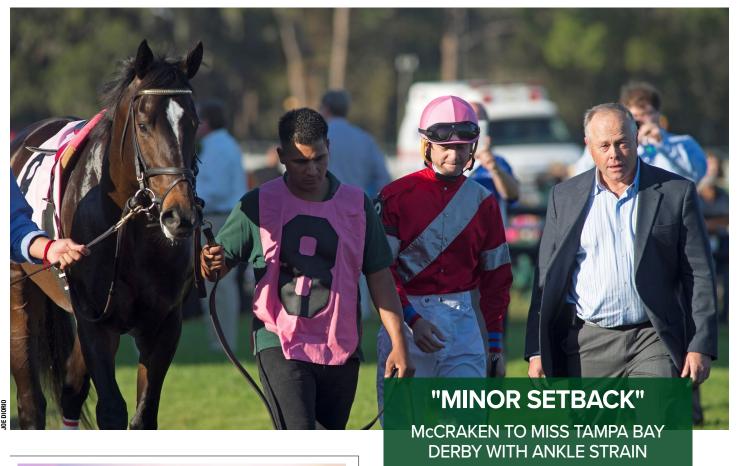
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McCRAKEN TO MISS TAMPA BAY DERBY WITH ANKLE STRAIN

By Alicia Wincze Hughes **y** @BH_AHughes

nbeaten multiple graded stakes winner McCraken will miss the Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby (G2) March 11 after emerging from a four-furlong move Feb. 27 with a slight strain to his left front ankle.

Trainer Ian Wilkes said the son of Ghostzapper cooled out in good order Monday after covering a half mile in :48.90 at Palm Meadows Training Center—the colt's first move since capturing the Feb. 11 Sam F. Davis Stakes (G3) in trackrecord setting fashion at Tampa Bay Downs—and that the strain was discovered the morning of Feb. 28.

X-rays on the ankle were clean, according to Wilkes, and the plan is to point McCraken to the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G2) at Keeneland in April for his final prep on the Road to the Kentucky Derby.

"He worked yesterday, he worked great. This morning he just had a slight strain," Wilkes said. "I just feel like... the horse comes first. And I don't want to come back and work him next week for the Tampa Bay Derby. If I have to

miss a race, I would rather miss this one, take care of the horse, get him right, and run him in the Blue Grass.

"I'm just going to do what's right by the horse. He's taken us this far and taken care of me. So now I need to take care of him and not do something stupid. But I really feel good, I think we'll be fine."

Though Wilkes hoped to get three prep races into McCraken leading into the first Saturday in May, he takes comfort in the already solid foundation Janis Whitham's homebred has in his four career starts. The bay colt won all three of his starts as a juvenile, including a triumph in the Kentucky Jockey Club Stakes (G2) at Churchill Downs Nov. 26, and he handled the Tampa Bay Downs surface in the Sam F. Davis, which can be a

tiring one that can put fitness into a runner in quick order.

"I've always had three preps in mind for him but you always allow yourself some room because... had we planned on just two preps and something goes wrong like this later in the preparation, now I'm (out of luck)," Wilkes said. "This way, I'm still on target, everything is good. It's just a minor hiccup. But if this is the worst thing that happens, I'll be OK."

McCraken's 11/2-length win in the Sam F. Davis was his first start outside of Churchill Downs and improved his earnings to \$310,848.

"This is a minor setback, but these things happen when you train horses," Wilkes said. BH



Whitham Thoroughbreds' homebred McCraken is undefeated in four starts



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BREEDERS' CUP RELEASES TICKET INFORMATION FOR DEL MAR The

Breeders' Cup released detailed ticketing information Feb. 28 for the 2017 Breeders' Cup World Championships taking place at Del Mar Nov. 3-4.

ILLINOIS BOARD APPROVES \$500K FOR

PURSES The Illinois Racing Board Feb. 28 conditionally approved transferring \$500,000 of its "surplus" operating funds to bolster purses at the state's three remaining tracks.

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ZAZU (f, by Tapit). 4 wins at 2 and 3, \$691,985 in US. Won Las Virgenes S. **[G1]**, Lady's Secret S.**[G1]**, Hollywood Oaks **[G2]**. 2nd Clement L. Hirsch S. **[G1]**, Santa Anita Oaks **[G1]**, Santa Ynez S. **[G2]**, Moccasin S. 3rd Kentucky Oaks **[G1]**.

FLASHBACK (c, by Tapit). Brilliant Grade 2 Winner of the Robert B. Lewis Stakes (G2) in impressive fashion by 6 1/4 lengths in his second career start.

CORINTHIAN'S JEWEL (c, by Corinthian). 2 wins at 3, \$69,920 in US. Won Restoration S. (MTH, \$36,000).

Art Princess (f, by Officer). Unplaced at 3, in Can. At 1 Sent to Great Britain. At 6 Sent to Japan. Winner at 2, in Eng, 23,095 GBP. 2nd Cherry Hinton S. [G2] (ENG). (Total: \$49,278) Dam of 1 winner.

Tap That (JPN) (c, by Tapit). 2 wins at 2, in Jpn, \$266,999. 2nd Zen-Nippon Nisai Yushun (JPN). (Total: \$326,999) ***VAQUERO II**, ***ISLE OF SHINE**, **Rasp**. Dam of **HERECOMESTHEBRIDE**, **ACHARMER**, **VIDID GOLD**.



HORSES TO WATCH AT **FASIG-TIPTON GULFSTREAM SALE**

By Ron Mitchell

@BH RMitchell

edigree, pervious purchase price, and the Feb. 27 workouts help trim the list of horses to watch for the boutique Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale that takes place March 1 in the Gulfstream Park paddock.

Among those who impressed during the under tack show in South Florida was a Bernardini colt who was among five sharing the fastest work time of :10 flat for an eighth of a mile.

Consigned Hartley/De Renzo as Hip 135, the colt is a half brother to grade 3 winner Ocho Ocho Ocho and traces back to champion Personal Ensign and to Broodmare of the Year Grecian Banner. Bred in Kentucky by Chadds Ford Stable, the colt was bought by Hartley/De Renzo for \$350,000 from Paramount Sales at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga August yearling sale.

"We knew for sure he was a pretty amazing horse, and not just with the :10 flat work," said Dean De Renzo. "He just keeps doing it."

Another speedy worker Monday was Hip 66, an Into Mischief filly from McKathan Brothers who also went an eighth in :10 flat. A \$135,000 purchase from Vinery Sales, agent for breeder Spendthrift Farm, the filly is out of a winning half sister to four stakes winners, including Florida Derby (G1) runner-up and sire Value Plus.



Hip 135, a son of Bernardini, impressed with his Feb. 27 work for the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale

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HORSES TO WATCH EASIG TIDTON GLILESTDEAM SALE

	FASIG-TIPTON GULFSTREAM SALE
Hip	Notes
53	C., First Samurai—Exploremore, by Five Star Day Niall Brennan Stables, agent
66	F., Into Mischief—Greer Lynn, by Speightstown McKathan Brothers, agent
86	C., Pioneerof the Nile—Katz Me If You Can, by Storm Cat Starting Point Thoroughbreds, agent
117	C., Paynter—Perfect Wave, By Boston Harbor SGV Thoroughbreds, agent
135	C., Bernardini—Winner, by Horse Chestnut Hartley/De Renzo Thoroughbreds, agent
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A Pioneerof the Nile colt (Hip 86) consigned by Will North's Starting Point Thoroughbreds was not in the fastest group to work Monday, but the colt did impress clockers with his gallop out after breezing the eighth in :10 2/5.

"He galloped out tremendous," North said. "Visually he looked really good. He's sharp looking today; very untaxed."

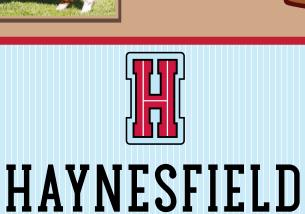
Bred in Kentucky by Whisper Hill Farm, the colt was bought by North for \$280,000 when offered at the Keeneland September yearling sale by Timber Town. He was produced from the grade 2-winning Storm Cat mare Katz Me If You Can, who also produced the dam of grade 1-placed Comfort. The colt's second dam is the grade 1-winning Mr. Prospector mare Cuddles.

Hip 53, a First Samurai colt from Niall Brennan Stables' consignment, is out of an unraced half sister to the grade 2 winner Just Jenda and was a \$180,000 buy by Hades Bloodstock when consigned by Hidden Creek at last year's Keeneland September sale.

Topping out the list is Hip 117, a colt from the first crop of Paynter who is consigned by Steve Venosa's SGV Thoroughbreds. SGV bought the colt bred by Millennium Farms and the Paynter Syndicate for \$170,000 at last year's Fasig-Tipton October yearling sale. BH

CA Active Stallions	Crops to race	`17 Earnings	`17 Stud Fee	
1. Bluegrass Cat	7	\$640,694	\$7,500	X
2. Haynesfield	2	\$495,159	\$5,000	
3. Vronsky	9	\$412,991	\$6,500	
4. Square Eddie	4	\$366,416	\$25,000	
5. Ministers Wild Cat	8	\$292,867 atistics from The Blood-Horse 2/	\$5,000	





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FASIG-TIPTON GULFSTREAM **UNDER TACK SHOW HAS BUYERS** SET

By Ron Mitchell

@BH_RMitchell

s buyers began their inspections in earnest on the penultimate day to the March 1 Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale of 2-year-olds in training, consignors were positive about the under tack show with few exceptions.

Conducted over Gulfstream Park's main dirt track, the Feb. 27 workouts provided buyers with an opportunity to assess the racing potential of the some 120 horses that will go through the ring (160 were cataloged, with 43 withdrawn) during the sale that begins in Gulfsteam's paddock at 4 p.m. ET.

Ciaran Dunne of Wavertree Stable said his horses worked as expected, but he was disappointed that a Tapit colt jumped a shadow en route to an eighth-mile timing of :10 4/5. Consigned as Hip 90, the colt produced from grade 1 winner Lady of Fifty was purchased privately after going through the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga August yearling sale as a RNA on a final bid of \$625,000.

"You can't prepare for one jumping a shadow but there are a lot worse things that can happen," Dunne said. "We were pleased overall. It's a lot deeper racetrack than we train over at home... it's a tough racetrack and a majority of them don't handle it. The good ones manage to separate themselves."

Dunne said early morning traffic at the barns in pleasant, sunny, and breezy weather had been steady and the format of having only one day between the workouts and sale was a workable formula.

As one agent at Wavertree's barn expressed a desire for more time to inspect horses following the under tack show and before the sale, Dunne defended the arrangement.

"The beauty of this sale of having the breeze show on Monday and the sale Wednesday adds more of an impetus and creates a bit of buzz. I think it works to seller's benefit that buyers have more pressure to make a decision."



Hip 35, by Spring At Last, works in :10 flat at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale

Some horsemen and women said fewer horses returned from the under tack show with physical problems than last year, indicating the track was in better shape. Others say post-work X-rays do not necessarily tell the whole story since most of the horses do not undergo radiograph exams prior to breezing.

"We never know," Dunne said. "We say he chipped an ankle or did this or that in the breeze show, but the fact is most of this was done before we got here."

Except for one colt who sustained an injury during his work and was later euthanized, consignor Eddie Woods said his horses performed as expected.

"We had one mishap, which was unfortunate, but all the others fell into the spot they were supposed to," Woods said. "They all came back OK."

Torie Gladwell of Top Line Sales said she and her husband Jimbo were pleased with the performance of Hip 35, a Spring At Last colt who was one of five that breezed an eighth of a mile in the co-fastest time of :10. Since arriving at Gulfstream, the colt (Hip 35) has not worked over the track but had only galloped prior to the workout show.

"That was really good, considering that he had only galloped twice over the track," she said of the colt who descends from the female family of two-time French group 1 winner and sire Creator (GB). "We were trying to protect him a little. But all winter he kept getting better and better." BH





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Freedom Child	MD	1	\$170,072

LOOK FOR HIS **STELLAR FIRST 2-YEAR-OLDS** AT UPCOMING SALES



HARTLEY, DE RENZO EXPLORE NEW **DIMENSIONS**

By Ron Mitchell

@BH_RMitchell

or the past 26 years Randy Hartley and Dean De Renzo have been formidable pinhookers, buying yearlings and sending them through their breaking and training program before re-selling them as 2-year-olds, usually with good success.

Graduates of either their training program or sales consignments include two-time classic winner Silver Charm, champion Xtra Heat, and at least seven additional grade 1 winners as well as dozens of other graded stakes winners. At the same time, they have been active in the Florida breeding industry by standing stallions at their Ocala farm.

Now Hartley and De Renzo are moving their business model into another phase. They have been buying well-bred weanlings and top broodmares with plans to enter the high-end breeding game.

"Randy and I have been in business 26 years and



Dean De Renzo at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale

we're stepping up our program," a relaxed De Renzo said from the Fasiq-Tipton Gulfstream sale barn area Feb. 27, following the under tack show. "With our pedigree, it's about time for us to do that. We have shown our longevity, having gone through the tough times and good times and withstood it all."

De Renzo said the transition came about after the two decided they wanted to step up their program. In doing so, they cited some of the industry's biggest names to try to emulate.

(continued on page 12)





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HARTLEY, DE RENZO EXPLORE **NEW DIMENSIONS**

(continued from page 10)

"We sat down and had some meetings and talked about where we would like to be in the future and we said we'd like to be like Stonestreet and we'd like to be like WinStar and have our fingers in every part of the market," De Renzo said. "I think we're on the right track and feel tremendously confident about it.

"We bought big-pedigreed mares with sire power and we bought young mares in foal to horses like American Pharoah, Pioneerof the Nile, Medaglia d'Oro, and graded stakes-winning mares."

De Renzo said the consignors' offerings at Fasig-Tipton reflect their emphasis on quality, with well-bred fillies that have residual value should their racing careers not pan out. Colts with strong female families also are on offer since quality bloodlines are desired in future stallion prospects.

"All four of the fillies we have here have graded stakes in their first dam and all have a future past their race career," he added. "Buyers like what we're doing. They say you have the best pedigrees in the book. That's by design. And we own all eight of the horses that we have here."

De Renzo said the mares are maintained at Chris Baccari's Seclusive Farm in Kentucky, and their resulting offspring will be sent to Hartley and De Renzo in Florida to be prepped for the sales.

"Chris does an amazing job taking care of those horses. He's a workaholic," De Renzo said. "When they get weaned, we'll bring them down to our farm to get ready for the next stage, the next stage, and the next stage."

Like most aspects of the horse business, stepping up their game has stretched Hartley and De Renzo's pocketbook but they feel it's worth the risk.

"It's been a little hard because we had to step up the game financially," adding with a laugh, "but we'll just eat peanut butter until we get there." BH



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BLUE DEVIL RACING ENJOYS BEST YEAR AS BREEDER

By Eric Mitchell

🄰 @BH EMitchell

lue Devil Racing enjoyed a strong weekend, getting its second graded stakes winner in four days as a breeder when Unified prevailed by a neck in the \$100,000 Gulfstream Park Sprint Stakes (G3) Feb. 25.

The 4-year-old son of Candy Ride—Union City, by Dixie Union, became Blue Devil Racing's first graded stakes winner after taking the Bay Shore Stakes (G3) at Aqueduct Racetrack. He went on to win the Peter Pan Stakes

(G2) in his next start. Unified now has an impressive record of four wins (three of them in graded stakes) in five starts for Centennial Farms and earnings of nearly \$390,000.

Prior to the Gulfstream Park Sprint, Blue Devil Racing's partners already had plenty to celebrate. Their first graded stakes winner of the year came Feb. 23 when Nomorerichblondes, a daughter of Hard Spun— Miss Luann, by Unbridled's Song, picked up her first black-type stakes in the UAE Oaks Sponsored by Al Naboodah Ashok Leyland. She won the 1,900-meter test (about 9 1/2 furlongs) in 2:01.85.

Marc Holliday founded Blue Devil Racing in 2006 and is its manager. Holliday is also CEO of SL Green Realty, which is New York City's largest office landlord. The publicly held company has interests in 127 Manhattan buildings totaling 47.8 million square feet among its investments.

Blue Devil Racing acquired Union City for \$260,000 in foal to Bluegrass Cat during a dispersal of prominent breeder Edward "Ned" Evans' bloodstock at the 2011 Keeneland November breeding stock sale. The resulting foal became stakes-placed winner Honkeytonk Man. The next foal out of the Union City was Unified, who Blue Devil racing sold to Centennial



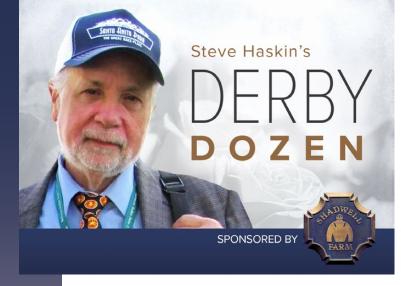
Unified locking down his third stakes win, the Feb. 25 Gulfstream Park Sprint

for \$325,000 at the 2014 Fasig-Tipton New York Saratoga select yearling sale through the Lane's End consignment.

Miss Luann was among the Blue Devil Racing's early purchases, obtained for \$375,000 as a yearling at the 2007 Fasiq-Tipton New York Saratoga select yearling sale. Trained by Dale Romans, she placed in a minor stakes at Turfway Park and retired with \$63,493 in earnings. She has been far more valuable as a broodmare. Her first foal, Sharp Kitty (by Kitten's Joy) sold as a yearling to trainer Amy Tarrant for \$340,000 and became a stakes winner for Hardacre Farm.

Nomorerichblondes, the second foal out of Miss Luann, sold for \$100,000 as a yearling and wound up racing for Buti Bintooq Almarri. Having raced exclusively in Dubai, the filly has a 2-1-0 record out of five starts. She finished second in the UAE One Thousand Guineas Sponsored by Al Tayer Motors before she won the UAE Oaks.

Blue Devil Racing got its first stakes winner as an owner on Aug. 28, 2010, when Roque's Jewel won the New York Oaks at Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack. As a breeder, the group's first black-type winner is Butterfly Soul, who won the Phil D. Shepherd Stakes at Fairplex Share this story Park on Sept. 14, 2012. BH



1 IRISH WAR CRY

Trainer/Owner: Graham Motion/Isabelle de Tomaso Pedigree: Curlin-Irish Sovereign, by Polish Numbers

Breeder: Isabelle de Tomaso (NJ)

Worked for the first time since the Sam F. Davis Stakes (G3), breezing a half in :48 4/5 Feb. 27. He, along with Gormley, still remains the only top-ranked 2-year-olds to win major stakes, as Classic Empire, Mo Town, No Dozing, Lookin At Lee, and Wild Shot have all disappointed.

2 | McCRAKEN

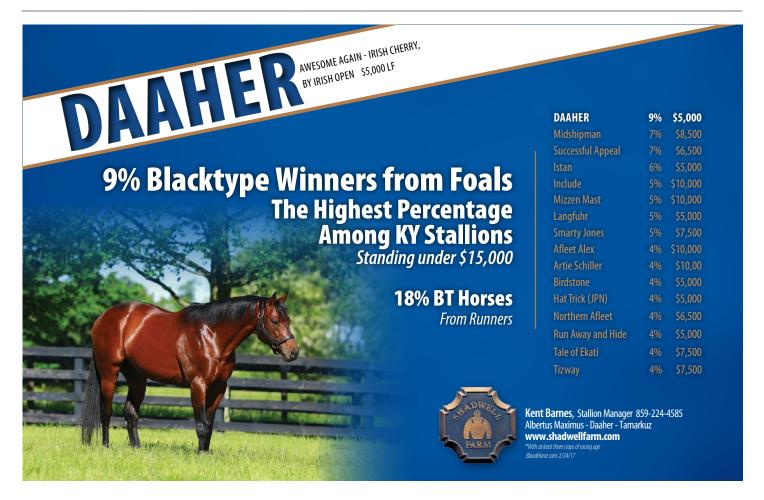
Ian Wilkes/Whitham Thoroughbreds Ghostzapper-Ivory Empress, by Seeking the Gold Whitham Thoroughbreds (KY)

Late-breaking news that he will miss the Tampa Bay Derby (G2) due to a minor ankle injury has scrambled things up at the last minute. I had to drop him, but only to No. 2 for now, until we find out the extent of the injury. Wilkes at least has a race to play with by having scheduled three starts for him, and he can still go straight to the Blue Grass Stakes (G2), but his status will remain iffy until his injury heals and he's back working.

3 | MASTERY AGRAD

Bob Baffert/Cheyenne Stables Candy Ride—Steady Course, by Old Trieste Stone Farm (KY)

Worked much easier than last time, breezing six furlongs in 1:15 on Feb. 27. Baffert putting a lot of distance works in him. Not only was his seven-furlong work in 1:25 2/5 two works back on Feb. 13 as good as any work I've seen this year, he followed it up with an equally brilliant work last week, this time going six furlongs in 1:12 flat.





STEVE HASKIN'S DERBY DOZEN

4 | GUNNEVERA **GRAD

Antonio Sano/Peacock Racing Stables Dialed In-Unbridled Rage, by Unbridled Brandywine Farm and Stephen Upchurch (KY)

I was impressed with his performance Feb. 4 in the Lambholm South Holy Bull Stakes (G2), as he proved to be one of the few leading 2-year-olds from last year to make a successful transition to 3. He had to stay within fairly close proximity to Irish War Cry and still had enough of a closing punch to prove much the best of the rest for second.

5 PRACTICAL JOKE **GRAD

Chad Brown/Klaravich Stables and William H. Lawrence Into Mischief-Halo Humor, by Distorted Humor Whispering Oaks (KY)

Following a pair of five-furlong works, he sharpened up for the March 4 Xpressbet.com Fountain of Youth Stakes (G2) with a brisk half in :48, third-fastest of 41 works at the trip. We'll finally get to see what we're dealing with this year as he heads into his big test to prove he is as adept around two turns as he is around one.

6 | EL AREEB **GRAD

Cathal Lynch/M M G Stables Exchange Rate—Feathered Diamond, by A.P. Indy Dixiana Farms (KY)

Moved him up three spots based on his continued sharp works, breezing five furlongs in a bullet 1:00%, out in 1:13 on Feb. 26 at Laurel. Good for Lynch for avoiding the temptation to skip the March 4 Gotham Stakes (G3) and point directly for the Wood Memorial Stakes (G2) or shipping the horse to Florida. This appears to be a colt who thrives on racing and training.

7 CLASSIC EMPIRE CRAD

Mark Casse/John C. Oxley Pioneerof the Nile—Sambuca Classica, by Cat Thief Steven Nicholson and Brandi Nicholson (KY)

He's been galloping regularly but still no works. If you want to visit familiar ground with him, how about the San Felipe Stakes (G2) over the same track as the Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) and then the Toyota Blue Grass Stakes (G2) over the same track as the Claiborne Breeders' Futurity (G1). Those were the two races in which he shined.



Risen Star Stakes winner Girvin makes this week's **Derby Dozen**

8 GORMLEY *GRAD

John Shirreffs/Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Moss Malibu Moon-Race to Urga, by Bernstein Castleton Lyons and Kilboy Estate (KY)

The closer I look at this colt the more I like him. I especially loved his last two works-six furlongs in a bullet 1:11 and a half-mile in in :47 4/5, which very deceiving considering how far he kept going past the wire, galloping out tfive furlongs in 1:011/5 and six furlongs in 1:14 3/5, and not pulling up until well down the backstretch.

9 ONE LINER *GRAD

Todd Pletcher/WinStar Farm, China Horse Club, and SF Racing Into Mischief-Cayala, by Cherokee Run Kingswood Farm (KY)

Pletcher, as expected, will give him only one more start, which brings back into play the historical stat regarding horses' having only four career starts before the Derby. Only two horses in the past 99 years have won the Derby with as few as four career starts, and both of those had never sprinted while One Liner has sprinted twice.

10 | AMERICAN ANTHEM CRAD

Bob Baffert/WinStar Farm, SF Bloodstock, and China Horse Club Bodemeister-Indy's Windy, by A.P. Indy WinStar Farm (KY)

The statistics mentioned above regarding four career starts also apply to him, and that is the only reason he is not ranked higher. As brilliant as American Anthem might be, like One Liner, we have seen too many of these lightly raced horses come up short in the Derby. His path likely will be the March 18 Rebel Stakes (G2) and April 1 Santa Anita Derby (G1).

11 TAPWRIT

Todd Pletcher/Bridlewood Farm, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, and Robert LaPenta

Tapit—Appealing Zophie, by Successful Appeal My Meadowview (KY)

Worked a half-mile Feb. 25 in a sharp: 474/5 in company with Always Dreaming, who could join him in the March 11 Lambholm South Tampa Bay Derby (G2). But as well as he was closing in the final furlong of the Sam F. Davis, it must be noted there will be a fairly significant weight shift with McCraken, from whom he was getting six pounds.

12 | GIRVIN RGRAD

Joe Sharp/Brad Grady Tale of Ekati—Catch the Moon, by Malibu Moon Bob Austin and John Witte (KY)

I had no intention of putting another horse in the Top 12 who was going to have only four career starts until I belatedly looked at his Thoro-Graph figures. In his debut at 2—his only dirt start before the Risen Star Stakes (G2)—his figure, with the exception of Mo Town's Remsen Stakes (G2), remarkably was faster than any of the other horses in the Risen Star field had ever run.

HOGY REGISTERS WEEK'S TOP EQUIBASE SPEED FIGURE

By Frank Angst

@BH_FAngst

t age 8, Hogy has never been

After opening the season with a close second-place finish in the Frontier Utilities Turf Sprint Stakes Jan. 29 at Sam Houston Race Park, William Stiritz's Offlee Wild gelding registered a clear victory in the \$50,000 Colonel Power Overnight Stakes Feb. 25 sprinting on the Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots turf.

Hogy completed the about 5

1/2-furlong turf test in 1:01.56, a course record. The effort earned Hogy the week's top Equibase Speed Figure of 122. That 122 figure is a career best for the dark bay runner, who has started in 41 races and won a half-dozen stakes races, the first of those wins coming in 2011.

Winning jockey Florent Geroux was also aboard Hogy at Sam Houston and expressed gratitude that trainer Scott Becker stuck with him for the Fair Grounds race.



Hogy sets a course record in the 2017 Colonel Power overnight stakes at Fair Grounds.

Top 10 Equibase Speed Figures Since Feb. 21

E	Horse	Finish	Race, Track, Distance, Date
122	Hogy	1	Colonel Power Overnight S., FG, a5.5fT, 2/25
121	Unified	1	Gulfstream Park Sprint S. (gr. III), GP, 6.5f, 2/25
120	Green Mask	2	Colonel Power Overnight S., FG, a5.5fT, 2/25
120	Mind Your Biscuits	2	Gulfstream Park Sprint S. (gr. III), GP, 6.5f, 2/25
115	Ambitious Brew	1	Sensational Star S., SA, a6.5fT, 2/25
115	Richard's Boy	2	Sensational Star S., SA, a6.5fT, 2/25
114	Distinctiv Passion	1	CLM, SA, 6f, 2/26
113	Increase	1	AOC, TUP, 8f, 2/25
112	Partly Mocha	1	Bucharest Turf Sprint S., HOU, 5fT, 2/25
112	American Sailor	2	Bucharest Turf Sprint S., HOU, 5fT, 2/25
112	Bettys Bambino	3	Sensational Star S., SA, a6.5fT, 2/25
112	Grand Candy	3	Colonel Power Overnight S., FG, a5.5fT, 2/25

"Scott Becker put me back on the horse and it was great to ride him again," Geroux said. "He's not an easy horse to ride. The key with him is timing the ride and going outside because he will pull himself up. I knew there was a bit of magic left in him. I'm not surprised about the new track record." BH

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FORMERLY ABANDONED MARE MAKES STRIDES TOWARD **MAKEOVER**

By Erin Shea

🄰 @BH EShea

nnora, a 6-year-old daughter of Nobiz Like Shobiz, stood quietly in the aisle of the Kentucky Equine Humane Center barn as she received treatment through a Cytowave Equine blanket on her back, and began to doze off.

"When she first came in she was very muscle sore all over. So I started doing massages and worked on getting those muscles relaxed," said Sarah Gatchell, an intern at KyEHC and a student at Midway College. "With the Cytowave... I've noticed some great improvement."

While Annora isn't a high-maintenance horse, the organization said they would just like to see her reach her full potential, which is why they are using various therapies on her. It's a big transition from where she was just a few months ago: abandoned in a field.



The KyEHC rescued Annora from the highprofile situation that involved about 40 horses left on a farm near Harrodsburg, Ky. leased by Charles Borell and his daughter, trainer Maria Borell. Annora's listed breeder is Maria Borell.

When the situation arose, KyEHC offered to take horses from the farm and ended up taking Annora and another mare, who the center has named Studio. Annora arrived Nov. 16 and through attempts to identify her, the KyEHC found that she had published works after July 1, 2015, thereby making her eligible to compete in the 2017 Thoroughbred Makeover Oct. 5-8 at the Kentucky Horse Park.

"She never raced but she was in training," said Olivia Dixon, trainer at KyEHC. "For a horse

> to come from that big mess, and to be the 'spokeshorse' for our rescue at the Makeover (is incredible); to show people that just because a horse has been abandoned or neglected at some point in their life, doesn't mean they can't turn around and do good things."

Dixon hasn't chosen a discipline for her and Annora to show off their



Annora stands calmly with trainer Olivia Dixon as she receives her Cytowave treatment

(continued on page 19)

INSIDE AFTERCARE

FORMERLY ABANDONED MARE MAKES STRIDES TOWARD MAKEOVER

(continued from page 18)

skills, but she's leaning toward competitive trail since she's feels it sets up horses to easily enter other disciplines later in life. Ultimately, Dixon said it's Annora's decision.

"Some people pick one discipline and they try to fit the horse to that," she said. "But you find out what the horse is good at and let them be good at that and build their confidence."

Although she hasn't ridden her too much, Dixon said the therapy Annora is receiving, made possible by a number of donors including After The Finish Line, will help her reach her full potential. Annora is up for adoption and the KyEHC thinks that she'll catch someone's eye at the Makeover.

"Now that Sarah's been working with her, she's been really willing to kind of step out under saddle and move a lot nicer. It's going to help her showcase herself to the best of her abilities," Dixon said.

"It's obvious through her temperament that she's been taken care of at some point in her life and she really does like people. I think there's a lot of hope for her to find a good home after the makeover." BH



DEAL REACHED TO KEEP FINGER LAKES OPEN

By Tom Precious

he horsemen's group at Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack in upstate New York approved a deal Feb. 27 permitting the track to remain open this year in the face of new gambling competition that's expected to eat into its purse account funds.

The agreement, expected to be signed in the next two days by the Finger Lakes Horsemen's Benevolent Protective Association and Delaware North Companies, the track's owner, calls for racing to commence April 22 and run through Nov. 28. A total of 145 dates are scheduled, down from 155 last year.

The agreement calls for reducing the number of race dates in the beginning of the season, starting off in the first week with just two days and building up to five days by the week of May 22. At that point, the plan is to hold nine races per day, though the number could drop to eight races daily depending on the hit on revenues a new Las Vegas-style casino nearby has on the Finger Lakes racino's revenues.

"All of this is extremely flexible," David Brown, president of the horsemen's group, said following a horsemen's board meeting the eveing of Feb. 27.

Finger Lakes officials late Tuesday morning confirmed that it had reached a deal with the horsemen's group.

"We are pleased to have come to an agreement that sets the wheels in motion for racing to continue at Finger Lakes this spring," Chris Riegle, president and general manager of the track, said in a written statement.

"All parties involved worked hard and productively over a long period of time toward a reasonable solution that most importantly provides assurance for close to 1,000 people who depend directly on the local racing industry for their livelihood."

The plan calls for racing five days per week, except during the Saratoga Thoroughbred meet in the summer when Finger Lakes will scale back to four days per week.

The agreement followed frenzied negotiations between various stakeholders, including the state government, over ways to keep racing going in the face of major competition from the opening earlier this month of del Lago Resort & Casino, a full-blown, Las Vegas-style casino situated just off the New York Thruway between Rochester and Syracuse. The

(continued on page 21)



Finger Lakes will remain open this year in the face of new gambling competition



DEAL REACHED TO KEEP FINGER LAKES OPEN

(continued from page 20)

casino is 29 miles away from the track and already siphoning away some of the track's racino revenues, a portion of which goes to fund purses.

As of Feb. 28 the New York State Gaming Commission was not taking a position on the horsemen's vote Monday night.

"We understand the horsemen held a vote last night on a proposal. The commission, as the regulator, must review and approve the details of the proposal. We are awaiting those details," said Lee Park, a spokesman for the gaming commission.

Advisers to Gov. Andrew Cuomo just over a week ago floated a plan involving no state taxpayer money to help bailout declining purses due to the opening of the new casino. The Cuomo plan proposed money be provided to purses by Delaware North, as well as the new casino and a state breeding and development

But the plan was opposed by the horsemen's group, in part because it reduced the number of race dates from 165 in 2016 to 155 in 2017, and called for cutting by one the number of races each day to eight. Critics of the Cuomo plan said the state needed to kick in some money for the bailout effort because Albany approved the arrangement that allowed del Lago to locate so close to Finger Lakes without offering the same kind of financial protections given tracks in other areas of the state that also face new state-sanctioned casino competition.

When the number of race dates and daily races were considered, the horsemen's group said Cuomo's recent plan effectively cut the number of racing dates to 131 days per year, a drop of more than 20% from 2016 levels. State officials, however, insisted that taxpayer money should not be involved in any bailout of Finger Lakes racing, and that the horsemen were looking for financial "hold harmless" protections not given to other industries in the state.

"I think we're happy to have our season begin," Brown said Monday night. "There's a lot of work that has to be done this year and next year to come up with some sort of long-term solution."

Part of the issue is that no one knows yet the extent of the impact from del Lago on Finger Lakes' racino revenue. That is evident by what Brown said is Delaware North's contribution to the new deal. The Buffalo-based company, he said, has agreed to provide \$1 million to help fund expected declining purse account levels as a result of del Lago's opening. But if the decline in revenue at Finger Lakes hits 30% or more, Brown said, Delaware North's contribution to purses drops to \$600,000.

Brown said del Lago will provide \$447,000 to the new purse arrangement, while a state breeding and development fund is agreeing to give an entire \$1.5 million purse enhancement fund to just Finger Lakes. The fund now provides \$900,000 annually to Finger Lakes and \$600,000 to races at New York Racing Association tracks. "My understanding is they will divert the whole \$1.5 million during the next two years to Finger Lakes," Brown said.

The horsemen's group said the new contract is a one-year deal between owners and trainers at the upstate track and Delaware North and also includes a commitment by all sides, including the state, to perform a feasibility study of offering turf racing at the track. Such a development, Brown said, could dramatically increase the number of owners and trainers who would ship horses from other areas of the country to race at Finger Lakes.

Uncertain Monday night was precisely how many races will be held in 2017 at Finger Lakes compared with the 2016 meet. Such a number, Brown said, depends on the impact del Lago eventually has during the coming year. "The intention is to run a full meet except with fewer days," Brown said.

At a minimum, though, dropping 10 days of racing means a loss of at least 90 races in 2017.

"This is kind of a two-year respite so we'll all have the numbers and then can re-evaluate to come up with a longer-term proposal," Brown said. He noted that races restricted to New York-bred horses will likely end up seeing higher purse levels as a result of the new deal, and that there will be more breeding fund money put on higher claiming races at the \$8,000 and above levels, BH

PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

with Alan Porter



STRONG DISTAFF INBREEDING LINKS IN GIRVIN

By Alan Porter

@pedigreeconsult

Inbreeding to female families has been around since very beginnings of the Thoroughbred. As a technique for potentially upgrading a pedigree it tends to go in and out of fashion, and of late it's received a good deal of attention through twotime Horse of the Year California Chrome, whose dam is inbred 3x3 to champion Numbered Account (herself inbred to great mare La Troienne through closely related individuals).

Distaff inbreeding with a link to California Chrome also appears in the female line of Girvin, a horse who earned a likely place in this year's Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) lineup with a decisive victory in the Feb. 25 Risen Star Stakes (G2). This was only the third start for Girvin, who won a Dec. 16 maiden special weight over six furlongs at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, then finished second in the Keith Gee Memorial Overnight Stakes when trying the turf, three weeks before the Risen Star.

Girvin's fourth dam is Monique Rene. An extremely tough daughter of Prince of Ascot—by the Princequillo horse Royal Ascot—Monique Rene won 29 of 45 starts, 15 of them in black-type races, nearly all at Fair Grounds and Louisiana Downs. Her female line, which arrived in Lousiana via Colorado, goes back to a Californian family developed by Rex Ellsworth. Monique Rene's third dam, Dancing Date, was a close relative to Ellsworth's Santa Anita Derby victor Terrang, and was bred on the same cross as Ellsworth-bred Kentucky Derby winner and Horse of the Year Swaps. By coincidence, Love The Chase, the dam of California Chrome, has a double of Swaps—as broodmare sire of Numbered Account—and goes tail-female to a three-quarters sister to the dam of Swaps.

	I	0	Storm Bird
		Storm Cat, 1983	Storm Bird
	Tale of the Cat, 1994		Terlingua
TALE OF EKATI,		Yarn, 1987	Mr. Prospector
b, 2005			Narrate
		Sunday Silence, 1986	Halo
	Silence Beauty, 1997		Wishing Well
]	Maplejinsky, 1985	Nijinsky II
GIRVIN			Gold Beauty
dkb/br, c March 31, 2014		A.P. Indy, 1989	Seattle Slew
Wildroll 01, 2014	Malibu Moon, 1997	·	Weekend Surprise
		Macoumba, 1992	Mr. Prospector
			Maximova
CATCH THE		Yes It's True, 1996	Is It True
MOON, dkb/br, 2009	Catch My Fancy, 2003		Clever Monique
		Walk Away Rene, 1993	Gold Alert
			Monique Rene

Monique Rene also produced graded stakes winner Prince of The Mt., and appears as granddam of Canadian champion 3-year-old colt Kiss A Native, Shadwell Turf Mile Stakes (G1T) captor Silver Max, and Yes It's True, successful in five graded stakes, including the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash (G1). Monique Rene's daughter, Walk Away Rene, was bred back to Yes It's True and produced the Barretts Debutante Stakes and Fairfield Stakes winner Catch My Fancy (one of two stakes winners inbred to Monique Rene, the other being Walk Away Rene's granddaughter, Yes I'll Go, successful in this year's OBS Sprint Stakes). Catch My Fancy has yet to produce a runner of note, but her unraced Malibu Moon daughter Catch The Moon is already dam not only of Girvin, but also of the Tremont Stakes and Iroquois Stakes (G3) winner Cocked And Loaded.

Girvin is from the third crop of his sire, Tale of Ekati. A son of Tale of the Cat, Tale of Ekati won the Wood Memorial Stakes (G1) and was fourth in the Kentucky Derby, but was better going shorter. His most notable victory came as a 3-year-old against older horses in the Hill 'n' Dale Cigar Mile Handicap (G1). Tale of the Cat is a Storm Bird/Mr. Prospector cross, and Tale of Ekati's granddam, Maplejinsky, is by Nijinsky II (a horse bred similarly to Nijinsky) out of Mr. Prospector's daughter, Gold Beauty. Girvin's broodmare sire, Malibu Moon, is out of Macoumba, a group 1 winner bred on a Mr. Prospector/Nijinsky Il cross. BH



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

STAKES RESULTS

Mardi Gras S.

Fair Grounds, 2/28, \$75,000, 4yo/up, f/m, a5.5f (turf), 1:03.73, course firm.

1-Rapid Rhythm, 121, b m, 5..... \$45,000 Successful Appeal-Patriot Miss, by Quiet American

0-Robert S. Evans, B-Lazy Lane Farms, LLC. (VA), T-Michael Stidham, J-James Graham Sale History: 2016 KEEJAN, (\$19,000 RNA), 2013 FTMSEP, (\$38,000 RNA).

2-Wheatfield, 121, dk b/br m, 5....... \$15,000 Lone Star Special-Thistle Bear, by Gators N

0-Tigertail Ranch, B-Tigertail Ranch (LA), T-Danny Pish, J-Diego Saenz

3-Simple Surprise, 121, dk b/br f, 4..... \$7,500 Cowboy Cal-Simplify, by Pulpit 0-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC, B-Winchell Thoroughbreds LLC (KY), T-Steven M. Asmussen, J-David Romero Flores

Margins: neck, 2, nose. Others: Blip n' Th Bye (\$3,000), Equation (\$1,500), Boom Bam Bing (\$750), Lovable Lyss (\$750), Clairenation (\$750). View Equibase Chart

ALLOWANCE RESULTS

Fair Grounds, Race 5, AOC

2/28, \$40,000, 3yo, f, a8f (turf), 1:36.65, course firm. 1-Emphatically, 118, ch f, 3, Scat Daddy-Indy Groove, by A.P. Indy, \$24,000, O-Glen Hill Farm, B-Glen Hill Farm (FL), T-Thomas F. Proctor, J-Sophie Doyle

Margin: 21/4, 11 starters. View Equibase Chart

Parx Racing, Race 7, AOC

2/28, \$51,000, 3yo, 8f (dirt), 1:40.93, track fast. 1-Hashtag Alex, 121, b g, 3, Afleet Alex-Aesculus, by Horse Chestnut (SAF), \$42,840, 0-Cash is King LLC, B- Anita Nesser (KY), T-John C. Servis, J-Jorge A. Vargas, Jr. Sale History: 2015 FTKOCT, \$40,000, 2015 KEEJAN, \$22,000.

Margin: 5, 9 starters. View Equibase Chart

Parx Racing, Race 8, ALW

2/28, \$51,000, 4yo/up, 6f (dirt), 1:11.81, track fast. 1-Sudden Surprise, 122, b g, 4, Giant Surprise-Ready and Good, by More Than Ready, \$30,600, O-Repole Stable, B-Repole Stables LLC (NY), T-Todd A. Pletcher, J-John Bi-

Margin: neck, 10 starters. View Equibase Chart

Sam Houston Race Park, Race 7, ALW

2/28, \$20,000, 4yo/up, 6f (dirt), 1:10.93, track fast. 1-Show Bound, 118, b c, 4, Warrior's Reward-Spanish Cat, by Hennessy, \$11,700, O-Imaginary Stables, B-Don Amos & Crossroads Farm, LLC (KY), T-Karl Broberg, J-Sasha Risenhoover

Sale History: 2014 KEESEP, \$170,000, 2013 KEENOV, \$30,000.



Margin: 31/2, 10 starters. View Equibase Chart

MAIDEN RESULTS

Fair Grounds, Race 3, MSW

2/28, \$38,000, 3yo, f, a8f (turf), 1:37.52, course firm. 1-Miss Emma Maria, 120, b f, 3, Tiznow-Deja Blu, by Seeking the Gold, \$22,800, O-Siena Farm LLC, B-Siena Farms LLC (KY), T-Thomas M. Amoss, J-Florent Geroux Margin: 1/2, 11 starters. View Equibase Chart

Fair Grounds, Race 9, MSW

2/28, \$38,000, 3yo, f, a8f (turf), 1:38.06, course firm. 1-Bermuda Star, 120, gr/ro f, 3, Star Guitar-Bermuda Bride, by Runaway Groom, \$22,800, 0-Brittlyn Stable, Inc., B-Tom Curtis & Wayne Simpson (LA), T-Victor Arceneaux, J-Diego Saenz

Sale History: 2016 ESLAPR, \$20,000, 2015 ESLSEP, (\$5,000 RNA).

(985) 796-5563

Margin: 31/2, 14 starters. View Equibase Chart

Parx Racing, Race 5, MSW

2/28, \$50,000, 3vo. f. 5.5f (dirt), 1:06.52, track fast. 1-Tin N Lint, 121, ch f, 3, Maclean's Music-Holiday Lights, by A.P. Indy, \$42,000, 0-The Harp Racing Stable and L and C Racing LLC, B-Blackstone Farm LLC (PA), T-Robert E. Reid, Jr., J-Frankie Pennington

Sale History: 2016 FTMMAY, \$20,000, 2015 OBSAUG, \$13,000.

Margin: 134, 10 starters. View Equibase Chart

Sunland Park, Race 2, MSW

2/28, \$21,500, 3yo, 6.5f (dirt), 1:21.10, track fast. 1-Gallant Warrior, 120, b c, 3, Majestic Warrior-Eye Vow, by Broken Vow, \$12,900, O-Kenneth Corazza, B-Kenneth L. Corazza (KY), T-Jose R. Gonzalez, Jr., J-Tracv J. Hebert Margin: 71/2, 7 starters. View Equibase Chart

Sunland Park, Race 6, MSW

2/28, \$21,500, 3yo/up, f/m, 5.5f (dirt), 1:03.87, track fast. 1-Three Diamonds, 117, b f, 3, Wilburn-Diamond Highway, by Harlan's Holiday, \$12,900, O-Teed Off Stable LLC, B-TK Stables LLC (KY), T-Bart G. Hone, J-Elvin Gonzalez Sale History: 2016 BARMAY, \$35,000, 2015 KEESEP,

Margin: 8, 10 starters. View Equibase Chart



2017 NORTH AMERICAN LEADING SIRES

Listed below is a comparison of statistics for only North American racing with all available statistics through February 27, 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)	'17 Earnings
1	Unbridled's Song	Unbridled, '93	Died	N/A	Arrogate (\$7,000,000)	\$7,548,832
2	Ghostzapper	Awesome Again, '00	\$75,000	Adena Springs Kentucky, KY	Shaman Ghost (\$1,750,000)	\$2,568,267
3	Harlan's Holiday	Harlan, '99	Died	N/A	Neolithic (\$1,000,000)	\$1,861,820
4	Curlin	Smart Strike, '04	\$150,000	Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY	Keen Ice (\$250,000)	\$1,445,603
5	Tapit	Pulpit, '01	\$300,000	Gainesway, KY	Unique Bella (\$240,000)	\$1,375,191
6	Malibu Moon	A.P. Indy, '97	\$75,000	Spendthrift Farm, KY	Farrell (\$210,000)	\$1,251,320
7	Candy Ride (ARG)	Ride the Rails, '99	\$60,000	Lane's End, KY	Gun Runner (\$300,000)	\$1,237,288
8	Uncle Mo	Indian Charlie, '08	\$150,000	Ashford Stud, KY	Unbridled Mo (\$240,000)	\$1,103,293
9	Into Mischief	Harlan's Holiday, '05	\$75,000	Spendthrift Farm, KY	One Liner (\$324,000)	\$1,073,871
10	City Zip	Carson City, '98	\$50,000	Lane's End, KY	Finest City (\$120,000)	\$1,035,790

2017 BROODMARE SIRES

Listed below are the top 10 leading broodmare sires by 2017 Northern Hemisphere earnings through February 27, 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. CMIro

					SWIS	Guiii.		
Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	Dams	Rnrs	(% Rnrs)	SWrs	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'17 Earnings
1	Distorted Humor	Forty Niner, '93	148	200	3 (1.5%)	53	Arrogate (\$7,000,000)	\$8,608,477
2	Sunday Silence	Halo, '86	420	678	6 (.9%)	162	Talking Drum (\$255,123)	\$4,440,072
3	Unbridled's Song	Unbridled, '93	219	283	7 (2.5%)	105	Semper Fortis (\$257,500)	\$3,045,074
4	A.P. Indy	Seattle Slew, '89	202	271	5 (1.8%)	146	El Areeb (\$240,000)	\$2,546,491
5	Gilded Time	Timeless Moment, '90	65	83	2 (2.4%)	54	Shaman Ghost (\$1,750,000)	\$2,227,512
6	Storm Cat	Storm Bird, '83	213	279	3 (1.1%)	235	Lord Vent d'Or (\$96,522)	\$2,192,711
7	French Deputy	Deputy Minister, '92	202	296	1 (.3%)	68	Gold Dream (\$404,190)	\$2,104,642
8	Giant's Causeway	Storm Cat, '97	176	211	2 (.9%)	49	Gun Runner (\$300,000)	\$1,858,287
9	Seeking the Gold	Mr. Prospector, '85	154	211	3 (1.4%)	140	Ertijaal (\$201,000)	\$1,717,334
10	Grand Slam	Gone West, '95	148	191	5 (2.6%)	40	Cool Cowboy (\$127,500)	\$1,630,505

2017 SIRES BY LIFETIME AEI

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires by lifetime Average Earnings Index (AEI) through February 27, 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. Cl 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	3	305	3.00	1.68
2	Pioneerof the Nile	Empire Maker, '06	\$110,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	5	356	2.72	1.89
3	Curlin	Smart Strike, '04	\$150,000	Hill 'n' Dale Farms, KY	6	479	2.45	2.19
4	Tapit	Pulpit, '01	\$300,000	Gainesway, KY	10	1021	2.38	2.16
5	War Front	Danzig, '02	\$250,000	Claiborne Farm, KY	8	507	2.36	2.29
6	Ghostzapper	Awesome Again, '00	\$75,000	Adena Springs Kentucky, KY	9	665	2.20	2.04
7	Into Mischief	Harlan's Holiday, '05	\$75,000	Spendthrift Farm, KY	6	361	2.18	1.55
8	Medaglia d'Oro	El Prado, '99	\$150,000	Darley, KY	10	1081	2.08	2.32
9	Distorted Humor	Forty Niner, '93	\$80,000	WinStar Farm LLC, KY	16	1300	2.06	2.19
10	Awesome Again	Deputy Minister, '94	\$75,000	Adena Springs Kentucky, KY	16	1093	2.03	1.91