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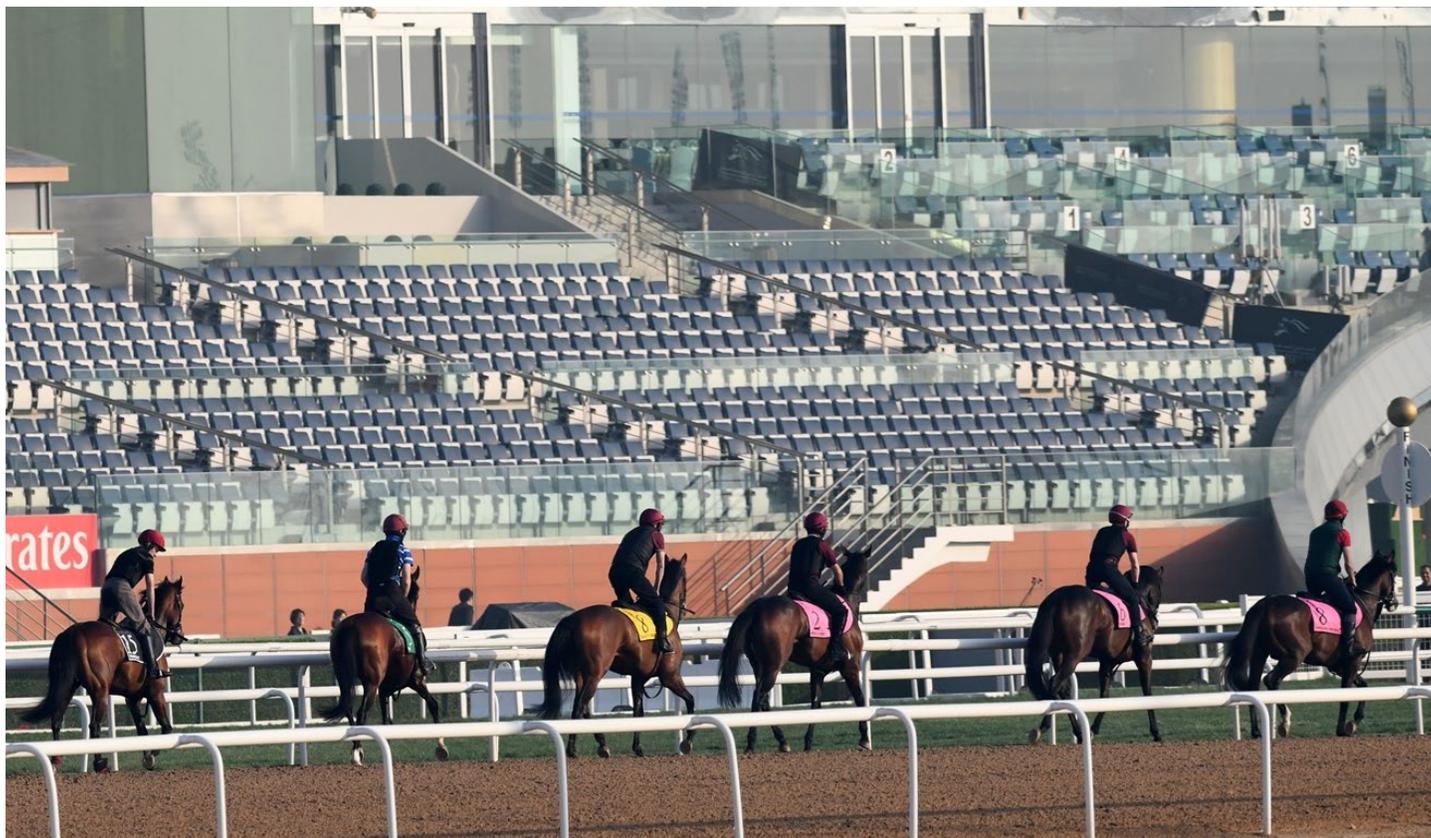
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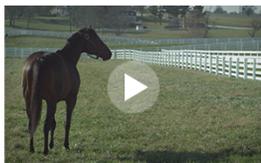
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DESERT ROAD

UAE Derby Has Big Implications
for Louisville

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ANNE M. EBERHARDT

ON THE COVER

Aidan O'Brien's string trains at Meydan Racecourse

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UAE DERBY HAS BIG IMPLICATIONS FOR LOUISVILLE

By Bob Kieckhefer

The band certainly won't be playing "My Old Kentucky Home" when an international field of 3-year-olds takes the track March 31 at Meydan for the UAE Derby Sponsored By Saeed & Mohammed Al Naboodah Group (G2), but connections of several starters are also dreaming of a trip to Louisville.

A lot of attention will be focused on which of the horses contesting the Dubai race might show up in Kentucky for the May 5 Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1), or the May 4 Longines Kentucky Oaks (G1).

As many as four could make the trip.

The UAE Derby offers qualifying points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby on a 100-40-20-10 basis to the first four finishers. The winner would be ensured a spot in the Louisville starting gate, and the 40 points for the runner-up would likely provide a slot as well.

In addition, the Japanese runner in Dubai, Ruggero, finished second in the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby. The winner of that series is not nominated to the Triple Crown, leaving Ruggero's owners with first dibs on the berth even if he finishes out of the money in the UAE Derby.

Also, the lone filly in the Dubai race, Kentucky-bred Rayya, earned 50 points toward a start in the Kentucky Oaks when she won the March 1 UAE Oaks Sponsored By Al Naboodah Construction Group (G3) at Meydan.

Trainer Doug Watson said Rayya is scheduled to travel to the United States after the UAE Derby to be turned over to Bob Baffert's care. Baffert said he presumes the Kentucky Oaks would be the target for the Tiz Wonderful filly, even if she qualifies for a Derby slot.

Watson thinks Rayya's post 1 draw in Saturday's race will let her use her natural speed.

"She usually breaks pretty well and has enough early speed to hold a position with whoever is going from the outside," he said. "I'm excited to see her go on to a career in America and it will be fun to watch her over the summer."

Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien has three of the nine entries for the UAE Derby in Kentucky-breds



MATHEA KELLEY/DUBAI RACING CLUB

Mendelssohn trains ahead of the UAE Derby at Meydan Racecourse

Mendelssohn, Seahenge, and Threeandfourpence. Any of the three would likely have been favored to land a Kentucky Derby spot with a win in the March 30 Burradon Stakes at Newcastle through the European points program. Instead, they will slug it out against tougher competition in the desert.

Mendelssohn, a Scat Daddy colt who has never raced on dirt, has been O'Brien's top prospect for Louisville since he won the Nov. 3 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1T) at Del Mar. The only start since that race for the half brother to multiple champion Beholder was a victory in the March 9 32red Patton Stakes at Dundalk in Ireland over an all-weather surface. Threeandfourpence, a War Front colt, and Seahenge, another by Scat Daddy, finished second and third in that race.

"Mendelssohn continues to improve, and we think he can run a big race," O'Brien said. "He is by Scat Daddy and is quite a strong traveler, so we will learn more about him at Meydan, in terms of maybe the Kentucky Derby.

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UAE DERBY HAS BIG IMPLICATIONS FOR LOUISVILLE

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"Threeandfourpence went forward in his last run at Dundalk, and that might be what we do with him again. He is in good order, and Seahenge, going up in distance, will suit him. We're hoping he can get out of the stalls a bit sharper than last time."

The lone American-based horse traveling to Dubai for the Derby is Winchell Thoroughbreds' homebred Reride, a Candy Ride colt trained by Steve Asmussen who is taking the "road less traveled" toward Louisville. After closing out his 2-year-old season with a sixth-place finish in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (G2) at Churchill Downs, he won the Jan. 13 Big Drama Stakes at Delta Downs and the Feb. 25 Mine That Bird Derby at Sunland Park.

Rounding out the field are Gold Town, Yulong Warrior, and Taiki Ferveur.

Gold Town, a Street Cry gelding out of the Invincible Spirit mare Pimpernel, is Godolphin's hope to land the UAE Derby for the ninth time. Raced in England last year with limited success, he is two-for-two this season at Meydan, including a 10 1/2-length win in the Feb. 15 UAE Two Thousand Guineas Sponsored By Al Tayer Motors (G3). He is a supplemental Triple Crown entry at a cost of \$6,000.

"He couldn't have done more than he has in his two races so far," trainer Charlie Appleby said of Gold Town, "and hopefully he can put in another good performance at the weekend. He's an improving horse."

Yulong Warrior, a Florida-bred son of Street Cry, broke his maiden at Meydan Feb. 3 and went on to win the March 10 Al Bastakiya Sponsored By Emirates.com. Satish Seemar trains the colt.

Taiki Ferveur, a Furioso colt trained by Mitsunori Makiura, is No. 3 on the Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby list after finishing second in the Feb. 18 Hyacinth Stakes in Tokyo. **BH**

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GUNNEVERA MUCH IMPROVED FROM FOOT BRUISE

By BloodHorse Staff

Trainer Antonio Sano spent a sleepless night after his Dubai World Cup Sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) contender Gunnevera became slightly lame March 28. However, following a long foot soaking and a change of shoes, the 4-year-old colt was much improved by the morning of March 29 and ventured to the Meydan dirt track to school in the starting gate.

"Thank God, he is perfect now," Sano told the Meydan notes team after patting the chestnut on the nose as he stood quietly in the gate. "He had a little bruise on his left front foot, so we pulled the shoe and soaked the foot in water with Epsom salt. We left the shoe off overnight and then replaced it this morning.

"The farrier told me, 'Antonio, take care of this horse and he'll be good for the race.' He did a great, great job with the foot," Sano said.

Following his schooling session



DUBAI RACING CLUB/ANDREW WATKINS

Gunnevera striding out March 27 at Meydan

Thursday, Gunnevera had a light jog from a gate down the nearby chute. However, the son of Dialed In did not do any more exercise other than completing the about 4,800-meter (three-mile) round-trip journey from the quarantine barn area and back.

Sano plans to send Gunnevera to the Meydan dirt track Friday to gallop approximately 2,400 meters (1 1/2 miles) under the floodlights, and the trainer hopes the foot issue

will be completely resolved.

"I am so happy with my horse and I hope he will be 1,000% for the race," he said.

Gunnevera heads into the \$10 million Dubai World Cup Saturday off a third-place finish in the Jan. 27 Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (G1) at Gulfstream Park. He has won five of 15 starts, including a victory in the Xpressbet Fountain of Youth Stakes (G2) last March. **BH**

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ROCKINGHAM RANCH FRONT AND CENTER ON WORLD CUP NIGHT

By Jeremy Balan

[@BH_JBalan](#)

Rockingham Ranch's willingness to send horses around the world in recent years has a function—and also some residual benefits.

The U.S. racing operation of Southern California real estate developer Gary Hartunian has players capable of competing on the world stage, and exploring the world with those horses is a fine side effect.

"Being able to travel and see the world with our horses—it gives us a pretty good excuse," said Rockingham racing manager Brian Trump, who first ventured outside the U.S. with Rockingham's bright blue and black silks with X Y Jet in the 2016 Dubai Golden Shaheen Sponsored By Gulf News (G1).

The Kantharos gelding—co-owned by Ivan Rodriguez Gelfenstein—came up just a neck short behind Muarrab in 2016, but the seed was planted. It

wasn't just the positive experience of competing on one of the world's most important days of racing that drew them back, but also the fact that the taste of victory was so close on that maiden voyage.

Fast forward two years and Rockingham is front and center in two races on Dubai World Cup night, with a pair of entries in the Al Quoz Sprint Sponsored By Azizi Developments (G1) and the Golden Shaheen.

X Y Jet, trained by Jorge Navarro, is back for the \$2 million Golden Shaheen but—despite his experience at Meydan—is not the favorite. That distinction for the 1,200-meter (about six furlongs) dirt sprint lands on U.S. champion sprinter Roy H.

Trained by Peter Miller and co-owned by Rockingham and David Bernsen, the More Than Ready gelding was practically unbeatable in 2017. The only thing that stopped him was when Drefong unseated jockey Mike Smith and got loose in the Bing Crosby Stakes (G1) at Del Mar, likely costing Roy H a chance at victory and an undefeated campaign.

(continued on page 8)



DUBAI RACING CLUB/ANDREW WATKINS

Roy H trains under Kent Desormeaux at Meydan

ROCKINGHAM RANCH FRONT AND CENTER ON WORLD CUP NIGHT

(continued from page 7)

Other than the Bing Crosby, where he still finished second despite the unexpected trouble, Roy H went five-for-five and capped his championship season with a score in the TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1). His 2018 debut couldn't have gone much smoother, either, as he toyed with a short field to take the Feb. 3 Palos Verdes Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita.

"Both are at their peaks right now, and both trainers wanted to go, so we wanted to go," Trump said. "We feel we have two of the best sprinters in the world, and we want to prove that."

Both Rockingham horses will have to contend with defending Golden Shaheen winner Mind Your Biscuits.

The odds may favor Roy H, but Mind Your Biscuits' trainer, Chad Summers, feels X Y Jet is the horse to beat. A speedy gray who returned to racing in December following surgery to remove a knee chip, X Y Jet has won all three of his starts since his return, but has yet to face top-level competition during those three contests in Florida.

"X Y jet is the horse to beat," Summers said. "Schematically, he's the fastest horse in the race, and I have a lot of respect for Jorge Navarro. What he's been able to do, and I've watched all three of his races this year—he's been getting better and better."

X Y Jet will break from post 2 in a field of eight—Muarrab was expected to run but did not enter, and Shillong was scratched after the draw—with Mind Your Biscuits on the rail. Roy H is ideally drawn for his off-the-pace style in post 6.

"The good news for us is we have options," Summers said. "Maybe we elect to send and go with X Y Jet early and force the issue from the start. Or

maybe we sit on the 'golden rail,' follow the rail, and see what develops in front of us.

"The good thing is they'll both have Rockingham silks, so if we come from behind we know we'll have to pass both of them."

While the Rockingham representatives in the Golden Shaheen are clear favorites, in the Al Quoz Sprint, Stormy Liberal and Richard's Boy are significant longshots. The first two finishers in the 2017 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1T) may be top turf sprinters stateside, but they'll be up against it taking on the top Godolphin pair of multiple group winner Blue Point and recent Al Fahidi Fort Sponsored By DP World-UAE Region (G2) winner Jungle Cat, who has won both his starts at Meydan this season for trainer Charlie Appleby.

Even Miller stablemate Conquest Tsunami, who is owned by Gary Barber, is more fancied in European racebooks (he's from 14-1 to 16-1, compared to Stormy Liberal and Richard's Boy, who sit from 20-1 to 33-1).

But the Al Quoz presents a unique opportunity for U.S. turf sprinters, in that the \$1 million purse and group 1 status blows away any other opportunities stateside. The \$1 million Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (G1T) is the only grade 1 sprint on the grass in the U.S.

"With these horses, older geldings, we have to seek out races," said Trump, who also traveled to Hong Kong with Stormy Liberal to watch the Stormy Atlantic gelding run in the Dec. 10 Longines Hong Kong Sprint (G1) at Sha Tin (he finished 11th). Richard's Boy came in fifth in last year's Al Quoz Sprint.

"As a stable and with Pete's guidance, we are looking for spots for these horses worldwide, or else we're just sitting around. (Running in lower-stakes) races (domestically) is OK, but why not make a trip out of it?" **BH**

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KIMBEAR FINDS HIS STRIDE IN DUBAI

By Jeremy Balan

[@BH_JBalan](#)

Selling a Thoroughbred racehorse, at any time in his or her career, has a lot to do with instinct and feel.

When an offer comes in, questions can flood the brain. Is it too early? Is it time? Am I getting the best value? Make a wrong decision, and the second guessing begins.

But more often than some might admit, a private sale can work out for both buyer and seller, as is the case with Kimbear, a onetime hopeful on the Triple Crown trail who has found his stride in Dubai. The 4-year-old Temple City colt is set to participate on the country's most important night of racing March 31 in the \$1 million Godolphin Mile Sponsored By Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum City—District One (G2).

A \$30,000 purchase out of the 2015 Keeneland September yearling sale by trainer Eric Kruljac for Fred and Karen Lewkowitz and partners, Kimbear took a little while to get going on the tough Southern California racing circuit. But he broke through in his

sixth start in February of 2017 at Santa Anita Park, where he bested eventual stakes winner and 2017 Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) runner Sonneteer by 4 1/2 lengths in a maiden special weight event.

As is the tendency for talented 3-year-olds, into the fire went Kimbear, and he represented himself well next time out when he finished sixth, beaten 5 1/2 lengths by winner Gormley in the Santa Anita Derby (G1).

But the phone wasn't ringing just yet. That came after his next start, the Lazaro Barrera Stakes (G3) May 13, when he loomed in the stretch but was no match for American Anthem, who went on to win the Woody Stephens Stakes (G2) next time out, then placed in two grade 1 sprints to end his 3-year-old season.

"After he ran second in the (Lazaro Barrera), that's when we started getting offers," Kruljac said.

Kimbear came in second in an allowance and sixth in the Los Alamitos Derby (G3), and then the offer was set—\$600,000 from a bloodstock agent who represented trainer Doug Watson and Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi.

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DUBAI RACING CLUB/ANDREW WATKINS

Kimbear wins the March 10 Burj Nahaar at Meydan

KIMBEAR FINDS HIS STRIDE IN DUBAI

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"It's so hard to buy horses in America, and we were looking for some value for the owner, and I think we found it with him," Watson said of Kimbear. "We were looking at the 3-year-old races out there and saw him run so well against good horses like American Anthem (and future grade 1 TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint runner American Pastime). The form was behind him and the pedigree wasn't top of the page, but we liked him."

But there was also a reason Kruljac only paid \$30,000 for Kimbear.

"He had everything I look for when I buy a horse at a sale, but we got him for that price because he had roughening around the inside of the cannon bone where the splint is," Kruljac said.

Before the deal was finalized, the splint acted up during a workout. The buyers from halfway across the world still wanted the bay, but the price dropped.

"Now it's \$450,000," Kruljac said. "But for us old guys, who have been in the game for a while, we have

no regrets whatsoever. We took that money and bought some more horses at Keeneland."

So, after quarantine time in Kentucky and some time off, Kimbear arrived in Watson's stable for the 2018 season at Meydan and immediately made an impression with a five-length handicap win at 1,600 meters (one mile) on the dirt. Then came two runner-up efforts in handicaps, and a breakthrough, 1 1/4-length score in the Burj Nahaar Sponsored By Emirates Holidays (G3).

"He hasn't had one issue since we got him, and it was neat to get him," Watson said. "The owner, he's not new—he had horses years ago—but he's only 35 and he's really getting into the game. He's had a lot of success early, and we hope to carry on."

Kruljac and his ownership group have kept tabs on the little colt they bought in 2015, and now they have something to cheer for on the premier Dubai World Cup Sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) undercard.

"My partners have been sending me the videos of his races in Dubai," Kruljac said. "He's a lovely little colt, he's got over the splint, and he's running his eyeballs out. We're rooting for him. We're just thrilled he's doing well." **BH**

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ECONOMIC MODEL TO REMAIN IN DUBAI AFTER GODOLPHIN MILE

By BloodHorse Staff

When graded stakes winner Economic Model starts in the March 31 Godolphin Mile Sponsored By Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum City—District One (G2), it will represent both a career first for his trainer, Chad Brown, and a swan song of sorts.

Economic Model is set to become the first representative to run in Dubai from Brown's powerhouse stable. He enters Saturday's test against 13 rivals off a victory in the Feb. 24 Hal's Hope Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream Park—the first graded stakes win for the son of Flatter.

Following that effort, the 5-year-old horse was sold by Klaravich Stables and William Lawrence to His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and regardless of the outcome of the Godolphin Mile, the horse will remain in Dubai to be transferred to the care of trainer Nicholas Bachalard.

It is Brown's patience with Economic Model that helped put the horse in his current position of taking on some of the globe's best. In 2016, Economic Model was one of the more promising 3-year-olds in Brown's stable, but foot problems sidetracked the horse's career, limiting him to four starts in 2017. Following a four-month layoff after an allowance victory at Belmont Park in October, a finally healthy Economic Model took the



Economic Model at Meydan

Hal's Hope (G3) by 1 3/4 lengths over Irish War Cry.

Economic Model looked extremely sharp Thursday as he galloped once around the dirt track under Guezal Cruz, who is in Dubai with the horse while Brown remains in the United States.

Also looking well to the relief of his connections was group 1 winner Big Orange, one of the leading contenders for Saturday's \$1 million Dubai Gold Cup Sponsored By Al Tayer Motors (G2T). Owners Bill and Tim Gredley were on hand with trainer Michael Bell to watch the top stayer have a strong workout on the Meydan training track.

Big Orange, who bested Order of St George in a memorable edition of the Gold Cup (G1) at Royal Ascot in June, tied up after

working Monday, stayed in the barn Tuesday, and had a steady canter Wednesday. This was his first proper workout since.

"That was a heartening sight," said Bell, who later added: "The hour after the work was when we worry that the set-fast (tying up) might return, but he came back to the barn very, very well. That's a relief. It's stressful enough having runners in big races without this added stress.

"In terms of condition, the horse is the best he has ever looked. He seems fine this morning, and we just hope the set-fast doesn't reoccur. It happens after exercise. He didn't do too much today, but as long as he is OK later, then he'll have a nice breeze tomorrow." **BH**

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JAPAN HOLDS STRONG HAND IN DUBAI GRASS RACES

By Bob Kieckhefer

Japan holds a strong hand in two of the three non-sprint grass races on the Dubai World Cup undercard. In the third, the Aga Khan's Vazirabad will be running for a "three-peat."

The races all have deep and competitive fields.

The \$6 million Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1), at 2,410 meters (about 1 1/2 miles) features some classy Japanese horses and Cloth of Stars, runner-up to Enable in the 2017 Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1).

Cloth of Stars, a 5-year-old son of Sea The Stars, is trained in France for Godolphin by André Fabre. After falling 2 1/2 lengths short of Enable in the Arc, Cloth of Stars was put away until March 6, when he finished second to stablemate Talismanic in the Prix Darshaan at Chantilly. Fabre opted to run Talismanic on the dirt

in the Dubai World Cup Sponsored By Emirates Airline (G1).

Cloth of Stars "got a bit lit up" when he encountered some traffic during morning training March 28, said Lisa-Jane Graffard, who is minding him for Fabre. "He is not the easiest ride ... but (his work rider) has a great relationship with him and has the measure of him."

The Japanese contingent is formidable. Rey de Oro, a 4-year-old colt by King Kamehameha, won the 2017 Tokyo Yushun/Japanese Derby (G1), then finished second behind Cheval Grand and ahead of Kitasan Black in the Japan Cup (G1). Satono Crown may be past his prime at age 6, but the son of Marju has extensive international experience, including a victory over Highland Reel in the Longines Hong Kong Vase (G1) in 2016. Mozu Katchan, a 4-year-old filly by Harbinger, is the Japanese longshot.

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MATHEA KELLEY/DUBAI RACING CLUB

Aga Khan's Vazirabad gallops ahead of the Dubai Sheema Classic at Meydan

JAPAN HOLDS STRONG HAND IN DUBAI GRASS RACES

(continued from page 12)

Jockey Christophe Lemaire accompanied Rey de Oro on a 1,000-meter (about five furlongs) gallop three days out from the race and announced, "He was perfect."

Also in with a chance in the Sheema Classic are Poet's Word, a Sir Michael Stoute trainee who had a pair of impressive runner-up showings last season; Idaho, the younger full brother of Highland Reel, from Aidan O'Brien's stable; and Hawkbill, a Kitten's Joy horse who is Godolphin's second string here despite winning the Dubai City of Gold Sponsored By Emirates SkyCargo (G2) on Super Saturday.

The Japanese squad for the \$6 million Dubai Turf Sponsored By DP World (G1) might be even stronger than the Sheema Classic team. The Dubai Turf is 1,800 meters (about 9 furlongs) and drew a field of 15.

Vivlos won the Dubai Turf last year, and Real Steel won in 2016. Both are back. Neorealism won the 2017 Audemars Piguet QE II Cup (G1) in Hong Kong. Deirdre won the Shuka Sho (G1) Oct. 15 in Tokyo, and the aspiring Crocosmia rounds out the brigade.

The opposition comes from around the globe and includes Janoobi, a 4-year-old son of Silvano who worked his way up the ladder during the Dubai World Cup Carnival with a win, a second and a third for trainer Mike de Kock.

Godolphin fields Benbatl, a 4-year-old Dubawi colt who likely will be a force in England this year after his fifth-place showing in the 2017 Investec Derby (G1), and Blair House, a Pivotal gelding who defeated Benbatl and Janoobi in the Jebel Hatta Sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) on Super Saturday.

Benbatl had a light workout March 28 over the Meydan turf, and trainer Saeed bin Suroor said he should be "spot-on for Saturday. It is a very strong race but, with a good draw, he should run a very

big race," the veteran Godolphin trainer said. A few hours later, he drew gate 5.

Other top yards from around the world are represented in the Dubai Turf. O'Brien has Lancaster Bomber, a War Front colt who finished second to World Approval in the Breeders' Cup Mile (G1T) at Del Mar. John Gosden entered Monarchs Glen a Juddmonte Farms homebred son of Frankel. Fabre has Trais Fluors, a 4-year-old Dansili colt seeking a breakthrough performance.

The \$1 million Dubai Gold Cup Sponsored by Al Tayer Motors (G2) features a field of 16 going 3,200 meters (about 2 miles) around two turns on the turf. Although Vazirabad is seeking what would be a record third straight win, the race is highly competitive.

Vazirabad's trainer, Alain de Royer-Dupré, arrived in Dubai in time to watch his veteran work on the morning of March 28 and said he approves of the gate 5 draw. "But I also know how hard it is to win a race three times in a row," he added. "It is a big challenge, and there are some good horses in the race."

Godolphin sends out five for the Gold Cup with Rare Rhythm most prominent. The lightly raced 6-year-old Dubawi gelding comes off a first-up victory in the Nad Al Sheba Trophy Sponsored By Al Naboodah Civil Engineering (G3) March 1. In that race, he defeated several of the rivals he will face again in the Gold Cup, including Vazirabad, who finished second, and third-place finisher Sheikhzayedroad.

Back from last year's fourth-place finish is Big Orange, a 7-year-old Duke of Marmalade gelding trained by Michael Bell. Big Orange rallied from that defeat to win the Gold Cup (G1) at Royal Ascot in a dramatic battle to the wire over Order of St George.

Jockey Ryan Moore lands on Dal Harraild, a 5-year-old Champs Elysees gelding last seen winning the totetrefecta Pick the 1,2,3 Conditions Stakes at Chelmsford in England March 10. That race was a fast-track qualifier for the finals of the All-Weather Championships, set for March 30. **BH**

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SPORTING CHANCE TO BLUE GRASS STAKES

By BloodHorse Staff

D. Wayne Lukas has called an audible with Sporting Chance and will send the grade 1 winner to the \$1 million Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G2) April 7 at Keeneland, the Hall of Fame trainer said March 29.

Lukas had originally targeted the \$1 million Arkansas Derby (G1) April 14 at Oaklawn Park for Sporting Chance, who has been based in Hot Springs, Ark., since late last year. Sporting Chance ran twice at the meet, finishing a troubled third in the \$500,000 Southwest Stakes (G3) Feb. 19 and a disappointing fifth in the \$900,000 Rebel Stakes (G2) March 17, the final major local prep for the Arkansas Derby.

"I have great respect for the horses that are showing up for this one," said Lukas, a two-time winner of the Blue Grass. "I just think it might be a better fit. Trying to find out the proper keys, the right buttons."

Lukas said Luis Saez will be reunited with Sporting Chance in the Blue Grass. Saez rode Sporting Chance to a victory in the \$350,000 Hopeful Stakes (G1) Sept. 4 at Saratoga Race



COURTESY OF OAKLAWN PARK

Sporting Chance (inside) finished third in the Southwest Stakes at Oaklawn Park

Course and in the Southwest, which marked the 3-year-old debut for the son of Tiznow.

In his first work since the Rebel, Sporting Chance recorded a five-furlong bullet move over a fast track March 27 in :59 1/5. Clockers caught Sporting Chance's last quarter-mile in :22 4/5, and he galloped out to six furlongs in 1:12 4/5. Lukas said Luis Contreras worked Sporting Chance Tuesday morning.

"Best work he's had this spring," Lukas said. "Real pleased. Excellent work. I thought he looked well within himself. He did everything right. Clearly, the best work he's had all spring."

Lukas added that Bravazo, winner of the Risen Star Stakes presented by Lamarque Ford (G2), will not run again until the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1).

Bravazo won the Risen Star Feb. 17 at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots and finished eighth in the \$1 million Twinspace Louisiana Derby (G2) March 24. With 54 points, Bravazo is safely in the Kentucky Derby field.

"I've got the luxury of having six weeks to fine-tune him," Lukas said. "I'll have a nice, fresh horse for the Derby, it looks like." **BH**

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DERBY HOPEFUL RUNAWAY GHOST BOOSTS GHOSTZAPPER

By Mary LaRue

[@BH_MLaRue](#)

Sunland Derby (G3) winner Runaway Ghost topped a trio of black-type winners for Adena Spring Kentucky's 18-year-old stallion Ghostzapper March 25 at Sunland Park.

Runaway Ghost is the second graded stakes winner of the year and 34th overall for 2004 Horse of the Year Ghostzapper, who was bred by Frank Stronach's Adena Springs and is a son of another Stronach homebred, Awesome Again. Ghostzapper now has five black-type winners so far in 2018.

"He's a very, very special horse to this farm," said Ben Walden, Adena Springs' director of marketing and bloodstock consultant. "Frank Stronach bred him, and you can look back at his race record—he was an absolute once-in-a-lifetime horse. He was a champion. He beat one of the strongest (Breeders' Cup) Classic (G1) fields ever to be assembled."

Runaway Ghost, a Joe Peacock Sr. homebred, earned 50 qualifying points toward a starting position in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1). He now ranks seventh on the Kentucky Derby leaderboard.

The 3-year-old colt is out of the Desert God mare Rose's Desert, a multiple stakes winner for Peacock who won 10 of 15 races at Sunland and Zia Park, finishing second in



MALLORY HAIGH

Ghostzapper at Adena Springs Kentucky

her other five starts. Desert God, an unraced son of Fappiano, produced 30 stakes winners in his years at stud and was a five-time leading sire in New Mexico.

The cross of Ghostzapper with dams by sons of Fappiano has produced 28 starters, and four (14%) have gone on to be stakes winners, compared with a starter-to-stakes winner rate of 11% when the sire has been crossed with other broodmare sires. Aside from Runaway Ghost, the three other stakes winners are grade 1

winner Paulassilverling, who is out of a daughter by Grindstone; multiple graded stakes winner Pacific Ocean, whose broodmare sire is Unbridled; and Treacherous, whose dam is by First American.

Ghostzapper's fruitful Saturday included victories by his daughter Faypien, who took the Harry Henson Handicap going one mile, and his son Mt Veeder, who was the victor in the Bill Thomas Memorial Stakes at 6 1/2 furlongs. Both races were on the Sunland Derby undercard.

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DERBY HOPEFUL RUNAWAY GHOST BOOSTS GHOSTZAPPER

(continued from page 15)

"It was a great day for (Ghostzapper)," Walden said. "Most importantly, the style in which Runaway Ghost won the race was significant. It was an easy win, and a clear win. He appears to have a lot of talent, which is exciting looking forward to the Derby."

Fifteenth on the general leading sires list through March 28, Ghostzapper's stud fee is again climbing after he began his career as a six-figure stallion and then saw his fee drop as low as \$20,000 in 2011. Walden said that over the last four years, the stallion's book has ranged between 125 to 134 mares, which is more stable than in previous years. His 2018 stud fee is \$85,000.

"This year we've got a 128 (booked) and we are going to cap him in the mid-130s again. He's a very efficient breeder; he's a very professional horse in every way. He's got a great mind—very easy to be around."

Overall, Ghostzapper is the sire of 11 grade 1 winners and champions Shaman Ghost, Judy the Beauty, Hunters Bay, and Mexican champion Zapper Pirate. Last year, his son McCracken won the Sam F. Davis Stakes (G3) and placed third in the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G2) to earn a place in the starting gate of the Kentucky Derby.

Ghostzapper's five stakes winners so far this year include Queen's Plate winner and Sovereign Award finalist Holy Helena, who scored her first graded stakes in the March 3 The Very One Stakes (G3T); and his newest black-type winner Enchanted Ghost, who was a 3 1/4-length winner of the Feb. 17 Wide Country Stakes at Laurel Park.

Out of 2005 Broodmare of the Year Baby Zip, Ghostzapper is a half brother to the late City Zip, a grade 1 winner and this year's 10th-leading sire to date. **BH**

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PEACOCKS' ALL-IN PLAN LED TO RUNAWAY GHOST

By Eric Mitchell

🐦 @BH_EMitchell

No waffling exists in the world of Texas oilman and Thoroughbred owner/breeder Joe Peacock Sr.

When a decision needs to be made, Peacock does the required research, consults with knowledgeable people, and carefully weighs his options. Then when he makes his decision, it's done. No hemming. No hawing.

In 2014 Peacock decided he had a valuable broodmare prospect in his star runner, Rose's Desert, a daughter of five-time leading New Mexico sire Desert God and the most successful Thoroughbred he'd ever bred and raced. Rose's Desert won 10 times—seven times in black-type stakes—and finished second five times out of 15 starts. She raced exclusively in New Mexico, where she won multiple state championship titles and retired with \$626,035.

Peacock believed so much in Rose's Desert that he dispersed all his other mares and focused exclusively on turning her into the blue hen mare he believed she could be.

"Could you say we put all our eggs in one basket? Absolutely," said Joe "Joey" Peacock Jr., who co-owns Rose's Desert and is partners with his father in the family-owned and -operated Peacock Oil and Gas Properties based in San Antonio.

So far, the plan could not be



Connections of Sunland Derby victor Runaway Ghost in the winner's circle at Sunland Park

working any better.

Rose's Desert's first foal is Runaway Ghost, a son of Ghostzapper who earned a spot in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) starting gate March 25 by winning the Sunland Derby (G3) at Sunland Park by 2 3/4 lengths.

Peacock Sr., 86, was keenly aware of the odds he faced in shrinking his Thoroughbred holdings from 20 at its peak down to one mare. His history with horse racing and breeding goes back more than 50 years, beginning with Quarter Horses in the 1960s and including Thoroughbreds since the 1980s.

"At this point in the game, we are not interested in quantity," said Peacock Jr. "We wanted to see if we could take Rose's Desert and turn her into a first-class mare."

Sending the mare to Kentucky and breeding her to Adena Springs

Kentucky's 2004 Horse of the Year Ghostzapper was the Peacocks' first step. Rose's Desert delivered Runaway Ghost at Teddy Kuster and Matt Koch's Shawhan Place, between Cynthiana and Paris, Ky., where the mare has been boarded since she arrived in Kentucky more than three years ago.

While Peacock Sr. solicits a lot of advice regarding stallion selection, he makes all the final mating decisions.

"Matt has been helpful with some recommendations, but my dad is old-school," said Peacock Jr. "He likes to get the *BloodHorse Stallion Register* and go through that and study the pedigrees, the distances the horses won, the earnings, the sale averages, all those things. To this point, he has made every mating decision. Pop had phenomenal success with Quarter Horses, so no one questions him.

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PEACOCKS' ALL-IN PLAN LED TO RUNAWAY GHOST

(continued from page 17)

"He liked Ghostzapper's race record, he liked his pedigree, and the stamina of running at the classic distances," Peacock Jr. continued. "And at that time, Ghostzapper had fallen out of favor a little bit, and he felt for the price, he was a helluva stud."

The result of the mating was striking from day one.

"We were all in love with Runaway Ghost," said Matt Koch. "He was probably the top yearling we've had off the farm. He was the most solid-looking colt with the mind to go with it."

Gus Koch, Matt's brother who manages the farm's yearling division and sale prep, agreed.

"During preparation for the Keeneland September sale, he wanted more exercise than most of our other yearlings," Gus Koch remembered. "Most of the time we kept him on the walker, but he kept wanting more, so we took to longing him. He would go for as long as you wanted. He enjoyed it. He picked up on everything very easily. We had big hopes for him from the beginning."

The Peacocks are primarily breed-to-race owners, but with board bills and stud fees mounting, they decided to offer Runaway Ghost at the 2016 Keeneland September yearling sale. Peacock Sr. set the colt's reserve at \$250,000. When the auctioneer's hammer fell, the final bid was \$240,000. That would be the one and only time Runaway Ghost would be available for sale.



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Runaway Ghost wins the Sunland Derby

"Immediately after he went through the ring, Matt called and said he had a buyer willing to pay the price and my dad said, 'They had the chance when he was in the ring, and they didn't want him, so I'm racing him myself.'"

Decision made.

Peacock Sr. laughs now when asked how many offers he's had on his star colt.

"They started months ago," he said. "He's not for sale, and he's not for a partnership. People keep calling wanting to buy a half or part of him, but we aren't going to do that. We are going to race him and have fun with it, and go from there."

Peacock Sr.'s commitment to Rose's Desert and to the colt has put him and his family in the unimaginable position of having a potential starter in America's biggest race. But despite the allure, the family is committed to doing right by the horse first and foremost.

"As far as prestige and history, the Derby, Preakness, and Belmont are the ones that everyone remembers," Peacock Jr. said. "I will tell you right now, though, that even though he's qualified, if it is not right for the horse, we won't go. For us, it is all about the enjoyment we get out of having these horses. If he's in good shape and it works out, will we go? Hell, yeah. But if something pops up, we won't take the risk. He's too nice of a horse and has a great future in front of him."

The Peacock family also has much to look forward to beyond Runaway Ghost, with a 2-year-old half brother named Sheriff Brown, by Curlin, and a full sister to the Sunland Derby winner named Our Iris Rose. Rose's Desert is expected to deliver a Mineshaft colt around April 22, and she'll be bred back to Bernardini.

"What a gift," Peacock Jr. said about Rose's Desert. "She was an unbelievable race mare. She raced exclusively in New Mexico because that is where my parents had a vacation home and that is where they liked to go watch the horses. There is no doubt in my mind, though, that she could have competed in graded stakes races if we had taken her out of New Mexico. We also felt she would be a good mare, but for her first foal to qualify for the Kentucky Derby is certainly more than anyone could expect. She is truly the gift that keeps on giving." **BH**

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NIGHT RACING AT BELMONT NOT INCLUDED IN NEW YORK BUDGET

By Tom Precious

A plan advanced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to permit nighttime racing at Belmont Park has died in New York State budget talks, officials say.

Two sources—one in the state Senate and one in the Assembly—say the effort pushed by the New York Racing Association to expand its fan base ran into trouble with the Standardbred industry.

"It's definitely not going to happen in this budget," said Assemblyman Gary Pretlow, chairman of the NYS Assembly Committee on Racing and Wagering.

Pretlow had been hopeful for a deal, but he said NYRA was unwilling to go along with a proposal put forward by Standardbred owners that would keep them financially harmless if Belmont added nighttime racing to its menu.

"So far, the nighttime belongs to trotters, and the daytime belongs to Thoroughbreds," Pretlow said. "And the Standardbred owners believed this was an infringement on their time."

While Pretlow was definitive in saying the nighttime proposal won't be passed in a new state budget under consideration this week in Albany, the overall budget has not closed down. At the New York State Capitol, it would not be unusual if measures thought dead one day could come back to life—with concessions by stakeholders—the next day.

NYRA plans to continue its efforts to add night racing.

"As we have publicly stated throughout this process, NYRA believes that night racing is an important component in recruiting and maintaining new generations of fans to secure the long-term future of horse racing in New York, an industry responsible for 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in annual economic impact," said a NYRA spokesman.

Pretlow said a "hold harmless" provision was floated by Standardbred owners in return for them relaxing opposition to the Belmont plan. "NYRA refused to do that, which means that if NYRA doesn't want to give you a hold harmless that they do anticipate hurting your industry," said the Westchester County Democrat.

NYRA believes such restrictions should be ended and noted there would be little overlap.

"The public has a right to choose the sporting events that they wish to watch, and legislation that would allow NYRA to conduct Thoroughbred racing at night provides them with that choice—the same choice that the public currently enjoys with respect to every other athletic leagues able to offer their



With a hockey arena being added to the Belmont Park property, NYRA officials hope to add some night racing

product at night," said the NYRA statement. "The limited scope of night racing at Belmont Park means that the overlap with Standardbred racing would be minimal. In addition, NYRA believes that the addition of Thoroughbred racing at night would contribute to Standardbred handle by increasing the potential audience wagering at night. That's why we have been willing to collaborate with the Standardbred owners to stagger post times to benefit both parties.

"We will continue to work on advancing night racing in order to reach new audiences, drive tourism, and expand our economic impact in New York."

Based on a request by NYRA, Cuomo in January proposed racing after sunset at Belmont during limited periods. If the idea is not revived, it would be the second year it has died in the Assembly. Senate officials indicated support for the nighttime plan.

Under Cuomo's plan, nighttime racing would have been offered only Thursday through Saturday evenings and had to conclude by 10:30 p.m. NYRA also would have had to coordinate race start times with Yonkers harness track in Westchester County.

NYRA wanted the plan to help it better piggyback onto future plans for re-development of non-racing parcels at Belmont, including a new arena for the New York Islanders and entertainment and retail space.

"It will be around again," Pretlow said of the NYRA Belmont plan. "They're not going to give up on it." He said any number of ideas—from better guarantees about start times to a more dramatic offer to have Thoroughbred and Standardbred races held at the same track—have been floated in recent talks. "That can't happen now because of the different track surfaces," Pretlow said. "So it's not going to happen this year ... but I'm hopeful in the future to move forward on something." **BH**

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ECLIPSE THOROUGHBRED PARTNERS SET FOR SUCCESS

By Julie Witt

Aron Wellman started *Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners* five years ago, and in its relatively short existence, he has been fortunate to experience success on the sport's biggest stages, including a victory in the 2017 Belmont Stakes Presented by NYRABets (G1) with *Tapwrit*. Wellman took the time to talk to Bloodhorse MarketWatch about his current stable stars, including stakes filly *Paved*, *Tapwrit*, and the next wave of *Eclipse* talent, including the stable's recent Ocala Breeders' Sales March purchases.

MarketWatch: *Paved* won the El Camino Real Derby in her last start, which was an unconventional move, bringing her back to the synthetic off the turf and testing her against boys early in her 3-year-old campaign. What was the thought process behind that placement, and what are her plans moving forward?

Aron Wellman: It was a function of timing, in terms of spacing in-between her races, and distance. The farther the better for her, so the mile



FASIG-TIPTON PHOTO

Aron Wellman



KEENELAND PHOTO

Wellman inspects a yearling during the Keeneland September sale

and an eighth was appealing to us. As far as the synthetic is concerned, we bought her off a breeze on a synthetic surface at OBS March as a 2-year-old last year, so we had confidence between her breeze when we acquired her, as well as her turf form, that she would take to that surface. We certainly didn't love the idea of running against the boys, but at the same time she's a pretty strong, well-made filly with good constitution and a good mind, so we thought she could handle it, and fortunately she proved us right. We had a lot of confidence in her, and a lot of credit goes to Michael McCarthy and his staff for preparing her so well, and Drayden (Van Dyke) really has the right touch with her and gets along with her well and gave us a beautiful ride.

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ECLIPSE THOROUGHBRED PARTNERS SET FOR SUCCESS

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With good 3-year-old turf fillies, it's all about the second half of the season—that's when the real running begins. So even though she's won twice already this season, we've been very pragmatic about her campaign—doing our best to keep as much in the tank for as long as possible, knowing our major goals are going to start in June, July, August, and through October—starting with the Belmont Oaks (Invitational) at Belmont, and then hopefully in the Del Mar Oaks in the summertime at Del Mar and then the Queen Elizabeth (Challenge Cup) at Keeneland in the fall. Those would be our three primary grade 1 targets, and our job is try to manage her as effectively as possible and make sure she's right and on top of her game for those three targets. We've always felt those are the types of races she could be in the hunt for, and we never like to plan too far ahead, but now that she's proven herself as a stakes-caliber filly with her last win, we can start to realistically circle those days on the calendar.

MW: Eclipse has Hazit, who had a rough time of it in the Jeff Ruby Steaks (G3) at Turfway Park. What is the game plan for him?

AW: He's been a really frustrating horse, unfortunately, since his debut win at Saratoga, and it really hasn't been his fault. Things just really haven't gone right since the summertime for him. We've put him in some ambitious spots, thinking highly of him, and really believing he has big races in him, and the Turfway experience just went all wrong, unfortunately. Our game plan was to pop him out of there and hopefully have him in a forward position, and right out

of the gate he went straight to his face and stumbled as violently as a horse can stumble. So his race was said and done one stride out of the gate. Drayden (Van Dyke), who was in town to ride him for the race, did a good job of taking care of him, but it was just unfortunate circumstances. We're back in a regrouping phase for him, and in all likelihood we are just going to go back to the basics sprinting him on the main track in an allowance race at Gulfstream Park sometime next month.

“

Some of our best acquisitions have been very modest purchases and some have been blockbusters, and it's all about that perception of value.”

—ARON WELLMAN

MW: Tapwrit won the 2017 Belmont Stakes Presented by NYRABets (G1) and has been given time off. How is he doing and when can we expect to see him back on the track?

AW: Tapwrit is doing awesome. He is now a week back with (trainer) Todd Pletcher. He got a really good and well-deserved freshening after the Travers (G1). He's turned from an imposing teenager at the time of his 3-year-old campaign to, really, a man. He's always been a really substantial colt that has filled the eye, and now that is even more so

the case. He's put on height, depth, weight, and really filled out beautifully. We are really pleased with the manner in which he has come back to Todd. Jonathan Thomas and the folks at Bridlewood did an incredible job with him, and Todd is very happy with what he has seen in the short window of time since he's had him back. We are just laying the groundwork right now to posture him for the second half of the season, and certainly have aspirations of him developing into a top handicap horse this year and beyond, hopefully.

MW: Eclipse, along with the other partners who are involved with Tapwrit, who is slated to stand at Gainesway Farm at the conclusion of his racing career, elected to bring him back for a 4-year-old campaign. What went into that decision?

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ECLIPSE THOROUGHBRED PARTNERS SET FOR SUCCESS

(continued from page 21)

AW: Good health assumed, it was never our intention to retire him at the end of his 3-year-old campaign. We always viewed him, and time will tell, as a horse that would thrive with age and strengthening and filling out into his scopey frame. Obviously, distance is of no consequence to him being a Belmont winner, and we like to think that as he comes into his own in the handicap division.

MW: Of your current 2-year-olds in training, do you have any in particular that stand out?

AW: I think right now the head of the class, and we are really excited about this crop, is the Medaglia d'Oro colt out of the mare Rigoletta, making him a half brother to Battle of Midway, and we bought him in partnership with Mike Repole. He's unnamed, still, and has been at Bridlewood Farm and has developed magnificently well since August. He's really blossomed in the right way, he's sending all the right signals, and he just oozes intelligence and class. He's done everything we've asked of him very organically and very well, and is a colt that offers that classic profile, so we are going to take our time with him and hope he's hitting his stride this time next year.

MW: Eclipse was active at OBS March the other week, purchasing seven 2-year-olds. Walk us through those purchases.

AW: We bought three in partnership with Mike Repole and four as just Eclipse.

Our sole focus is to buy the best horses that we can, for the best value that we can. Sometimes that means we buy a \$50,000 horse that we like just as much as we would like a \$500,000 horse. Some of our best acquisitions have been very modest purchases, and some have been blockbusters, and it's all about that perception of value. Obviously, there

are certain factors that have to be in place for us to stretch for those big ticket purchases—pedigree has to be there whether it's a colt or a filly—to help justify those type of purchases.

I thought OBS March a couple weeks ago was a very interesting sale, and it was kind of a tale of two days. We've seen this for the past five to seven years now. What is perceived as the best quality is commanding a premium, if not premium plus, and the stock that doesn't hit the boxes is in trouble. What we always try and do is create a middle market for ourselves in a market that doesn't have a middle market. We've always tried to hover just below the radar and be able to find diamonds in the rough at more reasonable evaluations than what the heavyweights are able to pay for those horses, and still be able to show up at Del Mar, Saratoga, etc., and still be able to compete and maybe even beat them. That's what really fuels our fire.

If you look at our purchases on day 1 of OBS March, we were very selective, and the horses we bought were on the upper end of our comfort zone, budget-wise. The upper end of our sweet spot where we've been successful. When you look at the results of day 1, the quality rose to the top, and then there was a huge buyback rate or number of outs, because that was the first day of the 2-year-old sale season.

But I could sense this huge, immediate correction going into day 2 where the consignors, the owners, the pinhookers realized that unless they want to be stuck with stock, they had to get realistic and they had to get realistic in a hurry, about what their horses might be worth, or at least what the market thought their horses might be worth. We sensed that early in day 2, and we really fired away for a handful of fillies in particular, which is really our bread and butter, and we bought three for \$130,000 and one for \$150,000. And that, to me, is good eating. **BH**

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RACE RESULTS

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STAKES RESULTS

PRIX RIGHT ROYAL

Chantilly, 3/29, €52,000, 4yo/up, 15f, 3:31.33, hvy.

1—**Holdthasigreen** (FR), 128, ch g, 6 €26,000
Hold That Tiger—Greentathir (FR), by **Muhtathir** (GB)

0—JEAN GILBERT, B—J GILBERT & C LELAY (FR), T—AUDOUIN BRUNO, J—PICCONE TONY

2—**Nabunga** (FR), 126, b g, 6 €10,400
Aussie Rules—Grantsville (GER), by Tremolino
0—STEFANO BACCI, B—ROSEMONT STUD PTY LTD (FR), T—BIETOLINI GIANLUCA, J—PASQUIER STEPHANE

3—**Nardo** (FR), 126, gr g, 8 €7,800
Aussie Rules—Nannetta (IRE), by Mark of Esteem (IRE)

0—GILBERT GOEFFIC, B—ELEVAGE HARAS DE BOURGEOUVILLE (FR), T—FOUCHER FABRICE, J—CHEMINAUD VINCENT

Margin: 10, nose, neck. **Others:** BONFIRE HEART, COCO PANACHE (IRE), ISON (GER), AURORA GRAY (GB).

ALLOWANCE RESULTS

Fair Grounds, Race 2, AOC

3/29, \$44,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 8f (dirt), 1:38.50, track sloppy.

1—**Dixie Brees**, 119, b m, 6, Good and Tough—Shes Dixies Eskimo, by Eskimo, \$26,400, 0—Crusaders Stable LLC, B—John Luck (LA), T—Ron Fauchaux, J—Adam Beschizza

Margin: 2½, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Gulfstream Park, Race 10, AOC

3/29, \$48,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 8f (turf), 1:35.99, course firm.

1—**Admiral's Win**, 121, b m, 6, Admiral's Cruise—Win Sting, by **Scorpion**, \$28,800, 0—Santa Cruz Ranch, Inc., B—Santa Cruz Ranch (FL), T—Juan P. Rizo, J—Jose A. Batista

Margin: ¾, 7 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Oaklawn Park, Race 6, AOC

3/29, \$82,000, 4yo/up, 6f (dirt), 1:11.25, track muddy.

1—**K J's Nobility**, 124, ch g, 4, **Primary Suspect**—K J's Girl, by Big Pistol, \$49,200, 0—M and M Racing, B—Hobogo Racing (AR), T—Robertino Diodoro, J—David Cohen

Margin: ¾, 11 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Oaklawn Park, Race 7, AOC

3/29, \$82,000, 3yo, f, 8f (dirt), 1:40.41, track muddy.

1—**Tahoe Dream**, 121, b f, 3, **Afleet Alex**—Trout River Red, by Indian Charlie, \$49,200, 0—Robertson, Hugh H., Mentz, John, and Larson, Jeff, B—T/C Stable, LLC (KY), T—McLean Robertson, J—Alex L. Canchari

Sale History: 2016 KEESEP, \$40,000.

Margin: neck, 8 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Oaklawn Park, Race 8, AOC

3/29, \$84,000, 4yo/up, 6f (dirt), 1:10.04, track good.

1—**Smart Spree**, 122, dk b/br g, 7, Smart Strike—Celebrate, by Rahy, \$50,400, 0—Trinity Racing Stables, Inc. and Racer's Edge Inc., B—George Strawbridge Jr. (ON), T—Norman McKnight, J—Ramon A. Vazquez

Margin: 3, 9 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Santa Anita Park, Race 4, AOC

3/29, \$63,000, 4yo/up, 8f (turf), 1:33.94, course firm.

1—**Kenjisstorm**, 120, ch h, 6, **Stormy Atlantic**—Back in Time, by **Empire Maker**, \$37,800, 0—Head of Plains Partners LLC, KM Racing Enterprise, Inc. and Carillo, J., B—Dapple Bloodstock & Susan Bunning (KY), T—Phillip D'Amato, J—Flavien Prat

Sale History: 2014 OBSJUN, \$165,000, 2014 OBSAPR, (\$95,000 RNA), 2013 FTSAUG, (\$145,000 RNA), 2012 FT-KNOV, \$130,000.

Margin: 2¼, 8 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Santa Anita Park, Race 7, AOC

3/29, \$56,000, 3yo, f, 6.5f (dirt), 1:17.16, track fast.

1—**True Royalty**, 122, ch f, 3, Yes It's True—High Wire, by Street Cry (IRE), \$33,600, 0—Batchelor Family Trust, B—SJT Racing Stable LLC (FL), T—John W. Sadler, J—Drayden Van Dyke

Sale History: 2017 OBSAPR, \$180,000.

Margin: neck, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

MAIDEN RESULTS

Fair Grounds, Race 8, MSW

3/29, \$41,000, 3yo, 6f (dirt), 1:10.75, track sloppy.

1—**Discreetly D**, 120, ch g, 3, **Discreetly Mine**—Evening Muse, by Invasor (ARG), \$24,600, 0—Set-Hut LLC, B—Michael Villar & Cynthia Villar (LA), T—Jeff Delhomme, J—James Graham

Sale History: 2016 ESLSEP, \$23,000.

Margin: neck, 10 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Gulfstream Park, Race 7, MSW

3/29, \$55,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 8f (dirt), 1:38.67, track fast.

1—**Ox Eyed Daisy**, 118, b f, 3, **Oxbow**—A P's Hidden Honey, by A.P. Indy, \$28,800, 0—Calumet Farm, B—Calumet Farm (KY), T—Todd A. Pletcher, J—Luis Saez

Sale History: 2016 FTKJUL, \$145,000.

Margin: 4, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Oaklawn Park, Race 5, MSW

3/29, \$81,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (dirt), 1:12.18, track muddy.

1—**Good Creation**, 118, gr/ro f, 3, **Creative Cause**—Dance to Reason, by Devil's Bag, \$48,600, 0—Jico, Inc., Dauner, John P. and Von Hemel, Donnie K., B—E. T. Buckley (KY), T—Donnie K. Von Hemel, J—Richard E. Eramia

Sale History: 2016 KEESEP, \$55,000.

Margin: ½, 10 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Penn National, Race 4, MSW

3/29, \$31,600, 3yo, f, 6f (dirt), 1:14.13, track fast.

1—**Trolley Ride**, 122, gr/ro f, 3, **Flashy Bull**—Proudly Irish, by **Jump Start**, \$18,960, 0—James H. Eshleman, B—Sandra Kim Eshleman (PA), T—T. Bernard Houghton, J—David Cora

Margin: 4¼, 7 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Santa Anita Park, Race 1, MSW

3/29, \$54,000, 4yo/up, 9f (turf), 1:47.98, course firm.

1—**Gosilently**, 122, b g, 5, **Silent Name** (JPN)—Beauty by George, by Honour and Glory, \$32,400, 0—Ochre House Stable, B—Peggy Conroy (NY), T—Robert N. Falcone, Jr., J—Corey S. Nakatani

Sale History: 2014 FTNOCT, (\$9,500 RNA).

Margin: nose, 8 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Santa Anita Park, Race 6, MSW

3/29, \$54,000, 3yo, 8.5f (dirt), 1:45.72, track fast.

1—**Longden** (GB), 122, dk b/br r, 3, **Bernardini**—Gracefield, by Storm Cat, \$32,400, 0—Godolphin, LLC, B—Godolphin (GB), T—Bob Baffert, J—Drayden Van Dyke

Margin: 2¼, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

TODAY'S ENTRIES

RAINBOW S.

Oaklawn Park, Friday, March 30, Race 8
6f (dirt), \$100,000, 3yo c/g, 4:42 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1	1	Zack Ridge Road	Brahms	3/g	David Cohen	116	5/1	Bruno Schickedanz
2	2	Bebop Shoes	Prom Shoes	3/g	Jon Kenton Court	113	6/1	Dwight Pruett
3	3	Spanish Avenue	Portobello Road	3/c	David Cabrera	116	12/1	Danny R. Caldwell
4	4	Ray's Big Boy	Jonesboro	3/c	Edgar Morales	113	50/1	Rayford Wright
5	5	Hoonani Road	Jonesboro	3/g	Channing Hill	122	1/1	Jerry Caroom
6	6	Suspicious Eyes	Primary Suspect	3/c	Richard E. Eramia	113	8/1	Robert H. Pond
7	7	Spotitude	Spotsgone	3/g	Ramon A. Vazquez	122	12/1	Ronald L. Ball & Golden Sky Racing Inc (Blake Lazenby & Jamie Bernt)
8	8	Hamazing Vision	Hamazing Destiny	3/g	Alex L. Canchari	113	20/1	Merano LLC (Jim Green)
9	9	East Moon Lake	Primary Suspect	3/g	Alex Birzer	113	6/1	Stanley W. Roberts

Breeders: 1–Sanders Brothers; 2–Eugene Branum & Linda Branum; 3–William T. Reed; 4–Dr. Jesse W Clement DVM; 5–Bobby Lee Hall; 6–Rickey Smith; 7–Robert Yagos & Val Yagos; 8–Arthur Hall & C F Newman; 9–McDowell Farm.

Trainers: 1–Norman McKnight; 2–William H. Fires; 3–Federico Villafranco; 4–Rayford Wright; 5–Wayne M. Catalano; 6–Morris G. Nicks; 7–Al Cates; 8–Donnie K. Von Hemel; 9–Stanley W. Roberts.

SOARING SOFTLY S.

Gulfstream Park, Friday, March 30, Race 9
11f (turf), \$75,000, 4yo/up f/m, 4:37 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1	1	Taralena	Arch	5/m	Tyler Gaffalione	117	2/1	Cheyenne Stables LLC
2	2	Summersault	Rock Hard Ten	6/m	John R. Velazquez	119	9/5	William Parsons Jr. and David S. Howe
3	3	Shezaprado	Paddy O'Prado	4/f	Edgard J. Zayas	117	12/1	Out Of This World Racing LLC
4	4	Rum Go	Mizzen Mast	4/f	Nik Juarez	117	10/1	Three Diamonds Farm
5	5	Empressof the Nile	Pioneerof the Nile	4/f	Jose L. Ortiz	117	5/2	William L. Clifton Jr.
6	6	No Sweat	Blame	4/f	Luis Saez	117	10/1	Starlight Racing

Breeders: 1–Daniel J. Burke & Kathleen Schweizer; 2–William Parsons Jr. & David S. Howe; 3–Paradox Farm, Inc. & D. Andrews; 4–Elisabeth H. Alexander; 5–Pam Doddridge; 6–Carhue Investments & Paget Bloodstock.

Trainers: 1–Christophe Clement; 2–Mark A. Hennig; 3–Michael J. Maker; 4–Michael J. Maker; 5–H. James Bond; 6–Todd A. Pletcher.



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UPCOMING ENTRIES

MIRANDA DIANE S.

Will Rogers Downs, Monday, April 2, Race 9
6f (dirt), \$50,000, 3yo/up f/m, 4:53 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		Another Bond Girl	Don't Get Mad	5/m	Freddy Jose Manrique	124	-	Higgins, William H. and Davidson, M. Brent
2		Foxy Fleda	Added Edge	8/m	Benny C. Landeros	124	-	William Gaddy
3		Jackson Hill	Euroears	4/f	Marlon St. Julien	124	-	Dream Walkin Farms, Inc.
4		Accessorizing	Old Fashioned	4/f	Floyd Wethey, Jr.	124	-	Penny S. Lauer
5		Diva's Rule	Roman Ruler	5/m	Larren Delorme	124	-	Michael Grossman
6		Defy	Into Mischief	4/f	David Cabrera	124	-	Foster Racing Stables
7		Fiddlers Tsunami	Seeking a Home	5/m	Kevin Roman	124	-	Blue Moon Stables
8		Besttizyet	Tizway	4/f	Travis Cunningham	124	-	Ra-Max Farms LLC
9		Baby K	Kennedy	4/f	Bryan McNeil	124	-	Jared Gary
10		She'sagraciouslady	Gemologist	4/f	Quincy Hamilton	124	-	End Zone Athletics, Inc.
11		Korn Flake Girl	Drosselmeyer	4/f	Ronald Richard	124	-	Garrett Baker
12		Double Bee Sting	Stay Thirsty	4/f	Curtis Kimes	124	-	Curtis A. Sampson

Breeders: 1–William Higgins & Brent Davidson; 2–Rosewood Farm Inc.; 3–Dream Walkin' Farms, Inc.; 4–Michael E. Lauer & Penny S. Lauer; 5–Eureka Thoroughbred Farm; 6–Hart Farm; 7–Patricia Clark, Mike Duplissey & Marilyn Jean Duplissey; 8–Mark Secrest; 9–John James Revocable Trust; 10–Briland Farm, Robert Mitchell & Stacy Mitchell; 11–Sun Valley Farm; 12–Curtis Sampson.

Trainers: 1–M. Brent Davidson; 2–Tom L. Ehardt; 3–Kenny P. Smith; 4–Michael E. Lauer; 5–Francisco Bravo; 6–Chris A. Hartman; 7–Jody Pruitt; 8–Lyle D. Johnston; 9–Mark W. Buehrer; 10–Karl Broberg; 11–Ron David; 12–Tony Rengstorf.

HIGHLAND ICE S.

Will Rogers Downs, Tuesday, April 3, Race 9
6f (dirt), \$50,000, 3yo/up c/g, 4:51 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		Topofthemountain	Affirmatif	6/g	Jason R. Eads	124	-	Liz Horner
2		Hold for More	Hold Me Back	6/g	Curtis Kimes	124	-	Dale Schenian
3		Balandeen	Bernardini	4/c	David Cabrera	124	-	Joey Keith Davis
4		Smooth Chiraz	Chitoz	5/g	Larren Delorme	124	-	Ann Sachdev and Lori Bravo
5		Irish Capital	Dublin	4/g	Benny C. Landeros	124	-	Stephen R. Baker
6		Welder	The Visualiser	5/g	Travis Cunningham	124	-	Ra-Max Farms LLC
7		He's So Zazzy	Oratory	5/g	Floyd Wethey, Jr.	124	-	Thomas Julian

Breeders: 1–Peter Hladky; 2–Wood-Mere Farm; 3–Aaron & Marie Jones; 4–Ann Sachdev & Lori Bravo; 5–Center Hills Farm; 6–Center Hills Farm; 7–Pam K Wright.

Trainers: 1–Liz Horner; 2–Francisco Bravo; 3–Chris A. Hartman; 4–Francisco Bravo; 5–M. Brent Davidson; 6–Lyle D. Johnston; 7–Scott E. Young.

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TOP HORSES

Listed below are the top 10 leading horses by 2018 North American earnings through March 28, 2018. Racing statistics are 2018 North American only.

Rank	Name	Starts	Wins	Places	Shows	Earnings	Win%	WPS%
1	Gun Runner	1	1	0	0	\$7,000,000	100%	100%
2	West Coast	1	0	1	0	\$1,600,000	0%	100%
3	Gunnerera	1	0	0	1	\$1,300,000	0%	100%
4	Fear the Cowboy	2	0	0	1	\$1,070,000	0%	50%
5	Seeking the Soul	1	0	0	0	\$850,000	0%	0%
6	War Story	2	1	0	0	\$710,000	50%	50%
7	Giant Expectations	2	0	0	0	\$686,000	0%	0%
8	Noble Indy	3	2	0	1	\$666,400	67%	100%
9	Singing Bullet	1	0	0	0	\$650,000	0%	0%
10	Sharp Azteca	1	0	0	0	\$650,000	0%	0%
11	Collected	1	0	0	0	\$650,000	0%	0%
12	Stellar Wind	1	0	0	0	\$650,000	0%	0%
13	Toast of New York	1	0	0	0	\$650,000	0%	0%

TOP TRAINERS

Listed below are the top 10 leading trainers by 2018 North American earnings through March 28, 2018. Racing statistics are 2018 North American only.

Rank	Name	Starts	Wins	Places	Shows	Earnings	Win%	WPS%
1	Steven M. Asmussen	462	93	96	74	\$10,896,480	20%	57%
2	Bob Baffert	93	30	18	11	\$4,271,580	32%	63%
3	Todd A. Pletcher	234	67	42	35	\$4,174,013	29%	62%
4	Brad H. Cox	220	60	43	23	\$2,813,025	27%	57%
5	Chad C. Brown	113	31	20	15	\$2,178,540	27%	58%
6	Jorge Navarro	115	29	19	17	\$2,160,710	25%	57%
7	Michael J. Maker	273	49	34	34	\$2,021,244	18%	43%
8	Mark E. Casse	203	40	27	20	\$1,940,623	20%	43%
9	Karl Broberg	398	105	72	49	\$1,871,311	26%	57%
10	Dale L. Romans	121	25	14	19	\$1,789,806	21%	48%

Data provided by [EQUIBASE](#)

TOP JOCKEYS

Listed below are the top 10 leading jockeys by 2018 North American earnings through March 28, 2018. Racing statistics are 2018 North American only.

Rank	Name	Starts	Wins	Places	Shows	Earnings	Win%	WPS%
1	Florent Geroux	235	50	40	29	\$9,184,303	21%	51%
2	Luis Saez	433	93	72	74	\$4,882,989	21%	55%
3	Javier Castellano	251	56	43	35	\$4,788,898	22%	53%
4	Irad Ortiz, Jr.	405	97	80	50	\$4,295,217	24%	56%
5	Jose L. Ortiz	358	62	46	56	\$4,009,715	17%	46%
6	John R. Velazquez	143	36	17	14	\$3,028,050	25%	47%
7	Tyler Gaffalione	373	58	54	48	\$3,001,537	16%	43%
8	Manuel Franco	255	60	55	39	\$2,803,033	24%	60%
9	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	227	46	31	35	\$2,553,436	20%	49%
10	Dylan Davis	245	46	40	42	\$2,395,433	19%	52%