



MAGGIE KIMMITT

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Chasing a Dream Leads Rubley  
to the Triple Crown

See page 4

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- 11 Improbable, Laughing Fox Breeze Before Preakness

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- May 4 • **KNEEDEEPINSNOW**  
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ANNE M. EBERHARDT



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Preakness Stakes hopeful Alwaysmining with his trainer Kelly Rubley

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Contact Us:

Editor: [cnovak@bloodhorse.com](mailto:cnovak@bloodhorse.com) • Advertising: [advertise@bloodhorse.com](mailto:advertise@bloodhorse.com)

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## LATEST HEADLINES from BloodHorse.com

**OPENING SESSION OF MIDLANTIC UNDER TACK SHOW DELAYED** Under tack show will begin at 10am EDT to allow for additional track maintenance.

**MAXIMUM SECURITY STILL LEADS NTRA TOP 3-YEAR-OLD POLL** Bricks and Mortar continues to lead older horses in the Top Thoroughbred Poll.

**DARBY DAN CONTROLLER TRACIE WILLIS DIES MAY 7** Willis was a part of Darby Dan's team for seven years.

**CAUTHEN, GAUDET NAMED TO KEENELAND POSTS** Julie Cauthen, Gabby Gaudet to support Keeneland sale inspection, recruitment efforts.

## CHASING A DREAM LEADS RUBLEY TO THE TRIPLE CROWN

By John Scheinman

Kelly Rubley unsaddled her stakes-winning 6-year-old General Downs after a disappointing finish in an allowance race at Churchill Downs and headed to the airport. Never mind that it was Kentucky Derby Day, and she had watched the race every year on TV since she was a child. She wanted to get home to her barn in Fair Hill, Md.

The flight was mostly empty because who's flying out of Louisville the day of the Derby? Fortunately, for Rubley, it had a television and she could watch the race.

"I'm trying not to scream; I've got my earplugs in," Rubley said. "I've always screamed at the races. It was a very empty airplane, which was helpful. So, I had the whole row to myself, so nobody thought I was nuts."

“

*No one in my family is with horses, but I'll tell you the first time I set eyes on a horse, I was in love.”*

—KELLY RUBLEY

Rubley told the Derby story standing outside the stall of a 3-year-old that will thrust her straight into the heart of the Triple

Crown May 18. Alwaysmining, a Stay Thirsty gelding she trains for Runnymede Racing, has reeled off six straight wins at Laurel Park by a combined 36 1/2 lengths and now will be tested for class in the Preakness Stakes (G1) at Pimlico Race Course.

For Rubley, who grew up in tiny Pulaski, N.Y., 38 miles north of Syracuse and five miles east of Lake Ontario—not exactly horse country—the race will be the pinnacle of a lifelong obsession with horses.

"Since I could talk, all I ever wanted to do was touch horses," she said. "No one in my family is with horses, but I'll tell you the first time I set eyes on a horse, I was in love.

"My parents gave me a riding lesson to get it out of my system, and that didn't work," she laughed. "They then proceeded to support my showing career throughout my high school and early college until I was able to do it on my own. The nearest track to where I grew up was Finger Lakes, and I never stepped foot on it. So, I showed hunter-jumper Quarter Horses. I think they regretted giving me that riding lesson."

Rubley's parents made sure she got an education, and she did apply herself, earning a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry and Master of Science degree in secondary education from SUNY-Oswego. She wound up teaching middle school and then moving into administration, but horses always called to her.



MAGGIE KIMMITT

Alwaysmining with his trainer Kelly Rubley at Fair Hill Training Center

(continued on page 5)

## CHASING A DREAM LEADS RUBLEY TO THE TRIPLE CROWN

*(continued from page 4)*

Always the outsider, and with no interest in starting a family, Rubley took the leap and moved down to Unionville, Pa., to work on a farm and ride with the famed Cheshire Foxhounds. She showed up unannounced one day at the Fair Hill Training Center looking for a job as an exercise rider in 2009 and got hired by Barclay Tagg, who in his youth had ridden with the same hounds.

Rubley didn't know she was going to be a trainer at first, but when she decided that was her goal, things developed rapidly. Within two years, she was Tagg's assistant. Over the next three years, she handled Tagg's horses at Fair Hill as well as his Palm Meadows string while he was at Gulfstream Park, and the Belmont Park string while he was at Saratoga Race Course. She also assisted with horses for him at Delaware Park and Monmouth Park across five years.

"When I left, Barclay, he was not pleased with me, but only because of the fact that I had become a vital part of his operation," she said.

At times, Rubley's career appears to be partly guided by kismet, or fate. She fell in love with Fair Hill and knew she wanted to launch her own training career there. In fact, she knew that soon after she started with Tagg. The opportunity arose at Fair Hill to oversee a string of horses for trainer Jimmy Toner, who had an owner, Justin Nicholson, who bought a barn there. Toner was far less hands-on than Tagg, so she developed her independence with him and struck out on her own in 2014.

Owners have tumbled into her sphere far easier than they do with many new trainers, particularly women. She trains turf star Divisidero for Gunpowder Farms and Brereton Jones, has horses for West Point Thoroughbreds and, now, Alwaysmining for Runnymede Racing.

"I don't know why that happened," Rubley said about how she locked into such quality owners. "I recognize and appreciate that. It's not for lack of hard work. I'm in the barn seven days a week, but Barclay taught me that."

Alwaysmining's arrival also was one of lucky timing. After the gelding broke his maiden in his fourth career

start at Laurel Park, Runnymede bought him privately from owner James McIngvale.

"He was meant to just be kind of a useful, fun horse for them," Rubley said of Runnymede. The horse was sent to trainer Edward Graham and raced one time before he and Runnymede parted ways.

"It was truly lucky," Rubley said, "because Runnymede bought a barn here at Fair Hill, and I was renting the barn from them, and they said we've got this horse we want to send to you. And there he is. Truly lucky!"

Rubley saw a "gangly 2-year-old with lots of leg and an amazing stride. You could see there was a nice horse in there, but he hadn't quite developed into what we have now."

She knew Alwaysmining wanted to go long, but 2-year-old route races rarely get written into the condition book. She ran Alwaysmining on the grass in the Laurel Futurity just to keep him busy and then waited. When a mile race finally came up at Laurel in October, she entered, and he won by 10 lengths.

Since then, Alwaysmining has won five straight stakes at the Maryland track, employing a high cruising speed against over-matched opponents, culminating with an 11-length score in the Federico Tesio at 1 1/8 miles, which awarded an automatic bid for the Preakness.

Rubley knows her horse matches up with the top 3-year-olds in all the speed figure ratings. She hasn't changed his regimen just because he's going to run in one of the biggest races in the country.

"We're not changing anything," she said. "This horse loves to train; that's the key. The goal with him is to literally not let him do too much because it's very easy for him. He's just all business—loves to train, loves to go to the track, and he's just a really mellow, nice horse to be around."

Rubley would love to win the Preakness, but she also sees just being there as an advertisement for her capabilities. As of May 11, she had 11 wins from 70 starts this year, and she emphasizes developing horses rather than putting up a gaudy winning percentage, something else she learned from Tagg.

"The goal is to be improving the stable," she said. "Just having the recognition from this horse, regardless of how he runs Saturday, we've won six races in a row and that certainly has to have put my name on somebody's radar that it wasn't on previously." **BH**

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# SIRES BY LIFETIME AEI



Rank	Stallion, YOB (Sire) Farm, Stud Fee	AEI	CI	LT Crops	LT Foals	LT BT SW	GSW	G1W
1	Curlin, '04, (Smart Strike) Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY, \$175,000	2.34	2.10	8	746	59	27	8
2	War Front, '02, (Danzig) Claiborne Farm, KY, \$250,000	2.29	2.33	10	711	83	47	19
3	Tapit, '01, (Pulpit) Gainesway, KY, \$225,000	2.28	2.29	12	1,286	120	72	25
4	Quality Road, '06, (Elusive Quality) Lane's End, KY, \$150,000	2.19	1.61	6	497	36	22	10
5	Candy Ride (ARG), '99, (Ride the Rails) Lane's End, KY, \$80,000	2.11	1.67	12	1,289	80	41	14
6	Ghostzapper, '00, (Awesome Again) Adena Springs Kentucky, KY, \$85,000	2.11	2.01	11	870	66	34	9
7	Distorted Humor, '93, (Forty Niner) WinStar Farm LLC, KY, \$50,000	1.99	2.13	18	1,610	146	61	16
8	Medaglia d'Oro, '99, (El Prado) Darley, KY, \$200,000	1.96	2.30	12	1,764	102	50	19
9	Awesome Again, '94, (Deputy Minister) Adena Springs Kentucky, KY, Private	1.95	1.85	18	1,234	66	37	13
10	Speightstown, '98, (Gone West) WinStar Farm LLC, KY, \$80,000	1.94	2.03	12	1,049	100	46	14

Listed above are the top 10 leading sires by lifetime Average Earnings Index (AEI) through May 12, 2019. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2015 breeding season), with at least 150 named foals of racing age are included. All statistics are Northern Hemisphere only. AEI indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. CI indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires. Stakes winners are lifetime.



# LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

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Rank	Stallion, YOBS (Sire) Farm, Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SW/ SHs	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'19 Earnings
1	Stay Thirsty, '08, (Bernardini) Lovacres Ranch, CA, \$6,000	117 / 47	3 / 4	Coal Front \$1,200,000	\$3,052,058
2	I'll Have Another, '09, (Flower Alley) Ballena Vista Farm, CA, \$6,000	154 / 51	1 / 1	Another Truth \$286,150	\$2,016,242
3	Square Eddie, '06, (Smart Strike) Ocean Breeze Ranch, CA, \$25,000	58 / 20	1 / 5	Listing \$99,400	\$1,152,491
4	Bluegrass Cat, '03, (Storm Cat) Ballena Vista Farm, CA, \$6,500	75 / 22	0 / 0	Chris and Dave \$116,770	\$1,026,421
5	Unusual Heat, '90, (Nureyev) N/A, Died	62 / 23	3 / 6	Apache Princess \$122,811	\$979,814
6	Lucky Pulpit, '01, (Pulpit) N/A, Died	105 / 30	0 / 1	Preaching Trainer \$40,302	\$785,415
7	Grazen, '06, (Benchmark) Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, CA, \$5,000	25 / 9	2 / 3	Lieutenant Dan \$191,720	\$740,150
8	Ministers Wild Cat, '00, (Deputy Minister) Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, CA, \$4,000	63 / 29	1 / 1	Minister of Soul \$98,297	\$703,854
9	Smiling Tiger, '07, (Hold That Tiger) Harris Farms, CA, \$7,500	41 / 16	1 / 2	Spiced Perfection \$254,500	\$662,675
10	Jersey Town, '06, (Speightstown) Daehling Ranch, CA, \$3,000	53 / 18	1 / 1	Shakopee Town \$124,003	\$553,803

Listed above are the top 10 leading sires in California by 2019 Northern Hemisphere earnings through May 12, 2019. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2015 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2019 Northern Hemisphere only.



RON MESARDS

# MARYLAND'S BEST HOPE: ALWAYS MINING

By Evan Hammonds

[@BH\\_EHammonds](#)

A Maryland-bred horse hasn't won the Preakness Stakes (G1) since Francis P. Sears Jr.'s Deputed Testamony won the Black-eyed Susans in the spring of 1983 for trainer Bill Boniface. Thirty-six years later the best hope lies with Alwaysmining, a son of Stay Thirsty owned by Greg and Caroline Bentley's Runnymede Racing.

The Bentleys' farm is just outside Coatesville, Pa. As CEO of Bentley Systems in Exton, Pa., Greg Bentley was looking for a hobby a couple of decades ago and landed on steeplechasers. Being in the steeplechase capital of the U.S., it was a perfect fit until they purchased a jump prospect by the name of Hardest Core.

When the horse ended up on the flat, and won the 2014 Arlington Million XXXII Stakes (G1T), racing manager Joe Cassidy said the Bentleys discovered, "Wow. There's a whole other world out here.

"Now they have just one jumper ... it's all flat horses," Cassidy said.



MAGGIE KIMMITT

Alwaysmining gallops at Fair Hill Training Center

Along with the racing stable, the Bentleys have entered the breeding business, with nine foals arriving at the farm this year. The mares have come off the track and the broodmare band has been augmented by purchases at Keeneland November Breeding Stock sales.

*(continued on page 9)*



MAGGIE KIMMITT

Alwaysmining heads to the Fair Hill track for training

## MARYLAND'S BEST HOPE: ALWAYSMINING

*(continued from page 8)*

"We started the breeding with the idea that, you buy horses and some work out and some don't," Cassidy said. "You find some hidden problems that nobody knew about when you vetted them or the vet didn't catch. It's the nature of the business. It happens. Greg said he always wanted to bring his own along, and then you know what the problems are. It's a natural fit. Everyone uses the term 'organic' now, but that was it."

With a barn at the Fair Hill Training Center some 20 minutes away led by trainer Kelly Rubley, and their own facility on the farm that features an uphill Tapeta gallop, they're all in. And they're in the thick of things for the Preakness with Alwaysmining, a Maryland-bred gelding they purchased privately last summer from James McIngvale.

The dark bay has won his last six starts, culminating with an 11 1/2-length score April 20 in Laurel Park's Federico Tesio Stakes.

Bred by Avla Pitts, the sophomore is out of the Anees mare What Will Be. Through Hunter Valley Farm, Alwaysmining was sold to 3-D Bloodstock as a short yearling at the 2017 Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale for \$32,000. Later that year McIngvale's sister-in-law, Laura Wohlers, paid \$130,000 for Alwaysmining during the 10th session of the Keeneland September Yearling Sale from Allied Bloodstock.

"When I saw him, I told Mack he was the one in the sale I wanted," Wohlers said. "We had already bought a couple of yearlings. We paid \$130,000 for him and he's a Stay Thirsty Maryland-bred; he was a nice specimen.

"He has a similar conformation to (McIngvale's 2015 male sprint champion) Runhappy. He had that look. He had a muscular look, and he was a little bit longer in the back than just a sprinter. He had short cannon bones; he just looked nice."

Alwaysmining debuted at Keeneland in April 2018 and made a pair of starts at Churchill Downs before being shipped to

Maryland where he broke his maiden by 4 1/2 lengths, and changed hands.

"We love the idea of having state-bred horses in the states we like to run in," Cassidy said. "He had all of the factors we were looking for. Laura had done a good job. We all know those races at Keeneland are tough. (Trainer) Wesley Ward comes in and fires bullet after bullet. To be competitive against him is enough. This horse had upside in the state-bred program. He was going to be a nice horse to have."

After the purchase, Alwaysmining was gelded. Tried on the turf in September's Laurel Futurity sprinting six furlongs with less-than stellar results, he's failed to lose since, with all of his starts having come at seven furlongs or longer. This year he's 3-for-3 with scores in the one-mile Miracle Wood Stakes Feb. 16, the 1 1/16-mile Private Terms Stakes March 16, and the nine-furlong Tesio.

One of the horse's biggest supporters is his former trainer.

"They gave him some time and he's training very well," Wohlers said. "He probably loves Fair Hill. We used to give him a lot of out time and he probably loves that at Fair Hill; he's in a great environment. They've managed him well.

"He might win the Preakness, but he'll have a bigger challenge. He's run some good numbers and if he gets a good trip, he has a good shot."

The Preakness trip at Pimlico Race Course is 1 3/16 miles ... and 36 years of history. **BH**

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**Alwaysmining gets a bath after training May 13**

# JOCKEY LUIS SAEZ SUSPENDED 15 DAYS FOR DERBY INFRACTION

By Frank Angst

[@BH\\_FAngst](#)

The Kentucky stewards have suspended jockey Luis Saez 15 days for failure to control his mount and make the proper effort to maintain a straight course in his ride aboard Maximum Security in the May 4 Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) at Churchill Downs.

Gary and Mary West's Maximum Security was disqualified from victory and placed 17th by the stewards after it was determined he had veered out and caused direct interference with War of Will and chain-reaction interference with Long Range Toddy and Bodexpress.

The stewards issued the decision on Saez to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission May 12 and the ruling was posted to the KHRC website May 13. The ruling, which followed a May 10 film review, calls for Saez to be suspended from May 23-27, May 30-June 2, June 6-9, and June 13-14.

The ruling said the suspension is for "failure to control his mount and make the proper effort to maintain a straight course thereby causing interference with several rivals that resulted in the disqualification of his mount."

Saez, who is currently riding at Belmont Park, was represented at the May 10 film review by Louisville, Ky., attorney Ann Oldfather. Oldfather, who was not allowed to address the stewards at the May 10 session, had presented the stewards with a video that made the argument other riders and horses caused or contributed to the foul. The stewards offered no assurances they would view the video.

A spokesperson from Oldfather's office said the attorney plans to file an appeal to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission on behalf of Saez because he, "shouldn't have been suspended at all, much less 15 days."

On May 6 the KHRC denied an appeal request from the Wests. KHRC general counsel John Forgy said Kentucky regulations do not allow appeals of stewards' decisions. The appeal denial letter noted that as a license condition for racing in Kentucky, every licensee agrees to abide by the commission's rules and regulations. It cited the rule that "stewards findings of fact and determination shall be final and not be subject to appeal."

If the appeal for Saez moves forward, it typically is reviewed by a hearing officer who would make a recommendation to the full commission after a hearing. The spokesperson said they have 10 days to file an appeal request and would look forward to presenting proof at the hearing that Saez did nothing wrong, calling the stewards' decision, "completely unsupported by the facts." BH



DAVE W. HARMON



MARK MAHAN

(L-R): Luis Saez aboard Maximum Security in the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs; Saez heads off the track following the decision to disqualify Maximum Security

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# IMPROBABLE, LAUGHING FOX BREEZE BEFORE PREAKNESS

By BloodHorse Staff

With Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert on the scene, Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) runner Improbable worked May 13, getting an easy half-mile in :51 4/5 at Churchill Downs in preparation for the May 18 Preakness Stakes (G1) at Pimlico Race Course.

"He worked really easy—an easy half around there," Baffert said. "I didn't want to do too much with him. I just wanted to make sure that he still has a lot of energy.

"He's going over the ground really well, looks really healthy," Baffert said. "He's really held his weight really well, especially for a horse who shipped twice to Arkansas and then came back here to run in the Derby. That's what you want to see this time of the year. It looks like he's enjoying himself out there, so I don't see anything that would make me want to change my mind (about



Improbable schools at Churchill Downs

running). We want to go up there and make sure he's hitting on all cylinders. We don't want to go up there and embarrass ourselves. So we were looking good today."

There is a strong possibility that Improbable will go to post Saturday as the favorite.

"I just inherited it, I think. But I wouldn't say he's a heavy, heavy favorite. It's still wide open. Improbable still needs to get away (from the gate). For some reason, the first 100 yards, he scrambles

*(continued on page 12)*

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# IMPROBABLE, LAUGHING FOX BREEZE BEFORE PREAKNESS

(continued from page 11)

a little bit. For a horse with as much natural speed as he has, it takes him a while to get going. In the Derby, he was right behind those horses and when Maximum Security slowed it down down the backside, everybody was bottled up behind. It was one of those things where he was fifth and stayed fifth the whole way, there was no moving. I think post position and the break are still very important for him."

Baffert said he thinks the Preakness' 1 3/16-mile distance could help Improbable.

"A mile and a quarter might be stretching it," he said of the Kentucky Derby distance. "The thing about his mechanics, he's really light on his feet, so he doesn't really struggle. We'll see how he handles Pimlico. He looked great today."

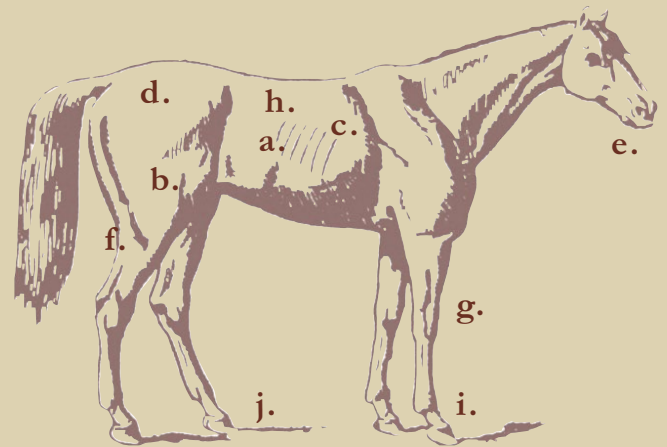
Laughing Fox, who earned an automatic entry in Saturday's Preakness with a win in Oaklawn Park's \$300,000 Oaklawn Invitational May 4, cruised through a leisurely half-mile work in :51 3/5 under exercise rider Wilson Fabian Monday at Churchill. The breeze was a typical move for a Steve Asmussen-trained horse the week of a race.

"Obviously he ran nine days ago—a quick turnaround for him, which we've had some success (running back) in two weeks," said Asmussen, who won the 2007 Preakness with two-time Horse of the Year Curlin and the 2009 Preakness with Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Rachel Alexandra. "He's got a great attitude. Nice cool morning, he felt very good. I thought he went over the racetrack very well. I think in the past we've been very happy with how horses who have run at Oaklawn have run at Pimlico, so I feel good about that going up there."

Ricardo Santana Jr., Asmussen's go-to rider, has the mount on Laughing Fox, who flies to Baltimore Wednesday. **BH**

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## COVFEFE, ANOTHER BROAD TAKE AIM AT MISS PREAKNESS

By Frank Angst

[@BH\\_FAngst](#)

After scoring a front-end victory in an allowance optional claiming race April 6 at Keeneland, lightly raced Covfefe will attempt to secure the first graded stakes win of her career May 17 in the \$150,000 Adena Springs Miss Preakness Stakes (G3) at Pimlico Race Course.

LNJ Foxwoods' Covfefe showed enough talent in a 9 1/4-length maiden special weight victory in her September debut that trainer Brad Cox entered her in the Oct. 7 Frizette Stakes (G1) at Belmont Park. Sent off as the 4-5 favorite in that one-turn mile test, the daughter of Into Mischief raced second into the stretch before fading to fourth.

Covfefe returned April 6 to score at Keeneland, completing 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:16.84 under Javier Castellano, who will be aboard Friday. For 3-year-old fillies, the Miss Preakness is contested at six furlongs, the same distance as her impressive debut victory.

"Fast filly," Cox said of the filly out of the Unbridled mare Antics, who has produced six winners from as many starters including Albiano, a grade 2 winner in Japan. "She was actually favored in the Frizette last year against Jaywalk. She came out of that race with a mild setback. We gave her the winter off, and she returned at Keeneland and ran extremely fast.

"She's had plenty of time since that race. I think if she can put in a race similar to that, she's going to be competitive," he added. "She's got a big pedigree and hopefully we can get her some graded black-type and hopefully a win. She's got to move forward. She's not very seasoned, has only run three times. But she's training extremely well and we've always thought a lot of her."

Besides the purse money, Adena Springs will reward the connections of the winning filly a no-guarantee breeding season to Shaman Ghost.

Later on the Friday card, fillies and mares 3-and-older will contend 1 1/8 miles in the \$150,000 Allaire DuPont Distaff Stakes (G3) where Madaket Stables, Elayne Stables, and Brian Martin's Another Broad enters off a clear victory in the April 13 Top Flight Invitational Stakes at Aqueduct Racetrack.

Trained by Todd Pletcher, Another Broad secured her first stakes win in the Top Flight, which like the DuPont Distaff is contested at 1 1/8 miles.

"I was very pleased with her first race at 1 1/8 miles (coming from off the pace to win the Top Flight)," Pletcher said. "We've been pointing toward the DuPont and we're looking for another good performance from her."

Already a winner of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) and the Man o' War Stakes (G1T) this month, Racing Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott will send out Golden Award in the DuPont Distaff. The daughter of Medaglia d'Oro enters off a fourth-place finish in the Hilliard Lyons-Baird Doubledogdare Stakes (G3) after rolling through conditions with three straight wins. **BH**

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KEENELAND/COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Covfefe wins an allowance optional claiming race at Keeneland



## LACK OF NUMBERS NO PROBLEM FOR SUBFERTILE FARHH

By Martin Stevens/Racing Post

Overlooked in the aftermath of the May 12 French Two Thousand Guineas (G1), amid the celebration of another classic victory for Aidan O'Brien and the debate about a perceived track bias, was the fact that Farhh had supplied the exciting runner-up King of Change—another high-class performer for the sire in spite of limited racecourse representation.

King of Change's trainer Richard Hannon was palpably disappointed with the second-place finish in post-race interviews, which suggests he knows he has a colt of serious potential on his hands.

The subfertile Farhh now has eight stakes performers to his name with his oldest crop aged 4. The roll of honor headed by Prix Hocquart Longines (G2) winner Nocturnal Fox, Investec Derby (G1) runner-up and recent Longines Sagaro Stakes (G3) winner Dee Ex Bee, and dual group 3 scorer Wells Farhh Go.

The son of Pivotal is also responsible for last month's Barry Hills Further Flight Stakes victor Elegiac, listed-placed Iconic Sunset (now campaigned in Hong Kong as Owners' Star) and convincing Bath handicap winner Sky Defender.

To give an idea of how badly Farhh's fertility issues have depleted his progeny numbers, he has had just 39 runners in Britain and Ireland. Camelot, Dawn Approach, and Havana Gold, fellow group 1 winners who retired to stud in 2014, have had 130, 118, and 116, respectively.

Statistics supplied by Darley show Farhh is averaging 16% stakes winners to runners, just one point below Dubawi among British-based stallions, and has 10% group winners to runners, on par with that esteemed Dalham Hall Stud colleague and Frankel.

For Darley's director of stallions Sam Bullard, he is



COURTESY DARLEY

Darley's Farhh at Dalham Hall Stud

only living up to his excellent race record—successful in the JLT Lockinge (G1) and Champion Stakes Sponsored by QIPCO (G1) for Saeed Bin Suroor—and blue-chip pedigree.

"We always expected great things from Farhh," he said. "A dual group 1 winner, he was a brilliant racehorse who excelled over a mile to 10 furlongs.

"By the redoubtable Pivotal, he hails from an exceptional German family that counts Irish Derby hero Fame and Glory and classic filly Legatissimo in its ranks, plus his own group 1-winning dam Gonbarda.

"So his start at stud has come as no surprise and we were delighted that he should sire the Derby second and recent Sagaro Stakes winner, Dee Ex Bee, in his first crop. From those initial runners, he also had Acomb Stakes winner Wells Farhh Go, who won a second group 3 when an impressive winner of the Bahrain Trophy, plus the Prix Hocquart victor Nocturnal Fox.

"Last weekend, Farhh's second-crop son King of Change fulfilled the promise shown on his previous start and rewarded the huge belief in him from his trainer Richard Hannon when running a fine second in the Two Thousand Guineas at Newmarket."

*(continued on page 15)*



### LACK OF NUMBERS NO PROBLEM FOR SUBFERTILE FARHH

(continued from page 14)

Sadly, Farhh's presence on racecards looks set to contract in the next year or so due to breeders turning away from him in his third and fourth seasons at stud, put off perhaps by the subfertility but also because the thrill of the new—so pervasive among commercial breeders—had worn off by then.

He sired 38 foals from 81 mares covered in his first season and 39 offspring from 76 mares in his second year at stud.

But there are only 20 2-year-olds of 2019 from the 35 mares he received in his third season and just 17 current yearlings from 37 mares in his fourth book.

Predictably, breeders wanted to jump back aboard the bandwagon last year after Farhh made a promising start with his first 2-year-old runners in 2017, and he was visited by 76 mares. Among their number was Diala—the dam of Skardu, who was one place behind King of Change in the Two Thousand Guineas—along with the mothers of Juddmonte Pretty Polly Stakes (G1) heroine Urban Fox and Jebel Hatta Sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) winner Blair House.

"Since Farhh's first season at Dalham Hall Stud, we have applied various management practices to ensure we give our clients and the stallion the best possible chance of getting the most mares in foal," Bullard went on to explain. "Along with limiting his book, we work closely with clients to do everything we can to achieve a positive result. We will continue to monitor him carefully and we're always looking at any developments that may benefit him and our clients in the future."

There will have been several disappointed breeders who hoped to use Farhh in the past two seasons as they failed to get their mares into the stallion's limited books, with Darley rewarding those clients who kept the faith during the lean third and fourth seasons.

"Not surprisingly, Farhh was very popular with breeders again this year and unfortunately, we did have to turn some mares away," Bullard said. "He will still

cover 65 mares this season, which includes several of Godolphin's own mares.

"We always try to help breeders who are loyal to Darley, who in turn support us with the best quality mares possible. Breeders such as Meon Valley, Watership Down, and Laundry Cottage Stud are just a few who have regularly returned to Farhh and are once again supporting him this season."

Farhh's latest star King of Change was the result of a home mating, bred by Rabbah Bloodstock and campaigned by Ali Abdulla Saeed.

Sean Levey, who partnered the colt at Newmarket last week, reported after he dismounted that he would like to see him in the Derby, although Bruce Raymond, representing the owner, thought he would not stay 12 furlongs at Epsom. Hannon, for his part, mentioned the Prix du Jockey Club (G1) in post-race briefings.

The step up in trip to 10 furlongs at least looks worth a shot on pedigree.

Farhh appears to be transmitting plenty of stamina, which should be no shock as he stayed ten furlongs well and hails from that stout German family; Racing Post statistics credit the sire with an average progeny winning distance of 10.5 furlongs with Dee Ex Bee, Elegiac, Nocturnal Fox, and Wells Farhh Go all scoring in stakes company over 12 furlongs to two miles.

On the other hand Century Dream, King of Change's half brother by Cape Cross, is a high-class miler, triumphant in the Diomed Stakes and third in the Queen Elizabeth II (G1), and their dam Salacia, by Echo of Light, was a winner over six furlongs. But Farhh's influence should impart enough staying power to make the pedigree effective beyond a mile.

Farhh's two recent flagbearers have a pedigree connection as Dee Ex Bee is out of a half sister to Dubai Millennium, the father of King of Change's damsire Echo of Light. Perhaps the coincidence will have encouraged Godolphin and other breeders to send more of the many smart daughters of Dubai Millennium's greatest son Dubawi to Farhh in future.

For more European racing, sales, and bloodstock news, visit [RacingPost.com](http://RacingPost.com). BH

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### NEOREALISM TO STAND AT OAKLANDS STUD IN AUSTRALIA

By Tim Rowe/ANZ Bloodstock News

Japanese-bred and trained Hong Kong group 1 winner Neorealism will stand at Oaklands Stud in Australia for the upcoming Southern Hemisphere breeding season in a move that is believed to make him the highest earner to stand in Queensland.

Studmaster Neville Stewart announced May 12 that the 8-year-old son of Neo Universe, twice a grade 2 winner in his home country before his success in the Audemars Piguet Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1) at Sha Tin in 2017, would be joining Power on the Oaklands Stud roster.

Neorealism is a three-parts brother to dual hemisphere group 1-winning stallion Real Impact, a son of Deep Impact who has shuttled to Arrowfield Stud for the past three seasons.

Both Real Impact and Neorealism, as well as two other stakes performers, are from the top-producing Meadowlake mare Tokio Reality.

Stewart believes Neorealism, who won eight of his 23 starts and ¥433,329,668 in prize-money (US\$3,930,904) for trainer Noriyuki Hori, offers breeders access to an outcross sire-line that will suit Australia's colonial pedigrees.

"If you take a leaf out of (Arrowfield Stud's) John Messara's book, who is probably one of the smartest breeders in Australia if not the world, he has put a lot of his resources towards the Sunday Silence line including he and John Singleton sending mares to Sunday Silence," Stewart told ANZ Bloodstock News.

"My son Alistair and I are believers that there is probably a little bit too much colonial blood, two and three generations, and a lot of those horses aren't training on as 3-year-olds because we have consistently bred speed to speed, to speed, to speed.

"I am not saying (Neorealism) will breed stayers—I don't think that at all—but he is a horse who has the very good Meadowlake influence, which will breed you a lot of speed, and he is a horse I think who will get you



HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB/LO CHUN KIT

Neorealism wins the 2017 Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Sha Tin

quite a handsome 2-year-old type who will race early.

"But he will have enough substance in his pedigree to train on as 3 and 4-year-olds."

He added: "If you were to look at him, you'd say he was a sprinter-miler. He's very powerful behind, he has got a very deep shoulder. He has short canons, which designates speed, he has got good bone but if you stand behind him he is what you'd expect of a sprinter."

Neorealism, who defeated Pakistan Star and Werther in his group 1 Hong Kong victory, will stand for AU\$9,900 (\$6,160).

Stewart believes the stallion is competitively priced, allowing breeders enough margin to gain a return in the sales ring as yearlings, particularly those aimed at the Magic Millions Gold Coast March Yearling Sale.

"If you get into Magic Millions 1 to 5, then that is fantastic, but the reality is that they don't all get in there, whether they are Better Than Readys or Spirit of Booms, Neorealisms or Powers—and I know that first-hand when I had Iglesia and Lion Hunter," he said.

"The fallback position has to be your state sale and when you look at the average of the QTIS sale we wanted to ensure we left something in there for everybody else."

Oaklands Stud and his Japanese breeders have committed to supporting Neorealism throughout his breeding career.

For more Australia and New Zealand racing, sales, and bloodstock news, visit [ANZBloodstockNews.com](http://ANZBloodstockNews.com). BH

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### EXULTANT TO TAKE ON FIELD OF 18 IN TAKARAZUKA KINEN

By Naohiro Goda

Expected to headline entries for the June 23 Takarazuka Kinen (G1) at Hanshin Racecourse is Hong Kong star Exultant, a 5-year-old gelding by Teofilo.

Nominations for Japan's 2,200-meter (about 11-furlong) turf test closed May 7.

Exultant started four times in his native Ireland, with his best effort coming when he finished third in the 2017 Tattersalls Irish Two Thousand Guineas (G1).

Purchased by the partnership of Eddie Wong Ming Chak and Wong Leung Sau Hing, the gelding was transferred to Hong Kong prior to the 2018 season. Since then, he has won two group 1 stakes, including the Dec. 9 Longines Hong Kong Vase (G1) and Feb. 17 Citi Hong Kong Gold Cup (G1), and

finished second to Win Bright in the April 28 FWD Queen Elizabeth II Cup (G1) at Sha Tin.

With a maximum field of 18 and total purse offerings of ¥325,000,000 (US\$2,826,000), the Takarazuka Kinen concludes the first half of the 2019 racing season in Japan. Ten of the entrants are selected via votes from racing fans, while another eight horses are selected in order of rating and total purse earnings. However, internationally-based horses who have a proven track record are given priority.

The first Hong Kong-based runner in the Takarazuka Kinen was Werther in 2018. A son of Tavistock, the gelding was a winner of three international group 1 races in Hong Kong. After putting in a valiant effort, the John Moore trainee finished second by a neck in the Takarazuka Kinen to Mikki Rocket. **BH**

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HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

Exultant works April 25 at Sha Tin prior to his start in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup



# MAIDEN WATCH

## WELL BRED TURF RUNNERS MAKE PROMISING STARTS

By Mary LaRue

[@BH\\_MLaRue](#)

*This column highlights the performances of maidens who have made no more than five starts, who either sold for more than \$500,000 at public auction, or have siblings who are grade/group winners or dams who are grade/group winners. BloodHorse research shows maiden winners in particular who meet these criteria are more likely to go on to be graded stakes winners.*

### Belmont Park

Woodford Racing's Militiaman, a 3-year-old Broken Vow half brother to grade 1 winner Union Strike, won his second start May 9, going 1 1/4 miles on Belmont Park's inner turf.

The Chad Brown trained colt broke near the back of the eight-horse field early on and trailed as a half-mile

went in :47.50. Jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. coaxed Militiaman to fifth as a mile went in 1:38.66, and remained in the position until the late stretch.

With a furlong to run, Militiaman "kicked into his best stride once straightened" according to the race chart, and was able to get a head in front at the wire. Final time for the distance was 2:04.44 over a track labeled good.

In his March 10 debut Militiaman finished fourth in a one-mile turf maiden race at Gulfstream Park.

Bred by Merriebelle Stable in Kentucky, Militiaman is the seventh winner from as many runners out of the Smart Strike mare Classic Strike, who also produced grade 2 winner Handsome Mike and stakes winner Pretty Lady.

Also breaking through the maiden ranks later in the week at Belmont was Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1) fifth-place finisher Varenka.

Though the Ghostzapper filly had competed at the highest level after four starts, she had not managed to find the winner's circle.

Tracking the pace in the 1 1/16-mile maiden turf contest Saturday, she split horses in the stretch and was hand ridden by Javier Castellano to a two-length score. The final time over the firm turf was 1:43.86.

Trained by Graham Motion for Augustin Stable, Varenka had placed in her first three starts, including a runner-up finish in last year's Miss Grillo Stakes (G2T) ahead of the Breeders' Cup.

Bred by George Strawbridge in Kentucky, Varenka is the eighth winner from as many runners out of the Dynaformer mare Dynamic Cat, who is a graded stakes and stakes producer.



COGLIANESE PHOTOS

Militiaman (outside), a half brother to Union Strike, breaks his maiden at Belmont Park

*(continued on page 19)*



# MAIDEN WATCH

## WELL BRED TURF RUNNERS MAKE PROMISING STARTS

*(continued from page 18)*

### Churchill Downs

The half sister to grade 2 winner and 2017 Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) contender McCracken, With Dignity, broke her maiden on debut Saturday at Churchill Downs.

A homebred for Whitham Thoroughbreds, the Declaration of War filly is the fourth winner from as many runners out of Ivory Empress (by Seeking the Gold).

With Dignity was guided to a half-length victory from off the pace by Julien Leparoux for trainer Ian Wilkes.



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

### Monmouth

Also competing successfully Saturday, Black Dynamite won her second start for trainer Michael Stidham and owner e Five Racing Thoroughbreds at Monmouth Park.

Competing in a 1 1/16-mile turf test, the More Than Ready half sister to grade 1 winner Killer Graces and grade 2 winner Chocolate Ride, led the field throughout and drew off to a 3 1/4-length score under jockey Nik Juarez. The final time over the firm turf was 1:42.27.

The sixth winner out of her dam Heatherdoesntbluff, Black Dynamite was a \$350,000 purchase by agent Mike Ryan from the 2017 Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

### Arlington

Racing on the all-weather track at Arlington International, Enzoexpress broke her maiden in her second start Friday, taking a six-furlong test for 3-year-olds and up by three lengths.

The daughter of Tapizar is a half sister to grade 3 winner Wellabled and the second foal to race out of Expressive Diva (by In Excess). Owned by Patricia's Hope, the filly led gate-to-wire under jockey Jose Valdivia Jr. and finished the distance in 1:11.39 on a fast track. **BH**

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With Dignity (outside), a half sister to McCracken, wins her debut by a half-length at Churchill Downs



# RACE RESULTS

WATCH REPLAYS BY CLICKING ON THE RACE NAME

## BLACK TYPE STAKES

### TORI GLOBAL SUPPORTS THE SAMARITANS STAKES

Royal Windsor, 5/13, £34,902, 4yo/up, 8f, 1:44.72, good.

1–**Bye Bye Hong Kong**, 118, dk b/br c, 3... £20,983

**Street Sense**–Light and Variable, by **Tiznow**

O–KING POWER RACING CO LTD, B–Win-Star Farm LLC (KY), T–BALDING ANDREW, J–DE SOUSA SILVESTRE

**Sale History:** 2018 TATAPR, \$862,759, 2017 KEESEP, (\$70,000 RNA).

2–**Oh This Is Us (IRE)**, 131, b h, 6....£7,955 **Acclamation (GB)**–Shamwari Lodge (IRE), by **Hawk Wing**

O–TEAM WALLOP, B–HERBERTSTOWN HOUSE STUD (IRE), T–HANNON RICHARD, J–MARQUAND TOM

**Sale History:** 2014 GOFORB, \$139,546.

3–**Breton Rock (IRE)**, 131, b g, 9....£3,981 **Bahamian Bounty (GB)**–Anna's Rock (IRE), by **Rock of Gibraltar (IRE)**

O–JOHN COOK, B–George Kent (IRE), T–SIMCOCK DAVID, J–SPENCER JAMIE

**Sale History:** 2011 DONPRE, \$32,602.

**Margins:** ½, 2, 1. **Others:** MITCHUM SWAGGER.

## ALLOWANCE RESULTS

### Finger Lakes, Race 5, ALW

5/13, \$20,400, 3yo/up, 5f (dirt), :58.25, track sloppy. 1–**P J Advantage**, 122, b g, 4, **Posse**–Weefc, by **Tapit**, \$12,255, O–Paul W. Barrow, B–Andiamo Farm (NY), T–Paul W. Barrow, J–Oscar Gomez

**Margin:** ¾, 4 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

### Louisiana Downs, Race 2, AOC

5/13, \$21,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 8.32f (dirt), 1:43.83, track fast.

1–**N. D. Free**, 121, b f, 4, **Drosselmeyer**–Leading Role, by Demaloot Demashoot, \$12,600, O–Cliff Blithe, B–Jeanne Bruce (KY), T–John Hirdes, J–Joel Dominguez

**Sale History:** 2017 TEXAPR, (\$11,000 RNA).

**Margin:** 1½, 4 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

### Thistledown, Race 5, AOC

5/13, \$27,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 8f (dirt), 1:41.28, track sloppy.

1–**Flirty**, 118, gr/ro f, 4, **Uncle Mo**–Fantastic Flirt, by Robyn Dancer, \$16,200, O–Carlos Inirio, B–Darsan Inc. & Uncle Mo Syndicate (FL), T–Carlos Inirio, J–Luis Raul Rivera

**Sale History:** 2016 KEESEP, \$90,000.

**Margin:** 2¾, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

### Thistledown, Race 7, AOC

5/13, \$35,700, 3yo/up, 8f (dirt), 1:40.48, track sloppy.

1–**Rollin Way Over**, 118, ch g, 6, **Run Away and Hide**–Flight Eleven, by Midas Eyes, \$21,420, O–Irish Charm Thoroughbreds LLC, B–Jerry L. Balo & Run Away and Hide Syndicate (OH), T–Gary L. Johnson, J–Luis M. Quinones

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

## MAIDEN RESULTS

### Finger Lakes, Race 6, MSW

5/13, \$26,500, 3yo, f, 5.5f (dirt), 1:07.01, track sloppy.

1–**Tousled**, 122, b f, 3, **Majesticperfection**–Wild and Windblown, by **Broken Vow**, \$18,762, O–Island Wind Racing, B–McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, LLC (NY), T–Chris J. Englehart, J–J. M. Rohena

**Sale History:** 2018 FTMMAY, (\$21,000 RNA), 2017 FT-NAUG, (\$28,000 RNA), 2016 FTNOCT, (\$12,000 RNA).

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

### Parx Racing, Race 5, MSW

5/13, \$45,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f (dirt), 1:25.17, track sloppy.

1–**Two Item Maker**, 111, b f, 3, **Empire Maker**–Two Item Limit, by Twining, \$27,000, O–Charles E. Fipke, B–Charles Fipke (KY), T–Linda Rice, J–Benjamin Hernandez

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



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