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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

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## IN TODAY'S EDITION

LA VERDAD RETIRED TO BREEDING SHED	2
GOFFS SET FOR WINTER MIXED SALE	3
SIRE CAPTAIN AL HAS BIG DAY	4
CA MOVES AHEAD WITH FANTASY SPORTS	4
BOB BARRY: BREAKING WITH HISTORY	5
RESULTS	6
ENTRIES	7
LEADING LISTS	8



LOUISE REINAGEL

Awesome of Course, who stands at Ocala Stud, has greatly rewarded Fred Brei's Jacks or Better Farm in Florida

## AWESOME OF COURSE MAKES HIS MARK

By Ron Mitchell

Fred Brei has built his Jacks or Better Farm program around homebred stallion Awesome of Course, and the owner was rewarded handsomely on the Jan. 30 Gulfstream card when sons Awesome Banner won the Swale Stakes (gr. II) and Fellowship finished third in the Holy Bull Stakes (gr. I).

Both races are stepping-stones to the Kentucky Derby (gr. I).

"At this point it seems as if (Awesome Banner) is for real, but we'll find out in the next 30 days," Brei said. "We're just hoping they stay in one piece."

A multiple stakes-winning son of Awesome Again, Awesome of Course has sired nine stakes winners, including champion Awesome Feather, all of whom are Jacks or Better homebreds trained by Stanley Gold.

Brei said Awesome of Course, who stands at Ocala Stud for a 2016 fee of \$5,000, consistently throws offspring that stand about 15.3-16.1 hands once they are age 3, a size the owner prefers. "For me, the ideal size is 16 hands, and I breed for that." **BH**

# TRAPPE SHOT

Graded Stakes Winner by **TAPIT**

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**Miss Meteor:** Won MSW at Gulfstream

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COGLIANESE PHOTOS

La Verdad, the 2015 champion female sprinter, won the Interborough Stakes Jan. 9 at Aqueduct in what was the final race of her career

## LA VERDAD RETIRED TO BREEDING SHED

By Evan Hammonds

With only one dance left on her card, Lady Sheila Stable's La Verdad was retired the weekend of Jan. 30-31 and shipped to Gainsborough Farm in Kentucky to be bred to Medaglia d'Oro.

After the 6-year-old mare won the Jan. 9 Interborough Stakes at Aqueduct and was named 2015 champion female sprinter at the Jan. 16 Eclipse Awards, trainer Linda Rice and owner Sheila Rosenblum decided she should go out on top. Bred by Mark Vondrasek's Eklektikos Stable, La Verdad was purchased privately by Rosenblum after her first four 2013 starts.

The New York-bred filly by Yes It's True—Noble Fire, by Hook and Ladder, went 16-3-0 in 25 starts, earning \$1,563,200. She dominated the one-turn female division in New York for two years, gracefully stepping between graded and state-bred competition.

She had been slated to take her final bow in Laurel Park's Feb. 13 Barbara Fritchie Stakes (gr. II). Rice and Rosenblum will send a worthy replacement for the seven-furlong sprint: La Verdad's grade III-winning half sister, Hot City Girl (City Zip). **BH**

### Contact us

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**Blood-Horse**

## LATEST HEADLINES FROM BLOODHORSE.COM

### THE PICKETT FACTOR HEADS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES

Melissa Cantacuzene's The Pickett Factor, winner of the Louisiana Classic Stakes in his last start, returns to action Feb. 6 for the \$200,000 Louisiana-bred Premier Night Championship Stakes at Delta Downs.

### SPECIAL STAKES DAYS HIGHLIGHT NYRA

**CALENDAR** The Belmont Stakes Racing Festival and Stars and Stripes Day during the spring/summer meet at Belmont Park and the Whitney and Travers Stakes days at Saratoga Race Course highlight the NYRA stakes calendar.

### NATIONAL HBPA SETS CONVENTION AGENDA

Medication, legislation, aftercare, and the importance of media awareness are among the topics to be discussed during the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association winter convention Feb. 3-7 in Florida.

### MANFUSO BEAMING OVER CATHRYN SOPHIA

Bob Manfuso, breeder of Maryland-bred Cathryn Sophia, believes the filly can move forward off her scintillating score in the Jan. 30 Forward Gal Stakes (gr. II).

### ELMORE TO RETIRE FROM CENTAUR RACING

Brian Elmore, who oversees racing operations at Hoosier Park Racing & Casino and Indiana Grand Racing & Casino, is to retire Feb. 26 from Centaur Gaming, which operates the two Indiana racetracks.

### ROME'S ADDRESS ON OWNERSHIP PROVES

**POPULAR** The keynote address by radio personality and horse owner Jim Rome at OwnerView's Thoroughbred Owner Conference has been downloaded more than 4,000 times since it was delivered at Gulfstream Park Jan. 13.

### MEET OF FIRSTS CONTINUES AT TURFWAY

**PARK** A meet of firsts continued at Turfway Park Jan. 31 when Brett Santangelo won his first race as a trainer. Earlier in the meet two trainer-owner teams won their first stakes.



## GOFFS SET FOR WINTER MIXED SALE

By Clive Webb-Carter

The dam of last year's Racing Post Trophy (Eng-I) winner Marcel heads the entries for Goffs' mid-winter sale Feb. 10-11.

Consigned by Oghill House Stud, Mauresmo, in foal to Lawman, is carrying a full sibling to Marcel. The 12-year-old daughter of Marju is out of an Alleged half sister to multiple grade I winner Annoconnor.

Godolphin will offer the Shamardal filly Umniyah, a sister to dual group winner Dubai Prince. She is also out of a half sister to a multiple group/grade I winner Storming Home.

At the 2015 Goffs February sale, 330 lots grossed €5,350,500 (\$6,064,792) for an average of €16,214 (\$18,379). The sale-topper was the Oasis Dream mare Dreaming of Rubies, consigned

by Newtown Stud and purchased by BBA Ireland for €220,000 (\$249,370).

This year 538 lots, with both flat and National Hunt pedigrees, are cataloged. The first day will be dedicated to short yearlings, followed by older horses and breeding stock on the second day. **BH**



COURTESY OF GOFFS

Goffs in Ireland will conduct its winter auction Feb. 10-11

# TAPIZAR

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## SIRE CAPTAIN AL HAS BIG DAY

By Sarah Whitelaw

**K**lawervlei Stud's reigning champion sire Captain Al enjoyed an excellent day at Kenilworth Jan. 30 with three winners on a 12-race program.

The highlight for the seven-time champion sire of 2-year-olds—over the past seven years—was the 2-year-old colt Sergeant Hardy, an impressive winner of the Summer Juvenile Stakes. Sergeant Hardy, owned and bred by Veronica Foulkes, is now two-for-two and continues the remarkable run enjoyed by his sire in juvenile races this season.

As of Jan. 31 Captain Al had four 2-year-old runners, including Sergeant Hardy, and all four have won on debut. Another is the 2.2 million rand (\$191,180) purchase Cloth of Cloud who appears to have plenty of talent, having recently won his debut by six lengths.



COURTESY OF KLAVERVLEI STUD

The stallion Captain Al continued to show his impact on South African racing with another big day Jan. 30 at Kenilworth

The veteran sire's good form continued in the Jan. 30 grade I races. His daughter Carry On Alice finished third in the Cape Flying Championship for the second year in a row while his son Captain America finished third in the J&B Met. **BH**

## CA MOVES AHEAD WITH FANTASY SPORTS

By Tom LaMarra

**C**alifornia legislation regulating daily fantasy sports is in state Senate committee hands after the full Assembly, in a lopsided vote, passed the measure in late January.

DFS, a \$4 billion industry last year, according to estimates, has been ruled illegal in several states even though it won a carve-out in the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act. But unlike interstate pari-mutuel wagering, fantasy games aren't regulated under federal or state law.

The bill would create the Internet Fantasy Sports Games Consumer Protection Act, put in place a licensing process, and charge operators licensing fees. Under the bill's general language, a regulated gambling business such as a racing association would have no problem getting a license.

In December the California Horse Racing Board discussed the issue from the perspective of enticing DFS players to try pari-mutuel horse racing. Officials noted, however, that average pari-mutuel takeout rates are dou-

ble the 9%-10% taken by DFS operators.

Meanwhile, according to published reports, Vantiv Entertainment Solutions, which processes transactions for daily fantasy operators, said effective Feb. 29 it wouldn't do so, given legal uncertainty in the U.S. Major operators include DraftKings and FanDuel. **BH**



DAVE HARMON

DraftKings, which in 2015 was presenting title sponsor of the Belmont Stakes, is a major daily fantasy sports operator



# RACING COMMENTARY

with Bob Barry

## BREAKING WITH HISTORY

It's rare enough when a single philosophical observation endures for more than a century, and rarer still when it becomes so popular that its mere utterance risks falling to the level of cliché. Yet George Santayana's "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" has somehow managed that trick.

It's a tidy aphorism with the ring of truth, but here's what I don't get. American Thoroughbred racing is thickly populated with people who remember the past as if it were yesterday. Why must they be condemned to sit idly by while racing's recent history keeps repeating itself?

A few days ago Jay Hovdey of *Daily Racing Form* wrote a sobering column about the tenuous future of the Safeguard American Foods Export Act, which would essentially outlaw the interstate transporting of horses to Canada or Mexico for their eventual slaughter. Like the Barr-Tonko Bill that would establish uniform medication and testing protocols for American racing, the SAFE act is currently "in committee"—that necessary legislative process where good policies go to die. The chances that either of these equine-friendly measures could pass Congress during this election year seem shaky at best. The parlay on both is a sucker's play.

It's easy and convenient to blame at least some of racing's troubles on a spectacularly unpopular Congress. Yet while the SAFE Act and Barr-Tonko languished, Congress somehow found the time to renew favorable depreciation policies for owners of racehorses. Obviously, politicians would rather vote on a bill named the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act than give

a horse an oat or a horseplayer an even break. But you'd think that—with a little nudging—they, as ostensibly public servants, could manage all three.

Today's political season seems to be sending citizens either to gated communities or for their torches and pitchforks. But it wasn't that long ago when tough times would only send people to the movies for some escapist fantasy.

It was the early days of the Clinton administration when Harold Ramis' *Groundhog Day* hit your local cinema, with Bill Murray playing a meteorologist trapped in an early February time warp in Punxsutawney, Pa. Not to spoil the story, but when Murray's character is condemned to repeat a miserable day over and over again, salvation arrives only when the smug and grumpy meteorologist learns how to make that day better for everyone.

Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, should be a wonderful day for racing fans, with an entire season stretching ahead of us. Meanwhile, American Thoroughbred racing history needs to be made, not repeated. As Bill Murray said at the 2015 Haskell Invitational: "Gentlemen, we are burning daylight. Riders up!" **BH**



Congress is in the mix when it comes to issues that greatly impact racing and the horse



## RACE RESULTS

WATCH RACE REPLAYS OF NORTH AMERICAN RACES BY CLICKING ON THE RACE NAME

## ALLOWANCE RESULTS

### Laurel Park, Race 7, AOC


2/1, \$47,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 8f (dirt), 1:41.37, track good.  
1—**Blisstikus**, 120, b m, 6, **Luftikus**—Prospector's Bliss, by Personal Flag, \$26,790, O—William B. Bayne, Jr., B—James W. Casey (WV), T—William A. Campbell, J—J. D. Acosta  
**Margin:** 1/2, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

### Sam Houston Race Park, Race 4, ALW

2/1, \$21,000, 3yo, 7f (dirt), 1:24.32, track fast.  
1—**Moyahua** (MEX), 117, dk b/br c, 3, Famous Again—Marthas Gift (MEX), by Discover, \$12,420, O—Pozo de Luna, Inc., B—Rancho Pozo de Luna (MEX), T—Kari Craddock, J—De-shawn L. Parker  
**Margin:** 4/4, 8 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

## MAIDEN RESULTS

### Laurel Park, Race 6, MSW

2/1, \$40,000, 3yo, 8f (dirt), 1:43.20, track good.  
1—**Gwynn Oak Park** , 122, b c, 3, **Candy Ride** (ARG)—Maxine's Hymn, by Seeking the Gold, \$22,800, O—Meyerhoff, Harry C. and Tom O., B—W. S. Farish & E.J. Hudson, Jr. Irrevocable Trust (KY), T—Michael J. Trombetta, J—Victor R. Carrasco  
**Sale History:** 2014 KEESEP, \$90,000.



**Margin:** 2, 8 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

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## UPCOMING ENTRIES

### MARDI GRAS S.

Fair Grounds, Tuesday, February 9, Race 9

a5.5f (turf), \$60,000, 4yo/up f/m, 4:26 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		Pleasant Tales	Tale of Ekati	4/f	Colby J. Hernandez	121	-	Charles E. Fipke
2		Warriorscrountoplay 	Warrior's Reward	4/f	Jamie Theriot	117	-	Feel The Thunder Stable (Martin Nixon)
3		I'm a Looker	Henny Hughes	4/f	James Graham	117	-	Chester J. Miller
4		Leigh Court	Grand Slam	6/m	Florent Geroux	117	-	Speedway Stable, LLC (Peter Fluor)
5		Adrienne G 	Indygo Shiner	5/m	Richard E. Eramia	121	-	Thomas Galvin
6		Mizz Money	Mizzen Mast	4/f	Jesus Lopez Castanon	117	-	L. T. B., Inc. & Hillerich Racing, LLC (Terri & Bernard S. Flint)(Ron Hillerich)
7		Eden Prairie 	Mizzen Mast	6/m	Brian Joseph Hernandez, Jr.	117	-	Lothenbach Stables, Inc. (Robert J. Lothenbach)
8		Prayed For	Dynaformer	5/m	Francisco C. Torres	117	-	Ben P. Walden, Jr.
9		Sugar Sweet 	Mr. Greeley	5/m	Jose Valdivia, Jr.	117	-	Louie Roussel, III
10		Angie's Prim Lady	With Distinction	5/m	Robby Albarado	117	-	Keith J. Davis
11		Run Zippy Run 	City Zip	4/f	Miguel Mena	119	-	Dixiana Stables, Inc. (William Shively)
12		Lindisfarne 	City Zip	4/f	Shaun Bridgmohan	117	-	KMN Racing, LLC (Kevin Nish)
13		Stoupinator 	Stormy Atlantic	6/m	Marcelino Pedroza	117	-	Novogratz Racing Stables (Joseph F. Novogratz)
14		Tipthetrolleygirl	Put It Back	6/m	Kerwin D. Clark	117	-	Roy Investments, LLC (Scotty & Belinda Roy)
15		Late Spring	Speightstown	4/f	Patrick A. Valenzuela	117	-	G. Watts Humphrey, Jr. & St. George Farm Racing, LLC (Ian Banwell)

**Breeders:** 1—Charles Fipke; 2—T/C Stable, LLC; 3—Emilie Gerlinde Fojan & Bona Terra Stud LLC; 4—Eugene Melnyk; 5—Mike G. Rutherford; 6—Bernie Flint, Ron Hillerich & LTB Inc.; 7—Dorothy A. Matz; 8—B.P. Walden Jr. & H. Sexston; 9—Cornerstone Thoroughbreds Llc; 10—Janet Erwin; 11—John A Witte; 12—Donald R. Dizney; 13—Margaret M. Crane & The Stormy Atlantic Syndicate; 14—Stonecliff Farm; 15—G. Watts Humphrey & St. George Farm Racing, LLC.

**Trainers:** 1—Dallas Stewart; 2—Michael Stidham; 3—Patrick J. Dupuy; 4—Michael Stidham; 5—W. Bret Calhoun; 6—Bernard S. Flint; 7—Neil L. Pessin; 8—Alice G. Cohn; 9—Louie J. Roussel, III; 10—Edward J. Johnston; 11—Albert M. Stall, Jr.; 12—Steven M. Asmussen; 13—Hugh H. Robertson; 14—Velton Vidrine; 15—Victoria H. Oliver.

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## 2016 LEADING SIRES

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through January 31, 2016. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2016 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'16 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Tapit	Pulpit, '01	\$300,000	Gainesway, KY	Mohaymen (\$214,830)	\$825,113
2	Candy Ride (ARG)	Ride the Rails, '99	\$60,000	Lane's End, KY	Chocolate Ride (\$75,000)	\$725,903
3	Congrats	A.P. Indy, '00	\$20,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	Forever Darling (\$120,000)	\$699,496
4	Bernardini	A.P. Indy, '03	\$100,000	Darley, KY	Le Bernardin (\$150,310)	\$692,783
5	More Than Ready	Southern Halo, '97	\$50,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	More Aspen (\$90,000)	\$654,343
6	Giant's Causeway	Storm Cat, '97	\$85,000	Ashford Stud, KY	Roicead (\$75,300)	\$567,170
7	Unbridled's Song	Unbridled, '93	Died	N/A	Forever Unbridled (\$240,000)	\$564,592
8	Flatter	A.P. Indy, '99	\$30,000	Claiborne Farm, KY	Taris (\$120,000)	\$562,190
9	Scat Daddy	Johannesburg, '04	Died	Ashford Stud, KY	Scatoosh (\$56,000)	\$525,400
10	Street Cry (IRE)	Machiavellian, '98	Died	N/A	Cali Star (\$80,000)	\$498,417

## 2016 THIRD-CROP SIRES

Listed below are the top 10 leading third-crop sires by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through January 31, 2016. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2016 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'16 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Quality Road	Elusive Quality, '06	\$35,000	Lane's End, KY	Frank Conversation (\$60,000)	\$340,598
2	Munnings	Speightstown, '06	\$25,000	Ashford Stud, KY	King Kranz (\$80,000)	\$312,889
3	Kantharos	Lion Heart, '08	\$5,000	Ocala Stud Farm, FL	X Y Jet (\$90,210)	\$296,150
4	Super Saver	Maria's Mon, '07	\$65,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	Alabama Tide (\$40,800)	\$258,111
5	Warrior's Reward	Medaglia d'Oro, '06	\$10,000	Spendthrift Farm, KY	Yockey's Warrior (\$42,000)	\$242,974
6	Blame	Arch, '06	\$25,000	Claiborne Farm, KY	Can't Be Dazzled (\$40,800)	\$240,147
7	Lookin At Lucky	Smart Strike, '07	\$20,000	Ashford Stud, KY	Dolphus (\$25,830)	\$220,229
8	Temple City	Dynaformer, '05	\$15,000	Spendthrift Farm, KY	Pricedtoperfection (\$76,660)	\$213,239
9	Majesticperfection	Harlan's Holiday, '06	\$20,000	Airdrie Stud, KY	Majestic Affair (\$75,000)	\$210,018
10	Eskendereya	Giant's Causeway, '07	N/A	JBBA Shizunai Stallion Station, JPN	Frosty Friday (\$27,000)	\$206,588

## 2016 TURF SIRES

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires by 2016 North American turf earnings through January 31, 2016. Only stallions that have at least one turf runner in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2016 North American only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'16 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Turf Earnings	% Total Earnings
1	Unusual Heat	Nureyev, '90	\$20,000	Harris Farms, CA	Pacific Heat (\$110,000)	\$268,400	56%
2	Kitten's Joy	El Prado, '01	\$100,000	Ramsey Farm, Inc., KY	Charming Kitten (\$60,760)	\$241,151	63%
3	Vronsky	Danzig, '99	\$6,500	Old English Rancho, CA	What a View (\$137,500)	\$234,110	82%
4	More Than Ready	Southern Halo, '97	\$50,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	Life Imitates Art (\$61,870)	\$216,425	45%
5	Lemon Drop Kid	Kingmambo, '96	\$40,000	Lane's End, KY	Da Big Hoss (\$120,000)	\$189,732	54%
6	Giant's Causeway	Storm Cat, '97	\$85,000	Ashford Stud, KY	Lira (\$58,900)	\$181,652	44%
7	City Zip	Carson City, '98	\$40,000	Lane's End, KY	Alert Bay (\$47,500)	\$168,635	36%
8	English Channel	Smart Strike, '02	\$25,000	Calumet Farm, KY	Heart to Heart (\$119,040)	\$153,980	81%
9	Harlan's Holiday	Harlan, '99	Died	N/A	J R 's Holiday (\$61,380)	\$149,020	33%
10	Sky Mesa	Pulpit, '00	\$20,000	Three Chimneys Farm, KY	Diplodocus (\$34,760)	\$121,535	36%