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TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

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## ON TOP KEENELAND JANUARY DAY 1 LED BY QUALITY

See page 5

Danzig - Starry Dreamer - \$250,000 LFSN

# WAR FRONT

Leading 2016 sires by % SW's\*

	SW's	%	GSW
War Front	22	12%	11
Uncle Mo	18	11%	10
Midshipman	9	8%	2
Curlin	15	8%	7
Munnings	10	8%	3
Tapit	21	7%	15
Medaglia d' Oro	15	7%	6

\*100+ 2016 runners



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## LATEST HEADLINES FROM BLOODHORSE.COM

**MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB REPORTS SPIKE IN 2016 HANDLE** The Maryland Jockey Club continued growing its Thoroughbred product and handle in 2016, announcing Jan. 9 that total handle was up 19.7% from 2015 and in-state wagering was up 18.4%.

**FIRST FOAL A FILLY FOR WINSTAR'S COMMISSIONER** WinStar Farm's Commissioner, A.P. Indy's last classic-placed son to retire to stud, sired his first reported foal Jan. 5th when a bay filly was born at Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Ky.

**INDIANA GRAND TO OPEN 2017 RACING SCHEDULE APRIL 18** Racing dates for the upcoming 2017 Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse season at Indiana Grand Racing & Casino were recently approved by the Indiana Horse Racing Commission. The 120-day meet begins Tuesday, April 18 and concludes Saturday, Oct. 28.

**CHINA RECEIVES LARGE SHIPMENT OF IRISH THOROUGHBREDS** A shipment of 76 horses last week is the largest between Ireland and China.



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# SALES UPDATE

## KEENELAND JANUARY DAY 1 LED BY QUALITY

By Ron Mitchell

[@BH\\_RMitchell](#)

A paucity of well-bred mares or racing prospects and no dispersal to drive buyer interest led to broad declines during the opening session of the Keeneland January horses of all ages sale in Lexington Jan. 9.

At the end of the day, Keeneland reported 163 horses changed hands for an aggregate \$10,514,000, down 22.9% from the \$13,631,200 gross for 182 a year ago. The day's \$64,503 average represented a decline of 13.9%; the median fell 11.4% from \$39,500 to \$35,000.

With 117 horses withdrawn from the 384 cataloged for the first day, the 104 horses that did not attain their reserve prices represented 38.9% of the total through the ring. The RNA rate during the same session a year ago was 32.9%.

The 2016 first session was highlighted by the dispersal of the Sarah J. Leigh Estate, with six offerings grossing \$2,095,000.

Geoffrey Russell, director of sales operations at Keeneland, said the results were "disappointing" but not altogether surprising.

"The January sale—it's called horses of all ages for a reason—you have mares, foals, everything. Some years we are fortunate enough to have a dispersal like we did last year. But again this year, quality sells. We had a million-dollar mare (Monday), which we haven't had for a while at the January sale and a \$700,000 mare right after. So the quality offerings brought top dollar."

One factor in the lack of depth Monday was the withdrawal of several attractive racing or broodmare prospects precluded from being shipped to Keeneland due to restrictions placed on horses at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots recently.

## 2017 Keeneland January Horses of All Ages Sale Day 1 Top Hips

Hip	Sex, Sire—Dam	Sale Price
145	<b>Siren Serenade</b> m, 11, Unbridled's Song—Versailles Treaty Covering Sire: Tapit Buyer: Don Alberto Corp. Consignor: Hill 'n' Dale Sales Agency	\$1,025,000
309	<b>Delightful Joy</b> m, 5, Tapit—Graeme Six Buyer: International Equities Holding Consignor: Denali Stud	\$700,000
350	<b>Grosse Pointe Anne</b> m, 10, Silver Deputy—Playa Maya Covering Sire: Pioneer of the Nile Buyer: Alistair Roden Bloodstock Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency	\$460,000
312	<b>Divalarious</b> m, 9, Distorted Humor—Alidiva (IRE) Covering Sire: American Pharoah Buyer: White Birch Farm Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency	\$380,000
186	<b>Thegirlinthat song</b> m, 6, My Golden Song—Belle of the Band Covering Sire: Honor Code Buyer: Shadai Corp. Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency	\$210,000
134	<b>Sheza Smoke Show</b> m, 6, Wilko—Avery Hall Covering Sire: Liam's Map Buyer: Not This Time/A.F.S. Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency	\$190,000
181	<b>Sweet Opportunity</b> m, 5, Distorted Humor—Sugar Canyon Buyer: Baoma Corp. Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency	\$190,000
246	<b>f, ylg, Into Mischief—Anna Sun</b> Buyer: Machmer Hall, agent Consignor: Taylor Made Sales Agency	\$185,000
215	<b>Whisper Wisdom</b> m, 6, Rockport Harbor—Bullville Belle Covering Sire: Palace Malice Buyer: Rick Grimes Consignor: South Point Sales Agency	\$180,000
78	<b>c, ylg, Street Sense—Please Sign In</b> Buyer: Bloodstock Investments IV Consignor: Hurstland Farm	\$165,000

The New Orleans track is under quarantine due to an outbreak of equine herpesvirus and the Kentucky Office of State Veterinarian imposed an embargo on horses that had been at Fair Grounds after Dec. 10 from shipping to any Kentucky track, which included the Keeneland sales grounds.

(continued on page 6)



## KEENELAND JANUARY DAY 1 LED BY QUALITY

*(continued from page 5)*

"There were two mares that should have sold today that couldn't come to the sale because of the (equine herpesvirus) outbreak," Russell said. "They were probably the third or fourth nicest horses (that could have been) in today, so we certainly missed them."

Taylor Made Sales Agency's Duncan Taylor said the lack of attractive offerings led to a noticeably light buying bench.

"The market is not what it was, even at this sale," Taylor said. "There was not enough quality to bring (buyers) in here. I don't know, maybe it's because they filled all their orders in November. But this is a buyer's market. I think if somebody wants a good deal, they should be here."

Taylor said the top horses sent through the ring by Taylor Made did not generate a lot of demand, with most bringing prices at the low end of their estimated values.

Siren Serenade (Hip 145), a daughter of Unbridled's Song who was the only mare in the sale in foal to leading sire Tapit, topped the session at \$1,025,000.

With Reiley McDonald of Eaton Sales signing the ticket, the 11-year-old mare was bought by Don Alberto Corporation from the Hill 'n' Dale Sales Agency consignment.

Produced from the four-time grade 1 winning mare Versailles Treaty, Siren Serenade is a half sister to grade 1 winner George Vancouver and to grade 2 winner Saarland. She is also the dam of 2015 Santa Anita Oaks (G1) runner-up Luminance, a



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**Siren Serenade in foal to Tapit topped the first session at \$1.025 million**

daughter of Tale of the Cat bought by Don Alberto for \$1 million from Hill 'n' Dale at last year's Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall mixed sale.

"We've always had some good horses that show up in January for one reason or another, and sometimes they do a little better here because they stand out more," McDonald said of the mare. "She would have been very competitive in November. I know Don Alberto is very happy to have her."

"There's nothing like her in the sale and Don Alberto is playing at the highest end of the game, so it was just a perfect mare for them."

Bred in Kentucky by Cynthia Phipps, Siren Serenade was purchased by Blandford Bloodstock for \$300,000 at the 2012 Keeneland January sale while carrying Luminance.

*(continued on page 7)*





## SALES UPDATE

### KEENELAND JANUARY DAY 1 LED BY QUALITY

*(continued from page 6)*

Hill 'n' Dale's John Sikura said the timing of a mare like Siren Serenade in foal to Tapit going through the ring Monday could not have been better.

On Sunday, a day before the sale began, Don Alberto Stable's Unique Bella, a daughter of Tapit who broke her maiden by 10 1/4 lengths, cruised to a 7 1/2-length victory in the Santa Ynez Stakes (G2) at Santa Anita Park.

"It couldn't have been more timely," Sikura said of the sequence of events. "She was a premier mare in a sale that does not have a lot of premier horses. She was well-bought."

The day's second-highest price of \$700,000 was paid by Oussama Aboughazale's International Equities Holding for Delightful Joy, an attractive chestnut daughter of Tapit.

"She's just a really, really nice filly," said Frances Relihan, who signed the purchase ticket, adding that the mare will be bred to War Front. "Great range, great scope, good race filly, she's from a really strong family. We're looking at a broad range of mares (at this sale)."

Relihan said Aboughazale purchased a farm in Bourbon County for Sumaya U.S. Stable and is buying mares to breed to his stallion Protonico.

Offered as Hip 309 by Craig and Holly Bandoroff's Denali Stud, Delightful Joy won the 2015 Monmouth Oaks (G3) and is out of grade 3 winner Graeme Six, who also produced grade 3 winner Cali Star. Delightful Joy had not been bred and was offered as a broodmare prospect.

The top price for a just-turned yearling was the \$185,000 winning bid of Machmer Hall for an Into Mischief filly from Taylor Made.



**Hip 309, Delightful Joy brought the second highest price of the day at \$700,000**

The filly, Hip 246, was bred in Kentucky by Fred W. Hertrich III and John D. Fielding and was produced from the unraced Trippi mare Anna Sun.

"I thought she was exceptional," said Machmer Hall's Carrie Brogden. "With what Into Mischief has done, he is an overachiever. I have seven mares in foal to him and are going to breed 16 to him this year. He has just had runner after runner. They are sound and great-minded. They want to train and they're fast."

Taylor Made was the session's leading consignor with 36 head sold for \$3,652,500. International Equine Equities led all buyers with seven purchased for \$1,171,000.

Unbridled's Song was leading sire, with two of his daughters bringing \$1,061,000 for an average price of \$530,500. **BH**

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## LYNCH AND OSCAR PERFORMANCE TAKE AIM AT 2017

By Michael Adolphson

[AdolphsonRacing](#)

To little fanfare, trainer Brian Lynch and his stable star Oscar Performance each recently completed stellar 2016 seasons.

Lynch—a native of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia—capped a year in which he won 47 races, eight graded stakes, and his first Breeders' Cup trophy when Amerman Racing's homebred aforementioned son of Kitten's Joy bested the opposition in the Juvenile Turf (G1T).

To put that into perspective, about one of every six winning photos for which the ex-professional bull rider smiled was after a graded stakes victory.

"If you've got to get a winner, they're the ones you want to get," Lynch said. "It was a solid year. We wanted to finish a little stronger than we did, but the good horses ran well in the spots we picked for them and we showed up a lot on big days. On average, I would like to get my percentages up in 2017 and work on getting even better horses and winning even bigger races."

Always a progress-focused mind, the ex-Bobby Frankel assistant improved upon seven graded stakes tallies in 2015, traded a Queen's Plate victory for a Breeders' Cup triumph as his biggest win and won a grade 1 for the third consecutive season.

Stars like Terry Hamilton's hard-knocking turf campaigner Heart to Heart and Head of Plains Partners et al.'s swift sophomore sprint filly Lightstream displayed Lynch's breadth of ability and boosted the 33-time graded stakes winner to more than \$3.7 million in purses.

Those multiple graded stakes winners also helped fill the void of Stronach Stables' Queen's Plate victor Shaman Ghost, who was transferred to Jimmy Jerkins, and the Amermans' retired grade 1-winning turf mare Coffee Clique.



Brian Lynch gives a thumbs up after Oscar Performance wins the Nov. 4 Juvenile Turf at Santa Anita

Classy older horses such as Jim and Susan Hill's grade 1-winning turf miler Grand Arch and graded stakes-winning turf sprinter Power Alert, co-owned by Lynch in partnership with AJ Suited Racing Stable, added depth to his quality-laden barn by repeatedly running well against the best of their respective divisions. To contextualize his year, Lynch (35th), along with Jerkins, Richard Mandella, Keith Desormeaux, Larry Jones, and Shug McGaughey, was one of only six American trainers to finish in the top-50 by earnings with fewer than 300 starts.

"We are focusing on quality over quantity," Lynch, who grew up immersed in Australia's rich history of racing, explained. "We like to keep it simple and we will focus even more on that this year. We aren't going to have a Woodbine division this year and will try our best to keep everything under one roof."

"In Australia, I had a good grounding in fundamental horsemanship and taking care of horses," he said. "A lot of the decisions in the barn are based on that. You kept it as simple as you could and kept horses happy—and as they say, happy horses win races. Bobby (Frankel) also kept it simple. He exposed you to large amounts of good horses of a variety of shapes and sizes. He had a sixth sense about a horse and if you're around a guy like that and you pay attention and don't learn anything, that's your fault. What you could learn by watching him would help you in the future and it definitely helped me."

*(continued on page 9)*



## LYNCH AND OSCAR PERFORMANCE TAKE AIM AT 2017

(continued from page 8)

Like Frankel, Lynch has shown a green thumb with talented turf athletes, with the golden globe in his orbit easily being Oscar Performance.

A full-brother to graded stakes winner Oscar Nominated, the bay ridgling ended his juvenile season with three consecutive victories. Between romps in maiden and grade 3 company, and his championship performance in which he overpowered his foes in early stretch before holding some of the world's top turf juveniles at bay, Oscar Performance took his triad of triumphs by a combined 17 1/2 lengths—a margin made more impressive by the surface.

Still, when Eclipse Award voters made their year-end opinions known, there was no applause. Oscar Performance got the snub and was not a finalist in the 2-year-old male division, despite being arguably the most dominant member of his generation during its first season of racing.

"It didn't surprise me," Lynch said. "Sometimes grass horses don't get the respect they deserve when it comes to Eclipse votes, so that's not unexpected. I am a little disappointed for the horse, because he did everything we asked of him. It's never easy to get a 2-year-old to run like he did. He made the running, kept to task, and showed how good he was. We knew

he was a good horse when he was working with, and holding his own, against older horses like Grand Arch, which isn't easy. We are very proud of him.

"He hasn't had a work back yet," Lynch continued. "He got a nice 60 days off and we're looking forward to hopefully getting a race in him before the Transylvania Stakes (G3) at Keeneland. Then we'll focus on a spring and summer campaign that hopefully will see him good enough to win the Belmont Derby Invitational (G1). Hopefully he has another good season and we can keep him around for a while like we have with Grand Arch and Heart to Heart. That's where good management skills and great owners come into play."

Though both he and his young stable celebrity may have gone unnoticed by some, Lynch is much more focused on the tasks at hand. Those include not only having a great year with Oscar Performance, but also aiming toward an elusive grade 1 victory for Heart to Heart in April's Maker's 46 Mile at Keeneland and bringing the remainder of his stable to new heights throughout the 2017 season.

"I am hopeful for an even better year," Lynch concluded. "With better clients comes better horses and I am fortunate to have a very loyal client base. They have the patience of the church and are 100% behind my operation. I'm looking forward to it." **BH**

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with Claire Novak



KEENELAND SALE RECAP DAY 1



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## TAYLOR MADE'S BLOODSTOCK INVESTMENTS SHIFTS GEARS

By Ron Mitchell

[@BH\\_RMitchell](#)

When Taylor Made began a pinhooking operation under the Bloodstock Investments banner, it began by investing only in broodmares to take advantage of the strong market in that sector.

Now, entering its fourth year, the operation has shifted gears and was among the active buyers of short yearlings at the Jan. 9 opening session of the Keeneland January horses of all ages sale, buying a Street Sense colt for \$165,000 and a First Samurai colt for \$135,000.

Consigned by Hurstland Farm as Hip 78, the Street Sense colt is a full brother to Bijou, who topped the 2013 January auction when sold for \$1.45 million. The First Samurai colt, Hip 89 from the Claiborne Farm offerings, is a half brother to stakes winner Irish You Well and out of a half sister to three-time grade 1 winner Zensational. The operation also went to \$25,000 to purchase Hip 373, a Revolutionary colt out of grade 3 winner I Lost My Choo, who was consigned by Taylor Made.

"We think we got good deals," said Taylor Made's Katie Taylor-Marshall, who directs investor relations for Bloodstock Investments. "Our short lists were a lot shorter for this sale than in November and I'm pleased we got what we wanted. Right now we've got 12 (foals of 2016) and we're selling one today we bought in October so we're doing a quick flip on it."

With a minimum investment of \$50,000, a Bloodstock Investments investor is part of an investment vehicle that has a 12-14 month maturation date, at which time all the horses in the package are sold. There are no additional costs of upkeep or care, which is included in the initial investment.

"We started it to help make entry into the industry easier for people," Taylor-Marshall said. "Each year we raise between \$2-3 million. If you have \$50,000 and you love horses, it's a lot safer to invest in 15 horses rather than just one horse. We go wherever the market goes. We buy value. Our goal is 15% return on each horse. If the numbers show we have a pretty good chance of



ANNIE M. EBERHARDT

**Katie Taylor-Marshall says the investment group is expecting a return close to 20%**

earning that, we follow the numbers.

"In the first couple of years, we did all mares carrying their first foals or mares off the track," Taylor-Marshall continued. "Then we foaled them out if they were in foal, took the foals and bred the mare back, and then sold everything the following year. We started seeing the market trending toward weanling pinhooking and this year we are doing almost only weanlings of 2016 or short yearlings of this year that will be sold in yearling sales later this year."

In addition to adding to its yearling pinhook portfolio, Bloodstock Investments closed out its third package at Keeneland Monday, selling two mares for a total \$400,000 and a yearling for \$45,000.

Topping that group was grade 2 winner Thegirlinthat song, sold in foal to Honor Code to Shadai Corporation for \$210,000, followed by the \$190,000 purchase price for stakes winner Sheza Smoke Show in foal to Liam's Map, who sold to Not This Time/A.F.S. Sheza Smoke Show's 2016 colt by Malibu Moon was sold for \$45,000.

"We had phenomenal success last year and are expecting a return closer to 20%," Taylor-Marshall said of the Bloodstock Investments III portfolio. "We're selling our last horses today and we are even for the year so everything else today is profit."

Although Bloodstock Investments is closely aligned with Taylor Made, Taylor-Marshall said there is transparency on everything the group buys, including any horses bought from the farm. **BH**

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## MCCRACKEN READIES FOR SEASON DEBUT

By BloodHorse Staff

Janice Whitham's homebred grade 2 winner McCracken, undefeated in three career starts, continues to train forwardly at Palm Meadows Training Center for his 3-year-old debut, trainer Ian Wilkes said.

A bay son of 2002 Horse of the Year and 2012 Hall of Fame inductee Ghostzapper, McCracken shows four half-mile works since mid-December at Gulfstream Park's satellite training facility in Palm Beach County, including his latest Jan. 9 when he breezed a half-mile in :50.50.

"It's amazing, isn't it? Everyone gets excited when you have a 2-year-old turning 3," Wilkes said. "He's exciting. He's a very talented horse."

McCracken has yet to race somewhere other than Churchill Downs, where he captured his unveiling by 2 1/2 lengths going 6 1/2 furlongs in October before



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

McCracken rolls to the wire in the Oct. 30 Street Sense Stakes

following up with a 3 3/4-length triumph in the one-mile Street Sense Stakes 28 days later.

Showing a maturity to match his talent, McCracken rallied from far back to take the 1 1/16-mile Kentucky Jockey Club (G2) Nov. 26 to end his juvenile

(continued on page 12)



**First yearlings sold for \$530,000, \$495,000 etc. and averaged \$120,000.**

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## MCCRACKEN READIES FOR SEASON DEBUT

(continued from page 11)

campaign, splitting horses on the far turn and cruising to the wire 1 1/4 lengths in front.

"He's always showed that talent in the mornings," Wilkes said. "He's three-for-three and done everything right. He's doing well and, touch wood, everything's great."

Among the races Wilkes is considering for McCracken are Gulfstream's series for 3-year-olds including the \$350,000 Lambholm South Holy Bull Stakes (G2) at 1 1/16 miles; the \$200,000 Swale Stakes (G2) at seven furlongs Feb. 4; and the \$400,000 Xpressbet.com Fountain of Youth Stakes (G2) March 4, also at 1 1/16 miles.

"It just depends. We'll see. I'll watch and see how the track is playing. He is a bit of a closer," Wilkes said. "Starting early next month, we'll look for a race."

McCracken is out of the graded stakes-placed mare Ivory Empress (Seeking the Gold), who has produced one other foal to race. Campaigned by the same connections, Bondurant (War Front) finished second in the Commonwealth Turf Stakes (G3T) Nov. 12 at Churchill. Their dam Ivory Empress is a half sister to grade 1 winner Mea Domina (Dance Brightly).

Wilkes also was pleased with another of his 3-year-olds, Creative Courage, who broke his maiden in his fourth try and first of 2017 with a frontrunning neck victory as the favorite in a 1 1/16-mile maiden special weight Jan. 7 at Gulfstream.

"That was a nice effort. In his last race they ran by him and he came back and nearly got there. We're very encouraged with him," Wilkes said. "We'll probably just come back in an allowance; one step at a time with him. He's still learning, even though he's run four times. He's just getting it together. I don't want to get in a hurry with him." **BH**

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## TAPIT'S BEST SON AT STUD

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# ALPHABET SOUP PROGRESSING WITH CANCER VACCINE

By Frank Angst

[@BH\\_FAngst](#)

A cutting-edge cancer treatment has helped reduce skin cancer in 1996 Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) winner Alphabet Soup, who recently celebrated his 26th birthday at Old Friends Equine retirement home near Georgetown, Ky.

The cancer treatment is a vaccine that allows Alphabet Soup's immune system to target the melanoma. Since skin cancer cells were first collected in mid-July for use in developing the vaccine and eight treatments that followed, veterinarian Dr. Bryan Waldrige, of Park Equine Hospital, has seen a reduction between 75% and 80% in the cancerous masses that had developed near his tail.

"We're hoping the immune system will stay after that cancer. We're hoping for a progressive shrinkage," Waldrige said. "I would think it would be months in the future until we know where we're going to get to, but it's gone down enough that I wouldn't be shocked to see this totally go away."

Old Friends founder Michael Blowen has seen Alphabet Soup in better spirits in the paddocks as the treatment has reduced the cancer. The treatment is being funded by the son of Cozzene's former residence at stud, Frank Stronach's Adena Springs.



ANNE M. EBERHARDT

Antibodies are injected into Alphabet Soup in an effort to reduce the size of tumors

The IFx-VET multi-indication cancer vaccine allows the retired stallion's immune system to target and eliminate cancer cells by placing an indicator on the cancer cells to alert the immune system of the enemy. Besides being effective, it has the added advantage of being less invasive compared with some other treatments.

After the vaccine was developed, Alphabet Soup received one treatment a week for four straight weeks and then one treatment a month for four straight months; a total of eight treatments. The final treatment was administered earlier this month. Waldrige has taken pictures of the masses throughout that time to document the progress.

"I would be thrilled to stay where we are and we're even ahead of where I ever thought we would be," Waldrige said. "I guess we can figure continued shrinkage of the masses being our best-case scenario."

Waldrige said he's had several other veterinarians ask about the treatment and he said he can't speak highly enough of the service provided through Veterinary Oncology Services-Morphogenesis.

In a print edition feature in *BloodHorse*, Patricia Lawman, chief executive officer of treatment developer Morphogenesis, said even though her company has been on the front line, the treatment sometimes still amazes her.

"For so many people it sounds too good to be true being able to treat these cancers with no side effects and relatively little money... but that's what this technology is and how it works," Lawman said. "It's not specific to any tumor because it's a bacteria that can be injected into any tumor, and it doesn't cause side effects."

Steve Hazell, director of business development for Veterinary Oncology Services-Morphogenesis, believes the ideas behind the treatment can be used on many different cancers. The company also hopes to expand into treating people. **BH**

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# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING TO HONOR WHITNEY

By BloodHorse Staff

In recognition of a \$250,000 gift from prominent racehorse owner, philanthropist, and Saratoga, N.Y. icon Marylou Whitney, the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame will name its courtyard in honor of Mrs. Whitney's late husband, Cornelius Vanderbilt "Sonny" Whitney. The courtyard will undergo a renovation project in 2017 and the revitalized space is expected to be unveiled in the spring of 2018.

The Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Courtyard honors the legacy of Whitney, who had a prominent association with the Museum and for decades made a positive impact on the sport of Thoroughbred racing. Whitney was among the museum's founders in 1950 and served as the institution's first president from 1950-53.

"It was a privilege for my late husband, Sonny Whitney, to help found the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame," Marylou Whitney said. "It is now my honor and duty to help recognize him in this important institution."

Mr. Whitney, a son of Harry Payne Whitney and Gertrude Vanderbilt, graduated from Yale University in 1922. He served in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant and flight instructor during World War I and volunteered for service in the United States Army Air Force in World War II. Whitney was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit.

At the end of WW II, Whitney served under President Harry S. Truman as assistant secretary of the Air Force from 1947-49 and undersecretary of commerce from 1949-50. He was also appointed Truman's special envoy to the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Spain, and Italy.

In Thoroughbred racing, Whitney was the third generation of his family involved in the sport. He



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**The courtyard at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame will be renovated and named in honor of Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney**

acquired his father's stable in 1930 and won his first stakes race as an owner that year with future Hall of Fame member Equipoise. Whitney also campaigned another Hall of Fame horse, the champion filly Top Flight.

Whitney won the Belmont Stakes with Phalanx in 1947 and with Horse of the Year Counterpoint in 1951, as well as three editions of the Travers Stakes with Fisherman (1954), Tompion (1960), and Chompion (1968). He bred more than 175 stakes winner at his C.V. Whitney Farm in Kentucky and served as a director of Churchill Downs. In 1984 Whitney was presented a special Eclipse Award for his lifetime of service to the industry.

Along with his service to his country and exploits in Thoroughbred racing, Whitney was a successful businessman and an important figure in the motion picture industry and the arts. He was a major

*(continued on page 15)*



## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING TO HONOR WHITNEY

(continued from page 14)

shareholder backing the Technicolor Corporation and a financier of the classic 1939 film "Gone with the Wind." Whitney also served as a producer of his own C.V. Whitney Pictures, which made the films "The Searchers," "The Missouri Traveler," and "The Young Land." He also played a prominent role in the establishment of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Following his death in 1992 at 93, Marylou Whitney continued to build on her late husband's racing and philanthropic legacy. Mrs. Whitney bred and raced Birdstone, winner of the 2004 Belmont and Travers (both G1), as well as champion Bird Town, winner of the Kentucky Oaks (G1). She continues to be one of the sport's most prominent ambassadors.

Mrs. Whitney's gift to the museum spearheads the redesign and beautification of the Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Courtyard, a project announced by the museum in December. A campaign is currently active that features the opportunity for individuals, businesses, farms, and other racing organizations to purchase personalized commemorative bricks to be a permanent part of the new courtyard.

"The Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Courtyard is a beautiful space within the Museum," Mrs. Whitney said. "I'm hopeful many people will purchase bricks to honor their loved ones, too."

Home to John Skeaping's iconic bronze statue of 1973 Triple Crown winner and Hall of Fame member Secretariat, the Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Courtyard is one of the most admired and popular spaces at the Museum.

The commemorative bricks are available in two different sizes: 4" by 8" red bricks for \$100 and 8" by 8" grey bricks for \$250. The red bricks feature three lines of engraving at a maximum of 18 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation, while the grey bricks contain six lines with a maximum of 18 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation. **BH**

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# GEORGIA GAMBLING ADVOCATES, CASINOS JOIN FORCES

By Eric Mitchell

[@BH\\_EMitchell](#)

Advocates of legalizing pari-mutuel wagering in Georgia are teaming up with casino operators for this year's legislative push.

With an established horse population of 180,000 and active Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing in neighboring Florida, the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition has been pushing for several years to put a decision on pari-mutuel wagering in front of voters. During this year's legislative session, which started Jan. 9, the ask will be for the approval of up to five casinos and a racino.

In previous attempts, proponents of pari-mutuel wagering have stressed the ties between horse racing and agriculture. The assumption has been that the ancillary growth in breeding and training facilities would make a proposal to expand gambling beyond the state-run lottery more palatable to opponents. The effort has come close.

"It is our feeling now that horse racing on its own does not offer enough tax revenue to move the needle," said Steven Crayne, executive director of the Georgia Horse Racing Coalition. "State leaders need money to shore up the Hope scholarship and other areas of education. If they adopt resort-style gaming, then you have the revenue and there is something for everyone. There is an uptick across the state."

The lottery-funded Hope scholarship once covered 100% of tuition at public colleges and universities for students that qualified based on their academic achievement. That tuition support is down to 70%, except for the highest-achieving high school graduates, according to a report by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

This year's legislative proposals include one that would put a constitutional amendment before voters in 2018 to legalize new forms

of gambling in Georgia. If the constitutional amendment were approved, local governments would then have to get approvals from their constituents on the next ballot to allow the operation of a casino or racetrack. Once the local issue is settled, then a city or county could apply for one of six licenses.

A separate bill will outline the number of licenses available, where they can be located, and the minimum investments required, according to Crayne.

In broad terms it includes: Licensing for up to five casinos and a racetrack; one primary license for a resort-style casino within 25 miles of Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and with a minimum investment of \$1 billion; four "secondary" licenses that cannot operate within 50 miles of the primary license-holder casino and require a minimum investment of \$250 million; one horse track license that requires a minimum investment of \$150 million; and establishment of four geographic zones that are generally defined as the area north of and including I-20 (which runs through Atlanta), coastal Georgia, southern Georgia, and middle Georgia.

Crayne said plans have not changed about locating the racetrack in the Atlanta area.

"What we have envisioned here will be world-class," he said. "Elevated walkways around the track, entertainment and residential areas, and an innovative use of the infield space. What we're proposing will be good for Georgia and for racing." **BH**

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Architectural renderings of "Piedmont Park," a proposed Thoroughbred track to be built near Atlanta



BENOIT PHOTO



Silentio splits horses to finish a nose in front of Summer Front (#2) in the 2013 Citation Handicap

## GRADE 2 WINNER SILENTIO TO TEXAS

By BloodHorse Staff

Multiple grade 2 turf winner Silentio has been retired and will enter stud at Dallas and Donna Keen's Keen Farms near Burleson, Texas. He will stand for \$1,000 as property of Acacia Racing.

Silentio, an 8-year-old son of Silent Name and grandson of Sunday Silence, previously raced as a homebred for Alain and Gerard Wertheimer, who breed and race as Wertheimer Et Frere. He broke his maiden at first asking at 2 and won the 2012 Sir Beaufort Stakes (G2T) on the grass at Santa Anita Park in his fourth career start as a 3-year-old.

During his best season at 4, Silentio captured the grade 2 Citation Handicap on the Betfair Hollywood Park turf and placed in four other graded events, including the Frank E. Kilroe Mile Stakes and Breeders' Cup Mile (both G1T). At 5 he placed in three more graded stakes and showed his versatility with a third-place effort behind Goldencents in the Pat O'Brien Stakes (G2), going seven furlongs on the synthetic surface at Del Mar. He retires with a 4-1-7 record in 19 starts and earnings of \$712,815.

Silentio is out of unraced Listen A. P. (by A.P. Indy), a daughter of group 1-placed stakes winner Ecoute (by Manilla), who was also bred and raced by the Wertheimers. Listen A.P. is a full sister to group 2-placed winner Listen Indy. **BH**

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# RACING COMMENTARY

with Bob Barry

## BOTHERED, BEWILDERED, AND ECLIPSED

By Bob Barry

By now it's no secret that this racing commentator enjoys riffing on titles of popular songs in hope of lyrically capturing the thematic concerns of the weekly column.

Rueful country songs tend to be especially useful, but this week's litany of observation and complaint takes us back to 1940, when Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart wrote "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" for the Broadway musical "Pal Joey."

About 50 years ago, "Bewitched" was the title of a popular television sitcom. But today the word has all but vanished from popular usage, even if its secondary, non-supernatural definition—"to charm and fascinate; to please to such a degree as to take away the power of resistance"—remains useful for describing the effect Thoroughbred racing can still impart to thoughtful people.

Conversely, given the current state of racing and the wider world, "bothered" and "bewildered" both seem likely to be with us for the long haul. Although this observer has learned not to let relatively trifling matters such as questionable Eclipse Award voting cut too deeply, perceived errors in judgment can still produce the odd spot of bother.

This quibble is prefaced by the observations that Eclipse voters do tend to get most things right, and that the awards retain an "old school" charm by avoiding the trend towards corporate sponsorship, remaining purely the namesake of a legendary Thoroughbred.

Even when the results go astray, the awards remain aptly named. An "eclipse," after all, occurs when a nearby heavenly body obscures the view of a more distant one. But interplanetary physics



KENNY MARTIN/COGLIANESE PHOTO

**Priced to perfection wins the Sweetest Chant for Klaravich Stables and trainer Chad Brown**

provides small comfort when a pair of owners plausibly in line for the gold medal don't even make the podium.

It's difficult to believe there were three Thoroughbred owners who had a better year than the partnership of Klaravich Stables and William Lawrence, who led North American owners with nine graded stakes wins (remarkably, via eight different horses). The partners will have to find consolation in their contributions to what figures to be the first Eclipse award for their primary trainer, Chad Brown.

But this slight was merely bothersome compared with the utter bewilderment sparked by the Jan. 6 firing of the highly regarded Jason Blewitt.

The New York Racing Association dispensed with its long-time TV host and analyst by eliminating his position. This news broke via Twitter and was greeted with general dismay and an abundance of sympathy for the personable Blewitt, who is clearly liked and respected by a wide array of fans, bettors, jockeys, trainers, and other racing professionals.

There's nothing quite like suffering a public misfortune for finding out how people really feel about you. Based on the heartfelt handful of "thank you" tweets he wrote, Blewitt has no doubts that he has a wealth of friends and admirers whose value and meaning can never be eclipsed. **BH**

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## ALLOWANCE RESULTS

### Mahoning Valley Racecourse, Race 5, ALW

1/9, \$25,300, 3yo/up, 6f (dirt), 1:11.24, track fast.

1—[Bam What](#), 124, b c, 4, Regal Ransom—Gullible, by Yes It's True, \$15,180, O—Blazing Meadows Farm LLC, B—T/C

Stable, LLC (OH), T—Timothy E. Hamm, J—Irwin J. Rosendo

**Sale History:** 2014 KEESEP, (\$9,500 RNA).

**Margin:** 2, 9 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)



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## UPCOMING ENTRIES

### FIFTH SEASON 5.

Oaklawn Park, Friday, January 13, Race 8  
8.5f (dirt), \$125,000, 4yo/up, 3:49 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		<a href="#">Discreetness</a>	Discreet Cat	4/c	Jon Kenton Court	122	-	Xpress Thoroughbreds LLC (Dwight Pruett)
2		<a href="#">Cutacorn</a>	Even the Score	4/g	Declan Cannon	115	-	Kay Stillman
3		<a href="#">Code West</a>	Lemon Drop Kid	7/r	Luis S. Quinonez	122	-	Bryan Hawk, Leo Hawk & Tim Hawk
4		<a href="#">Pinson</a>	Majestic Warrior	4/c	Jose L. Ortiz	115	-	Richard Bahde
5		<a href="#">For Greater Glory</a>	Afleet Alex	7/h	Calvin H. Borel	115	-	Alex & Joann Lieblong
6		<a href="#">Smack Smack</a>	Closing Argument	6/g	Shane Laviolette	122	-	Dream Walkin Farms Inc (Toby Covel)
7		<a href="#">Inside Straight</a>	Super Saver	4/g	Geovanni Franco	115	-	Randy Howg
8		<a href="#">Chief of Staff</a>	Majestic Warrior	5/h	Alex Birzer	115	-	Dedomenico LLC and Muddy Waters Stables
9		<a href="#">Domain's Rap</a>	Cherokee Rap	9/g	Ramon A. Vazquez	115	-	Danny R. Caldwell
10		<a href="#">Mr. Z</a>	Malibu Moon	5/h	Joseph Rocco, Jr.	115	-	Calumet Farm (Brad Kelley)

**Breeders:** 1—Trackside Farm & Tenlane Farm; 2—Millennium Farms; 3—Edward P. Evans; 4—Bonnie Heath Farm, LLC; 5—Peter E. Blum Thoroughbreds, LLC; 6—Dream Walkin' Farms, Inc.; 7—SF Bloodstock LLC; 8—Lou Neve; 9—William P. Stirtz; 10—Richard D. Maynard.

**Trainers:** 1—William H. Fires; 2—Jack C. Van Berg; 3—Boyd Caster; 4—Randy L. Morse; 5—Ron Moquett; 6—Don Von Hemel; 7—Robertino Diodoro; 8—Jack C. Van Berg; 9—Federico Villafranco; 10—D. Wayne Lukas.

### COTTON FITZSIMMONS MILE H.

Turf Paradise, Saturday, January 14, Race 7  
8f (turf), \$75,000, 4yo/up, 3:44 PM (local)

P #	PP	Horse	Sire	Age/Sex	Jockey	Weight	M/L	Owner
1		<a href="#">Power Ped</a>	Powerscourt (GB)	7/g	Stewart Elliott	124	-	Stepaside Farm, LLC
2		<a href="#">Arizona Moon</a>	Macho Uno	4/c	Giorgio Moreno-Herrera	119	-	John J. Campo, III
3		<a href="#">Blue Bomber</a>	Congrats	6/g	Natasha Coddington	120	-	Jim McFadyen
4		<a href="#">Ten Carat Rock</a>	Rock Slide	6/g	David Michael Lopez	118	-	Troy Smith
5		<a href="#">Ride Hard Kowboy</a>	Kodiak Kowboy	5/g	Scott A. Stevens	120	-	Turner Shiew or Robert W. Morgan
6		<a href="#">Storm Power</a>	Tiz Wonderful	7/g	Daniel P. Vergara	118	-	Mercedes Stables LLC
7		<a href="#">Aventador (FR)</a>	Zafeen (FR)	6/g	Jorge Martin Bourdieu	121	-	Mark Staudacher
8		<a href="#">Charlie Again</a>	Northern Afleet	5/g	Andrew R. Ramgeet	120	-	Roger Hansen or Turner Shiew or Darcy Peterson
9		<a href="#">Thetrailerguy</a>	Henny Hughes	5/g	Jake Barton	116	-	Kenneth A. Person
10		<a href="#">Red Zeus</a>	Red Sky's	7/g	Isaias D. Enriquez	116	-	Peggy Thompson

**Breeders:** 1—Schow Family Trust; 2—H. Allen Poindexter; 3—James K McFadyen, Kenneth F Bailey & Edward H Molstad; 4—Pamela Wofford; 5—Indian Creek; 6—Brookfield Stud; 7—Rene Vallaud & Tony Castanheira; 8—Mr. & Mrs. Marc C. Ferrell; 9—Byerpatch Farm; 10—Dick Hopwood & Peggy Hopwood.

**Trainers:** 1—Neil D. Drysdale; 2—Stacy Campo; 3—Robertino Diodoro; 4—Troy Smith; 5—Molly J. Pearson; 6—Robertino Diodoro; 7—Kathy Schenk; 8—David Van Winkle; 9—Kenneth A. Person; 10—Dan L. McFarlane.



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## 2016 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in California by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through December 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	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Lucky Pulpit	Pulpit, '01	\$7,500	Harris Farms, CA	California Chrome (\$8,180,000)	\$10,788,375
2	Bluegrass Cat	Storm Cat, '03	\$7,500	Ballena Vista Farm, CA	Kathballu (\$194,700)	\$5,547,554
3	Unusual Heat	Nureyev, '90	Pnsd	N/A	Cheekaboo (\$275,235)	\$3,771,603
4	Tribal Rule	Storm Cat, '96	Died	N/A	Tribal Jewel (\$197,946)	\$3,296,007
5	Square Eddie	Smart Strike, '06	\$25,000	Ocean Breeze Ranch, CA	How About Zero (\$153,245)	\$2,576,997
6	U S Ranger	Danzig, '04	\$3,000	Rancho San Miguel, CA	U S Officer (\$132,565)	\$2,374,094
7	Vronsky	Danzig, '99	\$6,500	Old English Rancho, CA	What a View (\$441,523)	\$2,077,200
8	Ministers Wild Cat	Deputy Minister, '00	\$5,000	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, CA	Toledo Eddie (\$183,140)	\$2,000,345
9	Haynesfield	Speightstown, '06	\$5,000	Rancho San Miguel, CA	He'll Pay (\$168,730)	\$1,916,530
10	Street Hero	Street Cry, '06	N/A	N/A	The Player (\$170,532)	\$1,651,035

## 2016 LEADING SIRES IN WASHINGTON

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in Washington by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through December 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	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Parker's Storm Cat	Storm Cat, '00	N/A	N/A	Ben's Cat (\$149,877)	\$686,895
2	Private Gold	Seeking the Gold, '00	\$1,500	El Dorado Farms, WA	Gold Rush Dancer (\$303,220)	\$534,027
3	Abraaj	Carson City, '03	\$2,000	El Dorado Farms, WA	Kaabraaj (\$79,600)	\$347,413
4	Raise the Bluff	Pine Bluff, '03	\$1,000	El Dorado Farms, WA	Percy's Bluff (\$71,285)	\$345,207
5	Preachinathebar	Silver Charm, '01	\$1,000	Pulse Ranches, WA	Iwannabeativatoo (\$29,007)	\$333,222
6	Council Member	Seattle Slew, '02	\$1,500	Dreamstar Farm, WA	Dano's Dream (\$68,878)	\$282,192
7	Matty G	Capote, '93	N/A	N/A	Knight Club (\$42,265)	\$259,140
8	Nationhood	Cherokee Run, '02	\$1,500	Blue Ribbon Farm, WA	Arrom Bear (\$53,202)	\$246,844
9	Coast Guard	Stormy Atlantic, '05	\$1,500	El Dorado Farms, WA	So Lucky (\$103,835)	\$221,304
10	Liberty Gold	Crafty Prospector, '94	N/A	N/A	Keller's Gold (\$45,849)	\$131,815

## 2016 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in Arizona by 2016 Northern Hemisphere earnings through December 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	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'16 Earnings
1	Top Hit	Twining, '98	N/A	Triple AAA Ranch, AZ	Sierrita (\$53,198)	\$563,430
2	Distorted Reality	Distorted Humor, '04	N/A	Fleming Thoroughbred Farm, LLC, AZ	R U Forreal (\$51,621)	\$404,582
3	Margie's Wildcat	Storm Cat, '01	N/A	Fleming Thoroughbred Farm, LLC, AZ	Top Hat Wildcat (\$37,522)	\$326,983
4	Ez Dreamer	In Excess, '05	N/A	Triple AAA Ranch, AZ	Dreamy Gal (\$39,780)	\$182,892
5	Maybry's Boy	Broad Brush, '99	N/A	N/A	Madame Maybry (\$74,094)	\$155,693
6	Chelokee	Cherokee Run, '04	Died	N/A	Chelokee's Gem (\$19,821)	\$82,238
7	Jila (IRE)	Kris, '95	N/A	N/A	Lady Jila (\$34,960)	\$76,230
8	Supah Blitz	Mecke, '00	N/A	N/A	Mobiledixie (\$31,165)	\$70,828
9	Chestertown Slew	Seattle Slew, '02	Died	N/A	Town Surprise (\$17,300)	\$69,121
10	Bulldogger	Dixie Union, '07	N/A	N/A	Sedona Sunrise (\$20,627)	\$60,374

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