shipped to Fair Grounds and cut back to six panels Friday, the 5-2 second choice behind accomplished 9-5 favorite Tejano Twist (*Practical Joke*) took his time getting into stride and split the field through the half in :45.89. Shifted out to take command at the quarter pole, Banishing drove clear ahead of the favorite to win going away by 1 1/2 lengths. Dowager has an un-raced 2-year-old colt named Crawley (*Nyquist*) on the work tab at Keeneland, foaled a filly by Astern (*Aus*) this year and was bred to both *Speaker's Corner* and *Ghostzapper* for a 2025 foal. Sales History: \$80,000 4yo '24 FTKHRA. Lifetime Record: 14-5-1-2, \$323,979. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-Lawrence P. Roman and David Jacobson; B-Godolphin (KY); T-David Jacobson.





Banishing | Coady Media

6th-Gulfstream, \$57,120, Alw (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 12-20, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:38.70, ft, 3/4 length.

SECRET CHAT (c, 3, Union Rags--La Vie Ross, by Medaglia d'Oro) was last seen Nov. 16 beating an optional claimer group at this venue by 3 3/4 lengths and finished fourth two back Apr. 13 at Keeneland in the Gill Stonestreet Lexington Stakes for prior trainer Roderick Rodriguez. Breaking outwardly and bumping with competition to his right, the 2-1 second choice was corrected to track from three off the rail and was under a ride around the turn. Swinging five wide and closing the gap, he nailed Positive Review (Unified) in the final sixteenth to win by three-quarters of a length. The victor is a half-brother to Listed-placed Lady Azteca (Sharp Azteca) and is the dam's second winner. That elder sister's 2-year-old full-brother My Sergeant is unplaced. La Vie Ross has produce another yearling full-brother to that pair and a 2024 half-brother by Honor Code. She went to **Tiz the Law** for 2025. Lifetime Record: 6-3-2-0, \$137,500. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O/B-Gelfenstein Farm (FL); T-Victor Barboza, Jr..

8th-Turfway, \$52,135, Alw (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000), 12-19, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (AWT), 1:10.90, ft, neck.

GO LEE ANN GO (f, 3, Race Day--Lee Ann W, by Mr. Greeley) hit the board in seven of eight lifetime starts at Canterbury, and a lone start at Hawthorne, for trainer Joel Berndt before being moved to the shedrow of Ian Wilkes for this start. Making her synthetic debut after spending the entire year on the turf, the grey showed no speed early on and had to close from eighth to overhaul the lead pack in the shadow of the wire to win by a neck. Caumsett (**The Factor**) came second in a blanket finish. The second for her dam to earn black-type, albeit in the Minnesota-bred restricted Northern Lights Debutante Stakes as

a juvenile, Go Lee Ann Go claims Peruvian Boy (Tapiture), MSP, \$241,999 as a half-brother. Their dam has since produced unplaced 2-year-old Sweet Marie (**Higher Power**) and a 2024 colt by Greatest Honour. Lee Ann W went to Pappacap for 2025. Sales history: \$20,000 Wlg '21 KEENOV; \$48,000 3yo '24 FTDAPR. Lifetime Record: SP, 9-3-1-4, \$91,239. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** O-Three Times a Charm; B-Chesapeake Farm & Three Times A Charm (MN); T-Ian R. Wilkes.

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6th-Penn National, \$33,403, Alw, 12-19, (NW1X), 2yo, f, 6f, 1:11.41, gd, 7 lengths.

POCKET SAND (f, 2, Echo Town--Tall Timbercowgirl, by Prime Timber) won at first-asking Nov. 14 over a local maiden group and followed that effort up with another victory here, this time going gate-to-wire by seven lengths as Iracebeth (Wicked Strong) picked up second. The victress is a half-sister to Ernie Banker (**Central Banker**), SP, \$360,166, and is the most recent to the races for Tall Timbercowgirl, who has not had a foal since her despite multiple visits to **Central Banker**. She returned to that stallion for 2025. Sales history: \$7,000 Ylg '23 SARAUG. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$37,200. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-Joseph E. Besecker; B-Andy Beadnell (NY); T-Timothy C. Kreiser.

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5th-Oaklawn, \$65,000, Moc (\$100,000), 12-20, 2yo, f, 1 1/16m, 1:46.14, ft, 1 3/4 lengths.

ANONIMA (f, 2, Sharp Azteca--Royal Starlight, by Point Given) began her career Nov. 2 at Churchill Downs running seventh against auction-restricted maidens, and then fading to fourth last out Nov. 21 trying 1 1/16-miles for the first time against another restricted maiden field. Back at that distance here and given 9-1 odds, she pushed the issue up front from second and took over in the final turn as her longtime rival faded. Shaking clear and kicking away, she safely held Take Charge Milady (**Take Charge Indy**) to a 1 3/4-length margin. **Cont.**



Chunk of Gold | Coady Media

The victress is her dam's second foal and first to make the races. Royal Starlight has since produced a yearling filly by Maximus Mischief as well as a 2024 **Enticed** filly. This is the female family of Seeking the Ante Stakes winner Accelerating (Mitole). Sales history: \$15,000 Wlg '22 FTKNOV; \$17,000 Ylg '23 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$44,760. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** O-Magdalena Racing and Steve Crabtree; B-Barbara Montanye (KY); T-Kenneth G. McPeek.

3rd-Turfway, \$40,839, Msw, 12-19, 2yo, 6f (AWT), 1:11.11, ft, neck.

CHUNK OF GOLD (c, 2, Preservationist--Play for Gold, by Cairo Prince) was a chilly 13-1 on the totes for this debut, but showed the will of a seasoned horse as he pounced from third, dueled with D Bigalow (Bayern) in the stretch, and won the photo by a neck. A full-brother to Martha Washington Stakes victress Band of Gold, Chunk of Gold hails from the immediate family of MGSW My Boy Jack (Creative Cause). His dam, a half-sister to the gelding, has now produced three winners from as many to get to the races. Her most recent is a 2024 **Upstart** colt and she visited **Mage** for 2025. This is the extended female family of G1 Pontrancas-Argentine 1000 Guineas-placed Baby Melody (Arg) (Roy) and her half-sister G1SW-Arg Beauty Melody (Arg) (O'Martin). Sales history: \$2,500 Ylg '23 FTKOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$24,418. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-Terry L. Stephens and Christopher W. Melton; B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-Ethan W. West.

U.S.-BRED/SIRED RUNNERS IN JAPAN



In this continuing series, Alan Carasso takes a look ahead at US-bred and/or conceived runners entered for the upcoming weekend at the tracks on the Japan Racing Association circuit, with a focus on pedigree and/or performance in the sales ring. Here are the horses of interest for this Saturday running at Kyoto Racecourse:

Saturday, December 21, 2024

5th-KYO, ¥13,720,000 (\$88k), Newcomers, 2yo, 1600mT

STIR HEART (JPN) (f, 2, Gun Runner--Speech, by Pulpit) is the first foal to race from her dam, who caused a mild upset in taking out the 2020 GI Central Bank Ashland Stakes at Keeneland ahead of a third-place effort behind Shedaresthedevil (**Daredevil**) in the GI Kentucky Oaks that September and was privately acquired thereafter by Shadai Farm. The cross of **Gun Runner** over Pulpit has accounted for four winners from five runners, including MSW Optionality, while mares by Pulpit's son **Tapit** have produced 25 winners when bred to **Gun Runner**, nine in black-type company. *B-Shadai Farm*

HIT THE NOTE (JPN) (f, 2, Authentic--Desert Ride, by Candy Ride {Arg}) is also the first produce for her dam, the Sovereign Award-winning 3-year-old filly of 2019 and victorious in that year's Woodbine Oaks and Wonder Where Stakes. The filly's third dam is fellow champion Eye of the Sphynx (Smart Strike), whose seven winners include 2009 Queen's Plate winner and champion Eye of the Leopard (A.P. Indy), MSW/MGSP Hotep (A.P. Indy) and MGSW/GISP Deceptive Vision (A.P. Indy), the dam of MGSP Ancient Peace (**War Front**). Desert Ride fetched \$725,000 from Shimokobe Farm at the 2020 Fasig-Tipton November Sale. *B-Shimokobe Farm*

6th-KYO, ¥13,720,000 (\$88k), Newcomers, 2yo, 1400m

JE T'AIME D'ACCORD (JPN) (f, 2, Tapit) is a daughter of Irish Group 3 winner and 2018 G1 Investec Oaks third **Bye Bye Baby (Ire) (Galileo {Ire})**, who was hammered down to Narvick International for \$3.1 million with this filly in utero at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton November Sale. The dam is a full-sister to 2020 G1 Investec Derby and Australian Group 3 winner Serpentine (Ire) and to GSW & G1SP Wedding Vow (Ire), herself responsible for this year's Listed Dee Stakes winner Capulet (**Justify**). This is also the family of champion Dylan Thomas (Ire) (Danehill). **Cont.**



Speech winning the 2020 Ashland S. | Coady

The filly's 3-year-old half-brother Fort Thomas (**War Front**) was a maiden winner on the turf at Churchill Downs Nov. 3 and her weanling half-sister by Contrail (Jpn) was sold for \$1.025 million at this year's JRHA Select Sale. *B-Grand Stud*

RIDDLE TRIGGER (f, 2, American Pharoah--Rubina {Ire}, by Invincible Spirit {Ire}), a \$325,000 Keeneland September acquisition, is a half-sister to the dual stakes-winning Rubilinda (**Frankel {GB}**) and to the Chilean Group 2-placed US-bred Ruffina (Street Cry {Ire}). Don Alberto Corporation paid 475,000gns (\$815,706) for the stakes-placed Rubina with Rubilinda in utero at the 2013 Tattersalls December Mares Sale and bought her back on a bid of 400,000gns when offered back in foal to **Frankel** at TATDEM in 2018. *B-Don Alberto Corporation (KY)*

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IN NEW ZEALAND:

Khafre (Aus), g, 5, **American Pharoah--La Dama (Aus)**, by High Chaparral (Ire). Matamata RC, 12-20, Listed Matamata Cup, 1600mT, 1:35.50, gd. B-T W Archer Trust (NSW). *NZ\$155,000 Ylg '21 NZBNAT. ****1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN.**



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IN THE UAE:

Flama Sunshine, f, 2, **Flameaway**. See "Dubai".

Meshtri, g, 4, **Medaglia d'Oro**. See "Dubai".

Morning, g, 4, **Munnings--View**, by Birdstone. Meydan, 12-20, Hcp., 1200m, 1:11.88, ft. B-Jack Swain III (KY). *\$150,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP; \$85,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR. ****GSP-UAE. VIDEO.**



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FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: SATURDAY, DEC. 21

2024 Stud Fees Listed

Bravazo (Awesome Again), Calumet Farm, \$5,000
14 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
5-Oaklawn, 3:22 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Bon Temps, 20-1

Caracaro (**Uncle Mo**), Crestwood Farm, \$6,500
49 foals of racing age/6 winners/1 black-type winner
8-Delta Downs, 9:06 p.m. EST, Msw 5f, Who's Madie, 8-1
\$2,500 OBS WIN wnl; \$60,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Complexity (**Maclean's Music**), Airdrie Stud, \$12,500
121 foals of racing age/21 winners/4 black-type winners
4-Fair Grounds, 2:30 p.m. EST, \$100K Sugar Bowl S., 6f, Tough Catch, 8-5
\$110,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$280,000 OBS APR 2yo

Country House (Lookin At Lucky), Darby Dan Farm, \$7,500
39 foals of racing age/6 winners/0 black-type winners
9-Delta Downs, 9:34 p.m. EST, Aoc 5f, Takeittothehouse, 15-1
\$2,000 TTA YRL yrl

Cutting Humor (**First Samurai**), McDowell Farm, \$1,500
19 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
8-Delta Downs, 9:06 p.m. EST, Msw 5f, Gab's Humor, 7-2
\$10,000 TTA YRL yrl; \$20,000 TTA APR 2yo



Instagrاند | Taylor Made Stallions

Game Winner (Candy Ride {Arg}), Lane's End Farm, \$20,000
 118 foals of racing age/10 winners/1 black-type winner
 5-Oaklawn, 3:22 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, I Got Game, 8-5
 \$85,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$130,000 KEE SEP yrl
 6-Gulfstream, 2:46 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16mT, Winning Fortune,
 30-1
 \$275,000 KEE SEP yrl

Global Campaign (Curlin), WinStar Farm, \$12,500
 123 foals of racing age/15 winners/2 black-type winners
 5-Fair Grounds, 3:00 p.m. EST, \$100K Letellier Memorial S., 6f,
 Nomoretanlines, 20-1
 \$13,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$28,000 OBS OPN 2yo

Imperial Hint (Imperialism), Clear Creek Stud, \$3,000
 18 foals of racing age/3 winners/1 black-type winner
 6-Evangeline Downs, 7:40 p.m. EST, \$100K GII Louisiana
 Champions Day Juvenile S., , Rf Imperial Choice, 10-1

Inspeightofthedog (Maltese Dog)
 1 foal of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners
 5-Oaklawn, 3:22 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Dune a Vetta, 30-1

Instagrاند (Into Mischief), Taylor Made Farm, \$7,500
 136 foals of racing age/20 winners/1 black-type winner
 7-Fair Grounds, 4:00 p.m. EST, \$100K **Gun Runner** S., 1 1/16m,
 Chris's Revenge, 6-1
 \$13,000 KEE JAN wnl; \$29,000 OBS OCT yrl; \$20,000 OBS MAR
 2yo
 5-Oaklawn, 3:22 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Gateskeeper, 6-1
 \$50,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$36,000 FTD AUG 2yo

McKinzie (Street Sense), Gainesway Farm, \$30,000
 171 foals of racing age/21 winners/2 black-type winners
 11-Fair Grounds, 6:00 p.m. EST, \$100K Untapable S., 1m,
 Amarth, 7-2

Vekoma (Candy Ride {Arg}), Spendthrift Farm, \$15,000
 163 foals of racing age/37 winners/4 black-type winners
 5-Oaklawn, 3:22 p.m. EST, Msw 6f, Pine Tree Rocket, 3-1
 \$120,000 OBS APR 2yo

War of Will (War Front), Claiborne Farm, \$25,000
 116 foals of racing age/18 winners/1 black-type winner
 6-Gulfstream, 2:46 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16mT, No More War, 9-2
 \$90,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$90,000 KEE SEP yrl
 6-Gulfstream, 2:46 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16mT, Walking in
 Memphis, 15-1
 \$50,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$80,000 OBS APR 2yo
 6-Gulfstream, 2:46 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16mT, Warrior Wayne,
 20-1
 \$110,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$100,000 KEE SEP yrl

SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: SATURDAY, DEC. 21
 2024 Stud Fees Listed

Audible (Into Mischief), WinStar Farm, \$15,000
 262 foals of racing age/90 winners/5 black-type winners
 7-Laurel, 3:25 p.m. EST, \$100K Carousel S., 1 1/8m, Call Another
 Play, 20-1
 11-Fair Grounds, 6:00 p.m. EST, \$100K Untapable S., 1m, Stable
 Currency, 8-1
 \$27,000 FTK OCT yrl

Catalina Cruiser (Union Rags), Porta Pia Farm, \$10,000
 173 foals of racing age/62 winners/1 black-type winner
 8-Laurel, 3:53 p.m. EST, \$100K Robert T. Manfuso S., 1 1/16m,
 Cataleya Strike, 10-1
 \$20,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$20,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo
 4-Laurel, 1:54 p.m. EST, \$75K Howard and Sondra Bender
 Memorial S., 7f, Play Like a Raven, 9-2
 \$28,000 RNA EAS OCT yrl

Coal Front (Stay Thirsty), Spendthrift Farm, \$5,000
 82 foals of racing age/29 winners/5 black-type winners
 4-Gulfstream, 1:47 p.m. EST, \$140K Sugar Swirl S., 6f, Haulin Ice,
 15-1

Cont.



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Preservationist | Sarah Andrew

Copper Bullet (More Than Ready), Marjorie Farms, \$7,500
 54 foals of racing age/21 winners/2 black-type winners
 8-Laurel, 3:53 p.m. EST, \$100K Robert T. Manfuso S., 1 1/16m,
 Copper Tax, 7-5
 \$45,000 FTK OCT yrl

Flameaway (Scat Daddy), Darby Dan Farm, \$15,000
 200 foals of racing age/73 winners/7 black-type winners
 8-Fair Grounds, 4:30 p.m. EST, \$100K Richard R. Scherer
 Memorial S., 5 1/2fT, Bear River, 20-1
 \$67,000 KEE NOV wnl; \$65,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl; \$50,000 OBS
 OPN 2yo

Omaha Beach (War Front), Spendthrift Farm, \$40,000
 292 foals of racing age/76 winners/12 black-type winners
 4-Gulfstream, 1:47 p.m. EST, \$140K Sugar Swirl S., 6f, Launch,
 10-1
 \$50,000 KEE SEP yrl
 6-Gulfstream, 2:46 p.m. EST, Msw 1 1/16mT, Roger Roger, 6-1
 \$160,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$510,000 OBS APR 2yo

Preservationist (Arch), Airdrie Stud, \$5,000
 105 foals of racing age/44 winners/4 black-type winners
 4-Fair Grounds, 2:30 p.m. EST, \$100K Sugar Bowl S., 6f, Thrilla,
 8-1
 \$12,000 KEE SEP yrl

Vino Rosso (Curlin), Spendthrift Farm, \$20,000
 310 foals of racing age/104 winners/5 black-type winners
 3-Gulfstream, 1:18 p.m. EST, Msw 6 1/2f, Stompin Grapes, 8-1
 9-Gulfstream, 4:22 p.m. EST, \$165K GIII Harlan's Holiday S., 1
 1/16m, Tuscan Sky, 5-2
 \$200,000 FTK JUL yrl

World of Trouble (Kantharos), Haras Rio Iguassu, \$5,000
 130 foals of racing age/58 winners/1 black-type winner
 9-Oaklawn, 5:14 p.m. EST, \$150K Poinsettia S., 5 1/2f, Girls
 Weekend, 10-1
 \$37,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$50,000 OBS MAR 2yo; \$160,000 E '24 KEE
 NOV

Yoshida (Jpn) (Heart's Cry {Jpn}), Darley Japan, ¥1,500,000
 164 foals of racing age/50 winners/4 black-type winners
 8-Gulfstream, 3:46 p.m. EST, \$140K Janus S., 5fT, Okiro, 15-1
 \$8,200 FTK OCT yrl; \$25,000 OBS MAR 2yo

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:
7th-Oaklawn, \$130,000, 12-20, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m,
 1:45.27, ft, 3/4 length.
INDY LABEL (f, 3, Tonalist--Sweet August Lady, by City Zip)
 Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-0, \$137,213. O-Jeremy Sussman, Ten
 Strike Racing and Cory Moelis Racing LLC; B-Gugru LLC (KY);
 T-Matt A. Shirer. *\$15,000 Ylg '22 FTKJUL.

10th-Gulfstream, \$45,000, (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$62,500), 12-20,
 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT, 1:39.10, fm, 2 3/4 lengths.
**INFINITE DIAMOND (f, 4, Bee Jersey--Ready for Gold, by More
 Than Ready)** Lifetime Record: SW, 18-3-2-0, \$204,592.
 O-Diamond 100 Racing Club, LLC, Madaket Stables LLC and Frank
 Silva; B-Charles Fipke (KY); T-Patrick L. Biancone. *\$10,000 Ylg
 '21 FTKOCT; \$120,000 2yo '22 OBSAPR.

A Hubert Guy Bloodstock Yearling Purchase

Cont.

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TODAY'S FEATURED REPLAY



Secret Chat (Union Rags) picks up another win at Gulfstream Park
[\(click to watch\)](#)

9th-Gulfstream, \$39,700, (S), (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$20,000), 12-20, 3yo/up, 1m 70y (AWT), 1:39.99, ft, 2 3/4 lengths.

JUNCTION ROAD (c, 3, Girvin--She's So Indy, by Take Charge Indy) Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, \$66,000. O-Rohan Crichton, Dennis G. Smith and Daniel L. Walters; B-Jay Walker & Israel Chavez (FL); T-Rohan Crichton. *\$42,000 2yo '23 OBSOPN.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mr Tyson, c, 2, Honest Mischief--Tuberose, by Candy Ride (Arg). Gulfstream, 12-20, (S), 5f (AWT), :56.65. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, \$35,200. B-Gina Fennell (FL). *\$29,000 RNA Ylg '23 OBSOCT; \$27,000 RNA 2yo '24 OBSAPR. **Freshman sire (by Into Mischief)'s 12th winner.

Colin Brennan Bloodstock Graduate

Max Dot Socks, g, 2, Mark Valeski--Tom's to the Max, by Jonesboro. Oaklawn, 12-20, (S), (C), 6f, 1:13.34. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$27,600. B-Wild Horse Stables (AR). *1ST-TIME STARTER.

Leo's Legacy, g, 2, Promises Fulfilled--Pure Legacy, by Simon Pure. Penn National, 12-19, 6f, 1:12.97. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, \$21,700. B-Monica Egger (KY). *\$55,000 Ylg '23 FTKOCT; \$85,000 2yo '24 EASMAY.

From Scratch, f, 3, Flameaway--Dreaming of Susie (GSP), by Cowtown Cat. Fair Grounds, 12-20, (S), 6f, 1:11.63. Lifetime Record: 6-1-1-1, \$57,330. B-Cloyce C. Clark (LA). *\$60,000 Wlg '21 KEENOV; \$125,000 Ylg '22 FTKOCT.

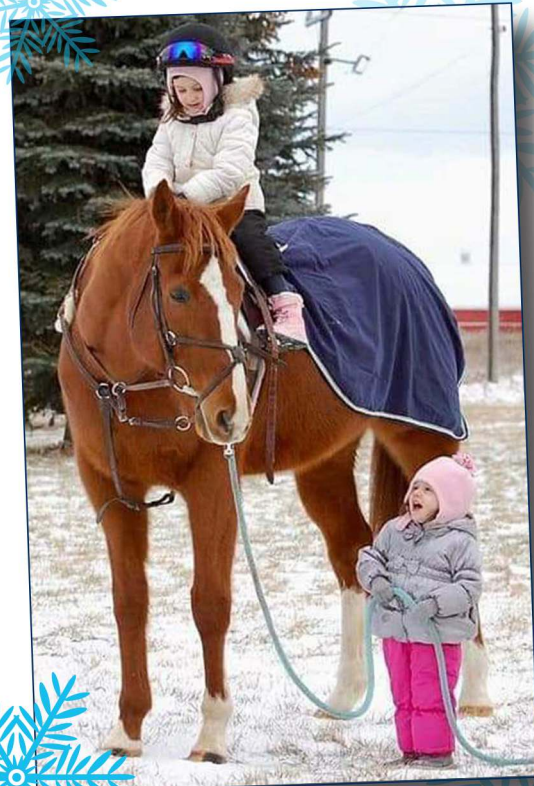
MICHAEL HERNON Pinhook Purchase

Go West Go, c, 3, Twirling Candy--Malibu Breeze, by Distorted Humor. Oaklawn, 12-20, (C), 6f, 1:11.97. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$38,035. B-Gary & Mary West Stables Inc. (KY). *1/2 to Coastal Charm (Ghostzapper), MSW, \$333,770.

Factor Analysis, c, 3, Vino Rosso--Two Step Song, by Unbridled's Song. Tampa Bay Downs, 12-20, 1 1/8mT, 1:50.60. Lifetime Record: 7-1-3-1, \$70,400. B-Machmer Hall (KY). *\$140,000 Ylg '22 KESEP.

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Stay Lost, f, 4, **Bernardini**--Darci's Dream (Nz) (SW & G1SP-NZ), by Darci Brahma (Nz). Turfway, 12-19, 1 1/16m (AWT), 1:46.28. Lifetime Record: 16-1-1-3, \$112,943. B-Mt. Brilliant Farm & Ranch, LLC (KY). *\$195,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP; \$40,000 3yo '23 FTKHRA.

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Great Barrier, g, 4, **Candy Ride (Arg)**--Reef Point, by Giant's Causeway. Oaklawn, 12-20, (S), (C), 6f, 1:11.80. Lifetime Record: 12-1-4-1, \$70,307. B-Shortleaf Stable (AR). *1/2 to Bubble Rock (More Than Ready), MGSW-USA, G1SP-Aus, \$764,610.

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Bee Jersey, Infinite Diamond, f, 4, o/o Ready for Gold, by More Than Ready. AOC, 12-20, Gulfstream

Bernardini, Stay Lost, f, 4, o/o Darci's Dream (Nz), by Darci Brahma (Nz). MSW, 12-19, Turfway

Candy Ride (Arg), Great Barrier, g, 4, o/o Reef Point, by Giant's Causeway. MCL, 12-20, Oaklawn

Echo Town, Pocket Sand, f, 2, o/o Tall Timbercowgirl, by Prime Timber. ALW, 12-19, Penn National

Flameaway, From Scratch, f, 3, o/o Dreaming of Susie, by Cowtown Cat. MSW, 12-20, Fair Grounds

Ghostzapper, Banishing, g, 4, o/o Dowager, by A.P. Indy. ALW, 12-20, Oaklawn

Girvin, Junction Road, c, 3, o/o She's So Indy, by Take Charge Indy. AOC, 12-20, Gulfstream

Honest Mischief, Mr Tyson, c, 2, o/o Tuberose, by Candy Ride (Arg). MSW, 12-20, Gulfstream

Mark Valeski, Max Dot Socks, g, 2, o/o Tom's to the Max, by Jonesboro. MCL, 12-20, Oaklawn

Preservationist, Chunk of Gold, c, 2, o/o Play for Gold, by Cairo Prince. MSW, 12-19, Turfway

Promises Fulfilled, Leo's Legacy, g, 2, o/o Pure Legacy, by Simon Pure. MSW, 12-19, Penn National

Race Day, Go Lee Ann Go, f, 3, o/o Lee Ann W, by Mr. Greeley. AOC, 12-19, Turfway

Sharp Azteca, Anonima, f, 2, o/o Royal Starlight, by Point Given. MOC, 12-20, Oaklawn

Tonalist, Indy Label, f, 3, o/o Sweet August Lady, by City Zip. ALW, 12-20, Oaklawn

Twirling Candy, Go West Go, c, 3, o/o Malibu Breeze, by Distorted Humor. MCL, 12-20, Oaklawn

Union Rags, Secret Chat, c, 3, o/o La Vie Ross, by Medaglia d'Oro. AOC, 12-20, Gulfstream

Vino Rosso, Factor Analysis, c, 3, o/o Two Step Song, by Unbridled's Song. MSW, 12-20, Tampa Bay



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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 evergreen trees in the foreground. The sky is light blue with falling snow.

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'WE NEED TO HAVE A POSITIVE MESSAGE': HOWDEN LAUNCHES THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE PROGRAMME



David Howden celebrates Running Lion's victory with John Gosden and Oisin Murphy | [Racingphotos.com](https://www.racingphotos.com)

By Emma Berry

ASCOT, UK — Six months ago David Howden was in the winner's enclosure celebrating success at Royal Ascot with his G2 Duke of Cambridge Stakes winner Running Lion (GB) (Roaring Lion). On Friday the owner-breeder was back at the racecourse to espouse his passion for sport horses, and more specifically how racehorses can be retrained for other disciplines.

Howden's principal interest in horses came through eventing. He hosts Cornbury Horse Trials at his Oxfordshire home every September and his daughter Jemima is one of the rising stars of the young rider ranks having represented Great Britain at the European Championships.

Through his family's charity The Howden Way, Howden launched at Ascot on Friday the Thoroughbred Aftercare Programme (TAP) which is aimed at helping to educate riders interested in taking on an ex-racehorse and guiding them through the retraining process from the basics and beyond.

[Cont. p3](#)

HORSE OF THE YEAR; ONE FOR NEXT YEAR

Cast ratings aside: which horse stole your heart in 2024? And who went into the notebook for next season? Brian Sheerin has been a little greedy, but we will let him off as it's the season of indulgence, and he is putting forward four names worthy of merit.

Horse(s) of the Year: Porta Fortuna and Mehmas

On the track, this year belonged to Porta Fortuna (Ire) (Caravaggio) but Mehmas (Ire) deserves a huge amount of credit for breaking Kodiak's long-standing record for the number of two-year-old winners sired in a year. That's why this is going to have to be a toss-up between the pair.

Porta Fortuna was simply sublime this season. Few people would have put their neck on the block about Donnacha O'Brien's filly getting the mile this year given she never managed to score beyond 6f as a juvenile. But boy did she prove any of her doubters wrong. [Cont. p4](#)

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

STAGE IS SET FOR ANOTHER GUNTHER MASTERCLASS

John and Tanya Gunther have made a large impact with a few select broodmares, and *Justify's* half-brother Stage Raider (Pioneerof The Nile) will begin his stallion career at Crestwood.



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Saturday, December 21, 2024



Vein Girl (Blue Point) winning the AU\$250,000 Magic Millions The Debut at the Aquis Park Gold Coast track on Friday evening. [Replay](#). | *Magic Millions*

5 | PURSE BOOST FOR LISTED/GROUP 3S IN IRELAND NEXT YEAR

The prize-money for listed and Group 3 races in Horse Racing Ireland's 2025 budget will return to pre-COVID levels next year.

9 | MEASURED TIME SETS NEW COURSE RECORD IN AL RASHIDIYA

*Friday's Meydan card featured Festive Friday, and the son of **Frankel (GB)** successfully defended his title in course-record time on a busy day of stakes action.*

14 | ARIMA KINEN MISSING DO DEUCE

Sunday's G1 Arima Kinen will be missing fan favourite Do Deuce (Jpn) (Heart's Cry {Jpn}) after he sustained a foreleg injury on Friday, but nine top-level winners still line up in the storied race.

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Thoroughbred Aftercare Programme Cont. from p1

"I'm passionate about equine sport and, as we know, there is an issue around how we get racehorses into other equine sports," Howden said. "There are lots of great initiatives going on, with the RoR and BHA, but having had my experience from eventing, where I had a daughter who wanted to get involved but knowing nothing about eventing myself, it's not always easy to understand how you go about it. So I wanted to provide something that was properly practical and that fits around all the other initiatives that are going on."

A noted enthusiast for the racing game since his **entree, via David Redvers of Tweenhills, back in 2018**, Howden's Howden Group is now a key brand partner at Ascot and is sponsoring the two-day Christmas jumps meeting this week.

He continued, "All of us involved in racing are passionate about it and want to support it, and we want everyone outside to support it. We want to promote it as something that is good for the country and good for the horses. One of the issues is the social issue around what happens to racehorses afterwards. For me, it was obvious to put some of my energy and effort – and money – into something like this."

Howden added, "I've kickstarted this but I am a big believer in collaboration, so if anyone else wants to help me by getting behind this we'd really love to open it up to other people."

Justine Parker, director of the TAP, outlined how the programme is tailored towards complementing existing work being undertaken by the BHA's official charity Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), which in 2025 celebrates its 25th anniversary.

"We are hoping that with our combined efforts we can continue to raise the profile of the Thoroughbred amongst the general public and equestrian industry as a tangible riding horse option," she said.

"Raising their profile and singing about their great attributes will help educate people to be able to understand them more in the transition into their new career, whatever that may look like, whether it's an evening career or just having a lovely time doing some fun rides. If we as an industry can work together collaboratively hopefully it will give more Thoroughbreds the opportunity to have a successful career post-racing."

The TAP will offer online content to help owners of Thoroughbreds with every facet of their care, from feeding to farriery, and will also be providing 190 subsidised clinics in 2025 with a range of coaches across the country, including international eventers Laura Collett and Izzy Taylor. **Cont. p4**

“ Little Big Bear is a super horse; that’s the long and the short of it. Different class, different gear and matured very early for a big horse. He’s big, scopey, strong, clear winded and very, very fast - a class sprinter.”

Aidan O'Brien



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LITTLE BIG BEAR

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David Howden, right, with panellists Izzy Taylor, Mick Fitzgerald, Justine Parker and Jemima Howden at Ascot | Emma Berry

Thoroughbred Aftercare Programme Cont.

Parker continued, "The regional training opportunities are available at a reduced rate for anyone who has a Thoroughbred. We have a team of coaches running training sessions throughout the country starting in January and that's really trying to help with face-to-face practical support on the ground. All of our coaches have practical knowledge of and a passion for the Thoroughbred."

Grand National-winning jockey and racing broadcaster Mick Fitzgerald joined the panel at Ascot, and he has his own rather special ex-racehorse at home in the form of ten-time Grade 1 winner Altior (Ire). He said, "When I started in horses I wanted to be a show jumper but then I rode a Thoroughbred when I was 13 and it changed everything. Being in control of something that powerful was something I wanted to harness and that's what inspired me to be a jockey. But, that's the scary part of it, it is powerful, it is something that has a mind of its own, and often people say 'you should have a Thoroughbred' but that could be scary thought for someone who doesn't know or understand a

Thoroughbred.

"But if you can have someone to speak to you throughout the process and teach you a few basic things, you will have an unbelievable time. Because Thoroughbreds, they are powerful, but what they give you back is something very special."

As a racehorse owner, Howden is all too aware of the importance of decent levels of prize-money and he is transferring that experience into backing a class at Cornbury Horse Trials next year. He has teamed up with fellow owner-breeder and eventing enthusiast Jayne McGivern to stage a contest solely for former racehorses with a prize fund of £50,000.

He said, "[Racing] is now getting more people from the outside looking in and asking if what we are doing in the industry is right or wrong, and I think we need to make sure we have a positive message."

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Horse of the Year; One For Next Year Cont. from p1

After being narrowly denied by Elmalka (GB) (**Kingman {GB}**) in the 1,000 Guineas, Porta Fortuna mopped up a trio of Group 1s on the spin with victory in the Coronation Stakes followed by Falmouth and Matron Stakes triumphs. And that Leopardstown success was arguably the most impressive of them all, with Tom Marquand sling-shooting to the lead inside the final furlong to account for Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Fallen Angel (GB) (Too Darn Hot {GB}) in what was an up-to-scratch renewal of the race.

The Breeders' Cup proved to be just one race too many for Porta Fortuna and she remains hugely exciting with a view towards next season.

As for Mehmas, what more is there to say? Not only did he break his Tally-Ho Stud mate's record, but he also took the step to the next level with a number of his progeny holding leading claims for Classic races next season.

[Cont. p5](#)

HELLO YOU MZAIN
BY KODIAC

NEW WINNER!

ROSAPENNA
wins the Prix de l'Ancien Potager in good style
over 1600m at **Chantilly**

Congratulations to his connections!

HARAS
D'ÉTREHAM



Porta Fortuna | [Racingfotos.com](https://www.racingfotos.com)

One for Next Year: Cosmic Year

Cosmic Year (GB) created a lasting impression when brushing aside the well-regarded Rock d'Oro (Bolt d'Oro) to win by over six lengths on debut for Juddmonte and Harry Charlton earlier this year. Not only was the margin of victory impressive, but it's safe to assume there was plenty of substance to the performance given Rock d'Oro had the benefit of a run under his belt. And what a run that was. Rock d'Oro gave Bay City Roller (Ire) (New Bay {GB}) an almighty fright on his respective debut at Chelmsford, ultimately going down by less than a length, and we all know how good that form has proved to be given George Scott's stable star went on to land the G2 Champagne Stakes at Doncaster. For whatever reason, Cosmic Year did not run again after posting that impressive debut success at Sandown, but the **Kingman (GB)** half-brother to Time Test (GB) could well be up to Guineas standard in 2025.

Stallion to Follow: Sioux Nation

Sioux Nation could be about to chart a similar path to Mehmas. That might seem a big statement but, given what **Sioux Nation** has achieved with lesser books of mares, one can only assume that he is ready to kick off and go to the next level in 2025 given that this will be his best crop of runners, on paper at least. It would be a surprise if he didn't come up with a proper juvenile next season.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

CASH INJECTION FOR LISTED AND GROUP 3 RACES IN HRI'S BUDGET FOR 2025

Prize-money for Listed and Group 3 races will return to pre-Covid levels in 2025 as Horse Racing Ireland announced details of the budget for the new year on Friday. The total prize-money budget for 2025 is €70.9m, up €1m on the overall prize-money that will be paid out in 2024.

On the Flat, Listed races will see an increased minimum from €37,500 to €45,000 (+20%), while Group 3 races will see a rise from €50,000 to €60,000 (+20%). This sees Listed and Group 3 races return to their pre-covid, 2019 minimum levels.

The 2025 budget will also see investment in key strategic areas within HRI's capital allocation. Equine and people welfare are being prioritised through the planned redevelopment of the Irish Equine Centre in Kill and the People Campus at RACE in Kildare, while the spring of 2025 will see the start of the all-weather track project at Tipperary, subject to government approval.

Sustainability initiatives and digital transformation were also put forward as important areas which are also being resourced in line with the priorities identified in HRI's Strategic Plan.

Suzanne Eade, Chief Executive of Horse Racing Ireland, said, "Resources have been allocated in budget 2025 to deliver against the three key goals as outlined in HRI's strategic plan and its aim to protect, strengthen and sustain our global leading industry." [Cont. p6](#)



Mutasarref: picked up just €23,600 when winning the Listed Navigation Stakes at Cork this year | [Racingfotos.com](https://www.racingfotos.com)

HRI Budget Cont.

She added, "In order to provide consistent and responsible care of our people, horses and our environment there has been targeted and enhanced expenditure across equip, integrity, welfare, and sustainability in both activity and capital related costs. Inspiring and attracting future participation both nationally and internationally has been addressed through continued support of the IRE Incentive Scheme for breeders, marketing and communication campaigns targeting engagement, growing interest in our sport coupled with a further focus on attracting racegoers to Flat racing, as well as continued investment into technology.

"Our third goal is to nurture success at all levels throughout the industry. Budget 2025 has significant capital investment set aside for the first phase of our dedicated people campus which sees HRI and the Irish Injured Jockeys develop a high-performance unit and rehabilitation facilities to support the mental and physical wellbeing of industry participants.

"Further investment into our racecourse facilities including the Tipperary all-weather development is also a priority for 2025. HRI have consulted with key stakeholders in determining both prize-money strategy and funding the handicap band changes for 2025 including optimising the impact of racecourse contributions to prize money. These changes are seen as crucial to the attraction of inward investment into Irish racing, the widening of the ownership base, and the retention of both owners and horses."

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FIRST-SEASON SIRE WITH RUNNERS

Saturday, December 21, 2024:

UNITED KINGDOM

Arizona (Ire) (No Nay Never), Coolmore Stud
66 foals of racing age/10 winners/1 black-type winner
17:15-WOLVERHAMPTON, 9.5f, **Jackrabbit (Ire)**
€40,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2023

Earthlight (Ire) (Shamardal), Kildangan Stud
113 foals of racing age/19 winners/1 black-type winner
16:55-NEWCASTLE, 5f, **Keats House (Ire)**
€40,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2023; €70,000
Tattersalls Ireland Breeze Up 2024

Mohaather (GB) (Showcasing {GB}), Beech House Stud
96 foals of racing age/21 winners/3 black-type winners

16:40-WOLVERHAMPTON, 9.5f, **Nidaami (GB)**

Sergei Prokofiev (Scat Daddy), Whitsbury Manor Stud
121 foals of racing age/28 winners/2 black-type winners
16:40-WOLVERHAMPTON, 9.5f, **Georginio (GB)**
21,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2022; 38,000gns
Tattersalls Somerville Yearling Sale 2023

16:20-NEWCASTLE, 7f, **Hush Puppy (GB)**
10,000gns RNA Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 1) 2023

Wooded (Ire) (Wootton Bassett {GB}), Haras de Bouquetot
82 foals of racing age/12 winners/0 black-type winners
16:40-WOLVERHAMPTON, 9.5f, **Made The Cut (Fr)**
€17,000 Arqana December Breeding Stock Sale 2022;
42,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 1) 2023

Yafta (GB) (Dark Angel {Ire}), Haras de la Haie Neuve
26 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners
16:20-NEWCASTLE, 7f, **Magic Topissima (Fr)**
€16,000 Osarus September Yearling Sale 2023



Yafta has a runner at Newcastle | Haras de la Haie Neuve

OBSERVATIONS

on the European racing scene

DAUGHTER OF IRISH OAKS HEROINE STAR CATCHER TO DEBUT AT WOLVERHAMPTON

17.15 Wolverhampton, Mdn, £6,300, 2yo, f, 9f 104y (AWT)
Anthony Oppenheimer's **STAR OF LIGHT (GB) (Frankel {GB})** is the first foal produced by G1 Irish Oaks, G1 Prix Vermeille and G1 British Champions Fillies & Mares heroine Star Catcher (GB) (**Sea The Stars {Ire}**). [Cont. p7](#)



Star Catcher | [Racingphotos.com](https://www.racingphotos.com)

Observations Cont.

The John and Thady Gosden-conditioned debutante's seven opponents include Flaxman Stables Ireland's twice-raced former Sir Michael Stoute trainee **Coma Cluster (Ire) (Wootton Bassett {GB})**, who is a daughter of G3 Lacken Stakes victrix Only Mine (Ire) (Pour Moi {Ire}), making her first start for the George Boughey stable.

HOW THEY FARED

16.30 Wolverhampton, Mdn, £6,300, 2yo, 8f 142y (AWT)
 Cayton Park Stud's **King Of Narnia (GB) (Kingman {GB})**, a half to multiple Group 1-winning dual South African champion Oh Susanna (Aus) (Street Cry {Ire}) and the dual Group 1-placed Signore Fox (Aus) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}), made promising late headway from off the tempo to finish 2 3/4 lengths adrift of the winner in second.

17.30 Wolverhampton, Nov, £9,650, 2yo, f, 7f 36y (AWT)
 Newsells Park Stud homebred **Warm Glow (GB) (Oasis Dream {GB})**, kin to G1 St Leger hero Masked Marvel (GB) (Montjeu {Ire}) and to the dam of multiple Group 1-winning sire Waldgeist (GB) (Galileo {Ire}), was let go at odds of 33-1 for this debut and made eyecatching late progress to finish just under five lengths behind the winner in fourth.

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BRITAIN

Friday's Results:

3rd-Wolverhampton, £9,650, Nov, 12-20, 2yo, f, 7f 36y (AWT), 1:31.64, st.

NEVER LET GO (GB) (f, 2, No Nay Never--Tai Hang Dragon {Ire},

by Tamayuz {GB}), a Nov. 2 debut sixth over seven furlongs at Newmarket last time, found a modicum of cover in sixth through halfway in this one. Forced four-wide when taking closer order into the straight, the 7-1 chance launched her bid approaching the final furlong and was ridden out to edge Left Over Love (Ire) (Inns Of Court {Ire}) by a head in a bobbing finish. Never Let Go is the third foal and scorer out of a multiple-winning half-sister to four black-type performers headed by GIII La Habra Stakes victrix Pasar Silbano (Ire) (Elnadim). Pasar Silbano, in turn, is the dam of multiple Group 1-placed G2 Champagne Classic winner Zousain (Aus) (Zoustar {Aus}). The March-foaled homebred chestnut is half to a yearling filly by **Wootton Bassett (GB)**. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$6,680.

O/B-Rockcliffe Stud (GB); T-Ed Walker.



Never Let Go (left) | [Racingphotos.com](https://www.racingphotos.com)

4th-Wolverhampton, £9,650, Nov, 12-20, 2yo, f, 7f 36y (AWT), 1:29.36, st.

KON TIKI (GB) (f, 2, Night Of Thunder {Ire}--Maid Up {GB} {GSW-Eng, \$175,493}, by Mastercraftsman {Ire}) raced off the tempo in sixth until improving one spot at halfway in this debut. Bustled along rounding the home turn, the 11-8 favourite made headway in the straight to go third passing the furlong pole and was ridden out to prevail by a half-length from Mother Mara (GB) (Mohaather {GB}) nearing the line. Kon Tiki is the second foal and scorer produced by G3 March Stakes winner Maid Up (GB) (Mastercraftsman {Ire}), herself a granddaughter of G3 Prestige Stakes runner-up Ithaca (Distant View). Ithaca, in turn, is out of G1 Oaks and G1 Fillies' Mile heroine Reams Of Verse (Nureyev). The March-foaled chestnut is a half-sister to Listed Wild Flower Stakes victor Champagne Prince (GB) (Lope De Vega {Ire}), a yearling colt by Too Darn Hot (GB) and a weanling filly by **Kingman (GB)**. Sales history: 220,000gns Ylg '23 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$6,514.

O-P W Harris; B-Brightwalton Bloodstock Ltd (GB); T-Jane Chapple-Hyam.

1st-Wolverhampton, £6,300, Mdn, 12-20, 2yo, 8f 142y (AWT), 1:49.66, st.

PERFECT LIFE (IRE) (c, 2, Earthlight {Ire}--Morning Jewel {Ire}, by Dalakhani {Ire}), who hit the board going one mile at Southwell in his Oct. 24 debut last time, stalked the tempo in second after the initial exchanges here. Inching ahead on the home turn, the 10-3 second favourite was shaken up at the top of the straight and kept on strongly in the latter stages to defeat King Of Narnia (GB) (Kingman {GB}) by 2 3/4 lengths, becoming the 20th winner for his freshman sire (by Shamardal). Perfect Life is the sixth of eight foals and third scorer produced by an unraced half-sister to G1 Poule d-Essai des Poulains and G1 Irish 2000 Guineas-winning sire Bachir (Ire) (Desert Style {Ire}) and Listed Acomb Stakes victor Elliots World (Ire) (King's Best). The March-foaled grey, who hails from the family of G1 Prix de Diane-winning blue hen Rafha (GB) (Kris {GB}), is full to a yearling colt and half to a weanling colt by Supremacy (Ire). Sales history: €20,000 Wlg '22 GOFNO1; €30,000 Ylg '23 GOFOR2; 25,000gns 2yo '24 TATGBU. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, \$5,290. O-Saeed Sultan Al Rahoomi; B-Kevin & Meta Cullen (IRE); T-Marco Botti.



Perfect Life | [Racingfotos.com](https://www.racingfotos.com)

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

5th-Southwell, £6,300, Nov, 12-20, 2yo, 4f 214y (AWT), :58.14, st.

CAPTAIN KINSELLA (GB) (g, 2, Rajasinghe {Ire}--Cocabana {GB}, by Captain Rio {GB}) Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-1, \$9,680.

O-optimumracing.co.uk & Andrew P Bell; B-R C Dollar & Hellwood Stud Farm (GB); T-John Gallagher. *£10,000 Ylg '23 GOF OCT.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Grabajabba (GB), c, 3, Sogann (Fr)--Poppy Bond (GB), by Misu

Bond (Ire). Southwell, 12-20, 7f 14y (AWT), 1:29.48. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$5,518. B-North Cheshire Trading & Storage Ltd (GB).

IRELAND

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

4th-Dundalk, €12,500, Cond, 12-20, 3yo/up, 8f (AWT), 1:38.42, st.

PERFECT JUDGEMENT (IRE) (g, 3, Inns Of Court {Ire}--Perfect Venture {GB}, by Bahamian Bounty {GB}) Lifetime Record:

19-3-1-3, \$42,415. O-Shamrock Thoroughbreds; B-Tally-Ho Stud (IRE); T-Stephen Thorne. *€100,000 2yo '23 TATGOR; 30,000gns 3yo '24 TATFEB. **1/2 to Shalailah (Ire) (Showcasing {GB}), GSP-Ire.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Sharkii (Ire), c, 2, Soldier's Call (GB)--Hot Stone (Ire), by Dream Ahead. Dundalk, 12-20, 6f (AWT), 1:14.09. Lifetime Record: 8-1-2-2, \$22,465. B-Ballyhane (IRE). *35,000gns Ylg '23 TATSOM; 20,000gns RNA 2yo '24 TATGBU.

Aratayvo (Ire), g, 3, Footstepsinthesand (GB)--Land of Dubai (Ire), by Dubai Destination. Dundalk, 12-20, 8f (AWT), 1:39.20. Lifetime Record: 7-1-2-0, \$15,342. B-Coolawn Stud (IRE). *€36,000 Wlg '21 GOFNO1; €45,000 RNA Ylg '22 GOFOR.

FRANCE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

1st-Chantilly, €34,000, Cond, 12-20, 2yo, 9 1/2f (AWT), 1:54.10, st.

ZIA AGNESE (FR) (f, 2, Romanised {Ire}--Little Sister {Fr}, by Le Havre {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-0, €38,300. O-Mme Gina d'Amato & Richard Marini; B-Team Hogdala AB (FR); T-Gianluca Bietolini. *€27,000 Ylg '23 ARQAUG.

8th-Chantilly, €27,000, Cond, 12-20, 4yo/up, 8f (AWT), 1:37.02, st.

APAX (FR) (g, 4, Guignol {Ger}--Arctica {Ger}, by Iffraaj {GB}) Lifetime Record: SP-Fr, 22-4-4-5, €155,940. O-Lutz Bongen; B-Appapays Racing Club (FR); T-Markus Nigge. *€85,000 3yo '23 ARQJUL. **1/2 to Amellata (Fr) (Pomellato {Ger}), SW-Ger & MSP-Fr, \$127,294.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Send Wood (Fr), f, 2, Al Wukair (Ire)--Lady Wood (Fr), by Vespone (Ire). Chantilly, 12-20, 8f (AWT), 1:37.86. B-Mme Amelie Martin & Sylvain Julien Martin (FR).

Rosapenna (Fr), c, 2, **Hello Youmzain (Fr)**--Obedient (GB) (SP-Fr), by Motivator (GB). Chantilly, 12-20, 8f (AWT), 1:38.36. B-Elevage Haras de Bourgeauville (FR). *22nd winner for freshman sire (by Kodiak {GB}).



IN THE UAE:

Native Approach (GB), g, 3, **Too Darn Hot (GB)**. See "Dubai".

Cover Up (Ire), g, 4, **Exceed And Excel (Aus)**. See "Dubai".

Measured Time (GB), g, 4, **Frankel (GB)**. See "Dubai".

Keffaaf (GB), g, 5, **Adlerflug (Ger)**--Aliyfa (Ire) (Hwt. Filly-Ire at 13 1/2f+, SW-Ire, \$110,638), by Spinning World. Meydan, 12-20, Hcp., 2410mT, 2:27.84, gd. B-Haras de Bourgeauville (GB). *€85,000 Ylg '20 ARQOCT. **SP-UAE. ***1/2 to Alveena (Ire) (Medicean {GB}), SW & GSP-Ire, \$111,886. **VIDEO.**

Walk Of Stars (GB), g, 5, **Dubawi (Ire)**. See "Dubai".

IN BAHRAIN:

Watch My Tracer (Ire), g, 3, **Dandy Man (Ire)**--Heavenly Angel (GB), by Dark Angel (Ire). REHC, 12-20, Hcp., 1600mT, 1:35.82, gd. B-Donnchadh Higgins (Ire). *€36,000 Wlg '21 GOFNOV; 75,000gns Ylg '22 TATSOM. **SW-Eng. **VIDEO.**

Snellen (Ire), f, 3, **Expert Eye (GB)**--Illumined (Ire), by Sea The Moon (Ger). REHC, 12-20, Hcp., 2000mT, 2:02.32, gd. B-L H Laroche (Ire). *SW-Eng. **VIDEO.**

Touch The Moon (Ire), g, 3, **Sea The Stars (Ire)**--Holda (Ire), by Docksider. REHC, 12-20, Hcp., 2200mT, 2:18.35, gd. B-Wardstown Stud & Sunderland Holding, Inc. (Ire). *€270,000 Wlg '21 GOFNOV; €425,000 Ylg '22 GOFORB. **1/2 to Blond Me (Ire) (Tamayuz {GB}), Hwt. Older Mare-Eng at 9 1/2-11f, GSW & G1SP-Eng, GSW-Tur, GISW-Can, GSP-US, \$920,271. **VIDEO.**

Celtic Champion (GB), g, 4, **Adaay (Ire)**--Arcamist (GB), by Arcano (Ire). REHC, 12-20, Hcp., 1400mT, 1:23.11, gd. B-Whitsbury Manor Stud (GB). *€10,500 Wlg '21 GOFMAR; 57,000gns Ylg 'TATOCT; 150,000gns 2yo '22 TATAPR; 80,000gns HRA '23 TATOCT. **1/2 to Dragon Symbol (Ire) (Cable Bay {Ire}), MG1SP-Eng, \$538,828; and Symbol Of Honour (GB) (Cotai Glory {GB}), SP-Eng. **VIDEO.**

Swift Asset (Ire), g, 4, **Profitable (Ire)**--Flick Show (Ire), by Fastnet Rock (Aus). REHC, 12-20, Hcp., 1000mT, :59.44, gd. B-I & S Quigley (Ire). *£50,000 Ylg '21 TAISEP; 50,000gns HRA '23 TATOCT. **VIDEO.**

WORLDWIDE NEWS

MEASURED TIME BREAKS COURSE RECORD IN AL RASHIDIYA TITLE DEFENCE

by Heather Anderson

Already a Grade I winner of the Manhattan Stakes in the U.S. and the G1 Jebel Hatta over this course earlier this year, Godolphin homebred **Measured Time (GB)** (**Frankel {GB}**) set a new course record when defending his title in the G2 Al Rashidiya at Meydan on Friday.

Making his first start since a runner-up effort in the GI Sword Dancer Stakes at Saratoga in August, the Charlie Appleby trainee zipped straight to the head of affairs under William Buick. Always going easily, the colt's speed was deceptive, and he sailed across the line seven lengths to the good of G3 Killavullan Stakes winner and G1 Irish 2000 Guineas second **Cairo (Ire)** (**Quality Road**) in a new course record of 1:45.11 for the 1800 metres over good turf. The 4-year-old broke the record set by Just A Way (Jpn) (Heart's Cry {Jpn}) in the 2014 G1 Dubai Duty Free of 1:45.52. **Royal Dubai (Fr)** (Seahenge) was third, another two lengths in arrears.

It was the third win for Buick on the night and second for Appleby. Appleby had saddled three other Al Rashidiya winners prior to Friday--Barney Roy (GB) (2020), Zakouski (GB) (2021) and Valiant Prince (Ire) last year.

"It felt a little bit too good," said Buick after taking his third Al Rashidiya. "He's super competitive and I was happy to lead with him, but we didn't need to put in that big a performance to win. But that's what you get with him; he's a high energy, exuberant horse." **Cont. p10**



Measured Time | Erika Rasmussen/DRC

G2 Al Rashidiya Cont.

The jockey added, “He’s proved himself at the top level both here and in America--he’s a class horse and hopefully there’s some improvement to come from that.”

A winner of the Jebel Hatta in January, the half-brother to multiple top-level winner and two-time Breeders’ Cup Turf hero Rebel’s Romance (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}) was fourth in the G1 Dubai Turf in March prior to taking the Manhattan in June.

Pedigree Notes

Measured Time is one of 35 Group 1 winners for Juddmonte sire **Frankel**. Dual Australian Group 1-placed Frankely Awesome (Aus) is also out of a Street Cry (Ire) mare.

The stakes-placed Minidress (GB)’s latest foal is a full-brother to Rebel’s Romance. Second dam Short Skirt (Diktat {GB}) enjoyed her biggest days in the sun when winning the Musidora Stakes and St. Simon Stakes, both Group 3. She was also runner-up in the G1 Yorkshire Oaks and third in the G1 Oaks at Epsom.

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Friday, Meydan, Middle East

AL RASHIDIYA (SPONSORED BY EMAAR)-Listed, AED850,000, Meydan, 12-20, 3yo/up, 1800mT, 1:45.11 (NTR), gd.
1--**MEASURED TIME (GB)**, 128, c, 4, by **Frankel (GB)**

1st Dam: Minidress (GB) (SP-Eng), by Street Cry (Ire)

2nd Dam: Short Skirt (GB), by Diktat (GB)

3rd Dam: Much Too Risky (GB), by Bustino (GB)

O/B-Godolphin (GB); T-Charlie Appleby; J-William Buick. AED510,000. Lifetime Record: G1SW-UAE, GISW-US, SP-Eng, 10-7-2-0, AED5,738,330. *1/2 to Rebel’s Romance (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), Hwt. 3yo-UAE at 9 1/2-11f, G1SW-HK & UAE, MG1SW-US & MG1SW-Ger, SW-Qat, \$11,777,574; and Petticoat (GB) (Cape Cross {Ire}), SP-Ire. **Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: A+++.** *Triple Plus*. **Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.**

2--**Cairo (Ire)**, 126, c, 4, **Quality Road--Cuff (Ire)**, by Galileo (Ire). O-Refai Alghraiban; B-Coolmore (IRE); T-Alice Haynes. AED170,000.

3--**Royal Dubai (Fr)**, 126, c, 4, Seahenge--Sand Rose (Fr), by Aussie Rules. O-Saeed Sultan Al Rahoomi; B-Societa Agricola Gem SRL & Societa Agricola La Pluma SS (FR); T-Lucie Botti. AED85,000.

Margins: 7, 2, HF.

Also Ran: Sean (Ger), Daramethos (Ire), Home Brew, Franz Kafka (Ire), Natural World (Ire). Scratched: Alfareeq (Ire). **Click for the ERA chart & video.**

MESHTRI SURPRISES IN THE AL MAKTOUM

MILE by Heather Anderson



Meshtri | Erika Rasmussen/DRC

Facing some stiff competition, the lightly raced **Meshtri** (Medaglia d’Oro) prevailed in the G2 Al Maktoum in the colours of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on Friday.

In charge once the gates flew open, the Michael Costa trainee set the pace while pressed by **Desert Wisdom** (Dubawi {Ire}). A touch keen once on the backstretch proper, the freewheeling bay never shook off that foe completely. Positions were largely unchanged on the bend, but he was doing it well enough. Desert Wisdom caved prior to the 500-metre mark, but **Qareeb** (Speightstown) emerged as the main threat in upper stretch, giving the leader no time to rest.

Although he tried hard, Qareeb was always running for second, finishing three lengths behind Meshtri. Talking horse **Artorius** (Arrogate), flying the Juddmonte flag, got going eventually after being slowly away, but settled for third, another 4 1/2 lengths behind.

“He came out of the Dubai Creek Mile really well,” said jockey Ben Coen of the winner. “He was stronger at home, felt fresh, and we were very confident coming into the race. There were a couple of talking horses, but we wouldn’t have swapped our lad. “He’s comfortable at a mile but his pedigree suggests he could get further.”

A winner here over this trip when unveiled in November of 2023, he finished his 3-year-old season with a second-place run at Jebel Ali that December. Fourth at handicap level returned to this track this November, he defeated Friday’s Listed The Entisar scorer Walk Of Stars (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) in the Listed Dubai Creek Mile on Nov. 22. This was his first triumph at group level.

[Cont. p11](#)

Pedigree Notes

The winner is one of 183 black-type winners for Darley sire Medaglia d'Oro. Following Meshtri's tally in the Al Maktoum Mile, the son of El Prado (Ire) has sired 96 graded/group winners worldwide. Broodmare sire Daaher has been represented by just 94 maternal grandchildren of racing age, however 73 (78%) have run, with 44 winners among those runners (60%). His other stakes winners are the G1 AJ Moir Stakes winner Wild Ruler (Aus) (Snitzel {Aus}), multiple American graded winner Zaajel (**Street Sense**) and G3 Kembla Grange Classic heroine Pavitra (Aus) (**American Pharoah**), who was second in the G1 VRC Oaks and G1 Vinery Stud Stakes.

Meshtri is the second foal of the dual Listed Correction Stakes heroine Clothes Fall Off (Daaher), who was placed in two editions of the GII Barbara Fritchie Stakes. She has a yearling filly by **Street Sense**, a weanling colt by **Not This Time**, and she visited the court of **McKinzie** this spring. Tequilas Dayjur (Dayjur), the granddam of Meshtri, was a listed winner and placed second in the GIII Chicago Handicap. Besides Clothes Fall Off, she produced the stakes-placed pair of One Last Shot (Any Given Saturday) and Strawberry Tequila (Daaher), who was second in the GIII Arlington Matron Stakes.

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Friday, Meydan, Middle East

AL MAKTOUM MILE (SPONSORED BY EMAAR)-G2,

AED1,000,000, Meydan, 12-20, 3yo/up, 1600m, 1:36.20, ft.

1--**MESHTRI, 126, g, 4, by Medaglia d'Oro**

1st Dam: Clothes Fall Off (MSW & MGSP-US, \$485,860), by Daaher

2nd Dam: Tequilas Dayjur, by Dayjur

3rd Dam: Tequilas First, by Astro

1ST GROUP WIN. O-Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Candy Meadows LLC (KY); T-Michael Costa; J-Ben Coen. AED600,000. Lifetime Record: 5-3-1-0, AED1,027,200. **Click for the free Equineline.com catalogue-style pedigree. Werk Nick Rating: A. Click for the eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.**

CANDY MEADOWS BRED & RAISED

2--**Qareeb, 126, h, 6, Speightstown--Flip Flop (Fr), by Zieten.** (\$360,000 Wlg '18 KEENOV; 50,000gns HRA '21 TATOCT).

O-Abubaker Kadoura; B-Lynch Bages Ltd (KY); T-Musabbah Al Mheiri. AED200,000.

Sold by Hunter Valley Farm

3--**Artorius, 126, h, 5, Arrogate--Paulassilverlining, by Ghostzapper. 1ST GROUP BLACK TYPE.** O-Juddmonte; B-Juddmonte Farms Inc (KY); T-Bhupat Seemar. AED100,000.

Margins: 3, 4HF, 2.

Also Ran: Quality Humor, Clapton, Desert Wisdom (GB).

Click for the ERA chart & video.

DUBAI

Friday Results:

THE ENTISAR (SPONSORED BY EMAAR)-Listed, AED500,000, Meydan, 12-20, 3yo/up, 1900m, 1:56.10, ft.

1--**WALK OF STARS (GB), 126, g, 5, Dubawi (Ire)--Sound Reflection (SP-Eng), by Street Cry (Ire). 1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN.**

O-Athbah Racing; B-Godolphin (GB); T-Bhupat Seemar; J-Tadhg O'Shea. AED300,000. Lifetime Record: GSP-Eng, 14-3-4-3, AED1,915,860.

2--**Auto Bahn (Arg), 126, c, 4, Asiatic Boy (Arg)--Autografiada (Arg), by Giant's Causeway.** O-Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum; B-Al Adiyat Argentina SA (ARG); T-Doug Watson. AED100,000.

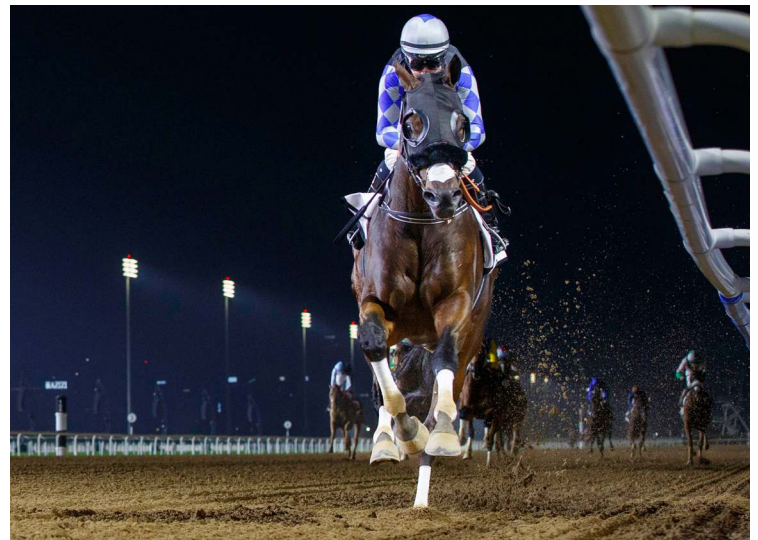
3--**Local Dynasty (Ire), 126, g, 4, Dubawi (Ire)--Really Special (GB), by Shamardal.** O-Rabbah Racing; B-Godolphin (IRE); T-Simon & Ed Crisford. AED50,000.

Margins: 11, 1HF, 1HF.

Also Ran: Dhahabi (Ire), Nevershow Weakness, In Crowd (GB), Saayedd, Passion And Glory (Ire), Flying Hunter. Scratched: Military Law (GB).

Arguably the visual performance of the evening, Walk Of Stars's nearly dozen-length tour-de-force in the Listed The Entisar was his first stakes victory.

Although berthed in the outside stall, the Dubawi gelding immediately charted a path to the fence and had things all his own way on the front end while closely shadowed by Auto Bahn. The very picture of a happy runner down the back stretch despite racing with his head cocked to the left, Walk Of Stars still had Auto Bahn to contend with entering the lane, but kicked clear at the 350 to scamper home by daylight. Local Dynasty was another 1 1/2 lengths behind in third. **Cont. p12**



Walk Of Stars | Erika Rasmussen/DRC

Listed The Entisar Cont.

“He’s always been one of those horses that takes a lead and stops,” said trainer Bhupat Seemar. “But since his last race we’ve always worked him from the front. We had to change something, because [he] always runs second--he’d probably run second to **Frankel!**”

“He’s a very talented horse and it’s great to see that finally come out of him. This gives us a lot more options. I think a mile and a quarter [2000 metres] is probably his best distance. Hopefully this will do his confidence the world of good and from here on in he can be a really good horse.”

The Entisar was his first victory since a conditions race at Newbury in April of 2022. An AED1.2 million purchase out of the Emirates Racing Authority HIT sale in 2023 by Athbah Racing, he filled the bridesmaid role in his three previous starts prior to Friday’s heroics--in the G2 Al Makoum Classic in March, the G2 Godolphin Mile later that month, and the Listed Dubai Creek Mile to G2 Al Maktoum Mile winner Meshtri (Medaglia d’Oro) in November.

One of two winners for his Listed Pretty Polly Stakes-placed dam, Walk Of Stars has a weanling half-brother by Palace Pier (GB). Potent blue hen Magnificent Style (Silver Hawk), who has a numerous brood of high-class descendants, is the third dam of The Entisar winner. [Click for the ERA chart & video.](#)

BUSINESS BAY CHALLENGE (SPONSORED BY EMAAR)-Listed,

AED500,000, Meydan, 12-20, 3yo/up, 1400mT, 1:21.60, gd.

1--**NATIVE APPROACH (GB), 126, g, 3, Too Darn Hot (GB)--**

Sperry (Ire) (SW-Eng), by Shamardal. 1ST BLACK-YTPE WIN.

O/B-Godolphin (GB); T-Charlie Appleby; J-William Buick.

AED300,000. Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, AED336,290.

2--**San Donato (Ire), 129, g, 8, Lope De Vega (Ire)--Boston Rocker (Ire), by Acclamation (GB).** (500,000gns Ylg ‘17 TATOCT).

O-Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-J Hanly, A Stroud & Skymarc Fram (IRE); T-Michael Costa. AED100,000.

3--**Danyah (Ire), 126, g, 7, Invincible Spirit (Ire)--Cuis Ghaire (Ire), by Galileo (Ire).** O-Shadwell Stable; B-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd (IRE); T-Musabbeh Al Mheiri. AED50,000.

Margins: 3/4, HF, SHD.

Also Ran: Satu (Arg), Tamborrada (GB), Silent Defense (Ire), Ghaly (GB), Ehraz (GB), El Patriota (Uru), Ziggy’s Dream (Ire), Movie Maker (Ire). Scratched: City Of Kings (GB), Pagan (Ire).

A trio of Godolphin runners contested the Listed Business Bay Challenge, and it was second stringer Native Approach who clawed out a victory under William Buick, who was winning his second race on the day.

One of the slowest away, the Godolphin homebred raced at the tail of the field well off the rail. Starting to pick off rivals under his own power, Native Approach was given his cue by

Buick in the straight, but traffic issues saw him fanned widest of all at the 200-metre mark. Several foes were making what appeared to be winning runs, but Native Approach outfooted all of them to get up for the win and finish just 0.14 seconds outside the track record. The likeable 2024 G2 Zabeel Mile victor San Donato was second, with 2023 G1 Al Quoz Sprint hero Danyah third.

“Credit to the horse,” said Buick. “He wasn’t the quickest away and we were drawn awkwardly towards the outside, but he relaxed in the first half. He can be a bit generous [keen] and we had to go inside and back out again and it’s hard to win when that happens.

“His optimum trip will probably be a mile. He did very well to win.”

Already a winner on the all-weather at Kempton on Valentine’s day, Native Approach was fifth in the G3 Craven Stakes behind subsequent G1 Irish 2000 Guineas runner-up Haatem (Ire) (Phoenix Of Spain {Ire}) at Newmarket in April. Friday’s effort, his first black-type tally, was only his fourth start.



Native Approach (far left) | Erika Rasmussen/DRC

Native Approach is one of three winners--and now two black-type scorers--for his dam, the listed winner Sperry. Also the dam of G3 Burj Nahaar hero Discovery Island (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), Sperry’s latest is a filly by Too Darn Hot born earlier this year. She is a half-sister to multiple stakes winner Dunelight (Ire) (Desert Sun {GB}), third in the G3 Supreme Stakes. Italian champion Miss Griss (Hail The Pirates) is the third dam of Native Approach. [Click for the ERA chart & video.](#)



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ERTIJAAL DUBAI DASH (SPONSORED BY EMAAR)-Listed, AED500,000, Meydan, 12-20, 3yo/up, 1000mT, :55.94, gd.
1--COVER UP (IRE), 126, g, 4, Exceed And Excel (Aus)--Hushing (GB), by Pivotal (GB). 1ST BLACK-TYPE WIN. O-Rabbah Racing; B-Godolphin (IRE); T-Simon & Ed Crisford; J-William Buick. AED300,000. Lifetime Record: 15-6-1-0, AED602,260.
2--Bilhayl (Ire), 126, g, 6, Shamardal--Soraaya (Ire), by Elnadim. O-Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Godolphin (IRE); T-Michael Costa. AED100,000.
3--Bombay Bazaar (GB), 126, g, 3, Kodiak (GB)--Shamlahar (GB), by Shamardal. O-Hussain Alabbas Lootah; B-HL Investments Group (GB); T-Bhupat Seemar. AED50,000.
 Margins: NK, NK, 1 3/4.
 Also Ran: Ponntos (Ire), Rasas, Topper Bill (Fr), Al Shibli (GB), Enchanted Life (Ire), Miqyaas (GB).



Cover Up & William Buick | Erika Rasmussen/DRC

Successful multiple times at handicap level during his campaigns in Britain including a victory at Doncaster in October, Cover Up earned his first black-type badge in this test at Meydan on Friday.

Making his first start in the colours of Rabbah Racing, the 4-year-old gelding drifted back to midfield in this straight test. Never too far off the pace set by the first flight, he saw daylight in the final quarter mile and began to gobble up ground. Still motoring, he just pipped Bilhayl for the victory.

“He’s a horse who likes a fast pace and he got that today; he picked up all the way,” said William Buick. “I thought it was a good race; Bilhayl and Ponntos set a high standard, so he had to improve, which he did.”

The second foal and first winner for his dam, Cover Up is kin to GI Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint hero Mischief Magic (Ire) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}) and his full-brother, the G3 Prix Eclipse hero Sound And Silence (GB). Cover Up’s third dam is the influential dual Group 1 winner Gossamer (GB) (Sadler’s Wells),

who struck in the 2002 Irish 1000 Guineas. [Click for the ERA chart & video.](#)

3rd-Meydan, AED210,000, Cond., 12-20, NH 2yo & SH 3yo, f, 1400m, 1:25.50, ft.

FLAMA SUNSHINE (f, 2, Flameaway--Charming Emmy, by Sky Mesa) second to the scratched Arigatou Gozaimasu (**Honest Mischief**) on her debut in November, led from flagfall en route to a two-length victory in the Shahama Stakes Sponsored by Emaar. Queen Azteca (Sharp Azteca) unleashed a furious rally to take second, 2 1/2 lengths to the good of Taswaheen (**Mendelssohn**). “She was very professional,” said Tadhg O’Shea. “She won a trial around here but was quite green last time. She took a big step forward from that tonight; she was straightforward and quickened when I wanted to. When you hit the gates on the dirt it makes any jockey’s job easier.” A \$25,000 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling turned Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May juvenile acquisition by trainer Bhupat Seemar, the chestnut is the second foal and second winner for her dam, who won at three. Charming Emmy’s latest is a weanling filly by **Enticed** and she was covered by Basin this spring. This is the family of GII Remsen Stakes hero The Silver Move (Silver Buck). Sales history: \$25,000 Ylg ‘23 FTIOCT; \$40,000 2yo ‘24 FTIMAY. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, AED159,000. [Click for the ERA chart & video.](#) O-Negar Burke & Mary Rose Connolly. B-Monhill Farm, LLC (NY). T-Bhupat Seemar.



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Flama Sunshine | Erika Rasmussen/DRC

The TDN Europe office will be closed Dec. 24, 25, & 26 for the Christmas holiday. There will be no TDN Europe dated Dec. 25, 26, or 27. The office will reopen Friday, Dec. 27. *Enjoy the holiday!*

ARIMA KINEN WIDE OPEN WITH DO DEUCE'S DEFECTION *by Heather Anderson*



Urban Chic | Japan Racing Association

There will be no Autumn Triple Crown in Japan this year. Tenno Sho (Autumn) and Japan Cup hero Do Deuce (Jpn) (Heart's Cry {Jpn}), **was retired to stud after a foreleg injury on Friday** as the fan favourite for the G1 Arima Kinen. His absence, reduces the field to 15, however, the 2500-metre race still has nine Group 1 winners signed on.

Heading the ante-post betting is **Urban Chic (Jpn)** who will leave from stall three under Christophe Lemaire. The Silk Racing runner, one of two Suave Richard (Jpn) Group 1 winners in the field alongside Hopeful Stakes heroine **Regaleira (Jpn)**, won the Kikuka Sho (Japanese St Leger) last out on Oct. 20. He is cutting back in trip 500 metres.

Lemaire said, "I rode him on Dec. 18 to check his responses, physical condition and such. I wanted to give him a good final workout without pushing him too much. Urban Chic has improved a great deal from the fall. He has matured and was much more powerful in the Kikuka Sho and won strongly. I think he'll do well here. I've won the Kikuka Sho and the Arima Kinen with a 3-year-old before, Satono Diamond [in 2016]."

Another 2024 Classic winner entering the fray is Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) hero **Danon Decile (Jpn)** (Epiphaneia {Jpn}), sixth to Urban Chic in the Kikuka Sho. Set to be ridden by Norihiro Yokoyama for Danox Co.--Danox also has **Danon Beluga (Jpn)** (Heart's Cry {Jpn}) in the mix--the colt is looking for some redemption on Sunday.

Trainer Shogo Yasuda said, "This will be his first time facing older horses, and with the high caliber of the others, it's going to likely be the toughest race he's experienced so far. Of course, I've tried to prepare him such a way that he'll be able to handle

it. I've been paying close attention to his mental state and am hoping he'll be able to show his stuff. I'm not particularly training him with any specific other horses in mind. I'm just focusing on him."

Conquered by Do Deuce in the Tenno Sho (Autumn) when sixth in October, this spring's G1 Osaka Hai hero **Bellagio Opera (Jpn)** (Lord Kanaloa {Jpn}) could yet have a say in the Arima Kinen outcome. Third to **Blow The Horn (Jpn)** (Epiphaneia {Jpn}) in the G1 Takarazuka Kinen, the 4-year-old colt will break from gate five under Kazuo Yokoyama.

Trainer Hiroyuki Uemura said, "Two weeks ago, I wanted to see how sharp his responses were, so we pushed him hard in work. The jockey [Kazuo Yokoyama] rode him on Dec. 11 and his condition has improved. Dare I say he's about where he was for the Osaka Hai. He has good racing sense and he's handled 2,400 meters well, so [the] key is going to be how he manages 2,500 meters."

Second in this race to Do Deuce in 2023, dual Classic heroine **Stars On Earth (Jpn)** (Duramente {Jpn}) is hoping to bounce back after unplaced runs in the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic in March, and in the Japan Cup to her old rival. She is joined by top-drawer winners and GI Breeders' Cup Turf second and third **Rousham Park (Jpn)** (Harbinger {GB}) and **Shahryar (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}), while multiple group winner **Prognosis (Jpn)** (Deep Impact {Jpn}) will provide some intriguing international form lines, as he finished second to Via Sistina (Ire) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}) in the G1 Cox Plate in October. Fresh off a victory in the G1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes on Nov. 10, **Stunning Rose (Jpn)** (King Kamehameha {Jpn}) steps beyond 2400 metres for the first time.

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DO DEUCE RETIRED AFTER FORELEG INJURY

Champion and Classic winner **Do Deuce (Jpn)** (Heart's Cry {Jpn}) has sustained a right foreleg injury and has been retired. The news was reported by *Idol Horse* on Friday. The bay was due to defend his title in the G1 Arima Kinen on Sunday before beginning his stallion career next year at Shadai Stallion Station.

Raced by Kieffers Co., Ltd., the 5-year-old entire was an undefeated champion at two in three starts with victories in the G1 Asahi Hai Futurity Stakes and in the Listed Ivy Stakes. At three, the Northern Farm-bred was second in the G2 Hoshi Hai Yayoi Sho Deep Impact Kinen and third in the G1 Satsuki Sho (Japanese 2000 Guineas) prior to landing the G1 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby). After a fruitless trip to ParisLongchamp for two starts to end his sophomore year, he claimed the G2 Kyoto Kinen at four, and later that year added the Arima Kinen on Christmas Eve.

[Cont. p15](#)

G1 Arima Kinen Preview Cont.

This term, Do Deuce traveled to the UAE without finding the winner's circle for trainer Yasuo Tomomichi, but redeemed himself in his final two starts--victories in the G1 Tenno Sho (Autumn) and in the G1 Japan Cup in October and November, respectively. He retires with a mark of 16-8-1-1 and \$12,554,242 in earnings.

"Any other accident could have happened to him, we decided to scratch from the Arima Kinen," Tomomichi told *Netkeiba* of his charge, who was the fan favourite in the Arima Kinen. "I apologize to all the fans."

A retirement ceremony for Do Deuce, to be held after the Arima Kinen, was cancelled.

The sixth foal out of GII Gallant Bloom Handicap and GIII Sugar Swirl Stakes heroine Dust And Diamonds (Vindication) who was second in the GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint, Do Deuce is a half-brother to multiple graded-placed Much Better (Pioneerof The Nile). His dam sold for \$1 million carrying a full-sibling to Much Better to Katsumi Yoshida during the 2016 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale.

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TOM REILLY APPOINTED CEO OF MELBOURNE RACING CLUB

Tom Reilly has been appointed to the position of CEO of the Melbourne Racing Club. Reilly comes to the role from Thoroughbred Breeders Australia (TBA) and Aushorse, where he has been a key figure in breeding and racing for 10 years.

While at the Australian breeding marketing arm, Aushorse, he oversaw the repositioning of the brand of Australian bloodstock, which has seen global investment into Australia more than treble during the decade.

Through TBA, Reilly worked closely with governments to deliver across a number of areas, including access to skilled foreign workers, tax reform and the response to COVID. He also developed strategies to address the challenge of staffing, education and training in the thoroughbred industry.

MRC Chairman John Kanga commented, "The committee is very excited to have Tom lead the team at the MRC. We wanted someone with deep racing knowledge and experience and Tom will bring that to the Club. He is well respected throughout the racing industry and with his extensive contacts and knowledge, both in Australia and internationally, he will be hitting the ground running.

"Tom will also bring real strength and energy to the role and, as a true racing person, has a genuine love and passion for the industry. He shares the vision of the committee to make the



Tom Reilly [right] | TBA

MRC more efficient and properly accountable to members, customers and participants, with an overarching aim of putting on better racing programmes and events and benefitting racing in general."

Reilly added, "It's a great honour to be given this opportunity. The MRC is one of the great race clubs, not just in Australia, but globally. For anyone passionate about the future of racing, then running the MRC is a wonderful opportunity. The Club ran more race meetings than any other in Victoria last season and has three great racecourses, as well as some of the major Group 1 races in the Australian racing calendar, including the Caulfield Cup, the Caulfield Guineas and the Blue Diamond.

"Having met with the committee, I'm excited by their shared vision to make sure racing is at the heart of the MRC's endeavours and to ensure that we are maximising the potential of our three racecourses and other assets."

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ARIMA KINEN-G1, ¥955,000,000, 3yo/up, 2500mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	Danon Decile (Jpn)	Epiphaneia (Jpn)	N Yokoyama	S Yasuda	123
2	Do-Deuce (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	SCR	SCR	SCR
3	Urban Chic (Jpn)	Suave Richard (Jpn)	Lemaire	Takei	123
4	Blow the Horn (Jpn)	Epiphaneia (Jpn)	Sugawara	Yoshioka	128
5	Bellagio Opera (Jpn)	Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)	K Yokoyama	Uemura	126
6	Rousham Park (Jpn)	Harbinger (GB)	Marquand	Tanaka	128
7	Stars on Earth (Jpn) (f)	Duramente (Jpn)	Kawada	Takayanagi	123
8	Regaleira (Jpn) (f)	Suave Richard (Jpn)	Tosaki	Kimura	119
9	Deep Bond (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Miyuki	Okubo	128
10	Prognosis (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Miura	Nakauchida	128
11	Justin Palace (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	Sakai	Sugiyama	128
12	Struve (Jpn)	King Kamehameha (Jpn)	Sameshima	Hori	128
13	Stunning Rose (Jpn) (f)	King Kamehameha (Jpn)	Moore	Takano	123
14	Danon Beluga (Jpn)	Heart's Cry (Jpn)	K Matsuyama	Hori	128
15	Hayayakko (Jpn)	King Kamehameha (Jpn)	Y Yoshida	Kunieda	128
16	Shahryar (Jpn)	Deep Impact (Jpn)	C Demuro	Fujiwara	128

Breeders: 1-Shadai Farm, 2-Northern Farm, 3-Shunsuke Yoshida, 4-Okada Stud, 5-Tsunebumi Yoshihara, 6-Northern Racing, 7-Shadai Farm, 8-Northern Farm, 9-Murata Bokujo, 10-Shadai Farm, 11-Northern Racing, 12-Oiwake Farm, 13-Northern Farm, 14-Northern Farm, 15-Kaneko Makoto Holdings Inc, 16-Northern Farm

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