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LOOKIN AT LEE TAKES OWNERS TO TOP LEVEL

By Robert Yates

Could Oaklawn Park be living on Tulsa time April 15?

Tulsa native John Oxley owns champion Classic Empire, who will headline the \$1 million Arkansas Derby (G1), the country's final major prep for the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) May 6 at Churchill Downs.

Lookin At Lee, also scheduled to run in the April 15 Arkansas Derby, is owned by Tulsa-based L and N Racing, a four-man partnership headed by the colt's namesake, Lee Levinson.

Although L and N Racing didn't start its first horse until June 2015, the partnership has already hit a home run in Lookin At Lee, who was purchased for \$70,000 at the Keeneland September yearling sale.

A son of two-time Eclipse Award-winner Lookin At Lucky, Lookin At Lee is a stakes winner, bankrolled \$352,795, and made his last five starts in graded stakes company, including a fourth behind Classic Empire in the \$2 million Sentient Jet Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) Nov. 5 at Santa Anita Park.

"We're just having so much fun with him, too," said Lee Levinson's son Michael, L and N Racing's stable manager. "Who would have thought we would have been in the Breeders' Cup and now we've got a shot to go to the Kentucky Derby. Every race we're racing for huge purses and running in the biggest races. It's just a blast right now."

Michael Levinson said his father owned horses approximately 25



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Lookin At Lee works over the Oaklawn track Feb. 13

years ago but didn't have the financial resources to "do it like he wanted to." Lee Levinson, 66, is an attorney, but has other business interests, including an oil and gas company that Michael Levinson said he helps run.

"He's been real fortunate now, so we decided to jump back in," Michael Levinson said of ownership.

Lee Levinson put together the partnership, which includes another son, Andy, and longtime family friend Don Nelson of nearby Mannford, Okla., the "N" in the stable name.

L and N Racing's first horse, Smart Pioneer, needed 11 starts to break his maiden. The 4-year-old gelded son of Pioneerof the Nile finished fourth against Oklahoma-breds in a first-level allowance race March 29 at Will Rogers Downs in suburban Tulsa.

"He didn't pan out as well as we thought he was going to," Michael Levinson said. "We had bought that colt before the American Pharoah craze, so afterwards we were really excited about that one. Got a taste of how hard it is to win-type thing."

Levinson said L and N Racing began seriously building its stable at the 2015 Keeneland September yearling sale and now has approximately 13 horses in training, including a half-dozen 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds.

L and N Racing purchased a Malibu Moon colt, Waitin On Will, for \$135,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale of 2-year-olds in training March 1 at Gulfstream Park and a 2-year-old colt from the first crop of 2013 Kentucky Derby winner Orb for \$100,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga yearling sale last summer.

(continued on page 5)

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COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

The sign for the 143rd Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs was updated April 10

LOOKIN AT LEE TAKES OWNERS TO TOP LEVEL

(continued from page 3)

The Orb colt, Orbatron, has had his first two works at Keeneland, most recently covering three furlongs April 8 in :39 1/5.

Levinson said L and N Racing also has two 2-year-olds (a colt and filly) by super sire Uncle Mo.

"We've got really good horses, so we're hoping some of these 2-year-olds coming up will have the same luck as Lookin At Lee," Levinson said.

Steve Asmussen, inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame last August, is L and N Racing's primary trainer.

Levinson said his father met Asmussen through longtime friend and Tulsa attorney Clark Brewster, who has had horses with the trainer for many years.

"Just made the most sense to give Steve a shot," Michael Levinson said. "We think the world of Steve, and he's done a great job."

Lookin At Lee broke his maiden sprinting July 22 at Ellis Park (L and N Racing's first victory), then captured

the \$75,000 Ellis Park Juvenile Stakes Aug. 6 in his next start (L and N Racing's first stakes score).

It's been nothing but graded stakes events since for Lookin At Lee, who was second to the now-retired Not This Time in the \$150,000 Iroquois Stakes (G3) Sept. 17 at Churchill, second to Classic Empire in the \$500,000 Claiborne Breeders' Futurity (G1) Oct. 8 at Keeneland, fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, third behind unbeaten One Liner in the \$500,000 Southwest Stakes (G3) Feb. 20, and sixth behind unbeaten Malagacy in the \$900,000 Rebel Stakes (G2) March 18 at Oaklawn.

Lookin At Lee, a deep closer, was beaten only 3 3/4 lengths in the Rebel, which is the final major local prep for the Arkansas Derby. His last five starts have been at 1 1/16 miles, but his connections believe he will benefit from the 1 1/8-mile Arkansas Derby distance.

"I think we're feeling pretty good," said Levinson, who named Lookin At Lee. "We're glad the races are finally starting to stretch out for us. Obviously you watch the races and he just needs more ground." **BH**

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GIROSTARMO!



Girolamo's daughter Highway Star doubles her Graded Stakes tally winning the G3 Distaff at Aqueduct, running a 93 Beyer. She is now six for nine.

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UNDEFEATED ONE LINER OFF THE DERBY TRAIL

By Erin Shea

[@BH_EShea](#)

WinStar Farm, China Horse Club, and SF Racing's undefeated One Liner is out indefinitely and will miss his planned start in the April 15 Arkansas Derby (G1) and is off the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) trail, WinStar's Elliott Walden said April 10.

The Into Mischief colt breezed five furlongs in 1:01 4/5 at Palm Meadows Training Center April 8, and while Walden said that nothing appears to be wrong, the connections want to make sure the colt is OK before continuing his training further.

"He just didn't breeze great," Walden said. "He didn't breeze like a horse that was ready to win the Arkansas Derby. We don't want to take him over there if he's not the One Liner we know. So we're going to try to figure it out.

"We're just going to bring him back (to WinStar) and run some tests on him and try to figure out why he didn't work great. Nothing seems apparent. He's a really nice horse, he's undefeated, and we're not going to take any chances. (Trainer) Todd (Pletcher) couldn't quite put his hand on it, so we're going to get him back and look him over and see where it takes us."

However, Walden said there's no timeline for how long One Liner will be out.



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHY

One Liner in the Southwest Stakes post parade prior to winning the grade 3 race

"(He) should be (back at WinStar) this week," he said. "He might not be out of training two weeks, he might be out 60 days, we don't know. We're going to look him over and see what we can come up with, but there's nothing apparent according to Todd."

Bred by Kingswood Farms, One Liner was purchased at the 2015 Keeneland January sale for \$150,000 by J. S. B. Stable. He ran once as a 2-year-old, winning a maiden race at Saratoga Race Course by 1 1/2 lengths. In 2017, he's won both of his starts by open lengths, including the grade 3 Southwest Stakes. From three wins he has earnings of \$373,800. **BH**

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APPALACHIAN SEASON DEBUT FOR NEW MONEY HONEY

By Mary Reeder

[@BH_MRReeder](#)

Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (G1T) winner New Money Honey is scheduled to make her sophomore debut April 13 in Keeneland's Appalachian Stakes Presented by Japan Racing Association (G3T), a one-mile turf race loaded with talent.

The Medaglia d'Oro filly, owned by e Five Racing Thoroughbreds will face a tough field of 12 other 3-year-old fillies, which includes Juvenile Fillies Turf runner-up Coasted, fourth-place finisher Lull, and Florida Oaks (G3T) runner-up La Coronel who placed sixth in the Breeders' Cup race.

New Money Honey worked at Keeneland for the first time this year, clocking four furlongs in :50 1/5 for trainer Chad Brown April 8. Previously training at Palm Meadows Training Center, she last posted a five furlong work April 1 in 1:00 2/5.

Trainer Mark Casse brings La Coronel and Dream Dancing into the Appalachian for owner John Oxley. La Coronel was close in the March 11 Florida Oaks, just missing by a neck. The Colonel John filly won the Oct. 12 JPMorgan Chase Jessamine Stakes (G3T) at 1 1/16 miles on the Keeneland turf prior to Breeders' Cup.

While unplaced at the graded stakes level last year, Dream Dancing has won both her starts this year at Gulfstream Park. The daughter of Tapit finished two lengths in front of recent Keeneland allowance winner Chubby Star in a Jan. 28 optional-claiming allowance and then got a neck in front of Coasted to win the Herecomesthebride Stakes (G3T) after splitting horses with a late drive March 4.

Treadway Racing Stable's Coasted won Saratoga Race Course's P.G. Johnson Stakes after breaking her maiden at the New York track by six lengths over Dream Dancing in her second start. The only time the Tizway filly finished off the board was a fifth-place in her career debut at Belmont Park.

Christophe Clement sends out the War Front filly Lull, who had two wins and a second behind La Coronel



Javier Castellano celebrates aboard New Money Honey after winning the Juvenile Fillies Turf

in the Jessamine in her first four starts. In her second start, the Aug. 17 Bolton Landing Stakes at Saratoga, the filly sustained a fall but was none-the-worse post race. The Appalachian will be her 2017 debut.

Livin the Dream Racing's Bourbonette Oaks (G3T) winner Purely a Dream comes into the race fresh off that March 25 score at Turfway Park. The Pure Prize filly has won on the turf and synthetic for trainer Kenny McPeck, but lost both of her dirt attempts, with a second in her October debut at Keeneland and an eighth-place finish at Churchill Downs Nov. 26.

Trainer Graham Motion sends Journey Home up against her toughest competition yet. The Jimmy Durante Stakes (G3T) winner was fourth last-time out in the Dec. 29 Blue Norther Stakes for 2-year-old fillies.

Phillips Racing Partnerships homebred Bellavais comes into the Appalachian off a three-quarter-length score in the Jan. 7 Ginger Brew Stakes at Gulfstream for trainer Jimmy Toner. **BH**

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CODY PHOTOGRAPHY

Rockshaw wins the Gazebo Stakes at Oaklawn

ROCKSHAW AIMS FOR THIRD STRAIGHT WIN IN BACHELOR

By Erin Shea

[@BH_EShea](#)

Alex and JoAnn Lieblong's Rockshaw looks to remain undefeated in 2017 when he lines up against seven 3-year-old males for the six-furlong \$150,000 Bachelor Stakes at Oaklawn Park April 13.

Entering off back-to-back wins in Oaklawn sprints, the Maclean's Music colt was a four-length winner last out in the six-furlong Gazebo Stakes. One prior, the Ron Moquette trainee took a 5 1/2-furlong allowance by 2 3/4 lengths after traveling four-wide exiting the turn.

After three stakes placings as a juvenile, Sagamore Farm's Recruiting Ready aims for his first stakes win when he starts from the rail under Horacio Karamanos.

Last July, the Algorithms colt was a three-quarter length runner-up to champion juvenile Classic Empire in the Bashford Manor Stakes (G3). After a fourth in the Saratoga Special Stakes (G2), he closed out the season with thirds in the Iroquois (G3) and Buffalo Man stakes. The Horacio DePaz-trained runner had trouble after being jostled in his first start of 2017, the Mucho Macho Man Stakes at Gulfstream Park, but bounced back to win a six-furlong allowance optional claiming race at Laurel Park in March.

Looming a possible threat is Randy Patterson's Conquest Wildcat who comes off a two-length win in a six-furlong allowance optional claiming race. In his past four starts, all at Oaklawn, he's run off the board only once. **BH**

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MILLIONAIRE SUPAH BLITZ EUTHANIZED

By Eric Mitchell

[@BH_EMitchell](#)

Multiple graded stakes-winning millionaire Supah Blitz was euthanized April 8 at Little Kentucky's Oakmont Stables near Waddell, Ariz.

The 17-year-old son of Mecke—Boots 'n Jackie, by Major Moran, had been suffering from both a broken pelvis and colic. Owner Shawn Haggstrom said when the farm employees discovered the horse in distress they could not sort out whether he had been struck with colic first and fell or developed the colic due to the pain from falling previously.

"He was strong-headed but a very smart horse," said Haggstrom, who stood Supah Blitz for seven years. "He was standing out in California when I heard he might be available, and I was very interested in getting him here."

Supah Blitz, bred in Florida by the Tortora family's Bee Bee Stables and Equitor, won or placed in 20 black-type stakes out of 41 lifetime starts. He won three graded stakes: the Del Mar Breeders' Cup Handicap (G2), Lone Star Park Handicap (G3), and the Tokyo City Handicap (G3). He also finished second in the Fountain of Youth Stakes (G1) and retired with \$1,324,330 in earnings.

As a stallion, Supah Blitz sired 20 winners out of 37 starters. He had two black-type stakes-placed winners—You Already Know and Artist's Way. **BH**

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BENOIT PHOTO

Victor Espinoza guides Supah Blitz to victory in the 2005 Tokyo City Handicap

'SNAKE' THOMPSON CONTINUES TO IMPROVE FROM STROKE

By Ron Mitchell

 @BH_RMitchell

Mark "Snake" Thompson, a fixture at North American racetracks and sales for several decades, continues to improve from the effects of a stroke as his friends and colleagues continue to help raise funds for his care.

Thompson, a native of the Bahamas who turns 57 April 23, was formerly a jockeys' valet at tracks including Gulfstream Park and Monmouth Park but most recently had been a lead show man at Thoroughbred sales. Not only was he a diligent worker with a great attitude, but he has a unique skill set and has been a mentor to others.

"He mentored a lot of these people who work the sales now on how to do things the right way," said Jack Brothers of Hidden Brook Farm, one of the consignments where Thompson has worked. Thompson also worked for the McMahan family, Gerry Dilger, and Indian Creek, among others.

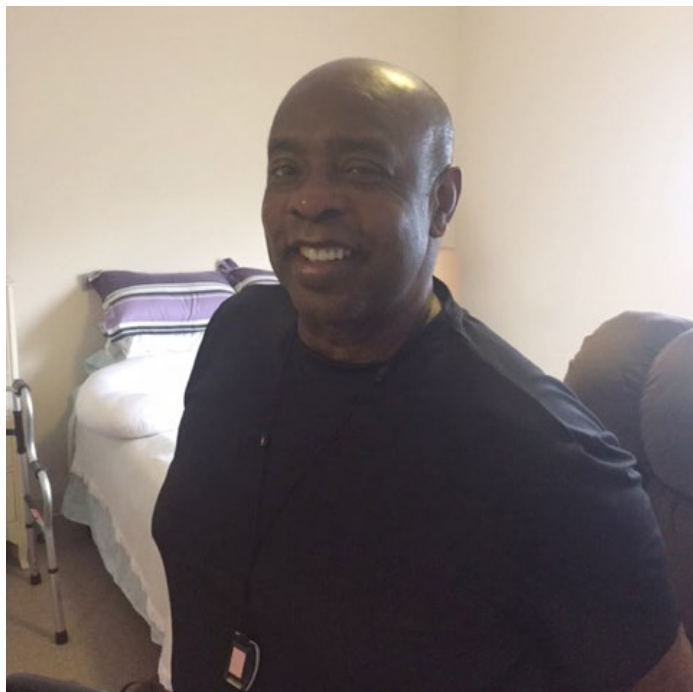
Thompson suffered a debilitating stroke just prior to last year's Keeneland November breeding stock sale and underwent rehabilitation at the Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson Stroke Recovery Center at Cardinal Hill Hospital near Lexington. He was subsequently relocated to Morning Pointe Senior Living residence in Lexington and continues on the road to recovery.

Brothers and a group of other horsemen that includes Doug and Katie Cauthen, Mike Recio, and Jak Knelman have established a Go Fund Me account to help raise funds for Thompson's care and other living expenses. The account has received contributions from more than 200 people since being established in November.

Veteran jockey Joe Bravo, who has known Thompson for about 20 years, said his friend is a special person whose positive attitude is infectious.

"He just loves life," Bravo said between mounts at Keeneland this past weekend. "You never see a sad face on the man. That's what makes him special. He makes everyone around him feel good. No matter how hard his day is, he picks up their spirits."

Bravo and others who have visited Thompson recently said he is making progress toward returning to the work he loves.



COURTESY OF MARK "SNAKE" THOMPSON

Mark "Snake" Thompson continues to recover from a stroke that he suffered late last year

"He is able to stand up," Bravo said, adding that Thompson's speech and mind were unaffected by the stroke. "He is battling. He is going to fight this so he can get back. His main goal is to get back on his feet and back to working with horses."

Bravo said he was concerned that the stroke would dampen Thompson's normally upbeat personality, but any effects were minimal. "He is a larger than life personality, and he had a smile on his face," the rider said of his recent visit. "I felt much better after seeing him."

Consultant Doug Cauthen, who also recently visited Thompson, said the show man "is really proud about his progress and within the next six months we are going to see a lot more progress."

Cauthen said the large number of contributions to the [Go Fund Me account](#) are a testament to Thompson's popularity.

"He is the friendliest guy who will ever show you a horse, and think that is one reason the breadth of support is so good," Cauthen said. "He has such a work ethic and always has a friendly word to say."

Despite the strong support Thompson has received financially, those involved in the fund-raising effort say it is an ongoing effort and more is needed.

"It's going to be a long haul and we are going to need to keep building more funds, unfortunately," Cauthen said. **BH**

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NEW YORK SHIFTS ALL DRUG TEST COSTS TO HORSEMEN, TRACKS

By Tom Precious

New York horsemen and tracks will pay the full costs of equine drug testing in the state, an amount that totals more than \$4 million annually, under a state budget deal that was given final adoption by lawmakers late April 9.

Under the terms of the agreement between the state Legislature and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who proposed the idea, a per-start assessment will be charged to cover whatever "deficit" is created for the state for the costs of running the drug testing program at a state university campus in Morrisville.

The Thoroughbred and harness horsemen, as well as tracks, already pay part of the testing program, but those payments are based on handle.

The New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association argued the payments should be based on a per-start basis because harness races account for three-quarters of pari-mutuel starts. "You might as well base it on sunny and cloudy days," Rick Violette Jr., president of the Thoroughbred horsemen's group, said of the present "handle-based" system of payments.

The governor's budget in January proposed shifting all remaining equine drug test costs onto "those that

actually participate in horse racing" instead of state taxpayers.

"The state assumed those costs as an accommodation to the tracks," said the Cuomo budget in January in reference to a 1986 move by the state to pick up costs. "The tracks now benefit from video lottery gaming subsidies, which the tracks and the horsepersons can use to resume their historical responsibility for drug testing costs."

The new plan, approved in the new state budget by the Senate on Sunday and by the Assembly on Saturday, will shift all remaining costs to the industry. The Thoroughbred horsemen were able to convince lawmakers and the governor to base the new cost obligations on a per-start basis. The amounts already being covered by the industry will, however, still be based on handle.

"It's a good start," said Violette, adding he still hopes to convince the state to base the full annual charge to the industry on a per start equation.

The coming year's additional assessment to the industry, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity, will total an estimated \$1.7 million—Standardbred and Thoroughbred racing—on top of what it is already paying for the drug tests and drug research costs at Morrisville. Based on Violette's estimate of starts in the state, the Thoroughbred

side would see a \$425,000 increase.

Half the drug testing charges are paid by the horsemen and half by the tracks.

The new state budget also includes the end of a state control period over the New York Racing Association, which began in 2012. NYRA in the coming weeks, or perhaps months, will be under private hands once a majority of the new 17-member board is selected. **BH**

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JOE LABOZZETTA/NYRA

Racing around the final turn at NYRA's Belmont Park

FABRE SCORES WITH FOUR AT MAISONS-LAFFITTE

By Tom Hall

[@lordatwar](#)

French trainer Andre Fabre had a red-letter day at Maisons-Laffitte April 10, saddling four winners from the first six races at the suburban track northwest of Paris.

Kentucky-bred Last Kingdom, bred by Mike and Reiko Baum at their Man o' War Farm outside Lexington, began Fabre's momentous day when the son of Frankel—Compelling, by Kingmambo, took the Prix Good Luck for maiden 3-year-old colts and geldings in his seasonal debut.

Jockey Silvestre de Sousa guided the \$500,000 Keeneland September yearling purchase to a one-length victory over six rivals in the one-mile event for owner Prince Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

A stakes hat trick, two with classic implications, supplied Fabre's remaining trips to the winner's enclosure.

The Prix Djebel, a seven-furlong (1,400 meter) group 3 race, tested the mettle of 3-year-old colts and gelding aspiring to be Guineas hopefuls. Favored in the field of seven was Al Shaqab Racing's Al Wukair.

Last of seven in the early stages under the patient handling of jockey Gregory Benoist, the undefeated Al Wukair seemed to have trouble finding his rhythm on the undulating course. Once he found his cadence, he set sail on the outside and overtook leader National

Defense to win by a length in 1:23.03. Wertheimers' African Ride (Candy Ride) finished third.

Bred in Ireland by Ballylinch Stud, Al Wukair is a son of Ballylinch stallion Dream Ahead (Diktat) out of the Machiavellian mare Macheera, a daughter of Prix de Diane Hermes-French Oaks (G1) winner Caerlina. Al Shaqab purchased Al Wukair for 200,000 guineas (\$319,788) at the 2015 Tattersalls October yearling sale.

According to *Racing Post*, Fabre plans to run Al Wukair in the English version of the 2,000 Guineas where he is likely to face Coolmore star Churchill.

Next up for the Fabre stable was the filly version of the Prix Djebel, the Prix Imprudence, also a group 3 over 1,400 meters.

On this occasion Haras de Saint Pair homebred Via Ravenna, making her second start showed her inexperience as she was quite obstinate about going in the gate. However, the bad beginning led to a good end as once the gates sprung open, her greenness gave way to the familiarity of those early morning gallops.

She settled nicely for jockey Vincent Cheminaud outside the seven-horse field. With a little more than a furlong left to run, the daughter of Raven's Pass (Elusive Quality) out of the group 3-winning Singspiel mare Via Milano quickened to swoop by and win by a length from Thais (Rio de la Plata) in 1:25.80. Silver Storm (Kendargent) took third.

It's been a good two days for Andreas Putsch's Haras de Saint Pair, which also bred Graphite, winner of the April 9 Prix La Force (G3) at Chantilly for Godolphin.

Ultra, who won the Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere (G1) to complete an undefeated juvenile career, found his way to the wire first in his seasonal bow. Recovering from a pair of defeats last year, the homebred chestnut son of Manduro (Monsun) took the listed Prix Jacques Laffitte for the familiar team of Godolphin, Fabre, and jockey Mickael Barzalona.

Tracking the leaders early in the nine-furlong contest, the long-striding Ultra, once unleashed, gathered in the leaders and eased away to a 1 1/4-length victory. **BH**

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JOHN GILMORE

Al Wukair wins the April 10 Prix Djebel at Maisons Laffitte

TATTERSALLS GUINEAS SALE CATALOG ONLINE

By BloodHorse Staff

Tattersalls cataloged 213 juveniles and 91 horses in training for its Guineas breeze-up and horses in training sale May 4-5. The catalog is now available online.

The British equivalent to 2-year-olds in training sales in the United States, workouts will take place May 4 at Newmarket's Rowley Mile Racecourse.

According to Tattersalls, at least 48 sires represented by juveniles in the sale have sired group 1 winners. Among the top U.S. stallions with offspring cataloged are Eluisve Quality, Exchange Rate, Medaglia d'Oro, Mizzen Mast, Scat Daddy, and Street Boss.

The 17 first-crop sires with 2-year-olds entered include Animal Kingdom, Dabirsim, Dawn Approach, Epaulette, Farhh, Havana Gold, Lethal Force, Most Improved, Shanghai Bobby, Society Rock, and Swiss Spirit.

Among the horses in training cataloged for the sale are group 2 winner Spirit Quartz and group 1-placed Diana Lady.

"The Tattersalls Guineas breeze-up and horses in training sale enjoyed another successful year in 2016



COURTESY TATTERSALLS

Lot 144, a colt by Acclamation, sold for US\$398,826 at last year's Tattersalls Guineas breeze up sale

with group and listed performers not only throughout Europe but also in North America and Dubai, and this year's catalog has an abundance of quality 2-year-olds in training as well as high-class proven horses in training," said Tattersalls chairman Edmond Mahony.

"Combining breeze-up horses with older horses in training has consistently added an extra dimension to the Guineas sale and this year's catalog has all the ingredients to appeal to buyers from Britain, Ireland, and further afield."

To view the Tattersalls catalog, [click here](#). **BH**

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INTERNATIONAL REPORT: JAPAN

FAN DII NA TAKES ON COLTS IN SATSUKI SHO

By Naohiro Goda

Fan Dii Na will attempt to make history in the 77th running of the Satsuki Sho (G1), the first leg of Japan's Triple Crown for 3-year-olds April 16 at Nakayama.

The Deep Impact filly, trained by Tomokazu Takano, is perfect in three starts, all of which were longer than 1,800 meters (about 1 1/8 miles). Most recently, she won the March 20 Flower Cup (G3) by five lengths under a hand ride.

After breaking her maiden by nine lengths Jan. 22, defeating older mares in the Tsubaki Sho Feb. 19, and then taking the Flower cup, Fan Dii Na's connections believe she is worthy of the ¥2 million (approximately US\$18,000) supplemental entry fee to run her Sunday.

Fan Dii Na, who is owned by Turf Club (also reported as Turf Sport), one of the oldest racing syndications in Japan, is the second foal out of Dream of Genie, a French-bred daughter of Pivotal purchased at the 2011 Tattersalls December sale for 120,000gns

(US\$194,532) on behalf of Fan Dii Na's breeder Takahide Tanikawa.

Only two fillies have ever won the Satsuki Sho: Tokitsukaze in 1947 and Hide Hikari in 1948. In recent years, Bounce Shasse finished 11th in 2014 and Dance Dance Dance finished 5th in 1991.

Fan Dii Na will not only try to head the boys, she will also attempt to be the first unbeaten Satsuki Sho winner since her sire, who achieved it in 2005. **BH**

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MASAKAZU TANIKAWA

Japan's recent sensation Fan Dii Na wins the Flower Cup by five lengths under a hand ride



RACING COMMENTARY

with Bob Barry

NIGHT AND DAY

By Bob Barry

To paraphrase the late, great jazz singer Billie Holiday, what a difference a week makes.

It was only 168 hours between April 1—when the Pan American Stakes (G2T) at Gulfstream Park and the Louisiana Derby (G2) at Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots ran concurrently—and the daylong, coast-to-coast extravaganza April 8 demonstrated that the best in American Thoroughbred racing is available right here and now.

Faithful readers know of my weakness for building columns around popular songs, and I hope you'll indulge me once more. Many of you probably know Billie Holiday's version of "What a Difference a Day Makes," which is a happy, hopeful, transformative song, sung by an artist with perhaps the most wistful and heartbreaking voice ever heard on this or any other world.

It is this sort of dichotomy that best describes the way horseplayers interact with the fractured associations that combine to form what we know today as American racing. Horseplayers live in an alternate world once ascribed to the Irish, "where all their wars are merry, and all their songs are sad."

Punters, for all the joy that their pari-mutuel battles bring them, have become known for singing the sad song of the complainer. Can you really blame them?

But the turning of the racing calendar and the enduring charms of tradition-laden associations such as the ones based at Keeneland and in New York have a way of making even the most embittered punter change his tune.

What a pleasure it was to see Keeneland's Saturday card begin 20 minutes after Aqueduct Racetrack ran its first race, and to have that generous spacing hold up throughout the day. Even Santa Anita Park fit its later-starting races in seamlessly, helping to form a nationwide string of racing pearls.

But there's more to Keeneland and the NYRA tracks than tradition and being able to start races on schedule. Even if Ozone Park can't compete with the beauty of Lexington in springtime, both racetracks stream gorgeous video that can make you feel as if you were there.

And although the problem of onerous takeout will probably never be solved to the satisfaction of horseplayers, rankings by the Horseplayers Association of North America show that Keeneland and the NYRA tracks rake relatively less of the punter's bankroll than many other racetracks.

It makes one wonder if there isn't something to this whole "association" thing. If more racetracks and trainers and owners realized how much they truly rely on horseplayers, maybe everyone in racing would be singing a happier song. **BH**

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KEENELAND PHOTO

Keeneland's spring meet kicked off April 7

RACE RESULTS

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

STAKES RESULTS

PRIX DJEBEL (G3)

Maisons-laffitte, 4/10, €80,000, 3yo, 7f, 1:23.03, good.
1—**Al Wukair (IRE)**, 128, b c, 3 €40,000
Dream Ahead—Macheera (IRE), by Machiavellian
O—AL SHAQAB RACING, B—Ballylinch Stud (IRE), T—FABRE ANDRE, J—BENOIST GREGORY
Sale History: 2015 TATOC1, \$319,788.
2—**National Defense (GB)**, 128, b c, 3... €16,000
Invincible Spirit (IRE)—Angel Falls (GB), by Kingmambo
O—SUN BLOODSTOCK SARL, B—ECURIE DES MONCEAUX & MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL SARL (GB), T—HEAD-MAAREK MME CRIQUETTE, J—BOUDOT PIERRE-CHARLES
Sale History: 2015 ARQAUG, \$311,052.
3—**African Ride (GB)**, 128, b c, 3 €12,000
Candy Ride (ARG)—Paiota Falls, by Kris S. O—Wertheimer & Frere, B—Wertheimer Et Frere (GB), T—LAFFON-PARIAS CARLOS, J—GUYON MAXIME

Margins: 1, 2½, neck. **Others:** STRAIGHT RIGHT, AJMAL (IRE), RED ONION (GB), ORIENTAL (JPN).

PRIX IMPRUDENCE (G3)

Maisons-laffitte, 4/10, €80,000, 3yo, f, 7f, 1:25.80, good.
1—**Via Ravenna (IRE)**, 126, b f, 3 €40,000
Raven's Pass—Via Milano (FR), by Singspiel (IRE)
O—SCEA HARAS DE SAINT PAIR, B—SCEA HARAS DE SAINT PAIR (IRE), T—FABRE ANDRE, J—CHEMINAUD VINCENT
2—**Thais (FR)**, 126, dk b/br f, 3..... €16,000
Rio de La Plata—Tianshan (FR), by Lahint
O—ECURIE J-L BOUCHARD & MME G SANDOR, B—G SANDOR & MME G SANDOR (FR), T—BARY PASCAL, J—SOUMILLON CHRISTOPHE
Sale History: 2015 ARQOCT, (\$158,578 RNA).
3—**Silver Storm (FR)**, 0, gr f, 3 €12,000
Kendargent (FR)—Fantastic Filly (FR), by Myrakalu (FR)
O—MME Y SEYDOUX & ERIC PUERARI, B—E PUERARI, ME Y SEYDOUX DE CLAUSONNE

(FR), T—FERLAND CHRISTOPHE, J—PESLIER OLIVIER

Margins: 1, 1½, ¾. **Others:** SPEED AS, GOKENA, NORMANDEL, DOUBLE LADY, DEEP INSIDE.

PRIX JACQUES LAFFITTE

Maisons-laffitte, 4/10, €52,000, 4yo/up, 9f, 1:47.50, good.
1—**Ultra (IRE)**, 126, ch c, 4 €26,000
Manduro (GER)—Epitome (IRE), by Nashwan
O—GODOLPHIN SNC, B—Darley (IRE), T—FABRE ANDRE, J—BARZALONA MICKAEL
2—**Wireless (FR)**, 126, ch h, 6 €10,400
Kentucky Dynamite—Sachet, by Royal Academy
O—LERAM S.R.O, B—SCEA HARAS DE MANNEVILLE (FR), T—LUKA VACLAV, J—BACHELOT THEO
Sale History: 2014 ARQARC, (\$100,112 RNA).
3—**Le Juge (IRE)**, 126, b c, 4 €7,800
Dansili (GB)—Mambo Light, by Kingmambo
O—OTI MANAGEMENT OTY LTD, B—Rashit Shaykhutdinov (IRE), T—FABRE ANDRE, J—BOUDOT PIERRE-CHARLES
Sale History: 2014 ARQAUG, \$1,139,000.

Margins: 1¼, 3½, 2. **Others:** BRAVO ZOLO (IRE), INSTANT DE REVE, SAUNTER, LANDYD, LINE DRUMMER, PRESTIGE VENDOME, BONUSDARGENT.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS

Mahoning Valley Racecourse, Race 7, ALW

4/10, \$27,100, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f (dirt), 1:15.14, track fast.
1—**Cali Dream**, 116, dk b/br f, 3, Cowboy Cal—Afternoon Dreams, by Afternoon Deelites, \$15,718, O—Marion F. Gorham, B—Robert Gorham & Mast Thoroughbreds LLC (OH), T—Robert M. Gorham, J—T. D. Houghton
Margin: 3½, 12 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Parx Racing, Race 5, AOC

4/10, \$47,000, 3yo, f, 8f (dirt), 1:40.02, track fast.
1—**Proud and Fearless**, 118, ch f, 3, Proud Citizen—Fearless Leader, by Suave Prospect, \$28,200, O—Brereton C. Jones, B—Brereton C. Jones (KY), T—J. Larry Jones, J—Trevor McCarthy
Sale History: 2015 KEESEP, (\$19,000 RNA).

Margin: 2½, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Parx Racing, Race 7, AOC

4/10, \$47,000, 3yo, f, 6f (dirt), 1:12.00, track fast.
1—**Joe's Gift**, 118, gr/ro f, 3, **Sky Mesa**—Superduper Miss, by Robyn Dancer, \$28,200, O—Big Monk Stable, B—Debby Oxley (KY), T—Juan C. Vazquez, J—Carol Cedeno
Sale History: 2015 KEESEP, \$15,000.
Margin: 3, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Parx Racing, Race 8, ALW

4/10, \$47,000, 3yo/up, 8f (dirt), 1:38.22, track fast.
1—**Moe Trouble**, 124, b c, 4, **Uncle Mo**—Sunup, by Smart Strike, \$39,480, O—Michael W. Jester, B—Michael W. Jester (PA), T—Mario Serey, Jr., J—Hector Caballero
Margin: 4½, 6 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Will Rogers Downs, Race 8, ALW

4/10, \$25,080, 3yo/up, f/m, 5.5f (dirt), 1:03.62, track fast.
1—**Go Apple Jack**, 118, ch f, 3, **Save Big Money**—Tethras Lil Mimi, by Tethra, \$14,534, O—J. F. Stewart, B—J. F. Stewart (OK), T—Andy Gladd, J—Iram Vargas Diego
Margin: 3¾, 7 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

MAIDEN RESULTS

Santa Anita Park, Race 10, MSW

4/9, \$54,000, 3yo, f, 8f (turf), 1:35.21, course firm.
1—**Zaffinah (IRE)**, 123, ch f, 3, **Casamento (IRE)**—Grand Zafeen (GB), by **Zafeen (FR)**, \$32,400, O—Red Baron's Barn LLC and Rancho Temescal, B—Rabbah Bloodstock Limited (IRE), T—Jack Carava, J—Rafael Bejarano
Sale History: 2016 TATAUT, \$79,669.
Margin: nose, 12 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)

Will Rogers Downs, Race 5, MSW

4/10, \$23,760, 3yo/up, 8.32f (dirt), 1:44.16, track fast.
1—**Affirming**, 122, b g, 4, **Affirmatif**—She Who Kissnfly, by Sky Classic, \$13,668, O—Caroline Dodwell, B—CresRan LLC & Ran M. Leonard (OK), T—Austin Gustafson, J—Jason R. Eads
Sale History: 2014 FTTAUG, (\$5,000 RNA), 2014 OKLAUG, \$7,500.
Margin: ¾, 9 starters. [View Equibase Chart](#)



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2017 LEADING SIRES IN CALIFORNIA

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in California by 2017 Northern Hemisphere earnings through April 9, 2017. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2017 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'17 Earnings
1	Bluegrass Cat	Storm Cat, '03	\$7,500	Ballena Vista Farm, CA	Bluegrass Flag (\$113,000)	\$1,252,146
2	Lucky Pulpit	Pulpit, '01	Died	Harris Farms, CA	California Chrome (\$250,000)	\$1,104,536
3	Unusual Heat	Nureyev, '90	Pnsd	N/A	Heat (\$64,065)	\$872,112
4	Haynesfield	Speightstown, '06	\$5,000	Rancho San Miguel, CA	She's So Fine (\$140,400)	\$835,918
5	Tribal Rule	Storm Cat, '96	Died	N/A	Junior Gilliam (\$65,345)	\$827,760
6	Vronsky	Danzig, '99	\$6,500	Old English Rancho, CA	What a View (\$167,500)	\$827,475
7	Square Eddie	Smart Strike, '06	\$25,000	Ocean Breeze Ranch, CA	Ann Arbor Eddie (\$157,500)	\$680,045
8	Ministers Wild Cat	Deputy Minister, '00	\$5,000	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, CA	Mr. Hinx (\$195,368)	\$617,895
9	Papa Clem	Smart Strike, '06	\$2,000	Legacy Ranch, CA	Tribal Storm (\$73,500)	\$479,686
10	Grazen	Benchmark, '06	\$3,500	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds, CA	Enola Gray (\$150,000)	\$450,773

2017 LEADING SIRES IN NEW MEXICO

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in New Mexico by 2017 Northern Hemisphere earnings through April 9, 2017. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2017 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'17 Earnings
1	Diabolical	Artax, '03	\$6,000	A & A Ranch, NM	Pink Cadillac (\$78,700)	\$542,065
2	Attila's Storm	Forest Wildcat, '02	\$4,000	A & A Ranch, NM	Go for a Stroll (\$89,118)	\$476,379
3	Weather Warning	Storm Cat, '04	N/A	N/A	Weather Dodger (\$62,650)	\$217,605
4	Quinton's Gold	Carson City, '97	\$5,000	Doubletree Farm, NM	He's Another Who (\$69,500)	\$197,101
5	Roll Hennessy Roll	Hennessy, '00	\$3,500	A & A Ranch, NM	Rolling Star (\$26,670)	\$189,098
6	Southwestern Heat	Gone West, '04	Died	A & A Ranch, NM	Bryn's Fancy Pants (\$54,016)	\$177,496
7	Fusaichi Zenon (JPN)	Sunday Silence, '97	\$2,000	Weatherly Horse Farms, NM	Not My Note (\$51,000)	\$169,261
8	The Way Home	Giant's Causeway, '04	\$2,500	Doubletree Farm, NM	Way Nifty (\$41,488)	\$152,949
9	Desert God	Fappiano, '91	Pnsd	N/A	Desert Mystery (\$55,746)	\$149,427
10	Elusive Jazz	Elusive Quality, '01	N/A	N/A	My Bikini Fell Off (\$77,260)	\$120,562

2017 LEADING SIRES IN ARIZONA

Listed below are the top 10 leading sires in Arizona by 2017 Northern Hemisphere earnings through April 9, 2017. Only stallions that stand, will stand, or stood in North America (excluding stallions that died or were exported prior to the 2011 breeding season), and have runners in North America are included. Racing statistics are 2017 Northern Hemisphere only.

Rank	Stallion	Sire, YOB	'17 Stud Fee	Farm	Chief Earner (Earnings)	'17 Earnings
1	Distorted Reality	Distorted Humor, '04	N/A	Fleming Thoroughbred Farm, LLC, AZ	Sharkzilla (\$27,736)	\$123,213
2	Margie's Wildcat	Storm Cat, '01	N/A	Fleming Thoroughbred Farm, LLC, AZ	Ida Goodest (\$20,585)	\$71,933
3	Top Hit	Twining, '98	N/A	Triple AAA Ranch, AZ	Maid Easy (\$13,068)	\$71,365
4	Ez Dreamer	In Excess, '05	N/A	Triple AAA Ranch, AZ	Carlson (\$15,588)	\$38,654
5	Chelokee	Cherokee Run, '04	Died	N/A	Chelokee's Legacy (\$14,660)	\$29,757
6	Supah Blitz	Mecke, '00	N/A	N/A	Supah Spirit (\$8,068)	\$23,835
7	Maybry's Boy	Broad Brush, '99	N/A	N/A	Robey's Boy (\$16,230)	\$18,510
8	Red Sky's	Skywalker, '96	N/A	N/A	Red Zeus (\$13,267)	\$17,440
9	Chief Planner	General Meeting, '00	N/A	N/A	Uncle Ron (\$11,890)	\$14,279
10	Bulldogger	Dixie Union, '07	N/A	N/A	Bring On the Bling (\$5,270)	\$9,481