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UNDER THE GUN FAIR GROUNDS QUARANTINE PUTS GUN RUNNER'S PEGASUS START IN JEOPARDY

See page 3

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GUN RUNNER'S PEGASUS START IN JEOPARDY

By Alicia Wincze-Hughes

[@BH_AHughes](#)

The good news for fans of grade 1 winner Gun Runner is that the son of Candy Ride is officially targeting the \$12 million Pegasus World Cup Invitational (G1), Winchell Thoroughbreds manager David Fiske confirmed Jan. 3.

The bad news is that logistics, not form, are the biggest threat to the chestnut colt's potential participation in the world's richest test at Gulfstream Park Jan. 28.

Since his breakout victory over older foes in the Nov. 25 Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (G1) at Churchill Downs, Gun Runner has been at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots with trainer Steve Asmussen's string, preparing for his 4-year-old debut. With the entire Fair Grounds backstretch currently under quarantine due to an EHV-1 outbreak, no horses are permitted to ship in or out of the track—an issue that could complicate both potential deals with shareholders to get Gun Runner into the Pegasus and his ability to arrive in South Florida in time for the race.

Winchell Thoroughbreds and Three Chimneys Farm, which own Gun Runner in partnership, currently do not own one of the 12 buy-in slots for the Pegasus World Cup.

"We're just kind of monitoring the quarantine as it seems to change day by day," Fiske said. "We keep getting inquiries and proposals from (Pegasus) gate

owners but they're all aware of the situation now, too, so they're kind of apprehensive. I just talked to Steve a little while ago trying to get a sense of when our drop dead date (for the Pegasus) would be, but I'm not sure we've gotten there yet.

"We're still preparing him like he's going to go. Unless some state vet or someone tells us we're not going, we're kind of thinking that we are. If the quarantine thing works out and if we can work out a deal with somebody that makes some sense—which is a lot harder than you would think—he'll go. But there are a lot of question marks still."

The only thing Gun Runner's connections can control regarding the Fair Grounds situation is making sure the chestnut runner is ready when and if they get the go-ahead to leave New Orleans. To that end, he has turned in two works since his Clark win, with his return to the tab coming Dec. 24 and his most recent move being a five-furlong drill in 1:00 4/5 Dec. 31.

"That's why he's working. If he wasn't going to Miami, he would just be spinning his wheels," Fiske said. "But he's doing great. So, we're just kind of treading water,



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Gun Runner's last race was his 2 3/4-length score in the Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare

monitoring the situation and hoping we can make a deal and, if we do, hoping we can get out of town."

Bred by Besilu Stables, Gun Runner comes into 2017 off a consistent sophomore campaign that saw him emerge as the iron horse of the 3-year-old male division. In addition to his Clark victory, Gun Runner notched wins in the Veterans Ford Risen Star Stakes (G2) and Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby (G2) en route to finishing third in the 2016 Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1).

Where all last year's classic winners ended up retired prior the 2016 Breeders' Cup World Championships, Gun Runner showed up to run second in the Las Vegas Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) before capturing the Clark by 2 3/4 lengths for his first grade 1 score in 12 career starts. **BH**

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A colt out of the Tizway mare Kakadu is the first reported foal by 2015 Triple Crown winner American Pharoah

IT'S A BOY! AMERICAN PHAROAH'S FIRST FOAL ARRIVES

By Alicia Wincze-Hughes

[@BH_AHughes](#)

The first reported foal by 2015 Triple Crown winner American Pharoah was born at Brookdale Farm Jan. 3.

Delivered at 12:30 a.m., the bay colt is the first foal out of the Tizway mare Kakadu, a half sister to multiple grade stakes winner Protonico. The mare is from the immediate female family of Chilean champion and grade 1 winner Wild Spirit.

"It's very exciting," said Brookdale's Fred Seitz Jr. "For a first foal, he's a very nice, very attractive type. Personality wise, I think he seems like he's going to take after his dad with that mellow-type personality. Most babies are kind of skittish and want to run around behind their mother but he's not that type. You walk in the stall and he comes right up to you and starts chewing on your hand. He seems to be real bold and have that fun personality.

"He's what you look for if you're breeding Thoroughbreds, I think."

Kakadu is owned by Oussama Aboughazale's International Equities Holding Co.

"The owner has the whole family," Seitz said. "We regard this as a very nice, up-and-coming family."

A decision has not yet been made on who the mare will go to in 2017.

American Pharoah stood his first season at Coolmore's Ashford Stud in 2016 for an advertised fee of \$200,000. His fee is private for 2017. **BH**

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DETERMINED RAMSEYS LEAD ALL OWNERS IN 2016

By Eric Mitchell

[@BH_EMitchell](#)

Ken Ramsey left nothing to chance heading into the new year. As of Dec. 28, he and his wife Sarah were the leading North American owners by money won, and he intended to remain at the top.

As insurance Ramsey entered four horses in four stakes Dec. 31, one at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots and three at Gulfstream Park. He also had another nine entered in other races Dec. 30-31 at Fair Grounds, Gulfstream, and Turfway Park.

By the close of 2016, the Ramseys had three more winners, finished second five times, and had one third-place runner. They added \$56,080 to their bankroll and remained the leading owners of 2016 ahead of Juddmonte Farms with \$7,458,736 in purses. They won 131 races out of 641 starts, giving them a 20% win rate for the year. Their horses placed 198 times, which gives them a win-place-show rate of 51%.

Homebred Camelot Kitten was the star of the stable for 2016, winning four graded stakes. He is the chief earner of the year (\$868,865) for the Ramseys' homebred stallion, Kitten's Joy. The Ramseys' other black-type stakes winners for the year include grade 1 winner Al's Gal; grade 3 winners Oscar Nominated and Smokem Kitten; Bobby's Kitten, Charming Kitten, Granny's Kitten, International Star, Keystoneforvictory, Kitten's Cat, Shining Copper, Sir Dudley Digges, Strike Up the Band, and Watchyourownbobber. **BH**

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Ken and Sarah Ramsey have won Eclipse Awards as leading owner three times

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LATEST HEADLINES FROM BLOODHORSE.COM

'KING OF THE FAIRS' FIGUEROA DIES AT AGE 88 Carlos R. Figueroa, a longtime New England trainer and the self-styled "King of the Fairs," passed away Jan. 3 in New Hampshire from complications of pneumonia. He was 88.

FIRST REPORTED CARPE DIEM FOAL IS A COLT WinStar Farm's Carpe Diem, a grade 1 winner at both 2 and 3, sired his first reported foal on New Year's Day when a colt was born Sunday at Ocala Stud in Ocala, Fla.

NBC EARNS 13TH MEDIA ECLIPSE AWARD FOR LIVE TELEVISION NBC Sports has won the Media Eclipse Award for Television—Live Racing Programming for its broadcast of the 2016 Breeders' Cup Classic (G1), featuring the dramatic duel between Arrogate and California Chrome.

ESPN WINS MEDIA ECLIPSE AWARD FOR FEATURE PROGRAMMING ESPN has won the Media Eclipse Award for Television—Feature Programming for its news magazine program E:60 feature "Barnyard Buddies," on the unusual relationships between racehorses and stable companion animals. The program aired May 3, 2016.

DRF SECURES MEDIA ECLIPSE AWARD IN AUDIO/MULTI-MEDIA "Time Bandits" profiled the remarkable longevity of Hall of Fame Jockeys Alex Solis, Mike Smith and Gary Stevens.

PRAIRIE MEADOWS TO OPEN THOROUGHbred SEASON APRIL 27 The Iowa Racing & Gaming Commission has approved Prairie Meadows 28th season of live horse racing at its one-mile oval track, located just outside of Des Moines.

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CASSE'S FINGERS CROSSED FOR VALADORNA AT FAIR GROUNDS

By Alicia Wincze-Hughes

[@BH_AHughes](#)

Trainer Mark Casse is knocking wood that 14 Hands Winery Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (G1) runner-up Valadorna remains unaffected by the EHV-1 outbreak at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots.

The current quarantine shouldn't impact Stonestreet Stables' daughter of Curlin, prepping at the Louisiana track in hopes of a Longines Kentucky Oaks (G1) run. Valadorna returned to the worktab Dec. 29, covering four furlongs in :48 2/5, with another breeze slated this week as Casse decides on a race for her seasonal bow.

"She's getting close," the trainer said. "My hope is to run her a couple times probably and obviously we want to win the Oaks so we're working on that. Of course you're worried (about the outbreak). You don't want them getting sick. But...we're keeping an extra close eye on everything and keeping our fingers crossed."

Casse's other leading Kentucky Oaks hopeful, grade



Valadorna (yellow cap) missed the 14 Hands Winery Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies by three-quarters of a length to Champagne Room (inside)

1 winner Pretty City Dancer, is also gearing up for her 3-year-old debut, which could be the Feb. 4 Forward Gal (G2) at Gulfstream Park. The Tapit filly covered four furlongs in :48.75 at Palm Meadows Training Center Dec. 31 "the best I've ever seen her breeze," Casse said. He added Tepin, likely to win her second Eclipse Award as champion turf female, and Classic Empire, heavy favorite for champion 2-year-old male, could both turn in their first breezes of 2017 this weekend. **BH**

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JAPAN-BASED HORSES ELIGIBLE FOR \$1M BELMONT BONUS

By BloodHorse Staff

The New York Racing Association has announced a \$1 million bonus to any Japan-based Thoroughbred who competes in and wins the 149th running of the \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes (G1) June 10 at Belmont Park.

The entire \$1 million bonus would be awarded to the winning horse's connections in addition to the \$800,000 winner's share of the purse for the 1 1/2-mile "Test of the Champion," the last and longest leg of the United States' Triple Crown. In the event of a dead-heat for the win, the bonus will be \$600,000.

In 2016, Koji Maeda's Lani became the first Japan-based horse to contest all three Triple Crown events. He ran ninth in the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1), fifth in the Preakness Stakes (G1), and third in the Belmont Stakes Presented by NYRA Bets. Maeda's Sunday Break also hit the board for Japan in the Belmont, running third in 2002.

Since a 2015 law change that allows Japan to simulcast a limited number of international races each year, Japan took simulcast wagering on a race from the U.S. for the first time in the 2016 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (G1T), which featured Japanese-bred multiple graded stakes winner Nuovo Record. Japanese horseplayers wagered approximately \$7.68 million on the single race, according to figures reported by the

BloodHorse, despite the race being run locally at 4:43 a.m. on a Sunday morning.

Japanese racing fans also wagered close to \$40 million on the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) from Chantilly Racecourse, Japan's first imported simulcast race after the new law went into effect.

"With Japan opening their simulcast markets to the world on a limited basis, we believe this has the potential for incredible growth for racing here in the U.S.," said Martin Panza, NYRA's senior vice president of racing operations. "In NYRA's talks with Japanese officials, they have conveyed to us that races with Japanese horses would be preferred for simulcasting.

"Japan has some of the most enthusiastic racing fans in the world and we've been working on this with Churchill Downs officials, who have implemented the 'Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby' this year, as a way to help attract these horses to the United States, enhancing the entire Triple Crown program."

To qualify for the bonus, a horse must have made at least three starts in Japan prior to starting in the Belmont Stakes and be nominated to the Triple Crown series. The deadline for early nominations for the Triple Crown is Jan. 14. Late nominations will be open through March 20.

Panza noted that ongoing efforts to attract Japanese horses could result in additional entries in prestigious New York races such as the grade 1 Belmont Derby and Oaks during the Stars & Stripes Racing Festival July 8, the Belmont Gold Cup Invitational (G3) June 9, and Metropolitan Handicap (G1) June 10, among others, during the spring/summer meet. NYRA will be adding traveling incentives to further entice Japanese horses for these races.

"The New York Racing Association is one of the few organizations in the U.S. that has the ability to offer racing on an international level," Panza said. "NYRA has done a good job of attracting European runners and now we will make a concerted effort to bring horses from Japan to both Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course. We look forward to working with the Japan Racing Association in these efforts." **BH**



SNIP DICKSTEIN

Japan-based Lani finished third in the 2016 Belmont Stakes Presented by NYRA Bets

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WINS OFTEN FOLLOWED STEROID TREATMENTS IN CA

By Frank Angst

[@BH_FAngst](#)

While it's a small sample size, horses reported to receive steroid administrations in 2016 in California who have come back to race fared very well in their first starts after those treatments, winning at about three times the normal rate.

Looking at the reported anabolic steroid administrations in 2016 in California, 16 times horses have raced after receiving one of those treatments (through Dec. 29). In the first start after one of those treatments those horses won six times, a 37.5% win rate. For 2015—the most recent full year available—the average win rate for all horses in California was 13.5%.

Three other times in those initial starts after a steroid treatment, horses earned placings. Combined with the wins, that's a 56.2% placing rate, also well above the norm of 40.5%. (The 56.2% counts Masochistic's runner-up finish in the TwinSpires Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1), although he has since been disqualified to last)

While it's a small sample size, the 37.5% win rate and 56.2% placing rate are particularly impressive considering that steroid administrations are called for when a horse is debilitated, anorexic, or anemic.

The average number of days between these 16 administrations and the first start after a treatment was 99 days. Horses who receive a reported steroid administration in California must wait at least 60 days before returning to racing.

In California in 2016 there were 44 reported anabolic steroid administrations to 35 Thoroughbreds by 15 trainers. All were placed on the vet's list. Anabolic steroid administrations can be identified as they are the only treatments for Thoroughbreds listed as: "medication-60 days."

Of those 35 horses who received at least one steroid administration reported to the California Horse Racing Board, 16 have come back to race, 14 are eligible to return but have not yet started, and five received the steroid administration in the past 60 days (through Dec. 29) and are currently ineligible to race.

Of course the interest in the administrations was sparked by Masochistic's positive for the synthetic anabolic steroid stanozolol following his runner-up



Frank Angst writes about industry issues on his Keeping Pace blog

finish in the Breeders' Cup Sprint. The race came 68 days after a reported Aug. 29 stanozolol treatment. It was the third time in 2016 that Masochistic received a steroid treatment.

The California Horse Racing Board publicly reports its vet's list, but interestingly enough, none of the three times Masochistic was placed on the vet's list in 2016 for anabolic steroid treatments is listed on the publicly posted information at the CHRB's web site. Masochistic is the most accomplished horse in 2016 to have a reported anabolic steroid treatment in California and his three reported treatments are tied for most in the state.

Observing this inconsistency on Dec. 30, I requested access to the full list of reported anabolic steroid treatments in 2016 in California and CHRB spokesman Mike Marten quickly responded with access to an InCompass program to generate the full list. Marten said the publicly available vet's list on the CHRB site is not as advanced as the InCompass program he provided.

I should note that Andy Asaro, an advocate for horseplayers, made the same information request Dec. 30. Asaro and other horseplayers active on social media have since called for such information to be listed in the racing program or in past performances.

Masochistic is trained by Ron Ellis, who accounted for seven of the 44 reported steroid administrations in California in 2016 through Dec. 29.

This column originally appeared on Frank Angst's Keeping Pace blog at BloodHorse.com. For additional background, including the full list of 2016 anabolic steroid treatments reported to the CHRB, click here to view the blog. **BH**

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GROWTH SPURT HELPED EL AREEB AS A YEARLING

By Evan Hammonds

[@BH_EHammonds](#)

El Areeb got 2017 off on the right foot with a resounding 11 1/4-length score in the Jan. 2 Jerome Stakes (G3) at Aqueduct Racetrack. After speaking with Terry Arnold, farm manager for Bill Shively's Dixiana Farm, one might find out why.

The Jerome winner was bred at Dixiana, just north of Lexington, and grew up under Arnold's watchful eye.

"I remember him pretty well. During the weaning process and into the winter he was just an average horse," Arnold said. "When spring hit he had a real growth spurt and while he was in the sales-prepping stage he just got better every day.

"He was one of those horses that when he got to the sale grounds, he just came into his own," he added. "He got a lot of looks, a lot of second looks, and had a lot of scopes."

Dixiana, with Lane's End as agent, sold El Areeb for \$100,000 during the seventh session of the 2015 Keeneland September yearling sale. Barry and Sheri Eisaman's Eisaman Equine made the purchase. Of the 32 Exchange Rate yearlings sold at the sale, El Areeb was the co-ninth highest price.



ROBERT MALIHAR/NYRA

El Areeb winning the Jerome Stakes by 11 1/4 lengths

Eisaman sold the colt to MMG Stables for \$340,000 at last year's Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s March sale.

The Jerome winner is trained by Cathal "Cal" Lynch, an Irishman who came to the U.S. in the mid 1990s. MMG Stables is also the listed owner of two-time stakes winner Never Gone South.

El Areeb is a son of the late Exchange Rate, who had to be euthanized at Three Chimneys Farm just prior to last year's breeding season. The son of Danzig has sired 76 stakes winners worldwide. A \$1.4 million Keeneland July sale yearling, Exchange Rate was a grade 2 winner and stood at owner Satish Sanan's Padua Stables in Florida prior to moving to Three Chimneys for the 2007 breeding season. He also shuttled to Argentina for three seasons.

El Areeb is out of the Sam-Son Farm-bred and –raced Feathered Diamond, a nine-furlong maiden winner in her eight career starts. She is a half sister to Dixieland Diamond, who took the Cup and Saucer Stakes and Coronation Futurity in Canada at 2. Her dam, Sometimesadiamond, is by Mr. Prospector out of Canadian stakes winner Tiffany Tam and is a half sister to Queen's Plate victor Regal Intention and Tiffany's Secret, who took the Canadian Oaks. The third dam, Loudrangle, won the Princess Elizabeth Stakes in Canada for Sam-Son, and is the dam of six stakes winners. Named Canada's broodmare of the year in 1986, her top offspring were Canada's 1986 horse of the year Ruling Angel, a 10-time stakes winner; Tilt My Halo, Canada's champion 3-year-old filly of 1988; and stakes winner Slew of Angels, who also ran second in the 1990 Tampa Bay Derby.

Purchased for \$385,000 at the 2008 Keeneland November sale by Shively's Woodland Farm while in foal to Corinthian, Feathered Diamond has "thrown some very attractive foals," according to Arnold. "With her pedigree—being by A.P. Indy—and female side she just needed one good runner."

Feathered Diamond was covered by Jimmy Creed for 2016 but failed to deliver a foal. Arnold noted Shively owns an interest in Morning Line, so Feathered Diamond was bred to him for 2017. **BH**

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ARROGATE IS TOP NORTH AMERICAN EARNER FOR 2016

By Alicia Wincze-Hughes

[@BH_AHughes](#)

In a microcosm of the expected race for Horse of the Year honors, Juddmonte Farms' Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Arrogate and champion California Chrome shared accolades as the leading Thoroughbreds by earnings for 2016 depending on criteria.

According to final statistics released Jan. 2 by Equibase Company, Arrogate led all Thoroughbreds in North American earnings in his sophomore season with a bankroll of \$4,084,600 bolstered by his victories in the \$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic and \$1.25 million Travers Stakes (G1). When including the results of the Dubai World Cup (G1) card at Meydan Racecourse last March, California Chrome is the leading earner with earnings of \$8,090,000.

California Chrome, whose other races this year for California Chrome LLC included victories in the TVG Pacific Classic (G1), Awesome Again Stakes (G1), and San Diego Handicap (G2), and a runner-up finish to Arrogate in the Breeders' Cup Classic, is also the all-time leading North American-based earner with total earnings of \$14,502,650, including Dubai World Cup earnings, and currently sixth all-time in worldwide earnings.

California Chrome, trained by Art Sherman, and Arrogate, conditioned by Bob Baffert, are scheduled to face each other again Jan. 28 in the inaugural edition of the \$12 million Pegasus World Cup (G1) at Gulfstream Park.

Completing the list of top 10 horses by North American earnings were Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) winner

Nyquist with \$3,575,600 in earnings, multiple grade 1 winner Exaggerator with \$2,598,000, champion Songbird with \$2,210,000, Longines Breeders' Cup Turf (G1T) winner Highland Reel at \$2,200,000, California Chrome (North American earnings) with \$2,090,000, Flintshire at \$2,000,000, Gun Runner at \$1,970,880, Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff (G1) heroine Beholder with \$1,720,000, and Breeders' Cup Mile (G1T) winner Tourist with \$1,633,750.

Puerto Rican-bred and based Betty Starlite was the top North American Thoroughbred based on victories with 12 wins in 2016. The 5-year-old daughter of Nite Light, who has won 20 of 43 career starts, earned her dozen victories from 23 starts last year for owner Establo Astroboy and trainer Jason Lisboa in the claiming ranks at Camarero and has career earnings of \$76,601.

Songbird is the only horse to rank in the top 20 for both earnings and wins, as she tied for 17th overall in North America by victories with seven triumphs from eight starts for Rick Porter's Fox Hill Farm and trainer Jerry Hollendorfer. **BH**

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SKIP DICKSTEIN

Arrogate and California Chrome are the North American leaders for earnings in 2016

SALLUSTO DISCUSSES SUPPLEMENT ROYAL INHERITANCE

By Ron Mitchell

[@BH_RMitchell](#)

Following Royal Inheritance's impressive maiden win last month at Aqueduct Racetrack, owner Joseph Bulger decided to sell the Regal Ransom filly.

The 3-year-old will be offered to the public after being supplemented to next week's Keeneland January horses of all ages sale. She is consigned by Blake-Albina as Hip 781A and is cataloged as the last horse in the ring during the sale's Dec. 10 second session.

Making her career debut in maiden special weight company restricted to New York-breds Dec. 4, Royal Inheritance outran her odds of nearly 17-1, leading every step of the way to win by 3 1/2 lengths while completing the six furlongs in 1:12.18.

Produced from the unraced Corinthian mare Grand Cocotte, Royal Inheritance was bred by Philip Birsh. Bought by Andrew Fernung for \$14,000 from the Warrendale Sales consignment at the 2015 Fasig-Tipton Kentucky October yearling sale, the filly was acquired by Nick Sallusto and Hanzly Albina for \$32,000 from the



COURTESY OF DARLEY

Darley's late Regal Ransom is the sire of Royal Inheritance

Randy Miles offerings at last year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale of 2-year-olds in training.

"Even from her first three-eighths breeze, everything has come easy for her," said Sallusto. "She is very straightforward. She grew considerably from the the time we bought her until now. David (Cannizzo) has been very patient in letting her develop into what she is. I think people will really appreciate her on the end of the shank." **BH**

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OUT OF THE GATE

Early Promise: Black Caviar's first foal, Oscieta (front), before finishing third upon debut on New Year's Day at Flemington.

RACING PHOTOS/SARAH EBBETT



To purchase Out of the Gate photos go to Photos.BloodHorse.com

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GIANT RUN, SQUADRON A EARN TOP SPEED FIGURES

By Frank Angst

[@BH_FAngst](#)

In a week that saw a change in the calendar year, Giant Run earned the week's top Equibase Speed Figure on the final day of 2016 while Squadron A matched that number, 117, a day later to open 2017.

Robert Baker and William Mack's Giant Run rallied from fourth to register a clear victory in the Tropical Park Derby Dec. 31 on the Gulfstream Park turf. The win in the 1 1/16-mile test on firm turf gave the Giant's Causeway colt the fourth stakes win of his 3-year-old season and the top ESF of his career, a 16-point improvement of his previous best earned in winning the Centaur Stakes Sept. 7 at Indiana Grand.



COLEMAN PHOTOS

Squadron A wins the Mr. Prospector Stakes under Corey Lanerie

Top 10 Equibase Speed Figures Since Dec. 27

E	Horse	Finish	Race, Track, Distance, Date
117	Giant Run	1	Tropical Park Derby, GP, 8.5fT, 12/31
117	Squadron A	1	Mr. Prospector S. (gr. III), GP, 6f, 1/1
116	Blue Wings	1	AOC, TP, 5.5f, 12/28
116	Send It In	1	Alex M. Robb S., AQU, 8.5f, 12/31
115	Many Roses	1	AOC, GG, 8.5fT, 1/1
115	Midnight Storm	1	San Pasqual S. (gr. II), SA, 8.5f, 1/1
115	Power Alert (AUS)	1	Turf Dash S., TAM, 5fT, 12/31
115	Solid Wager	1	Midnight Lute S. (gr. III), SA, 6.5f, 12/31
115	St. Joe Bay	1	Midnight Lute S. (gr. III), SA, 6.5f, 12/31
115	Oscar Nominated	2	Tropical Park Derby, GP, 8.5fT, 12/31
115	Two Step Time	3	Tropical Park Derby, GP, 8.5fT, 12/31

Carolyn Vogel's Squadron A also registered his top number at Gulfstream, but his 117 came sprinting on the main track. The son of Unbridled's Song rallied from sixth for a clear victory in the Mr. Prospector Stakes (G3).

Trained by Dale Romans, Squadron A earned the top ESF of his career in the Mr. Prospector, an 8-point improvement from a 109 he earned in a runner-up finish in an allowance-optional claiming race in January 2016 at Gulfstream. Romans and jockey Corey Lanerie both thought the race might set up for Squadron A's late run.

"Looking at the form it looked like everybody in the race wanted to be in the front or right there. There was a lot of speed in there," Lanerie said. "I was hoping to find a good spot and to close into it." **BH**

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EL AREEB IMPRESSES FOR EXCHANGE RATE

By Alan Porter

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The Jerome Stakes (G3) is one of North American racing's most venerable events. First contested in 1866 at Jerome Park Racetrack in the Bronx, it's been captured by a litany of notables, among them Fair Play—sire of Man o'War—five time Horse of the Year Kelso, Tom Fool, and Bold Ruler. The Jerome has also fallen to a quartet of Kentucky Derby (G1) winners, including, in 1875, the inaugural Derby victor, Aristides.

The most recent Derby hero to take the Jerome was Fusaichi Pegasus in 2000. In doing so, he proved his class and versatility, cutting back from classic distances to defeat a talented field of sprinter/milers over eight furlongs. It may well be that another Kentucky Derby winner will capture the current incarnation of the Jerome, but if so, it will have a very different place on his resume compared to that of Fusaichi Pegasus. Now run over a mile and 70 yards in January at Aqueduct, the Jerome is the first 3-year-old stakes that awards points toward a place in the Kentucky Derby.

Whether this year's Jerome Stakes winner El Areeb will make to the Derby or not, only time will tell, but there is no doubt that he's possessed of well-above average talent. He didn't break his maiden until his third start last year, but when he did so, it was leading from start to finish to score at Laurel Park by 8 3/4 lengths. El Areeb completed his season with a 5 1/4-length tally in the James F. Lewis Stakes III, and on Jan. 2 he took the Jerome by 11 1/4 lengths.

EXCHANGE RATE, gr/ro, 1997	Danzig, 1977	Northern Dancer, 1961	Nearctic	
		Pas de Nom, 1968	Natalma	
EL AREEB gr/ro, c April 14, 2014	Sterling Pound, 1991	Seeking the Gold, 1985	Admiral's Voyage	
		Spectacular Bev, 1984	Petitioner	
FEATHERED DIAMOND, b, 2003	A.P. Indy, 1989	Seattle Slew, 1974	Mr. Prospector	
		Weekend Surprise, 1980	Con Game	
	Sometimesadiamond, 1992	Mr. Prospector, 1970	Spectacular Bid	Bev Bev
		Tiffany Tam, 1979	Bold Reasoning	My Charmer
			Secretariat	
			Lassie Dear	
			Raise a Native	
			Gold Digger	
			Tentam	
			Loudrangle	

El Areeb, out of the A.P. Indy mare Feathered Diamond, is by late Exchange Rate. A son of Danzig, Exchange Rate was also a classic candidate, winning the Risen Star Stakes at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots in the spring, but finishing unplaced in the Kentucky Derby. Subsequently campaigned at shorter distances, Exchange Rate gained a graded win in the Tom Fool Handicap (G2). Retired to stud in Florida, he earned a move to Three Chimneys Farm in Kentucky after making a bright start with his early runners.

Although he never really "broke out," Exchange Rate remained a solid commercial sire, mostly notable for precocious runners and fillies. He is sire of 53 Northern Hemisphere black-type winners, among them Reckless Abandon, champion 2-year-old colt in England, as well as the grade 1 winning fillies Ball Dancing, Ermine, Sunset Glow, Swap Fliparoo, and Victory to Victory.

El Areeb is the first stakes winner by Exchange Rate out of an A.P. Indy mare, although he does have two stakes winners out of mares by sons of A.P. Indy. His daughter Ermine, who took the Apple Blossom Handicap (G1) at nine furlongs, is out of a mare by a grandson of A.P. Indy's sire, Seattle Slew. **BH**

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RACE RESULTS

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS

Sunland Park, Race 6, ALW

1/3, \$30,600, 4yo/up, f/m, 8f (dirt), 1:39.86, track good.

1–**Zasha**, 123, b m, 6, Desert God–Thanks for Smokin, by Smoke Glacken, \$22,216, 0–C. Donnell Echols, B–Joe Allen (NM), T–Joel H. Marr, J–Alfredo J. Juarez, Jr.

Margin: 5¼, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Sunland Park, Race 8, ALW

1/3, \$26,900, 4yo/up, 8.32f (dirt), 1:44.91, track good.

1–**Fusaichi Samurai**, 123, dk b/br g, 5, Street Cry (IRE)–Egyptian Queen, by Storm Cat, \$16,140, 0–A and A Equine, Inc. and Baize, Wayne, B–Reiko Baum & Michael Baum (KY), T–Justin R. Evans, J–Ry Eikleberry

Sale History: 2013 KEESEP, \$260,000.

Margin: 5, 7 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

MAIDEN RESULTS

Mahoning Valley Racecourse, Race 1, MSW

1/3, \$24,500, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (dirt), 1:15.39, track sloppy.

1–**Tia Gego**, 118, gr/ro f, 3, **Archarcharch**–It's Witchcraft, by Fly So Free, \$14,700, 0–Eladio Acevedo, B–Born To Run Farm (OH), T–Marco A. Castaneda, J–Ronald Hisby

Sale History: 2015 KEESEP, \$12,000.

Margin: 7¾, 9 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)



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UPCOMING ENTRIES

DONNA FREYER S.

Parx Racing, Saturday, January 7, Race 5
6.5f (dirt), \$75,000, 3yo f, 2:13 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1	2	Item	Oriente	3/f	Tyler Conner	123	2/1	Thomas G. Coulter
1A	8	Ianthe	Sky Mesa	3/f	Jeremy Rose	121	2/1	Thomas G. Coulter
2	1	Corporate Queen	Colonel John	3/f	J. D. Acosta	116	15/1	Cary Frommer
3	3	Passporttovictory	Frost Giant	3/f	Ruben Silvera	118	5/2	The Elkstone Group LLC
4	4	Paddy's Chant	Paddy O'Prado	3/f	Jeremy Rose	116	15/1	Apple Tree Stables
5	5	Roni's Laughing	Got the Last Laugh	3/f	Frankie Pennington	116	8/1	Eagle View Farm
6	6	Shenandoahlove Rvf	Greeley's Conquest	3/f	Clinton L. Potts	116	15/1	Riverview Farms
7	7	Spicy Girl Red	Point Given	3/f	Brian Pedroza	118	7/2	Lee R. Christian
8	9	Tresso	Gio Ponti	3/f	Jorge A. Vargas, Jr.	118	12/1	Wendy W. Hendriks

Breeders: 1–Arrowwood Farm, Inc.; 1A–Arrowwood Farm, Inc.; 2–Whispering Oaks Farm LLC; 3–Joanne T. Nielsen; 4–Kathie Maybee, Doris Rabon & Gary Jemo; 5–Eagle View Farm LLC; 6–Rose Ann Howell; 7–Nossab LLC; 8–South Branch Equine LLC.

Trainers: 1–Rodrigo Madrigal, Sr.; 1A–Rodrigo Madrigal, Sr.; 2–Timothy L. Keefe; 3–Thomas Morley; 4–Flint W. Stites; 5–Gustavo Chacon; 6–Bruce M. Kravets; 7–Hamilton A. Smith; 8–Mark Shuman.

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2017 NORTH AMERICAN LEADING SIRES

Listed below is a comparison of statistics for only North American racing with all available statistics through January 2, 2017. 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..

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Tapit	Pulpit, '01	\$300,000	Gainesway, KY	Creator (\$1,582,000)	\$16,616,498
2	Curlin	Smart Strike, '04	\$150,000	Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY	Exaggerator (\$2,598,000)	\$12,304,291
3	Uncle Mo	Indian Charlie, '08	\$150,000	Ashford Stud, KY	Nyquist (\$3,575,600)	\$12,077,465
4	Candy Ride (ARG)	Ride the Rails, '99	\$60,000	Lane's End, KY	Gun Runner (\$1,970,880)	\$11,008,428
5	City Zip	Carson City, '98	\$50,000	Lane's End, KY	Catch a Glimpse (\$1,154,033)	\$10,035,012
6	Unbridled's Song	Unbridled, '93	Died	N/A	Arrogate (\$4,084,600)	\$9,706,685
7	Kitten's Joy	El Prado, '01	\$100,000	Ramsey Farm, Inc., KY	Camelot Kitten (\$868,865)	\$9,370,175
8	Bernardini	A.P. Indy, '03	\$100,000	Darley, KY	Cavorting (\$1,125,000)	\$9,254,906
9	Medaglia d'Oro	El Prado, '99	\$150,000	Darley, KY	Songbird (\$2,210,000)	\$9,193,628
10	Malibu Moon	A.P. Indy, '97	\$75,000	Spendthrift Farm, KY	Stanford (\$905,160)	\$9,173,458

2017 BROODMARE SIRES

Listed below are the top 10 leading broodmare sires by 2017 Northern Hemisphere earnings through January 2, 2017. All stallions whose daughters are represented by at least one Northern Hemisphere runner in 2017 are included. Cumulative stakes winners includes lifetime worldwide statistics; all other statistics are 2017 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	Dams	Rnrs	SWrs (% Rnrs)	Cum. SWrs	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Sunday Silence	Halo, '86	552	1259	19 (1.5%)	158	Duramente (\$1,721,310)	\$32,883,156
2	Storm Cat	Storm Bird, '83	382	665	28 (4.2%)	234	Real Steel (\$4,048,673)	\$24,580,262
3	A.P. Indy	Seattle Slew, '89	344	635	22 (3.5%)	145	A. P. Indian (\$1,195,000)	\$17,367,873
4	Distorted Humor	Forty Niner, '93	238	403	15 (3.7%)	51	Arrogate (\$4,084,600)	\$17,063,051
5	Danehill	Danzig, '86	350	560	31 (5.5%)	175	Highland Reel (\$5,104,993)	\$16,573,025
6	Unbridled's Song	Unbridled, '93	349	620	25 (4.0%)	101	Tourist (\$1,633,750)	\$16,548,346
7	French Deputy	Deputy Minister, '92	264	522	11 (2.1%)	68	Makahiki (\$1,529,710)	\$15,263,291
8	Not For Love	Mr. Prospector, '90	138	247	12 (4.9%)	28	California Chrome (\$8,180,000)	\$15,158,556
9	Giant's Causeway	Storm Cat, '97	315	513	15 (2.9%)	49	Gun Runner (\$1,970,880)	\$13,827,406
10	Sadler's Wells	Northern Dancer, '81	488	756	22 (2.9%)	331	Flintshire (\$2,000,000)	\$13,020,848

2017 SIRES BY LIFETIME AEI

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires by lifetime Average Earnings Index (AEI) through January 2, 2017. Only active stallions in North America (excluding stallions that were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season) with at least 150 named foals of racing age are included. All statistics are Northern Hemisphere only. AEI indicates how much purse money the progeny of one sire has earned in relation to the average earnings of all runners in the same years; average earnings of all runners in any year is represented by an index of 1.00. CI indicates the average earnings of progeny produced from mares bred to one sire, when these same mares were bred to other sires.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Crops	Foals	AEI	CI
1	Uncle Mo	Indian Charlie, '08	\$150,000	Ashford Stud, KY	2	247	3.00	1.70
2	Pioneerof the Nile	Empire Maker, '06	\$110,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	4	305	2.77	1.90
3	Curlin	Smart Strike, '04	\$150,000	Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY	5	425	2.45	2.19
4	Tapit	Pulpit, '01	\$300,000	Gainesway, KY	9	961	2.39	2.11
5	War Front	Danzig, '02	\$250,000	Claiborne Farm, KY	7	467	2.36	2.30
6	Into Mischief	Harlan's Holiday, '05	\$75,000	Spendthrift Farm, KY	5	292	2.20	1.54
7	Ghostzapper	Awesome Again, '00	\$75,000	Adena Springs Kentucky, KY	8	612	2.17	2.04
8	Medaglia d'Oro	El Prado, '99	\$150,000	Darley, KY	9	1029	2.15	2.31
9	Distorted Humor	Forty Niner, '93	\$80,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	15	1265	2.06	2.19
10	Awesome Again	Deputy Minister, '94	\$75,000	Adena Springs Kentucky, KY	15	1063	2.03	1.90

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2017 LEADING SIRES IN OHIO

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in Ohio by 2017 Northern Hemisphere earnings through January 2, 2017. 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 2017 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Cowtown Cat	Distorted Humor, '04	\$3,000	Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm, OH	Calgary Cat (\$281,735)	\$2,201,177
2	Maimonides	Vindication, '05	\$2,500	Hand Ride Stables, OH	Brewing (\$64,519)	\$791,569
3	City Weekend	Carson City, '02	\$2,000	Meadow Springs, OH	Cantico (\$65,525)	\$712,848
4	Mobil	Langfuhr, '00	\$2,500	Mapleton Thoroughbred Farm, OH	Mobil Sky (\$123,300)	\$683,499
5	Indy Wind	A.P. Indy, '02	\$2,000	Poplar Creek Horse Center LLC, OH	Pleadian (\$114,334)	\$642,709
6	Added Edge	Smart Strike, '00	\$1,500	Raimonde Farms, OH	Foxy Fleda (\$72,613)	\$569,517
7	Mr. Mabee	Storm Cat, '01	N/A	N/A	She Mabee Wild (\$165,007)	\$474,101
8	Parents' Reward	Mr. Prospector, '98	\$1,000	Poplar Creek Horse Center LLC, OH	Eighththehardway (\$176,828)	\$363,840
9	Kiss the Kid	Lemon Drop Kid, '03	\$2,500	Poplar Creek Horse Center LLC, OH	Extravagant Kid (\$73,875)	\$350,101
10	Mercer Mill	Forty Niner, '94	N/A	Fair Winds Farm, OH	Pyrite Mill (\$43,925)	\$283,010



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