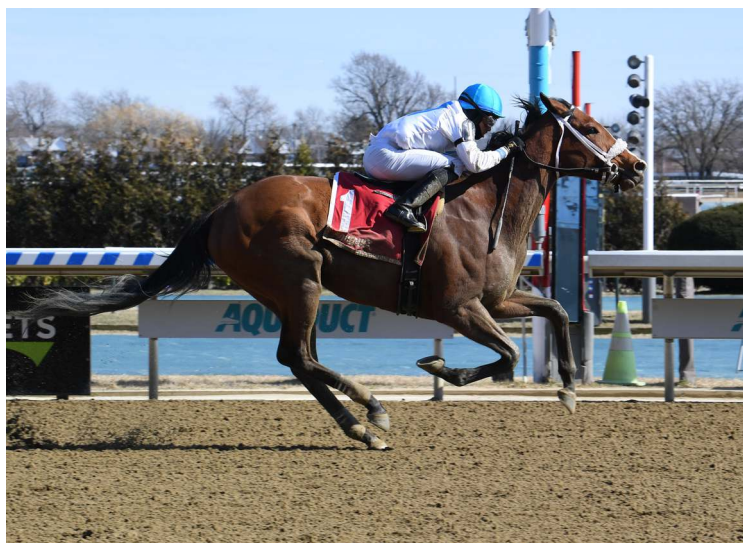


## CRIMSON FROST JUMP-STARTS MERRIEBELLE REDUCTION



**Crimson Frost** | *Susie Raisher*

by *Jessica Martini*

Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services sold four broodmares--along with their foals--and a yearling colt as part of a major reduction of Merriebelle Stable during the Fasig-Tipton Digital April Sale which concluded Wednesday. **Crimson Frost** (Stormy Atlantic) ([hip 12](#)), who sold with her Forte colt, brought the group's top price when selling for \$240,000 to Gracie Bloodstock.

"A few weeks ago, I learned we needed to address our budget for the next year or two rather aggressively," Bluegrass Thoroughbred's Sandy Stuart said of the Merriebelle reduction. "My first call was to an appraiser we have always used, John Donaldson, and his advice was, 'You need to call [Fasig-Tipton President] Boyd [Browning] and use their new digital system. That's where you are going to save a lot of time and generate the demand you need.'"

*Cont. p3*

## COAL BATTLE AND COMPANY SETTLING IN AT CHURCHILL DOWNS *by Katie Petrunyak*

Lonnie Briley's first starter at Churchill Downs came three years ago in the Kentucky Juvenile Stakes on the Thursday of Derby week. Although his trainee Cool Spirit (Mor Spirit) broke a step slow and finished last, the experience left Briley with lasting memories of Louisville.

"I tell you, when the horses took off running, it was like there was an airplane taking off," Briley recalled with a soft-spoken Cajun drawl. "It was like a big roar, like the bleachers could come off the ground. It was the first time I've seen a grandstand that covers half the track, all the way down the lane and into the first turn."

If Briley thought the crowd at 'Thurby' was impressive, he's in for a real show come Derby day.

Briley, age 72, has been a veteran trainer on the Louisiana circuit for over three decades. He had never ran a horse in a graded stake until this year, when stable star Coal Battle (Coal Front) stormed home in the GII Rebel Stakes. *Cont. p4*

“  
I didn't have anything that could get close to him in the mornings. You could tell that he was in a different area code than anybody else as a 2YO and that's what I love about him. I can't see a miss here for this horse; he's gotta hit.

*Bob Baffert*



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garyking@thetdn.com

**EDITORIAL**

editor@thetdn.com

**Editor-in-Chief**

Jessica Martini @JessMartiniTDN

**Senior Contributing Editor**

Alan Carasso @EquinealTDN

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**News and Features Editor**

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**ADVERTISING**

tdnadstaff@gmail.com

**Director of Advertising**

Alycia Borer

**Advertising Manager**

Lia Best

**Senior Advertising Designer**

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**Advertising Assistant/Dir. of Distribution**

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**Advertising Assistant**

Liz Fronczek

**Chief Photographer/Photo Editor**

Sarah K. Andrew @SarahKAndrew  
photos@thetdn.com

**Senior Producer**

Katie Petrunyak

**Social Media Manager**

Sara Gordon

**Director of Customer Service**

Vicki Forbes | customerservice@thetdn.com

**Business Development Manager**

Alayna Cullen Birkett @AlaynaCullen

**Chief Financial Officer**

Ray Villa  
rayvilla@thetdn.com | accounting@thetdn.com

**WORLDWIDE INFORMATION****European & International Editor**

Emma Berry | emmaberry@thetdn.com

**Managing Editor**

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

**European Sales Editor**

Brian Sheerin @BrianSheerin91

**Associate European Editor**

Adam Houghton @hought94

**Cafe Racing**

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary  
caferacing@thetdn.com

60 Broad Street, Suite 105 | Red Bank, NJ 07701  
732-747-8060 | www.TheTDN.com

**TODAY** in the

**TDN**   
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

**Friday, April 11, 2025**



*The Friday cartoon, by Remi Bellocq. To inquire about purchasing prints or ordering commissions, visit [www.remidraws.com](http://www.remidraws.com). Follow Remi on Facebook and Instagram @remifrancoisbellocq*

## IN TDN EUROPE TODAY | FOLEY HAILS SANDS OF MALI

Ballyhane Stud's Joe Foley says that resident stallion Sands Of Mali (Fr) is the "best stallion that I have ever had." Brian Sheerin has the details.

## TODAY'S GRADED STAKES

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5:16p **Maker's Mark Mile S.-GI, KEE**

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**Merriebelle reduction, cont. from p1**

The decision was made to offer mares from the Merriebelle band in three phases, beginning with mares with young foals who had not yet been bred back.

"In talking with Fasig-Tipton and learning about the whole process at this time of year, what we needed to do was offer a mare who has not foaled, or has recently foaled and not yet been bred back, or wait until about 45 days pregnancy and offer them. So we have three rounds of sales in mind. We are going to use the May sale and the June sale."

Stuart admitted to some anxious moments ahead of a somewhat atypical time on the calendar to be selling mares.

"Offering foals that are one to three weeks old, I worried that the normal immaturity in angular limb conformation angles could be a significant detractor to buyers," he said. "But not in Kentucky with the depth of experienced horseman. During a call about a mare and foal that had RNA'd, I texted a foal's walking video taken that morning to a buyer who has raised thousands of foals in his career and within a minute, we had a deal."

While actors are cautioned never to work with animals and children, Stuart said these young foals learned the drill quickly.

"Theatrical is a good way to describe two- to three-week-old foals performing for the camera," he said. "It was fun to see the difference from the day we did the first photos and videos and then the final day. I got a couple videos of foals to send to people and it would have taken five inspections to get a video this good on day one and in a short amount of time, these little foals became trained sales horses. It was really cool."

The massive storms that tore through Kentucky over the weekend made showing the mares and foals more difficult, but Stuart credited the team at Merriebelle's Chanteclair Farm base with getting the job done. Merriebelle partner Charlie Noell and his family now race under the name Bell Tower Stable, which owns Chanteclair Farm.

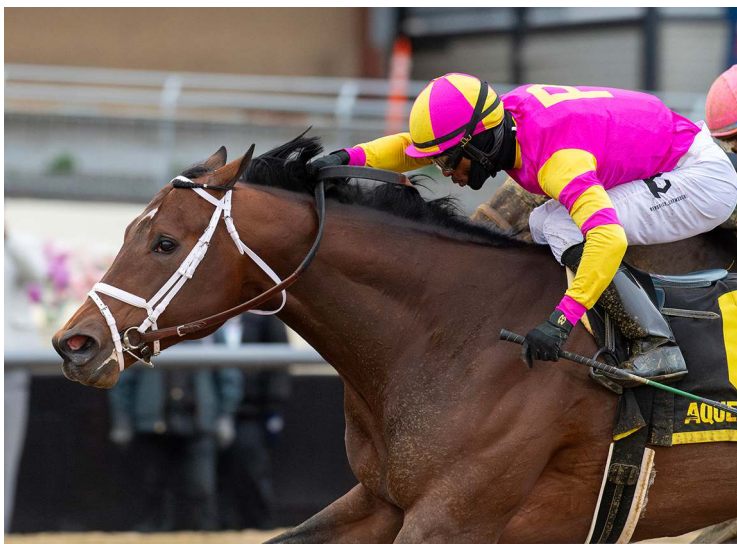
"Once the weekend downpour slowed, Declan Burke and his team at Chanteclair accommodated about 30 mid-day inspections of yearlings, mares and foals," Stuart said. "It was helpful that Fasig-Tipton postponed the sale by one day."

The Merriebelle breeding operation received a boost even as the online auction was underway when its graduate Take Charge Milady (**Take Charge Indy**) finished second in the GI Ashland Stakes at Keeneland Monday.

"The Ashland result was neat," Stuart said. "It helps highlight

that some of the goals for the program are to support stallion shares like **Take Charge Indy**. We enjoyed a little bit of a celebration Monday. It was a rewarding race on a weekend where we were otherwise getting into something of a dispersal."

The highlight of the April offerings was stakes winner and graded-placed Crimson Frost, who received her own timely update when her first foal, **'TDN Rising Star' Crimson Light (City of Light)** returned to the winner's



**Crimson Light** | Sarah Andrew

circle at Aqueduct Saturday and is now two-for-two in his career.

"She makes very good physicals," said Chris Gracie, who purchased the mare on behalf of an undisclosed client. "The Forte at her side was exceptional. She is a mare with a bit of pedigree and she has a very nice foal at her side. And she makes a very good physical. So when you want horses that can make those kind of babies, you have to pay for them."

Of the result, Stuart said, "Crimson Frost drew a lot of visitors to the farm and the colt showed great. It turned out to be a good result."

Buyers will get another chance to purchase mares from the Merriebelle reduction next month with the Fasig-Tipton Digital May Sale. Among the offerings will be the 4-year-old mare **Bonaqua (Tonalist)**, who is in foal to **Justify**.

"I am just trying to offer any mares that I think will have commercial appeal and will bring a significant amount of revenue," Stuart said. **Cont.**



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### Merriebelle reduction, cont.

"Fasig was pretty great about making it all happen. We will hope we can get some good results in the May and June sales."

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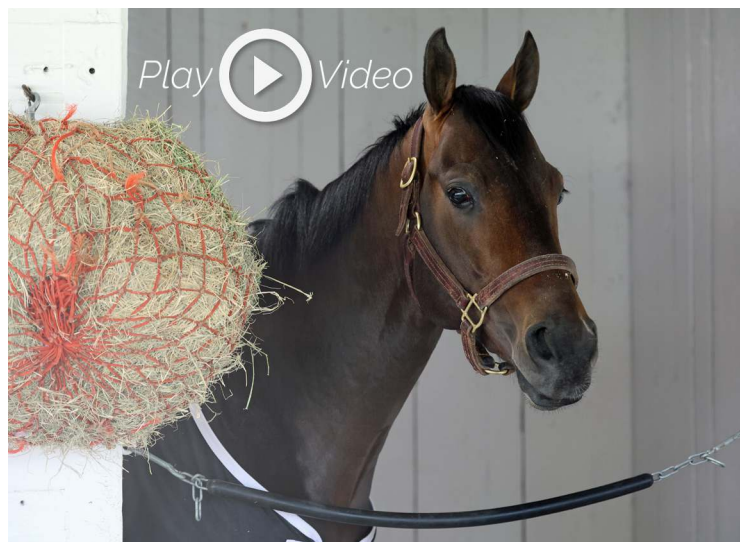
### Coal Battle, cont. from p1

Briley picked out Coal Battle for just \$70,000 at the 2023 Texas Thoroughbred Association Yearling Sale for his longtime client Norman Stables. The horseman thought the colt could be something special last summer, when he came flying late to get up for fourth in the Kentucky Downs Juvenile Mile Stakes behind eventual fellow Derby hopeful Tiztastic (**Tiz The Law**). But even at the start of this year, Briley was not exactly Derby dreaming.

"I never even thought about it really," he admitted. "It was never on the bucket list. I didn't think I'd have that kind of horse and then when I found him, I was just looking for a racehorse. I had three on my short list and I kept going back to him and ended up saying that he was the one I wanted."

Briley and Coal Battle, along with three of the colt's stablemates, arrived at Churchill Downs this past Sunday with just under four weeks to go until the first Saturday in May.

Tuesday morning, Briley watched from the backside viewing stand as Coal Battle put in his first work at Churchill Downs.




[Click here for our visit with Coal Battle at Churchill Downs](#)  
Katie Petrunyak

As the temperature hovered just above freezing, Coal Battle stepped onto the track and paused to take in the view of the sunrise and the twin spires before jogging off.

"You see how he does that?" Briley asked with a proud grin. "Every day he'll look and observe. He's made over a million dollars doing that, so that's okay." **Cont.**

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### Coal Battle, cont.

Briley's exercise rider and assistant trainer Bethany Taylor had her work cut out for her as Coal Battle eagerly cruised through a breeze that stretched out maybe a little further than the intended half mile. The Churchill Downs clockers recorded the colt going four furlongs in :48.40.

Back at the barn, Coal Battle didn't seem fazed by the workout. Taylor said this is the norm for the athletic colt.

"He's funny because whenever he works--doesn't matter if he's going three-eighths, half a mile or five-eighths--he'll gallop out as far as he wants to and when I go to pull him back to bring him up, he'll put his head down and start bucking a little bit."

Briley reported that the plan is for Coal Battle to work five furlongs next week, six furlongs the following week, and then a quick three furlongs five days before the Derby.

While Coal Battle is all energy on the racetrack, the colt is much more easygoing in the barn.

"He'll lay down most of the day and then he'll stand in his corner," Briley explained. "If somebody comes to his door, he's gonna come meet them and play with them. He's neat, you know, it's like he talks to you in his own little way. After every race, he'll come back to the barn wheeling and squealing like he didn't even run."

Coal Battle has won five of his eight lifetime starts, highlighted by four straight stakes victories that culminated in the GII Rebel where he defeated the likes of Madaket Road (**Quality Road**), Sandman (**Tapit**) and Publisher (**American Pharoah**). In the GI Arkansas Derby with jockey Juan Vargas aboard, Coal Battle took the lead at the top of the stretch, but was overtaken by closers Sandman and Publisher. **Cont.**



Lonnie Briley oversees Coal Battle's arrival at Churchill Downs

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**Coal Battle, cont.**

If they could get a do-over in the race, Briley said he believes the outcome may have been different.

"He was a little too fresh," he admitted. "I had to saddle him on the walk and I've never had to do that with him before. Then the rider punched the button too quickly. At the half-mile pole he sent him and that was too early. If he had waited until the 5/16th pole, I think he'd have had a good shot. He has a really quick turn of foot. It's just knowing when to push the button. You have to be patient with him. But he still ran good and he came back good."

Following the Oaklawn meet, Briley sent three of the seven trainees he had there back home to Louisiana, where he has a string of about 20 horses at Evangeline Downs, and brought the other four with him to Kentucky. The conditioner is hoping to get races into each of those horses between the Keeneland and Churchill Downs meets.

Go Captain (**Mo Town**), a 4-year-old colt also owned by Norman Stables, broke his maiden at Kentucky Downs last summer and was second in his most recent start at Oaklawn on March 7. Following a bullet :58.80 work on Tuesday, Briley hopes to enter him at Keeneland next week.

With an admirable youthful zest, Briley plans to make a quick trip to Ocala next week for the OBS April Sale before returning to Louisville to put in the final two weeks of preparation for the Kentucky Derby.

Briley and Coal Battle are undoubtedly one of this year's Derby Cinderella stories. To what does Briley attribute his growing fan base?

"Well I'm from over there, where they talk like dat," he said with an easygoing grin and a deep bayou twang. Then he added, "There is pressure, more than anything. A horse race is a horse race, but when you get to the Kentucky Derby, it's a little more."

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## INTEGRATION ATTEMPTS TO OVERHAUL RETURNING CARL SPACKLER IN KEENELAND'S MAKER'S MARK MILE

by Christina Bossinakis

To say that **Integration** (**Quality Road**) was facing some quality individuals in year's GI Maker's Mark Mile Stakes might be somewhat of an understatement. In that soggy renewal at Keeneland last April, the West Point Thoroughbreds and Woodford Racing runner finished third behind Godolphin's Master of The Seas (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), who stole the show following wins in the GI Woodbine Mile and GI Breeders' Cup Mile the previous season.

THOROUGHBRED CLUB  
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# Speaker Series

**DATE:**  
Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

**WHEN:**  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**WHERE:**  
Thoroughbred Club of America  
3555 Rice Road, Lexington, KY

**TOPIC:**  
**An Evening With HISA**  
*Industry leaders discuss the first two years of HISA rules and enforcement with HISA CEO Lisa Lazarus. This panel of industry leaders include Hall of Fame and Classic winning trainers, top veterinarians, and owners. A question and answer session will follow the panel discussion.*



Members and Guests Welcome

The runner up that day was another Godolphin representative, Group 2 scorer Naval Power (GB) (Teofilo {Ire}), who followed up with a close-up second in the GI Turf Classic. The Shug McGaughey trainee gets another chance at Keeneland's marquee race for turf milers Friday when he faces eight others, including dual Grade I winner **Carl Spackler (Ire)** (Lope de Vega {Ire}), who will be making his much-awaited first start of the year after a sixth in last November's GI Breeders' Cup Mile at Del Mar.

"It seems like we have been trying to outrun Carl Spackler for the last 10 years. At least that's what it feels like," quipped West Point Thoroughbred's Terry Finley. "I figured sooner or later we'd see him enter and here he is."

Reflecting on Integration's Maker's Mark performance last year, Finley explained, "I think he was third best last year. I am not sure he ran his best race, but those two horses that ended up in front of us are very nice horses. We didn't have any excuses. I remember Frankie [Dettori] telling us that he thought we ran our race, but we just didn't get the job done that day."

Following the respectable effort in this test in 2024, Integration was fourth in the nine-furlong Turf Classic on the Derby Day undercard before winning by 6 1/2 lengths over two rivals in a scratch-depleted edition of Colonial's Million Preview in July. **Cont.**

### Maker's Mark Mile preview, cont.



**Integration winning last season's Red Smith at Saratoga**  
*Walter Wlodarczyk*

Stretching to 10 panels for the GI Arlington Million, the \$700,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select purchase had to play bridesmaid to the highly accomplished Nations Pride (Ire) (Teofilo {Ire}). Extending even farther for the 12-furlong GII FanDuel TV Kentucky Turf Cup in September, the son of Grade I winner Harmonize (Scat Daddy) came home fourth before rebounding to win the 11-furlong GII Red Smith at the Big A in November.

Given some R&R over the winter, Integration came up just a neck short of the win behind Spirit of St Louis (**Medaglia d'Oro**), who pegged him at the wire in the nine-furlong GI Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational at Gulfstream Jan. 25.

"Shug was really optimistic that he'd show up in a big way," recalled Finley in advance of the 5-year-old's seasonal debut. "You get four or five horses that are within 1 1/2 lengths of each other and the winner gets the bob. We had a very good trip and was just second best."

Stabled at Payson through the winter, Integration appears to have taken his transition to five in good order.

"He is starting to put it together right now," confirmed Finley. "Shug commented that he had never seen him bigger, stronger and broader than he is now. I think as a 5-year-old, we might be on the cusp of a big year with him. I think he rates very well [in the Maker's Mark]."

Dettori reunites with Integration for Friday's race.

West Point, in partnership with David Ingordo, is also represented by **Northern Invader** (**Collected**), trained by Cherie DeVaux. A winner with Jose Ortiz in the irons going a mile in a Keeneland allowance last season, the chestnut subsequently finished fourth in Churchill's GIII Arlington Stakes in June before rounding out his 4-year-old campaign with a third behind winner

Carl Spackler in Saratoga's GIII Kelso Stakes in July.

"After he was third to Carl Spackler [in the Kelso] at Saratoga, Cherie very smartly said let's put this colt away, freshen him up a bit and bring him back as a 5-year-old," explained Finley.

Marking his debut in the GIII Tampa Bay Stakes, the \$310,000 OBS March graduate was headed late finishing second by 3/4 of a length behind Running Bee (English Channel) Feb. 1. While Edwin Gonzalez was aboard at Tampa, Finley confirmed that Ortiz will be back in the saddle in the Maker's Mark.

"I was really happy to see that really good race at Tampa. It was a good number that day," he added. "He seems to get very brave in front, he likes to control things on the front end, and that's what he'll try to do again."

Following what seemed like biblical rains in Kentucky last weekend, the upcoming forecast in Lexington once again calls for precipitation through the end of the week.

When asked how West Point's runners might handle what seems to be shaping up as another soft turf course for Friday's race, Finley said, "That's the \$1-million question. Shug has said that he didn't feel [Integration] is as effective on soft going. We'd love for the weather to break a little bit and give us as firm a turf course as possible."

Regarding Integration's Ontario-bred stablemate, he added, "I don't think the softer ground won't impact him as much as it might integration."

Regardless of the weather, Finley admitted that the duo seems to complement each other in the race, at least from a tactical perspective.

"He's probably a touch better going a mile and an eighth, but I think he still rates with these horses," said Finley of Integration.

Of Northern Invader, he continued, "I think he can be very dangerous because, turning for home, he's got a quick acceleration at the quarter pole and he has used that a couple of times effectively. **Cont.**



**Northern Invader** | *Adam Coglianese*





**Darley**

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His three-year-olds are led by undefeated, multiple G2 winner Good Cheer, a second Kentucky Oaks prospect in Ballerina d'Oro, the G2 Appalachian winner Nitrogen – plus *future Darley stallion* and Kentucky Derby candidate East Avenue, just beaten in a photo for the G1 Blue Grass.

**Must-see juveniles** at the sales now.

**Maker's Mark Mile preview, cont.**

"It's interesting because we have a horse that wants the lead all to himself and another good horse that is a stalker. So we'll see which ones best and if either one can get to the wire first."

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## TDN WRITERS' ROOM PODCAST FOCUSES ON DERBY, DERBY PREPS

There are more than three weeks to go before the running of the GI Kentucky Derby, but it wasn't too early for the *TDN* Writers' Room Podcast team to dive into last weekend's preps and look ahead to the first Saturday in May. The podcast is presented by [Keeneland](#).

The team of Randy Moss, Bill Finley and T.D. Thornton, all thought the best race of the week was the GI Santa Anita Derby, won by **Journalism** ([Curlin](#)). He overcame trouble to win the race and earned a solid 102 Beyer in the process. All agreed that he deserves to be the favorite in the Derby.

Santa Anita Derby runner-up **Baeza** ([McKinzie](#)) was also the subject of a lively debate. Moss called the half-brother to Classic winners Dornoch ([Good Magic](#)) and [Mage](#) ([Good Magic](#)) the second best 3-year-old in the country, behind only Journalism. But, at this time, he may not have enough points to get into the Derby field since the points were reduced for the Santa Anita Derby because of its small field, and he got only 37 1/2 points for finishing second. All agreed that he belongs in the Derby field, but there was also agreement that finding the perfect system for finding the 20 best 3-year-olds in training was an exercise in futility.

The team also went over the results of the GII Wood Memorial Stakes and the GI Toyota Blue Grass Stakes. Moss was particularly impressed with Blue Grass runner-up **East Avenue** (Medaglia d'Oro), but worried that the Brendan Walsh trainee

might be part of what could be a vicious speed duel.

Thornton went over the latest developments concerning the decoupling situation in Florida, where a Senate committee has said that Gulfstream cannot decouple for seven years. In a prior bill, the time frame was five years.

The [Gainesway](#) Guest of the Week was *TDN* European and International editor Emma Berry, who talked about how Donald Trump's proposed tariffs might affect European and U.S. racing. The podcast segment with Berry was taped before Trump called for a 90-day pause on implementing most tariffs.

In our "Fastest Horse of the Week," segment, which is sponsored by WinStar, the team went over the many reasons there are to breed to [WinStar stallion Cogburn](#). The fastest horses of the week were Journalism and Santa Anita allowance winner Wound Up ([Mendelssohn](#)). Both earned figures of 102.

The podcast, is also sponsored by the [Pennsylvania Horse Breeders' Association](#), [West Point Thoroughbreds](#), [1/ST Racing](#) and [1/ST TV](#).

Click [here](#) to watch the podcast and click [here](#) for the audio version.

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## YAUPON EARNS ACCOLADES WITH ANOTHER STRONG OBS BREEZE SHOW

by *Stefanie Grimm*

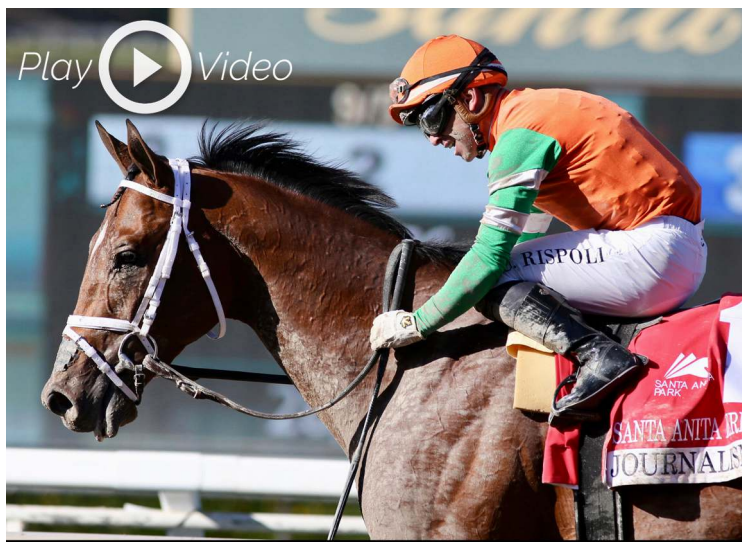
A quartet of juveniles shared the fastest time during the fifth session of the under-tack show held Thursday ahead of next week's Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's Spring Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training. Freshman stallion Yaupon, whose first runners hit the track this year, had another standout breeze session held under "ideal" conditions when a filly ([hip 788](#)) from his first crop worked in :9 4/5 for Joe Pickerrell's Pick View LLC.

"She's been lightning fast all year," said Pickerrell of the filly he picked up for just \$100,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearling Sale. "The wind turned around a little bit later in the day and probably affected some of the gallop outs but I thought she was one who would go fast no matter what time of day she went. She went out there and did her thing."

The first foal out of a multiple stakes-winning first dam in Big Time, the filly was on Pickerrell's radar early after she brought \$190,000 as a weanling at Keeneland November but failed to meet her reserve for \$240,000 ten months later.

"We actually loved her at [Keeneland] September and they didn't get her sold," said Pickerrell. "Then we followed her to on to [Fasig-Tipton] October and bought her there. We got lucky enough to get her."

Spendthrift stallion Yaupon, who was a hit at the yearling sales with his first crop, has set another high bar heading into OBS April. **Cont.**



Journalism | Horsephotos



**OBS Thursday breeze show, cont.****Yaupon at Spendthrift | Sarah Andrew**

"I think we had 12 [Yaupons] on the farm one point this year," said Pickerrell of the GI Forego Stakes winner. "I've been telling anyone with a set of ears about Yaupon since we started training. I've got just a couple of broodmares personally but one has already been booked back to him for this year."

Pick View had another Yaupon (**hip 817**) in their consignment work in :10 earlier in the day.

"I expect big things out of him," Pickerrell continued. "I always watch Steve Asmussen's stallions because they always seem to show up when you start seeing babies. I think [this crop] is going to come out running."

With the tariffs (at least temporarily) on pause, Pickerrell was hopeful that would provide both consigners and buyers some relief ahead of next week's sale.

"There's of course uncertainty with the tariffs," he said. "But I think we bought a little bit of time and we'll get some stability here. There's a lot of momentum, the purses are awesome and the horses are still valuable if they're successful. So I think there's a lot of positives to buy horses right now."

Three other juveniles shared the fastest time with colts by first-crop sire **Essential Quality** (**hip 775**) and Maximus Mischief (**hip 792**) joining a **Justify** filly (**hip 741**) atop the board. An additional four runners shared the co-fastest quarter-mile time with three of the four coming from Ciaran Dunne's Wavertree Stables consignment including a colt by **Honest Mischief** (**hip 734**), a filly by Bolt d'Oro (**hip 799**) and a filly from the first crop of runners by Horse of the Year **Knicks Go** (**hip 736**). Sharing the accolade with that trio is a Vekoma colt (**hip 787**) consigned by Ocala Stud.

**Maclean's Music Colt A Bright Spot For Kinsman Farm**

Also breezing later in the day, a colt by **Maclean's Music** (**hip 704**) was the sole worker on the day for Ocala-based Kinsman

Farm and trainer Emily Dawson. Out of a half-sister to Champion Older Dirt Female Letruska (Super Saver), the colt worked in :10 flat and is already a half to pair of winners in Mischievous Doll (Into Mischief) and American Forces (**American Pharoah**).

"He had prepped quite well for us so we were really expecting [a good breeze]," said Dawson. "He galloped out quite well and we've been really pleased with how he went. He's been a straightforward colt all season and super professional."

Kinsman Farm purchased the colt, who also counts MSW/GISP Trigger Warning and GISW J P's Gusto (Successful Appeal) as family members, for just \$120,000 at Keeneland September last year with the intention of pinhooking him as a 2-year-old.

"He looked like the type of horse that could handle getting to a 2-year-old sale," Dawson said of her fastest worker thus far. "He has a hard, fast look to him and a really strong hind end. Add in that he's perfectly clean on X-rays with a good scope and we hope he'll generate some attention."

First dam American Doll, stakes placed herself, has seen sales-rings success for her foals already as her 3-year-old **Constitution** colt, now named Only in America, went the way of Robert and Lawana Low for \$700,000 at Keeneland in 2023. And, like Pickerrell, Dawson was hopeful that her seven-strong consignment would be well-received at market next week.

"March was quite strong," she said. "So I'm hopeful that that will continue."

The under-tack show continues through Saturday with sessions beginning daily at 8 a.m. The Spring sale will be held next Tuesday through Friday and bidding begins each day at 10:30 a.m.

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## BREEDERS' CUP CHALLENGE SERIES

### FEATURES RECORD RACES, AWARDS

The 2025 Breeders' Cup Challenge Series: 'Win and You're In' will feature 93 races in 15 countries, the most in the history of the event. Each winner receives an automatic berth into a corresponding race, with all fees covered.

In 2025, Breeders' Cup Challenge races have been or will be contested at premier tracks in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dubai, England, France, Ireland, Japan, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, the United States and Uruguay.

While several international qualifiers--a record 49 overseas races are scheduled--have already been staged, the 44-strong domestic component of the series kicks off during the Belmont Stakes Festival at Saratoga June 6 and 7, with the GI Odgen Phipps Stakes (Distaff), GI Hill 'n' Dale Metropolitan Handicap (Dirt Mile) and GI Jaipur Stakes (Turf Sprint) offering Breeders' Cup spots to their winners. **Cont.**

**Breeders' Cup Challenge Series, cont.**

Ten automatic berths are to be awarded for the \$7-million GI Breeders' Cup Classic. Three horses have already qualified for the centerpiece of the weekend--Forever Young (Jpn) (Real Steel {Jpn}, G1 Saudi Cup); Costa Nova (Jpn) (Lord Kanaloa {Jpn}, G1 February Stakes); and Hit Show (**Candy Ride {Arg}**, G1 Dubai World Cup). The other qualifying races, all Grade I/Group 1 contests, include the Stephen Foster Stakes; Haskell Stakes; Whitney Stakes; Juddmonte International Stakes; Pacific Classic Stakes; Jockey Club Gold Cup; and the Goodwood Stakes.

As part of the benefits to horsemen, Breeders' Cup has allocated a record \$6.51 million in free entry fees and \$480,000 in domestic foal nominator awards for this year's Challenge Series and will pay the entry fees and guarantee a starting position in a corresponding Championships race for all Challenge Series race winners. If not already nominated, the Challenge winner must be nominated to the Breeders' Cup program by the pre-entry deadline of Oct. 20 to receive the rewards.

In addition, Breeders' Cup will provide a \$10,000 travel allowance for all starters within North America that are stabled outside of California, and a \$40,000 travel allowance to the connections of all Championship starters based outside of North America.

"It is immensely gratifying to see trainers and owners leverage the many opportunities offered by the Challenge Series, the leading pathway to a coveted spot in the World Championships," said Dora Delgado, Chief Racing Officer at Breeders' Cup Limited. "We thank the racing authorities close to home and abroad for their crucial partnerships, and look forward to watching the world's best competitors prioritize the Challenge Series as their path to the Breeders' Cup World Championships at Del Mar."

This year's running of the Breeders' Cup World Championships will take place Friday, Oct. 31 and Saturday, Nov. 1. Click [here](#) for the complete Breeders' Cup Challenge schedule.

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Horsephotos

## KTFMC APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTED BY PANEL FEATURING OWNERS SMITH, STEWART, WERTH *by Sara Gordon*

Lexington, KY--Following a jam-packed Tuesday of racing at Keeneland, highlighted by the postponed running of the GI Toyota Blue Grass Stakes, industry members ventured out to the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club (KTFMC)'s monthly meeting held at Fasig-Tipton. The evening was highlighted by a panel on racehorse ownership with prominent owners Brook Smith, John Stewart and Jayson Werth leading the discussion.

Each panelist followed a unique path into the industry. Smith, a Westport, Ky. native, launched a successful career in the insurance industry, specifically surety. He later caught the 'racing bug' after attending the 1995 Kentucky Derby with friends of a friend involved in a syndicate that owned Laura's Pistolette (Big Pistol), winner of the GIII Humana Distaff Handicap that day at Churchill Downs.

"I saw the horse go out and win at 30-1, and watched the party that ensued. The comradery, the excitement...there's nothing else like that. I saw that and thought if I can get involved with this in any capacity, sign me up," said Smith.

From there he met a neighbor who happened to be a trainer and went on to purchase a handful of yearlings, also claiming and buying racehorses along the way, before eventually launching his own Rocket Ship Racing in 2021. In the last few years, he has also partnered with Coolmore on a handful of horses, including champion and multiple Grade I winner Sierra Leone (**Gun Runner**) and graded stakes winner Hall of Fame (**Gun Runner**).

"It's insane. I'm so humbled by all of it. It's beyond exciting to be a part of it. Just the conversations with the folks that are here, this is the spirit of this stuff. These horses only run for a minute or two here and there but it's truly the industry, the history, the backside [that makes it]," said Smith.

Born and raised in Springfield, Ill., former major league outfielder Werth is known for his MLB career that spanned from 2002 to 2017, highlighted by his key role in helping the Phillies defeat the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 2008 World Series.

It wasn't until the former MLB All-Star retired and settled in the Tampa Bay, Fla. area, and started golfing with friends who also owned racehorses that his interest in the sport was piqued.

"I thought, 'This seems like fun, let's grab a leg of a horse.' Then we'd go out to Tampa Bay Downs on a Tuesday for an \$8,000 claiming race. We're in the paddock and suddenly I'm sweating, my skin doesn't feel right. Then the gates open and all of a sudden, it's like I'm back on the field. I compare it to a big game, when you're in the dugout. Bases are loaded; you're down to two outs in the ninth." **Cont.**



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**KTFMC meeting, cont.**

"I'm thinking, 'Oh my god, this is incredible.' I'm filling a void I didn't even know I had, right?" Werth recollected.

From there his involvement only increased as he found success with horses he partnered on, racing under the banner of Two Eight Racing, before hitting the height of the industry's experience when buying a 10% interest in a **Good Magic** colt that would go on to become GI Belmont Stakes winner Dornoch.

"It was an amazing summer. Now here I am, after that whole

thing, and we've started a racing syndicate. I'm going to be bringing new people into the game, bringing new owners, because I believe in the sport on a level [that I feel] it can change your life. Dornoch was a life-changing experience," said Werth. "I played at the top of the sport and when I retired, I thought, 'Okay, well I guess that's it.' Then all of a sudden, horse racing gives you that and so much more."

While Smith and Werth dipped their toes in and slowly built up their investment in the Thoroughbred industry, Stewart took the opposite approach as he boldly dove right in.

A native of Jamestown, Ky., Stewart worked his way up from line work to executive roles during his 18 years at Toyota before making the switch to private equity in 2007. He co-founded MiddleGround Capital, based in Lexington, in 2018. But it was in the fall of 2023, a year after the purchase of his first racehorse--Shiloh's Mistress (Vino Rosso)--that he boldly introduced himself to the industry by spending over \$25 million at public auction in less than 10 weeks. He now owns an ever-growing farm in Midway, Ky., the home base for his Resolute Racing.

"I can see how [the industry can be] intimidating to people. So, when I got in, I wanted to be more transparent with people, positive or negative. [My goal was] to try to pull the barriers back for people to see what it's like to get involved in racing and try to help people get involved in the game," said Stewart.

Despite their varied backgrounds, the panelists all agreed that the future of horse racing ownership relies on the industry coming together to open more doors in terms of access, both financial and physical; experience; transparency, from the farms to the track; and entertainment.

"I want to try to make it more appealing to the every-day person to get in. I want people to experience owning

stakes-level performing horses. You can show up at a meet like Keeneland, have three or four runners, and feel that excitement. Maybe then they'll want to work their way back to breeding and owning horses. I want to give them a positive experience," said Stewart.

For Smith, who has been part of a variety of partnerships that have taken him to the highest levels of the sport, the future lies in expanding partnership and micro-share opportunities, like those offered by MyRacehorse.

"I think this sport has always been built on partnership and syndicates. It's a great way to spread the risk with diversity in numbers. When you have a partner, it's great when you win, but it's even better when you don't, right? So, you share that," said Smith. "I actually have three horses that I contributed to MyRacehorse. I think that what they do is important to the industry. They bring people in at \$100-\$150 increments that are a part of these big races and they've had some incredible wins.

"I think a lot of [MyRacehorse founder and CEO] Michael [Behrens]. He's passionate about the sport, he really is trying to do things the right way. He's a man on an island right now but I think it's one of those things that will take shape, securitizing the horses like stock."

Werth sees the sport's entertainment value as the ultimate key to bring new people into the game.

"Dornoch to us was like a family pet. I've never loved an animal so much in my life. This guy became a mainstay [for us]," he said. "What I tell people [is that] it's like buying season tickets to your favorite sports franchise or taking the family to Disney World. You can take a trip anywhere in the world, or you can own horses and take your vacations at the track and have this great experience.

"I describe winning the Belmont like winning the World Series. It really has that type of feel to it. But winning any race is like that. This sport can be super cool and you only need a little piece of a horse to make that dream come true."

Though all three panelists have had horses face off with one another on the track, they spoke of the sense of comradery and community within the industry despite the competitive aspect of the sport itself.

"There are more people willing to help you than not." **Cont.**



Brook Smith, Jayson Werth, and John Stewart | Sara Gordon



**KTFMC meeting, cont.**

"That's why I hate the negative rhetoric online, it makes it sound like everyone in the industry hates each other and that's not true," said Stewart. "Most of these people in this industry want you to be successful."

"Horse racing is unique in the fact that there's not duality. There aren't these big rivalries," added Werth. "My goal would be that people go from our syndicate to go off and be a horse owner themselves. Obviously, we want to retain them as clients, but if they go out and do their own thing because they love the sport so much, that's kind of my goal."

Outside of ownership, Smith, Stewart and Werth acknowledged the importance of supporting the next generation to guarantee there is a future for the sport.

"We need young people to be passionate about this industry. We need young people out there as owners. We don't just need young people out there mucking stalls or being assistants," said Stewart. "It's like any other industry, there's lots of opportunity. The people here, you guys that cared to come tonight, that's the future of this industry."

"I think curation is important. You need someone that can be the translator, especially with young people. This is a sport and an industry that's been around a long time. There's a lot of history here and you need someone that can describe it," expressed Smith. "There's a culture, community, a backside. You have to have someone that can translate that and make it inviting to come in."

Though their opinions varied on the paths the industry should take in ensuring a strong foundation to move forward upon, the panelists all stood strong in their consensus that horse racing is on the right track and old stigmas have given way to positive and innovative changes.

"When you have success, people will follow success. And I think that's where we need to take a risk and we need to do things that are different. By sharing those things that are successful with everybody else, the sport gets better over time," said Stewart.

"I think that reform is a thankless kind of thing but I think the industry has hit it head-on and I feel that there have been some great results," said Smith.

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## JILL BYRNE APPOINTED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

Jill Byrne has been named Executive Director of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA), according to a release Thursday. Debbie Easter will remain with the VTA, serving on a wider range of industry initiatives with the Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA) of which she is President. Byrne will also continue to serve in her existing role as Vice-President of Marketing & Strategic Planning for the VEA.

A Virginia native and graduate of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Byrne served as an on-air host and handicapper with TVG in addition to holding positions as Senior Director of Industry Relations with the Breeders' Cup and Director of Broadcast Operations with Churchill Downs. She returned to Virginia to serve as VP of Racing Operations at Colonial Downs during the 2019 "Racing Revival" season and remained in that capacity for three more years before joining the VEA in 2023. With her combined VEA and VTA responsibilities, Byrne is once again based in Charlottesville where she works and resides.

"I look forward to continue to represent the Virginia horsemen and women, and work with all stakeholders as our racing and breeding programs in the state are growing and prospering," said Byrne. "Virginia has a renowned history in the Thoroughbred industry and our future is brighter than ever."

Easter added, "Our Virginia Equine Alliance team has accomplished so much over the last 7 years, but we need to continue to keep our foot on the gas if we are going to see continued growth for our Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries. Jill has done a fantastic job heading up marketing for the VEA and I am so pleased that she is willing to also take on a roll with the VTA. With her marketing knowledge and passion for Virginia's Thoroughbred industry, the VTA will be in very good hands. This move will allow me to enhance my role as President of the Virginia Equine Alliance. I can work even closer with Jeb Hannum (VEA Executive Director) to concentrate on the larger industry initiatives that will keep us moving forward into the future."

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## 2025 HRWA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LEXINGTON FOR THE FIRST TIME OCT. 8-9; FANDUEL RETURNS AS TITLE SPONSOR

The schedule for the Horse Racing Women's Association (HRWA)'s 2025 season will be headlined by the fourth annual HRWA Conference, previously known as the Summit, taking place for the first time in Lexington, Kentucky Oct. 8-9. The event, sponsored by FanDuel TV, will be hosted at the Limestone Hall, located in the historic remodeled courthouse downtown.

"The 2025 HRWA events and conference are planned with great intention to engage, elevate, and invest in the women (and men) of our great sport as we strive to make constructive impact within our community," said Stephanie Hronis, HRWA Executive Committee Chair. "Our collective goal is to cultivate opportunities that increase business connections, build and expand networks, and provide opportunities for professional and personal development that will ultimately benefit the workplace."

In addition to the two-day conference in October, the HRWA will host several regional events across the country.

Full event list below:

**June 27** - Day at the races: Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto, Canada

**Oct. 8-9** - HRWA Conference: Lexington, Kentucky

**Oct. 30** - Day at the races: Del Mar Thoroughbred Club in Del Mar, California

Tickets are on sale for meet-ups at Woodbine and Del Mar via [Eventbrite](#), and all **HRWA members have access to discounted pricing**. Tickets for the HRWA conference in Kentucky will be launched in the coming weeks.

"We're excited to bring the main conference to Lexington this year while expanding meet-ups at Gulfstream Park, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, and internationally at Woodbine Racecourse--continually striving to expand the reach and impact," said Jodie Vella-Gregory, Chair of the HRWA Event Logistics Committee.

The theme for the 2025 HRWA conference in October is "Racing Ahead: Empowering Women Through Connection And Collaboration," with programming, speakers, and panel topics to be announced in the coming months.

For more information, visit [www.horseracingwomen.com](http://www.horseracingwomen.com).

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## UK'S EQUINE ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LAB ACQUIRED BY EAGLE DIAGNOSTICS

The Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at the University of Kentucky is now under the ownership of Eagle Diagnostics, according to a release from the school. The newly branded

Equine Integrity and Anti-Doping Sciences (EQIAS) Labs will continue to serve as a leader in anti-doping testing for the equine and competition animal industries, while expanding opportunities for research and innovation, the release said.

EQIAS Labs utilizes state-of-the-art analytical equipment to detect performance-enhancing drugs in horses and other animal species to ensure fairness, integrity and animal welfare. The laboratory also performs routine analytical tests, such as an equine prepurchase drug screen, to serve the equine industry.

EQIAS will maintain a collaborative partnership with the university to perform research studies to advance analytical testing capabilities, detect new and emerging threats and support the equine industry's initiative of ensuring equine safety and integrity.

The new director of EQIAS Labs is Travis Mays, Ph.D., a 20-year veteran of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory where he oversaw the daily operations of the drug testing and toxicology sections. His extensive background includes antidoping testing in racing and exhibition animals, veterinary toxicology, pharmacology and analytical chemistry.

"We are excited about this new partnership and the opportunities it brings," said Chris West, CFO of Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory, representing Eagle Diagnostics. "EQIAS Labs looks forward to continuing our strong collaboration with the University of Kentucky, fostering future research initiatives and advancements in equine science."

Leaders from the university echoed how this transition can increase the lab's impact through research collaborations that support its drug testing operations and open new avenues for impactful scientific discovery.

"This transition underscores our commitment to meeting the highest industry standards for equine drug testing and expanding innovation and collaboration in equine research," said Jamie Matthews, associate dean of research at UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "We look forward to working closely with EQIAS Labs to ensure that the regulatory needs of the equine industry continue to be served."

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## Cumulative Leading Second-Crop Sires by Graded Stakes Horses % of Named Foals

Standing EU & NA - Worldwide Earnings - NH Foals

Rank	Stallion	BTW/%	BTH/%	GSW/%	GSH/%	G1SW/%	G1SH/%	Earnings
1	<b>Tiz the Law</b> (2017) by <b>Constitution</b>	6/8.45	10/14.08	3/ <b>4.23</b>	<b>5/7.04</b>	--/--	--/--	\$4,240,856 Fee: 30,000/Tiztastic
2	<b>Country House</b> (2016) by Lookin At Lucky	--/--	1/6.67	--/--	1/6.67	--/--	--/--	\$469,238 Fee: 5,000/Epitaph
3	<b>McKinzie</b> (2015) by <b>Street Sense</b>	3/3.09	11/11.34	2/2.06	<b>5/5.15</b>	<b>2/2.06</b>	<b>5/5.15</b>	\$3,965,112 Fee: 75,000/Chancer McPatrick
4	<b>Maximum Security</b> (2016) by New Year's Day	--/--	4/6.67	--/--	3/5	--/--	--/--	\$1,391,900 Fee: 5,000/Instant Replay
5	<b>Volatile</b> (2016) by <b>Violence</b>	2/2.44	11/13.41	1/1.22	4/4.88	--/--	2/2.44	\$3,320,177 Fee: 12,500/Speed King
6	Hello Youmzain (Fr) (2016) by Kodiak (GB)	2/2.86	5/7.14	2/2.86	3/4.29	--/--	1/1.43	\$1,169,711 Fee: 40,000/Misunderstood (Fr)
7	<b>Complexity</b> (2016) by <b>Maclean's Music</b>	6/8.11	11/14.86	2/2.7	3/4.05	--/--	1/1.35	\$3,464,013 Fee: 25,000/Shin Forever
8	Vekoma (2016) by <b>Candy Ride (Arg)</b>	<b>10/9.09</b>	<b>20/18.18</b>	<b>4/3.64</b>	4/3.64	--/--	1/0.91	<b>\$6,696,684</b> Fee: 35,000/Golden Vekoma
9	Ghaiyyath (Ire) (2015) by Dubawi (Ire)	1/1.82	2/3.64	1/1.82	2/3.64	--/--	--/--	\$615,973 Fee: 20,000/Ameerat Alzamaan (GB)
10	Caracaro (2017) by Uncle Mo	2/6.9	4/13.79	--/--	1/3.45	--/--	--/--	\$917,692 Fee: 10,000/Casalu
11	Kameko (2017) by Kitten's Joy	2/3.39	4/6.78	2/3.39	2/3.39	1/1.69	2/3.39	\$1,020,473 Fee: 20,000/New Century (GB)
12	Mohaather (GB) (2016) by Showcasing (GB)	3/4.92	4/6.56	1/1.64	2/3.28	--/--	--/--	\$787,085 Fee: 15,000/Big Mojo (Ire)
13	<b>Game Winner</b> (2016) by <b>Candy Ride (Arg)</b>	3/4.62	4/6.15	2/3.08	2/3.08	1/1.54	1/1.54	\$1,953,966 Fee: 20,000/Gaming
14	Pinatubo (Ire) (2017) by Shamardal	1/1.54	5/7.69	--/--	2/3.08	--/--	--/--	\$1,057,369 Fee: 30,000/Hallasan (GB)
15	<b>Instilled Regard</b> (2015) by Arch	1/2.94	3/8.82	1/2.94	1/2.94	--/--	--/--	\$919,810 Fee: 8,000/Minaret Station

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## Friday, Keeneland #9, post time: 5:16 p.m. EDT

### MAKER'S MARK MILE S.-GI, \$650,000, 4yo/up, 1mT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Integration	Quality Road	West Point Thoroughbreds and Woodford Racing	McGaughey III	Dettori	123
2	Funtastic Again 🌿	Funtastic	Three Chimneys Farm	Ward	Ortiz, Jr.	123
3	Trikari 🌿	Oscar Performance	Amerman Racing LLC	Motion	Velazquez	123
4	Grand Aspen	Dialed In	PRO Thoroughbred Enterprises LLC	Thomas	Rosario	123
5	Santorini 🌿	Twirling Candy	Storyteller Racing, Dave Russel and Scott Catlett	Brisset	Achard	123
6	Carl Spackler (Ire)	Lope de Vega (Ire)	e Five Racing Thoroughbreds LLC	Brown	Prat	123
7	Silent Heart	Heart to Heart	Terry Hamilton and Koocanusa Ventures	Lynch	Saez	123
8	Northern Invader 🌿	Collected	West Point Thoroughbreds and David Ingordo	DeVaux	Ortiz	123
9	Seminole Chief	Girvin	Brad Grady and David Grund	Sisterson	Davis	123

**Breeders:** 1-Larkin Armstrong, 2-BHMF, LLC, 3-Michael A Slezak & Amy Boll, 4-PRO Thoroughbred Enterprises, 5-Mary Abeel Sullivan Revocable Trust, 6-Fifth Avenue Bloodstock, 7-Terry Hamilton, 8-Anderson Farms Ont. Inc. & Peter A.Berglar Racing Interests, LLC., 9-Brad Grady & Misty Grady

**Carl Spackler (Ire)** (Lope de Vega (Ire)) emerged as an Eclipse Award candidate last year when he won four stakes, two of them Grade I's. A three-race winning streak ended with a sixth place finish in the GI Breeders' Cup Mile, but he didn't disgrace himself, losing by only 2 3/4 lengths. He's one-for-one at Keeneland. Surprisingly, trainer Chad Brown has won this race only once. Trainer Wesley Ward has spaced **Funtastic Again's** (Funtastic) races out and the results have been a mixed bag. He peaked when second in the GI Shoemaker Mile S., but followed that up with a poor effort in the GIII Mint Millions at Kentucky Downs. With his best effort he should be a factor. Northern Invader held his own when third behind Carl Spackler in the GIII Kelso S. A threat to hit the board. On the Beyer numbers, **Integration** (Quality Road) is just as fast as Carl Spackler, but a mile seems too short for him. In his only try at the distance he was a non-threatening third in this same race last year. **—Bill Finley**

## Saturday, Oaklawn #11, post time: 6:48 p.m. EDT

### APPLE BLOSSOM H.-GI, \$1,250,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Sweet Alyssa	Union Rags	Jarvis Racing Stable	Pomier	Santana, Jr.	114
2	Neom Beach	Omaha Beach	Steven M. Asmussen	Asmussen	Asmussen	115
3	Free Like a Girl	El Deal	G. Bruno, Jr., C. Deville Pomier, and Jerry Caroom	Pomier	Leparoux	120
4	Noble Miss 🌿	Noble Mission (GB)	Abel Montoya Duarte and Eduardo Miramontes	Hernandez	Castillo	112
5	Where's My Ring 🌿	Twirling Candy	Michael McMillan	Brinkerhoff	Arrieta	119
6	Thorpedo Anna	Fast Anna	Brookdale Racing, Inc., Mark Edwards, Judy Hicks, and Magdalena Racing	McPeck	Hernandez, Jr.	124
7	Wild Bout Hilary 🌿	Midnight Lute	5 Finger Racing	Tracy	Vazquez	118

**Breeders:** 1-Lothenbach Stables Inc, 2-Tami Bobo, 3-Kim Renee Stover & Lisa Osborne, 4-Korea Bloodstock, 5-Don Alberto Corporation, 6-Judy Hicks, 7-Clearsky Farms

The Apple Blossom is the one trainer Kenny McPeck has been pointing 2024 Horse of the Year **Thorpedo Anna** (Fast Anna) for. Absolutely no reason to pick against her. Where's My Ring (Twirling Candy) is 5-2 in the morning line and looks like a serious bounce candidate. Toss her and focus on others to complete your exactas or trifectas with Thorpedo Anna on top. **Free Like a Girl** (El Deal) has earned \$2.2 million, largely against fellow Louisiana-breds. She was second behind Thorpedo Anna in the GII Azeri Stakes and could easily duplicate that effort. **Wild About Hilary** (Midnight Lute) will likely go to the front with Thorpedo Anna chasing her from second. If the early pace is modest, she could hold on for the place. **—Bill Finley**



**Saturday, Keeneland #10, post time: 5:48 p.m. EDT****JENNY WILEY S.-GI, \$650,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16mT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Excellent Truth (Ire)	Cotai Glory (GB)	Resolute Racing	Brown	Prat	123
2	Choisya (GB)	Night of Thunder (Ire)	Rabbah Bloodstock LLC	Crisford	Saez	123
3	Poolside With Slim (Ire)	<b>Churchill (Ire)</b>	Glenn S. Bromagen II, Patrick Lewis, and Sandra Bromagen	Arnold II	Ortiz	123
4	Vina Arana (Ire)	Make Believe (GB)	Sterling Stables LLC and MHM Stables LLC	Sisterson	Rispoli	123
5	Be Your Best (Ire)	Muhaarar (GB)	Michael J. Ryan	Joseph, Jr.	Ortiz, Jr.	123
6	Jabaara (Ire)	Exceed & Excel (Aus)	Godolphin, LLC, Lessee	Varian	Rosario	123
7	Kehoe Beach 🌿	Omaha Beach	Thomas W. Bachman	Ward	Dettori	123
8	Sacred Wish 🌿	<b>Not This Time</b>	Black Type Thoroughbreds, Swinbank Stables, Steve Adkisson, Christopher T. Dunn, and Anthony Spinazzola	Weaver	Velazquez	123
9	No Show Sammy Jo (GB)	Lope de Vega (Ire)	Bridlewood Farm and Madaket Stables LLC	Motion	Franco	123

**Breeders:** 1-Sandra Russell, 2-Rabbah Bloodstock Limited, 3-Kilweelran Ltd, 4-Funcheon Bloodstock Ltd, 5-St. Croix Bloodstock, 6-Godolphin, 7-John Bates, Ron Kirk & Michael Riordan, 8-John R. Penn, 9-Fittocks Stud & St Albans Bloodstock Ltd

Though **Excellent Truth** (Ire) (Cotai Glory {GB}) has won four times, her most impressive race was her last, a second-place finish in the GI Prix Rothschild at Deauville on July 28. She was beaten just a length that day by Mqse de Seigne (Ire) (**Siyouni {Fr}**). Mqse de Seigne was a five-time Group I winner before being retired last fall. The Jenny Wiley came up with a strong field, but if Excellent Truth can repeat her effort from the Prix Rothschild, she should prove to be too good for her nine rivals. Since her last start she was purchased by John Stewart's Resolute Racing and turned over to Chad Brown. Brown has won this race seven times, including six of the last seven editions. As for **Kehoe Beach** (Omaha Beach), if Be Your Best (Ire) (Muhaarar ({GB})) doesn't go after her early she may be tough to run down. **Be Your Best** is 3-for-4 since being transferred to the Saffie Joseph, Jr. barn and should get a favorable trip stalking the pace. **-Bill Finley**

**Saturday, Oaklawn #8, post time: 5:04 p.m. EDT****COUNT FLEET SPRINT H.-GIII, \$500,000, 4yo/up, 6f**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Devil's Tower	Into Mischief	Antonio Donato	Hernandez	Arrieta	115
2	Happy American 🌿	<b>Runhappy</b>	David Jacobson	Jacobson	Torres	114
3	Booth 🌿	Mitole	L. William Heiligbrodt, Corinne Heiligbrodt, Jackpot Farm, and Whispering Oaks Farm LLC	Asmussen	Asmussen	123
4	Tejano Twist	<b>Practical Joke</b>	JD Thoroughbreds LLC and Joey Keith Davis	Hartman	Hernandez, Jr.	120
5	Payne	Paynter	Robert Proulx	Jacobson	Juarez	116
6	Anarchist 🌿	Distorted Humor	Illum Stables, LLC	O'Neill	Frey	119
7	Ryvit	Competitive Edge	L. William and Corinne Heiligbrodt	Asmussen	Asmussen	116

**Breeders:** 1-Shortleaf Stable, 2-Claiborne Farm, 3-Clearsky Farms, 4-Tom Durant, 5-Millennium Farms & Paynter Syndicate, 6-Centaur Farms, Inc., 7-Curt Leake

With **Booth** (Mitole), it looks like trainer Steve Asmussen decided to utilize the horse's speed, and the results have been remarkable. After stalking the pace in his races, he shot to the lead in the Commodore Stakes and won by 4 3/4 lengths, earning a 105 Beyer figure. He was even better when winning the GIII Whitmore Stakes in wire-to-wire fashion and getting a 107 Beyer. There is no other speed in this race. Will be odds-on, but don't see any way the 4-year-old loses. At 20-1 in the morning line, it's worth using **Payne** (Paynter) underneath Booth. He was claimed by David Jacobson after earning a 101 Beyer in a high-priced claimer. He wasn't nearly as good when finishing second in a starter allowance race in his next start at odds of 7-10, but it was on a muddy track and he probably bounced off the big effort in his previous race. He can bounce back. **Tejano Twist** (**Practical Joke**) was no match for Booth in the Whitmore, but he's a classy and consistent horse who has been first or second in 21 of 39 races. Will be coming late and is another who could round out the exacta. **-Bill Finley**



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**KEENELAND**

**Saturday, Keeneland #9, post time: 5:16 p.m. EDT****STONESTREET LEXINGTON S.-GIII, \$400,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Hard as Life	Gun Runner	Circle 8	Nihei	Doyle	123
2	Bracket Buster 🌿	Vekoma	BBN Racing LLC	Oliver	Franco	123
3	Bullard 🌿	Gun Runner	By Talla Racing LLC, St. Elias Stables LLC, Three Chimneys Farm and West Point Thoroughbreds	McCarthy	Rispoli	123
4	Rolando	Vekoma	St. George Stable LLC	Gutierrez	Velazquez	123
5	Native Runner 🌿	Laoban	Calumet Farm	McPeck	Ortiz	123
6	Gosger	Nyquist	Harvey A. Clarke Racing Stables, LLC	Walsh	Ortiz, Jr.	123
7	Praetor 🌿	Into Mischief	William H. Lawrence, CHP Racing and Gainesway Stable	Brown	Prat	123
8	Hypnus	Into Mischief	Brookdale Racing, Inc.	McPeck	Saez	123
9	Touchy	Nyquist	Three Chimneys Farm LLC	Ward	Rosario	123

**Breeders:** 1-Tropical Racing, 2-David Baxter, 3-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC, 4-St. George Stables, LLC, 5-Siena Farms LLC, 6-Harvey A Clarke Racing Stable LLC, 7-Bridlewood Farm & Alter's RacingStables, Inc., 8-Phoenix Thoroughbreds (III) LTD, 9-Three Chimneys Farm, LLC

We're unlikely to see a GI Kentucky Derby starter emerge from this group (20-10-6-4-2 points are on the line), but there are still some promising 3-year-olds to keep an eye on. Have been high on **Praetor** (Into Mischief) since his well-beaten, debut third at Saratoga last summer (**featured in Second Chances**), and he's looked like a potential star in the making since. He just held on to defeat the Kentucky Derby-bound Sovereignty (Into Mischief) in front-running fashion stretching to a mile at the Big A Sept. 27, then returned from the shelf with a powerful optional claiming victory, albeit against an overmatched group, at that same distance at Gulfstream Mar. 9. Produced by the talented **Curlin** mare **Curlin's Approval** (won graded stakes at 7f and 1 1/16m), there's no reason to believe this two-turn trip isn't within his scope. **Gosger** (**Nyquist**) is another who caught the eye in defeat sprinting on debut, then successfully stretched to a one-turn mile in a highly rated maiden special weight at Gulfstream Feb. 15. Half-brother to GISW and painful GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf third Harvey's Lil Goil (**American Pharoah**) could take another step forward in this two-turn debut. Forced to miss the GII Rebel S. with a fever, the eye-catching, last-to-first GIII Bob Hope S. winner **Bullard** (**Gun Runner**) makes his first start beyond seven furlongs. —**Steve Sherack**

**Sunday, Keeneland #8, post time: 4:44 p.m. EDT****GIANT'S CAUSEWAY S.-GIII, \$350,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2fT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	B G Warrior 🌿	Run Away and Hide	Hat Creek Racing	Brisset	Achard	122
2	Toupie	Uncle Mo	Wertheimer and Frere	Motion	Prat	124
3	Lithe Spirit 🌿	Speightstown	Bradley Thoroughbreds, Gainesway Stable, Laura Leigh Stbl, Scott Estes, and Cambron Equine, LLC	Asmussen	Saez	122
4	Future Is Now	Great Notion	The Estate of R. Larry Johnson	Trombetta	Lopez	124
5	Awesome Treat	Awesome Patriot	Rakesh S. Sikand and Kumud S. Sikand	Wojczynski	Doyle	122
6	Danse Macabre 🌿	Army Mule	NBS Stable and Elements Racing, LLC	Clement	Rosario	122
7	Pandora's Gift (Ire) 🌿	Churchill (Ire)	LSU Stables	Clement	Ortiz, Jr.	122
8	Accomplished Girl 🌿	Street Boss	Gentry Farms	Asmussen	Ortiz	122
9	Get Twisted	Get Stormy	Chester J. Miller	Navarrete	Sanjur	122
10	Just a Care (Ire) 🌿	Australia (GB)	Victoriam Farm LLC	Lynch	Velazquez	122

**Breeders:** 1-Lou Dunn Diekemper Trust, 2-Wertheimer et Frere, 3-Yeguada Centurion S.L., 4-R. Larry Johnson, 5-Kumud S. Sikand, 6-St. Elias Stables LLC, 7-Rossenarra Bloodstock Ltd, 8-Jack Swain III, 9-Glenmare Farm, LLC, 10-China Horse Club International Ltd

Coming off a six-month layoff, **Future Is Now** (Great Notion) may or may not be ready for her best effort. But when the Maryland-bred was right last year, she was good enough to win a pair of Grade II races, the GII Franklin S. at Keeneland and the GII Intercontinental S. at Saratoga. That gives her a big class edge on her rivals in Sunday's Giant's Causeway. At 40-1, **Pandora's Gift (Ire)** (Churchill (Ire)) finished third, just 1 1/4 lengths behind Future Is Now in the Franklin. She's back for trainer Christophe Clement, who has lined up the services of Irad Ortiz Jr. Clement wins 21% of the time when using Ortiz. **Toupie** (Uncle Mo) won the GIII Las Ciengas, a down-the-hill 6 1/2 furlong race at Santa Anita in her last start. This race may prove to be too short for her, but there's little speed in her, she's drawn the two-post and will have the services of Flavien Prat. Will be an early pace factor. —**Bill Finley**



**Friday, Keeneland, post time: 4:12 p.m. EDT**

**FANDUEL LIMESTONE S., \$300,000, 3yo, f, 5 1/2FT**

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	My Lil Punky	Outwork	Triple M Racing Stable LLC	Ennis	Beschizza	118
2	She's All Charm	More Than Ready	Godolphin, LLC	Harty	Corrales	118
3	Lookatmybuckle	Gio Ponti	Social Circle Stable	Miller	Gutierrez	118
4	Abientot	<b>Not This Time</b>	Tracy Farmer	Casse	Davis	120
5	It Ain't Two (GB)	<b>Calyx (GB)</b>	Resolute Racing	Mott	Dettori	123
6	Shisospicy	Mitole	Morplay Racing LLC	D'Angelo	Ortiz, Jr.	118
7	Mighty Eriu (Ire)	Inns of Court (Ire)	Qatar Racing LLC and Fergus Galvin	Walsh	Curtis	118
8	Afternoon Diva	Black Bear	Black Hawk Stable	Hartman	Machado	118
9	Dreamaway	<b>Flameaway</b>	John C. Oxley	Ward	Velazquez	120
10	Laurice	Bolt d'Oro	Bregman Family Racing LLC	Weaver	Prat	118
11	Me Governor	<b>The Factor</b>	Danbro Farms, LLC	David	Ortiz	123
12	Kilwin	<b>Twirling Candy</b>	BBN Racing LLC	Arnold II	Saez	120
13	Lovely Emma	<b>Twirling Candy</b>	C R K Stable LLC	Eurton	Prat	118
14	Serving Time (GB)	Without Parole (GB)	John D. Gunther, Eurowest Bloodstock and Borders Racing Stable Ltd.	DeVaux	Ortiz	118
15	Stay Classy	<b>Promises Fulfilled</b>	Five Fillies Stable LLC and Balios Racing Stable	Romans	Lanerrie	118
16	Hey Bertie	<b>Kantharos</b>	Klein Racing	DeVaux	Hernandez, Jr.	118

**Breeders:** 1-Paul King, 2-Godolphin, 3-BHMFR, LLC, 4-Killora Stud, LLC, 5-Crypto Bloodstock, 6-Bill Heiligbrodt & Corinne Heiligbrodt, 7-Brian Canning & Tom Kelly, 8-James W. Rogers, 9-John C. Oxley, 10-Vehbi Hakan Keles, 11-Mr. & Mrs. Mike Buckley & William VanMeter, 12-Gilder-Schwarz Farms LLC, 13-Nursery Place,Donaldson,Broadbent, 14-J & T Gunther & Borders Racing Stable, 15-Baron Thoroughbreds, LLC, 16-Klein Racing



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## FRIDAY'S RACING INSIGHTS:

by J.N. Campbell



Glenwood dam Stage Magic | Sarah Andrew

## JUSTIFY'S HALF-SISTER LOOKS TO CONJURE FAMILY MAGIC ON DEBUT AT KEENELAND

8th-KEE, \$110K, Msw, 3yo, f, 7f, 4:44 p.m. ET.

**PLAY WITH MAGIC** is set for her unveiling under the care of trainer Cherie DeVaux. Bred by Glenwood's John D. Gunther and his daughter Tanya on the same **Mendelssohn**-Ghostzapper cross as GSW Somethinabouther, the late May foal is out 2018 Broodmare of the Year Stage Magic (Ghostzapper). This dam's productivity includes one of the top North American sires in **Justify** (Scat Daddy), GSW The Lieutenant (**Street Sense**) and SW Stage Raider (Pioneer of the Nile). Stage Magic is also responsible for a yearling filly by Into Mischief and she threw a **Gun Runner** colt Mar. 7. **TJCS PPS**

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the dark bay capped her season with a third-place finish against allowance company at Ellis in mid-August. After being turned out, Crown Imperial returned for trainer John Ortiz as the 3-1 choice here. The homebred was in the mix early up the backstretch and she came away with a narrow margin around the far turn. Entering the lane, the 4-year-old was asked the question and she answered with a head victory over a hard-charging Creed's Gold (Jimmy Creed). The first foal for Sharilyn Gasaway's dam, the winner is a half-sister to the 4 G-owned & Ortiz-trained Reining Flowers (Midnight Storm), SP, \$158,690 and to current 2-year-old colt Golden Rule (Goldencents). Mi Fiori was bred for the second year in a row to **Flameaway**. Crown Imperial's extended female family includes GIII Poker Stakes hero Gucci Factor (Gio Ponti) and Japanese MSW Suni (Soto). Lifetime Record: SW & GSP, 12-3-2-3, \$510,964. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** O/B-4 G Racing (KY); T-John Alexander Ortiz.



Crown Imperial (inside) | Coady Media

## ALLOWANCE WINNERS



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### IN ORDER OF PURSE:

**8th-Keeneland, \$127,426, Alw, 4-10, (NW2\$X), 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2fT, 1:04.67, gd, head.**

**CROWN IMPERIAL (f, 4, Classic Empire--Mi Fiori, by Congrats)** won the Untapable Stakes at Kentucky Downs and finished third in the GII Jessamine Stakes at Keeneland during her juvenile year. Finishing off the board in a pair of graded races last year,

**7th-Keeneland, \$120,000, Alw, 4-10, (NW1X), 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:43.03, gd, 4 1/2 lengths.**

**SUDDEN SWITCH (f, 4, Munnings--Switched Up, by Pleasantly Perfect)** won on debut for trainer Chad Brown at Tampa Bay Jan. 25. Sold in the Fasig-Tipton February Digital Sale, the filly was sent to Riley Mott. Backed by the betting public as a 7-2 shot here, the dark bay fired from the bell and began to carve out every fraction. Untouched up the backstretch and around the far turn, the 4-year-old got the jump on the field entering the lane and was able to see it out by 4 1/2 lengths over Prides Crossing (**Quality Road**). The winner's dam is responsible for a 2-year-old colt by Catalina Cruiser who was sent from the U.S. to Libya in 2024.

**Cont.**





**Sudden Switch** | Coady Media

A half-sister to MGISW Switch (Quiet American), Switched Up foaled a filly by **Charlatan** last year and she was entered in **Mage's** book for this season. Sales History: \$210,000 Ylg '22 KEESEP; \$170,000 4yo '25 FTDFEB. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$91,740. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-Todd Senger, Rebel Racing LLC and Dennis Park; B-Dixiana Farms LLC (KY); T-Riley Mott.



**7th-Gulfstream, \$51,700, Alw, 4-10, 3yo, f, 1m 70y (AWT), 1:40.96, ft, head.**

**MISS MARY NELL (f, 3, Girvin--Tempest's Flash, by It's No Joke)** cleared an open company optional claimer on the all-weather at Gulfstream Park in early December, then finished fifth at the next level over the same course in Hallandale Jan. 9. Facing state bred allowance types at her home strip, the 3-year-old was the runner-up Feb. 21, but she sealed the deal Mar. 23. Miss Mary Nell, tabbed as a 9-2 shot here, broke on top and continued to be quickest into the first turn. The filly held sway up the backstretch and fended off a series of challenges through the lane. Though Special Aviator (**Global Campaign**) had plans to nail her at the wire, the Carlos David trainee turned her back. The winner's dam is responsible for a 2-year-old colt by Neolithic and a yearling filly by Win Win Win. She revisited that same stallion again and produced a filly Mar. 21. Lifetime Record: 11-4-1-2, \$164,663. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-Palm Beach Racing V LLC; B-Palm Beach Racing III, LLC (FL); T-Carlos A. David.

## MAIDEN WINNERS

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**4th-Keeneland, \$108,499, Msw, 4-10, 3yo/up, 5 1/2fT, 1:04.39, gd, 1 length.**

**TROUBLESHOOTING (c, 3, ~~Not This Time~~--Into Trouble {SW, \$182,749}, by Into Mischief)** was the runner-up in his first start at Churchill Downs Sept. 26, but the colt missed the board under the Twin Spires Nov. 1 and Nov. 23. Shedding blinkers and trying turf for the first time as a 7-2 shot here, the homebred was hot on the heels up the backstretch of the pacesetter Bright Skittle (**Twirling Candy**). The 3-year-old waited patiently along the rail around the far turn and at the top of the lane he uncorked in the two path. The dark bay finally collared his target past the sixteenth marker and by a length donned cap and gown. The winner is a half-brother to Big Trouble (**Kantharos**), MSP, \$181,670. Into Trouble also produced colt Trouble Calling (**Dialed In**) who is currently a 2-year-old and foaled a filly by **Nashville** last year. She was bred back to that same sire for the spring. Troublesooting's extended female family includes GISP Ah Jeez (**Mendelssohn**). Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-0, \$96,917. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O/B-Donamire Farm (KY); T-Gregory D. Foley.

**Cont.**



**Troublesooting** | Coady Media





Double Talker | Coady Media

**1st-Keeneland, \$90,000, Msw, 4-10, 2yo, 4 1/2f, :52.29, my, 3 1/2 lengths.**

**DOUBLE TALKER** (g, 2, Hootenanny--Valentine's Nay, by **No Nay Never**) debuted at 9-2 alongside his short-priced stablemate Ashkenazi (Hootenanny). The homebred shadowed the favorite and Pupil (**Tacitus**) as the field made for the far turn. With jockey David Flores seeking his first win since Oct. '21 according to Equibase, Double Talker pulled alongside the pair with a furlong left and fought gamely to graduate by 3 1/2 lengths over Pupil. Ashkenazi faded to fourth. The winner is his unraced dam's first and only registered foal. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$54,405. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV .**

O/B-Ice Wine Stable (KY); T-Wesley A. Ward.

**1st-Gulfstream, \$43,000, Msw, 4-10, 3yo, f, 7f, 1:24.55, ft, 4 1/2 lengths.**

**CAT CHAT** (f, 3, Flatter--Warm Sunshine, by Unbridled's Song) was well-beaten on debut over the Spa turf in late August. After a break, the filly tried the dirt at Gulfstream Park Mar. 16 and fared no better. Ready for another try, the 5-2 second choice here was shuffled to the rear of the field up the backstretch. The 3-year-old looked out of the picture, but around the far turn she began to mount a furious rally. Spinning into the lane, Cat Chat charged down the center of the course and flew home by 4 1/2 lengths over first timer Palm Desert (**Candy Ride {Arg}**). The winner is a half-sister to Steal Sunshine (**Constitution**), GSW, \$750,960. Herself a half-sister to GI **Curlin** Florida Derby runner-up Reveron (Songandaprayer), Warm Sunshine is responsible for a yearling filly by **Essential Quality** and she foaled a filly by **Cody's Wish** Feb. 21. Sales History: \$325,000 2yo '24 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$27,100. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O-R. Lee Lewis, Ryan Lewis and Anthony Lewis; B-Machmer Hall (KY); T-Mark A. Hennig.

**MACHMER HALL** Bred, Foaled and Raised

**TAPROOT** **TWO-YEAR-OLD PURCHASE**

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**9th-Gulfstream, \$43,000, Msw, 4-10, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:35.60, fm, 2 1/4 lengths.**

**OBEISSANTE** (f, 3, Into Mischief--Lucky Folie {SW, \$118,292}, by **Distorted Humor**) was unveiled on the Gulfstream turf in a sprint Feb. 15 and finished fifth. Drawn along the rail for her first two turn test and as a 7-2 shot here, the homebred settled midpack under a firm hold heading to the initial call. Obeissante bided her time up the backstretch, but around the far turn she began to get into gear by executing a sweeping move to the five path. With a strong turn of foot, the Todd Pletcher trainee suddenly jetted down the lane and seized the day by 2 1/4 lengths over the pacesetting favorite Bojaca Blessing (**Cairo Prince**). A half-sister to Ambitieuse (**Medaglia d'Oro**), GSP, \$86,920, the winner is her dam's last registered foal of record. Lucky Folie visited **Curlin** for this term. Digging into Obeissante's extended female family, we find Gulfstream Park turf sprint specialist & MSW Coppola (Into Mischief). Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$26,500. **Click for the [Equibase.com chart](#) or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.**

O/B-Wertheimer Et Frere (KY); T-Todd A. Pletcher.

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Obeissante | Ryan Thompson

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## 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 weekend running at Hanshin and Fukushima Racecourses:



Rhino, the first foal from Princess Noor | JBIS

**Saturday, April 12, 2025**

**4th-HSN, ¥10,600,000 (\$73k), Maiden, 3yo, 1600m**

**AMERICAN POLICE (c, 3, Into Mischief--Theyskens' Theory, by Bernardini)**, a \$350,000 Keeneland September yearling purchase by owner Katsumi Yoshizawa, is the latest to the races for his dam, winner in England of the G3 Prestige Stakes and third in the 2010 G1 Fillies' Mile Stakes before finishing runner-up to Winter Memories (El Prado {Ire}) in the GI Garden City Stakes in 2011. Campaigned by Andrew Rosen, Theyskens' Theory is a half-sister to 2005 champion 2-year-old male Stevie Wonderboy (Stephen Got Even). *O-Yoshizawa Holdings Co Ltd; B-AR Enterprises LLC (KY); T-Yasutoshi Ikee*

**5th-HSN, ¥15,200,000 (\$105k), Allowance, 3yo, 1800m**

**RHINO (JPN) (c, 3, Into Mischief--Princess Noor, by Not This Time)** turned in a pair of creditable fourth-place efforts on the turf to kick off his career, but shaped as a different prospect altogether when switched to the Chukyo dirt for the first time with an authoritative six-length graduation on Jan. 26. Princess Noor, the \$1.35 million topper at the 2020 OBS April Sale, validated 'TDN Rising Star' honors with a smooth success in the

GI Del Mar Debutante Stakes and was knocked down to Katsumi Yoshida for \$2.9 million with this colt in utero at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton November Sale. Rhino squares off with fellow U.S.-conceived Gylfi (Jpn) (**Nyquist**), an impressive debut winner over course and distance Mar. 22. *O-Kazumi Yoshida; B-Northern Farm; T-Tomokazu Takano*

**Sunday, April 13, 2025**

**4th-FKS, ¥10,600,000 (\$73k), Maiden, 3yo, 1700m**

**AMERICAN COOL (c, 3, War Front--Purrfectly Mine, by Mineshaft)**, a half-brother to the stakes-placed Jewel of Arabia (Daredevil), is out of a half-sister to Santa Catarina (Unbridled), third in the 2002 GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies and runner-up in the GI Kentucky Oaks the following spring before posting her lone graded success in the 2003 GII Hollywood Breeders' Cup Oaks. American Cool was a \$150,000 KEESEP purchase by Yoshizawa in 2023. *O-Yoshizawa Holdings Co Ltd; B-International Equities Holding Inc (KY); T-Teiichi Konno*

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**FIRST-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

*2025 Stud Fees Listed*

**Essential Quality (Tapit)**, Darley, \$50,000

119 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners  
2-Keeneland, 1:32 p.m. EDT, Msw 4 1/2f, Essentially Gold, 20-1 \$15,000 KEE SEP yrl

**SECOND-CROP STARTERS TO WATCH: FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

*2025 Stud Fees Listed*

**Authentic (Into Mischief)**, Spendthrift Farm, \$15,000

295 foals of racing age/36 winners/2 black-type winners  
6-Tampa Bay Downs, 3:14 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Moon Gate, 5-2 \$210,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$200,000 FTS AUG yrl

**Cont.**



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**Bobby's Wicked One** (Speightstown), Lacer at Aztec Equine, \$3,500  
46 foals of racing age/4 winners/1 black-type winner  
7-Evangeline Downs, 9:13 p.m. EDT, Msw 6 1/2f, My Man  
Brandon, 12-1

**Gift Box** (Twirling Candy), Lane's End Farm, \$5,000  
134 foals of racing age/18 winners/1 black-type winner  
2-Laurel, 12:44 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Grayson's Girl, 9-5  
\$50,000 EAS OCT yrl

**Global Campaign** (Curlin), WinStar Farm, \$7,500  
177 foals of racing age/23 winners/2 black-type winners  
8-Gulfstream, 4:34 p.m. EDT, Alw 1m, Krioyo, 6-1  
\$25,000 EAS OCT yrl; \$15,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo

**Honor A. P.** (Honor Code), Lane's End Farm, \$10,000  
131 foals of racing age/21 winners/2 black-type winners  
1-Cross Country Pick X, 4:22 p.m. EDT, Aoc 1m, Outsource, 6-1  
\$125,000 OBS APR 2yo

**Imperial Hint** (Imperialism), Clear Creek Stud, \$2,500  
49 foals of racing age/3 winners/1 black-type winner  
7-Evangeline Downs, 9:13 p.m. EDT, Msw 6 1/2f, He's Ready to  
Win, 8-1  
\$18,000 TTA YRL yrl

**Improbable** (City Zip), WinStar Farm  
221 foals of racing age/26 winners/5 black-type winners  
1-Cross Country Pick X, 4:22 p.m. EDT, Aoc 1m, First Pitch, 5-1  
\$120,000 SAR AUG yrl  
4-Gulfstream, 2:26 p.m. EDT, Msw 1 1/16m, Social Majesty, 10-1  
\$375,000 RNA KEE SEP yrl

**Instagrاند** (Into Mischief), Taylor Made Farm, \$8,000  
227 foals of racing age/40 winners/1 black-type winner  
2-Keeneland, 1:32 p.m. EDT, Msw 4 1/2f, Cinnamon Sugar, 6-1  
\$7,000 KEE JAN wnl

**King for a Day** (Uncle Mo), Irish Hill & Dutchess Views Stallions, \$5,000  
83 foals of racing age/8 winners/1 black-type winner  
1-Cross Country Pick X, 4:22 p.m. EDT, Aoc 1m, Mo for the King, 3-1  
\$21,000 FTN MIX wnl; \$50,000 SAR AUG yrl

**Lone Sailor** (Majestic Warrior), Red River Farms  
47 foals of racing age/4 winners/0 black-type winners  
7-Evangeline Downs, 9:13 p.m. EDT, Msw 6 1/2f, Sailor de Aces,  
15-1

**McKinzie** (Street Sense), Gainesway Farm, \$75,000  
301 foals of racing age/30 winners/3 black-type winners  
4-Gulfstream, 2:26 p.m. EDT, Msw 1 1/16m, Santal, 20-1  
\$77,000 RNA KEE NOV wnl; \$82,000 OBS WIN wnl; \$175,000  
RNA KEE SEP yrl

**Pinatubo** (Ire) (Shamardal), Dalham Hall Stud, \$30,000  
234 foals of racing age/25 winners/1 black-type winner  
5-Keeneland, 3:08 p.m. EDT, Alw 1 1/16mT, Al Jafara (GB), 4-1  
15,000gns TAT OCT yrl; €37,000 ARQ BRU 2yo; €250,000 ARA  
RC 2yo

**Promises Fulfilled** (Shackleford), WinStar Farm, \$5,000  
37 foals of racing age/14 winners/1 black-type winner  
2-Laurel, 12:44 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Peachy Promises, 5-1  
\$12,000 KEE NOV wnl  
7-Keeneland, 4:12 p.m. EDT, \$300K FanDuel Limestone S., 5  
1/2fT, Stay Classy, 20-1  
\$60,000 FTK OCT yrl; \$100,000 OBS APR 2yo

**Thousand Words** (Pioneer of the Nile), Spendthrift Farm, \$12,500  
202 foals of racing age/29 winners/5 black-type winners  
5-Laurel, 2:23 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Maupansant, 20-1  
\$4,500 FTK OCT yrl

**Tom's d'Etat** (Smart Strike), WinStar Farm, \$5,000  
136 foals of racing age/23 winners/2 black-type winners  
5-Laurel, 2:23 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Breezing Up, 20-1  
\$45,000 KEE NOV wnl

**Vekoma** (Candy Ride {Arg}), Spendthrift Farm, \$35,000  
288 foals of racing age/65 winners/10 black-type winners  
7-Evangeline Downs, 9:13 p.m. EDT, Msw 6 1/2f,  
Asthecoldwindblows, 6-1  
2-Laurel, 12:44 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Veola, 8-1  
\$60,000 BSL Y&M yrl; \$45,000 RNA OBS APR 2yo

**Volatile** (Violence), Three Chimneys Farm, \$12,500  
233 foals of racing age/37 winners/2 black-type winners  
3-Oaklawn, 2:26 p.m. EDT, Msw 1m, La Fantastica, 7-2  
\$140,000 KEE SEP yrl  
4-Gulfstream, 2:26 p.m. EDT, Msw 1 1/16m, Majorca, 6-1  
\$135,000 FTK JUL yrl  
1-Cross Country Pick X, 4:22 p.m. EDT, Aoc 1m, Play the Gray,  
15-1  
\$35,000 FTN MIX wnl; \$29,000 RNA SAR AUG yrl; \$16,000 FTK  
OCT yrl; \$45,000 OBS MAR 2yo

**Cont.**



**War of Will (War Front)**, Claiborne Farm, \$15,000  
 204 foals of racing age/27 winners/1 black-type winner  
 2-Keeneland, 1:32 p.m. EDT, Msw 4 1/2f, Gorrone Ranch, 2-1  
 \$25,000 KEE SEP yrl  
 5-Laurel, 2:23 p.m. EDT, Msw 6f, Nicole's Will, 12-1  
 \$60,000 FTK JUL yrl; \$100,000 RNA OBS MAR 2yo  
 4-Oaklawn, 2:58 p.m. EDT, Aoc 6f, The Warden, 4-1  
 \$95,000 KEE SEP yrl; \$170,000 EAS MAY 2yo



**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

**7th-Aqueduct, \$76,000**, (S), (NW1\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$80,000), 4-10, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:37.12, ft, 2 1/2 lengths.

**VALTELLINA (f, 3, Complexity--Take Charge Sue, by Take Charge Indy)** Lifetime Record: SP, 7-2-1-1, \$135,180. O-Pavilion Racing; B-Thorostock, LLC (NY); T-Raymond Handal. \*\$67,000 Ylg '23 SARAUG.

**7th-Mahoning Valley, \$35,100**, (S), 4-10, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.02, sy, 4 3/4 lengths.

**DANCEHALL JUSTICE (f, 3, Birdrun--Cross Country, by Divine Park)** Lifetime Record: 8-3-0-1, \$68,701. O-Gregory Justice; B-Justice Farm, Greg Justice (OH); T-Jay P. Bernardini.

**8th-Mahoning Valley, \$33,700**, (S), 4-9, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:14.98, ft, 6 1/2 lengths.

**ANGEL I'M NOT (f, 3, Dynamic Racer--Angel Heritage, by Shackleford)** Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-3, \$56,980. O-Robert C. Cline; B-Lou Dunn Diekemper Trust (OH); T-Robert C. Cline.

**3rd-Mahoning Valley, \$33,700**, (S), 4-10, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:14.03, sy, 3 1/2 lengths.

**DUSTY BILLY (g, 3, Birdrun--Dusty Lily, by Desert Warrior)**

Lifetime Record: 9-2-3-2, \$68,870. O-Linda J. Carrera; B-Strike Plate, LLC (OH); T-Danny R. Bird.

**6th-Mahoning Valley, \$33,700**, (S), 4-10, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:13.56, sy, 5 1/4 lengths.

**OH LOVER BOY (g, 3, William's Kitten--Love First Sight, by Alke)** Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-2, \$47,430. O-Ebenezer Racing, LLC and Juana Lopez; B-Ben T Mumaw (OH); T-Jacinto Lopez.

**7th-Will Rogers Downs, \$30,000, Hcp**, 4-9, 3yo/up, 1m, 1:37.58, ft, 3/4 length.

**MANDOLIN WIND (g, 5, Mastery--Another World {SW, \$189,503}, by Maria's Mon)** Lifetime Record: 15-6-3-1, \$151,273. O-Haley Luneack; B-Pin Oak Stud, LLC (KY); T-Alex T. Hartman. \*\$16,000 Ylg '21 KEESEP. \*\*1/2 to Munny Grab (Munnings), MSP, \$174,740.

**5th-Turf Paradise, \$25,000**, (C)/Opt. Clm (\$40,000-\$50,000), 4-9, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:14.91, ft, 3/4 length.

**PRAYER OF JABEZ (g, 6, Stanford--Alwazabridesmaid, by Kafwain)** Lifetime Record: MSP, 35-8-7-8, \$237,526. O-Anthony DeMarco; B-Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, LLC (CA); T-Edward J. Kereluk.

**8th-Turf Paradise, \$22,000**, (C)/Opt. Clm (\$15,000-\$20,000), 4-9, 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:03.55, ft, 1/2 length.

**REAL GOOD MAGIC (g, 4, Good Magic--Thunderous Gem {MSP, \$108,272}, by Gemologist)** Lifetime Record: 9-2-0-3, \$52,131. O-Mitchell W. Cathey; B-WinStar Farm, LLC (KY); T-Bennie L. Woolley, Jr. \*\$3,500 Ylg '22 KEEJAN.



**3rd-Turf Paradise, \$22,000**, (NW1X)/Opt. Clm (\$50,000-\$75,000), 4-10, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:09.35, ft, 1 1/4 lengths.

**SALEEN G T (f, 3, Barkley--Knight Club {SP}, by Matty G)** Lifetime Record: SP, 3-2-0-1, \$32,620. O-Roy Schaefer; B-Nina Hagen & Ron Hagen (WA); T-Frank Lucarelli. \*\$15,000 Ylg '23 WASSEP.

TODAY'S FEATURED REPLAY



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*Obeissante (by Into Mischief) rolls late in the ninth at Gulfstream*  
[\(click to watch\)](#)

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**He Is Dynamic**, g, 3, **Dynamic Racer**--Ameribelle, by Distorted Humor. Mahoning Valley, 4-10, (S), 1m, 1:44.50. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-1, \$29,768. B-Hugo Andrade (OH).

**Frantic**, c, 3, **Into Mischief**--Ysteric, by Unbridled's Song. Aqueduct, 4-10, (C), 6f, 1:11.64. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$29,900. B-Wertheimer Et Frere (KY). \*1/2 to Courbe (**Quality Road**), SP, \$177,676.

**Forty Love**, g, 3, **Win Win Win**--Lovemelikeyoudo, by Harlan's Holiday. Keeneland, 4-10, (C), 7f, 1:24.03. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$33,669. B-Brereton C. Jones (FL). \*\$35,000 RNA Wlg '22 KEENOV; \$150,000 Ylg '23 FTKJUL.

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**Barkley**, Saleen G T, f, 3, o/o Knight Club, by Matty G. AOC, 4-10, Turf Paradise

**Birdrun**, Dancehall Justice, f, 3, o/o Cross Country, by Divine Park. ALW, 4-10, Mahoning Valley

**Birdrun**, Dusty Billy, g, 3, o/o Dusty Lily, by Desert Warrior. ALW, 4-10, Mahoning Valley

**Classic Empire**, Crown Imperial, f, 4, o/o Mi Fiori, by Congrats. ALW, 4-10, Keeneland

**Complexity**, Valtellina, f, 3, o/o Take Charge Sue, by **Take Charge Indy**. AOC, 4-10, Aqueduct

**Dynamic Racer**, Angel I'm Not, f, 3, o/o Angel Heritage, by Shackleford. ALW, 4-9, Mahoning Valley

**Dynamic Racer**, He Is Dynamic, g, 3, o/o Ameribelle, by Distorted Humor. MSW, 4-10, Mahoning Valley

**Flatter**, Cat Chat, f, 3, o/o Warm Sunshine, by Unbridled's Song. MSW, 4-10, Gulfstream

**Girvin**, Miss Mary Nell, f, 3, o/o Tempest's Flash, by It's No Joke. ALW, 4-10, Gulfstream

**Good Magic**, Real **Good Magic**, g, 4, o/o Thunderous Gem, by Gemologist. AOC, 4-9, Turf Paradise

**Hootenanny**, Double Talker, g, 2, o/o Valentine's Nay, by **No Nay Never**. MSW, 4-10, Keeneland

**Into Mischief**, Frantic, c, 3, o/o Ysteric, by Unbridled's Song. MCL, 4-10, Aqueduct

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**Into Mischief**, Obeissante, f, 3, o/o Lucky Folie, by Distorted Humor. MSW, 4-10, Gulfstream

**Mastery**, Mandolin Wind, g, 5, o/o Another World, by Maria's Mon. HCP, 4-9, Will Rogers

**Munnings**, Sudden Switch, f, 4, o/o Switched Up, by Pleasantly Perfect. ALW, 4-10, Keeneland

**Not This Time**, Troubleshooting, c, 3, o/o Into Trouble, by Into Mischief. MSW, 4-10, Keeneland

**Stanford**, Prayer of Jabez, g, 6, o/o Alwazabridesmaid, by Kafwain. AOC, 4-9, Turf Paradise

**William's Kitten**, Oh Lover Boy, g, 3, o/o Love First Sight, by Alke. ALW, 4-10, Mahoning Valley

**Win Win Win**, Forty Love, g, 3, o/o Lovemelikeyoudo, by Harlan's Holiday. MCL, 4-10, Keeneland

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# Habitat for Humanity Veterans' Build Program

## SILENT AUCTION

### Meet Kentucky Derby Winner MAGE and Stay on a Thoroughbred Farm for the Weekend in Lexington, KY!



Get up close and personal with Mage, the 2023 Kentucky Derby winner, and learn about his new life at Airdrie Stud in Midway, Kentucky, on a tour of the 2,500-acre property with the farm's owner, Bret Jones. Airdrie encompasses the land where the legendary stallion Lexington stood at stud for 16 years. You will learn all about the workings of a Thoroughbred farm and will also be given a guided tour of New Vocations, which has retrained and placed 8,000 former racehorses into loving homes. Meet the horses there, and see how they are trained to become riding horses when their racing careers are over.

You'll stay at The Cabin at Denali Stud, a beautiful cabin reimaged as an Airbnb on a historic horse farm where the mares and foals will walk right up to your fence. You'll also enjoy a dinner of Southern Italian hand-crafted recipes with a \$100 gift certificate at Frank and Dino's Restaurant. Take home an authentic halter worn by Mage to remember your experience forever. [Click here to see more on this property.](#)



Donors: Bret Jones, Denali Stud, New Vocations, Carlo Vacarezza.

This silent auction item will raise money for the Monmouth County Habitat for Humanity's Veterans Build Program, which helps keep veterans in their homes in Monmouth County, NJ.



## SILENT AUCTION

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## FOLEY HAILS SANDS OF MALI AFTER SALE OF SMART PROSPECT BY THE STALLION



**Joe Foley: bought the Clipper cast-off Edge Of Mali for just 3,000gns | Tattersalls**

By Brian Sheerin

Promising three-year-old Edge Of Mali (Ire) (Sands Of Mali {Fr}), who chased home Irish 2,000 Guineas entrant Currawood (Ire) (Acclamation {GB}) on debut at Dundalk, has been sold to continue her career in America.

The six-figure sale represents a remarkable upswing in value for trainer Claire O'Connell's filly, who was sold for 3,000gns by Clipper Logistics at last year's Tattersalls July Sale.

It was Joe Foley, long-time advisor to Clipper boss Steve Parkin, who saw the merits in what was at the time an unraced two-year-old. The sale of Edge Of Mali comes hot on the heels of Copacabana Sands (Ire), another nice prospect by Sands Of Mali, finishing an unlucky fifth in a 1,000 Guineas Trial at Leopardstown. The Ballyhane-based sire also has two entries in Saturday's G3 Fred Darling Stakes and Foley has hailed the young stallion as the best he has ever had through his hands.

Cont. p3

## FORMER MEDDLER STUD OWNER BILL LEACH DIES AT 91

The death was reported last week of William (Bill) Berkeley Leach at the age of nearly 92. Bill Leach was, for many years, the owner and manager of Meddler Stud, situated in Kentford, on the outskirts of Newmarket and came from an established racing family. A successful businessman, he was also active in local politics. Although not seen about as much of late, he had inherited his family's jovial and clubbable nature, and for many years, was an amusing and generous host.

The Stud had been laid out by his grandfather, Felix Leach (1868-1952) who had come down to Newmarket, from Wigan, to assist Matt Dawson at Health House Stables during St Simon's time, and he later assisted Richard Marsh at Egerton House, when Persimmon won the Derby for the King in 1896. The following year Felix Leach commenced training, on his own account, at Graham Place. **Cont. p5**

## IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

### CRIMSON FROST BEGINS MERRIEBELLE REDUCTION

**Crimson Frost** (Stormy Atlantic) sold for \$240,000 during the Fasig-Tipton Digital April Sale which concluded on Wednesday. She is part of a Merriebelle Stable reduction.

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**PUBLISHER & CEO**

Sue Morris Finley @suefinley  
suefinley@thetdn.com

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Gary King @garykingTDN  
garyking@thetdn.com

**European & International Editor**

Emma Berry @collingsberry  
emmaberry@thetdn.com

**Managing Editor**

Heather Anderson @HLAndersonTDN

**Business Development Manager**

Alayna Cullen Birkett @AlaynaCullen  
alaynacullen@thetdn.com

**European Sales Editor**

Brian Sheerin @BrianSheerin91

**Associate European Editor**

Adam Houghton @hought94

**Cafe Racing**

Sean Cronin & Tom Frary  
caferacing@thetdn.com

**Contributing Editors**

Alan Carasso  
Christina Bossinakis

**Regular Columnists**

Chris McGrath | John Berry | Paul Hayward

**ADVERTISING**

tdnadstaff@gmail.com

**Director of Advertising**

Alycia Borer

**Advertising Manager**

Lia Best

**Senior Advertising Designer**

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Amie Newcomb

**Advertising Assistant/Dir. of Distribution**

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**Advertising Assistant**

Liz Fronczek

60 Broad Street, Suite 105

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# LAWS OF INDICES THE WINNING FORMULA



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TODAY in TDN EUROPE

Friday, April 11, 2025



A filly by 2000 Guineas hero **Chaldean (GB)** out of Aimhirgin Lass (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}) is pictured at the Irish National Stud. The Juddmonte stallion stands for £25,000 this year and is welcoming his first crop of foals. | Sara Gordon

## 6 | OP/ED: RACING'S FUTURE & REDUCING GAMBLING HARM GO HAND IN HAND

There is a pressing need to separate racing from online casino gambling in order to grow racing turnover.

## 9 | OBSERVATIONS: WE'LL DEFEND TAKES THE NEXT STEP

Friday's Saint-Cloud card marks the return of 'TDN Rising Star' We'll Defend (Fr) (Zelzal {Fr}).

## 11 | DANON DECILE JOIN'S WORLD'S ELITE ON LONGINES WBRR

The son of Epiphaneia (Jpn) is now ranked third in the world after the latest Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings were released.

## Sands Of Mali Cont. from p1

"We're very proud of how Sands Of Mali is going," Foley said. "In fairness, in spite of all the drama that has surrounded him in recent times, he's standing up for himself, is doing it the hard way and is definitely the best stallion that I have ever had. He is fully booked and lots of good breeders are on him. He has a good reputation and he deserves it."

Foley added, "He looks like a serious stallion to me. His first crop features Copacabana Sands, Clarie's filly and now Time For Sandals (Ire) and Ellaria Sand (GB) are exciting runners in the Fred Darling on Saturday. That's not even mentioning the Royal Ascot winner from last year [Aint Nobody (Ire)] as well."

Edge Of Mali was pre-trained by Andrew Lynch and Riona Teggart at Kilbrew Stables on behalf of Clipper Logisitcs before being offered under the hammer at last year's July Sale. So impressed was Lynch by what he had

been seeing from the filly in her early development, he told Foley to go and buy her. The pair partnered up on the filly and have now been rewarded ten-fold for their faith.

O'Connell explained, "Everyone is delighted--Andrew and

Riona from Kilbrew Stables used to break all of the Clipper horses and, when she came up in the July Sale, they got Joe Foley to buy her for just 3,000gns. She was very big and just needed a bit of time. We love Sands Of Mali and actually have a mare in foal to him. We think he upgrades his mares. Andrew did all of the pre-training and, when he brought her up to me, I didn't have to do much with her at all. It's a great result."

Edge Of Town (Ire) (Showcasing {GB}), the dam of Edge Of Mali, was also offloaded

by Parkin's Rathbride Farm for just €1,000 at the Goffs November Sale.



Sands Of Mali's Royal Ascot winner Aint Nobody | [Racingphotos.com](https://www.racingphotos.com)

Cont. p4

# BRADSELL

## European Champion Sprinter

First mares scanned in foal include:

- ◆ **EBONY FLYER**  
3x Group 1 winner
- ◆ **TAMARISK**  
dam of Gr.2 winner **HAPPY POWER**
- ◆ **LADY ELEANOR**  
daughter of multiple stakes winner **FIRENZE**,  
full-sister to Gr.1 July Cup winner **FRIZZANTE**



Joe Bradley [Joe.bradley@nationalstud.co.uk](mailto:Joe.bradley@nationalstud.co.uk)  
 Jamie Jackson [Jamie.jackson@nationalstud.co.uk](mailto:Jamie.jackson@nationalstud.co.uk)  
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**Edge Of Mali at two** | *Mel Media*

### Sands Of Mali Cont.

It is well-documented that the High Court rejected an application from Parkin to have Sands Of Mali removed from Foley's Ballyhane base after the relationship between the pair broke down. However, Foley insists that he never had anything to hide, and that he was happy to sign for Edge Of Mali at public auction, given he always believed that the filly could go on to show her true colours on the track.

He explained, "When I bought the filly, a few people asked why I put my name on the docket. My reply was, 'why not? It's a public auction, I know more about the filly than anybody else, so why wouldn't I?' I'm not sneaking around corners hiding and pretending to do anything because I've nothing to hide. I loved her as a yearling, and that's why I nominated her for the Bronte syndicate, who were going to race her last year until various circumstances changed. When she was put up for sale, of course I was going to be interested in buying her. In actual fact, she wasn't the only one that I bought."

He added, "Andrew had pre-trained her for the previous owners and he liked her. That's why we both clubbed together and bought her at the sales. Andrew kept her and did a great job prepping her before she went to Claire, who readied her for the race. In fairness to Andrew, he always said she was a good filly-- he said she could be Stakes-class. I'm also delighted for Claire who put the finishing touches on the filly before Dundalk."

Edge Of Mali is understood to have been snapped up by California-based trainer Jeff Mullins on behalf of the Rancho Temescal ownership group. There is something of an irony to that sale given it was Mullins who raced River Boyne (Ire), a colt that Foley pinhooked by his late stallion Dandy Man (Ire), to a good degree of success.

**Cont. p5**

# Classic Winners & Classic Sires!

- **AUGUSTE RODIN** (DEEP IMPACT – RHODODENDRON)
- **AUSTRALIA** (GALILEO – OUIJA BOARD)
- **CAMELOT** (MONTJEU – TARFAH)
- **CHURCHILL** (GALILEO – MEOW)
- **CITY OF TROY** (JUSTIFY – TOGETHER FOREVER)
- **FOOTSTEPSINTHESAND** (GIANT'S CAUSEWAY – GLATISANT)
- **GLENEAGLES** (GALILEO – YOU'RE SOTHILLING)
- **HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR** (DANEHILL – L'ON VITE)
- **PADDINGTON** (SIYOUNI – MODERN EAGLE)
- **SAXON WARRIOR** (DEEP IMPACT – MAYBE)
- **ST MARK'S BASILICA** (SIYOUNI – CABARET)
- **WOOTTON BASSETT** (IFFRAAJ – BALLADONIA)



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# LONGINES

## WORLD RANKINGS

### Measuring Racing Greatness THE LONGINES WORLD'S BEST RACEHORSE RANKINGS

for 3yos and upward that raced between 1st January 2025 to 6th April 2025

RANK	RATING	HORSE	TRAINED IN
1	127	Forever Young (JPN)	JPN
2	126	Romantic Warrior (IRE)	HK
3	125	Danon Decile (JPN)	JPN
4	124	Ka Ying Rising (NZ)	HK
4	124	White Abarrio (USA)	USA



Danon Decile ©Racingfotos.com





### Sands Of Mali Cont.

And while Sands Of Mali has just 24 yearlings coming through this year, Foley reports many of the top breeders to have stood up and taken notice of what the young sire--whose fee is private--has achieved to date.

He said, "Sands Of Mali has only got 24 yearlings coming through but he's going to have a big crop of foals this year as he covered 115 mares last year. He also has a solid crop of two-year-olds, albeit only 40-something, and the first of those was quite eye-catching at Redcar the other day."

Foley added, "There have been some very good reports already about some of those two-year-olds. So the smallish crop of yearlings this year is as a result of him missing 17 days of a crucial part of the breeding season due to an accident. There will be a lull but nowadays people are clever enough to judge a stallion on his merits for good or for bad.

"Obviously fashion comes into it but there are a lot of very clever people who can analyse this game properly. Farhh (GB) is a perfect example. He doesn't have a lot of runners but he has a lot of high-class horses and is a very good stallion. Even though Sands Of Mali has a small crop coming through, lots of people are able to work out that he is a good stallion."

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### William Leach Obit Cont. from p1

An enormously popular figure, well known for breeding gamecocks and fox terriers, Felix had three sons, all of whom were apprenticed to him and rode winners. Felix junior died when he was only 31, but Jack Leach (1901-1972) rode a Classic winner (Adam's Apple - 2,000 Guineas), trained for 20 years and wrote possibly the most amusing book ever written on racing, "Sods I have cut on the turf", eventually handing over his training business to his assistant, a young Bernard Van Cutsem.



Bill Leach

The third son was Henry Leach (1908-1970), Bill's father, always known as Chubb. Once out of his time, he was stable jockey to Capt. Boyd Rochford for four years, until, in 1931, increasing weight cut short his career in the saddle, and he started training at Queensbury Lodge. Mickey The Greek (July Cup, Nunthorpe and King's Stand) owned by Lt. Col. N.E. "Nat" Freeze of Lanwades Stud was probably his best horse. On his father's death, in 1953, he ceased training and took over the management of Meddler Stud.

Chubb died in 1970 and his son, Bill, took over at Meddler Stud. Despite riding out with his father he didn't follow the family into training like his father, uncles and cousin Geoff Wragg. He operated Meddler as a stud farm with stallions such as Will Somers, Nelcius, Most Welcome, Pretendre and Tutankhamen (who was imported from America) were the main stays. Meddler was also one of the first large-scale boarding studs in Newmarket, for many years housing Sheikh Maktoum al Maktoum's Gainsborough Stud yearlings.

A large part of the stud was sold at the turn of the century and is now a housing estate, but the main part of Meddler now forms part of neighboring Lanwades Stud. A few of Grandpa Felix Leach's grey gamecocks lingered on, in a feral state, in the shelter belts, until the houses were built, but with their demise and Bill's death, a Newmarket racing dynasty comes to an end.

Bill is remembered warmly for his uplifting laugh and good humour, his gentle honesty and warmth to all those around him. He leaves a wife, Bente, and a son Charles and daughter Tania, son and daughter-in-law plus grandchildren Zena, Rex, Lily and Zac.

The funeral will be at All Saint's Church in Newmarket at 3pm on Thursday 24th April and afterwards at the Jockey Club Rooms. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The National Horseracing Museum. --MP and KR

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## OP/ED: RACING'S FUTURE AND REDUCING GAMBLING HARM GO HAND IN HAND

*By Stewart Kenny and Matt Zarb-Cousin*

When betting shops had Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) at £100 a spin, offering high-speed roulette, the machines changed the atmosphere of betting shops. Punters were enticed onto the machines with free spins and 'tournaments' to cross-promote the more addictive content. This in turn had a detrimental impact on racing, as it reduced turnover which sucked cash out of the levy.

It was clear that the commercial model of the betting shop had shifted as a result of the presence and promotion of highly addictive machines offering high stakes, fixed margin slot and casino games. [Cont. p6](#)

**Op/Ed Cont.**

FOBTs eventually became responsible for way over half of bookmaker revenue despite having nothing whatsoever to do with bookmaking.

In recent years, the same has been happening online through the cross-promotion of online slots and casino content. Punters might sign up to a betting site to bet on racing, but within 48 hours of opening their account they are then bombarded with incentives and free offers that lure them into the online casino.

Those under 25 are most susceptible to developing an issue with gambling, particularly when confronted with high-speed casino content, which has a much higher rate of addiction than the low risk of betting on horse racing.

Forty-five per cent of those engaging with slots and casino online are either problem or at-risk gamblers, and it's the revenue growth associated with this side of the betting industry that is powering the demands for regulation from the public and reform campaigners, who quite legitimately want to curtail the harm these products can cause.

This is what has led to policies like stake limits for (previously unlimited) online slots, recently confirmed by the government to be going ahead in line with what the gambling White Paper initially set out.

Following the £2 limit on FOBTs being enacted in 2019, operators were keen for lucrative online slots not to befall the same fate. In the process of resisting this their chief executives and representatives proposed 'affordability checks', claiming they had the technological capability to tailor limits to customers without the need for a uniform stake cap.

However, we have ended up in a worst-of-all-worlds situation where the type of affordability checks being carried out by operators are not effective enough to reduce the harm associated with the slots and casino product, but are too intrusive for ordinary horse race gamblers. Information from racing punters is obtained via invasive processes that lack uniformity across the sector, due to insufficient guidance and oversight from the Gambling Commission. This has led to the completely illogical situation where source of funds checks are carried out by some operators when someone tries to make a

withdrawal.

There is a way for racing to get out of this mess, saving itself from the reputational risk of being associated with a highly addictive product that derives no societal benefit. And that's for racing's representatives to argue for separate wallets and platforms for betting on lower-risk horse racing, extricating it from the highly addictive online slots and casino. This would enable racing to argue for an exemption from affordability checks, and keep more money in the sport by curbing operator

cross-promotion of their more harmful content.

It would also provide the basis for government, which has promised a review of gambling tax, to reduce the tax on horse race betting in exchange for taxing online slots and casinos more. Instead of arguing for a harmonisation of gambling taxes, as the government has mooted, racing needs to delineate itself from other more harmful forms of gambling.

Horse racing should be as far away from online casinos as possible, but its

representatives have allowed it to be used as a tool by the gambling lobby to argue against more regulation of the sector, and to protect a commercial model that is not in its interests, nor in the interests of punters. One that is geared towards the cross-promotion of online casino and slots to the detriment of racing, which in turn has fuelled gambling harm and therefore the demands for more regulation.

But the interests of those calling for reform of gambling regulation in order to reduce harm, and those who want a fair deal when they bet and to protect horse racing, should be in alignment. It has not served racing's interests to throw their lot in with the betting lobby and its outdated, falsifiable pretence that all gambling is the same and addiction results solely from faults with individuals rather than addictive products and the practices of the sector.

Racing's representatives should be arguing the very opposite: that betting on the sport carries a lower degree of risk than online casino, and should therefore be regulated differently. That means different wallets, licenses and platforms that wouldn't need to be subject to the same degree of oversight that online slots and casino require. It's time for racing to stand up for itself against the corporate bookmakers. **Cont. p7**



**A distinction must be drawn between betting on racing and online casinos | *Racingfotos.com***



## Op/Ed Cont.

*\*Matt Zarb-Cousin is a co-founder of Gamban, director of Clean Up Gambling, a senior government affairs advisor to YieldSec, and a spokesperson for the Campaign for Fairer Gambling (CFG).*

*\*Stewart Kenny is a co-founder of Stop Gambling Harm. He was also one of the three co-founders of bookmaker Paddy Power, of which he was CEO for 15 years and non-executive director for a further 15 years.*

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# EUROPEAN NEWS

## VICKI DONLON APPOINTED INTERIM CEO OF LEOPARDSTOWN RACECOURSE



**Vicki Donlon** | INPHO/Tom Maher

Vicki Donlon has been appointed interim CEO of Leopardstown Racecourse, Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) announced on Thursday.

Donlon rejoins the team at Leopardstown with immediate effect as the process continues to find a permanent replacement for Tim Husbands, who steps down this week after five years in the role.

Having joined HRI when appointed commercial & marketing manager at Leopardstown in 2015, Donlon has led the commercial brief for HRI's Racecourse Division for the last four years, working with Leopardstown, Fairyhouse, Navan and Tipperary.

Paul Dermody, CEO of HRI Racecourses, said, "I am delighted to see Vicki rejoining the team at Leopardstown Racecourse as interim CEO. She played a huge part in the commercial development of Leopardstown in the past and continued that

fine work in her role as commercial manager of all four HRI racecourses since 2021.

"The process to fill the role of Leopardstown CEO on a permanent basis is ongoing and we expect to be in a position to make a further announcement on this in the coming months."

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## CASHEL PALACE HOTEL EXTEND SPONSORSHIP OF €100,000 DERBY TRIAL STAKES

Cashel Palace Hotel has extended its sponsorship of the G3 Cashel Palace Hotel Derby Trial Stakes for three years, Leopardstown Racecourse announced on Thursday. The 2025 edition, which is scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 11, will also offer an increased prize fund of €100,000.

Paul Dermody, CEO of HRI Racecourses, said, "We are thrilled to continue our partnership with a quality brand such as Cashel Palace Hotel and the support they have committed to the Derby Trial Stakes running through to 2027 is very significant.

"This important race in the calendar will carry a prize fund of €100,000 for the next three years and is one of a number of prize-money enhancements across the Flat programme that Leopardstown have confirmed for this season and beyond."

The illustrious roll of honour for the Derby Trial Stakes includes the subsequent Epsom winners Sinndar (Ire), Galileo (Ire) and High Chaparral (Ire), as well as the four-time Gold Cup hero Yeats (Ire). Cashel Palace Hotel sponsored the contest for the first time last year when Los Angeles (Ire) (**Camelot GB**) ran out a commanding winner, before going on to win the Irish Derby after his third-place finish at Epsom.

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**Karen Fleming** (left), director of sales at Cashel Palace Hotel, **Adriaan Bartels** (centre), general manager of Cashel Palace Hotel and **Paul Dermody**, CEO of HRI Racecourses | *Morgan Treacy/Inpho*

## MORE THAN 700 TIPPERARY STUDENTS ATTEND COOLMORE CAREERS DAY



Aidan O'Brien, principal Billy Walsh (third left) and MV Magnier with students from Fethard's Patrician Presentation Secondary School Coolmore

The inaugural Coolmore Careers Day, in association with Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School, took place in the Fethard Town Park on Thursday, April 10. Students also had the opportunity to visit Coolmore and see the stallion yard at first hand, along with mares and foals in their paddocks.

More than 700 students from 15 post-primary schools across County Tipperary availed of the opportunity to attend the Careers Day, dedicated to bloodstock, farming, tourism, hospitality and associated sectors.

As part of the Careers Day, farriers and trades people did live demonstrations and each office-based discipline had a stall staffed by a member of the Coolmore team, showcasing the wide range of careers available across these industries. Stalls were also hosted by the University of Limerick, Kildalton Agricultural College, Gurteen Agricultural College and CAFRE--the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise in Northern Ireland.

Billy Walsh, principal of Fethard Patrician Presentation Secondary School, said, "Bloodstock, farming and tourism are the lifeblood of County Tipperary and we are blessed to have Coolmore and Ballydoyle on our doorstep. Farming and bloodstock are two of the major employers in this region and they also support tourism, heritage, sustainable communities and our environment.

"Today's visit shows that whether a student is considering a Solas apprenticeship, Agricultural College or university, there are careers to suit all interests and talents and that's something to celebrate."

Tom Lynch, farm manager, Coolmore, added, "Each year

Coolmore employs numerous apprentices and graduates who cut their teeth working with some of the best in the industry. We wanted to showcase to these students the array of opportunities they have on their doorstep.

"We'd love to see this event growing from strength to strength, as a showcase for the much broader farming and bloodstock sector."

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## PETER O'SULLEVAN LAMBOURN OPEN DAY RETURNS ON GOOD FRIDAY

The Peter O'Sullivan Lambourn Open Day will be held on Good Friday, April 18, this year. Last year's event was cancelled due to waterlogging.

Fans will be able to visit over 20 training yards in Lambourn from 9a-1p, including Nicky Henderson's legendary Seven Barrows, home to **Constitution** Hill (GB) (Blue Bresil {Fr}) and Jonbon (Fr) (Walk In The Park {Ire}), among others. There will also be the Parade of Equine Heros, sponsored by Windsor Clive International that afternoon. Some of the big names in the parade are champion chasers Altior (Ire) (High Chaparral {Ire}) and Sprinter Sacre (Fr) (Network {Ger}), as well as Cheltenham Gold Cup hero Coneygree (GB) (Karinga Bay {GB}). There will also be the Carisbrooke Stud Celebrity Showjumping, featuring stars such as Nico de Boinville, James Bowen and A.P. McCoy.

Tickets are £15 per person with children under 12 free. If you are attending only the afternoon portion of the Lambourn Open Day, tickets are £10 per person.

Mark Smyly, chairman of the Lambourn Open Day, said, "We're thrilled to welcome everyone back to Lambourn for this year's event, especially after the disappointment of last year's cancellation. The Open Day is not only a chance for fans to meet some of the sport's biggest stars, but it also serves as a vital fundraiser for the Lambourn community and horse racing as a whole. We're looking forward to seeing the yards buzzing and hope visitors enjoy everything the day has to offer."

For tickets and additional information, please visit the [Lambourn Open Day website](#).

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## FIRST-SEASON SIRES WITH RUNNERS

Friday, April 11, 2025:

### UNITED KINGDOM

**Nando Parrado (GB)** (Kodiac {GB}), Irish National Stud  
95 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners  
13:52-NEWBURY, 5.25f, **Inca Heights (Ire)**  
45,000gns Tattersalls Somerville Yearling Sale 2024  
13:52-NEWBURY, 5.25f, **Ten Cuidado (Ire)**  
15,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2023; £20,000 Goffs  
UK Premier Yearling Sale 2024

**Ubettableveit (Ire)** (Kodiac {GB}), Mickley Stud  
80 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners  
13:52-NEWBURY, 5.25f, **Chale Chalo (Ire)**  
£25,000 Goffs UK Premier Yearling Sale 2024

**Victor Ludorum (GB)** (Shamardal), Haras d'Etreham  
102 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners  
13:52-NEWBURY, 5.25f, **Sweet Lord (Fr)**  
€70,000 Arqana Deauville August Yrlg Sale 2024

### IRELAND

**Ubettableveit (Ire)** (Kodiac {GB}), Mickley Stud  
80 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners  
1-DUNDALK, 5f, **Leblon Beach (GB)**  
12,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2023; £5,000 Goffs UK  
Premier Yearling Sale 2024



Victor Ludorum has a runner at Newbury | Haras d'Etreham

## OBSERVATIONS on the European racing scene

### WE'LL DEFEND TAKES THE NEXT STEP

**2.00 Saint-Cloud, Cond, €28,000, 3yo, f, 10 1/2fT**

**WE'LL DEFEND (FR)** (Zelzal {Fr}) carries the **TDN Rising Star** label into this Prix de Diane pointer, having impressed with her four-length success on Chantilly's Polytrack last month. Victorious Racing and Ecurie Nass's half-sister to the high-class La Parisienne (Fr) (**Zarak {Fr}**) represents the Carlos and Yann Lerner stable taking on six peers including Francois Jean-Louis Branere's Bordeaux winner **Lobelia (Fr)** (Sea The Moon {Ger}), a Jean-Claude Rouget-trained daughter of the G1 Grosser Preis Von Bayern heroine Temida (Ire) (Oratorio {Ire}).

**2.27 Newbury, Debutantes, £12,000, 3yo, f, 7T**

**CAJOLE (GB)** (Dubawi {Ire}) is one of two significant newcomers for Cheveley Park Stud on a big weekend for the operation, being the fourth foal out of the G1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes heroine Persuasive (Ire) (Dark Angel {Ire}). John and Thady Gosden have charge of the homebred, while William Haggas has care of the Stud's **Consecrated (GB)** (**Frankel {GB}**), a half-sister to the yard's G2 Hungerford Stakes winner and G1 Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes runner-up Sacred (GB) (Exceed And Excel {Aus}).

**5.30 Dundalk, Mdn, €18,000, 2yo, 5f (AWT)**

**MISSION CENTRAL (IRE)** (**No Nay Never**) is one of two from Ballydoyle as the stable sends out its first 2-year-old runners of 2025 in the maiden won in recent times by Caravaggio and **No Nay Never's Blackbeard (Ire)**. A 625,000gns Tattersalls October Book 1 purchase, his dam is a full-sister to the G1 Falmouth Stakes heroine Prosperous Voyage (Ire) with Ryan Moore opting to partner him over the yard's **First Approach (Ire)** also by **No Nay Never**. Donnacha saddles a third runner for Coolmore by that sire in the unraced filly **Award Ceremony (Ire)**, a daughter of the dual group 3 winner and group 1-placed Actress (Ire) (Declaration Of War).

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### HOW THEY FARED

**14.12 Chantilly, €27,000, Mdn, 3yo, 6fT**

Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani's **Hawkeye (Fr)** (**Siyouni {Ire}**), a Francis Graffard-trained son of G1 Cheveley Park Stakes heroine and G1 Prix Morny runner-up Vorda (Fr) (Orpen), was handily placed throughout and dominated the closing stages to notch a 2 1/2-length debut success.

## BRITAIN

### Thursday's Results:

**3rd-Newcastle, £14,200, Novice, 4-10, 3-5yo, 7f 15y (AWT), 1:28.59, st.**

**FOUR FIFTY (GB) (c, 3, Ulysses {Ire}--Gymnaste {Ire}, by Shamardal),** a 16-1 shot, tracked the early leaders. Committed approaching the final furlong, the newcomer asserted to score by 1 1/2 lengths from Double Parked (Ire) (**Bated Breath {GB}**). The winner is currently the last known foal out of a granddaughter of Juddmonte's Arabesque (GB) (Zafonic), dam of the sires Showcasing (GB) and Camacho (GB). Sales history: 1,000gns RNA Wlg '22 TADEWE; 5,000gns RNA Ylg '23 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$9,834. O-Ryall & Lidster; B-Cheveley Park Stud Limited (GB); T-Craig Lidster.

**1st-Lingfield, £7,200, Nov, 4-10, 3-5yo, 12f 1y (AWT), 2:36.19, st.**

**HARPSICHORD (GB) (f, 3, Ribchester {Ire}--Halay {GB}, by Dansili {GB}),** a Dec. 28 debut fourth over an inadequate one-mile trip at Southwell in her only prior outing, recovered from a sluggish exit to race second passing the judge first time in this seasonal bow. Bounding to the front on the home turn, the 8-11 favourite was not for catching in the straight and kept on strongly in the latter stages to prevail by 2 1/2 lengths from Maraaheb (Ire) (Sottsass {Fr}). Harpsichord is the third foal and scorer produced by an unraced half-sister to multiple Group-winning G1 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes and G1 Canadian International placegetter Dartmouth (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), dual Group 2-winning sire Manatee (GB) (Monsun {Ger}) and Listed Prix du Carrousel victrix Gaterie (Dubai Destination). Descendants of her G3 Blue Wind Stakes-winning second dam Galatee (Fr) (Galileo {Ire}) also include G3 Gordon Stakes winner and G1 St Leger third Desert Hero (GB) (**Sea The Stars {Ire}**). The February-foaled bay is kin to dual Group 1-placed GII Belmont Gold Cup winner Siskany (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}), a 2-year-old colt by Sea The Moon (Ger) and a yearling colt by Dubawi (Ire). Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$5,488. O-Rabbah Racing; B-Godolphin (GB); T-Simon & Ed Crisford.

### ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Jowddah (Ire), f, 3, New Bay (GB)--Queen Arabella (GB), by Medicean (GB).** Newcastle, 4-10, 8f 5y (AWT), 1:42.90. Lifetime Record: 4-1-3-0, \$20,882. B-Corduff Stud (IRE). \*210,000gns Ylg '23 TATOCT. \*\*1/2 to Royal Mews (Fr) (**Siyouni {Fr}**), GSP-UAE, \$132,323.

**Annsar (GB), f, 3, Time Test (GB)--Aertex (Ire), by Exceed And**

Excel (Aus). Lingfield, 4-10, 6f (AWT), 1:13.39. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, \$9,631. B-Mrs Anita Wigan (GB). \*1,000gns Wlg '22 TADEWE; €14,000 2yo '24 TATBRU.

## FRANCE

### Thursday's Results:

**1st-Chantilly, €27,000, Mdn, 4-10, 3yo, f, 8fT, 1:37.23, gd.**

**WITH ZEST (FR) (f, 3, Romanised {Ire}--Allante {Ire}, by Pivotal {GB}),** an Oct. 23 debut runner-up at Newmarket for Sir Michael Stoute and third for her new stable at Fontainebleau last month, broke well and asserted for an early lead here. On the front end throughout, the 15-2 chance was shaken up with 350 metres remaining and driven out inside the final furlong to withstand the late surge of Alsaba (Ire) (Pinatubo {Ire}) by a head. With Zest is the lone reported foal out of a winning half-sister to Listed Prix du Point du Jour second Faithful One (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), herself the dam of Listed Silver Tankard Stakes runner-up Beast Mode (Ire) (Cape Cross {Ire}). The January-foaled homebred bay's second dam Have Faith (Ire) (Machiavellian) is a winning half-sister to G1 Nassau Stakes heroine Favourable Terms (GB) (Selkirk), whose descendants include dual G3 Prix du Petit Couvert victor Berneuil (Ire) (Lope De Vega {Ire}). Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-1, €17,550. O/B-Robert Ng (FR); T-Mario Baratti.

**5th-Chantilly, €27,000, Mdn, 4-10, 3yo, 6fT, 1:09.59, gd.**

**HAWKEYE (FR) (c, 3, Siyouni {Fr}--Vorda {Fr} {G1SW-Eng, GSW & G1SP-Fr, \$498,143}, by Orpen)** was swiftly into stride and raced behind the leaders in fourth after the initial strides of this debut. **Cont. p11**



Hawkeye | Scoop Dyga



### 5th-Chantilly Cont.

Making a forward move after halfway, the 12-5 favourite hit the front approaching the furlong marker and was pushed out in the closing stages to easily account for Zelzal Dream (Fr) (Zelzal {Fr}) by 2 1/2 lengths. Hawkeye is the latest of six foals, all winners, thrown by G1 Cheveley Park Stakes heroine and G1 Prix Morny second Vorda (Fr) (Orpen), herself a half-sister to the multiple Group-race winner and multiple Group 1-placed Prognosis (Jpn) (Deep Impact {Jpn}). The March-foaled homebred chestnut, whose fourth dam is G1 Premio Regina Elena (Italian 1000 Guineas) and G1 Oaks d'Italia heroine Val D'Erica (Ire) (Ashmore {Fr}), is a half-brother to Listed Prix Caravelle victrix Saiga (Ire) (Teofilo {Ire}). Sales history: 475,000gns Ylg '23 TATOCT. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, €13,500. O-Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Thani; B-Al Shahania Stud (FR); T-Francis-Henri Graffard.



### IN QATAR:

**Phoebus (Ire)**, c, 3, **Earthlight (Ire)**--Earth Goddess (GB), by Invincible Spirit (Ire). Al Rayyan, 4-9, Cond. (\$80k), 2100mT. B-Ringfort Stud Ltd. \*40,000gns RNA Ylg '23 TATOCT; 10,000gns RNA 2yo '24 TATMAY; 38,000gns HRA '24 TATAUT.

**VIDEO (SC 7)**

**Dark Trooper (Ire)**, g, 5, **Dark Angel (Ire)**--Warshah (Ire), by Shamardal. Al Rayyan, 4-9, Cond. (\$80k), 1200mT. B-Yeomanstown Stud. \*GSP-Fr. \*\*Last-out fourth in the G3 1351 Turf Sprint Feb. 22. \*\*\*Full to Fantasy Lady (Ire), SW-Ire. \*\*\*\*60,000gns Ylg '21 TATOCT; 500,000gns HRA '23 TATAUT (second-highest price at sale). **VIDEO (SC 1)**

**Bolthole (Ire)**, h, 6, **Free Eagle (Ire)**--Weekend Getaway (Ire), by Acclamation (GB). Al Rayyan, 4-10, Qatar Gold Trophy (Qat-G1, Black-Type) (\$250k), 2200mT. B-Patrick M Ryan. \*Hwt. Older Horse-Qat at 9.5-11f & 11-14f, MGSP-Fr, GSP-Qat.

**VIDEO (SC 2)**

### IN BAHRAIN:

**Mossafer (Ire)**, g, 4, **El Kabeir**--Alzanti, by Arch. REHC, 4-10, Hcp., 2200mT, 2:16.81. B-Hyde Park Stud & Lissglen Bloodstock. \*€13,000 2yo '23 OSAAPR. **VIDEO (SC 9)**

## WORLDWIDE NEWS

### DANON DECILE JOINS WORLD'S ELITE WITH DUBAI SHEEMA CLASSIC WIN



Danon Decile | Dubai Racing Club

Following his victory in the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic, **Danon Decile (Jpn)** (Epiphaneia {Jpn}) has moved into third position in the second edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2025.

Last year's G1 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby) hero raised his rating from 125 from 118 in winning at Meydan, producing a career-best performance to beat **Calandagan (Ire)** (**Gleneagles (Ire)**) by over a length. The runner-up sits just outside of the top three with a rating of 123, while **Durezza (Jpn)** (Duramente {Jpn}) and **Rebel's Romance (Ire)** (Dubawi {Ire}) are both rated 120 after finishing third and fourth, respectively.

The rankings are still headed by February's G1 Saudi Cup one-two, **Forever Young (Jpn)** (Real Steel {Jpn}) and **Romantic Warrior (Ire)** (Acclamation {GB}), despite their respective defeats at Meydan. Forever Young remains on a rating of 127 after his third-place finish in the G1 Dubai World Cup, while G1 Dubai Turf runner-up Romantic Warrior is just behind on a rating of 126. His previous exploits still see him ranked superior to his Meydan conqueror, **Soul Rush (Jpn)** (Rulership {Jpn}), whose rating of 121 also earns him a spot in the top 10.

The full list and further information on the LONGINES World's Best Racehorse Rankings are available on the **IFHA website**.



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## ALMANZOR'S CASTLE WAY TOPS THE DUBAI HIT SALE



Castle Way | Racingfotos.com

The Dubai Horses in Training Sale was topped by four-time winner **Castle Way (GB)** (Almanzor {Fr}) on Wednesday.

The bay, a half-brother to Group 1 winner and first-season sire Palace Pier (GB) (**Kingman (GB)**), sold to Abubaker Kadoura for AED500,000 (€121,127). A winner of the G3 Bahrain Trophy Stakes in the colours of Godolphin for trainer Charlie Appleby, the 5-year-old gelding is out of Beach Frolic (GB) (Nayef). He was a 425,000gns acquisition by Godolphin out of the Highclere Stud draft during Book 1 of the Tattersalls October Yearling Sale in 2021.

Second on the buyers' sheet was the **Frankel (GB)** gelding **Kalidasa (GB)**, who went the way of Paul Ebbs for AED400,000 (€97,420). A winner in five starts, the 4-year-old gelding was originally a 2.8 million gns yearling out of Book 1 of the Tattersalls October Sale. Out of the Watership Down Stud draft, the March foal was out of Group 3 winner and G1 Prix de l'Opera runner-up So Mi Dar (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}). He was also sold by Godolphin.

Fawzi Nass consigned **Comet Chaser (GB)** (New Bay {GB}) (lot 76) to the sale, where he caught the eye of Sky Racing for AED200,000. He has placed in four lifetime starts.

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**Saturday, Newbury, Britain, post time: 13:25**

**DUBAI DUTY FREE FINEST SURPRISE STAKES (JOHN PORTER STAKES)-G3, £85,000, 4yo/up, 12f 0y**

SC	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Ancient Wisdom (Fr)	Dubawi (Ire)	Godolphin	Charlie Appleby	William Buick	128
2	Bellum Justum (Ire)	Sea The Stars (Ire)	King Power Racing Co Ltd	Andrew Balding	James Doyle	128
3	Dallas Star (Fr)	Cloth Of Stars (Ire)	Amo Racing Ltd	Adrian Murray	David Egan	128
4	Feigning Madness (GB)	Ulysses (Ire)	Louisville Syndicate Elite	Ralph Beckett	Hector Crouch	128
5	Sunway (Fr)	Galiway (GB)	Guy Pariente Holding & Qatar Racing Ltd	David Menuisier	Oisin Murphy	128
6	Tabletalk (Ire)	Camelot (GB)	Abdulla Al Mansoori	Tom Clover	Rossa Ryan	128
7	Divina Grace (Ire)	Golden Horn (GB)	Top Hat and Tails	Andrew Balding	David Probert	125

**Breeders:** 1-Ecurie des Monceaux & LNJ Foxwoods SC, 2-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd, 3-Mme E Dieuaide, 4-W H Carson & Mrs A Dalgety, 5-Guy Pariente Holding, 6-Cottage Bloodstock, 7-Godolphin

One of Britain's re-entry points for the hardcore mile-and-a-half merchants and beyond sees last year's G1 Irish Derby runner-up and G1 St Leger third **Sunway** back in action, tackled by the 2023 G1 Futurity Trophy winner **Ancient Wisdom** and GIII **Nashville** Derby Invitational scorer **Bellum Justum**. While the King George seems an ambitious target for all three at this juncture, they are probably all slightly better than this grade and will help to shape the older middle-distance category over the next few weeks.

**Saturday, Newbury, Britain, post time: 14:00**

**DUBAI DUTY FREE STAKES (FRED DARLING STAKES)-G3, £85,000, 3yo, f, 7f 0y**

SC	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Betty Clover (GB)	Time Test (GB)	The Ascot Revellers & Partner	Eve Johnson Houghton	Georgia Dobie	128
2	Bright Times Ahead (Ire)	Lope De Vega (Ire)	Mrs Doreen Tabor	Ralph Beckett	Rossa Ryan	128
3	British Blue (GB)	Blue Point (Ire)	Mrs J Wood	Richard Hannon	Pat Dobbs	128
4	California Dreamer (GB)	Mehmas (Ire)	Amo Racing Ltd & Giselle De Aguiar	Adrian Murray	David Egan	128
5	Duty First (GB)	Showcasing (GB)	Victorious Racing	Archie Watson	Hollie Doyle	128
6	Ellaria Sand (GB)	Sands Of Mali (Fr)	BV Sangster, Mrs P Shanahan, Mrs MV Magnier	Ollie Sangster	Jamie Spencer	128
7	Enola Holmes (Ire)	Invincible Spirit (Ire)	Stoneleigh Racing & Partners	Jack Jones	Hector Crouch	128
8	Formal (GB)	Dubawi (Ire)	Cheveley Park Stud	Andrew Balding	Oisin Murphy	128
9	Greydreambeliever (Ire)	Dark Angel (Ire)	Hambleton Racing Ltd XXXV & Elaine Burke	Karl Burke	James Doyle	128
10	Heavens Gate (Ire)	Churchill (Ire)	M Tabor, D Smith & Mrs J Magnier	Aidan O'Brien	Sean Levey	128
11	Hey Boo (GB)	Iffraaj (GB)	J Mitchell	Jack Channon	George Bass	128
12	Maw Lam (Ire)	Acclamation (GB)	C R Hirst	Adrian Nicholls	Harrison Shaw	128
13	Mountain Breeze (Ire)	Lope De Vega (Ire)	Godolphin	Charlie Appleby	William Buick	128
14	Nardra (Ire)	Night Of Thunder (Ire)	Saeed Suhail	William Haggas	Cieren Fallon	128
15	Simmering (GB)	Too Darn Hot (GB)	Al Shaqab Racing	Ollie Sangster	Christophe Soumillon	128
16	Time For Sandals (Ire)	Sands Of Mali (Fr)	D Bevan & Mrs D Bevan	Harry Eustace	Richard Kingscote	128

**Breeders:** 1-Eve Johnson Houghton, 2-John O'Connor, 3-The Pocock Family, 4-Ickworth Stud, 5-Plantation Stud, 6-The Cool Silk Partnership, 7-Norelands Bloodstock & Lofts Hall Stud, 8-Cheveley Park Stud Ltd, 9-J Lenihan, 10-Whisperview Trading Ltd, 11-Jonathan Mitchell, 12-Brickfield Stud Ltd, 13-Godolphin, 14-Haras Voltaire, 15-Lofts Hall Stud, 16-Ballyhane

It is fair to say that last year's juvenile fillies were a cut above the colts and there is every reason to expect they will continue to be so in 2025. This year's 1,000 Guineas looks hot even if Lake Victoria (Ire) (**Frankel {GB}**) misses out, so the onus is on this cast to put down a marker with a serious performance. One who has very little to prove is the G2 Prix du Calvados and G3 Princess Margaret Stakes winner and G1 Moyglare Stud Stakes runner-up **Simmering**, while **Heavens Gate** may be in the second tier at Ballydoyle and a typical "sighter" for the stable but still carries significant weight in this context. Cheveley Park looked to have a real live Classic contender in **Formal** last term and while it all went wrong for the illustriously-bred **TDN Rising Star** in the G2 Rockfel Stakes, she wouldn't be the first to put a disappointing juvenile finale behind her and re-establish her aura ahead of the Spring Classics. As ever, William Haggas's prospects demand close attention and in what could be another big year for Night Of Thunder, **Nardra** is the one unexposed filly that stands out on her 8 1/2-length win in a soft-ground six-furlong Haydock novice in September.

**Saturday, Newbury, Britain, post time: 14:35**

**WATERSHIP DOWN STUD TOO DARN HOT GREENHAM STAKES-G3, £100,000, 3yo, c/g, 7f 0y**

SC	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Al Qudra (Ire)	No Nay Never	Godolphin	Charlie Appleby	William Buick	128
2	Aurora Majesty (Ire)	Night Of Thunder (Ire)	Salem Rashid Bin Ghadayer	Archie Watson	Hollie Doyle	128
3	Chancellor (GB)	Kingman (GB)	Cheveley Park Stud	John & Thady Gosden	Robert Havlin	128
4	Diablo Rojo (Ire)	Pinatubo (Ire)	Amo Racing Ltd	Raphael Freire	David Egan	128
5	Jonquil (GB)	Lope De Vega (Ire)	Juddmonte	Andrew Balding	Oisin Murphy	128
6	Noble Champion (Ire)	Lope De Vega (Ire)	TBT Racing	Ed Walker	Kieran Shoemark	128
7	Rashabar (Ire)	Holy Roman Emperor (Ire)	Manton Thoroughbreds IX	Brian Meehan	Sean Levey	128
8	Rogue Allegiance (Ire)	Kodiak (GB)	The Rogues Gallery & Partner 2	David O'Meara	Daniel Tudhope	128
9	Saracen (Fr)	Siyouni (Fr)	Al Shaqab Racing	Joseph O'Brien	Christophe Soumillon	128
10	Yah Mo Be There (GB)	Mohaather (GB)	Phil Cunningham	Richard Spencer	Jamie Spencer	128

**Breeders:** 1-Rockfield Farm, 2-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd, 3-Cheveley Park Stud Ltd, 4-J Hanly, A Stroud & Skymarc Farm, 5-Juddmonte Farms (East) Ltd, 6-Thomas Foy & Lope De Vega Syndicate, 7-Ecurie Haras de Beaufay, 8-Caroline & Stephanie Hanly, 9-China Horse Club International Ltd, 10-Stuart McPhee & Nigel Kelly

More successful than the Fred Darling as a Newmarket pointer but still without a 2,000 Guineas winner in 11 years if you don't count **Chaldean (GB)** (**Frankel {GB}**) who unseated Frankie Dettori coming out of the gates here in 2023, this time-honoured prep is dominated by the G2 Coventry Stakes winner and G1 Prix Morny and G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere runner-up and iron-clad standard-setter **Rashabar**. Apparently more likely to take in the G1 Poule d'Essai des Poulains than the Guineas according to Brian Meehan, he is on the same path as Isaac Shelby (GB) (Night Of Thunder {Ire}) who also sported the famed Sangster silks when capitalising from the mis-hap to **Chaldean** in 2023. Speaking of stalls incidents, Cheveley Park's **TDN Rising Star Chancellor** is no stranger to misfortune in that sphere having broken through them before the G2 Champagne Stakes in September. As a result, the regally-bred son of the 2014 Greenham hero and subsequent A-listener **Kingman (GB)** was denied the chance to translate the immense promise of his two Doncaster wins into pattern-race achievement, but that's all water under the bridge at this point and he remains very much one of the key British-trained Guineas contenders. Another **TDN Rising Star** to misfire last term, Juddmonte's **Jonquil** just has to be a lot better than his no-show in the Listed Flying Scotsman Stakes and he is another who arrives with a clean slate representing the same team as **Chaldean**, while the exciting debut winners **Rogue Allegiance**, **Saracen** and **Noble Champion** add mystique to a bang up-to-scratch renewal. Noble Champion, the half-brother to the seven-furlong star Pogo (Ire) (Zebedee {GB}), received notable attention from our own Adam Houghton in his excellent *Winter Watch*.

**Saturday, Curragh, Ireland, post time: 15:25**

**LODGE PARK STUD IRISH EBF PARK EXPRESS STAKES-G3, €41,400, 3yo/up, f/m, 8f 0y**

SC	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Azada (Ire)	Siyouni (Fr)	Exors of the Late H H Aga Khan	Dermot Weld	C D Hayes	137
2	Bright Thunder (Ire)	Night Of Thunder (Ire)	Sheikh Rashid Dalmook Al Maktoum	Karl Burke	S Gray	137
3	Fleur De Chine (GB)	Study Of Man (Ire)	Kirsten Rausing	Jessica Harrington	S Foley	137
4	Mexicali Rose (GB)	Zoffany (Ire)	Mrs Helena Burns	Joseph O'Brien	S McCullagh	137
5	Naomi Lapaglia (GB)	Awtaad (Ire)	Eleanora Kennedy	Ger Lyons	C T Keane	137
6	One Look (Ire)	Gleneagles (Ire)	Connolly Racing Syndicate	Paddy Twomey	W J Lee	137
7	Princess Child (Fr)	Dariyan (Fr)	Janine Byrne	Joseph O'Brien	D B McMonagle	137
8	Whirl (Ire)	Wootton Bassett (GB)	M Tabor, D Smith & Mrs J Magnier	Aidan O'Brien	R L Moore	125
9	Ecstatic (Jpn)	Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)	M Tabor, D Smith & Mrs J Magnier	Aidan O'Brien	W M Lordan	122
10	Garden Of Eden (Ire)	Saxon Warrior (Jpn)	Mrs J Magnier, M Tabor & D Smith	Aidan O'Brien	D P McDonogh	122
11	Spicy Margarita (Ire)	Earthlight (Ire)	Amo Racing Ltd & Giselle De Aguiar	Adrian Murray	R Whearty	122

**Breeders:** 1-H H The Aga Khan's Studs SC, 2-Ennistown Stud, 3-Kirsten Rausing, 4-Moyns Park Estate & Stud Ltd, 5-Shadwell Estate Company Ltd, 6-Tullpark Ltd, 7-Mme Lisa Lemiere Dubois, 8-Coolmore, 9-Coolmore, 10-Mark Hanly & Stephanie Hanly, 11-Loughtown Stud



On the European Flat season's first big Saturday of the year, Ballydoyle test a trio of Classic hopes against some hard-knocking older fillies and mares. Ryan Moore is on **Whirl**, which probably isn't a surprise given that she won the G3 Staffordstown Stud Stakes over this course and distance in October, but the yard's **TDN Rising Star Ecstatic** gives the impression she has plenty to offer from here as a daughter of the indomitable Magic Wand (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}).

### Saturday, Curragh, Ireland, post time: 16:35

**TOTE.IE ALLEGED STAKES-G3**, €36,000, 4yo/up, 10f 0y

SC	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Jan Brueghel (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	Westerberg, Mrs J Magnier, M Tabor, D Smith	Aidan O'Brien	R L Moore	136
2	Los Angeles (Ire)	Camelot (GB)	Scratched	Scratched	Scratched	136
3	Tower Of London (Ire)	Galileo (Ire)	D Smith, Mrs J Magnier, M Tabor, Westerberg	Aidan O'Brien	W M Lordan	136
4	Crystal Black (Ire)	Teofilo (Ire)	Wear A Pink Ribbon Syndicate	Gerard Keane	C T Keane	134
5	Crypto Force (GB)	Time Test (GB)	Amo Racing Ltd	Adrian Murray	W J Lee	131
6	Galen (GB)	Gleneagles (Ire)	B Taylor, T G Fitzgerald, P H Redmond, B Fowler	Joseph O'Brien	D B McMonagle	131
7	Sons And Lovers (GB)	Study Of Man (Ire)	H O S Syndicate	Joseph O'Brien	C D Hayes	131
8	Wahdan (Ire)	Siyouni (Fr)	Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani & Khalifa Mohammed	Joseph O'Brien	D P McDonogh	131

**Breeders:** 1-Barronstown Stud, 2-Lynch Bages Ltd & Longfield Stud, 3-Lynch Bages Ltd & Camas Park Stud, 4-Moyglare Stud Farms Ltd, 5-W A Tinkler, 6-Moyns Park Estate & Stud Ltd, 7-Kirsten Rausing, 8-Khalifa Al Attiya

Unusually, Aidan O'Brien puts two of his older heavyweights together for their seasonal bows, with Ryan Moore siding with the unbeaten G1 St Leger hero **Jan Brueghel** over the G2 Dubai Gold Cup and G2 Curragh Cup winner **Tower Of London**. Both are forced to carry penalties at a trip short of their optimum, but the stable's runners so far in 2025 seem fairly forward and it would be no surprise to see them dominate. There is no knowing the ceiling of Jan Brueghel as yet, while the time performance of Tower Of London when last seen marks him out as one who could excel on the international stage this year.

### Sunday, Hanshin, Japan, post time: 15:40

**OKA SHO (JAPANESE 1000 GUINEAS)-G1**, ¥266,000,000, 3yo, f, 1600mT

SC	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Voulezvous (Jpn)	Satono Crown (Jpn)	Kuwata Farm Co., Ltd.	Take	Hamanaka	121
2	Erika Express (Jpn)	Epiphaneia (Jpn)	Masahiro Miki	Sugiyama	Tosaki	121
3	Ma Puce (Jpn)	Mind Your Biscuits	Yuji Yoshimoto	Wada	Tanabe	121
4	Shonan Xanadu (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Tetsuhide Kunimoto	Matsushita	Ikezoe	121
5	Bonne Soiree (Jpn)	Rey De Oro (Jpn)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd.	Miyata	Kawada	121
6	Vip Daisy (Jpn)	Satono Diamond (Jpn)	Kunihide Suzuki	Matsushita	Miyuki	121
7	Embroidery (Jpn)	Admire Mars (Jpn)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd.	Mori	Moreira	121
8	Water Gerbera (Jpn)	Rey De Oro (Jpn)	Masato Yamaoka	Ishibashi	Take	121
9	Arma Veloce (Jpn)	Harbinger (GB)	TO Racing, LLC	Uemura	Iwata	121
10	Twilight City (Jpn)	Epiphaneia (Jpn)	M's Racing	Sugiyama	Matsuyama	121
11	Mistress (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Shinji Maeda	Yahagi	Sakai	121
12	Lynx Tip (Jpn)	Kitsan Black (Jpn)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.	Nishimura	Demuro	121
13	Cerbiatto (Jpn)	Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)	Silk Racing Co., Ltd.	Takano	Kitamura	121
14	Dantsu Elan (Jpn)	Lord Kanaloa (Jpn)	Tetsuji Yamamoto	Honda	Danno	121
15	Kurino Mei (Jpn)	Orfevre (Jpn)	Yoriko Kurimoto	Sugai	Sakai	121
16	Namura Clara (Jpn)	Admire Mars (Jpn)	Mutsuhiro Namura	Hasegawa	Nishimura	121
17	Primzahl (Jpn)	Isla Bonita (Jpn)	Shadai Race Horse Co., Ltd.	Ebina	Tsumura	121
18	Brown Ratchet (Jpn)	Kizuna (Jpn)	Sunday Racing Co., Ltd.	Tezuka	Yokoyama	121

**Breeders:** 1-Northern Farm, 2-Mishima Bokujo, 3-Shadai Farm, 4-Northern Farm, 5-Shadai Farm, 6-Shunsuke Yoshida, 7-Tenei Horse Park, Ltd., 8-Masato Yamaoka, 9-Northern Racing, 10-Masahiko Sugino, 11-Grand Stud, 12-Shadai Corporation, Inc., 13-Northern Racing, 14-Miyauchi Bokujo, 15-Hiroharu Kurimoto, 16-Mutsuhiro Namura, 17-Shadai Farm, 18-Northern Racing.

*\*All posts displayed in local time.*