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FROZEN

JC of Saudi Arabia Puts Hold on Saudi Cup Payments

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ON THE COVER

Luis Saez raises the Saudi Cup trophy after his win aboard Maximum Security



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Street Band works five furlongs in :59 flat at Oaklawn Park (See [Page 13](#))

JC OF SAUDI ARABIA PUTS HOLD ON SAUDI CUP PAYMENTS

By Evan Hammonds

[@BH_EHammonds](#)

The Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia announced April 13 that it is withholding payment of the purse money for its \$20 million Saudi Cup pending the results of its own investigation into the matter.

In a press release, it reports:

"JCSA is aware that Mr. Jason Servis, trainer of the horse, Maximum Security, the first placed horse in The Saudi Cup, has been indicted in the United States of America on charges relating to the administration of prohibited substances to horses in training under his care and control.

"JCSA is conducting its own investigation in respect of the allegations and until that investigation is concluded, JCSA will withhold payment of prize money due to all connections of horses placed in prize-winning positions in The Saudi Cup, Race 8. This decision has been communicated privately to connections of Saudi Cup runners.

"Due to difficult operational circumstances caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the investigation has not yet concluded. JCSA will issue no further statement until such time as the investigation is completed to our satisfaction."

Gary and Mary West's homebred Maximum Security was the winner of the Feb. 29 inaugural Saudi Cup over Midnight Bisou at King Abdulaziz Racetrack in Riyadh, earning \$10 million.

A little more than a week later, Servis, and trainer Jorge



Maximum Security after winning the Saudi Cup at King Abdulaziz Racetrack

Navarro, were among 27 trainers, veterinarians, and others indicted in federal court March 9 on doping-related charges.

When contacted by BloodHorse Monday, Gary West said, "I agree it is appropriate for the Saudis to conduct their own investigation."

Regarding other races during the Saudi Cup week, the JCSA reports:

Results of Appeals—Jockeys Irad Ortiz and Mike Smith, Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, Feb. 29

Irada Ortiz

JCSA Technical Committee heard an appeal from jockey Irad Ortiz, against the decision of the stewards dated Friday, Feb. 28 in that during his ride in Race 8 on horse No. 5, Motasameh, he used his whip with excessive frequency for which he received a suspension from riding of eight racing days.

The Technical Committee also heard an appeal from Ortiz, against the decision of the Stewards dated Saturday, Feb. 29, in that during his ride in Race 8, The Saudi Cup,

on horse No. 10, Mucho Gusto he used his whip with excessive frequency for which he received a suspension from riding of two racing days and the retention of 10% of his prize money.

Mr. Ortiz's appeal against the sanctions imposed was limited to the proposition that his days of suspension should be amended to be consistent with his position as a rider in the United States.

Under Instruction 10, Paragraphs (b) and (c), of the JCSA Rules of Racing, which allows for flexibility in determining the days of suspension for visiting riders, the Technical Committee agreed to the modification of the application of the suspension of 10 race days, so that the dates are determined by the local authority of the appellant. The Technical Committee did not overturn the decision of the Stewards in respect of the retention of 10% of the value of the prize money due to Mr. Ortiz.

(continued on page 5)

JC OF SAUDI ARABIA PUTS HOLD ON SAUDI CUP PAYMENTS

(continued from page 4)

Mike Smith

JCSA Technical Committee heard appeals from jockey, Mike Smith, against two decisions of the Stewards dating from Saturday, Feb. 29.

In the first decision, that he failed to weigh in following his fifth-placed ride in Race 5 on horse No. 13, Maroof, for which he received a suspension from riding of two racing days and the horse was disqualified.

In the second decision, that he used his whip with excessive frequency and without regard to the horse's stride pattern during his ride in Race 8, The Saudi Cup on second-placed horse No. 14, Midnight Bisou, for which he received a further suspension from riding of nine racing days and the retention of 60% of his prize money.

Under Articles 102 & 105, paragraph (b) and Instruction 6 of the JCSA Rules of Racing, the Technical Committee rejected the appeals in substance and supported the decision of the Stewards, in that Mr. Smith be suspended from race riding for a period of 11 race days. The Technical Committee did not overturn the decision of the Stewards in respect of the retention of 60% of the value of the prize money due to Mr. Smith.

Under Instruction 10, paragraphs (b) and (c), which allows for flexibility in determining the days of suspension for visiting riders, the Technical Committee

agreed to the modification of the application of the suspension of 11 race days, so that the dates are determined by the local authority of the appellant.

Stewards' Inquiry—International Jockeys Challenge, Race 4, Kingdom Day Friday February 28, 2020

On March 23, stewards of the JCSA conducted an inquiry into a report received from the Laboratoire des Courses Hippiques that traces of prohibited substance, cobalt, above the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities' threshold level, were detected in post-race urine samples taken from first-placed horse No. 10, Sun Hat in Race 4, International Jockeys Challenge, (1,600 meters) Meeting No. 57 on Friday, Feb. 28, at King Abdulaziz Racecourse, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Present at the inquiry were Mansour Alkahtani (chairman), Mukhled Alotabi (steward), Fahad Aldosari (steward), Phil Tuck (stipendiary steward) and Beden Alsubaie, trainer of Sun Hat together with Mohammad Alfaiz (stewards' secretary).

It was heard that:

Cobalt was detected in the post-race urine sample of Sun Hat taken Feb. 28, at a level above the IFHA international threshold.

Trainer Beden Alsubaie was informed that in accordance with JCSA Racing Rules, Article 119, Sun Hat would be disqualified from the race and all placings amended to reflect that fact.

Final placings can be found via the [results section](#) (Meeting 57). **BH**

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LEADING SIRES (OUTSIDE KY) BY % BLACK-TYPE WINNERS



Rank	Stallion, YO B (Sire) Farm, Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BTW/ % Rnrs	BTH/ % Rnrs	GSW/ G1W	Lifetime AEI	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'20 Earnings
1	Freud, '98, (Storm Cat) Sequel Stallions New York, NY, \$6,500	49 / 12	2 / 4.1%	3 / 6.1%	1 / 0	1.50	Dot Matrix \$114,000	\$529,142
2	Lucky Pulpit, '01, (Pulpit) Died, 2017	66 / 12	2 / 3.0%	4 / 6.1%	1 / 0	1.26	Fashionably Fast \$150,000	\$580,748
3	Awesome of Course, '00, (Awesome Again) Ocala Stud, FL, \$4,000	36 / 9	1 / 2.8%	1 / 2.8%	0 / 0	1.31	Shivaree \$238,935	\$462,075
-	Country Day, '06, (Speightstown) Peach Lane Farms, LA, \$2,500	36 / 8	1 / 2.8%	1 / 2.8%	0 / 0	1.02	Play On \$60,000	\$234,890
5	Greeley's Galaxy, '02, (Mr. Greeley) Died, 2017	42 / 5	1 / 2.4%	1 / 2.4%	0 / 0	0.95	Mariah's Galaxy \$75,000	\$203,602
6	Khozan, '12, (Distorted Humor) Journeyman Stallions, FL, \$10,000	43 / 15	1 / 2.3%	3 / 7.0%	0 / 0	1.44	Liam's Lucky Charm \$109,000	\$703,962
-	Mission Impazible, '07, (Unbridled's Song) Sequel Stallions New York, NY, \$5,000	44 / 14	1 / 2.3%	1 / 2.3%	0 / 0	1.16	Dream Bigger \$70,350	\$476,917
8	Warrior's Reward, '06, (Medaglia d'Oro) WynOaks Farm, PA, \$5,000	97 / 26	2 / 2.1%	3 / 3.1%	0 / 0	1.04	Night Ops \$273,400	\$1,012,920
9	Justin Phillip, '08, (First Samurai) The Quarter Company, NM, \$5,000	54 / 19	1 / 1.9%	2 / 3.7%	0 / 0	1.04	Just Might \$92,800	\$523,385
-	Adios Charlie, '08, (Indian Charlie) Ocala Stud, FL, \$4,000	54 / 16	1 / 1.9%	2 / 3.7%	0 / 0	1.51	Jean Elizabeth \$134,280	\$534,963
-	Gone Astray, '06, (Dixie Union) Northwest Stud, FL, \$4,500	53 / 16	1 / 1.9%	1 / 1.9%	0 / 0	0.94	Noble Drama \$123,520	\$455,693
12	Stay Thirsty, '08, (Bernardini) Lovacres Ranch, CA, \$10,000	113 / 34	2 / 1.8%	4 / 3.5%	1 / 0	1.30	Mind Control \$198,000	\$1,180,160
-	Star Guitar, '05, (Quiet American) Clear Creek Stud, LA, \$7,500	57 / 20	1 / 1.8%	4 / 7.0%	0 / 0	1.18	Minit to Stardom \$60,000	\$683,601
-	Square Eddie, '06, (Smart Strike) Ocean Breeze Ranch, CA, \$25,000	55 / 12	1 / 1.8%	2 / 3.6%	0 / 0	1.51	An Eddie Surprise \$122,800	\$649,845
15	Attila's Storm, '02, (Forest Wildcat) A & A Ranch, NM, \$4,000	58 / 11	1 / 1.7%	1 / 1.7%	0 / 0	1.05	Two Stepper \$70,000	\$390,614

Listed above are the 2020 leading sires by % of black-type winners (from number of starters) with 33 starters or more (based on the top 80% of stallions by starters), through April 12, 2020. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2016 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2020 Northern Hemisphere only.

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LEADING CALIFORNIA SIREs



Rank	Stallion, YO B (Sire) Farm, Stud Fee	Rnrs/ Wnrs	BT SW/ SHs	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'20 Earnings
1	I'll Have Another, '09, (Flower Alley) Ballena Vista Farm, CA, \$6,000	156 / 46	1 / 1	Another Truth \$176,110	\$1,514,391
2	Stay Thirsty, '08, (Bernardini) Lovacres Ranch, CA, \$10,000	113 / 34	2 / 4	Mind Control \$198,000	\$1,180,160
3	Square Eddie, '06, (Smart Strike) Ocean Breeze Ranch, CA, \$25,000	55 / 12	1 / 2	An Eddie Surprise \$122,800	\$649,845
4	Graydar, '09, (Unbridled's Song) Milky Way Farm, CA, \$4,000	77 / 19	0 / 3	More Grayful \$53,000	\$604,516
5	Lucky Pulpit, '01, (Pulpit) Died	66 / 12	2 / 4	Fashionably Fast \$150,000	\$580,748
6	Clubhouse Ride, '08, (Candy Ride) Legacy Ranch, CA, \$3,500	26 / 10	1 / 2	Warren's Showtime \$174,980	\$554,472
7	Grazen, '06, (Benchmark) Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, CA, \$6,000	31 / 13	1 / 2	Lieutenant Dan \$90,000	\$516,863
8	Smiling Tiger, '07, (Hold That Tiger) Harris Farms, CA, \$7,500	41 / 13	0 / 1	Tiger Dad \$71,280	\$465,793
9	Coil, '08, (Point Given) Pnsd	30 / 11	1 / 1	Wound Tight \$121,204	\$441,631
10	Unusual Heat, '90, (Nureyev) Died	31 / 9	1 / 3	Stealthediamonds \$110,000	\$413,425

Listed above are the top 10 leading sires in California by 2020 Northern Hemisphere earnings through April 12, 2020. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2016 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2020 Northern Hemisphere only.



RON MESAROS

FIPKE WAIVES 2020 FEES ON SEVEN STALLIONS

By Eric Mitchell

[@BH_EMitchell](#)

Owner/breeder Charles Fipke will be waiving the 2020 breeding fees on all his stallions in order to provide some relief to small breeders that could be particularly hard-hit by the economic downturn from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, according to longtime consultant Sid Fernando.

"What can I say? Small breeders will especially be affected by the economic conditions, and they are the backbone of this industry," Fipke said in statement published on Twitter April 13 by Fernando. "None of my stallions stand for more than \$5,000, and they are primarily supported by small breeders. Because I own my stallions outright and don't have shareholder responsibilities, I am able to do this, with the support of the farms where they stand. I'm passionate about this game and will continue to support my stallions, and I'd like to show my appreciation for outside breeders who do so as well in these trying times."

Fipke stands seven stallions in the United States and Canada. At Darby Dan Farm near Lexington, he stands Bee Jersey (\$5,000), Tale of Ekati (\$5,000),



COURTESY DARBY DAN FARM

Tale of Ekati at Darby Dan Farm

and Tale of Verve (\$2,000). He also stands Forever d'Oro (\$2,000) at Hidden Springs Farm in Indiana, Jersey Town (\$3,000) at Daehling Ranch in California, and Danish Dynaformer (CA\$2,500) and Perfect Timber (CA\$2,500) at Colebrook Farms Stallion Station in Ontario, Canada.

Ryan Norton, stallion director at Darby Dan, said Fipke contacted farm owner John Phillips over the weekend about his plan.

(continued on page 9)



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“

I'm passionate about this game and will continue to support my stallions, and I'd like to show my appreciation for outside breeders who do so as well in these trying times.”

—CHARLES FIPKE

FIPKE WAIVES 2020 FEES ON SEVEN STALLIONS

(continued from page 8)

"For everyone who has a contract, he told us he is waiving the fees and anyone who wants to breed to them this year will get a complimentary season," he said. "It is very generous, and we think it is a great idea. (He) is trying to think outside the box and should be commended for trying to do the right thing and help breeders."

Norton said Bee Jersey, who entered stud in 2019, has a book of around 60 mares and that Tale of Ekati and Tale of Verve, as of April 13, were expected to each cover around 30 mares.

"Keep in mind that Mr. Fipke's stallions are not syndicated and he doesn't have shareholder concerns, so this gesture was easier for him to do than it would be for others," said Fernando on Twitter. "However, his gesture is outstanding, and I'm proud to call him a client and friend."

Fipke is a candidate for induction into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame this year. He is a successful Canadian geologist and prospector who was involved in the discovery of the Ekati Diamond Mine in the Northwest Territories. He has been involved in the Canadian Thoroughbred industry for close to 40 years.

Among his accomplishments, the Alberta native bred and owned Perfect Soul, the Sovereign Award-



RYAN THOMPSON

Bee Jersey wins the 2018 Metropolitan Handicap at Belmont Park

winning champion male turf horse in 2003 and now a successful sire; Not Bourbon, the Sovereign Award-winning champion 3-year-old male of 2008 and winner of that year's Queen's Plate; and Impossible Time, the Sovereign Award-winning champion older female of 2010.

Fipke has bred and owned a number of other successful racehorses including Perfect Shirl, winner of the 2011 Emirates Airline Breeder's Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1T). He also raced 2017 Eclipse champion older dirt female Forever Unbridled and the champion's grade 1-winning full sister Unbridled Forever. **BH**

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COURTESY DAREY DAN FARM

Jersey Town

TOM'S D'ETAT SETS SIGHTS ON CHURCHILL DOWNS

By Meredith Daugherty

[@BH_MDaugherty](#)

GM B Racing's Tom's d'Etat left it all on a muddy track April 11 when he returned to racing off an almost five-month layoff to take a strong edition of the Oaklawn Mile at Oaklawn Park. The win was the third consecutive score for the son of Smart Strike, a streak that trainer Al Stall Jr. hopes to keep alive even as the COVID-19 pandemic holds the racing calendar in limbo.

"The narrative of most of the congratulatory calls that I got were all about him finding the bright spot. If he can keep doing that in these times that is fine with me," said Stall.

With increased earnings of just over \$1.3 million, Tom's d'Etat has aged incredibly well. Since earning his first black-type victory for Stall in December 2018, the 7-year-old has performed consistently in graded company and ended 2019 with back-to-back scores in the Hagyard Fayette Stakes (G2) at Keeneland and the Clark Stakes presented by Norton Healthcare (G1) at Churchill Downs.

"Churchill Downs is hopefully going to let horses come in on the 28th of April, which fit our schedule well as far as shipping," said Stall. "It's hard to map out a schedule right now but we're hoping for the best as far as racetracks being able to run. Whenever they tell us we can go somewhere we're going to go but the horse came out of the race in really good shape."

For the time being, the plan for Tom's d'Etat will likely feature a next start in the May 30 Blame Stakes at the Louisville track. From there, the hope will be to start the horse to the June 27 Stephen Foster (G2), a race in which he ran third last year. A "Win and You're In" race, the 1 1/8-mile dirt test provides an automatic berth in the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

But if there is one thing for certain in the age of COVID-19, it's that nothing is certain.

"We definitely want to try and get into the Stephen Foster, whether they have the Blame or not. We could always send him somewhere else," said Stall. "But in these times, staying right where you are as much as possible might be best for everyone involved including the horse."

Like all trainers faced with the continuous closure of tracks across North America, Stall is taking things one day at a time. Unable to make even contingency plans for his horses as races continue to change dates or are cancelled altogether, Stall said he's simply grateful to his owners for their patience, and to the tracks for their willingness to support horses in training.

"It's been stressful but I'm fortunate that my owners have been really good. We have a few running at Oaklawn and we're grateful for that," said Stall. "We are hopeful that things will continue to get better in Kentucky and glad that Fair Grounds and Churchill Downs are nice enough to keep the tracks open for training so that horses are getting what they need on a day-to-day basis exercise-wise."

"We're better than most so we're just waiting to get into Churchill and hopefully they will pick an opening day. There are others who are a lot worse off than we are so we're trying to make the best of it. Being from Louisiana, we're like New Orleans after Katrina or New Yorkers after 9/11. This virus has hit everyone in the world so we're all in this together and we're going to hang in there and do the best we can."

As much as he can, Stall said he and his staff take comfort in the horses, which keep them busy in a time when so many are struggling to keep their jobs.

"It's therapeutic to have the horses to keep your mind going," said Stall. "We're more fortunate than others like those that work in restaurant or hotels or airlines where their businesses have been completely shut down. We still keep the ball rolling. We're in this game for the love of the animals and I think that helps everyone mentally." **BH**



COURTNEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Tom's d'Etat heads to the gate ahead of his win in the Oaklawn Park Mile at Oaklawn Park

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MR. BIG NEWS EXITS OAKLAWN STAKES WIN IN GOOD SHAPE

By Christine Oser

[@BH_COser](#)

Following his 46-1 score in the 1 1/8-mile Oaklawn Stakes April 11 at Oaklawn Park, Mr. Big News returned to Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots in good order the day after the race, trainer Bret Calhoun said April 13.

"Everything's good. He shipped back to the Fair Grounds on Sunday morning early. He got back about 2 o'clock in the afternoon Sunday and made the trip very well, came out of the race well, and everything's good," Calhoun said.

The 3-year-old Giant's Causeway colt earned automatic berths to the May 2 Arkansas Derby (G1) back at Oaklawn and the Preakness Stakes (G1), which will likely be rescheduled from its traditional date in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The three-week turnaround for the Arkansas Derby has Calhoun inclined to be patient and wait for a later race, though. With the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) pushed to Sept. 5, Churchill Downs announced it will add qualifying point races to the Road the Kentucky Derby series.

"The problem is obviously not knowing where and when the point races will be, but I'm sure it's hard for Churchill to put that schedule out right now not knowing when and where there is going to be racing," he said. "I think there are going to be plenty of more points races. Obviously we're almost five months away from Derby, so there's going to have to be a little of a change in the point races going forward. I'd like to probably just sit, be patient, and wait for another spot."

Mr. Big News, campaigned by Chester Thomas' Allied Racing Stable, broke his maiden in January at Fair Grounds with a last-to-first rally going 1 1/16 miles. He then ran fifth in the Feb. 15 Risen Star Stakes Presented by Lamarque Ford (G2) with an inside trip.

"I thought the Risen Star was a sneaky good race. If you just look at it, glance at it, you don't think much but he was beaten about four lengths, he was down inside the whole way and never did get to be a free-running horse like I think he wants to be," Calhoun said. "He doesn't really care for being jammed up on the inside and all the kickback. I thought that was a little bit better of a race than



Mr. Big News wins the Oaklawn Stakes

it appeared, and I think he came back and proved that.

"I think he's a horse that's on the improve, getting better all the time, and I think he wants the distance. With that being said, we'll keep marching on the Triple Crown trail and see where he takes us."

Allied Racing Stable, Spendthrift Farm, and Eric Gustavson's millionaire Mr. Money and Tom Durant's Digital also made the trip to Oaklawn Park and back for Calhoun. Mr. Money, making his first start back since seventh in the Big Ass Fans Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1), ran sixth in the Oaklawn Mile, and Digital was sixth in the Oaklawn Stakes.

Calhoun said he didn't think Mr. Money, who won four consecutive graded stakes last season, cared for the track that was rated wet fast at the time of the Oaklawn Mile.

"He'd been on a lot of different surfaces last year and I really expected he would handle the off going but he just never looked comfortable or confident over it, so I'll kind of draw a line through that and move on," the trainer added. "We don't know where we'll go next. The fact is there's not a lot of racing to point towards right now. But he did come back good and that's the main thing. We got a race under our belt and we'll try to find another spot as soon as things get a little clearer."

The plan for Digital was to run the 3-year-old at Keeneland, which canceled its spring meet, and then the Pat Day Mile Stakes (G2) on Kentucky Derby Day at Churchill Downs, whose stable area opening is delayed until at least April 28. Churchill Downs' meet was slated to begin April 25. Calhoun said the plan is to aim Digital for shorter races going forward. **BH**

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VENETIAN HARBOR, CE CE SHIP EAST FOR STAKES AT OAKLAWN

By Mary LaRue and Christine Oser

Las Virgenes Stakes (G2) winner Venetian Harbor is among those heading to Oaklawn Park from Southern California, according to trainer Richard Baltas. Slated to leave the evening of April 13, she will get acclimated and work over the track before taking on 3-year-old fillies in the \$400,000 Fantasy Stakes (G3) May 1.

The 1 1/16-mile test awards points toward a start in this year's Longines Kentucky Oaks (G1)—rescheduled from the first Friday in May to Sept. 4—on a 100-40-20-10 scale to the top four finishers.

Owned by Ciaglia Racing, Highland Yard, River Oak Farm, and Dominic Savides, Venetian Harbor has won two of three starts, including a 9 1/4-length romp in the Feb. 8 Las Virgenes at Santa Anita Park.

"I have a string out there," Baltas said from his Southern California base Monday. "They all seem to be training well, that's the main reason we decided to send her."

Baltas said the daughter of Munnings has also been training well. Her last timed work came April 4 when she completed five furlongs in 1:00 1/5 over the fast main track at Santa Anita.

He noted that with the lack of racing at Santa Anita right now due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of when it will restart, along with the fact most of the stakes schedule around the nation is in flux, he has not made plans beyond the Fantasy Stakes for the filly. He also said that due to the weather at Santa Anita in the past week it has been too wet to train.

"We will be OK," he said about the current shutdown. "It may take a couple months to get back to racing but people in racing are resilient. We've been through a lot, especially in California last year."

Other Southern California trainers, including Bob Baffert, Peter Miller, Doug O'Neill, and John Sadler, have shipped horses east to Oaklawn where racing continues without fans in the stands and under strict operational guidelines to ensure social distancing and other precautions are taking place. Many now have strings at the Arkansas track.

Also heading to Oaklawn is Bo Hirsch's Beholder Mile (G1) winner Ce Ce, who will look to add to her record in the \$600,000 Apple Blossom Handicap (G1), a 1 1/16-mile event for fillies and mares 4 years old and up on April 18.

Trainer Michael McCarthy said Ce Ce is scheduled to fly out of Southern California the morning of April 14.

Ce Ce, a 4-year-old daughter of Elusive Quality,

returned from an eight-month layoff in February to win a 6 1/2-furlong allowance optional claiming race by 4 1/4 lengths at Santa Anita, then rallied past grade 1 winner Hard Not to Love to take the March 14 Beholder Mile by 3 1/4 lengths.

"She's a bigger, stronger mare this year. Always had plenty of size, but she's filled out nicely into her frame," said McCarthy. "She trains with a lot of purpose in the morning. Just seems like she's all business this year."

McCarthy said Ce Ce worked five furlongs in 1:01 2/5 April 12, though the work he called in was not officially timed.

Ce Ce has won three of five lifetime starts, once placing second and also finishing fourth in last year's Acorn Stakes (G1), and has earned \$366,600. **BH**



BENOIT PHOTO

Venetian Harbor romps in the Las Virgenes Stakes at Santa Anita Park

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STREET BAND TUNES UP FOR APPLE BLOSSOM WITH BULLET WORK

By Christine Oser

[@BH_COser](#)

Grade 1 winner Street Band took to a fast Oaklawn Park track the morning of April 13 to tune up for her next engagement, the April 18 Apple Blossom Handicap (G1), with a bullet breeze.

The 4-year-old Istan filly trained by Larry Jones worked five furlongs in :59 flat, the fastest of seven moves at the distance Monday. It was her second work back since finishing fourth in the March 14 Azeri Stakes (G2). On April 6 she worked five-eighths of a mile in :59 4/5.

Campaigned by Jones along with Ray Francis, Cindy Jones, Medallion Racing, and MyRaceHorse Stable, Street Band is slated to make her third start of the season in the Apple Blossom. She began the year with a third-place finish in the Jan. 26 Sam Houston Ladies Classic Stakes (G3), in which she was beaten less than a length by Lady Apple and was only a neck behind runner-up Serengeti Empress. In the Azeri, Serengeti Empress ran off with the victory on a sloppy Oaklawn track, while Lady Apple finished one spot behind Street Band that day in fifth.



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Street Band works April 13 at Oaklawn Park

Serengeti Empress, also expected back in the Apple Blossom, breezed a half-mile in :49 April 11 at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots. Bayakoa Stakes (G3) winner Go Google Yourself, another expected Apple Blossom contender, worked five furlongs the same day at Fair Grounds in 1:00 4/5.

Lady Apple worked a half-mile in :49 flat on a muddy Oaklawn track April 12.

Entries for the Apple Blossom will be drawn April 15. **BH**

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COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

LIFE WITHOUT RACING: ANDY SERLING

By Bob Ehalt

 @BobEhalt

There's no doubt the COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyday life across America in so many ways. Some unimaginable and heartbreaking, others more subtle.

For Andy Serling, the combination of life in isolation to combat the spread of the virus and nearly a month without racing in New York has turned the highly opinionated New York Racing Association analyst/handicapper into a night owl.

Instead of leaving his apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in the morning and heading to Aqueduct Racetrack or Belmont Park, these days, like millions of others in New York City, he only ventures outside occasionally, choosing to make late-night departures from his home to purchase food and other essential items.

"I don't go out too often, except late at night when I get groceries after midnight and I've encountered very few people," Serling said. "I'm laying low."

Normally Serling can be seen throughout the week on NYRA's television or simulcast shows, offering his no-holds-barred commentary and selections that have made him one of the sport's leading personalities and has generated a lively love-hate relationship with fans.



ADAM COGLIANESE

“ *I'm just trying to keep people engaged in racing at a time when there isn't that much going on. I welcome other ideas, but there's not much more that I can do.*”

— ANDY SERLING

But now, with no racing at Aqueduct since March 15 and logistical issues keeping him from NYRA telecasts of national racing, Serling no longer spends long hours scrutinizing past performances of New York races.

(continued on page 15)



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LIFE WITHOUT RACING: ANDY SERLING

(continued from page 14)

He can still stir the pot on Twitter like a master chef, but otherwise his days are quiet and subdued, filled with reading, phone calls, binge-watching and some exercise, all within the confines of the four walls of his apartment.

"The only thing I can do professionally is engage people on social media. I'll put up a poll each day and try to come up with a different idea for each day to get people involved. They probably average about 1,000 votes a day. I'll also put up a video that can be related to the poll or from a horse from the past. Racing has such a great history that there's a huge data base of fun stuff," Serling said. "I'm just trying to keep people engaged in racing at a time when there isn't that much going on. I welcome other ideas, but there's not much more that I can do."

Once he checks out from Twitter, Serling has been using his unexpected free time to reacquaint himself with the "Mad Men" series and find out why "The West Wing" was such a hit show some 20 years ago.

"Obviously, I have a job which entails a lot of work in normal situations that takes up a lot of my time, which I like and I'm lucky to have. But now I have a lot of time to fill. I've been watching shows on Netflix. I've watched all of 'Mad Men,' which I watched before but hadn't seen for a while. I'm now watching 'The West Wing,' which I never watched, and it's great," said the former Wall Street stock trader who joined NYRA in 2008. "Like a lot of people, I'm reading and

I'm riding my exercise bike so I can get some exercise on occasion. I live alone, so I'll talk to people I work with and there are occasional discussions at NYRA that I am involved in, but I'll also try to stay in touch with friends and talk to my mom a lot."

As boring as life in isolation can be for someone who is single and lives alone, Serling knows that staying safe and helping to flatten the curve in an epicenter of the virus is vitally important.

"There really isn't much any of us can do outside of doing your part to stay safe like everyone else," Serling said. "It's a situation where you don't want to get

“

Like a lot of people, I'm reading and I'm riding my exercise bike so I can get some exercise on occasion.”

—ANDY SERLING

antsy and do anything regrettable. I'm encouraged that when I was doing shows at Aqueduct I would drive through the city and would see that the city is empty. People are not going out. When I go out late at night to shop, you don't see people and that's good. Hopefully by people acting responsibly we can stay safer and find a way to reach the end of this sooner rather than later."

Until that time in the future when racing can resume at Belmont Park and everyone in the sport can return to their normal routines, Serling is hopeful that the racing community can come together to help those who need it most.

"We want everyone to be safe and it's a hard time in racing. You don't want to tell people how to donate their money but if there's anything they can do help the backstretch communities, it's a good time to do that," he said. "The racing ecosystem is a pretty fragile one. These are trying times and the sooner we get back to racing, the better. This affects everyone who works at the racetrack. We're all in it together and it's important to do as much as you can to facilitate the situation." **BH**

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COGLIANESE PHOTOS



KING KAMEHAMEHA TAKES OVER JAPAN'S BROODMARE SIRE LIST

By Naohiro Goda

Daring Tact's victory in the April 12 Oka Sho (G1), Japan's One Thousand Guineas, bumped her broodmare sire King Kamehameha to the top of Japan's broodmare sire list. The late son of Kingmambo now leads with nearly ¥1.251 billion (about US\$11,529,400) in progeny earnings, surpassing Sunday Silence, who held the lead with ¥983,174,500.

Undefeated in four starts, Daring Tact is King Kamehameha's top earner with US\$1,449,514.

The Oka Sho is the first leg of Japan's Triple Tiara for 3-year-old fillies at Hanshin Racecourse and Daring Tact was the second choice in a field of 18.

A daughter of Epiphaneia out of Daring Bird, Daring Tact is the fifth grade 1 winner for King Kamehameha as a broodmare sire. He is also represented by Mozu Katchan, winner of the 2017 Queen Elizabeth II Cup; Wagnerian, winner of the 2018 Tokyo Yushun (Japanese Derby); Blast Onepiece, winner of the 2018 Arima Kinen; and Indy Champ, who took last year's Yasuda Kinen and Mile Championship.

Sunday Silence has been Japan's leading broodmare sire since 2007 and he is just shy of the



NAOJI INADA

The late King Kamehameha at Shadai Stallion Station

all-time record held by Northern Taste, who occupied the top seat for 15 years in a row through 2006. Sunday Silence was also the leading broodmare sire in the US in 2016.

The youngest mare by Sunday Silence is now 17 years old and his influence is weakening. There is no runner with Sunday Silence as a broodmare sire in the field of the upcoming April 19 Satsuki Sho (G1), while King Kamehameha, who died in August of last year, is represented by two runners. **BH**

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ELLIOTT MAPS OUT SUMMER FLAT CAMPAIGNS FOR JUMPERS

By Brian Sheerin/Racing Post

Gordon Elliott's juggernaut jumpers squad may have ground to a halt but a yard as big as Cullentra House Stables will soldier on in to the summer months with increasing interest in the flat.

In light of Horse Racing Ireland's COVID-19 contingency plan announcement, that whenever racing resumes the flat will be given priority, Elliott has decided to keep a number of talented jumpers on the go during the summer, with a view towards a dual-purpose campaign.

Bigbadandbeautiful heads a list of up to a dozen National Hunt horses who will be kept busy by Elliott as the trainer maps out an ambitious flat campaign for the winner of two listed bumpers last season.

"Bigbadandbeautiful would be the main one. She was a good bumper mare for us last season and you'd be hoping that she could make a potentially smart recruit to the flat," Elliott said. "We'd be hoping she can win her maiden anyway and, maybe, she might be one for some of those good staying races.

"There's a good program for those staying horses on the flat and we've thought for a while that she would fit that bill. Hopefully she can fall into that bracket."

Recent Revelations and Tronador, who finished fourth and ninth behind stablemate Aramax in the Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, are other sorts with which Elliott will be hoping to make hay on the level.

"Some of the juvenile hurdlers, the likes of Recent Revelations and Tronador, who both ran well in the Boodles, will stay going," he said. "Recent Revelations hasn't won on the flat but he is a different horse now to when he last ran on the flat. He could have a good, fun dual-purpose campaign during the summer."

Elliott added: "You'd like to think Tronador could pick up a race or two on the flat judging by what he did over hurdles as well. He's another we could have a bit of fun with. Battle of Wills could be one for some good staying handicaps later on in the year."

It was in the summer of 2017 when Elliott managed his first string of 2-year-olds, with his first runner in that sphere, Beckford, landing a Curragh maiden before running out an impressive winner of the GAIN Railway Stakes (G2) over the same course and distance.

Elliott made a conscious decision to scale back on his 2-year-olds for the current flat campaign at the beginning of the year, a decision he admits he has been left to rue.

"I have just the two 2-year-olds for the summer. We made a decision, rightly or wrongly, to cut back on the 2-year-olds at the beginning of the season," he explained. "Little did we know then what we know now. We probably could have done with them after all that's happened but there's plenty there to keep us busy over the summer."

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PATRICK MCCANN/RACING POST

Gordon Elliott with Tiger Roll

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IRISH JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION HELPS PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID

By Mark Boylan/Racing Post

Irish Jockeys Association secretary Andrew Coonan said the introduction of a fast-track system to financially assist riders in difficulty during the coronavirus crisis is proving beneficial, with riders gaining approval to access funds within 24 hours of making an application.

With no fixtures due to take place in Ireland until at least May 5, jockeys may be facing a precarious period financially and have the option of applying for aid.

Coonan believes the IJA scheme, which is funded by the Irish Jockeys' Trust and Irish Injured Jockeys Fund, is already having a positive impact during a challenging period.

"We are living in unique times," Coonan said. "The last and only time I recall this system being put in place was during racing's shutdown due to the foot-and-mouth outbreak, a period when we weren't so well advanced with schemes for funding. This has been longer, more dramatic and impacted a far wider audience in the entire population.

"Thankfully, the scheme has proved very beneficial. We're actually turning it around within 24 hours now. Once you get approved, you receive assistance that is effectively done as a three-week payment."

Jockeys with concerns over the complexity of applying for the coronavirus benefits can also request advice from the IJA.

"Some of the riders would have a dual system, whereby they are employees in the morning and self-employed contractors in the afternoon by riding for different people," explained Coonan. "Therefore,

they come into a two-tier system within the eyes of the Revenue (Commissioners), so it's important to get clarification for all the riders on all aspects of their earnings. It hasn't just been a case of providing financial assistance, but also in assisting people.

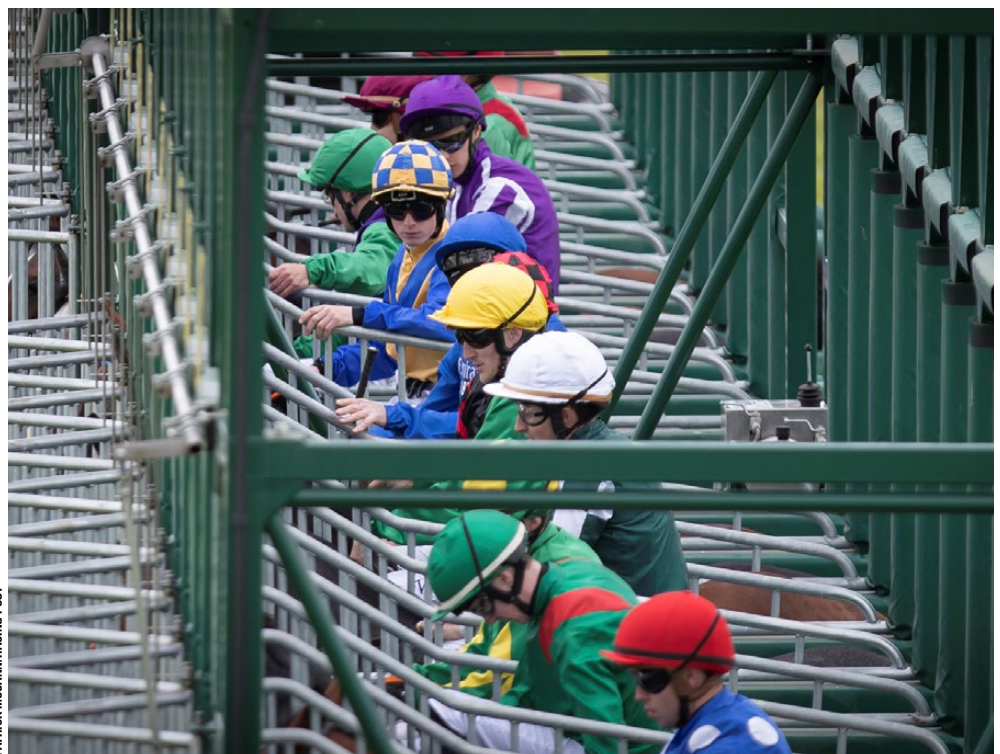
"Each rider is assessed on personal means because some will obviously have bigger financial commitments than others."

Irish racing's nine-meeting spell behind closed doors should help a future return to action, according to Coonan, who also noted no rider to his knowledge had tested positive for COVID-19 during that period.

"We may not have realized at the time but streamlining behind-closed-doors racing could prove very beneficial to us - effectively, we've had a dry run at this," he said. "It proved very successful and thankfully during that period of time we had no rider in the subsequent two weeks test positive that I'm aware of. All riders have been asked to report to Dr Jennifer Pugh if they have any symptoms."

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PATRICK MCCANN/RACING POST

Jockeys wait in the stalls at Limerick



RACING'S MEDICAL STAFF HELPS BATTLE COVID-19

By Justin O'Hanlon/Racing Post

Irish racing's doctors, working as general practitioners and emergency department consultants, are playing a key role in the battle against the coronavirus.

Jennifer Pugh, the sport's senior medical officer, said she and her Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board team were largely involved in diagnosing suspected cases of the disease.

"Most of our team are GPs, so they are at the core of community work and diagnosing patients, referring people for tests. Also two of our team are emergency department consultants, and obviously they are right at the heart of it," she said. "I started at the Mater Hospital in Dublin last week in a GP clinic running alongside the emergency department, which helps keep pressure off the emergency department, so any of our doctors that were not GPs or consultants would have been deployed in a similar way.

"The Order of Malta have been tremendous, too, doing lots of community work, lots of patient transfers to keep pressure off the national ambulance services, even down to food and medicine deliveries to people in the community or people who are isolated."

Since retiring as Turf Club chief medical officer in late 2018, Dr. Adrian McGoldrick has kept himself busy by returning to his GP practice in Newbridge, County Kildare, and like others in his profession finds himself engaged in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic.

"What I and other GPs are doing is mostly triaging patients for testing, and we're not really that much on the front line. I think we have all had patients that have suffered from it, and in many cases we sadly have patients who have died, he said. "I have lost one and have another who is critically ill, but as GPs we are more on the periphery.

"I would spend a lot of time during the day assessing patients who think they might be symptomatic over the phone, and I would be dealing with up to maybe 50 people on the phone and triaging in that way," he added. "Normally, I would be seeing 40 to 45 patients



PATRICK MCCANN/RACING POST

Former Turf Club chief medical officer Adrian McGoldrick

in a day but that has dwindled to maybe five or six.

"They have set up and are setting up COVID-19 hubs where GPs will triage patients with coronavirus symptoms, where I will send a patient instead of bringing him or her into surgery or sending straight to hospital. GPs volunteer to man these hubs but I cannot because I am over 60. It is quite surreal really. We are three weeks into a lockdown situation, and we are basically operating a surgery by telephone.

"That may well have implications for how we practice medicine in the future," he explained. "For example, it has forced GPs to use technologies that we might never have got around to, such as emailing prescriptions to pharmacies and even texting patients. I have probably seen more advances in that context in the last three weeks than in many years!"

On the prospects of racing starting up again, Pugh added: "Easing of government restrictions will be in tandem with medical advice and medical services being available again. The next three weeks are crucial and I would certainly be behind people staying at home and toughing it out for that time. I think we are doing well and we need to keep it at that.

"When the medical personnel are no longer needed in emergency departments and the Order of Malta are no longer needed by the national ambulance service, the possibility of racing going ahead will go hand-in-hand with that in my opinion."

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