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'IT'S SOMETHING I THINK I'LL BE DOING THE REST OF MY LIFE'



Josh Isner and Irad Ortiz Jr. | Sarah Andrew

by Chris McGrath

Turning 40 does things to people. When Josh Isner reached the milestone, he took a look at the road ahead and asked himself a question.

"Do I just want to get worse at golf every year for the rest of my life? Or do I want to try to go win the Kentucky Derby?" This was only last year, but this is a guy whose words can barely keep up with his deeds. Which is saying plenty, because his every syllable is suffused with energy and drive.

Isner had played golf in college, and remained an accomplished amateur since.

"But when I put it like that, it was a pretty simple decision," he recalls. "And my friend Dave Portnoy had me pegged very early. He was nice enough to take me to Saratoga, for the Whitney and the sale. But just about the first thing he said was, 'You're going to see this-and you're going to be addicted immediately.'"

Isner did his homework. While he had always tuned into the Triple Crown, racing had never been a factor in his upbringing-he was raised near Suffolk Downs, so that was sadly an opportunity gone-and in the weeks leading up to their Spa jaunt he tried to master some of the basics. Certainly he knew enough, when getting there, to realize that Portnoy was introducing him to some of the game's biggest names. **Cont. p3**

TOMORROW'S FRONTRUNNERS: MOHAMMAD ALKHAIRAT HOPING TO PAY IT FORWARD by Katie Petrunyak

Mohammad Alkhairat is a big believer in the idea of going back to hand that opened itself to you when you had nothing.

At just 20 years old, Alkhairat is already working to return the favor to the people who helped him get his foot in the door in horse racing. After being turned down time and time again when he first attempted to get involved in the sport, Alkhairat is grateful that he was given a chance.

Now a member of the Diriyah Bloodstock team, Alkhairat has had a hand in sending three horses to Robbie Medina, his first boss in horse racing. He also never fails to swing by the Airdrie Stud consignment at the sales with his buying partners to visit Ben Henley, who was his Amplify Horse Racing mentor three years ago.

"Ben was a really generous person," said Alkhairat. "He didn't do the mentorship because Amplify was paying him. It was out of his own time, so I want to pay it back." **Cont. p7**

IN TDN EUROPE TODAY

'HE WAS ALWAYS A BULLSEYE'

Emma Berry speaks to Derby-wining breeder Stephen Hillen about Christmas Day, **Camelot** and another Classic wish.



Mohammad Alkhairat, a member of the team at Diriyah Bloodstock | courtesy Mohammad Alkhairat

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Tuesday, June 9, 2026



Nysos registered a convincing victory in last Saturday's GI Metropolitan Mile Handicap on the Belmont Stakes Day undercard at Saratoga Race Course. Baoma Corp. and Coolmore Partners will race the 5-year-old through the end of the year before his retirement to Ashford Stud—See p8 | Sarah Andrew photo

8 | FIVE FASTEST MAIDENS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 1 - 7

Gun Runner's My Gun's Loaded fired off a 92 Beyer Speed Figure, the fastest of the past week's maiden winners, in a Saratoga test on Saturday.

10 | REGIONAL FOCUS: PENNSYLVANIA BREEDING IN FOCUS

Dan Ross spoke to key participants about the Pennsylvania breeding and racing programs, which have enjoyed steady success.

13 | CAW PLAY PLUMMETS AT BELMONT FESTIVAL, HANDLE RISES

In light of the recent changes made by NYRA, Computer Assisted Wagering dropped significantly from 2025 figures, while overall handle rose slightly.



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Championship Sale at the Breeders' Cup | Oct. 28

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November Breeding Stock Sale | Begins Nov. 3
November Horses of Racing Age Sale | Nov. 11

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MAKING NEW OWNERS

presented by  **ownerview**

Cont. from p1

"And I remember walking away and thinking: 'Is that normal?'" he says. "I mean, you don't just go up to the best head coaches in the NFL and have a beer with them. But that's what I had been doing at the sales, meeting guys like Chad Brown, Todd Pletcher, Brad Cox, Mike Repole, John Stewart. The best trainers in the world, the most successful owners, they're all here and very accessible, pointing things out and helping you get up to speed."

Isner humorously confesses himself to have been too maddeningly inquisitive for Portnoy to endure him as a partner, but fateful seeds had been sown.

"I think the number one thing I started with was that any individual, if they put in the time and have the means, can be very competitive in a short amount of time," he reasons. "You need luck, no doubt, to reach the pinnacle. But if you start to

understand the different variables, and you're willing to invest, there's no reason you can't be running in some of the biggest races every year. And that's very, very different than almost every other sport in the United States."

That's an uncommon insight, and quite true: while elite participation on the racetrack typically requires investment at a financially prohibitive tier of the market, in relative terms it is actually unusually accessible. But while not everyone can deploy the same resources as the President of Axon, a global brand in public safety technology, Isner also adores the fact that our sport gives everyone a chance. No matter how much time and money he throws at it, he knows there are zero guarantees.

"The lack of control you have in this game is so beautiful," he says. "It's like you can do everything you want, to position yourself well, but it comes down to an 1,100-pound animal that you have no control over. At times that is just heartbreaking, but at other times it's unbelievably exciting."

Then there are the familiar draws of the Turf's pageantry and social ambience.

"Saratoga was one of the most majestic places I've ever seen, the tradition just baked into it," Isner says. "And then of course you just meet so many interesting people that you wouldn't meet in other walks of life. So altogether it's quite a combination."

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Cont.

From a standing start, Isner has already assembled around 20 horses under Delta Squad Racing banner. Here, plainly, is someone with a capacity for engagement equal to the notoriously arcane language and behaviors of the bloodstock world. Besides a high-powered, high-pressure business life, he goes home to a wife and three daughters. So he's already a busy guy, but horses are filling any and all gaps.

"Any moment that I'm not with the family or working, it's horseracing time," Isner says with enthusiasm. "I try to consume an hour or two of content every day, usually before going to bed: podcasts, YouTube videos, learning about pedigrees or conformation. I do weekly one-on-ones with Barry Weisbord, who's teaching me about families and pedigrees.

"I've got a lot to learn, but I'm doing my best to catch up. Look, you can't fake it. It's a relatively high barrier to entry. I was talking about foals 'out of' **Gun Runner** and being yelled at, I had to say 'by' **Gun Runner**. But you just learn along the way to embarrass yourself less and less."



Josh Isner | Courtesy J Isner

It would have been easy just to roll all this enthusiasm into handicapping, and Isner actually contested the NHC this year. But he has chosen full immersion, as being both far more demanding and far more rewarding.

"Same as any business, it's like, 'Hey, if you're going to spend millions of dollars doing something, you better spend the time trying to figure out what your strategy is, and what the different major variables are,'" he says. "And I've tried to do that, and get up to speed really fast. I just want to be learning every single day here."

Equally, anybody investing those millions is entitled to alert lifelong insiders against the kind of drift and complacency that perhaps only a newcomer might perceive.

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INTERCONTINENTAL S. (G2)

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VIEW CATALOGUE

Fasig-Tipton

Last month Isner stimulated much interest with an exuberant letter to *TDN*, urging The Jockey Club to embrace its detractors because "teams of rivals win." In his letter, he spoke of the innovator's dilemma: the phenomenon where businesses, as they grow, become "bureaucratic, risk-averse, and profit-focused."

That is something Isner had experienced first-hand, in his own career. Two weeks out of college, he drove to Arizona to join a company then named Taser, turning out nothing bar the eponymous electroshock weapon. But one thing led to another: from a camera on the taser, to a camera on the officer, to cutting-edge work in drones and AI. In serving both law enforcement and civil liberties, today Axon stores around 50 times more data than Netflix. But the dilemma remained: how to maintain the disruptor energy that animates so much development?

"When you're having success, that's exactly when the alert bell should be ringing," Isner explains. "Other people are going to start coming after you, and you need to keep out-innovating yourself before somebody else does. So that's been a principle we've lived by. Already three or four years ago we were investing heavily in AI products and because of that we're now the market leader in AI in public safety. No matter how far ahead you are, you have to keep pushing forward or else you're going backwards relative to everybody else. And so I do think there are parallels in horseracing."



Margie's Intention | Sarah Andrew

It has quickly become apparent to Isner that while nearly everyone in the industry seems to recognize its problems, few take ownership of potential solutions.

"It's like everyone kind of sits around the table and grumbles," he says.

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"But hey, there's a lot of smart people in the sport, people who've been successful in other businesses. Let's just start moving the ball down the field here, and fixing some of the obvious things. Everybody has been very, very welcoming, at the sales and at the races. But with the lack of structure and clear decision-making authority, I can see why it's challenging to make progress."

Isner offers these observations in all humility, emphasizing that he doesn't pretend to have all the answers.

"But I would say that across the board-whether in business, or sports, just anything that requires teamwork-you have to know what problems you're setting out to solve, and which should have priority," he reasons. "To me, as a new owner, the biggest issue is the foal crop. Let's focus on that, and figure out how to reverse this trend of supply so limited that people are getting squeezed out of the game."

That said, he would have no problem if the industry happened to prioritize other concerns: maybe CAWs, or inconsistent veterinary practice at different tracks. In every case, the principles are the same-and, really, pretty simple.

"You just got to figure out what you want to solve first, and then sprint at it with a team that is empowered to act," Isner argues. "Look at the NFL. The team owners are rabidly competitive with each other. But at the end of the day, when it comes down to business issues and the sustainability of the league, even those that might not like each other will lock arms like the fiercest allies. In horseracing you don't necessarily see that. And until that changes, while it's still going to be a great sport and a lot of fun, the metrics won't be going the right direction."

Much could be gained, clearly, if those born into the game-perhaps by now a little jaded or cynical-could top up with some of this convert's zeal. Isner himself, after all, is also looking to the longer term: however eager for immediate action, he is working with Liz Crow and Brad Weisbord to develop a sustainable program.

"The plan is evolving as I learn," he admits. "But my goal is at least to be in the gate, once in my life, in those classic American dirt races: the Triple Crown, the Breeders' Cup."

"I know I'm a very lucky individual, but there's no way I can show up at sales and compete with Mike Repole and Sheikh Mohammad and Amr Zedan and Coolmore. So I try to find yearlings that are A+ physicals with two-turn dirt pedigrees, but maybe more Book 2 and 3 pages. Then supplement those with some 2-year-olds: we bought a really nice **Curlin** at OBS in April, and took a shot at a Mo Donegal as well. And then finally to buy some nice fillies or mares every year."

To that end Isner partnered with Michael Dubb to buy GII Black-Eyed Susan Stakes winner Margie's Intention (**Honor A.P.**) for \$1.3 million at Fasig-Tipton last November. She has just added fresh black type in the Allaire DuPont Distaff Stakes, but the eventual agenda is for her foals to help fund the rest of the program.

"I'm not sure this game will ever offer the highest return on investment, but it is definitely the highest level of fun," Isner says. "I'm a very competitive guy, very hands-on, and tend to jump into things head first. Part of the reason I love this is because you can kind of run your own franchise. It very quickly became clear that I was going to fall in love with this. And, yeah, I'm pretty obsessed. At this point it's something I think I'll be doing the rest of my life."

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JUST A GAME S. (G1)



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that led to this one.*

OWNERS Gary Barber, Blue Crevalle Racing & Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners

BREEDER Winning Bloodstock / **BUYER** Bobby D

CONSIGNOR Eaton Sales / **TRAINER** Mark E. Casse

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ACORN S. (G1)



*Here's to all the moments
that led to this one.*

OWNER West Point Thoroughbreds
BREEDER HRH Prince Sultan Bin Mishal Al Saud / **BUYER** Nestor Martinez
CONSIGNOR Mill Ridge Sales / **TRAINER** Mark E. Casse

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DETERMINISTIC

MANHATTAN S. (G1)



*Here's to all the moments
that led to this one.*

OWNERS St. Elias Stable, Ken Langone, Steven C. Duncker & Vicarage Stable
TRAINER Miguel Clement / **BREEDER & CONSIGNOR** Hinkle Farms
BUYER Michael Wallace, Agent for St. Elias Stables

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WOODY STEPHENS S. (G1)



Here's to all the moments
that led to this one.

OWNER C R K Stable LLC / **BREEDER** Fifth Avenue Bloodstock / **TRAINER** Cherie DeVaux
SEPTEMBER CONSIGNOR Betz Thoroughbreds / **SEPTEMBER BUYER** Mayberry Farm
NOVEMBER CONSIGNOR Indian Creek / **NOVEMBER BUYER** Avocet Bloodstock

THIS IS YOUR MOMENT.



NYSOS

METROPOLITAN H. (G1)



*Here's to all the moments
that led to this one.*

OWNERS Baoma Corp., Mrs. John Magnier, Michael B. Tabor & Derrick Smith
BREEDER Susie Atkins / **BUYER** Cypress Creek
CONSIGNOR Brookdale Sales / **TRAINER** Bob Baffert

Tomorrow's Frontrunners, cont. from p1

Alkhairat has always been interested in horses, but he had no familial connection to get him started. When he was a freshman in college, he started researching how to get a job in horse racing. After he couldn't find much information, he used Google Maps to locate the farms closest to him in Lexington.

"I just started going to farms and knocking on doors," he recounted. "I tried around five or six farms. None of them accepted. They were looking for experience and someone that could be full-time. At that time I was like, 'I don't know, I think this industry might not be for me.'"

Finally, Alkhairat stopped in at Blackwood Stables, where assistant trainer Katey Caddel wasn't swayed by the fact that he had never been around a horse. She told him to come back the following weekend and he could learn to be a hot walker.

"I asked her, 'What's a hot walker?'" Alkhairat recalled with a laugh. "But I was all excited."

It didn't take long for Alkhairat to become totally entrenched in the industry.

"The competition that I saw in the sport and the hard work, it's not just a horse getting trained and he races and he wins. There's a lot behind it. There's teamwork and there are a lot of decisions to make sure that you are doing the right thing for the horse."

After a few months, Blackwood Stables changed hands and Alkhairat was left without his weekend gig. Caddel referred him to Amplify Horse Racing. After attending a few events, Alkhairat applied for Amplify's mentorship program.

He was paired with Ben Henley, General Manager of Airdrie Stud.

"He was always keen and engaging," Henley said, recalling their time together. "In our 30-minute phone calls, we would never get through his full list of questions because you'd end up diving into so much detail and getting sidetracked, which was fantastic."

Over the next two years, Alkhairat worked at several small breeding farms and gained experience in the mare division at Taylor Made Farm.

Also during that time, Alkhairat started following FMQ Stables' Saudi Crown (Always Dreaming). At the 2023 Keeneland September Sale, he met some of the connections that had purchased Saudi Crown, who would go on to win the GI Pennsylvania Derby later that month.

The following year, Aziz Alyousef, who Alkhairat had met back at Keeneland, reached out and told him he was starting his own bloodstock agency. He asked if Alkhairat wanted to join the team at Diriyah Bloodstock.

The group purchased nine yearlings at the 2024 Keeneland September Sale. Then Alkhairat worked the Fasig-Tipton October Sale solo for the group and purchased a \$55,000 Thousand Words colt. Now named Saudi Warrior, he is a winner in Saudi Arabia. Diriyah Bloodstock was also busy at last year's September Sale, purchasing five colts.

Alkhairat credits Amplify for helping him make the connections that launched his start in the sport. He currently works for Diriyah during the sales season while also being a full-time electrician. He said he hopes to keep horse racing as his passion project.

"I entered this industry not for the business, but because of the animals," he explained. "I'm not entering it because of the money at all. That's why I chose to let it be my hobby, to be honest, but at the same time to take it as seriously as I can."

Henley said mentees like Alkhairat are why he is now coming off his fourth rotation in the Amplify mentorship program.

"I've had great mentors through my life and my career, so you feel obliged to give back," Henley explained. "I enjoy doing it. The mentees are young, enthusiastic and they want to learn. It's very easy to do and not at all time consuming. It's a great experience and I highly recommend becoming a mentor because it's so refreshing to see young people with a genuine interest in the business."

*Tomorrow's Front Runners is a TDN series spotlighting young people who got involved with horse racing through **Amplify Horse Racing** and are now pursuing careers in the industry. Amplify is a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to amplifying education, mentorship and career opportunities for young people in the Thoroughbred industry.*



Airdrie's Ben Henley | Vicky Leonard

BAOMA AND COOLMORE TO RACE NYSOS IN 2026 BEFORE RETIRING TO ASHFORD



Charles and Susan Chu with Bob and Jill Baffert

Photo courtesy Coolmore

The Coolmore partners, Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor, and Derrick Smith, have purchased an interest in GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile and GI Met Mile winner **Nysos** (Nyquist--Zetta Z, by Bernardini). The group will race the 5-year-old in partnership with Baoma Corporation through the Breeders' Cup, which will be held at Keeneland this November, before he retires to Ashford Stud.

"Nysos represents a true milestone for Charles and me. He means far more to us than exceptional racing success," said Baoma Corp's Susan Chu. "Through him, we have learned patience and perseverance, and we are deeply grateful to Bob Baffert for developing him into one of our outstanding racing stars and guiding him throughout his remarkable career."

She added, "We are equally delighted that Coolmore, one of the most respected and successful stallion operations in the world, will manage the next chapter of Nysos's journey. He will have every opportunity to make a significant impact as a stallion, and we are committed to supporting him with our very best stakes-winning mares."

Named a 'TDN Rising Star, presented by Hagyard' following a 10 1/2-length score at Santa Anita, he added wins in Del Mar's GIII Bob Hope and the GIII Robert B. Lewis, the latter his sole start at three. Beaten only a neck by **Mindframe** (**Constitution**) in the GI Churchill Downs to kick off his 4-year-old campaign, the bay rebounded to score in the GIII Triple Bend before winning his next three starts, highlighted by the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Del Mar. This year, he was second to Forever Young (Jpn) in the G1 Saudi Cup in February dominating in the Met Mile.

"What a talented horse," said Baffert. "I always thought he's one of the best older horses in training and he showed it."

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WEEK OF JUNE 1-7



The Fastest Maiden of the Week: My Gun's Loaded winning at the Spa | Sarah Andrew

by Randy Moss

Last week, the fastest maiden by far was also the biggest surprise on our list with a \$38.02 win mutuel.

5 - HAPPY DESTINATION, WO, 6/7-7th, 6 furlongs (video) Beyer Speed Figure - 83

(f, 3, by Runhappy--Destination Love, by **Friesan Fire**)

O-Gary Barber. B-BHMFR (Ky). T-Mark Casse. J-Romero Maragh.

Casse capped his sensational week with this gate-to-wire debut winner sold as a yearling for \$35,000. The Hall of Fame trainer won eight races and made them count - four were stakes (including three Grade Is) at Saratoga, one was an allowance at Woodbine and three were maiden special weights including this one. Among those, the prolific Barber owned four solo and another in partnership.

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3x G1 Del Mar Oaks, *DMR*
2x G1 CCA Oaks, *SAR*
2x G1 American Oaks, *SA*
2x G1 Ashland S., *KEE*
2x G1 Spinster S., *KEE*
2x G1 Gamely S., *SA*
2x G2 Honeymoon S., *SA*
2x G2 Black-Eyed Susan S., *PIM*
2x G2 Shuvee S., *SAR*
2x G2 Edgewood S., *CD*
2x G3 Bourbonette Oaks, *TP*
2x G3 Herecomesthebride S., *GP*
2x California Oaks, *GG*
2x CTT and TOC S., *DMR*
2x Luther Burbank S., *SR*
2x Suncoast S., *TAM*
2x Sweet Life S., *SA*
2x Unzip Me S., *SA*
G1 Acorn S., *BEL*
G1 Alabama S., *SAR*
G1 Alcibiades S., *KEE*
G1 Australian Oaks, *RAND*
G1 BC Juvenile Fillies Turf, *SA*
G1 La Troienne S., *CD*
G1 Vanity S., *SA*
G2 Beldame S., *BEL*
G2 Demoiselle S., *AQU*
G2 San Clemente S., *DMR*
G2 Queen Mary S., *ASC*
G3 Frankel S., *SA*
G3 Pegasus F&M Turf., *GP*
G3 Saratoga Oaks Invitational, *SAR*
G3 Selene S., *WO*
G3 Delaware Oaks, *DEL*
G3 Autumn Miss S., *SA*

#ECLIPSEFILLIES IN 2026:

G1 Just a Game S., *SAR*
G2 Churchill Distaff Turf Mile, *CD*
G2 Intercontinental S., *SAR*
G2 Santa Anita Oaks, *SA*
G3 Bewitch S., *KEE*
G3 Christophe Clement S., *GP*
G3 Gallorette S., *LRL*
Las Virgenes S., *SA*



◀ **ROJA** winning the
G2 Intercontinental S.

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Tab at Zanzibar | Sarah Andrew

4 - COLD SPELL, SAR, 6/6-1st, 7 furlongs (video)

Beyer Speed Figure - 83 (2nd)

(f, 3, by **Gun Runner**--Chalon, by **Dialed In**)

O/B-Lael Stables/Mr. & Mrs. Roy Jackson (Ky). T-Wesley Ward. J-John Velazquez.

Cold Spell was runnerup in Mashallah's sizzling 106 Beyer performance and a predictable 3/5 here, but didn't break as sharply then was outfinished by longshot My Gun's Loaded (below). The back-to-back seconds to start her career is reminiscent of her fast dam Chalon, who took seven ungraded stakes but had a frustrating seven 2nds against graded company with a photo-finish loss in the GI Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint.

3 - TAB AT ZANZIBAR, SAR, 6/5-3rd, 6 1/2 furlongs (video)

Beyer Speed Figure - 84

(g, 3, by **Candy Ride (Arg)**--Union Maiden, by **Union Rags**)

O-Robert LaPenta and Madaket Stables. B-Natalma Bloodstock Limited (Ky). T-Brad Cox. J-Manny Franco.

She ran creditably in defeat in her first outing, then looked like a big shot at Saratoga, where the quality of her victory was better than the Beyer indicates. The track was yielding fast times and favoring speed, but her pace-pressing opening half in :44.05 compared favorably to the :43.97 in the Bed O'Roses a half-hour later.

2 - PENALTY BOX, CD, 6/7-3rd, 7 furlongs (video)

Beyer Speed Figure- 84

(g, 4, by **Violence**--Lady Alida, by **Street Boss**)

O-James Daniell. B-Hidden Brook Farm (Ky). T-Michael McCarthy. J-Ben Curtis.

As a 3-year-old, Penalty Box was consistent but couldn't get over the hump against future stakes winners Original Sin, Westwood and Privman. On Sunday he emerged after a six-month break to find a better spot as the only 4-year-old among nine starters. The California-based McCarthy has now started 20 different horses at the current Churchill meet and seven have made it to the winner's circle--two in graded stakes.

Hidden Brook Foaled, Raised & Sold

1 - MY GUN'S LOADED, SAR, 6/6-1st, 7 furlongs (video)

Beyer Speed Figure - 92

(f, 3, by **Gun Runner**--Strive, by **Congrats**)

O-Douglas Scharbauer. B-Corser Thoroughbreds (Ky). T-Chad Brown. J-Manny Franco.

At 18/1 odds, she was the highest price in Saturday's Belmont Stakes card opener, thanks to a dismal debut in late December. But she delivered a powerful kick to sweep past odds-on favorite Cold Spell (above). She was a \$650,000 yearling buy by Scharbauer, son of the former owners of famed Derby winner Alysheba. Scharbauer has been revving up his sales profile and most recently took the Kentucky Oaks with Always a Runner as co-owner with Three Chimneys.

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Penalty Box
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PENNSYLVANIA BREEDING IN FOCUS: "BEST STATE-BRED PROGRAM IN COUNTRY"



Pennsylvania racing and breeding programs have reason for optimism in the future | *Sarah Andrew*

by *Dan Ross*

The trendlines have been all too visible and all too visceral—nationwide declining foal crops and numbers of mares bred.

Mainstays of the Thoroughbred breeding industry in the state that has produced the likes of Smarty Jones, **Hard Spun** and Unique Bella, however, are beginning to see tentative signs for optimism.

"Our number of mares bred has remained relatively the same the past four years," said Brian Sanfratello, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association (PHBA).

Indeed, the number of mares bred to Pennsylvania stallions has narrowly fluctuated between a high of 453 and a low of around 400 the past four years. The foal crop also hasn't seen the same kinds of declines as in other states.

"Hopefully soon it'll start moving upward," he said.

If you ask Sanfratello why Pennsylvania's breeding industry has managed to weather the storm better than others, he has several theories. One concerns the racing product.

While other states' racing programs can be limited, between Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs, Pennsylvania offer something different.

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"If you're looking for a state with year-round racing, Pennsylvania is the place to be as we offer 331 race days between our three tracks," he said.

Another is a richly endowed breeder and owner **award program**. "So, that's super important to breeders to get back their money as fast as possible," he said.

He's not the only one to hold the state's breeding and owner incentives program in high esteem.

"Kentucky is a world unto itself that everybody cares about stud fees," said Bob Hutt, president and CEO of **Uptowncharlybrown Stud**, a Pennsylvania-based Thoroughbred breeder and management firm with two stallions (Uptowncharlybrown and Eastwood) standing in the state.

"In Pennsylvania, it's completely different. Pennsylvania has the best state-bred program as far as I'm concerned in the country," he added.

An **infographic** on the PHBA's website shows how a registered PA-bred can walk away from a \$50,000 purse race at Parx with nearly \$59,000 in the pocket. It breaks down this way: \$30,000 from the purse, a 40% owner bonus worth \$12,000 (the percentage changes for different tracks), and a 40% PA-sired breeder award coming to \$16,800.

"We're very consistent on the awards that we paid out over the past 13 years-last year we paid out \$23 million in awards and bonuses," said Sanfratello, pointing out how the 13-year annual average comes out at \$27.5 million. "Our highest breeding fund recipient last year was the Warriors Reward Syndicate and they received \$819,519 in awards."

This program, agrees Hutt, is especially lucrative for the owner-breeders in the state. Through his own wallet, Hutt said Uptowncharlybrown Stud has walked away with an annual average of \$768,624 for the past three years.

"Broodmares bred to Uptowncharlybrown in the past three years have earned approximately \$3 million," said Hutt. "And whether I own the mare or I don't own the mare, I still get the stallion awards of 10%. He's earned personally for Uptowncharlybrown Stud over \$200,000 a year."

Complementing Pennsylvania's owner-breeder awards program is a comprehensive calendar of restricted races for Pennsylvania-breds including an extensive stakes-program, some restricted solely to PA-sired Pennsylvania-breds.



TOTAL PERFORMANCE DATA

STAT OF THE WEEK

GOLDEN TEMPO ran the fastest split for 4 of the final 5 furlongs in the Belmont Stakes.

*This was the 2nd Grade 1 race in a row that he has recorded the fastest **Late Speed** figure in the field. He is undoubtedly the best of this year's three-year-old crop.*

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"And this is our second year of our yearling show. Anybody that's involved in that yearling show is eligible for bonuses at the end of their two-year-old and three-year-old years," said Sanfratello.

"We have \$20,000 in awards that are broken between the top four two-year-olds in earnings and \$20,000 that's broken between the top four three-year-olds in earnings. And those earnings can be anywhere," Sanfratello added.

"It doesn't have to be just in Pennsylvania."

The state also offers a Pennsylvania-bred maiden claiming waiver (for races at \$25k and above) at Penn National, "as we want to get breeding costs back to the breeder as soon as we can," he said.

All these programs combined amount to a "very significant amount" of money, said Sanfratello. "So, keeping these programs going will help to greatly stabilize the horse population and the number of race days that we have."

More broadly, stakeholders have put the necessary hard work and financial investment into the state industry, Sanfratello said. "We had one of our longtime breeders put a lot of money into a great farm, where he stands a few stallions. I think that helped, too, because people now have a spot where they can make choices," said Sanfratello, of Rich Miller's **Mountain Springs Stables**.

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Cont.

"Someone who's looking for a stallion can go there and they may say, 'Well, I like him, but maybe he's too big for my mare or he's too small.' But there's another six stallions there to look at. It makes it a little bit easier for them to choose," said Sanfratello.

As Fasig-Tipton's vice president Bayne Welker **recently told the TDN**, regional breeding markets "are just so important" to the whole industry.

"As long as they can stay viable, we certainly want to be there," he added.

"That Midlantic region, those are good horse people. Whether it's pony club or fox hunting or whatever, that horse is a thread that's woven through the fabric of that area. They raise really good horses in that part of the world," he said.

Central to a strong regional market is a strong regional sale. And central to Pennsylvania's industry is the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-Year-Olds In Training Sale.

This year's iteration of the sale came with some major structural changes. Fasig-Tipton didn't officially clock breezes. Riders were also limited in how they used their whips, permitted primarily for safety purposes.

"I commend them for it. First and foremost, the welfare of the horse is always my number one consideration. If I had a horse that I didn't think was ready for the sale, I wouldn't even gallop it. I just would just withdraw them," said Hutt, who sold one of his horses (by **Essential Quality**) for roughly \$150,000.

The Pennsylvania horsemen "owe a great debt of gratitude to Fasig-Tipton for doing it," said Hutt, of the company's Midlantic sale.

"I know the majority of people that come to that sale are looking for Pennsylvania-breds to run in Pennsylvania for the 40% owner's bonus and as a breeder there's no other place I could or would sell the horse," said Hutt. "It's a symbiotic relationship with Fasig-Tipton, and they do a fantastic job of promoting our program."

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ASK HIWU: RAPID DRUG TESTING *by Dan Ross*

With a view to pulling the veil back on the hows and whys of their operations, a representative of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) Authority or the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit (HIWU) will every week answer a question of industry importance posed by the *TDN*.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask HISA or HIWU, please feel free to send them over to us at the following email address: danross@thetdn.com

The following question was submitted by trainer Ron Moquett.

Q: There are technologies available that can provide rapid drug test results (including from urine) on-the-spot, rather than having to ship the sample back to a laboratory for testing. These rapid tests aren't as sophisticated as those conducted back in a lab, but they still provide a fairly accurate guide as to what commonly found drugs might be in a horse's system. As such, they could be extremely helpful for trainers in the days leading up to a race. How focused is HIWU right now on deploying such rapid testing technologies?

Response by Michael Hardy, acting chief of science.

HIWU is aware of the instant testing kits that exist for humans and are often used as part of pre-employment drug screenings. However, HIWU is not aware of any kind of validated instant testing kits with the specificity and sensitivity consistent with horse racing's scope of testing. Human instant testing kits are limited in their screening capabilities, meaning that they are mainly meant to screen for human substances of abuse, not other substances or medications that may be commonly administered to racehorses.

Additionally, these kits screen at much higher levels than the levels that our laboratories screen at for testing, so they would not be helpful or reliable for horsemen. Plus, even if one of these kits screened positive for a possible Prohibited Substance, a sample would still need to be sent to a laboratory to confirm the presence of the substance.

What HIWU can and does offer to horsemen is Clearance Testing. This testing is used to screen for specific Controlled Medications that have been intentionally and legally administered to a horse.

When a trainer **requests Clearance Testing through HIWU**, they must declare the specific medication(s) that they want the laboratory to screen for as part of the test. A negative Clearance Test can give horsemen confidence that their horse will pass Post-Race or Vets' List testing in relation to the named Controlled Medications targeted as part of the Clearance Test.

Clearance Testing costs \$200 per horse and includes the collection of blood and urine samples. Negative results are required to be reported to HIWU within five business days (weekends and holidays excluded) of the laboratory's receipt of the sample, so horsemen should plan accordingly when scheduling.

HIWU's Science team is always happy to help horsemen and veterinarians through sciencesupport@hiwu.org if they have questions about Controlled Medications.

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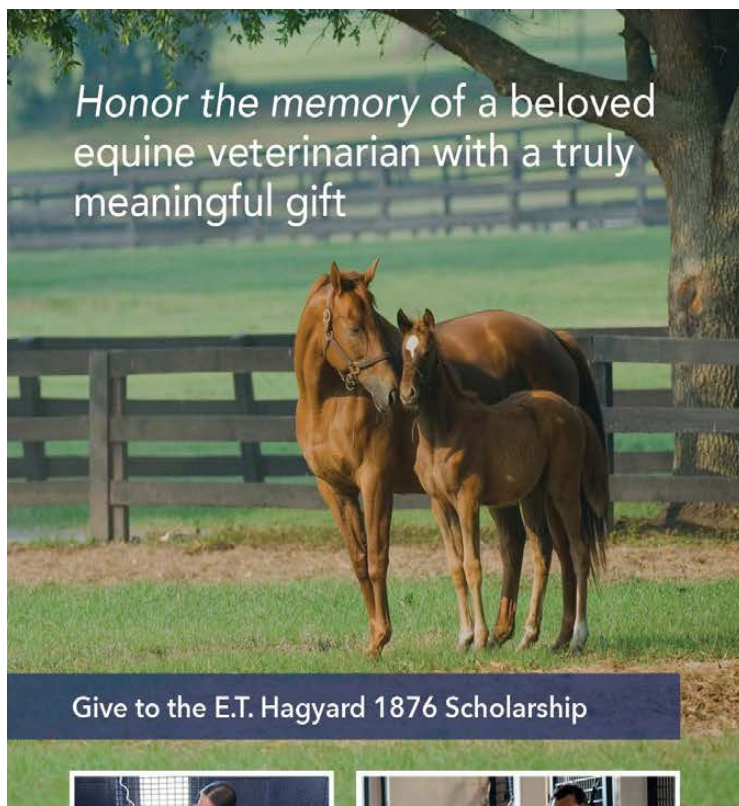
CAW PLAY PLUMMETS AT BELMONT FESTIVAL, BUT TOTAL HANDLE STILL RISES

by Bill Finley

The "guardrails" put in place by the NYRA in an attempt to limit the wagering of the computer assisted wagering players (CAW) had a clear impact over the five-day Belmont Stakes Festival at Saratoga. Over the five days, CAW players bet a combined \$22,109,626, a major drop from 2025 when they wagered \$39,989,964. That represents a decrease of 44.7%. The CAW play in 2026 accounted for 11% of the total handle. In 2025, that figure was 20.2% of handle. Beginning Feb. 5, NYRA began requiring CAW activity to cease at one minute to post in all wagering pools not previously subject to high-speed wagering restrictions. It called this a "comprehensive approach to the management of CAW activity for the benefit of horseplayers."

In 2021, NYRA became the first racing organization in the United States to establish a timing restriction for CAW activity specific to the win pool. The measure, which prohibits CAW play into the win pool later than two minutes to post. That policy has successfully eliminated dramatic late odds fluctuations in the win pool, still a factor at many tracks where it is not uncommon for the odds on a horse to drop dramatically from the time it leaves the gate until it crosses the wire. Despite the drop in CAW play, NYRA was able to post a small gain when it came to total all sources handle for the five days of racing. Handle for the five days was \$199,913,502, a 1.1% increase over 2025 figures. Taking the drop in CAW play into account, handle from retail players was up 12.7%. Last month, NYRA revealed that prior to the implementation of the latest CAW guardrails, CAW players accounted for 20 to 22% of the total wagering. That figure is now down to 12 to 13%.

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Today, the equine industry is experiencing a dramatic shortage of veterinarians. In conjunction with AAEP, Hagyard is addressing this issue by establishing a foundation that will provide scholarships for third-year vet students dedicated to careers in equine medicine.

A number of donors have found that making a contribution to the \$1.5 million goal is a meaningful way to pay tribute to a veterinarian – living or deceased – that has provided us with a calming peace of mind when our precious horses experience challenging health matters.

Click here to make your tax-deductible contribution so that we have a pipeline of quality veterinarians to always ensure quality care for horses. And peace of mind for the owners who care about them.



ELLIS PARK STAKES SCHEDULED FEATURES RECORD \$4.125-MILLION ACROSS 18 RACES



Coady Media

The 2026 Ellis Park meet will showcase 18 stakes races worth a record \$4.125-million in purses, highlighted by the Ellis Park Summer **Showcase** Weekend that features seven turf stakes worth a combined \$1.75-million, the track announced Monday.

Set to run July 2 through Aug. 23, the stakes action kicks off Saturday, July 4 but begins in earnest on Summer **Showcase** weekend Aug. 1-2. Seven turf stakes are carded for both days with two on Saturday and five on Sunday, led by the \$300,000 Green River Island Stakes. Another feature day will be Aug. 9, when the \$400,000 Ellis Park Derby and \$200,000 Groupie Doll Stakes go to post to lead a card six-stakes strong worth a combined \$1.5-million. The meet will begin racing Thursday through Sunday from July 2-5 and continue a Friday-Sunday schedule through Aug. 23.

For a full list of the stakes schedule, [please go here](#).

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LAUREL RAISES STAKES PURSES FOR DE FRANCIS DASH DAY

A \$25,000 purse increase will be applied to a quartet of stakes races at Laurel Park for De Francis Dash Day June 27, the Maryland Jockey Club (TMJC) and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association announced Monday.

The Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash is now worth \$175,000, while the Deputed Testimony Stakes, Alma North Stakes, and Japan Racing Association Turf Cup each offer \$125,000 in purses.

The Japan Racing Association Turf Cup, run at 1 1/8 miles on turf, highlights the close relationship between TMJC and the Japan Racing Association (JRA).

On Mar. 7, Bill Knauf, president and general manager of TMJC, was on hand at Nakayama Racecourse to present the winner's trophy for the G3 Laurel Park Sho Nakayama Himba Stakes. A JRA representative is expected to attend June 27 at Laurel Park.

Nominations for the four stakes races close Saturday, June 13.

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CY FAIR NOT "ACTING HER USUAL SELF THE PAST FEW DAYS", WILL MISS ROYAL ASCOT

Medallion Racing, Swinbank Stables, Joey Platts and Mark Stanton's **Cy Fair** (**Not This Time**) will miss an intended engagement in the June 16 G1 King Charles III Stakes at Royal Ascot. The King Charles is a 'Win and You're In' to the GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, which will be held at Keeneland this fall.

A Medallion Racing statement issued on X Monday: "We have made the decision to skip Royal Ascot with Cy Fair. George [Weaver] felt like she wasn't acting her usual self the past few days. Out of an abundance of caution, we missed her final breeze for Ascot and didn't feel comfortable shipping her yesterday until we felt she was 100%."

"She is completely sound and hopefully will be back on the work tab in the next week or two."

Named a 'TDN Rising Star, presented by Hagyard' following a Saratoga score last summer, the bay was narrowly bested in the Bolton Landing Stakes before taking her next two--Woodbine's Algonquin Stakes and the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint at Del Mar last Halloween. She kicked off her sophomore campaign with a third behind Slay the Day in the GIII Limestone Stakes on Apr. 10 before turning the table on that rival to win the GIII Mamzelle Stakes at Churchill Downs on Apr. 30.

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Cy Fair in Saratoga on May 30 | *Sarah Andrew*

OBS JUNE UNDER-TACK PREVIEW BEGINS TUESDAY

The five-day under-tack preview of the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's June 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale begins Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. Hips one through 196 are scheduled to work Tuesday, followed by hips 197 through 302 and supplemental lots 303 through 327 and 351 through 416 on Wednesday; hips 417 through 612 on Thursday; hips 613 through 652 and supplemental lots 653 through 671 and 701 through 837 on Friday; and hips 838 through 1002 and supplemental lots 1003 through 1028, as well as horses of racing age hips 1051 through 1056 on Saturday.

Each session of the under-tack preview is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. The OBS June sale will be held next Tuesday through Thursday. Bidding begins each day at 10:30 a.m.

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COLONIAL DOWNS BARN AREA OPENS JUNE 10



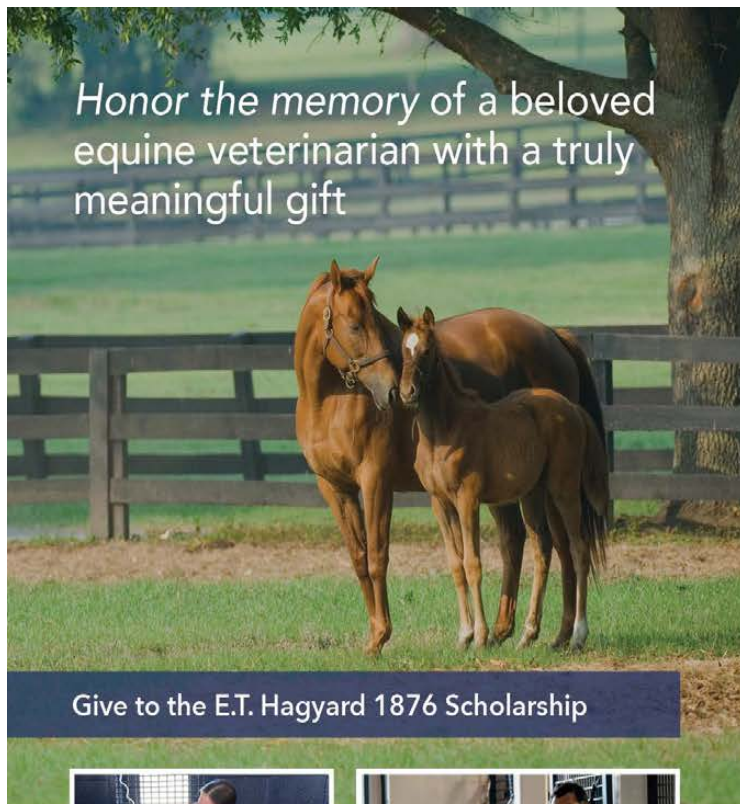
Colonial Downs | Horsephotos

The stabling area at Colonial Downs will open Wednesday, June 10 for horsemen and new arrivals in preparation for the 2026 summer Thoroughbred meeting, the track announced Monday.

With training scheduled to begin the following Thursday, live racing is set to kick off Thursday, June 25 with a record-setting season featuring an expanded schedule. The meet will offer 45 days of live racing and will be conducted everything Thursday through Sunday from opening to a special Labor Day program Monday, Sept. 7. It will be the most live racing days in the history of Colonial Downs racetrack.

Cont. p16

Honor the memory of a beloved equine veterinarian with a truly meaningful gift



Today, the equine industry is experiencing a dramatic shortage of veterinarians. In conjunction with AAEP, Hagyard is addressing this issue by establishing a foundation that will provide scholarships for third-year vet students dedicated to careers in equine medicine.

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Click here to make your tax-deductible contribution so that we have a pipeline of quality veterinarians to always ensure quality care for horses. And peace of mind for the owners who care about them.



The stakes schedule will feature 35 races and handicaps worth more than \$6.5-million in purses, headlined by the Colonial Downs Festival of Racing Saturday, Aug. 1. The day will be anchored by the GI Arlington Million, GII Beverly D. and GII Secretariat Stakes, in addition to contesting five additional stakes on the afternoon. Labor Day racing on closing day will feature the GIII Old Dominion Oaks atop a six-stakes program.

Horsemen are reminded that nominations close Wednesday, June 10, for a pair of opening weekend Virginia-restricted stakes events. The \$125,000 Edward P. Evans Stakes for Virginia-bred, Virginia-sired and/or Virginia-restricted older horses--along with its distaff counterpart, the \$125,000 Brookmeade Stakes--will be contested Saturday, June 27, the first Saturday of the meet.

Open maiden special weight races will carry purses of \$70,000, while Virginia-restricted maiden special weights will compete for \$87,500. Allowance purses will reach up to \$80,000 for open company runners and \$90,000 for Virginia-restricted competitors. To view the condition books, [please go here](#).

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SIRES WITH NEW SWs/GSWs

FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 7, 2026

ACTIVE NORTH AMERICAN-BASED STALLIONS

Sire (Sire's Sire)	#SWs	#GSW (GISW)
Charlatan (Speightstown)	7	3
(Fitz Right--Wonder Again S.-GII)		
Collected (City Zip)	24	8
(Pass the Hat--Poker S.-GIII)		
Honor A. P. (Honor Code)	8	2 (1)
(Counting Stars--DraftKings Acorn S.-GI)		

STANDING AT LANE'S END • [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

• EMAIL CHRIS KNEHR

Karakontie (Jpn) (Bernstein)	21	9
(Roja--Intercontinental S.-GII)		
Maxfield (Street Sense)	4	1 (1)
(Englishman--Woody Stephens S.-GI)		
Neolithic (Harlan's Holiday)	11	---
(Chicken Dance--Not Surprising S.)		
Omaha Beach (War Front)	27	8
(Alan Turing--Commentator S.)		
Practical Joke (Into Mischief)	40	18
(Kalil--Louisiana Legends Turf Distaff S.)		

Ransom the Moon (Malibu Moon)	4	---
(Highwaytothemoon--Queenston S.)		
The Big Beast (Yes It's True)	13	1 (1)
(Reef Runner--Jaipur S.-GI)		
Twirling Candy (Candy Ride {Arg})	68	31
(West End Kid--Pennine Ridge S.-GIII)		

STANDING AT LANE'S END • [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

• EMAIL CHRIS KNEHR

Volatile (Violence)	10	4
(Creole Chrome--Louisiana Legends Cheval S.)		
Yaupon (Uncle Mo)	11	1
(Venetta--Bouwerie S.)		

Italics indicate new activity, statistics include Northern Hemisphere results only. Want to promote your stallion? Email suefinley@thoroughbreddailynews.com.



Counting Stars became the first Grade I winner for Lane's End's

Honor A. P. in the Acorn Stakes | Sarah Andrew





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Saturday, 6/13, Santa Anita #8, post time: 7:30 p.m. EDT

DAYTONA S.-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo/up, 6 1/2fT

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Friendly Confines 	Twirling Candy	John Ford Racing, Inc., Debby & Richard Baltas, Vivian Li	Baltas	Ayuso	122
2	Later Than Planned (Ire)	Cotai Glory (GB)	Little Red Feather Racing, Sterling Stables LLC and M Naify	D'Amato	Berrios	118
3	Nesso's Lastharrah	Sharp Azteca	Mark D. and Patricia L. Cofer Trust	Bonde	Jaramillo	122
4	First Peace	Funtastic	Rancho Temescal LLC, Red Baron's Barn LLC & R E. Orr	Glatt	Kimura	126
5	Irish Royalty	Grazen	Mayberry, Thomas and O'Neill, Doug F.	O'Neill	Frey	122
6	Modus Bestia 	Maclean's Music	Nguyen, Calvin and Tran, Joey C.	Baltas	Aguilar	122
7	War At Sea	War Front	Doubledown Stables, Inc.	Ellis	Gonzalez	126
8	Anmer Hall	Palace Malice	MM Wilkes Racing LLC	Eurton	Fresu	122
9	Incanto (Ire) 	Mehmas (Ire)	David A. Bernsen, LLC, TCC Stables, LLC and J. Lambert	Eurton	Pereira	124
10	Zio Jo 	Nyquist	Quattro Navarro Farms LLC	O'Neill	Rosario	122
11	Freedom's Not Free 	Omaha Beach	Blinkers On Racing Stable, Janlois Racing, LLC, Valinor Racing Stable, LLC, Corbett, Tom, Kwan, Andy and Wagner, Jay Lester	Glatt	Hernandez	124
12	Sumter	War Front	Bass II, Perry R. and Bass, Ramona S.	Mandella	Smith	126
13	The Old Nine (Ire)	No Nay Never	Tricar Stables, Inc.	Periban	Maldonado	122

Breeders: 1-Rigney Racing LLC, 2-John P. Mangan & John S. Mangan, 3-Amaty Racing Stables, 4-Christopher L. Baker & Mullikin Thoroughbreds, 5-Moger Inc. & Neary Racing Inc., 6-Country Life Farm & Make Amends LLC, 7-Lewis Thoroughbred Breeding, 8-Schiano Racing Inc., 9-Novidale Ltd & Eoghan Grogan, 10-Elm Racing, LLC & Mulholland Springs LLC, 11-Cove Springs, LLC, 12-Bass Stables, LLC, 13-Mr Charlie Brooks

Saturday, 6/13, Santa Anita #11, post time: 9:00 p.m. EDT

SUMMERTIME OAKS-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	SIRE	OWNER	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT
1	Mizumi	Justify	Baoma Corp	Baffert	Hernandez	120
2	Sugaree 	By My Standards	David A. Bernsen LLC	Barocio	Frey	120
3	Daring Pursuit 	Not This Time	D K Racing, LLC, Radley Equine, Inc., Tyler Racing, LLC, Gold, Rick, Holmes, Mark and Holmes, Steve	Blacker	Berrios	120
4	Mo' Em Down 	Caracaro	Altamira Racing Stable, Kagele, Tom and Marchosky, Ernest	Miller	Rosario	120
5	Wolf Hill 	Upstart	Estate of Brereton C. Jones	Powell	Fresu	120
6	Bank Shot	Game Winner	WSS Racing	Hanson	Escobedo	120
7	Marjoram	Quality Road	Juddmonte	McCarthy	Jaramillo	120

Breeders: 1-Charles Chu, 2-Mullikin Thoroughbreds, 3-Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, LLC, 4-Pope McLean, Marc McLean & Pope McLean Jr., 5-Brereton C. Jones, 6-Buck Pond Farm & John Wilmot, 7-Juddmonte



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

KEENELAND



2026 Cumulative Leading Second-Crop Sires, by Earnings

Standing NA - Worldwide Earnings - NH Foals

Rank	Stallion	BTW	%	BTH	%	GSW	%	GSH	%	G1SW	%	G1SH	%	Earnings
1	Yaupon (2017) by Uncle Mo	11	4.31	20	7.84	1	0.39	3	1.18	--	--	--	--	\$5,934,954
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Spendthrift Farm/Fee: 60,000													
2	Essential Quality (2018) by Tapit	6	3.33	9	5	1	0.56	1	0.56	--	--	1	0.56	\$4,102,774
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Darley KY/Fee: 25,000													
3	Charlatan (2017) by Speightstown	7	3	9	3.86	3	1.29	5	2.15	--	--	--	--	\$3,768,922
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa/Fee: 25,000													
4	Maxfield (2017) by Street Sense	4	2.48	15	9.32	1	0.62	2	1.24	1	0.62	2	1.24	\$3,637,971
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Darley KY/Fee: 50,000													
5	Rock Your World (2018) by Candy Ride (Arg)	3	1.6	9	4.81	1	0.53	2	1.07	--	--	--	--	\$2,907,382
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Spendthrift Farm/Fee: 7,500													
6	Beau Liam (2018) by Liam's Map	4	3.25	7	5.69	1	0.81	2	1.63	--	--	1	0.81	\$2,801,571
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Airdrie Stud/Fee: 7,500													
7	Independnce Hall (2017) by Constitution	2	1.24	6	3.73	--	--	2	1.24	--	--	1	0.62	\$2,542,724
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: WinStar Farm/Fee: 10,000													
8	Tacitus (2016) by Tapit	1	0.66	1	0.66	1	0.66	1	0.66	--	--	1	0.66	\$2,429,990
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Taylor Made Farm/Fee: 5,000													
9	Modernist (2017) by Uncle Mo	2	1.8	6	5.41	1	0.9	2	1.8	--	--	--	--	\$1,681,002
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Darby Dan Farm/Fee: 5,000													
10	Leinster (2015) by Majestic Warrior	2	3.77	6	11.32	--	--	1	1.89	--	--	--	--	\$1,601,234
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Mountain View Farm NY/Fee: 7,500													
11	Lexitonian (2016) by Speightstown	4	5.33	7	9.33	1	1.33	1	1.33	--	--	--	--	\$1,495,978
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Calumet Farm/Fee: 7,500													
12	Silver State (2017) by Hard Spun	1	0.72	4	2.88	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$1,444,757
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Claiborne Farm/Fee: 7,500													
13	By My Standards (2016) by Goldencents	--	--	2	1.85	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$1,249,938
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Spendthrift Farm/Fee: 5,000													
14	Known Agenda (2018) by Curlin	--	--	1	0.74	--	--	1	0.74	--	--	--	--	\$1,206,062
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Spendthrift Farm/Fee: 5,000													
15	Basin (2017) by Liam's Map	3	3.7	5	6.17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	\$1,012,376
	FYR: 2023/Crops: 2/Stand: Spendthrift Farm/Fee: 5,000													

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

8th-Santa Anita, \$71,000, Alw (NW2\$X)/Opt. Clm (\$80,000),
6-7, 3yo/up, 1mT, 1:34.09, fm, 1/2 length.

IRON MAN CAL (g, 4, Collected--Joyful Dreams, by Kitten's Joy),
winner of the 2024 GIII Zuma Beach Stakes through
disqualification and a narrowly beaten second in that year's GI
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, made just two starts in 2025,
finishing sixth in the GI American Turf Stakes in May and second
in the Oceanside Stakes in July. He opened 2026 with a sixth-
place finish over course and trip in a Mar. 14 optional claimer
and was coming off a close-up fourth-place effort in a Keeneland
allowance Apr. 12. Gelded since that effort, the bay sat just off
the early pace and pulled his way up into contention three wide
nearing the stretch. He forged past pacesetter Charlie's to
Blame (Blame) in deep stretch to earn a half-length victory. Iron
Man Cal was a \$130,000 KEESEP yearling. Joyful Dreams has a 2-
year-old colt by **Cairo Prince** who was purchased by trainer
Miguel Clement for \$100,000 at last year's Keeneland
September sale, and a yearling colt by **Happy Saver**. She was
bred back to **City of Light** last year. **Click for the Equibase.com
chart or VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** Lifetime Record:
GSW & GISP, 9-3-2-0, \$357,125.
O-Little Red Feather Racing and Madaket Stables LLC;
B-Brereton C. Jones (KY); T-Philip D'Amato.

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IN ORDER OF PURSE:

4th-Presque Isle Downs, \$31,040, Msw, 6-8, 2yo, 4 1/2f (AWT),
:52.71, ft, 2 1/4 lengths.

UNCLE KEF (c, 2, Uncle Chuck--Alexandra Kay, by Factum), sent
off at 6-1, broke alertly before settling just off pacesetter Zee R
One (**Raging Bull {Fr}**) through a quarter in :22.92. Wide into the
lane, the bay rallied stoutly down the center of the track to win
going away by 2 1/4 lengths. Favored Steel of Fortune
(Authentic) was second and Zee R One was third. Alexandra Kay
has a yearling filly by Tapwrit and was bred back to
Independence Hall last year. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or
VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0,
\$18,600.

O-Rice Racing; B-Kevin Alexander Rice (FL); T-Kevin Rice.

5th-Thistledown, \$26,400, Msw, 6-8, 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:06.54, ft,
1 length.

WILLING N ABLED (c, 3, Wellabled--Nila, by Indian Charlie), the
4-5 favorite, rushed up to grab the early lead and set the pace
through fractions of :22.62 and :46.62 and held on late to
graduate by one length. **Click for the Equibase.com chart or
VIDEO, sponsored by FanDuel TV.** Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0,
\$15,840.

O/B-Carolyn Wilson (FL); T-Larry Rivelli.

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**Sunday's Results:**

3rd-Hanshin, ¥11,050,000 (\$68,985), Maiden, 3yo, 1800m, 1:54.2, ft.

LORD VERITAS (JPN) (c, 3, **Essential Quality--Bodhicitta {GB} {GSW & MGISP-US, \$370,808}, by Showcasing {GB})** just missed in his two most recent appearances, when beaten a neck into third over 1900 meters at Kyoto on his actual birthdate Feb. 14 and by the same margin when runner-up going this course and trip on Mar. 8. Favored here at 19-10, the homebred colt was ridden for some speed from the two hole and secured a spot from third right on the back of the leader heading to the backstretch. Off the bridle for a few strides with a bit more than 600 meters to race, Lord Veritas was poised to strike nearing the lane, was pulled out three wide to deliver his challenge and edged away to graduate by three lengths. Lord Veritas is the second Japanese winner from as many starters for his young stallion, who hails from the same female family as Triple Crown hero Contrail (Jpn). The bay is the first foal from his dam, winner of the GI Yellow Ribbon Stakes and twice placed in the GI Gamely Stakes for owner Calvin Nguyen and trainer Richard Baltas before selling to K I Farm for \$450,000 at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton February Sale. The mare was put in foal to this stallion pre-export and is also responsible for a 2-year-old filly by K I Farm standout Lord Kanaloa (Jpn), a yearling filly by Epihpaneia (Jpn) and a filly by Do Deuce (Jpn) foaled Feb. 13 of this year. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-1, \$61,212.

O-Lord Horse Club Co Ltd; B-K I Farm ; T-Yasuo Tomomichi.

**IN SOUTH KOREA:**

Victory Socks, c, 3, **Audible--Easter Rising, by Declaration of War. Seoul, 6-6, Hcp. (C4), 1400m. B-Pope McLean, Marc McLean, Pope McLean Jr, Taproot Bloodstock & Peter Edwards (NY). *\$45,000 RNA Ylg '24 KEESEP; \$40,000 2yo '25 OBSAPR.**

VIDEO (#6)

Cyclone Power, c, 4, **Volatile--Indomitable Spirit, by **Street Sense**. Seoul, 6-6, Hcp. (C4), 1400m. B-Jeff & Melissa Prunzik (KY). *\$37,000 RNA Ylg '23 KEESEP; \$40,000 2yo '24 OBSAPR.**

VIDEO (#3)**IN MEXICO:****FIRST WINNER FOR FRESHMAN SIRE**

Milton, c, 2, **Mandaloun--Diamante de Fuego, by El Corredor. Hipodromo de las Americas, 6-6, Maiden, 5f. B-Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson) (KY). *First winner for freshman sire (by Into Mischief). **1ST-TIME STARTER. ***\$24,000 Ylg '25 KEESEP.**

FIRST WINNER FOR FRESHMAN SIRE

Monza Crown, f, 2, **Pinehurst--Taper This, by Sky Mesa. Hipodromo de las Americas, 6-5, Maiden, 5f. B-Robert Losey & Marshall Gramm (KY). *First winner for freshman sire (by **Twirling Candy**). **1ST-TIME STARTER. ***\$2,500 Ylg '25 FTKOCT.**

IN RUSSIA:

Tumar, f, 2, **City of Light--Anoush, by **Candy Ride (Arg)**. Nal'chik, 6-6, Kuban River Prize (Rus-G3, NBT), 1200m. B-W S Farish (KY). *1ST-TIME STARTER. **\$5,000 Ylg '25 KEESEP.**

Major Bars, c, 2, **Maximum Security--Tapped Twice, by **Curlin**. Pavlovskiy, 6-6, Summer S. (Rus-G2, NBT), 1200m. B-Better Horses (KY). *\$20,000 Wlg '24 KEENOV.**

Stepp Eagle, c, 2, **Upstart--Creative Trick, by Creative Cause. Nal'chik, 6-6, Summer Prize (Rus-G2, NBT), 1400m. B-Estate of Brereton C Jones (KY). *\$130,000 Ylg '25 KEESEP. **Full to Trademark, GSW, \$1,204,800.**

My Mystery Girl, f, 3, **Army Mule--Secret Delight, by Pioneer of the Nile. Nal'chik, 6-6, Prize of Sosna III (Rus-G3, NBT), 2000m. B-Blackstone Farm (PA). *\$13,000 Ylg '24 KEESEP.**

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Kliaksa, c, 3, **Bolt d'Oro--Maria Maria (MGSP, \$281,745), by **Curlin**. Kazan, 6-5, Big Summer Prize (Rus-G1, NBT), 1600m. B-Curtis C Green (KY). *\$30,000 Ylg '24 KEESEP. **1/2 to Stylish Sue (**Nyquist**), SW-US, GSP-Can, \$483,423.**

Quality Boy, c, 3 **Caracaro--Dolce Aprile, by **Tonalist**. Adygea, 6-7, Grand Prix (Rus-G1, NBT), 1600m. B-Brandywine Farm (Jim & Pam Robinson) (KY). *\$52,000 Ylg '24 KEESEP.**

Serpenty Bars, f, 3, **Kitten's Joy--Pilot Episode, by Speightstown. Pavlovskiy, 6-6, Analogichnoy S. (Rus-G2, NBT), 1600m. B-Nancy Shuford (KY). *\$45,000 Ylg '24 KEENOV.**

Beginmai, f, 3, **Maximus Mischief--Annatlantic, by Stormy Atlantic. Nal'chik, 6-6, Analogichnaya Prize (Rus-G2, NBT), 1600m. B-Rose Hill Farm & John Trumbulovic (KY). *\$8,000 Ylg '24 KEESEP.**

Mr. Legend, c, 3, **McKinzie--Lady Palace, by Palace Malice. Pyatigorsk, 6-7, Allowance, 2000m. B-HRH Prince Sultan Bin Mishal Al Saud (KY). *\$15,000 Ylg '24 KEESEP.**

Laman Sapsan, c, 3, **Modernist--Coup de Main, by City Zip. Nal'chik, 6-6, Grand Summer Prize (Rus-G1, NBT), 1600m. B-V Gail Ray (KY). *\$47,000 Ylg '24 FTKOCT.**

**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

2nd-Thistledown, \$35,800, (S), 6-8, (NW1X), 3yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:06.86, ft, 1 length.

PARLAY CHARLIE (m, 5, Mr. Z--Lady Zieg, by Touch Gold)

Lifetime Record: 27-5-5-3, \$118,275. O-Keys to Riches Stable LLC; B-Charlie Livers (OH); T-Shane Meyers. *1/2 to Ackeret (Mach Ride), SW, \$215,104.

3rd-Thistledown, \$35,800, (S), 6-8, (NW2L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13.64, ft, 6 1/4 lengths.

MSHAWISH'GIRL (f, 3, Mshawish--Candys Girl {GB}, by

Bertolini) Lifetime Record: 10-2-3-0, \$67,559. O-Robert Cline & David Kirk, Jr.; B-Raimonde Farms LTD (OH); T-Robert C. Cline.

7th-Thistledown, \$29,700, 6-8, (NW3L), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12.34, ft, head.

JUPITER (g, 3, Upstart--Magnanimous, by Karakontie {Jpn})

Lifetime Record: SW, 6-3-1-1, \$134,758. O-Rivera Racing Stables, LLC.; B-David Schwartz (KY); T-Nestor R. Rivera. *\$50,000 Wlg '23 KEENOV; \$100,000 RNA 2yo '25 OBSAPR.



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7th-Finger Lakes, \$26,900, 6-8, (NW3L), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12.68, ft, 2 lengths.

STUNNING SUGAR (f, 4, Central Banker--Deep Trouble, by Into

Mischief) Lifetime Record: 12-3-2-3, \$75,405. O-Richie Rich Racing Stable; B-Spruce Lane Farm, Becker, Empire Equines, Conley, Copper Beech, Gib (NY); T-Paul W. Barrow. *\$6,000 Wlg '22 KEENOV; \$2,200 Ylg '23 FTKFEB; \$14,000 RNA Ylg '23 OBSOCT; \$35,000 2yo '24 OBSOPN. **1/2 to Curtain Call (**Tiz the Law**), GISP, \$108,250.



NICK J. HINES, AGENT

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1st-Finger Lakes, \$25,800, 6-8, (NW2L), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:06.38, ft, 1 length.

GOD'S ANGEL (g, 3, Solomini--Billieholidayblues, by Harlem

Rocker) Lifetime Record: 6-2-0-0, \$40,930. O-Kevin J. Fernandez-Merced; B-McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, LLC & William Hebert (NY); T-Thalia Areche. *\$9,000 RNA Wlg '23 FTNMIX.

7th-Emerald Downs, \$23,520, 6-7, (C), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:09.40, ft, 2 lengths.

KNAUGHTY KNIGHT (f, 3, Barkley--Knight Club {SP}, by Matty

G) Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-0, \$26,930. O-Nina & Ronald Hagen & Howard Gibson; B-Nina & Ron Hagen (WA); T-Howard F. Gibson. *Full to Saleen G T, SW, \$117,640.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Amour de La Vie, f, 3, Ghaaleb--Love in Paris, by Not For Love.

Mountaineer Casino & Resort, 6-7, (S), 5fT, :58.91. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, \$13,180. B-Hubel Farms LLC (WV).

Eze Village, f, 3, Into Mischief--Broken Dreams (MGSW, \$394,072), by Broken Vow. Finger Lakes, 6-8, 5 1/2f, 1:05.30. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$16,600. B-Glen Hill Farm (KY). *1/2 to Caribou Club (City Zip), GSW-Can, MGSW-USA, \$751,848.

Matching Funds, g, 3, Tiz the Law--Giant Deduction, by Giant's Causeway. Louisiana Downs, 6-8, 1 1/16mT, 1:42.07. Lifetime Record: 7-1-0-3, \$22,130. B-Team Block (KY). *\$85,000 RNA Ylg '24 KEESEP. **1/2 to Out of Deductions (Nyquist**), MSP, \$206,645; and to Land Mark Deal (**Munnings**), SP, \$257,330.**

Union Doos, f, 3, Union Rags--Shoobiedoobydoo (SP, \$121,530), by Dialed In. Parx Racing, 6-8, (C), 6f, 1:13.45. Lifetime Record: 6-1-1-2, \$38,670. B-Jim & Shivuan Morrissey (KY).

Three Nines Fine, f, 4, Central Banker--Silver Street, by Street Boss. Finger Lakes, 6-8, 5 1/2f, 1:06.21. Lifetime Record: 9-1-3-0, \$67,100. B-Trade Winds Farm (NY).

Light the Mira, f, 4, City of Light--Mirapoix, by Exchange Rate. Finger Lakes, 6-8, 5 1/2f, 1:06.76. Lifetime Record: 7-1-2-2, \$40,724. B-Albert Fried (NY).

Isola d'Oro, g, 4, Goldcents--Piccola Isola, by Western Expression. Finger Lakes, 6-8, 1m, 1:41.41. Lifetime Record: 6-1-1-2, \$35,680. B-Richard J. Lugovich (NY). *1/2 to Picco Uno (Macho Uno), MSW, \$431,667.

Hardtobebetternow, g, 4, Hard Spun--Whobetterthanus, by Grand Slam. Santa Anita, 6-7, (S), (C), 1mT, 1:36.35. Lifetime Record: 6-1-3-1, \$66,700. B-Premier Thoroughbreds LLC, Klein & Brown (CA). *1/2 to Smiling Shirlee (Smiling Tiger), SW, \$300,720.

Foxton, f, 4, Outwork--Exit Plan, by Stay Thirsty. Prairie Meadows, 6-7, (S), 6f, 1:11.67. Lifetime Record: 6-1-2-1, \$55,566. B-Dave McShane & Rick Forsyth (IA).

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Barkley, Knaughty Knight, f, 3, o/o Knight Club, by Matty G. ALW, 6-7, Emerald Downs

Central Banker, Stunning Sugar, f, 4, o/o Deep Trouble, by Into Mischief. ALW, 6-8, Finger Lakes

Central Banker, Three Nines Fine, f, 4, o/o Silver Street, by Street Boss. MSW, 6-8, Finger Lakes

City of Light, Light the Mira, f, 4, o/o Mirapoix, by Exchange Rate. MSW, 6-8, Finger Lakes

Collected, Iron Man Cal, g, 4, o/o Joyful Dreams, by Kitten's Joy. AOC, 6-7, Santa Anita

Ghaaleb, Amour de La Vie, f, 3, o/o Love in Paris, by Not For Love. MSW, 6-7, Mountaineer

Goldcents, Isola d'Oro, g, 4, o/o Piccola Isola, by Western Expression. MSW, 6-8, Finger Lakes

Hard Spun, Hardtobebetternow, g, 4, o/o Whobetterthanus, by Grand Slam. MCL, 6-7, Santa Anita

Into Mischief, Eze Village, f, 3, o/o Broken Dreams, by Broken Vow. MSW, 6-8, Finger Lakes

Mr. Z, Parlay Charlie, m, 5, o/o Lady Zieg, by Touch Gold. ALW, 6-8, Thistledown

Mshawish, Mshawish'girl, f, 3, o/o Candys Girl (GB), by Bertolini. ALW, 6-8, Thistledown

Outwork, Foxton, f, 4, o/o Exit Plan, by Stay Thirsty. MSW, 6-7, Prairie Meadows

Solomini, God's Angel, g, 3, o/o Billieholidayblues, by Harlem Rocker. ALW, 6-8, Finger Lakes

Tiz the Law, Matching Funds, g, 3, o/o Giant Deduction, by Giant's Causeway. MSW, 6-8, Louisiana Downs

Uncle Chuck, Uncle Kef, c, 2, o/o Alexandra Kay, by Factum. MSW, 6-8, Presque Isle Downs

Union Rags, Union Doos, f, 3, o/o Shoobiedoobydoo, by **Dialed In**. MCL, 6-8, Parx Racing

Upstart, Jupiter, g, 3, o/o Magnanimous, by **Karakontie (Jpn)**. ALW, 6-8, Thistledown

Wellabled, Willing N Abled, c, 3, o/o Nila, by Indian Charlie. MSW, 6-8, Thistledown

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THE 'BULLSEYE' YOUNGSTER WHO HIT THE BIGGEST TARGET

Derby-winning breeder Stephen Hillen on Christmas Day, Camelot and another Classic wish



Speckled by rain, Christmas Day and Ronan Whelan head to post for the Derby | [Racingphotos.com](https://www.racingphotos.com)

By Emma Berry

If you've had reason to chat to Stephen Hillen at the sales you will know that he's an agent who is measured to the point of coming across as though he has ice running through his veins.

Had he and his wife Becky been at Epsom on Saturday to watch the horse they bred win the Derby they may have felt pretty icy, too, but sensibly they were watching from afar in the warmer climes of Mallorca.

To the suggestion that he doesn't let himself get carried away by too much, Hillen, who breeds under the name Framont Ltd, responds emphatically.

"No, we were very excited," he says. "We definitely got carried away with that. It's surreal really."

In the coming weeks, the reality of being a Derby-winning breeder will sink in, and who knows what may be in store for Christmas Day as the season progresses.

Hillen, a self-confessed "believer" in the winner's sire **Camelot**, says, "Let's hope he can win the Irish Derby and then go on and prove to be a really tough horse."

Cont. p3

BHA STANDS FIRM OVER BENVENUTO CELLINI NON-RUNNER DECISION

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) is standing firm in response to criticism of how the stewards handled the aftermath of the stalls incident involving Benvenuto Cellini at Epsom on Saturday, expressing the view that its rules "should be in line with the majority of the international racing community on this issue, rather than an outlier".

Aidan O'Brien's Derby favourite was deemed not to have had a fair start after his near hind leg was briefly caught on the inside shelf of the stalls as the gates opened for the premier Classic, causing him to slightly miss the break.

The son of **Frankel** proceeded to pass the post a distant 10th behind stablemate Christmas Day, before he was subsequently **declared a non-runner by the stewards**, which resulted in backers of the winner suffering a 25p Rule 4 deduction, albeit that was waived by several bookmakers. **Cont. p6**

IN TDN AMERICA TODAY

MAKING NEW OWNERS: JOSH ISNER

Chris McGrath speaks to owner Josh Isner of Delta Squad Racing about his start in racing and how he sees his future in the sport.

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**DAILY
Mirror**



TODAY in **TDN**  **EUROPE**

Tuesday, June 9, 2026



*The unbeaten Diamond Necklace (**St Mark's Basilica**) headlines 17 confirmations for Sunday's G1 Prix de Diane Longines at Chantilly. G3 Musidora Stakes runner-up Felicitas (Teofilo), 1,000 Guineas second Evolutionist (Night Of Thunder) and the unexposed Lilt (Lope De Vega) also feature in a strong raiding party from Britain and Ireland. | Scoop Dyga*

7 | OPTIONS OPEN FOR MALTESE CROSS

William Haggas is weighing up an Irish Derby tilt with Maltese Cross but admitted that a trip to France might be more likely for his Betfred Derby runner-up.

7 | TATTERSALLS ONLINE TO OFFER ROYAL ASCOT PROSPECT

Recent Lingfield winner River In Paradise is set to be offered in the Tattersalls Online June Pop-Up Sale, which will take place on Friday, June 12.

Stephen Hillen cont. from p1

Hillen continues, "I think he may, you know, because I know the ground may have deteriorated, but in the following two races--I think, weight for age is 13 pounds at this time of year, and the time was nearly two seconds faster than the [1m4f Northern Dancer] handicap--so even if it did deteriorate, the clock says it's good."

For so many at Epsom on Saturday, the howling wind and squally rain made it a memorable day for all the wrong reasons, but Christmas Day, in the vanguard from the off on the flanks of his pace-setting stablemate Action (**Frankel**), handled everything the track, the weather and the crowds had to throw at him.

"It was an easy watch. He was never in any danger really," Hillen says. "I feel for them at Epsom, because they made a great effort. But the rain didn't bother him, he definitely copes with [the ground]. The mother loved fast ground actually but I don't think he's ever run on fast ground, so we just don't know."

Christmas Day's dam Beauly (**Sea The Stars**), who was bred by the partnership of New England Stud, Mount Coote Stud and Paddy Barrett, was breezed by Jim McCartan of Gaybrook Lodge Stud. It was at the Craven Sale that Hillen initially got involved when buying her for 115,000gns for Ronnie Bartlett. The owner's colours are more commonly seen on National Hunt

stars such as Simonsig, Galvin and Banbridge, but Beauly won on her debut for Bartlett at Wolverhampton in the February of her three-year-old season. She added some Listed-placed black type to her page when finishing second to Abingdon in the Lord Weinstock Memorial Stakes at Newbury that June and returned to Tattersalls to the December Sales with a rating of 98.

"Ronnie's not a breeder, so he decided to sell her, and that's when I bought her again," says Hillen, who sent Beauly to his old friend Brendan Walsh to be trained in America.

"She won a Listed race there, and then she ran really well in the Flower Bowl, she only got beaten a length and a half to be fourth in a Grade 1. We bred her to **Quality Road** and then tried to sell her, and we didn't, luckily."

Lucky indeed. Twice she was offered, first at Fasig-Tipton in 2017 then at Keeneland 12 months later, by then carrying the **Quality Road** foal who would become known as Missed The Cut. The winner of the Golden Gates Handicap on his first season racing for George Boughey, Missed The Cut would go on to win the Listed Churchill Stakes before being sold to race in America where he has won three Grade 3 contests for John Sadler and most recently finished runner-up in the Mr Steele Stakes for Bobby Dibona on May 16.

Cont. p4

Four Times
as many multiple **Grade 1 winners** than
any other Store sale during the 25/26 NH season.
12 Grade 1 winners in total

DERBY SALE
24-25 JUNE 2026
PART II 26 JUNE 2026

In partnership with **MSL** Motor Group

Tattersalls Ireland
PSHA Licence Number: 001971

CATALOGUE ONLINE

Stephen Hillen cont.

"He's a very good horse," says Hillen who has "about 20" broodmares spread between Ireland, France and America.

Of Beaully, who now surely takes pride of place in the broodmare band as the dam of a Derby winner, he says, "She had a tremendous amount of ability and it was just a matter of channelling it. She wasn't easy, but it's amazing, because [Christmas Day] has got a tremendous temperament.

"Jamie Spencer is a friend of mine and said to me that he could see why he won, because he was the only horse that wasn't sweating at the start. I suppose that's what the great test is, isn't it?"

There is no doubt that even at a rain-sodden Epsom there is still plenty to try a young horse's nerves, from the noise of the fairground and concerts on the Hill, to umbrellas being blown

around inside and outside the parade ring. Christmas Day kept a cool head throughout.

With some speedier elements further back in his dam's family which has done so well for the McCreerys of Stowell Hill Stud, Christmas Day's immediate pedigree does rather shout 'Derby'. His sire won the 2012 running and is by Montjeu, who exerted tremendous influence over the race in his relatively short time at stud, being responsible for four winners-- Motivator, Authorized, Pour Moi and **Camelot**--within eight years. He is also the paternal grandsire of Wings Of Eagles.

Then there's Beaully's sire **Sea The Stars**, who won the Derby in 2009 and is the sire of Harzand

(and Oaks winner Taghrooda), as well as this year's runner-up Maltese Cross, whose pedigree is something of a mirror image of Christmas Day's with **Camelot** featuring as his broodmare sire.

[Cont. p5](#)



Derby-winning breeder Stephen Hillen | Tattersalls

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source of 4yo maiden winners

Derby Sale graduates returned an average of €191,354 (498%) at point to point sales this year

DERBY SALE

24-25 JUNE 2026
PART II 26 JUNE 2026

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CATALOGUE ONLINE

PSRA Licence Number 001971

FRANKEL
GALILEO - KIND (DANEHILL)

Naturally Frankel

A fourth Epsom Oaks winner in seven years



THUNDERING ON

Oaks **Gr.1**, Epsom

Owned and bred by Mr Shapoor Mistry

Trained by Joseph O'Brien

JUDDMONTE

Stephen Hillen cont.

Hillen says, "I love the stallion. I think that year [2022] I bred five to **Camelot** and the following year, I bred four. The median rating for his three-year-olds is exceptional and they take a big jump from two to three. He's definitely an elite stallion and a lot of breeders can afford to breed to him."

Hillen was certainly rewarded for his belief in the stallion with the sale of Christmas Day as a yearling at Tattersalls October Book 1 for 450,000gns to Jamie McCalmont on behalf of Coolmore. The following week, he was on the other end of the deal when buying a **Camelot** filly from Car Colston Hall Stud for 50,000gns at Book 2. From the family of Reckless Abandon and now named Della Pace, she picked up black type on Sunday at Goodwood in Becky Hillen's colours when finishing a close third in the Agnes Keyser Fillies' Stakes.

"Christmas Day is a tremendous horse," the breeder says. "He's got a lovely head. It's really hard to breed a horse that looks like that. He was always a bullseye as a foal and a yearling."

Of his method of stallion selection, he adds, "I just think that I'm trying to breed a good horse, number one. I don't like breeding to those stallions that cover a huge amount of mares, but I do end up doing it."

"I've bred some mares this year to Starman because I thought he was very good value and he's probably going to cover a lot of mares. But I believe he can get you a horse that's not just a sprinter."

For Beauzy, Hillen has returned to a trusted formula and she is back in foal to **Camelot** having had no foal this year. Her yearling is a colt by Wootton Bassett.

Most breeders would shuffle off this mortal coil extremely content if they had managed to produce a Derby winner, but Hillen has another aim involving the Classic on his wishlist.

"I'd really love to buy a Derby winner," he says, agent's hat firmly back on. "I'll just have to try harder at that game, but I probably don't have the clients at the minute. So we'll just have to try and buy one ourselves at a reasonable price."

For the man who unearthed 12-time Group 1 winner and £9.8m earner Via Sistina as a yearling for 5,000gns, that may not prove to be too difficult a task.

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Commission	Tattersalls 5%	Ireland 7.5%	France 12%
Auction Price	100,000 gns	€ 100,000	€ 100,000
Vendor Receives	£99,750	£84,188	£80,342
Vendor Receives	€116,706	€98,500	€94,000
Auction Price	250,000 gns	€ 250,000	€ 250,000
Vendor Receives	£249,375	£210,470	£200,855
Vendor Receives	€291,765	€246,250	€235,000
Auction Price	500,000 gns	€ 500,000	€ 500,000
Vendor Receives	£498,750	£420,940	£401,710
Vendor Receives	€583,530	€492,500	€470,000
Auction Price	1,000,000 gns	€ 1,000,000	€ 1,000,000
Vendor Receives	£997,500	£841,880	£803,420
Vendor Receives	€1,167,060	€985,000	€940,000
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Benvenuto Cellini (double green) finishes down the field behind Christmas Day before being deemed a non-runner | Getty Images

Derby stalls incident cont. from p1

The new rule which allowed the officials to make such a judgement was brought in following an incident at Royal Ascot in 2018 when Harry Angel got his leg caught up in the stalls just as the field was let go in the Diamond Jubilee Stakes.

The ruling states that stewards can declare a horse a non-runner if they are "denied a fair start and its chances are materially affected".

A blog published by the BHA on Monday read, "The incident we witnessed on Saturday is probably the most extreme test of this rule imaginable, involving the heavily backed favourite in the Derby. We entirely understand the frustrations of those who were affected by the Rule 4 deduction, and the impact on bookmakers.

"However, this must be balanced against the impact on those who had backed the horse and were denied a fair start, which is who this rule was brought in to protect.

"In 2018, a remarkably similar incident occurred involving favourite Harry Angel in the Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal

Ascot. While it is fair to say the Harry Angel incident was more pronounced in nature, the principle was very similar.

"This incident occurred prior to this rule being in place, and Harry Angel therefore had to count as a runner. This led to significant, sustained criticism and complaint from media and punters alike regarding the unfairness that a horse should be deemed a runner when he had not been afforded an equal start and his chance in the race had been materially affected.

"The fact is that there is no one set of rules which will be satisfactory for everyone in such a situation. We understand why those who are impacted by the incident on Saturday are disappointed. Equally, if this rule wasn't in place, then those who backed Benvenuto Cellini would have a right to feel aggrieved. It is the view of the BHA, however, that we should be in line with the majority of the international racing community on this issue, rather than an outlier."

It added, "Some industry and betting stakeholders have suggested that the rule should now be reviewed. We will of course listen to any concerns which are raised and engage with those within the sport. Our rules are constantly under review and the same will apply here."

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ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING SIRES

LOPE DE VEGA.

12TH 2026 STAKES WINNER

Smart 3yo filly **VENETIA** lands her first Stakes success in the **Listed** Agnes Keyser Fillies' Stakes at Goodwood.

Congratulations to owner/breeder **Cayton Park Stud Ltd.**



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IRELAND OR FRANCE ON THE CARDS FOR HAGGAS' DERBY RUNNER-UP MALTESE CROSS



William Haggas | Tattersalls

William Haggas is weighing up an Irish Derby tilt with **Maltese Cross** but admitted that a trip to France might be more likely for his Betfred Derby runner-up.

The son of **Sea The Stars** was attempting to give the Somerville Lodge handler a second Derby victory on the 30th anniversary of his first ever runner in the race, Shaamit.

There was to be no fitting fairytale on a wet and gloomy afternoon on the Surrey Downs, but Maltese Cross fought valiantly for the silver medal behind Aidan O'Brien's Christmas Day to leave his handler now eyeing further lucrative top-level prizes.

Haggas said, "I thought he ran a very good, solid, genuine race. I couldn't see an excuse and thought the winner was very good on the day, but I thought Maltese Cross ran with great credit and we'll have some fun with him."

"The next move is important and the Irish Derby is only three weeks away and I did think he had a hard race at Epsom.

"He also has the option of the Grand Prix de Paris and he has French premiums, so that would be an obvious one being a little bit later and could be more likely than the Irish Derby, but I can't rule anything in or out yet."

Haggas added, "He would have to be supplemented for Ireland, but if you win the Lingfield Derby Trial and then finish in the first four in the English Derby then you get a free entry into the Irish Derby.

"If we supplement him we get our money back so effectively it won't cost us anything which is obviously very attractive.

"The Irish Derby would be very much in calculations and it would be that or Paris if he is okay. Ireland would not cost us anything, but Paris gives us that bit more time."

No matter where Maltese Cross heads next, his outing on the rain-sodden Downs has offered nothing but encouragement to Haggas, who left Epsom with no excuses and plenty of positivity about his versatility moving forwards.

Haggas continued, "I've always thought he was a top of the ground horse and such a fluent mover, but I couldn't say the ground was an excuse and I think he went through it perfectly fine and coped with it.

"That's a plus going forward and you could argue if he's finished second in the Derby on soft ground he may want soft ground and he may well cope with it better than I thought.

"That was the first time he had encountered it since his debut and he handled it very well, and it could just be the case he's one of those horses who doesn't mind anything."

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TATTERSALLS ONLINE TO OFFER ROYAL ASCOT PROSPECT RIVER IN PARADISE



River In Paradise | Tattersalls Online

River In Paradise, who made a successful start to her career at Lingfield last Thursday, is set to be offered in the Tattersalls Online June Pop-Up Sale, which takes place on Friday, June 12.

Consigned by Robert Edwards' Uplands Stables, the two-year-old daughter of Lope Y Fernandez beat nine rivals when winning a six-furlong fillies' maiden at the Surrey venue, earning a Timeform rating of 73p.

The first foal out of the winning Invincible Spirit mare River Eden--herself a daughter of the Listed Silver Tankard Stakes scorer Lady Heidi (High Chaparral)--River In Paradise is now being aimed at the Listed Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Bidding in the Tattersalls Online June Pop-Up Sale will take place on the Tattersalls Online website, from 10am to 12pm. Full details regarding the sale can be found [here](#).

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FIRST-SEASON SIRES WITH RUNNERS

Tuesday, June 9, 2026:

UNITED KINGDOM

Blackbeard (Ire) (No Nay Never), Coolmore Stud

116 foals of racing age/3 winners/0 black-type winners

14:48-SALISBURY, 6f, **Flying Pirate (Ire)**

€40,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling 2025

14:48-SALISBURY, 6f, **Rattenbury (Ire)**

€62,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2024; €75,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale (Book 1) 2025

Caturra (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}), Overbury Stud

68 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners

18:42-CARLISLE, 5f, **Kaiulani Spirit (GB)**

£16,000 Goffs UK Premier Yearling Sale 2025

Dubawi Legend (Ire) (Dubawi {Ire}), Starfield Stud

42 foals of racing age/0 winners/0 black-type winners

14:18-SALISBURY, 6f, **Benefacta (Ire)**

Minzaal (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}), Derrinstown Stud

115 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners

14:18-SALISBURY, 6f, **Minzazi (Ire)**

42,000gns Tattersalls December Foal Sale 2024; 58,000gns

Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2025

14:48-SALISBURY, 6f, **Goodwood Meteor (GB)**

48,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2025

18:42-CARLISLE, 5f, **Rock Steady Beat (Ire)**

110,000gns Tattersalls October Yearling Sale (Book 2) 2025

18:42-CARLISLE, 5f, **Sydney Grace (Ire)**

€40,000 Goffs Orby Yearling Sale (Book 1) 2025

Persian Force (Ire) (Mehmas {Ire}), Tally-Ho Stud

99 foals of racing age/8 winners/0 black-type winners

14:18-SALISBURY, 6f, **Empire Rising (Ire)**

€45,000 Goffs November Foal Sale 2024; €70,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling 2025

Space Traveller (GB) (Bated Breath {GB}), Starfield Stud

121 foals of racing age/2 winners/0 black-type winners

18:42-CARLISLE, 5f, **Yorkshire Dream (Ire)**

£28,000 Goffs UK Premier Yearling Sale 2025; £39,900 Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up & HIT Sale 2026

State of Rest (Ire) (Starspangledbanner {Aus}), Rathbarry Stud
79 foals of racing age/1 winner/0 black-type winners
14:48-SALISBURY, 6f, **Invicta Rose (Ire)**
€16,000 Tattersalls Ireland September Yearling 2025; £25,000 Goffs UK 2yo Breeze Up Sale 2026

OBSERVATIONS on the European racing scene

ENABLE'S HALF-BROTHER CENTRUM DEBUTS AT SALISBURY



Enable | Scoop Dyga

4.18 Salisbury, Mdn, 3yo, 9f 201yT

CENTRUM (GB) (Dubawi {Ire}) makes his belated debut for Juddmonte and the Gosdens but, as the 13th foal out of Concentric (Sadler's Wells), he has time to add to an illustrious family honour. A half-brother to the brilliant Enable (Nathaniel), he is the first progeny by this sire out of the mare, who has also produced the stakes performers Derab (**Sea The Stars**), Entitle (Dansili) and Contribution (Champs Elysees), with the latter responsible for Dubawi's Prix Penelope winner Agave. Heading the opposition is Al Shaqab Racing and Rockcliffe Stud's twice-raced **Besieged**, another son of Dubawi who is the first foal out of the Falmouth Stakes winner Snow Lantern (**Frankel**).

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BRITAIN

Monday's Results:

2nd-Carlisle, £40,000, Novice, 6-8, 2yo, 5f 182yT, 1:15.34, sf.
LIGHT OF DAWN (GB) (f, 2, Showcasing {GB}--An Ghalanta {Ire} {SW & GSP-Ire}, by Holy Roman Emperor {Ire}), a €625,000 Arqana May Breeze-Up purchase, was sent off the 5-6 favourite settled in rear of the quartet early by James Doyle having missed the break. Coming on strong approaching the final furlong, the half-sister to the Albany runner-up Bletchley (Makfi) readily asserted for a 1 1/2-length success from Capilano (Ten Sovereigns).

Connections are looking at the same Group 3 contest at Royal Ascot for the winner. "She's been quite relaxed in her work and she did jump a little bit slow, but it worked out nicely," Doyle said. "She took a bit of pulling up and that's a good sign. She's got a bit of scope as well."

The victory follows a brace of winners for the Wathnan operation at Churchill Downs on Sunday, both of whom--Sneakily (Tapit) and Leading Change (Gun Runner)--were subsequently named 'TDN Rising Stars, presented by Hagyard'.

Burke added, "This is a great track for two-year-olds and a good test up the hill. She can only keep on improving as the year goes on, but she's been bought to go to Ascot and all being well will go to the Albany. This is very close to it, there are only ten days so I didn't want her to have a hard time today. She was always going to come on after this fitness-wise, so I said to James if we can win hands and heels we'll do that."

Alongside the aforementioned Bletchley, who after the Albany went on to also finish runner-up in Woodbine's Nassau, the Curragh Stakes-winning and Round Tower-placed dam has also produced the St Hughs Stakes scorer and Prix Texanita-placed Miaharris (Zoustar) and the Empress Stakes scorer Time Scale (Charm Spirit). An Ghalanta's yearling filly is by Dark Angel. Sales history: 140,000gns Ylg '25 TATOCT; €625,000 2yo '26 ARQBRU. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$28,792.

O-Wathnan Racing; B-The An Ghalanta Partnership; T-Karl Burke.



Light Of Dawn | Arqana

2nd-Windsor, £10,000, Novice, 6-8, 2yo, f, 6f 12yT, 1:14.10, g/s.
GLORIOUS GAME (GB) (f, 2, Pinatubo {Ire}--Along Came Casey {Ire} {MSW & MGSP-Ire}, by Oratorio {Ire}), sent off the 5-1 joint-favourite, broke well to take them along. Threatened by the 11-8 market-leader Roxelina (Havana Grey) against the far rail, the newcomer outstayed that eventual third to score by 1 1/2 lengths from Motown Filly (Cotai Glory).

The winner is currently the last known foal out of the dam, who was successful twice at Listed level and placed three times in Group 3 company, and whose first was the Darley Stakes scorer Felician De Vega (Lope De Vega). From the family of Stravinsky, she is also the second dam of the Prix du Bois runner-up Ali Shuffle (A'Ali) and a half to the Group-placed Hallie's Comet (One Cool Cat), whose daughter Matilda Picotte (Sioux Nation) captured the Challenge Stakes and Sceptre Stakes and was third in the 1,000 Guineas.

Sales history: £85,000 Ylg '25 GOFFUK. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$7,198.

O-Mr G Hall; B-Highview Bloodstock Ltd; T-Hugo Palmer.

4th-Windsor, £10,000, Novice, 6-8, 3yo/up, 8f 31yT, 1:46.30, g/s.
COCKADE (GB) (c, 3, Pinatubo {Ire}--Crimson Rosette {Ire} {SW & MGSP-Eng}, by Teofilo {Ire}), fourth on debut behind Godolphin's Dante fourth King's Trail at Kempton in December, tracked the leading duo early. Rolling to the front two out, the 11-10 favourite readily asserted despite showing greenness to

win by 3 1/4 lengths from Kahin (Kingman).

The dam, who was successful in the Chalice Stakes and was placed in the Pinnacle and Princess Royal, is a daughter of the operation's high-class producer Crimson Ribbon (Lemon Drop Kid). A full-sister to the Group and Graded scorers Bronze Cannon and Valiant Girl, she has four other stakes-winning progeny, including Frankel's Gold Cup hero Courage Mon Ami and the recent Bronte Cup winner Danielle by Frankel's son Cracksman, while Valiant Girl's son Title Role (Too Darn Hot) captured last month's German 2,000 Guineas. Crimson Rosette's yearling colt is by Lope De Vega, while she also has a colt foal by Study Of Man.

Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$7,869.

O-Mr A E Oppenheimer; B-Hascombe & Valiant Stud Ltd; T-John & Thady Gosden.

3rd-Carlisle, £10,000, Mdn, 6-8, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f 173yT, 1:41.68, sf.

PEARL (FR) (f, 4, Le Havre {Ire}--Puggy {Ire} {GSP-Eng, GSP-Nor, MSP-Swe}, by Mark Of Esteem {Ire}), a full-sister to the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches and Prix de Diane heroine Avenir Certain, who was third behind TDN Rising Star Portcullis on her belated debut at York last month, soon led. Kept up to her work inside the final two furlongs, the even-money favourite hit the line with 1 1/2 lengths to spare over Marhayb (Dark Angel).

The aforementioned Avenir Certain, whose daughter Des Ailes (Deep Impact) was successful in the Hanshin Himba Stakes, is so far the only stakes performer out of the dam who was third in the Rockfel. From the family of the Royal Lodge winner New Mandate (New Bay), she is a granddaughter of Lunda (Soviet Star) whose dynasty includes Friday's Oaks heroine Thundering On (Frankel). Puggy's two-year-old colt is by Thunder Moon. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, \$13,679.

O/B-Al Shaqab Racing; T-Ralph Beckett.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

3rd-Windsor, £10,000, 6-8, 3yo/up, 8f 31yT, 1:47.39, g/s.

BAYAANN (GB) (c, 3, Too Darn Hot {GB}--Madonna Dell'Orto {GB}, by Montjeu {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$17,242.

O-Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum; B-Genesis Green Stud Ltd; T-William Haggas. *280,000gns Wlg '23 TADEWE; 410,000gns Ylg '24 TATOCT. **1/2 to I Can Fly (GB) (Fastnet Rock {Aus}), GSW-Ire, MG1SP-Eng; 1/2 to Viscount Barfield (GB) (Raven's Pass), SW & GSP-Eng, GSP-Nor, SP-Swe.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Kach Above (GB), c, 2, Far Above (Ire)--Kachess (GB), by Kyllachy (GB). Leicester, 6-8, 7fT, 1:26.83. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, \$7,886. B-The Lowe Family.

Fern Clyde (GB), f, 2, Lope Y Fernandez (Ire)--Queenoftheclyde (Ire), by Dandy Man (Ire). Pontefract, 6-8, 6fT, 1:16.88. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-1, \$8,471. B-Whitsbury Manor Stud. *27,000gns Wlg '24 TADEWE; 22,000gns Ylg '25 TATOCT.

**1/2 to Song Of The Clyde (GB) (Sergei Prokofiev), SW-Eng.

Celtic Charioteer (GB), c, 2, Mondialiste (Ire)--Just Jealous (Ire), by Lope De Vega (Ire). Leicester, 6-8, 7fT, 1:25.98. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$7,198. B-Culworth Grounds Farm.

Cuff It (Fr), g, 3, City Light (Fr)---Tick Toch (GB), by Oasis Dream (GB). Windsor, 6-8, 10fT, 2:14.33. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$9,043. B-S.C.E.A. Ecurie Doughty. *€21,000 Wlg '23 ARQDEN; £55,000 Ylg '24 GOFFUK.

Jellystone Park (GB), g, 3, Kodi Bear (Ire)---Villa Tora (GB), by Excelebration (Ire). Leicester, 6-8, 6fT, 1:12.63. Lifetime Record: 3-1-1-0, \$9,986. B-D R Botterill. *20,000gns Wlg '23 TADEWE; 50,000gns Ylg '24 TATOCT.

FRANCE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

4th-Angers, €27,400, 6-8, 3yo, 8fT, 1:36.21, g/s.

TRINQUETTE (FR) (c, 3, City Light {Fr}--Tikitiki {Fr}, by Fastnet Rock {Aus}) Lifetime Record: 10-3-2-0, €66,926. O-Paul Hancock; B-Haras d'Etreham & B J Lindsay; T-Tim Donworth. *€15,000 Wlg '23 TATFOA.

1st-Angers, €20,100, 6-8, 3yo, 15fT, 3:08.84, g/s.

VICTOIRE MAGIQUE (GB) (c, 3, Victor Ludorum {GB}--Purple Magic {GB}, by Rip Van Winkle {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 8-2-2-0, €37,024. O-Amy Murphy & Simon Double; B-Framont Limited T-Amy Murphy. *40,000gns Ylg '24 TATOCT.

5th-Angers, €20,100, 6-8, 4yo/up, 15fT, 3:11.19, g/s.

PRINCESSE D'AMOUR (FR) (f, 4, Martinborough {Jpn}--Elusive Action {Fr}, by Elusive City) Lifetime Record: 16-4-2-2, €80,930. O-Ecurie Victoria Dreams; B/T-Jean-Philippe Dubois. *Full to Elusive Princess, GSW-US & G1SP-Fr.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Villa Monceau, f, 3, Street Boss--Argent Affair (SW-US), by Black Tie Affair (GB). Angers, 6-8, 1350mT, 1:17.41. B-Cedar Hill LLC. *\$90,000 Ylg '24 KEESEP; €150,000 2yo '25 ARQMAY. **1/2 to Forty Under (Uncle Mo), GSW-US; to Myriskyaffair (Verrazano), GSP-US; & to Xigera (Nyquist), MGSW & GSP-US.



IN JAPAN:

Zaafir (Ire), c, 3, Ghaiyyath (Ire)---Oriental Step (Ire), by Tamayuz (GB). Tokyo, 6-6, Cond., 1600m. Lifetime Record: 6-2-2-1, \$170,785. O-Carrot Farm; B-Highpark Bloodstock Ltd; T-Toru Hayashi. *Won by five lengths as the \$1.20 (1-5) favourite. **€150,000 Wlg '23 GOFNOV.

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