

# BLOODHORSE DAILY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

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# DORNOCH

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## BAYER'S BIG DAY

Taiba Filly Tops OBS Winter Mixed Sale at \$150,000

See page 4

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- 16** Canaletto, Blackout Time Crack Derby Dozen Rankings

# Mighty!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SHISOSPICY

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**Owners:** Morplay Racing, LLC  
& Qatar Racing, LLC

**Trainer:** Jose D' Angelo

**Breeder:** Bill & Corinne Heiligbrodt

# MITOLE

\$10,000 S&N  
 SPENDTHRIFT

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ANNE M. EBERHARDT



A publication of The Jockey Club Information Systems, Inc.  
and TOBA Media Properties, Inc.

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## ON THE COVER

The Taiba filly, consigned as Hip 80, in the ring  
at the OBS Winter Mixed Sale

## LATEST HEADLINES

*from Bloodhorse.com*

» Oaklawn Latest Track to Cancel; Southwest Postponed

» Inglis Digital USA Adjusts Date for February Sale

» Publications Name Mindframe Top Midlantic-Bred of 2025

» Keeneland to Open Paddock Hospitality Spaces in Spring

» Thoroughbred Incentive Program Announces 2026 Shows

» Recipients Named For Gerry Dilger Scholarship



# IN THE RING

OBS WINTER MIXED

PRESENTED BY

THE MANCHESTER



OBS/BLOODHORSE PHOTO

The Taiba filly, consigned as Hip 80, in the ring at the OBS Winter Mixed Sale

## TAIBA FILLY TOPS OBS WINTER MIXED SALE AT \$150,000

By Olivia Newman

✉ @newmanolivia3

**B**eth Bayer took center stage at the Ocala Breeders' Winter Mixed Sale Jan. 27, finishing as the sale's leading consignor. Her banner day was accentuated by the sale of Hip 80—a filly by first-crop sire Taiba—whom she bred and sold for \$150,000 to Marc Gunderson to top the one-day auction.

"The Taiba filly, I bred her, I raised her, I love that filly," Beth Bayer said. "I've loved her since the day she was born. I loved everything about her. She just had so much class and has done everything right for me and ended up paying off for me at the end of the day."

The April-born filly was bred in Florida out of the Unbridled's Song mare Tranquil Song. Bayer purchased the mare in 2018 at Keeneland's November Breeding Stock Sale for \$2,000 in foal to Outwork.

Bayer also sold the sale's highest-priced colt (Hip 22), a son of Nashville who brought \$140,000 from the entity Always Dreaming. He proved to be a successful pinhook after being purchased at the Keeneland November Sale last fall by Racing Point for \$37,000. He was bred in Kentucky by Boone Family Trust and is out of the stakes-winning and graded stakes-producing mare Rapid Racer. Hip 22 hails from the immediate family of grade 1 winner and sire McKinzie.

(continued on page 6)

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## NEW GRADED STAKES WINNER NAFISA

The \$1,800,000 yearling purchase made it three wins in row, earning her first graded victory dominating the G3 LA CANADA S. by 4½ lengths at Santa Anita Park.

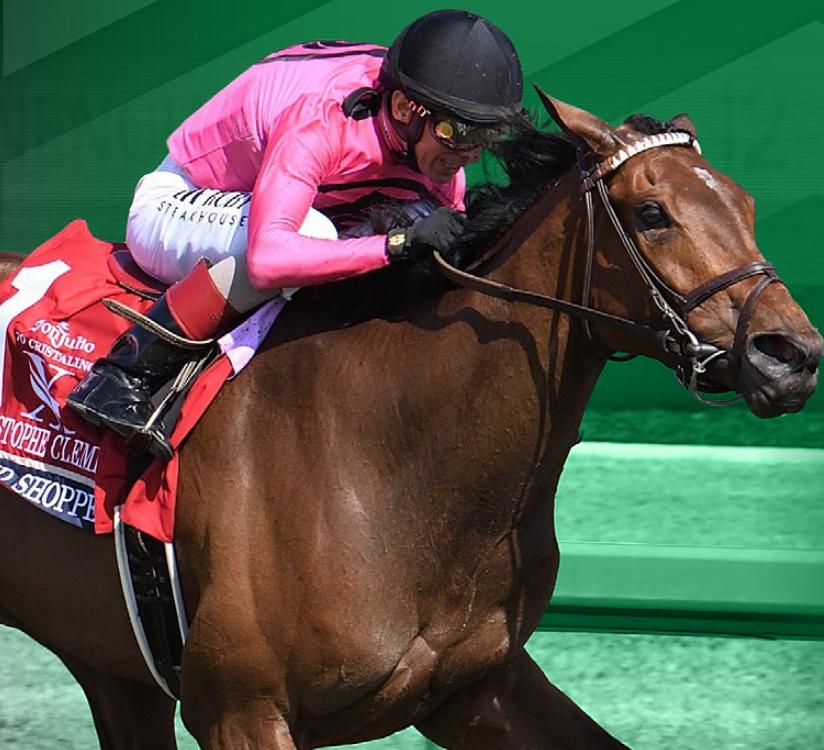
Congratulations to

Owner: Zedan Racing Stables, Inc.

Breeder: Mt. Brilliant Farm & Ranch, LLC & W. S. Farish



## QUALITY WEEKEND



## NEW GRADED STAKES WINNER SPEED SHOPPER

Followed up her first black type win with her first graded win in the G3 CHRISTOPHE CLEMENT S. at Gulfstream Park on Pegasus World Cup Day.

Congratulations to

Owner: Gary Barber, Bridlewood Farm and Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners

Breeder: AR Enterprises, LLC & Edward Easton

On Sunday NEW STAKES WINNER: 3YO Colt GREENWICH VILLAGE - \$100,000 BAFFLE S. at Santa Anita



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# IN THE RING

## OBS WINTER MIXED

### TAIBA FILLY TOPS OBS WINTER MIXED SALE AT \$150,000

(continued from page 4)

#### Session Summary

	2026	2025
No. Offered	257	270
No. Sold	186	212
Gross	\$3,507,850	\$3,093,700
Average (% change)	\$18,859 (29.2%)	\$14,593
Median (% change)	\$12,000 (60.0%)	\$7,500
RNAs (%)	71 (27.6%)	58 (21.5%)
No. Over \$500K	0	0
High Price	\$150,000	\$140,000

"Hip 22, the Nashville colt, was for a client of ours that they purchased out of the November Sale," Bayer said. "When he arrived, I was pleasantly pleased with him because he was a big, strong colt, a lot of bone, a lot of size, a lot of substance, and presented himself really well. Obviously, the price showed that he was worth what they gave. He reciprocated what I thought he would bring."

Bayer finished the day selling 21 from her draft for gross receipts of \$719,800. She sold three of the top four-priced horses. The leading buyer was Pine Creek Ranch with two purchases totaling \$172,000, one of which was Hip 133, a Florida-bred colt by Zandon, who brought \$90,000 from Bayer's consignment. They also purchased Hip 49, a colt by Drain the Clock, for \$82,000.



The colt by Nashville, consigned as Hip 22, in the ring

OBS/WB HORSE PHOTO

#### Top Hips

Hip	Sex, Sire—Dam	Sale Price
80	<b>f, Taiba—Tranquil Song</b> Buyer: Marc W. Gunderson Consignor: Beth Bayer	\$150,000
22	<b>c, Nashville—Rapid Racer</b> Buyer: Always Dreaming Consignor: Beth Bayer	\$140,000
191	<b>c, Simplification—Gidget Girl</b> Buyer: Rising Dividends Racing Consignor: Silver Oaks Farm	\$100,000
133	<b>c, Zandon—Built in a Day</b> Buyer: Pine Creek Ranch Consignor: Beth Bayer	\$90,000
91	<b>c, Pappacap—Will Take the Gal</b> Buyer: Pinhook Partners Consignor: Kaizen Sales	\$85,000
260	<b>Mr. Charles</b> <b>c, Cairo Prince—Miss Margaret</b> Buyer: Banks Bloodstock Consignor: Hare Hill Farm	\$85,000
49	<b>c, Drain the Clock—Sliver of Hope</b> Buyer: Pine Creek Ranch Consignor: Silver Oaks Farm	\$82,000
90	<b>c, Nashville—Wild for Love</b> Buyer: Dark Horse Racing Stable Consignor: Beth Bayer	\$75,000
116	<b>Ms. Engaged</b> <b>f, Engage—Awesome Dama</b> Buyer: Silver Creek Thoroughbreds Consignor: Hare Hill Farm	\$65,000
217	<b>Mom Said Win</b> <b>f, Win Win Win—It's Me Mom</b> Buyer: Breeze Easy & Robert Cotran Consignor: Colin Brennan Bloodstock	\$65,000

The highest-priced broodmare or broodmare prospect was Callie's Courage, a 5-year-old daughter of Girvin, who brought \$48,000 from William Churly. She was offered in foal to Gunite, by Kaizen Sales (Richard Kent), agent.

At the end of the sale, OBS saw gains across all metrics, with 186 horses changing hands for a total of \$3,507,850, including private sales, up from last year's gross of \$3,093,700, from 212 head. The average price was \$18,859, with a median of \$12,000. Last year's sale produced an average of \$14,593 and a median of \$7,500. Seventy-one horses failed to meet their reserve, resulting in an RNA rate of 27.6%.

OBS will now set its sights on its next live auction, the March 2-Year-Olds in Training Sale, held March 10-12, with an under tack show March 4-7. **BH**





# IN THE RING

OBS WINTER MIXED

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## Sale Statistics



COURTESY OBS

### Leading Consignors by Gross

Consignor	Offered	Sold	Gross	Average
Beth Bayer	30	21	\$719,800	\$34,276
Kaizen Sales	27	22	\$512,950	\$23,316
Abbie Road Farm	30	19	\$294,700	\$15,511
Hare Hill Farm	7	7	\$189,200	\$27,029
Silver Oaks Farm	4	2	\$182,000	\$91,000
Doble J Equine Sales	6	5	\$169,000	\$33,800
McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds	17	12	\$162,300	\$13,525
Bobby Jones Equine	21	13	\$136,500	\$10,500
Get Away Farm	9	5	\$122,000	\$24,400
Afleet Equine Services	8	7	\$121,000	\$17,286

### Leading Buyers by Gross

Buyer	Purchased	Gross	Average
Pine Creek Ranch	2	\$172,000	\$86,000
Marc W. Gunderson	1	\$150,000	\$150,000
Always Dreaming	1	\$140,000	\$140,000
Rising Dividends Racing	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
A & C Stable	3	\$94,000	\$31,333
Banks Bloodstock	1	\$85,000	\$85,000
Pinhook Partners	1	\$85,000	\$85,000
Ward Racing	4	\$79,000	\$19,750
First Finds Farm	4	\$76,500	\$19,125
Dark Horse Racing Stable	1	\$75,000	\$75,000

### Leading Sires by Average

(min. 2 sold)

Sire	Offered	Sold	Average	Median
Taiba	2	2	\$90,000	\$90,000
Nashville	3	3	\$78,000	\$75,000
Pappacap	6	5	\$39,600	\$32,000
Aurelius Maximus	2	2	\$37,500	\$37,500
Yaupon	2	2	\$37,000	\$37,000
Authentic	4	3	\$30,667	\$25,000
Roadster	3	2	\$28,500	\$28,500
Simplification	7	7	\$28,143	\$17,000
Bucchero	4	3	\$22,833	\$11,000
Uncaptured	2	2	\$22,500	\$22,500

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## Thoroughbred Traceability Survey



If you own, lease, or board a Thoroughbred, please take a couple of minutes to complete The Jockey Club Traceability Survey to help the industry strengthen aftercare programs and continue to support welfare, accountability, and public trust in our sport.

Visit [registry.jockeyclub.com](http://registry.jockeyclub.com)

# LEADING OWNERS BY EARNINGS



Rank	Name	Starts	Wins	Places	Shows	Earnings	Win%	WPS%
1	Daniel Alonso	2	1	0	0	\$1,687,150	50%	50%
2	Amerman Racing, LLC	6	3	2	0	\$647,280	50%	83%
3	C2 Racing Stable LLC, Barber, Gary and La Milagrosa Stable LLC	1	0	1	0	\$562,000	0%	100%
4	Hronis Racing LLC	14	1	2	1	\$348,520	7%	29%
5	Godolphin, LLC	25	4	2	5	\$343,978	16%	44%
6	Steve Landers Racing LLC	2	1	1	0	\$300,400	50%	100%
7	C R K Stable LLC	14	6	2	1	\$286,762	43%	64%
8	Calumet Farm	40	7	2	3	\$279,297	18%	30%
9	Linda Rice	17	6	6	2	\$265,850	35%	82%
10	Wathnan Racing	6	4	0	1	\$227,790	67%	83%

Listed above are the top 10 leading owners by 2026 North American earnings through January 26, 2026. Racing statistics are 2026 North American only.



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

# GRADED STAKES WINNER STORMCAST ADDED TO F-T MIXED SALE

Edited Press Release - Fasig-Tipton

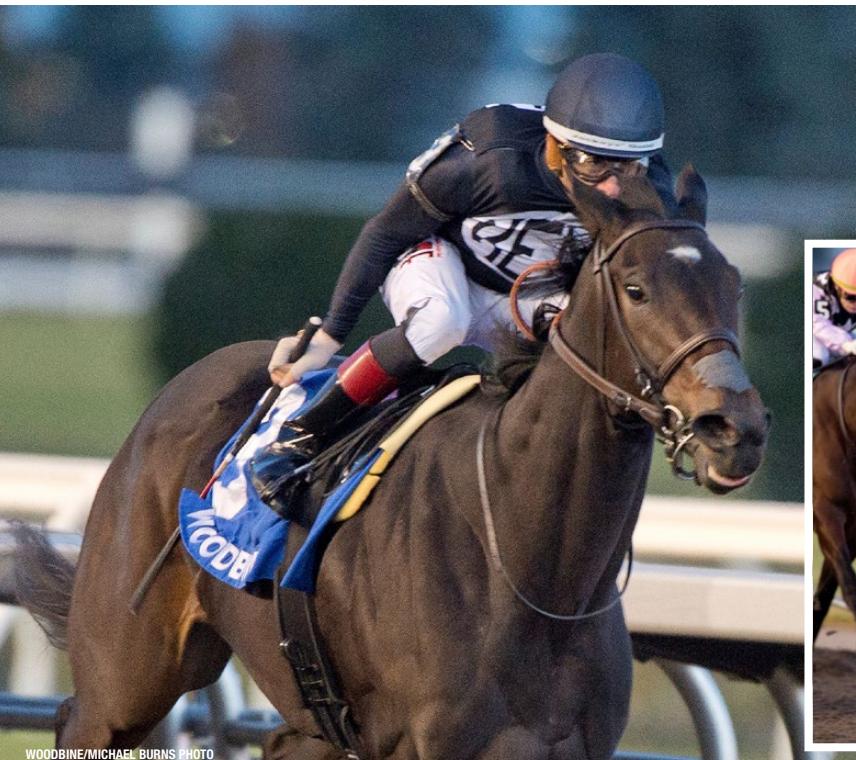
Fasig-Tipton has cataloged an additional 19 entries to its upcoming Kentucky Winter Mixed Sale, to be held Feb. 9 in Lexington.

These newest entries are cataloged as Hips 386-404 and include several stakes winners and a half sibling to recent grade 1 winner Skippylongstocking.

Leading this latest group is Stormcast (Hip 395), winner of the 2024 Bessarabian Stakes (G3) at Woodbine at 3. A stakes performer at 2, 3, and 4, the 5-year-old mare has career earnings of nearly \$330,000. Out of Scolara, a multiple stakes winner and multiple graded stakes-placed earner of nearly \$460,000, she hails from the immediate family of grade 1 winners Quiz Kid, Mining, Antonella Baby, and English Major, as well as graded stakes winners Forest Music, Kentuckian, and Electric Forest. She is consigned as a racing/broodmare prospect by Taylor Made Sales Agency, agent.

Other entries of note include:

- Athena's War (Hip 386): A full sister to champion 3-year-old colt Maximum Security, in foal to Oscar Performance. Consigned by Mulholland Springs, agent.



WOODBINE/MICHAEL BURNS PHOTO

- Sun Kissed Soiree (Hip 388): Full sister to graded stakes winner Marzo, from the family of grade 1 winners Emcee and Constitution. Consigned as a broodmare prospect by Taylor Made Sales Agency, agent.

- My Sassenach (Hip 389): Stakes winner at 2 from the family of grade 1 winners High Schemes, Very Subtle, and Pool Land. In foal to Flameaway, she is consigned by Mulholland Springs, agent.

- Mia's Mom (Hip 397): Winning daughter of Maclean's Music is a half sister to recent Pegasus World Cup Invitational (G1) winner Skippylongstocking. She is carrying her first foal by Essential Quality. Consigned by Buckland Sales, agent.

- Leo Toro (Hip 398): Five-year-old daughter of Nyquist won the 2025 Ginger Punch Stakes at Gulfstream Park. Consigned as a racing/broodmare prospect by Gainesway, agent.

- Dancing N Dixie (Hip 399): Five-year-old multiple stakes winner of nearly \$425,000. She also notched five graded stakes placings from ages 2-4. Consigned as a broodmare prospect by Taylor Made Sales Agency, agent.

- Mares in foal to Arabian Knight, Dornoch, Elite Power, and Omaha Beach.

- Yearlings by Charlatan, Elite Power, Epicenter, Jack Christopher, and Practical Joke.

The entries may now be viewed [online](#) and will be available in the Equineline sales catalog app. Print copies will be available on the sales grounds.

*This press release has been edited for content and style by BloodHorse Staff. BH*

 Share this story



Stormcast wins the 2024 Bessarabian Stakes at Woodbine

### JOCKEY CLUB STEWARDS RESPOND TO REPOLE'S ACCUSATIONS

By *The Jockey Club*



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

Mike Repole

Since 2023, Mike Repole has waged a campaign of inflammatory social posts and public statements targeting The Jockey Club and other leading Thoroughbred organizations. His rhetoric relies on selective facts and false narratives—fueling division, eroding trust, and distracting from the real work our industry needs to move forward. His campaign offers no solutions or concrete plans and appears instead to be part of an effort by Mr. Repole to anoint himself the "Commissioner" of the sport.

#### [READ: Repole Says He is Preparing Lawsuit Against Industry Entities](#)

(Editor's Note: BloodHorse is owned in partnership by The Jockey Club Information Systems—a subsidiary of The Jockey Club—and the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.)

As Stewards of The Jockey Club, we work to improve racing and breeding in ways that protect the horse, support workers, grow the industry, and build public trust. Our priority has been to focus on the work and avoid giving oxygen to Mr. Repole's baseless

charges. But faced with escalating threats and a torrent of misinformation, it is time to set the record straight—with facts, not rhetoric.

Starting today, we will train a lens on Mr. Repole's attacks to show why these accusations are based on incomplete facts and falsehoods and are harmful to our sport. We will also highlight the ways in which The Jockey Club supports Thoroughbred racing and breeding throughout the Thoroughbred's entire life cycle. Our responses follow:

**Claim:** Mr. Repole alleges that the Board of Stewards is rife with conflicts of interest and engages in personal self-dealing for implied financial benefit.

**Reality:** Mr. Repole's allegations about the Board of Stewards are baseless and represent the worst kind of attack, the sort that attempts to damage reputations through insinuation rather than facts. Mr. Repole has even admitted that he has no facts to rely upon and that filing a lawsuit is his only way to try to find anything relevant.

These reckless accusations are irresponsible, unfounded, and deeply unfair to the individuals who volunteer their time and act in good faith to support the activities of The Jockey Club, a New York Not-for-Profit that operates in compliance with the conflict-of-interest requirements of the New York Not-for-Profit laws.

**Claim:** The Jockey Club misuses its cash reserves.

**Reality:** Over the past 15 years, The Jockey Club has contributed \$112 million to support a wide range of racing, breeding, and aftercare-related matters outside of our companies' operations. For 2026, The Jockey Club has committed an additional \$7 million to support those causes. This nearly \$120 million investment is instrumental in driving growth and innovation, and in supporting multiple efforts to increase support for aftercare organizations, equine safety, increased national television coverage, and marketing, all of which are essential to the industry's vitality and public appeal.

**Claim:** The Jockey Club has failed to address aftercare.

*(continued on page 11)*

## JOCKEY CLUB STEWARDS RESPOND TO REPOLE'S ACCUSATIONS

(continued from page 10)

**Reality:** Aftercare is a shared industry responsibility. The Jockey Club has performed its role dutifully, and it is wrong to assert that it has ignored aftercare or that "nothing has changed." The Jockey Club is the single largest funder of aftercare—contributing \$2.5 million this year and \$23 million over the past 15 years—and is a founding member of Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.

Further, Mr. Repole recently posted an aftercare "plan" on X and criticized The Jockey Club for not implementing it. But what he shared was a bare-bones "Funding Model Projection" that largely mirrors Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance's funding approach and, as was clearly communicated to him by The Jockey Club, lacked key components of a complete and actionable plan, i.e., how donors would be incentivized,

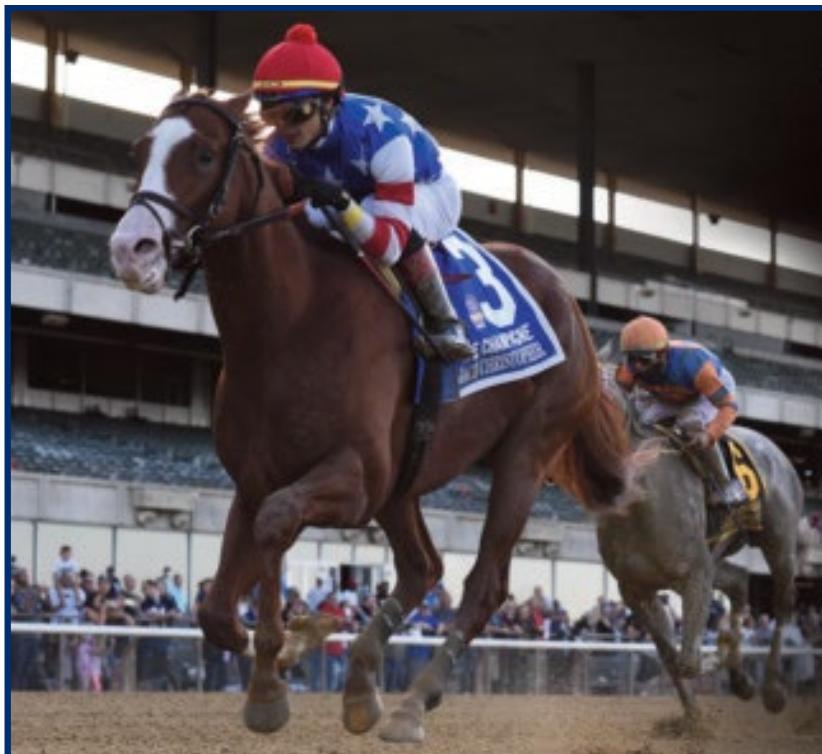
how the additional funds would be spent, and how success would be measured.

The Jockey Club is increasing its support for Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance in 2026 and continues to work with sales companies and other stakeholders to support Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and broader initiatives such as retraining and traceability.

**Claim:** All industry data should be distributed for free.

**Reality:** Mr. Repole argues that racing-related data compiled by Equibase (a joint venture of The Jockey Club and the Thoroughbred Racing Associations of North America racetracks, including Churchill Downs, NYRA, and Stronach racetracks) "should be [distributed] free just like every other sport." He ignores that the gathering, compilation, quality control, and distribution of racing data is not costless—it requires continuing expenditures to support significant human resources and technological infrastructures to deliver vital and reliable data.

(continued on page 12)



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### JOCKEY CLUB STEWARDS RESPOND TO REPOLE'S ACCUSATIONS

(continued from page 11)

At the same time, the premise that other major sports "give away" all of their commercially usable data is flat-out incorrect as they regularly monetize their data. (See, for instance, [Data Ain't Dead: Protecting the numbers as the sports data industry matures.](#))

**Claim:** Mr. Repole continually blames the declining Thoroughbred foal crop on The Jockey Club, such as in an X post last August: "[U]nder the Jockey Club's watch, supply has been gutted. For over 20 years, while claiming to act for the 'betterment' of the sport, they've mismanaged it into the ground. The foal crop has dropped from 50,000 to less than 20,000."

**Reality:** The decline in the foal crop is the result of a complex mix of forces—economic cycles, industry consolidation, and competition from other forms of gaming and sports wagering. As a key example, tax policy has been a major driver of breeding economics for decades, and the Tax Reform Act of 1986 removed incentives that previously helped fuel breeding investment. In 2025, The Jockey Club worked with other industry organizations to help make 100% bonus depreciation for horse purchases permanent. For an in-depth examination of the foal crop decline, see The Jockey Club's Chair Everett Dobson's Nov. 6, 2025, Thoroughbred Daily News essay, [Open Letter: The Declining Foal Crop and The Road Ahead.](#)

**Claim:** Mr. Repole has stated that the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority has done nothing to improve equine safety and criticizes The Jockey Club for supporting HISA. In fact, one of his lawyers sent The Jockey Club a letter on October 2, 2025, stating categorically: "Any suggestion that the sport is safer, or in any way better due to HISA, is demonstrably false."

**Reality:** Racing under HISA is safer. As reported to the Equine Injury Database. In 2021—

the year preceding the HISA safety program—the fatality rate was 1.39 per 1,000 starts. In 2024, the rate at HISA-regulated tracks declined to 0.9 per 1,000 starts. In contrast, in 2024, the fatality rate at U.S. tracks not overseen by HISA was 1.76 per 1,000 starts. (Please see [Equine Injury Fatality Rate 2009-2024](#). Figures for 2025 are still being compiled as tracks are still submitting their reports.)

In summary, Mr. Repole disagrees with The Jockey Club and most of the industry on these and other issues. Members of the Board of Stewards have met with Mr. Repole on multiple occasions to try to address his comments in a productive manner. Unfortunately, those meetings devolved into a one-way stream of heated accusations and demands from Mr. Repole. Diatribes and disagreement do not give him special authority to dictate the industry's direction and appoint himself as the "Commissioner" of our sport—especially when his positions are not based in fact or reality and he has yet to articulate any concrete or viable plans for progress.

We hope that sharing facts will provide clear insights into Mr. Repole's baseless accusations and illustrate the concerted efforts by The Jockey Club and others to help sustain and grow the sport. We will continue to work with members of the Thoroughbred industry to maintain a constructive and collaborative path forward.

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# ILLINOIS RACING BOARD SUSPENDS SUBURBAN DOWNS LICENSE

By Bob Kieckhefer

The Illinois Racing Board has suspended the license of Suburban Downs, operator of harness racing at Hawthorne Race Course, casting doubt on the fate of the Thoroughbred meeting slated to start March 29.

The IRB cited Suburban Downs' "failure to provide documentation demonstrating its financial integrity."

The board suspended operations at the suburban Chicago track at the start of the year for failure to submit required surety bonds. Harness horsemen also had complained they had been unable to access purse earnings from the track, owned for generations by the Carey family.

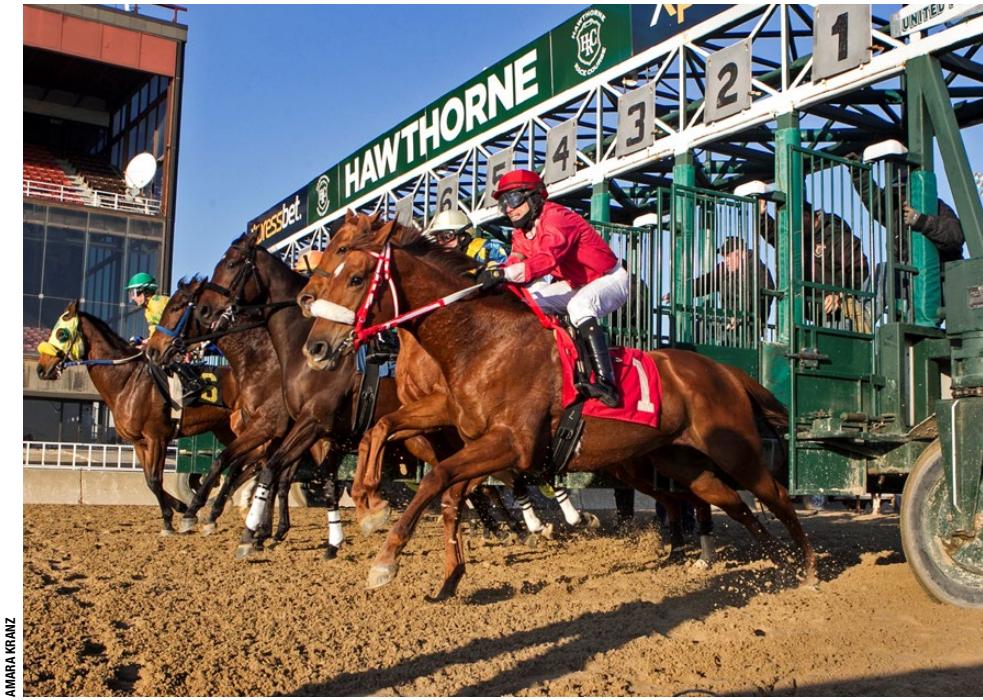
Tim Carey, current president and general manager of Hawthorne, was scheduled to address the Jan. 28 Racing Board meeting, but Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association President Chris Block said his organization was "extremely disappointed" to hear Carey did not plan to attend.

Suburban Downs and Hawthorne are licensed separately, but the joint family ownership has impacted both organizations, including restrictions on incoming simulcast signals and pervasive reports of financial distress.

"Today the Illinois Racing Board made a very difficult decision to suspend the operating license of Suburban Downs," said IRB Executive Director Domenic DiCera. "On January 15th, IRB requested bank statements that reflect the operating fund and any fund related to racing operations at Suburban Downs.

"Unfortunately, their financial difficulties, including failure to provide financial documents showing their ability to operate assigned 2026 race dates, have led us to suspend their license."

Hawthorne is the only remaining Thoroughbred track in the Chicago area and one of only two in Illinois. Its financial woes extend back years and have been intertwined with long-delayed plans to convert



Hawthorne Racecourse's Thoroughbred season is in question

AMARA KRAZ

the old grandstand to a casino, as authorized by the State of Illinois in 2019.

Hawthorne was granted a provisional casino go-ahead by the Illinois Gaming Board and demolished the grandstand, leaving only a metal skeleton, in preparation for construction, but then was unable to secure financing to proceed. Despite repeated assurances that a deal was nearly done, none has materialized.

Carey most recently told the board in September, before being awarded 34 racing dates for 2026, that he would announce a deal during the fourth quarter of 2025 and start construction in early 2026.

DiCera said the IRB will consider reinstating the license if Suburban Downs provides the required documentation.

Hawthorne, located in the southwest suburb of Stickney, near Midway Airport, describes itself as the oldest continuously-run, family-run racetrack in North America. Thomas Carey bought the facility in 1909. The track has a 1-mile dirt oval and a highly regarded 7-furlong turf course.

The only other remaining Illinois track is Fairmount Park in downstate Collinsville, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. Fairmount, after a similar long delay, opened a casino in April 2025 under new ownership. It lacks a turf course. **BH**

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# OVERALL HORSE OF THE YEAR VOTES DECIDED FINALISTS

By Bob Ehalt

✉ @BobEhalt

**A**s much as there were several Eclipse Awards categories that seemed like toss-ups, there were no real surprises in the announcements of 2025 champions the evening of Jan. 22 at The Breakers Palm Beach in South Florida.

The surprises were mostly wider-than-expected margins of victory.

But there was a curious element to the announcing of the Horse of the Year finalists.

The finalists were announced as the victorious Sovereignty, Forever Young, and Journalism, in a contest, like all Eclipse voting, decided strictly on first-place votes.

But when the Horse of the Year vote totals were announced, there were three horses who received first-place votes. None of whom were Journalism.



MARK WYVILLE/EQUI-PHOTO

**Journalism was a Horse of the Year finalist, even without any first-place votes**

Sovereignty was an easy winner with 201 of the 220 first-place votes, while Forever Young received 17 and 2-year-old champ Ted Noffey had 2.

So why wasn't Ted Noffey a finalist?

The reason is that, while the winners are decided by first-place votes, the finalists are chosen based on a point system applied to each voter's 1-2-3 selections. It consists of 10 points for first, five for second, and one for third.

Under that format, Sovereignty had 2,088 points (201-15-3) while Forever Young was next with 616 (17-84-26). Journalism had 49 seconds and 43 thirds for 288 points. That topped Ted Noffey's 181 points based on a slate of 2-24-41.

Sierra Leone was fifth with 134 points (0-20-34).

The closest vote was for the champion sprinter as Book'em Danno beat Bentornato 115-82 in first-place votes.

The point totals were also close, with the New Jersey-bred Book'em Danno getting 1,491 points (115-64-21) and Bentornato 1,340 (82-99-25). Those totals showed Bentornato appeared on more ballots (206) than Book'em Danno (200).

A main reason for the different methodology in announcing finalists is to avoid instances in which there's a near-unanimous winner and only one or two odd first-place votes, such as Sovereignty in the champion 3-year-old male category.

Another instance of that was in the 2-year-old male category, where the undefeated Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) winner Ted Noffey received 218 of 220 first-place votes. The other two first-place votes went to Gstaad, winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1T), and Further Ado, who won 2-of-4 starts and had a lone stakes win in the Kentucky Jockey Club (G2).

But in overall votes, grade 1 winner Brant dominated second-place votes and wound up second in points to become a finalist. He had 87 second-place votes and a 0-87-67 slate for 502 points, which was well behind Ted Noffey's 2,181 points. But it dusted Gstaad, who was third with 321 points (1-57-26) and was a finalist. Undefeated Champagne Stakes (G1) winner Napoleon Solo was fourth with 182 points (0-27-47) while Further Ado (1-14-17) tied for fifth with Breeders' Cup Juvenile runner-up Mr. A. P. (0-14-27) with 97 points. **BH**

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## 1 | TED NOFFEY

Owner/Trainer: Spendthrift Farm/Todd Pletcher  
Into Mischief—Streak of Luck, by Old Fashioned  
Breeder: Aaron and Marie Jones LLC (KY)

A day after being honored with an Eclipse Award as the champion 2-year-old male of 2025, Ted Noffey was back at work at Palm Beach Downs for two-time Kentucky Derby (G1)-winning trainer Todd Pletcher, breezing a half-mile in company Jan. 23 in :50.81. The breeze obviously was not intended to be demanding, this being his first half-mile since he capped a 4-for-4 campaign at 2 by winning the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1). His workout rider had him under a hammerlock throughout. A three-time grade 1 winner, with two of those at a route, he is battle-proven in ways others on this list are not. The Feb. 28 Fountain of Youth Stakes (G2) is next.

## 2 | FURTHER ADO

Owner/Trainer: Spendthrift Farm/Brad Cox  
Gun Runner—Sky Dreamer, by Sky Mesa  
Breeder: John C. Oxley (KY)

After his 1 3/4-length win in the Nov. 29 Kentucky Jockey Club (G2) at Churchill Downs, in which he seemed to shut down pretty quickly on the gallop out, trainer Brad Cox gave him a little break. Can understand the move, as the colt regressed on speed figures in the KJC relative to his 20-length romp in his first two-turn test when racing in a 1 1/16-mile race at Keeneland a month earlier. He resumed breezing Jan. 25 with a 3-furlong breeze in :37 at Payson Park as Cox eases him back in the flow. Probably another three or four workouts away from becoming race fit.



Keeneland Sales Graduate



© RICK BAILEY

## 3 | COMMANDMENT

Owner/Trainer: Wathnan Racing/Cox  
Into Mischief—Sippican Harbor, by Orb  
Breeder: Lee Pokoik (KY)

Cox gave this one a few weeks off from breezing after his head-turning victory in the 1-mile Mucho Macho Man Stakes Jan. 3 at Gulfstream Park—a race that surprisingly offers no qualifying points on the Road to the Kentucky Derby, even though some other 1-turn mile races do. So this colt is still at 0 on the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard. His other victory came in a second-out 7-furlong maiden score in the fall at Churchill Downs. A potential showdown with Ted Noffey could take place in the 1 1/16-mile Fountain of Youth, though there are a number of other Derby options always available.

## 4 | PALADIN

Owner/Trainer: Mrs. John Magnier, Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith, Peter Brant, Brook Smith, and Summer Wind Equine/Chad Brown

Gun Runner—Secret Sigh, by Tapit  
Breeder: Summer Wind Equine (KY)

After winning his debut via disqualification, Paladin took last fall's Remsen Stakes (G2) to stamp himself as a bona fide Kentucky Derby contender. As for the Remsen not producing a Derby winner since Thunder Gulch wore the Garland of Roses in 1995, best to chalk it up to bad luck. Some high-quality horses have run in it, such as the race's 1-2 finishers from 2023: eventual Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Dornoch and eventual Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Sierra Leone. The latter—saddled by Paladin's trainer Chad Brown—missed in the Derby by a nose when runner-up to a ground-saving Mystik Dan.



BENONY PHOTO

## 5 | BRANT

Owner/Trainer: Zedan Racing Stables/Bob Baffert  
Gun Runner—Tynan, by Liam's Map  
Breeder: PTK (KY)

Though there are concerns about this colt at the Derby's distance of 1 1/4 miles after his fade to third in the 1 1/16-mile Breeders' Cup Juvenile, one thing not in question is Brant's talent. He's a gifted horse, a \$3 million purchase last year as a juvenile who went on to win his first two starts, including the 2025 Del Mar Futurity (G1). Fully expecting him to have a successful campaign this year in short routes in California, but less enthusiastic about his prospects at 1 1/8 miles and beyond when matched against deeper lineups.

## 6 | LITMUS TEST

Owner/Trainer: SF Racing, Starlight Racing, Madaket Stables, Stonestreet Stables, Diane Bashor, Determined Stables, Golconda Stable, Waves Edge Capital, and Catherine Donovan/Baffert

Gun Runner—Study Hard, by Malibu Moon  
Breeder: Machmer Hall (KY)

Six-time Derby-winning trainer Bob Baffert has repeatedly said that added distance will suit this colt. He showed a nice finish late last year in winning the Los Alamitos Futurity (G2), a race that 2025 Preakness Stakes (G1) winner Journalism captured in 2024. Litmus Test didn't catch the eye the same way in winning that race, however. Before that race, he was third once and fourth twice in three grade 1 outings at 2 last year; entered in the Southwest Stakes (G3) at Oaklawn Park, a race that has been postponed from Jan. 31 until Friday, Feb. 6, due to sub-freezing conditions in Arkansas.

(continued on page 16)

(L-R): Further Ado wins the 2025 Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes at Churchill Downs; Litmus Test after his victory in the 2025 Los Alamitos Futurity at Los Alamitos Race Course

# BYRON KING'S DERBY DOZEN

(continued from page 17)



[WATCH: Half to Sandman Lands in Derby Dozen Off Flashy Debut](#)

## 7 | INCREDIBOLT

Owner/Trainer: Pin Oak Stud/Riley Mott  
Bolt d'Oro—Sapphire Spitfire, by Awesome Again  
Breeder: Deann Baer & Greg Baer DVM (KY)

This Riley Mott trainee is set to swing back into action for the first time since winning the Oct. 26 Street Sense Stakes (G3) at Churchill Downs when he competes in the Jan. 31 Holy Bull Stakes (G3) at Gulfstream Park. The short stretch that comes into play in 1 1/16-mile races may prove a disadvantage to a horse with his late-running style, but he at least drew the rail, which may better allow him to keep his rivals in range. His 5-furlong workout in company in 1:02.30 Jan. 23 at Palm Meadows does not jump out as quick, but he was always traveling much easier than workmate Whine Country and left him easily with a cue from his rider on the gallop out.

## 8 | GOLDEN TEMPO

Owner/Trainer: Phipps Stable & St. Elias Stable/  
Cherie DeVaux  
Curlin—Carrumba, by Bernardini  
Breeder: Phipps Stable and St. Elias Stables (KY)  
Progeny of Curlin consistently produce in dirt routes, and he was no exception in the Jan. 17 Le-

comte Stakes (G3) at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots. Despite having just a single 6-furlong debut win under his belt, he ran the 1 1/16-mile distance like a seasoned pro, running down the opposition with a rally from last to improve to 2-for-2. With the Fair Grounds surface playing quickly, his 1:44.98 time netted him weak speed figures across the board. He obviously has room for further development.

## 9 | STRATEGIC RISK

Owner/Trainer: John Oxley/Mark Casse  
Noble Bird—Strategize, by Afleet Alex  
Breeder: John Oxley Living Trust (FL)

Like other horses at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas (plus those stabled in Kentucky, Maryland, New York, and other states), his training has been affected by harsh winter weather in recent days. Training was canceled Jan. 27 at Oaklawn, as it was the day before. One edge he has from a fitness perspective is that he has kept an active racing schedule, winning the Nov. 29 FTBOA Florida Sire In Reality Stakes at Gulfstream before adding the Jan. 3 Smarty Jones Stakes at Oaklawn; entered to compete in the Southwest Stakes, which has been postponed from Saturday to Friday, Feb. 6.



Canaletto wins on debut Jan. 24 at Gulfstream Park

COGLIANESE PHOTOS/RYAN THOMPSON

## 10 | NEARLY

Owner/Trainer: Centennial Farms/Pletcher  
Not This Time—Ib Prospecting, by Mineshaft  
Breeder: Wind Hill Farm (FL)

He and fellow Pletcher trainee Class President posted the co-fastest half-mile breeze of Jan. 24 at Palm Beach Downs in clocking the distance in :48.59. That swift work hints that another top performance is forthcoming in Saturday's Holy Bull Stakes (G3) for this up-and-comer, who has rattled off a couple of good-looking triumphs at Gulfstream this winter. Neither of those wins, however, came around two turns, so the Holy Bull should tell us a lot. His dam's two victories came in sprints, though there are stamina elements elsewhere in his pedigree.

## 11 | CANALETTO

Owner/Trainer: Magnier, Tabor, Derrick Smith, Brant, and Brook Smith/Brown  
Into Mischief—Distorted Music, by Distorted Humor  
Breeder: Lothenbach Stables (KY)

Debuting in a maiden race Jan. 25 at Gulfstream, this long-striding colt impressed by showing controllable speed under Flavien Prat, a quick burst when asked to pick up his pace on the turn, and then a strong finish to score by 8 lengths. The \$1 million yearling clocked a mile in 1:36.28, earning an 89 Beyer Speed Figure and a 94 Equibase Speed Figure. A son of Into Mischief and a half brother to graded stakes winners She Can't Sing and Sandman, he has pedigree in addition to talent. These strengths will have to offset his limited experience if he is to have Derby success. It's not impossible. Justify (2018) and Mage (2023) won the Derby after auspicious winter debuts as 3-year-olds.

## 12 | BLACKOUT TIME

Owner/Trainer: Brookdale Racing, Lance Gaway, and Magdalena Racing/Kenny McPeek  
Not This Time—Beauty Parlor, by Elusive Quality  
Breeder: Newstead Corp (KY)

Returning to the published worktab for the first time since being a regulatory scratch from the Oct. 31 Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) at Del Mar, he joins the Derby Dozen rankings, and he has potential to ascend further if his training goes without a hitch. He still must record a 5-furlong breeze to work his way off the vet's list, along with clearing medication tests and other protocols. Coming off just his first three-eighths work, we likely won't see the Breeders' Futurity (G1) runner-up in action until March.

## TED NOFFEY, SOVEREIGNTY LEAD INITIAL NTRA MEDIA POLLS

By Byron King

𝕏 @BH\_Bking

Ted Noffey and Sovereignty, honored as 2025 champions at the Eclipse Awards ceremony last week in Florida, remain popular choices in early-season media voting this year.

Spendthrift Farm's unbeaten Ted Noffey, trained by Todd Pletcher, leads the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's Top 3-Year-Old Poll, while Godolphin's Sovereignty, trained by Bill Mott, is first in the Top Thoroughbred Poll, counting horses of all ages. Both polls began this week, with the 3-Year-Old Poll featuring horses racing up and through the Triple Crown and the Top Thoroughbred Poll representing horses competing for Horse of the Year. The Top Thoroughbred Poll concludes Nov. 3, a couple of days after the Breeders' Cup World

Championships, taking place over two days this fall at Keeneland.

Graded stakes winner Paladin, Brant, Golden Tempo, and Further Ado round out the leading five in the Top 3-Year-Old Poll. Ted Noffey received 21 first-place votes, and the 2025 Remsen Stakes (G2) winner, Paladin, garnered the other two. No other 3-year-old received first-place votes.

Skippylongstocking, recent winner of the Jan. 24 Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (G1) at Gulfstream Park, received five first-place votes compared to Sovereignty's 14 first-place votes in the Top Thoroughbred Poll and sits in second.

Journalism, Nysos (1 first-place vote), and Forever Young (three first-place votes) are respectively third through fifth. Standings are determined not by first-place votes but on overall point totals on a 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-1 basis for each voter's top 10.

The full standings are [online](#). BH

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ANNE M. EBERRHARDT

Sovereignty wins the 2025 Belmont Stakes at Saratoga Race Course

## January 20–26

Sire	Standing Info	Accomplishment	Runner (Broodmare Sire)	Race (Purse, Track, Distance, Surface)
Accelerate	Lane's End, KY; Pensioned	G2P (3rd)	Movin' On Up (Cairo Prince)	Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational S. (G2T, \$500k, GP, 8.5f)
Adaay	Italy (2025)	G3P (3rd)	Balnikhov (First Defence)	William L. McKnight S. (G3T, \$225k, GP, 12f)
Bell Ringer	-	New BTW	Witt's Lil Ringer (Drums of Thunder)	Bara Lass S. (\$82k, HOU, 6f, dirt)
Bolt d'Oro 🇺🇸	Spendthrift Farm, KY; \$25,000	New G2W	Destino d'Oro (Lion Heart)	Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational S. (G2T, \$500k, GP, 8.5f)
Code of Honor	KY; Died 2022	New BTW	Aces Honor (Kitten's Joy)	Bob Bork Texas Turf Mile S. (\$100k, HOU, 8f, turf)
Constitution	WinStar Farm, KY; \$110,000	G2P (2nd)	Crevalle d'Oro (Medaglia d'Oro)	Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational S. (G2T, \$500k, GP, 8.5f)
Cosmic Trigger	-	G3P (2nd)	Ayra Stark (Exchange Rate)	Christophe Clement S. (G3T, \$175k, GP, 12f)
Cupid	Atlanta Hall Farm, MD; \$5,000	G2P (2nd)	Sterling Silver (Distorted Humor)	Inside Information S. (G2, \$225k, GP, 7f)
Empire Maker	KY; Died	G3P (2nd)	Padiddle (Giant's Causeway)	William L. McKnight S. (G3T, \$225k, GP, 12f)
English Channel	KY; Died 2021	G3P (3rd)	Weighted Average (Kitten's Joy)	Christophe Clement S. (G3T, \$175k, GP, 12f)
Exaggerator 🇺🇸	Elite Thoroughbreds, LA; \$5,000	New G1W	Skippylongstocking (War Chant)	Pegasus World Cup Invitational S. (G1, \$3M, GP, 9f)
Full Mast	Haras Chenaut, ARG; private (2024)	G1P (3rd)	Full Serrano (Jump Start)	Pegasus World Cup Invitational S. (G1, \$3M, GP, 9f)
Gun Runner 🇺🇸	Three Chimneys Farm, KY; \$250,000	New G3W	Perfect Shot (Bodemeister)	Houston Ladies Classic S. (G3, \$300k, HOU, 8.5f)
Gun Runner	Three Chimneys Farm, KY; \$250,000	New BTW	Finger (Maclean's Music)	Bluebird Cup (\$258k, FUN/JPN, 9f, dirt)
Havana Grey	Whitsbury Manor Stud, ENG; private	G1P (3rd)	Almendares (Verglas)	Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational S. (G1T, \$1M, GP, 9f)
Honor A. P.	Lane's End, KY; \$7,500	G1P (3rd)	Heart of Honor (Scat Daddy)	Al Maktoum Challenge (G1, \$1M, MEY/UAE, 9.5f)
Into Mischief	Spendthrift Farm, KY; \$250,000	G3P (3rd)	Hypnus (Uncle Mo)	Firebreak S. (G3, \$191k, MEY/UAE, 8f)
Justify 🇺🇸	Ashford Stud, KY; \$200,000	New G2W	Grand Job (Ishiguru)	Inside Information S. (G2, \$225k, GP, 7f)
Justify	Ashford Stud, KY; \$200,000	G3P (3rd)	Life and Times (Unbridled's Song)	Fred W. Hooper S. (G3, \$175k, GP, 8f)
Laoban 🇺🇸	KY; Died 2021	New G3W	Layabout (Big Brown)	William L. McKnight S. (G3T, \$225k, GP, 12f)
Lookin At Lucky 🇺🇸	Chile	G1W	Test Score (Kitten's Joy)	Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational S. (G1T, \$1M, GP, 9f)
Maximum Security	Breakway Farm, IN; \$3,500	G3P (3rd)	Union Security (Union Rags)	UAE Two Thousand Guineas (G3, \$191k, MEY/UAE, 8f)
Midshipman	Darley, KY; \$15,000	BTW	Anegada (Not For Love)	John B. Connally Turf Cup S. (\$200k, HOU, 12f, turf)
Not This Time 🇺🇸	Taylor Made Stallions, KY; \$250,000	New G3W	Six Speed (Medaglia d'Oro)	UAE Two Thousand Guineas (G3, \$191k, MEY/UAE, 8f)
Not This Time	Taylor Made Stallions, KY; \$250,000	G2P (3rd)	Claret Beret (Medallist)	Inside Information S. (G2, \$225k, GP, 7f)
Nyquist 🇺🇸	Darley, KY; \$175,000	G3W	Knightsbridge (Bernardini)	Fred W. Hooper S. (G3, \$175k, GP, 8f)
One World	-	G1P (2nd)	One Stripe (Silvano)	Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational S. (G1T, \$1M, GP, 9f)
Oscar Performance	Mill Ridge Farm, KY; \$60,000	G1P (2nd)	Tumbarumba (Street Sense)	Al Maktoum Challenge (G1, \$1M, MEY/UAE, 9.5f)
Practical Joke	Ashford Stud, KY; \$75,000	G3P (2nd)	Devon Island (Canadian Frontier)	UAE Two Thousand Guineas (G3, \$191k, MEY/UAE, 8f)
Quality Road 🇺🇸	Lane's End, KY; \$100,000	New G3W	Nafisa (Bluegrass Cat)	La Canada S. (G3, \$100k, SA, 8.5f)
Quality Road 🇺🇸	Lane's End, KY; \$100,000	New G3W	Speed Shopper (Malibu Moon)	Christophe Clement S. (G3T, \$175k, GP, 12f)
Quality Road	Lane's End, KY; \$100,000	New BTW	Greenwich Village (I Am Invincible)	Baffle S. (\$100k, SA, a6.5f, turf)
Race Day	Challenger Farm, KOR; \$5,000 (2022)	G1P (2nd)	White Abarrio (Into Mischief)	Pegasus World Cup Invitational S. (G1, \$3M, GP, 9f)
Take Charge Indy	WinStar Farm, KY; \$7,500	G3P (2nd)	Back Em Up (Silver City)	Fred W. Hooper S. (G3, \$175k, GP, 8f)
Take Charge Indy	WinStar Farm, KY; \$7,500	G3P (2nd)	Standoutsensation (Stormy Atlantic)	Houston Ladies Classic S. (G3, \$300k, HOU, 8.5f)
Tapit	Gainesway, KY; \$185,000	G3P (2nd)	Jane Austen (Indian Charlie)	La Canada S. (G3, \$100k, SA, 8.5f)
Tiz the Law	Ashford Stud, KY; \$40,000	G3P (3rd)	Yes It Tiz (Pivotal)	Houston Ladies Classic S. (G3, \$300k, HOU, 8.5f)
Twirling Candy	Lane's End, KY; \$75,000	New BTW	Litigation (Storm Cat)	Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint S. (\$175k, GP, 5f, turf)
Uncle Mo	KY; Died 2024	G3P (3rd)	Brilliantly (Bernardini)	La Canada S. (G3, \$100k, SA, 8.5f)
Violence 🇺🇸	Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY; \$30,000	New G3W	Drew's Gold (Vindication)	Al Shindagha Sprint (G3, \$191k, MEY/UAE, 6f)

This weekly table tracks black-type achievements in United States and Canadian racing for all stallions, and black-type achievements in Northern Hemisphere racing countries (those rated Part 1 by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities) for U.S.- and Canada-based stallions.

DIRT	GRADED
TURF	STAKES WIN
ALL-WEATHER	



# MAIDEN WATCH

## CODE REVIEW AMONG SEVERAL PROMISING MAIDEN WINNERS

By Lizzy Madden

**T**his column highlights the performances of 3-year-old maidens who have made no more than five starts and who either sold for more than \$500,000 at public auction, have siblings that are graded/group winners, or have dams that are graded/group winners. BloodHorse research shows maiden winners, in particular, who meet these criteria are more likely to go on to be graded stakes winners.

Less than 24 hours after Saffie Joseph Jr. ran 1-2 in the Pegasus World Cup Invitational (G1) with 7-year-olds Skippylongstocking and White Abarrio at Gulfstream Park, the trainer showed off some of the young talent in his barn in unveiling the promising 3-year-old Code Review.

Racing 6 furlongs against straight maiden company in the third race Jan. 25 at the South Florida track, favored Code Review set fast fractions of :21.80 and :44.90 under Irad Ortiz Jr. before

the 3-year-old son of Uncle Mo pulled away for a 1 1/2-length victory in 1:10.25. His time earned him a 78 Beyer Speed Figure and an 83 Equibase Speed Figure. The C2 Racing Stables, Ken Reimer, JRM Stables, and Tami Bobo-owned colt paid \$3.20 to win.

"We just took our time with him because he's shown so much talent," Joseph said. "We've been almost bubble-wrapping him. He does get worked up a little in the morning. That was the thing: how was he going to handle the paddock and stuff. I was surprised how cool and collected he was."

Code Review is the full brother to 2016 Jim Dandy Stakes (G2) winner and eventual sire Laoban, who died in 2021. Before his death, Laoban sired several notable runners, including Simply Ravishing, winner of the 2020 Alcibiades Stakes (G1) at 1 1/16 miles on dirt at Keeneland.

Code Review is out of the stakes-placed sprinter Chattertown, a daughter of Speightstown.

(continued on page 21)



Code Review breaks his maiden Jan. 25 at Gulfstream Park

COGLIANESI PHOTOS



# MAIDEN WATCH

## CODE REVIEW AMONG SEVERAL PROMISING MAIDEN WINNERS

(continued from page 20)

C2 Racing purchased the Longfield Stables-bred Code Review for \$575,000 from Denali Stud consignment to the 2024 Keeneland September Yearling Sale.

### OTHERS TO WATCH FROM GULFSTREAM PARK

Racing a couple of days earlier for Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher, She Be Smooth also delivered at first asking, though over a mile. Settling in third behind post-time favorite Prom Queen and Elgheed, she came off the rail rounding the turn for home under jockey Irad Ortiz Jr. for an outside rally. The stretch drive was a battle between her and Prom Queen, and she drove clear by 2 1/4 lengths.

Clocked in 1:36.59, the Calumet Farm homebred daughter of Lexitonian ran a 77 Beyer Speed Figure and an 82 Equibase Speed Figure. She paid \$11.20 for the win.

She Be Smooth is out of millionaire and multiple graded stakes winner Seattle Smooth, who won the 2009 Ogden Phipps Handicap (G1), among other graded stakes races. Seattle Smooth has eight starters and seven winners from 10 foals, two of which earned black type on the flat, led by the grade 3-placed Seattle Slang.

Another one of her foals, Pik Em, won the 2019 Appleton Hurdle Stakes over jumps at Far Hills. That race was run over 2 5/8 miles, illustrating staying power.



She Be Smooth scores first time out at Gulfstream Park

COGLIANESE PHOTOS/RYAN THOMPSON

Also successful on debut at a mile was Canaletto, the \$1 million yearling purchase and a half brother to grade-1 winner Sandman and grade 3 winner She Can't Sing. He drew off from the field Sunday at Gulfstream to break his maiden by 8 lengths. Trained by Chad Brown for owners Susan Magnier, Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith, Peter Brant, and Brook Smith, the 3-year-old son of Into Mischief went off the post-time favorite and proved he was worthy of 7-5 backing.

He broke on top, but was confronted by a Pletcher-trained duo, Mapped Flight and Spartacus, in the opening quarter-mile. He was able to fend them off, regaining the lead on the far turn under jockey Flavien Prat and never looking back. He won going away in 1:36.28, returning \$4.80 for a \$2 win wager. Canaletto is out of the Distorted Humor mare Distorted Music.

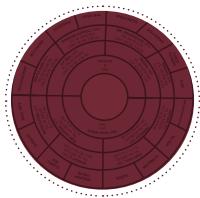
His time earned him an 89 Beyer Speed Figure and a 94 Equibase Speed Figure. **BH**

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### BloodHorse Maiden Watch

Notable 3-year-old maiden winners for week of Jan. 19-25

Date	Track	Race	Horse	Sire	Dam	Starts	Notes
1/21	TAM	5	French Tip	Hard Spun	Astray	1	Sold for \$500K in 2024 at the Keeneland September Yearling Sale
1/23	GP	8	She Be Smooth	Lexitonian	Seattle Smooth	1	Dam won the 2009 Ogden Phipps Handicap (G1)
1/24	FG	7	Noble Affair	Vekoma	Paden Affair	2	Colt sold for \$600K in 2025 as a 2-year-old in training
1/25	GP	3	Code Review	Uncle Mo	Chattertown	1	\$575K yearling is a full brother to G2 winner Laoban
1/25	GP	7	Canaletto	Into Mischief	Distorted Music	1	\$1M yearling is a half to two stakes winners, including G1 winner Sandman



# PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

WITH ALAN PORTER

## DESTINO D'ORO BRINGS HAIL TO REASON CROSS TO THE FORE

By Alan Porter

✉ @pedigreeconsult

**H**ail to Reason—the champion 2-year-old male of 1960 and leading sire in 1970—had just three foals out of mares by the imported French stallion Djeddah. The first of those, Proud Clarion, was an upset winner of the 1967 Kentucky Derby, with short-price favorite and eventual Horse of the Year Damascus back in third.

At stud, Proud Clarion was only a moderately successful stallion, with 31 stakes winners from 13 crops, although he was represented by a pair of grade 1 winners in 1981 Frizette Stakes (G1) scorer Proud Lou, and Proud Birdie, successful in the 1977 Marlboro Cup Handicap (G1).

The other two foals on the Hail to Reason/Djeddah cross were also colts, and although neither joined Proud Clarion on the roster of classic winners, both were accomplished runners, and both appear prominently in the pedigrees of leading sires. The first, Mr. Leader, was foaled two years after Proud Clarion. Racing in an era prior to the graded stakes program, the durable Mr. Leader won 10 of 25 races, including the 1969 Jerome Handicap, 1970 Stars and Stripes Handicap, 1970 Tidal

BOLT D'ORO, b. 2015	Medaglia d'Oro, 1999 Globe Trot, 2008	El Prado, 1989	Sadler's Wells
		Cappuccino Bay, 1989	Lady Capulet
		A.P. Indy, 1989	Bailjumper
DESTINO D'ORO b. f March 25, 2022	Lion Heart, 2001	Trip, 1997	Dubbed In
		Tale of the Cat, 1994	Seattle Slew
		Satin Sunrise, 1990	Weekend Surprise
HEART OF DESTINY, ch. 2009	Doc's Destiny, 1997	Lord At War	Lord At War
		Tour	Tour
		Storm Cat	Storm Cat
HEART OF DESTINY, ch. 2009	Doc's Destiny, 1997	Yarn	Yarn
		Mr. Leader	Mr. Leader
		Logic	Logic
HEART OF DESTINY, ch. 2009	Doc's Destiny, 1997	Mr. Leader	Mr. Leader
		With Patience	With Patience
		Codex	Codex
HEART OF DESTINY, ch. 2009	Doc's Destiny, 1997	Tim Marie	Tim Marie

Handicap, and 1970 Oceanport Handicap. Although never the most commercial of stallions, Mr. Leader proved an extremely effective racehorse sire, and in a long career was represented by 80 stakes winners, five grade 1, headed by Wise Times, successful in the 1986 Travers Stakes (G1), and 1990 Santa Anita Handicap (G1) captor Ruhlmann. In addition, through his multiple graded stakes-winning daughter, Sweetest Chant, he also appears in the third generation of the pedigree of leading sire Distorted Humor.

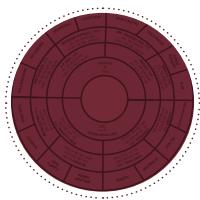
The third of the trio was the 1968 foal, Bold Reason. Third in the 1971 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, that year he also captured the Lexington Handicap, Hollywood Derby, American Derby Handicap, and Travers Stakes, and was co-highweight with the official divisional champion, Canonero II, on the Daily Racing Form Free Handicap for American 3-year-old males of 1971. In view of his racing class and pedigree, Bold Reason was a little disappointing as a sire, with 20 stakes winners, headed by Castilla, successful in the 1982 Yellow Ribbon Invitational Stakes (G1), and The Liberal Member, who took the 1979 Brooklyn Handicap (G1). He did, however, become a fixture in modern classic pedigrees through his daughter, Fairy Bridge. Winner of her only two starts, both as a juvenile, Fairy Bridge was the top-weight 2-year-old filly in Ireland in 1977, despite never competing in a black-type event. At stud, the offspring of the half sister to Nureyev included Sadler's Wells—14 times leading sire in Great Britain and Ireland—and his once-raced brother Fairy King, leading sire in France.



COGLIANESI PHOTOS/JETTA VAUGHNS

Destino d'Oro after her upset victory in the Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational Stakes at Gulfstream Park

(continued on page 23)



# PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

WITH ALAN PORTER

## DESTINO D'ORO BRINGS HAIL TO REASON CROSS TO THE FORE

(continued from page 22)

Each pairing of the close relatives is found in grade 1-winning pedigrees, with Distorted Humor—whose dam is Northern Dancer/Hail to Reason/Djeddah—combining particularly well with Sadler's Wells, the product of the same formula. Mr. Leader and Bold Reason are found together in 19 grade 1 winners, including 2005 Travers Stakes victor Flower Alley and the great Hong Kong runner Golden Sixty; Bold Reason/Proud Clarion combine in the pedigree of Capital Gain, successful in the 2017 J.J. Atkins Stakes (G1) in Australia; and Mr. Leader and Proud Clarion are found together in 2022 Del Mar Debutante Stakes (G1) victress And Tell Me Nolies.

All told, a combination of two of three Hail to Reason/Djeddah crosses appear together in the pedigrees of 125 stakes winners, and the most recent of these is Destino d'Oro, 15-1 winner of the Jan. 24 Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational Stakes (G1T).

Despite her generous odds in that event, the 4-year-old did previously have some very smart form to her credit. At 2, she won a Kentucky Downs maiden special weight on her debut, and returned to miss by just a pair of noses in the 2024 Jessamine Stakes (G2T) on her only other juvenile outing. Destino d'Oro didn't start again until June last year, at 3, but on her return, she captured a Churchill Downs allowance event, then annexed the Pucker Up Stakes (G3T) by 3 3/4 lengths.

She may have found the distance a stretch when unplaced as an odds-on favorite for the \$1.97 million Dueling Grounds Oaks Invitational Stakes (G3T) over 1 5/16 miles, and then faded to eighth and last after



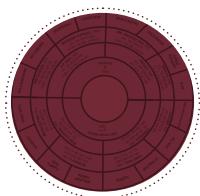
Destino d'Oro wins the Pegasus World Cup Filly and Mare Turf Invitational Stakes at Gulfstream Park

a wide trip in the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup Stakes (G1T). Dropping to 1 1/16 miles for the Tropical Park Oaks in December, Destino d'Oro returned to form, powering from near last to gain the day by a head over And One More Time. She once again employed waiting tactics in the Pegasus, trailing at the back of the 11-horse field in the early stages, and turning home in ninth, although less than 4 lengths from the lead, before unleashing a run that carried her to the line a half-length to the good.

Destino d'Oro is from the third of the four crops to represent Bolt d'Oro, winner of the 2017 Del Mar Futurity (G1), 2017 FrontRunner Stakes (G1), and 2018 San Felipe Stakes (G2). He's been represented by 20 other stakes winners, including Tamara, successful in the 2023 Del Mar Debutante Stakes, grade 2 winners Major Dude, Ruby Nell, Instant Coffee, and Look Forward, and grade 3 scorers Boppy O, Bold Discovery, and Incredibolt.

Destino d'Oro is the best of the five winners out of her dam, Heart of Destiny, a daughter of Lion Heart who gained a grade 1 placing with a second in the 2011 Alcibiades Stakes (G1).

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# PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

WITH ALAN PORTER

## DESTINO D'ORO BRINGS HAIL TO REASON CROSS TO THE FORE

(continued from page 23)

The second dam, Doc's Destiny, won four races, took second in the 2001 Dr. James Penny Memorial Handicap, and is half sister to the dam of Rosalind, winner of the 2014 Ashland Stakes (G1) and 2015 Sheepshead Bay Stakes (G2T). Doc's Destiny is out of Ventured, a winning half sister to the top handicap horse, Life's Hope, whose wins included the 1978 Amory L. Haskell Handicap (G1) and 1976 Jersey Derby (G1).

Bolt d'Oro has Bold Reason through Sadler's Wells in his sire line, but the Hail to Reason/Djeddah cross is more notably intensified through the pedigree of Destino d'Oro's dam, Heart of Destiny. She has Mr. Leader 3x3, and also carries Bold Reason as sire of the third dam of Lion Heart (whose own dam has Mr. Leader/Bold Reason 1x3).

When we look at the background of the Hail to Reason/Djeddah cross, we can note that Hail to Reason is from the Bruce Lowe No. 4 family. There is strong linebreeding to this family in his immediate female line, with his dam being 3x4 to Man o' War who is not only from the No. 4 family, but is out of a mare by English Triple Crown winner Rock Sand, while Hail to Reason goes back to a close relative to Rock Sand.

Djeddah is from the Bruce Lowe No. 13 family, as is his paternal grandsire Tourbillon (out of a sister to the second dam of Djeddah). What ties this together is that both family No. 4 and family No. 13 are from the I2a1 mitochondrial haplotype. Remarkably, when one looks at the deeper female line of Destino d'Oro, she goes tail-female to a half sister of the dam of Rock Sand, so is the same family as Hail to Reason, and the same mtDNA line as both Hail to Reason and Djeddah. **BH**

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## EMBELLISH FILLY TOPS RECORD-BREAKING BOOK 2 KARAKA SALE

By *Lloyd Jackson/ANZ Bloodstock and Paul Symes/ANZ Bloodstock News*

**C**ambridge Stud stallions dominated Book 2 of the New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sale as Embellish achieved the highest price when one of his daughters (Lot 601) was knocked down at the business end of proceedings for NZ\$200,000 (US\$120,331, NZ\$1=US\$0.60) to Busuttin Racing, while his near neighbor Sword of State continued his inexorable rise with 11 lots fetching six figures.

As with Book 1, NZB were once again rewarded for the change in format, reducing Book 2 to one session. New benchmarks were set Jan. 27, where a condensed session saw 188 yearlings sell at a clearance rate of 77% for total receipts of NZ\$12,247,000 (US\$7,368,469), a 25% rise on last year's results. There were improvements in all other metrics, with the average jumping an incredible 80% to NZ\$65,145 (US\$39,195), while the median finished at NZ\$60,000 (US\$36,099), up an extraordinary 124%.

NZB's managing director Andrew Seabrook was understandably over the moon with the results.

"As we had expected, putting the Book 2 horses in front of the international buyers has been key," he said.

"To see a NZ\$2.5 million increase in turnover from a catalog with 146 less horses, the results are just extraordinary, really."

"The Australian spend has more than doubled compared to this session last year, and while the Kiwis were stronger too, there were plenty who missed out, so we hope to see them active at the Karaka Summer Sale on Thursday."

Despite standing for a modest service fee of just NZ\$5,000 (plus GST), Embellish produced stakes winners on both sides of the Tasman Sea from his first crop of yearlings, and the training team of Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young will be hoping that his upward trajectory continues after they splashed the cash on the Cambridge Stud-offered sale topper.

The bidding had originally stopped at NZ\$170,000 when the filly passed through the sales ring, but Busuttin was quick to strike a private deal with the farm's proprietors Sir Brendan and Lady Jo Lindsay at the back of the auditorium for the daughter of Queen of Wizardry.

Given that Queen of Wizardry was a winner at 2 and her half sister Coco Sun won her first two starts as a juvenile before landing the South Australian Derby (G1) as a 3-year-old, there is every chance that her second foal will possess an abundance of early precocity.

That is certainly the hope of Busuttin and Young, who also purchased a Best of Bordeaux colt for NZ\$70,000 from the Wentwood Grange draft.

Their sale topper sealed a stellar auction for the team at Cambridge Stud, who took leading vendor honors at the NZB Yearling Sale for the 33rd time. Fresh off the back of being crowned leading vendors by aggregate during Book 1, the farm enjoyed an equally impressive day's trade on Tuesday, selling 14 yearlings for NZ\$1,195,000.

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



The Embellish filly, cataloged as Lot 601, in the ring

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# UPCOMING ENTRIES

## TOBOGGAN S.

Aqueduct, Saturday, January 31, Race 2  
7f (dirt), \$150,000, 4yo/up, 12:39 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		Maximus Meridius	Maximus Mischief	5/g	Mychel J. Sanchez	121	-	LC Racing LLC, Cash is King LLC and Reid, Jr., Robert E.
2		Nation	Constitution	6/g	Luis R. Rivera, Jr.	119	-	Koentopp, Jacob and Koentopp, Kevin
3		Over and Ollie	Cairo Prince	6/g	Flavien Prat	119	-	Narlinger, Dennis
4		Light the Way	Justify	6/g	Manuel Franco	119	-	Staudacher, David
5		Victory Way	City of Light	6/g	Jose Lezcano	119	-	Tranquility Lake Farms LLC
6		Be You	Curlin	5/g	Kendrick Carmouche	119	-	Repole Stable

**Breeders:** 1–Westerly Farm; 2–William B. Harrigan, Mike Pietrangelo & Mark McEntee; 3–A&A Farms; 4–Samantha Siegel; 5–Wygod Equine, LLC; 6–Alpha Delta Stables, LLC.

**Trainers:** 1–Robert E. Reid, Jr.; 2–Robert B. Hess, Jr.; 3–Richard E. Dutrow, Jr.; 4–Michael J. Maker; 5–William I. Mott; 6–Todd A. Pletcher.

## RUTHLESS S.

Aqueduct, Saturday, January 31, Race 4  
7f (dirt), \$135,000, 3yo f, 1:38 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		Haunting Echoes	Echo Town	3/f	Angel R. Rodriguez	123	-	Bran Jam Stable and Clark, David W.
2		Midnite Ginny	Cloud Computing	3/f	Jose Lezcano	123	-	David N Heaton LLC
3		Interstatelovesong	Bolt d'Oro	3/f	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	123	-	Titletown Racing Stables
4		Shilling	Global Campaign	3/f	Christopher Elliott	123	-	Fern Circle Stables
5		Ivy Girl	Maxfield	3/f	Jose Antonio Gomez	123	-	Lucky Hat Racing LLC
6		Two Bits	American Pharaoh	3/f	Jaime Rodriguez	123	-	EGL-One Racing
7		Courage On Tap	Tapiture	3/f	Luis M. Ocasio	123	-	Bran Jam Stable and Clark, David W.

**Breeders:** 1–Whitham Thoroughbreds, LLC; 2–Green Lantern Stables, LLC; 3–Titletown Racing Stables (Paul Farr); 4–Joe B. Mulholland Jr. & John P. Mulholland; 5–Farfellow Farms Ltd.; 6–Don Alberto Corporation; 7–Horseshoe Valley Equine Center, LLC.

**Trainers:** 1–Louis C. Linder, Jr.; 2–Jose Lozano Sanchez; 3–Thomas Morley; 4–Kenneth G. McPeek; 5–Amelia J. Green; 6–Amelia J. Green; 7–Louis C. Linder, Jr..

## LADIES S.

Aqueduct, Saturday, January 31, Race 6  
9f (dirt), \$135,000, 4yo/up f/m, 2:38 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		Bernietakescharge	Take Charge Indy	5/m	Ruben Silvera	123	-	Rosenthal, Robert D. and Bernstein, Bradford H.
2		Low Country Magic	Good Magic	5/m	Jaime Rodriguez	119	-	Haymarket Farm LLC
3		Ourdaydreaminggirl	Instagrand	4/f	Angel R. Rodriguez	119	-	Bran Jam Stable and Clark, David W.
4		Scalable	Speightstown	5/m	Kendrick Carmouche	123	-	Repole Stable
5		Weigh the Risks	Mendelssohn	5/m	Manuel Franco	123	-	Klaravich Stables, Inc.
6		Just Katherine	Justify	6/m	Sahin Civaci	121	-	R.T Racing Stable
7		Curlin's Girl	Curlin	5/m	Flavien Prat	121	-	Team Spoor
8		Tipple	Constitution	5/m	Jose Lezcano	119	-	Summer Wind Equine LLC

**Breeders:** 1–Robert D. Rosenthal & Bradford Bernstein; 2–Haymarket Farm LLC; 3–Pippa's Hurricane; 4–Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings LLC; 5–Porta Pia Stables LLC; 6–Boyd Brooks, Louis Brooks Ranch Limited Partnership, Hugh Owen, et; 7–Blue Heaven Farm; 8–Summer Wind Equine LLC.

**Trainers:** 1–Domenick L. Schettino; 2–Horacio De Paz; 3–Louis C. Linder, Jr.; 4–Todd A. Pletcher; 5–Chad C. Brown; 6–Jose M. Jimenez; 7–Linda Rice; 8–Linda Rice.



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## UPCOMING ENTRIES

### WITHERS S.

Aqueduct, Saturday, January 31, Race 9

9f (dirt), \$200,000, 3yo, 4:08 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		Schoolyardsuperman	Practical Joke	3/c	Manuel Franco	123	-	Hit The Bid Racing Stable and CMNWLT
2		Fourth and One	Maxfield	3/g	Jaime Rodriguez	123	-	Stony Pointe Stables
3		Project Ace	War of Will	3/c	Corey J. Lanerie	123	-	Albaugh Family Stables, LLC
4		Talk to Me Jimmy	Modernist	3/c	Ruben Silvera	123	-	SEI Thoroughbreds and Rodriguez, Rudy R.
5		Mailata	Maximus Mischief	3/c	Mychel J. Sanchez	123	-	Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC
6		Ottinho	Quality Road	3/c	Flavien Prat	123	-	Three Chimneys Farm LLC (Goncalo B. Torrealba)
7		Grittiness	Curlin	3/c	Ricardo Santana, Jr.	123	-	Repole Stable
8		Star Sweeper	Rock Your World	3/c	Angel R. Rodriguez	123	-	Bran Jam Stable and Clark, David W.

**Breeders:** 1–Woods Edge Farm, LLC; 2–Chesapeake Farm & Rockridge Stud LLC, Tamie Semler, John McConnell; 3–Spruce Lane Farm; 4–Majestic View Farms Intl.; 5–Cash Is King LLC & LC Racing Stable LLC; 6–Three Chimneys Farm, LLC; 7–WinStar Farm, LLC; 8–Tami D. Bobo.

**Trainers:** 1–Chad C. Brown; 2–Jeremiah C. Englehart; 3–Dale L. Romans; 4–Rudy R. Rodriguez; 5–Robert E. Reid, Jr.; 6–Chad C. Brown; 7–Todd A. Pletcher; 8–Louis C. Linder, Jr..



ANNE M. EBERRARDT