

Year 21 • No. 12

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

The *Saratoga*

Special

Saratoga's Racing Newspaper since 2001

Rock Solid

Stone Farm colt tops first session at \$1.6 million

Sam-Son Farm brings fillies to Spa
Star siblings head Night Two
Stable Tour with Rusty Arnold

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Tod Marks

Here&There...in Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

“You know it’s sales week when your alarm is going off and you’re already in the office.”

The Special’s Sean Clancy Monday morning

“After the meet.”

Archie St. George when The Special’s Sean Clancy said to call him after sales week

“If...”

St. George, with a shaved head to raise money for Mike Recio’s family, after Clancy told him he would look good if ever goes bald

“I’m nobody’s daughter.”

Special delivery specialist Olivia Johnson to Rusty Arnold after the trainer asked whose daughter she was Monday morning

“Check those joints.”

Bloodstock agent Mike Ryan, limping, when asked what he would write on his catalog page

“I don’t care if she’s Texas-bred, if she’s a Commissioner, I don’t give a damn what she is. For what I pay, you have to take a really good athlete.”

Owner Joe Graffeo, about Saratoga Oaks winner Con Lima

NAMES OF THE DAY

No racing today and the sales catalog looks a little bland in terms of names, though we’ve always thought it would be fun to name a chestnut colt Chestnut Colt (which you can’t do, apparently). So...we’re going to Colonial Downs, which has live racing Tuesday.



Bygone Days, fifth race. The 8-year-old mare is by Old Fashioned.

Pruning, seventh race. Owner/breeder Stuart Janney’s 3-year-old filly is out of Silviculture, which (in case you didn’t know) is the “growing and cultivation of trees.”

English Tavern, eighth race. The 4-year-old gelding is by English Channel out of Over Served.

The Saratoga Special

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Here&There...in Saratoga



Connie Bush

Kiss for Luck. Hip 37, a Lord Nelson filly who later went for \$410,000, gets some extra attention at Fasig-Tipton Monday morning.

WORTH REPEATING

"I can't remember the first year because every year that I got up in the stand, the hairs stood up on the back of my neck and you realize that this is the one you cannot screw up. The eyes of the world are on you, it's so important to everybody and you've got to be pretty much pitch perfect and go. It was a heavy burden to get up there because it is so important to people. And then you had to be around the consignors for the rest of your life, if you screwed something up, they never forgave you. It taught me one thing, really, the only person listening to the announcer at that time is the consignor."

Retired Fasig-Tipton announcer Terence Collier

"I joined Fasig Tipton in the winter of '76, my first time with them was August 1977. It was nirvana."
Collier about his first trip to Saratoga

"She can be a bit of a high-strung filly. When she first came in, we were just trying to figure out what made her happy and try to keep her as calm as possible and conserve her energy."

Todd Pletcher about Con Lima

"I hear the new guy is like the old guy."

Gabby Gaudet, offering another racetrack riddle

"Every day is game day."

Sign in a Fifth Avenue window facing trainer Shug McGaughey's barn – motivation matters

"Man, he's like a hockey player."

Country Life Farm's Mike Pons, about McGaughey's assistant Anthony Hamilton who was back at work after getting kicked in the head by Dripping Gold

"It feels like August 109th."

The Special's Joe Clancy, after Tom Law pointed out that it was August 9 at about 1:30 a.m. Monday

"A few years ago I wrote down a list of goals. One was to win a race in Saratoga. A race. I didn't think it would be the race."

Marylander Sabrina Moore, who raised Whitney winner Knicks Go

"I thought you said you only need a few?"

Trainer Mark Casse when Tom Law started to read off nine potential Hall Talk horses

"Can you still spin people at the draw?"

Helen Richards, to jocks' agent Jose Santos Jr. (who does most of his work remotely). He said he does everything in his power not to.

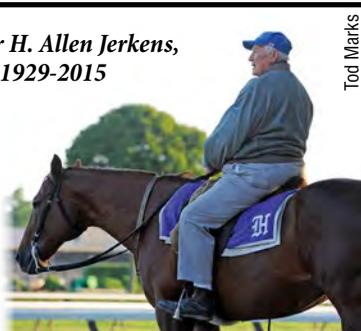
"I want people to think I'm a grandma from town, here to look at the horses."

Dede McGehee, breeder of Hip 132, a half-brother to Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra

The Chief

**Trainer H. Allen Jerkens,
1929-2015**

"It looked like she'd be a nice grass filly, but I'm not a grass man. It's just amazing; she's run a lot of times for a 4-year-old in this day and age and this was her best race. I didn't know that she wanted to go quite that far, but Castellano told me, 'Oh, don't worry about her, she'll get the distance.' She trained good and she ran good, and he rode her great, of course. It goes to show, you never know."



Tod Marks

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He went to Florida every year, but the year I got there he quit going. I did my first year at Belmont, the winter, and was like, 'Nah, I'm going back to Florida.'"

**Sam-Son Farm racing manager Tom Zwiesler
on his first year on the track working for the late Jimmy Picou**



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Here&There...in Saratoga

"Someone asked me about breeding, they said it looks like you make money. I said, you only see the ones who make money. It's like handing a toddler scissors and letting them run through the house and saying, 'Don't get hurt.'"

Owner Bob Edwards about the vagaries of the horse business

"We were married in Saratoga, we usually stay for our anniversary but by September, I'm a shell of what I was when I got there. When sales week starts, the wheels come off and you can't get them back on. There is nothing like it."

Edwards, echoing all of our sentiments

"I miss talking to you."

Jockey Javier Castellano to The Special's Sean Clancy

"You get up in the morning, you go to the backstretch, you talk to trainers, you watch your horses gallop or work or whatever, you go eat some breakfast, you go look at some horses at the sale, you go home, get dressed, go racing and go to the sale at night. It's one great moment after the next. Sales week is the greatest."

Owner/breeder Bobby Flay

BOOK SIGNING

Vicky Moon will be signing copies of her book, *Sylvia Rideoutt Bishop Had A Way With Horses*, the first African American Woman to train racehorses. Moon, who has written 10 books mostly about horses, will be at the Fasig-Tipton Sales pavilion near the snack bar Tuesday morning. For her part, Bishop (1920-2004) was one of 17 children in Charles Town, W.V. She fought racial bigotry against a backdrop the swirling Civil Rights movement all the way to the winner's circle many times. Her best client was the late Tyson Gilpin, a well-known Virginia horse owner and former president of Fasig-Tipton.



Horse Fly. A Saratoga sales yearling practices some takeoffs and landings at Fasig-Tipton Sunday. Susie Raisher

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With Rusty Arnold

On a quiet Monday morning, as attention switched from the racetrack to the sales ring, The Special went in search of a Stable Tour. Sure-thing Al Stall was busy with his blacksmith.

Another standby, Mike Trombetta said, "Buddy, it'll be a short tour." As for the rest, they were rolling out of their barns and heading across East Avenue to try to reload. When in doubt, go to Rusty Arnold.

"How about a Stable Tour?"

The Kentucky-based trainer pivoted away from BBN Racing's Brian Klatsky and TVG's Gabby Gaudet and began the familiar stroll down his 18-stall barn on the edge of the Oklahoma track, between "Shug's gap" and "Bruce's gap." This is "Rusty's spot."

Arnold walked the shedrow with The Special's Sean Clancy Monday morning.

Navratilova: A G. Watts Humphrey Jr. homebred filly is exactly how you should start a Rusty Arnold Stable Tour. The 3-year-old filly, who traces back to Grade 2 winner Let, won the Tepin Stakes at Churchill Downs in June but disappointed in the Lake George here earlier in the meet. "She's very important to us because we've developed that line, I'm proud that one of the first mares I bought with Mr. Humphrey was Let. She won a Grade 2. Her foal, Centre Court, won a Grade 1. This is her foal who is a stakes winner, not a graded stakes winner yet. I'm going to run her back in the 6 1/2 at Kentucky Downs. She didn't run here, bad post, race didn't set up the right way, just nothing went right."

Dinner Bell: Calumet homebred is 0-for-3 so far. Arnold adds blinkers and drops the dark bay colt to a \$75,000 maiden claimer. "He's run a couple of average races sprinting, we're stretching him out. I hope it helps."

Gear Jockey: Two years ago, Arnold told us about an unraced son of Twirling Candy bred and owned by Calumet. Four starts later, Gear Jockey finished third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf as a maiden. He was 67-1 that day. He's won three times since, including an allowance win here while cutting back to a turf sprint July 17. "He's had a busy month here. We've really found what he wants to do. He's obviously a horse I've been high on, he was third in the Breeders' Cup as a 2-year-old, third in a couple of graded stakes, but he just wasn't finishing his races. We sprinted him and he won and he ran great in the Troy the other day, didn't get away clean for whatever reason, had a lot to make up on a fast turf. I was really happy with his race. He came back good. He'll go to Kentucky Downs for the



Sean Clancy

Navratilova keeps an eye on things with trainer Rusty Arnold.

sprint, 6 and up the hill, it's almost like 6 1/2. I really like this horse. I'm trying to get him to the Breeders' Cup, I know this year is a bad year because it's only five eighths. He's 4 and he's going to run another year."

An orange cat cuts from the outdoor walking ring while another one snakes up the shedrow. "This is Chester. He's been with us 12 years, he's fat, not in racing shape. A little crooked behind. And that's Sidney, they came as a team, out of the pound. They're famous around here. In the middle of everything."

Farsighted: Bred and owned by Humphrey, the daughter of Bernardini won the Any Limit Stakes in March and finished second in the Coronation Cup here earlier in the meet. "A stakes winner this year. Placed in a stake here the first week. She'll run back at the end of the meet, maybe a two other than. We tried to run her on the grass, but it came off, she got beat about a length. She's a homebred, out of a mare named Elusive Fate that we raced, we didn't win a stake with her, but she was placed in a graded stake. This is her first foal."

Illiogami: Owned by Michael and Reiko Baum, the daughter of Tapit owns two wins from six starts. The gray filly finished fifth in the Mother Goose in her most recent start. She's

breezed four times at Saratoga this summer. "We are crazy about her. She ran bad in the Mother Goose, gave us a setback. I thought she was going to run good. She's nominated to the Alabama but I'm probably going to run her in the Lake Placid. She's got so much grass pedigree. It was hard to switch because she won two dirt races to start off the year, why take her to the grass, but she's got so much grass in her family, I'll probably run her the Lake Placid. She's finally developing. She's a great, big, lanky mare, hard to keep weight on but she's going to come around."

Cellist: Calumet homebred won the Audubon Stakes at Churchill Downs in May before finishing third in the Belmont Derby and sixth in the Saratoga Derby Saturday. The son of Big Blue Kitten went rogue on the walk from the paddock before the Saratoga Derby but serenely looked over his webbing Monday morning. "My big horse. He's had a busy year. What can I say about him, he's run great every time, he got beat 4 lengths in the Derby the other day, didn't behave in the paddock, he was a handful. He had schooled four times. If he was a mean horse, I don't think you would be able to do anything with him. He's not mean, he just gets himself cranked over there. We got

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Stable Tour —

Continued from page 6

him through the holding barn pretty good, got him saddled pretty good, but when we went to put the rider on, he was a handful. I love this horse, I've just got to settle him down. He'll go to the Dueling Grounds Derby. I think maybe he'll settle going up and down the hills, he got a little rank the other day. He's a beautiful horse. He's got a huge future, he hasn't gotten it done yet but the best is in front of him. I think a lot of it is maturity. I've got to get his mind to catch up to his body. That was his worst time the other day. At Kentucky, he rated on the front end and won. He came back in the Belmont Derby and ran great, he was never rank even though he was close, no excuses, he was just third best. The other day, he just didn't act right. It was a tough day for him, he never had to do what he had done, he walked through the people and just got cranked. I had experimented with an iron halter because he was so difficult to handle and he had gotten pretty good. If my assistant Lyndsay (Buttice) didn't have him, I'm not sure I could have run him. We schooled him four times and got him pretty good but you can't school for a big day like that, the noise and everything. We're going to work with him, put some ear plugs in him. Now, the opposite of that is Kentucky Downs, there's nobody there. He'll come out of the barn, walk down there like he's getting turned down. I'm expecting quite a big turnaround. I've never stabled there, I think I'll ship him straight into there, he'll be there a day or two."

Mud Pie: Ann and Bill Pape's homebred could be the best-looking horse in the barn. The charismatic son of Morning Line roots his head between his trainer and a writer. "This horse was in the other day and got rained off the turf. We'll get him back in that race, an al-



Trainer Rusty Arnold.

Tod Marks

lowance going 1 3/8 miles. It's on the 22nd, they're bringing it back, it's a good race, it was a 12-horse field. We were good until that morning when that thunderstorm came across."

Thing: Bred by Humphrey and Arnold, the chestnut gelding by Frosted is a half-brother to Morticia, winner of over \$1 million for the same connections. "Morticia's little brother ran his butt off the other day, he was fourth in a starter. He's improving, I know he broke his maiden for 30, we brought him up here, probably a trainer error, placed him a little tough against older horses in a starter. He was head and head for the lead to the sixteenth pole, finished fourth. We'll find a spot for him at the end of the meet. He's not as good as Morticia, itty bitty thing but he's solid as a rock. Morticia is in foal to Nyquist."

Big Blue: Another Calumet homebred, 3-year-old colt sports a win from nine starts. "He runs in an other than next week. He's another Big Blue Kitten, half the size of my other one, not quite as good but he broke his maiden in Florida and got beat a head in a starter race."

Daisy Bee: Calumet bred and owns the 2-year-old daughter of English Channel. "This filly we like a lot. She's a typical English Channel. I ran her here, it came off the turf, she was third, she got beat 15 lengths or so. She got the experience of going through the paddock, she's going to run back on the turf. I think she's got a big future, it will be this fall, next year. She moves good on the turf, worked well. That will be her last dirt race ever."

Yearn For Victory: Owned by Jim and Susan Hill, the 3-year-old son of Bayern sports a 1-for-3 record. "This little colt, he ran at Churchill and won. I brought him here and ran him in an other than, he either didn't handle the track or the jump up to a mile and an eighth, I don't know. He was in the race until the quarter pole, didn't run any good. We're going to run him on the grass next week, just to see. The mare he's out of, Victory Lap, there was a lot of grass in her."

Spin Wheel: Owned by BBN Racing, the son of Hard Spun breezed four times here, including a half-mile in :51.10 on the turf Aug. 8. "You're going to remember standing next to me when this horse's dam won here. Her name was Zinzay, she was a Smart Strike. Those people got in the business for a short period of time. This is a Hard Spun 2-year-old out of her. (Bill) Mott has the 3-year-old, he ran in the mile and a half race. Summer Wind owns the mare. He's just coming around, he's going to run one time here on the grass before I leave, probably the last book. He

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

needs one more work out of the gate. We like him. He's going to be a nice little horse."

Double Clutch: Calumet homebred came here with hopes of running but they were dashed after a half-mile breeze July 8. "This is Gear Jockey's little brother. What a name, by Optimizer out of Switching Gears. Probably my biggest disappointment of my meet. I breezed him up here and he wrenched an ankle. We thought he broke something. X-rays are clean, ultrasounds are clean. It took a week to go down. I'm going to send him

home and give him time off. I think he's a nice horse, he really trains well."

Troubling Moon: Three-time winner owned by Jim and Susan Hill, he was another one who got shuffled around when the rain came. "He was in the same day as Mud Pie for 40, second choice, rained it off. They have the race back next week."

Lockstep: Purchased by Bo Bromagen and owned by Ashbrook Farm, the daughter of Nyquist languidly stood in the back of her stall. "She did not run good the other day. I might have made a mistake. I ran her on the grass, she just didn't kick, she just ran around there, came out of it good, she seems happy. I'm going to run her back on the dirt. She acts like she might want to run long. She's in love with my pony. I'll tell you what she was doing, she was walking. I got her up here, with

that back window and the pony behind her. She hasn't made one turn, it has completely, totally eliminated the stall walking. At home, she would have a trail in there. She loves that pony. We've talked about cutting a hole in the wall at home. She likes the pony so much, she tries to sleep along that back wall so she can look up at him."

Bear: Lockstep's crush. "He was a racehorse named Devil Train. We've had him since Bo bought him as a yearling. He won three races, broke something, turned him out. We liked him and we've had him for 10 years. He's OK."

And two at Keeneland.

Ginsburned: Ashbrook's 3-year-old colt by Noble Mission made his debut at Gulfstream in February and returned at Ellis Park in July. "We like him quite a bit. He broke his maiden at Ellis the other day."

El Kabong: Another Ashbrook son of Noble Mission, the 3-year-old colt owns a win in five starts. "He's another grass horse that kind of runs a little like Cellist. We really like him. We really like him. He won at Churchill, we ran him in the American Derby, he got a horrible trip, not a bad ride, a bad trip, had nowhere to go, finished fifth, got beat about 3 lengths."

And one on the farm.

Artos: Owned by Amy Dunne, Pat Harlow, Brenda Miley and Jean Wilkinson, the Irish-bred daughter of Kodiak finished second in her debut, won her second start against the boys and represented herself with style when finishing fourth in the Group 2 Queen Mary at Royal Ascot. If she was drawn on the other side of the course, it would have been a different story. "She was here, we just galloped her and she came up with an issue. She's on the farm for 60 days and she's coming back."



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Early Mo

Half to Spice Is Nice tops opening session on \$1.6 million bid

BY TOM LAW

Jacob West made the short drive from Lexington out to Stone Farm in Paris, Ky., in late winter to check out a group of newly turned yearlings with hopes he might find a few that make it to the sales ring come summer.

A bay colt by Uncle Mo from a family he knows and likes stood out and West couldn't call longtime clients Robert and Lawana Low fast enough to give them a heads up.

"I had seen this horse about six months ago out at Stone and I told Mr. and Mrs. Low about him," West said. "So the second he came up for auction we knew he was here in the catalog. We turned down the page on him."

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Fasig-Tipton

The session-topper, a son of Uncle Mo and graded stakes winner (and producer) Dame Dorothy, checks out the crowd.



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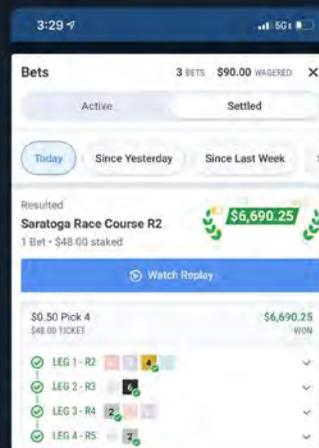
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Sale —

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West did more than fold the catalog page on Hip 73, a colt bred by celebrity chef Bobby Flay and a half sister to graded stakes winner Spice Is Nice, and when he saw him on the grounds prior to the 100th Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale of selected yearlings that kicked off Monday night he knew the Lows should add them to their stable.

“He’s grown up,” West said. “He’s a May foal and has got a lot more growing to do. We just hope he fills out into his frame and runs like his sister. We love his sister and we hope she has a bright future in her 4-year-old year and her 5-year-old year. We hope we just bought a good one.”

West, bidding from the corner of the sales pavilion, went to \$1.6 million to buy the colt on behalf of the Lows to top the opening night of the boutique sale that returned to its rightful spot on the Saratoga calendar. The third foal out of the Grade 1-winning Bernardini mare Dame Dorothy could give Flay a unique double as the breeder of the top-priced yearling in back-to-back Saratoga sales.

Flay, through Stone Farm, sold the 2019 Saratoga co-topper in First Captain, a colt by Curlin out of his graded stakes-winning A.P. Indy mare America.

“This is my Super Bowl,” Flay said after congratulating West on the purchase. “I want to sell a horse here every year. Obviously, it’s been very good to me. We sold First Captain, out of America, and he’s done really well. It’s one of those things when you



Fasig-Tipton

Jacob West bought the session topper for Robert and Lawana Low.



Fasig-Tipton

Bobby Flay bred the session topper.

have patience and you breed at the highest levels in terms of the families and go to the best sires, it takes a lot of patience but ultimately it pays off. I always say the blood shows up at some point. These mares have proven it.”

The session topper hails from one of the families nurtured and developed by the late Marshall Jenney, a stalwart supporter of Fasig-Tipton and longtime consignor at the Saratoga sale through his Derry Meeting Farm.

Derry Meeting bred Dame Dorothy, who Flay purchased as a yearling for \$390,000 and campaigned to seven wins in 12 starts including the Grade 1 Humana Distaff on the 2015 Kentucky Derby Day undercard. Derry Meeting also bred Dame Dorothy’s dam, the winning Woodman mare Vole Vole Monamour, who produced Group 1 winner Mrs. Lindsay and is from the family of the Jenney’s foundation mare and Saratoga sale graduate Mrs. Jenney.

Flay considered selling Dame Dorothy, who he named after his late mother and offered her in foal to Uncle Mo at the 2019 Keeneland November breeding stock sale before buying her back for \$3.1 million.

“We thought he would do well,” said Stone Farm’s Lynn Hancock. “He was very well received. We we had a lot of lookers and some good vet activity. We thought he would sell well, but we didn’t know what the top of that was and we’re very happy with the result.”

West joked with assembled media and later with Flay that he needed to pay back the Lows for the support

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Sale —

■ Continued from page 12

over the years, including for the \$1.05 million they spent at the 2018 Keeneland September yearling sale for Spice Is Nice.

“I’m just going to tell Bobby he’s got to name a restaurant after Mr. Low,” West said. “We’ve given him two-point whatever million dollars, at least name a drink maybe.”

Drinks flowed in the upstairs buyers’ lounge. Whether those on hand to imbibe were actual buyers might be up for debate since the action stayed busy in the pavilion, open only to authorized buyers and sellers due to concerns over the pandemic, and outside near the walking ring.

After a somewhat slow start — four of the first five yearlings through the ring were reported not sold — bidding picked up once the hip numbers through the ring reached the 60s.

Hip 45, a New York-bred colt by Triple Crown winner Justify out of Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Sprint winner Bar Of Gold, led the way for a while on a bid of \$825,000 from Tra-

vis Durr, agent for David Hudson’s Hoolie Racing but that didn’t hold the spot for long.

The session’s four most expensive yearlings sold in an hour stretch from Hip 61 — a filly by Tapit that brought \$990,000 from West Point Thoroughbreds and partners — to Hip 76, a Gun Runner colt that sold for \$850,000 to WinStar Farm’s Maverick Racing.

The sales of those yearlings, and an improved clearance rate as the night wore on helped spark strong returns for the opening session. Fasig-Tipton reported sales on 70 of the 96 yearlings offered Monday for \$25,280,000, an increase of 11 percent over the opening session in 2019 when 61 yearlings sold for \$22,775,000.

Average price on opening night dropped 3.3 percent, coming in at \$361,143 versus \$373,361 in 2019 while median dipped 4.8 percent to \$300,000.

“Very solid opening session to the 2021 Saratoga sale,” Browning said. “Very consistent bidding from start to finish, very diverse buying group, which was probably the most encouraging sign of all tonight, is the really



Tod Marks

Continued On Page 16

Hip 61, a Tapit filly, sold for \$990,000 to West Point Thoroughbreds and partners.

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2021 Locations and Fees

		Worldwide Black Type Click any header to sort by column						Selected Regional Earnings					
Rank	Stallion <small>2021 location & Fee (sorts to original order)</small>	BTW [% of named foals]	BTH [% of named foals]	GSW [% of named foals]	GSH [% of named foals]	G1SW [% of named foals]	G1SH [% of named foals]	Starters [% of named foals]	Wnrs [% of named foals]	Wins	Highest Earner	Earnings Per Named Foal	Earnings
1	Paynter (2009) by Awesome Again FYR: 2015 Stands: WinStar Farm KY (Fee \$7,500) Named Foals: 394	17 [4.31]	35 [8.88]	4 [1.02]	10 [2.54]	1 [0.25]	1 [0.25]	321 [81.47]	232 [58.88]	677 AWD YTD: 7.08	\$5,368,995 Knicks Go AWD Lifetime: 7.08	\$63,110	\$24,865,360 <i>UPDATE</i>
2	Violence (2010) by Medaglia d'Oro FYR: 2015 Stands: Hill 'n' Dale at Xalapa KY (Fee \$25,000) Named Foals: 527	21 [5.17]	47 [11.82]	6 [1.54]	12 [3.05]	1 [0.25]	1 [0.25]	367	255 [63.50]	586 AWD YTD: 7.08	\$822,507 Jasper SWICK AWD Lifetime: 7.08	\$42,469	\$22,381,357
3	Take Charge Indy (2009) by A.P. Indy FYR: 2015 Stands: WinStar Farm KY (Fee \$15,000) Named Foals: 303	13 [4.29]	30 [9.89]	1 [0.33]	12 [3.96]	1 [0.33]	1 [0.33]	367	255 [69.50]	586 AWD YTD: 7.08	\$266,194 Lover's Embrace (WNY) AWD Lifetime: 7.08	\$59,231	\$17,946,852



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Sale —

■ Continued from page 14

wide spread of buyers and bidders throughout the night. Very solid I think would be the best description. Wasn't spectacular. I don't think anybody really expected any like, dramatic, breakout, across-the-board changes. Very healthy market, very similar and reminiscent to the 2019 marketplace. All in all we're off to a very, very good start. It provides a lot of confidence for tomorrow night and moving forward through the sales season."

A solid start to the 2019 Saratoga sale paved the way for an extremely strong second night, when the average price hit \$442,865 on the way to an overall sale's average of \$411,459.

Browning wasn't about to call anything a success just yet.

"You've been around me long enough that you know I always say it's halftime after the first night," he said. "We'll draw those conclusions after the sale tomorrow night. But certainly off to a good start. Lots of

good horses to sell tomorrow. I'm confident, I'm pleased, but we still have another night to do."

Led by the \$1.6 million topper, 13 yearlings sold for \$500,000 or more compared to 16 in 2019.

The 2021 group included the session's top-priced filly that came in just under the seven-figure mark. West Point Thoroughbreds' Terry Finley signed for that filly when he went to \$990,000 for Hip 61, a filly by Tapit out of the stakes-placed Dixie Union mare Checkupfromzneckup. Bred by WinStar Farm and Winchell Thoroughbreds and consigned by Denali Stud, the filly is a half sister to the winning Speightstown filly Carribean Capet and a 2-year-old Into Mischief filly named Bombdiggity that sold for \$600,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

Finley said the filly was purchased along with Scarlet Oak Racing and NBS Stable, partners looking for racing prospects to compete at the highest level.

"We always say the same thing right? Beautiful filly, vetted well and

Continued On Page 18

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Sale —

Continued from page 16

a deep pedigree,” Finley said. “Really excited to get her. Those are the kinds of horses you really need to get out of these sales if you have the resources and the partners. Overall the industry has done a good job, we’ve had a lot of progress in the last six months and we’re finding people are really interested to get into the business. It’s a benefit for people to get into the business and play at the top end.”

West Point also bought Hip 33, a colt by City Of Light for \$500,000 in partnership with Woodford Racing.

“The people who are looking to get in are coming at us strong,” Finley said. “We’re trying to take advantage of the interest and there are other partnerships and other buying entities and we’re trying to keep our spot you know?”

As for that last \$10,000, the team at Denali Stud didn’t have any complaints.

“That last \$10,000, wow, 990. I don’t know if I’ve ever sold a horse for 990,” said Denali’s Conrad Bandoroff. “So close to that elusive seven figures, but everyone is happy. Let’s hope they’re lucky and it’s their next Saturday afternoon horse.”

Continued On Page 20



Fasig-Tipton

Hip 45 (an \$825,000 purchase by agent Travis Durr) eyes up his breeders Chester and Mary Broman and team.

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GUN RUNNER (c. by Candy Ride). 18 wins in 18 starts, 2 to 5, 2018, including the \$15,988,500, in N.A./U.S., horse of the year, champion older colt male, Fasus World Cup Invitational S. [G1] (CD, \$1,000,000), Whittier S. [G1] (DMR, \$3,300,000), Whitney S. [G1] (SAR, \$400,000), Stephen Foster S. [G1] (CD, \$1,000,000), Viceroy S. [G1] (SAR, \$250,000), and Emi-

NET DANCE, by Giant's Causeway. 10 wins in 10 starts, including the \$19,100,000, PIM, \$19,100,000, including--

SAINT LIAM (c. by Giant's Causeway). 9 wins in 9 starts, including the \$1,433,600, Stephen Foster S. [G1] (CD, \$513,360), H. [G1] (SAR, \$1,000,000)-nr, 1 1/2, in 1:40.00, Woodward S. [G1] (SAR, \$300,000), etc.

FUNTASTIC (c. by Giant's Causeway). 4 wins at 3 and 4, 2018, \$409,940, in N.A./U.S., United Nations S. [G1] (MTH, \$180,000), (Total: \$410,700).

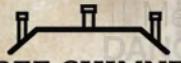
QUIET GIANT (f. by Giant's Causeway). Black-type sire, above.

CONGRESSIONAL HONOR (c. by Giant's Causeway). 2 wins at 3, \$112,413, by Meadows Derby [G3] (B, \$350,000) Sire

QUIET GIANT (f. by Giant's Causeway). 2 wins at 2 and 3, \$123,570, Busby S. [G2] (SAR, \$20,000), 2nd W. [G2] (SAR, \$20,000), etc. Producer, \$187,329, 2nd in- S. (GP, \$20,000), etc.

DANCE (c. by Giant's Causeway). 1 win in 1 start at 3 in Trinidad and Tobago. Sire




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GUN RUNNER

BUY TRUE

Sale —

■ Continued from page 18

Retired Hall of Fame jockey Gary Stevens pressed his phone to his ear while bidding on Hip 71, a daughter of Into Mischief he said reminded him of one of his favorite and most successful mounts.

David Wilson was on the other end, game as ever while the bidding reached \$900,000.

After a bid came in at \$910,000 Stevens countered at \$920,000. After another \$10,000 raise Wilson gave the approval for another \$10,000 and the bay filly out of the Grade 2-placed Cuvee mare Curlina was sold.

“The Into Mischief filly, she reminded me exactly of Beholder,” Stevens said while Christina Jelm signed for Wilson. “I fell in love with her and we got her. I had David on the phone and said, ‘let’s go.’ He started saying ‘go, go, go.’ We were going a little higher than we wanted but we’re pretty excited.”

Stevens scouted the filly at the Mulholland Springs consignment and reached out to another longtime

friend and fellow horseman for his opinion.

“I talked to Randy Bradshaw prior to buying,” Stevens said. “I told him I was looking at Hip 71, ‘this Into Mischief filly, will you go look at her? She might be a pinhook, might be anything, but I’m sending her to you.’ I’ve known Randy forever. She’s going to Randy and we’ll see what happens.”

Bred by Mulholland Springs and Jay and Beth Young, the filly is a half sister to the multiple graded stakes-placed \$147,715-earner Sine Wave.

“We bought the mare pregnant to Big Brown several years ago. That one went on to be her stakes horse Sine Wave,” John Mulholland said. “We bought Sine Wave back and bred her to Into Mischief as well. We really love the family.”

“I thought she landed exactly where I thought she would. She deserved to land somewhere right around that level. She’s about everything you hope for when you breed. She came here, she showed herself well, she presented herself well. I bet she was out close to 200 shows. It’s everything that I had

Continued On Page 22



Tod Marks

Hip 76, a Gun Runner colt, sold for \$850,000.

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Sale —

Continued from page 20

hoped for and we're thrilled."

The sale concludes with today's final session at 6:30 p.m. with a similar number of horses are scheduled to go through the ring.

Browning adjusted a microphone on his tie before making his comments to the assembled media, received a compliment on his new Fasig-Tipton tie and was asked what he might wear for today's final session. He'll worry about that later, he said, and before meeting a few buyers and sellers outside the buyer's lounge headed downstairs to check out the

Sales Stats				
Sold	Total	Avg	Not Sold	Median
70	\$25,280,000	\$361,143	26	\$300,000

results with a bit more detail.

"I'll go over them tonight, try to see what horses we might have missed on," Browning said. "Obvious horses that we might be able to do a private sale, call people and say 'hey, did you see this horse that might of slipped through the cracks a little bit?' We'll be on the sales grounds tomorrow morning making sure everybody is taken care of, come to work tomorrow morning ... block and tackle and do the regular stuff."



Fasig-Tipton
Boyd Browning accepts a senate proclamation celebrating Fasig-Tipton's 100th sale in Saratoga from Daphne Jordan.

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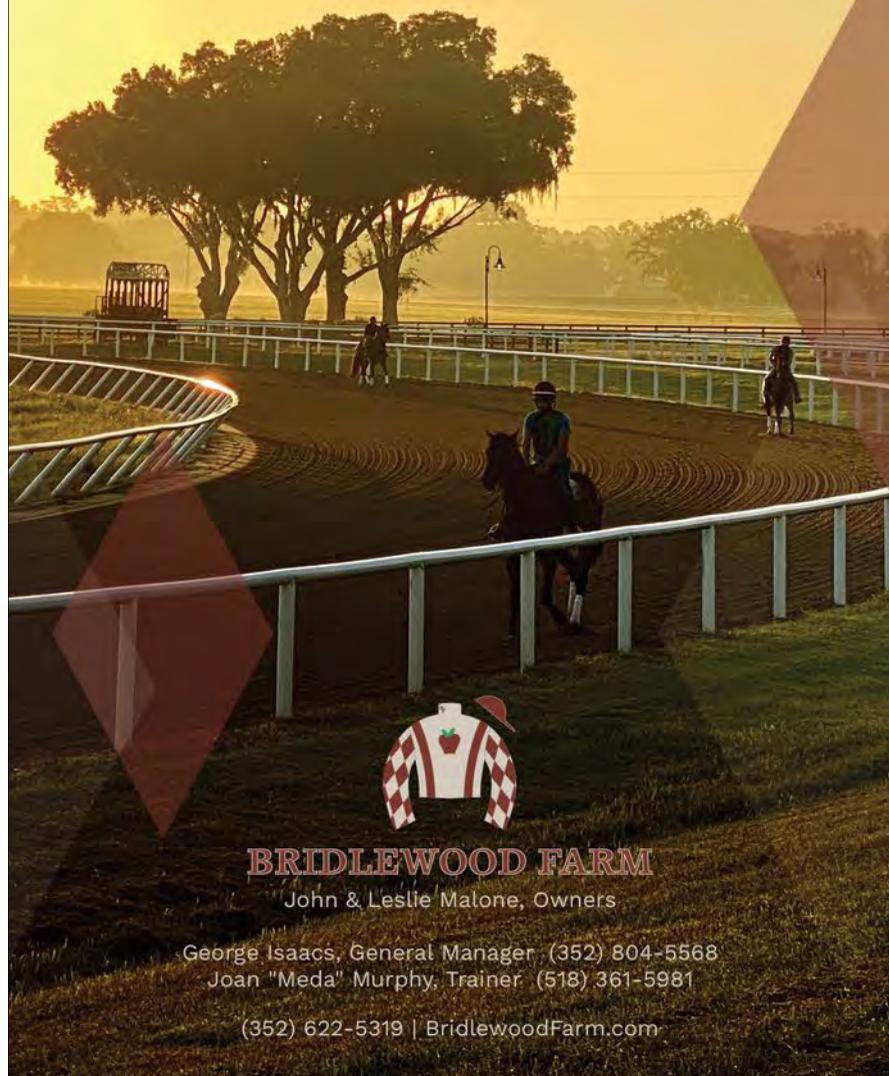
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Mary Eddy

Hip 2 got the sale started Monday night.

Leadoff Role

Going first in select sale proves tough task for Bolt d'Oro colt

BY MARY EDDY

When you're first up at a Thoroughbred auction, the pressure is on. Buyers are still filing in and there is often some reluctance in the bidding. It's not a spot consignors would choose, but if they're going to be there, it helps to have an exciting horse to offer.

At 5 p.m., a prospective buyer takes a look at Hip 2. He inspects the colt's legs, asks the handler for a short walk, and runs his hand along the colt's topline. The consignor hopes the customer likes what he sees, the buyer marks his book, and the horse returns to his stall to play with his Jolly Ball, unaware of the pressure on his human counterparts.

At 6 p.m., the grooms begin their final preparations for the ring, wiping the yearling down and brushing an assortment of oils and conditioners

through his hair to have him looking his best for the bidders. With the first horse the crowd sees for the night, consignor Kerry Cauthen of Four Star Sales felt his colt was good enough to light up the board early.

"I don't think anybody would ever say, 'That's where I want to be, I want to be number one in the ring,'" said Cauthen, whose horse jumped into that spot with the scratch of Hip 1. "It takes a minute for the dance to get going, but when you have a really good one, I think those worries are overplayed."

Hip 2 is a son of Bolt d'Oro, a multiple Grade 1 winner and a promising freshman sire whose weanlings have sold for upward of \$280,000. He's out of the Empire Maker mare Take A Memo and is a half-brother to a winner, with his second dam being Grade

Continued On Page 26

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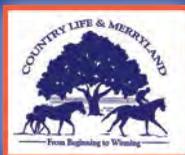
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First Horse —

■ Continued from page 24

2 winner Memorette.

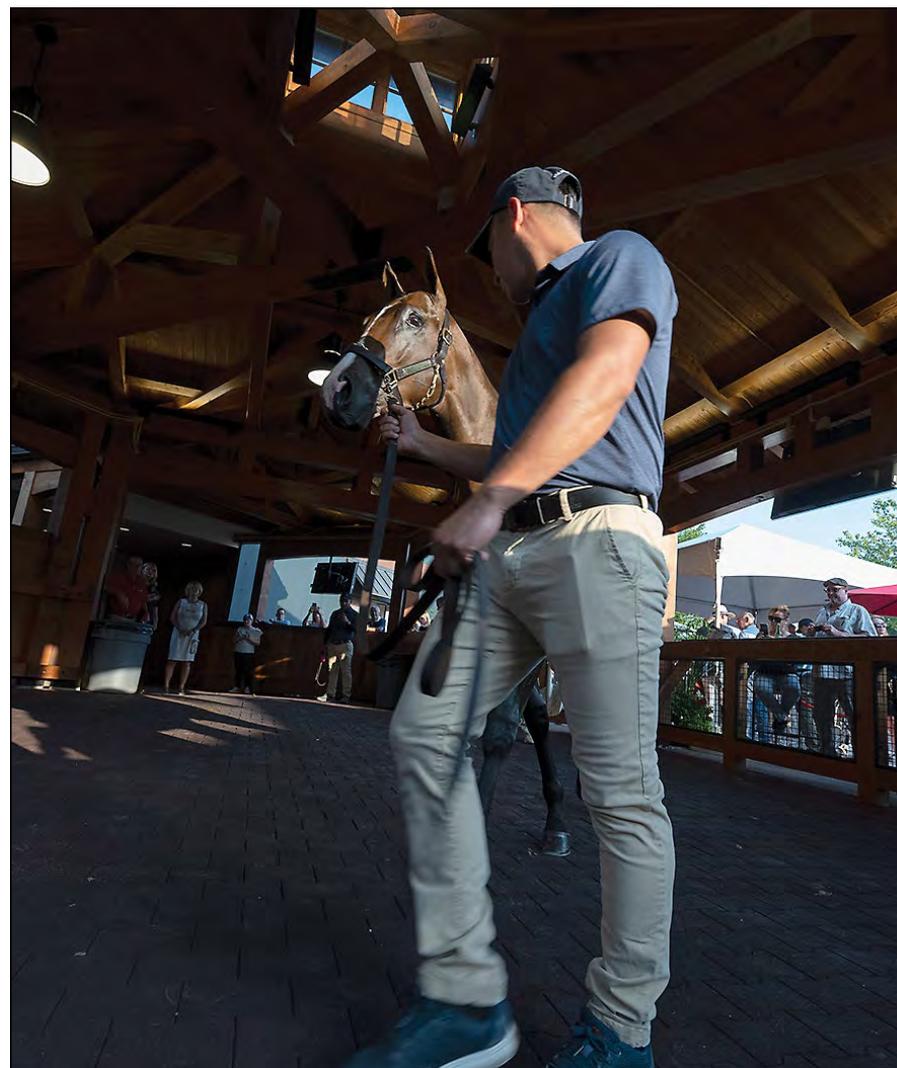
“He is a really attractive colt,” said Cauthen. “He favors his sire a ton. Mick Ruis, who raced Bolt d’Oro, came by and said how much he really favors the stallion. He’s got a great shoulder and hip angles. When you watch him walk, he sets his feet down and has a smooth way of doing it. He’s a very cool dude.”

As the announcement was made for the first few horses of the night to make their way to the walking ring, the colt remained calm and collected, taking all the strange sounds and sights of the sales grounds in stride. He took one lap around the pavilion before being brought inside for his time in the spotlight.

The first bid came in at \$50,000. As the colt looked around the room, seven more bids were placed before the hammer dropped at \$235,000. On his way back to the barn, the colt had a bit of a hop in his stride, but remained true to the cool headedness he was known for around the barn.

At 7 p.m., he was back in his stall for the evening, questions still lingering about who would wind up taking the horse home. A few minutes later, the questions were answered. Though the bidding seemed lively, it was not enough. His reserve was not met in the ring, proving how difficult it is to be the first one on an evening full of valuable yearlings.

The leadoff role is tough, but part of the industry. He remained listed as an RNA as of 11:45 Monday night, with no private sales completed. If the colt minded, it didn’t show.



A yearling walks in the outside ring Monday night.

Fasig-Tipton

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Legacy Fillies

Sam-Son showcases rich bloodlines

BY TOM LAW

Tom Zwiesler made his first trip to Saratoga in the late 1970s. Fresh out of college and looking to start a career in racing, Zwiesler went to work with Jimmy Picou at Belmont Park. The likes of Fall Aspen, Stub and Western Wind were in the barn and they, along with Zwiesler, made their way upstate to Saratoga Springs for the summer meeting.

"I've always had a fondness for Saratoga," Zwiesler said outside Sam-Son Farm's consignment on the Fasig-Tipton sales grounds Monday morning. "My first day out of college I drove to New York,

Continued On Page 30



Susie Raisher

Canada's famed Sam-Son Farm brought a consignment of yearlings to Saratoga this summer.

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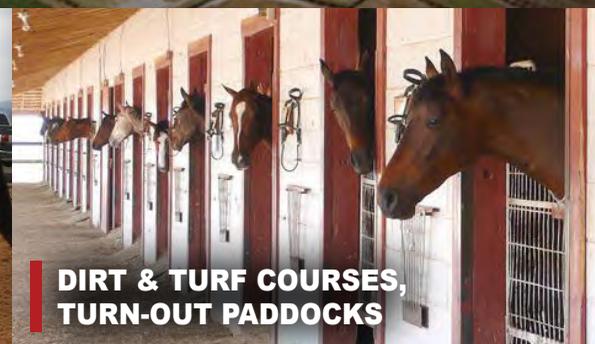
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Tod Marks

Tom and Molly Zwiesler are working the Sam-Son consignment.

Sam-Son —

■ Continued from page 28

went to Belmont Park, sat in the room that night and thought, ‘what have I done here?’ ”

“But I got a job with Jimmy Picou. Got there in June, by the end of July we’re up here and I said, ‘now I’ve found heaven.’ . . . Jimmy had such great horses then and it was a dream to be here.”

The fond memories of Saratoga stayed with Zwiesler so well that when it came time to pick a place to sell what he calls “the best” members of Sam-Son Farm’s last yearling crop, the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sale hit the mark.

“Special place,” Zwiesler said. “My wife and I try to celebrate as many anniversaries as we can up here. It’s this week again, on August 11. We’ll get done with the sale and we’ll celebrate our anniversary and go home.”

Zwiesler, his wife Molly and other members of the Sam-Son team arrived last week with four yearling fillies to sell. Three of the fillies’ pedigrees are littered with some of the best names to carry Sam-Son’s red and gold col-

ors; names like Dance Smartly, Smart Strike, Dancethruthedawn, Scatter The Gold, Eye Of The Leopard, Hotep and Catch The Ring. The other filly, Hip 120, a daughter of Medaglia d’Oro out of the Grade 1-winning War Front mare Journey Home, traces to one of Buckland Farm’s most successful lines with the likes of A Phenomenon, Seattle Meteor, Pleasant Stage, Colonial Play and Marsh Side way back.

“These are our best,” Zwiesler said of the quartet, who stayed busy late Monday morning with visits by the likes of Live Oak Plantation’s Charlotte Weber and recently inducted Hall of Fame trainer Mark Casse, OXO Equine’s Larry Best and others just in a 15-minute window before lunchtime.

They’re also the final crop of yearlings for the legendary Sam-Son operation that started to scale down last fall, selling four mares for \$3.45 million and an average of \$862,500 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky November mixed sale and another 21 for \$6,733,000 and an average of \$320,619 at this year’s Keeneland January horses of all ages sale.

Three dams of yearlings in the
Continued On Page 32

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8.8* Average field size in Kentucky in 2020, higher than California (7.2), New York (7.9), and Florida (8.4)

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*Source: The Jockey Club 2021 Fact Books

Sam-Son —

■ Continued from page 30

Saratoga Sale sold at Keeneland January – Danceforthecause, \$925,000 to Gainesway, Deceptive Vision, \$900,000 to Hill ‘n’ Dale at Xalapa, and Southern Ring, \$875,000 to Phil Schoenthal, agent for Matt Dorman’s Determined Stud.

“This is our last crop,” said Zwiesler, Sam-Son’s racing manager who works in conjunction with farm manager Dave Whitford. “The mares were sold so nothing coming up behind them. We’re going to sell here, yearlings at Keeneland and we’re going to have eight more at Fasig in October. We still have upwards of 30 in the racing stable. The owners want to see those through.”

The late Ernest Samuel founded Sam-Son in 1972 and built the Canadian operation into a powerhouse in North America. Sam-Son won five Sovereign Awards as Canada’s outstanding breeder and the Eclipse Award as North America’s top owner in 1991. Samuel’s daughter Tammy Samuel-Balaz took over leadership after her father’s death in 2000 until she died in 2008. Rick Balaz (president) and Mark Samuel (chief executive officer) have since taken a leadership role, working with Zwiesler and Whitford.

Dance Smartly flew the flag for the operation during its Eclipse Award-winning 1991 season, winning the Canadian Triple Crown and Breeders’ Cup

Distaff at Churchill Downs. Other major runners for Sam-Son in its heyday were 1997 Breeders’ Cup Turf winner Chief Bearhart, champion turf male Sky Classic, Grade 1 winner and leading sire Smart Strike, Wilderness Song and Dancethruthedawn.

Sam-Son announced last fall that it was dispersing its bloodstock over a 12- to 18-month period and the Saratoga yearlings fall into that stretch.

“I don’t want to say sad. Bittersweet is a good word,” Zwiesler said. “We’ll be able to watch all these still and become big fans of the owners. We’ve already had some really sharp people buy the mares, so the pedigrees are going to continue on. We’ll keep our eyes on them, watch them, have a good time and wish everybody all the luck in the world that buy into these.”

“That first group of mares sold and we have eight more for Keeneland this year. One of them, Journey Home, she’s in foal to Curlin and will be selling. She has a very special foal selling here. That was a special mare. Sam-Son wanted a War Front mare. I bought her as a yearling then Graham Motion did a tremendous job with her and this is the result.”

Journey Home sold for \$200,000 as a yearling and went on to win three of 10 starts, including the Grade 3 Jimmy Durante at Del Mar in 2016, with three seconds and \$225,997 in earnings.

Journey Home’s first foal, a 2-year-old filly by Empire Maker named Determined Empire, sold for \$240,000 at last year’s Fasig-Tipton Select Yearling Showcase and is in training for Matt Dorman at Fair Hill with Phil Schoenthal. Hip 120, a bay filly

whose second dam is the Grade 1-placed A.P. Indy mare Soul Search, is her second foal.

“She really does show herself,” Zwiesler said. “And it’s not the standard Sam-Son pedigree.”

The consignment’s final yearling that sells, the Into Mischief filly selling tonight as Hip 201, features the Sam-Son pedigree through the Halo mare Radiant Ring, the dam of champion Catch The Ring and stakes winners Seeking The Ring and Diamond Fever. Seeking The Ring is the dam of the multiple Grade 3-winner Speightstown mare Southern Ring, the dam of Hip 201.

The Sam-Son yearlings are Ontario-breds. They were foaled and raised at the operation’s farm in Milton, Ontario, before going to the training center in Ocala to be prepped. Zwiesler brought the quartet up from Florida and they handled the new surroundings in Saratoga with aplomb.

“They’ve actually seemed to have gotten better since they got here,” Zwiesler said. “We haven’t had a hitch. Fasig-Tipton put us in an awesome spot. The only thing I’m going to do is tell them to put a couple Oak trees where those planters are (in the middle of the showing area).”

Sam-Son’s first yearling through the ring, Hip 74, a daughter of Street Sense out of the unraced Giant’s Causeway mare Danceforthecause, sold to Schoenthal and Dorman for \$535,000 during Monday’s opening session. The second, Hip 77, a filly by War Front out of the Grade 3-winning A.P. Indy mare Deceptive Vision, sold to Mike Ryan for \$180,000.



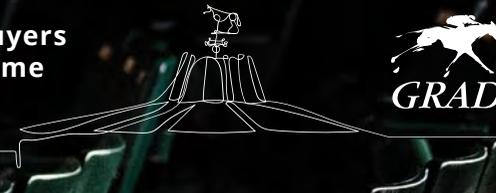
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ONE HORSE

Keeneland September buyers and sellers remember some names from the past.



NASTY STORM, 1999. *Buyer Dallas Stewart*

Early in his training career, Dallas Stewart was leaving the sale after getting outbid – and frustrated – all day. Consignor Reiley McDonald of Eaton Sales, flagged down Stewart with a simple, “Hey, where you going? Did you get what you want?” Stewart replied, “No, man, I’m leaving.” McDonald showed Stewart a \$45,000 RNA.

“Reiley asked me if I’d seen Hip Number so and so. He brought her out, she was a knock-out but I didn’t have much money. She’s had two little small chips in each hind ankle that were nothing. On visual they looked good to me, no pressure in them or anything. We judge all that. I had \$30,000. He put up \$10,000 himself and we bought her. She won five stakes, made almost \$800,000 and we sold her (for \$1.1 million). So it pays to own horses. I tell all these young guys, ‘You’ve got to put your money up.’ It might be \$2,000, \$5,000, whatever. You’ve got to be involved if you’re going to make some real money. Trust your judgment. You’ve got to do your homework, you’ve got to work, you can’t just sit there. But it can work out.”



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All in the Families

Star siblings boost second night of sale

BY JOE CLANCY

Led out of his stall late Monday morning, the bay colt walked past a barnmate, glanced at a catering truck getting unloaded on the street and took his place on the center path outside the barn.

Then shook like a Labrador Retriever – muzzle, head, ears, neck, back, hips, tail, a shuffle of hooves and four light puffs of stone dust. “This is me,” the attitude said. “Here I am.” If he knew anything about his half-brother, \$1.6 million earner and California-based turf star United, it didn’t show.

Such is life at Fasig-Tipton’s Saratoga Select yearling sale. The catalog overflows with such ped-

Continued On Page 35



Susie Raisher

Hip 132, a half-brother to Hall of Famer Rachel Alexandra, gets ready for his close-up at the Hill ‘n’ Dale consignment.

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Siblings —

■ Continued from page 34

igrees. United's half-brother, part of the Blake-Albina consignment, sells tonight. He's Hip 117 and gets company from siblings to Travers winner Catholic Boy (Hip 200), Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming (160), Kentucky Oaks winner Princess Of Sylmar (204) and others selling on the second night. The squad was to include one more big name, but Blake-Albina had to withdraw its half-sister to recent Whitney Stakes winner Knicks Go.

"A piece of a hoof flaked off earlier in the year and I thought I could make it," said Hanzly Albina Monday. "She wasn't showing as well as she could through that. We'll take a couple months, let that grow out and do the right thing. This sale, you've got to be perfect. People want to see perfection."

Partner Ron Blake put it even more simply. "We need a lot of money for her and to get a lot of money they have to be right," he said. "Blame me, if you want. It's my job to have them



Susie Raisher

Hip 117, a half-brother to turf star United, sells tonight.

ready and she just wasn't. There's pressure to this sale. You've got to have conformation, they've got to vet clean, you have to think they're an early-enough horse. If we think they need time we've got to wait."

So they wait – with her – and focus on the five others they brought. It's their job, but both men raved about Hip 117, who completes something of a circle that started when they didn't buy United here in 2015.

"We loved the horse, Nick Sallusto and I," Albina said. "We just chickened out and didn't buy the right horse. Solis did."

Purchased for \$300,000 by Solis/Litt Bloodstock for LNJ Foxwoods, United became a star. He's won nine races, six graded stakes and finished second to Horse of the Year Bricks And Mortar in the 2019 Breeders' Cup Turf. The son of Giant's Causeway is 2-for-3 this year and in the conversation atop the American turf division again.

United had yet to start when his dam Indy Punch sold at Keeneland November in 2016. Albina didn't chicken out this time, and added her to the Newtownanner portfolio for \$200,000. The Hard Spun colt she was carrying (Punch Hard) just won at Woodbine. A 3-year-old filly by Carpe Diem sold for \$250,000. A 2-year-old filly by Uncle Mo will race in Ireland. And this yearling colt by War Front is turning heads, or at least making catalog surfers pause, in Saratoga.

"This horse has a ton of pedigree, and he's a beautiful horse," said

Continued On Page 36

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Siblings —

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Blake. “If you know the mare and the way other foals out of her look, they’re so big. He’s not quite as tall as some of the others. He’s going to be big, just not as big as they are. He’s almost a June foal so you’d think he’d be behind, but he’s great.”

Albina said the colt, born May 22, got some of the “Danzig look” from his sire, and chose War Front in the first place because of the success of Indy Punch’s first foal Tensas Punch, a Louisiana-bred daughter of the sire and a three time winner.

“We went to War Front because the mare has shown to produce high-quality horses by War Front and we’re probably running out of time with him,” Albina said. “She’s pregnant to Into Mischief now, we thought it would add a little speed. Her foals give you a pretty good indication they can do all kinds of things, not just long on the turf. United won a Grade 2 at a mile-and-an-eighth last time so he’s very flexible. It’s a very interesting horse for the European,



Susie Raisher

Rachel Alexandra’s half-brother, by Bolt d’Oro, stands up for some potential buyers Monday.

Japanese and American markets.”

Across the sales grounds, another colt with a famous sibling stood in the shade and watched people watch him. Part of the Hill ‘n’ Dale Farm con-

signment, the bay son of Bolt d’Oro and the Roar mare Lotta Kim has the distinction of following half-sister Rachel Alexandra into the world. She won the Kentucky Oaks, Preakness,

Haskell and a rafter-rattling edition of the Woodward at Saratoga during a 2009 campaign for the ages. Her dam belongs to Dr. Dede McGehee, who watched Monday’s activity like a proud mother – which in a sense she is.

“He’s been good from day one, and I was there on day one,” she said. “I am the first human he ever saw or one of them anyway. I have a crew, but I go to all the foalings. They’re like children to me. There are so many moving parts to racing. You want him to go to the right place and to find somebody that loves him as much as we do.”

The colt was “never little,” according to McGehee and he still isn’t. Long and tall with a walk that would fit an older horse, he will lure plenty of attention because of his catalog page but might demand looks regardless.

“He’s a fantastic horse, been judged by all the highest-end guys and he’s been all class,” said Hill ‘n’ Dale’s John Sikura. “He’s walked like a champion, great attitude, silky smooth and really represents himself

Continued On Page 37

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Siblings —

■ Continued from page 36

well. That's really important. That helps on the sales grounds, and it's got to help the athlete as well. There's a lot of stress (at the races) – starting gate, crowd, activity.”

McGehee raised the colt on her Heaven Trees Farm near Keeneland in Lexington, and thought – hard – about keeping him thanks to a long connection to the family through longtime friend and client Dolphus Morrison. He raced Lotta Kim, bred Rachel Alexandra, and raced her before selling to Stonestreet Thoroughbreds after the Kentucky Oaks. Rachel Alexandra was foaled at Heaven Trees, and the farm has been Lotta Kim's home for years. She belongs to McGehee now, and that matters.

“It was a lot of talking and a lot of listening,” McGehee said of the decision to bring the colt to Saratoga. “I'm a filly girl and I've got two fillies out of the mare. You know, it's hard to think about selling him. But I'm here and they're doing an unbelievable job. They prepped him. He was with us until a couple months ago. He came out of the field, so he looked like a horse. He's trim and fit now, an adult, a young adult anyway.”

His sister would be proud.



Susie Raisher

War Front-Indy Punch, looking good.

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Talking Saratoga with Steve Dance

Late 2020 conversation still rolls

December 17, 2020. Steve Dance picked up on the first ring.

The first thing I heard was a dog barking. Just once.

"Hey there, Sean," Dance said in that booming voice, drowning out the dog.

"How are you, Steve?" I asked.

"Just dandy," Dance said. "Shoveling snow. Shoveling snow."

Fasig-Tipton had asked The Special team to provide the editorial content for a magazine commemorating the 100th edition of the Saratoga sale. I drew the tallest straw, a Q & A with Steve Dance.

"Can we do it tomorrow?" Dance said. "I'll give you a call."

"Um, Steve," I said. "I need to send it tomorrow."

"Oh, wow. Will do." Then we laughed about deadlines. Everyone needs deadlines. "That'll be good. I'll do it."

A five-decade fixture at Fasig Tip-

ton, Dance called me the next day, on his way to his office in Towson.

We talked for 26 minutes, part interview but more conversation, two old friends reminiscing about the game, about life.

It was the last time I talked to him. Steve Dance died May 25.

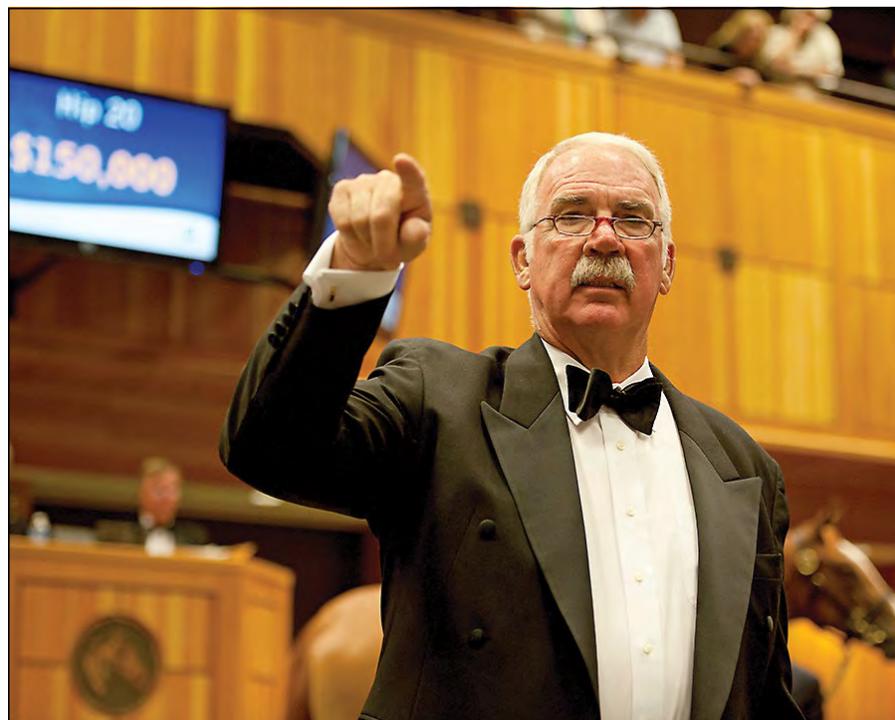
Here's the conversation and here's to Steve Dance, a gentleman in the truest sense of the word.

— Sean Clancy

Tell me about your first trip to Saratoga.

"Well, it was in the old pavilion. 1965. And. Oh. It was the Bieber-Jacobs dispersal and the Lord Astor horses that Bill Hackman bought. Somebody who was there for the yearling sale couldn't stay for these dispersals, so I went up. That was my first time. There are pictures of of me

Continued On Page 39



Tod Marks

Steve Dance makes a point at the Saratoga sale in 2011.

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Dance —

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in the old pavilion. Might have been '66. Check when that sale was. It was quite something. And you remember Bill Hackman. Yeah. Yeah. That's been a long time ago. Orange Hill Farm down there in Virginia."

What else do you remember?

"Some of the other things I think about. Going to lunch every day at Mother Goldsmith's. Do you remember going to Mother Goldsmith's? You would. You would remember that. The Mereworth barn. Barn 7 was all Mereworth. They owned that barn, it didn't have the little jut outs. Walter Salmon and his sister who was married to F. Warrington Gillet, they were both on the board and they owned it. Ultimately, we bought it, the company bought it and John Finney redid it, added more stalls. I remember Laddie (Dance) and Jeanne outbidding E. P. Taylor for Oak Leaf Cluster, for \$77,500. Which, she was a foundation mare for all their breeding. She was by Double Jay out of Oak Cluster. Or, no, I'm wrong. By Double Jay out of Oak Leaf Cluster and she was called Twice Cited. Twice Cited. Anyway, I remember that. That was a pretty heady time."

Saratoga was a real social scene then.

"Starting the polo, we sponsored the polo. Beverly Ensor was in pretty tight with the carriage crowd, Frolic Weymouth and all that crew. I can't remember the doctor's name, he was a wild hair, had carriages, a Pennsylvania guy. The Parties. An Evening in old Saratoga, we opened an old casino that was out by the lake that had been shuttered for years and we had a huge party there."

Tell me about the consignors.

"Bert Linder, of course. Mereworth. Back in those days, everybody had their night. Thursday night was Virginia night, so you had Nydris and Will's father, Pinebrook, not to mention Morven and Nydris I said. It was four nights, it was Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and then on Saturday morning we had a racehorse sale. I remember Humphrey Finney saying to go get John who was still in

the Spuyten Duyvil in his tuxedo from the night before and Humphrey sending him home. Ralph announced and Laddie sold. We'd sell those racehorses. Laddie would be selling along and Ralph would go bck, bck, bck and Laddie would take off again and find somewhere to land. There was nobody who knew the horses and knew the people better than Laddie did. He knew who they were, he knew what they liked, he was a student of not only the horse, but of the pedigree, he knew where they fit in people's families. He was excellent at it. He would chase...but obviously some of this you can't print."

Describe your bosses, your coworkers.

"I worked mostly under Larry Ensor. I remember one time I was in my office and he called and he said, 'Why aren't you here?' I said, 'You didn't tell me to come.' He said, 'Let me tell you something,' this was at Belmont Park, the paddock sale, 'You come to every sale unless I tell you don't come.' Yes sir. Yes sir."

What was it like for you?

"You grew up in it. I didn't. The magic of it, for me, I was very green and was putting on a tuxedo and stood in front of a lot of wealthy and influential people who were doing things that I had never even dreamed of, you know, I mean really, it was a heady experience for me, to be in that arena. Coming from...you know, a farm kid. When I graduated from high school, I was headed nowhere and didn't prepare myself to do anything. Laddie called me, he was my father's youngest brother, my father was the oldest of the three children, he called me and said he wanted to have lunch with me. We had lunch. Laddie was Milton Jr. He had worked in the auction business with his father and he didn't want to keep on selling Mrs. Jones' china and furniture on those Saturday morning sales. He was headed off for bigger and better things and of course he was married to Humphrey Finney's daughter, he was the golden boy. I didn't realize it at the time but I was his exit strategy from Towson, you know, in his father's auction business which he started in 1912 and we still have. I'm still running it. So, I'm sure it was him."

Continued On Page 40

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Dance —

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Why did he pick you?

“There’s some other stories that I’ve never been sure about. For some reason, he picked me to come in there and help. Maybe he saw something that he thought I could do or was capable of with a lot of experience. We worked together for a long time. Not in this business, although, I learned a lot here. And I was available. He wanted it for me. And of course, remember this, Larry Ensor grew up right here in Towson, John Finney grew up right here in Towson, Lee Watson was the stable manager, he grew up right here in Towson. It wasn’t a closed thing, but the management and auction team came from right here.”

Why has Fasig-Tipton been successful?

“It’s about the people, the people you can work with, that’s a big part of it. And trust. We’ve been through our ups and downs, we’ve been in positions when we were not very popular, when Billy Christmas started the Maryland sales agency, we didn’t have a sale here in Maryland. And it’s about customer service, at this point in our lives it’s all about customer service and relationships. I have relationships with people across this entire segment. When Tommy Heard closed up the training

center, we sold everything of Tommy’s at Hialeah before the 2-year-old in training sale, including his six-horse Imperatore horse van, everything that came over there from the training center in that six-horse van. But here’s the point. I worked in there for a day and a half organizing and setting this stuff up with Alan Cooper. Alan Cooper. Alan Cooper was an intern, OK, at Fasig-Tipton. Of course Tom Cooper, Larry Ensor, Clay Camp, all great buddies, I hung out with them to some degree, certainly, we were all drinking and partying and having a fine time. You know. You know. Worked with Alan Cooper. Other people through the years. The other day, I was in Virginia and I came up past Wintergreen, that little ski slope and I thought, ‘You know what, I’ve been down here before.’ The next thing you know, there’s a place on the left-hand side and I had been there before, it was a farm that Clay and Barbara Camp had had at one time. All of a sudden I was there but I recognized the place.”

The phone goes dead.

“Sean, sorry I lost you. Wait a minute, here we go. No, I had the phone in my hand even though I’m in the car...Back in the day with all the steeplechase races. Those barns, it was a magic, magic time through the 70s and the 80s. In the late 80s, we had our difficulties, we were going in too many directions. Fair Hill. The insurance company. The finance company. The real estate company. John Finney had a great vision. I remember we were

crisscrossing Canada, had a little Texas Instruments calculator, he’s got these papers, he said, ‘OK, put this in.’ I put that in, ‘What’s that?’ We did all the projections on an airplane with a calculator that wasn’t any bigger than the phone you carry. And on paper, it looked great. The reality of it...John had a great vision, but it was like Fair Hill, it was 15, 20 years too soon. It was a great idea. As far as Saratoga, it’s just magic. Just magic.

Remember the oil painting that Jenness Cortez did of the Saratoga sales arena with all the people, way back? Mark and Kitty Harden, Brownell Combs, E.P. Taylor...I have a print of it. All those old people. Humphrey was a mentor, he took Peb around, took him everywhere when he first started. Peb did a huge folio of the then current people, ‘71, ‘72. He gave Humphrey Finney number 1 of 100. After Humphrey died, Marge had it, and then when Marge died, Laura Dance Alexander had it, she gave it to me. She said, ‘I want you to get this somewhere, it’s important.’ I’ve told Cricket it’s coming to her when she’s ready because of Humphrey’s connection to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. Saddle bag and the stuff that he wrote and did, it’ll go there from their family, it’s got nothing to do with me.”

Do you have a favorite horse to sell at Saratoga?

“Yeah. Yeah. Hoist the Flag. Sidney sat right in front of me. Sidney and Mr. and Mrs. Clark. If

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LG

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Dance —

■ Continued from page 40

you were sitting in the auction box, my position was at 1 o'clock. On my right-hand side was Dinny Phipps, always in the second row, not that he participated but, you know, hey, here I am a country bumpkin and I'm trying to take money off Phipps. On the left, Mr. and Mrs. Mills. In the front row, was of course, Liz Whitney Tippet, she was always too cold, she would take a shawl, 'Turn that air conditioner down.' It was terrible, it blew right straight down on you in the front row. The Ledyards up in the back row. Bert Firestone. Wonderful. Wonderful. I took Sidney's bid. It was like \$37,000, that's what Hoist the Flag cost at Saratoga. Hoist the Flag, Sidney and I had nice relationship, I would see him at the paddock sales."

Did you know Sidney from Maryland?

"Not that I didn't go to the steeplechase races around here, the Hunt Cup, My Lady's Manor and all that back in the day, I never realized Sidney had the farm right here, to me, he was always a New York guy because that's the only place I ever saw him. I remember driving down Manor Road and he's getting out of his car and I said, 'Oh ****, he lives right here?' We knew a lot of those people, Mr. Engelhard, Mack Miller, people who were just good old-time people. I was thinking the other day about Sagamore, I went to school with Franklin, he was there for a little bit, Hal Kercheval. Ralph Kercheval came up from Kentucky to run Sagamore for Vanderbilt. He had a couple of sons but the one, Hal, was in my class

at Franklin High School for christ's sake. That's when I met all the Gills, Tank and oh what's his name, was in the colors room forever. The Campitellis. You know the world, it's a very small world."

I guess you learned a lot about horse sales in a short amount of time.

"I remember we were having a racehorse sale and Tex Sutton. If you went to the races with Tex and I did on numerous occasions, he would get a table and there would be eight or 10 of us and the waiter would come and Tex would lay a hundred dollars on him and say, 'You take care of us... we'll be right here.' That's how Tex rolled. He was standing there and I was fretting about something, 'I don't know how these horses are going to sell...' He said, 'Stevie, let me tell you something, all the professional horsemen in the world are right here right now for this race meet and for these sales. And these horses will bring what they're worth, they might not bring what the owners think they're worth but they will bring what they're worth. The public will speak.' I'll never forget that."

Who else did you work with?

"When I first started going to Saratoga the stable manager, who was a full-time resident of Saratoga, his name was Harry...I'll think of it in a minute. The stable manager in other areas was Ralph Retler? The guy who came in there and worked after his morning work was John Veitch. After working for his father, he would work the stable area, whatever was needed. What's Harry's name? He had a

Continued On Page 42

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Dance —

■ Continued from page 41

wooden leg, was a really, really nice old man. His office was just in a shed, where we all walk now, where the cashier's office is. Barn 8 was not too stories, John rebuilt that and put the offices upstairs and a board room. Where they did the repository on Madison Avenue, that was a bunkhouse. A lot of it has been rebuilt."

Do you remember meeting Terence Collier?

"That's a hazy memory. I may have met him in the office in New York. We worked together for many years and became very, very, very good friends. He and I were mostly always on the same page. He was there every day. I only worked the sales, they were my only duties. That was all, I shouldn't say that's all, I did the seating for a long time, with Larry Ensor. I would do it and he would look it over. One day he came to me and said, 'What the hell is wrong with you?' I said, 'What's the matter?' He said, 'You can't put those two together.' I said, 'They've always been together.' He said, 'Yeah, he just fired him.' I said, 'How the hell did I know that?' It was upstairs in the balcony and we had to rearrange everything. I don't remember who it was but I remember the seats were up in the balcony."



You must have a lot of memorabilia and mementos?

"The ribbon cutting. There was a really neat photograph, Alan Cooper and I talked about it in November. He said he still has the photograph, we were all in our tuxedos and all in the auction ring. Alan and of course Laddie and Ralph and Bob Becker was the comptroller at the time. Kevin Walsh. It's a picture taken from a step ladder of all of us in our tuxedos. I guess I have that picture somewhere but I don't know where."

I do not have the first catalogue from Saratoga. I have some Saratoga memorabilia; I'll talk to Evan about it and see if he wants me to bring that. Play-

ing cards with photographs of the sale the year before, golf balls in a sleeve that said Saratoga, stuff that they used to do and give out. I have my ash tray and Lee Watson's, on the 75th anniversary, our diamond anniversary, John had Baccarat crystal ash trays made, diamond shaped, with the Fasig-Tipton seal cut into the bottom of them. Of course, nobody smokes any more. I just saw those the other day. I'll have to ask Evan if he wants that (stuff) up there, just to have up there.

How about Fasig celebrating 100 years at Saratoga?

"It's a landmark accomplishment, no other horse sales company can say that. To have gone back to the center of the highest quality racing ever and continue is landmark to say the least. Next summer it's going to be a big celebration. There's nothing like it. Nobody else can lay claim to that, it's the one and only. Not only because of the age of the sales company but the tradition of going there, well, you know, Man o' War, what more can I say. For the company to continue through multiple management teams and still be here, to still be here... If you need any help with anything, just call me. Have a Merry Christmas."

And that was it. The last time I spoke to Steve Dance. I missed him at Timonium this spring and miss him even more at Saratoga this summer.

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PHOTO: Adam Moeshian 2013

The Big Picture

with Tod Marks

High Flyer. In 20 years of covering the Saratoga sales, this only happened once to The Special's Tod Marks – in 2012 – when this Exchange Rate colt tried to climb into the trees.



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Blenheim

We've written about Arthur Hancock III in The Special since just about the beginning. Owsley won the Glens Falls in 2002. Star yearlings topped the sale (like in 2019 with First Captain at \$1.5 million) and on and on. We even got him to tell us his "Horse Who Changed Everything" story about Sunday Silence for the website.

But Joe Clancy's The Outside Rail column about Hancock and a horse named Blenheim – not Bloom, definitely not Bloom – from 2018 seemed appropriate on a night Hancock's Stone Farm topped the first session of the sale with a \$1.6 million colt. So here's Blenheim from the Aug. 6, 2018 edition.

BY JOE CLANCY

The question came from across the way in a deep mix of Virginia, Kentucky and Thoroughbred accents, "Who is Bloom?"

My mind scrolled its mental contact list and came up with Jeff Bloom, Bloom Racing, Bloomberg, Bloomsburg, Bloomsbury, blooming onions, the horse Whisk Bloom (that's not right, it's Whisk Broom) . . .

"I give up, who is Bloom?" I asked.

"You tell me, it's in your paper."

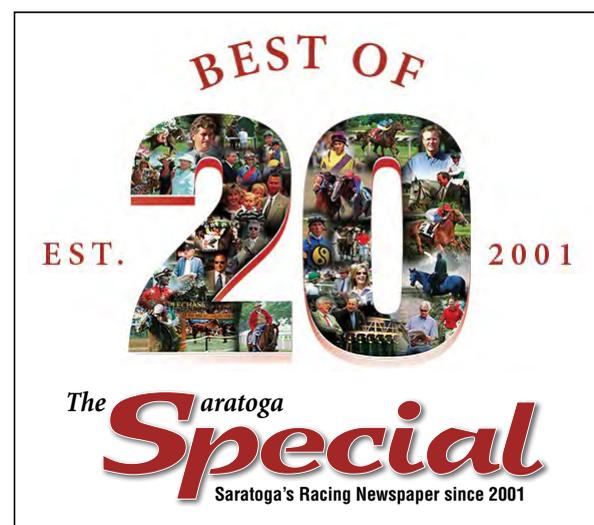
Oh no.

There it was on page six, a wistful quote from the mouth of Arthur Hancock Sr. via his grandson and my questioner Arthur Hancock III at Friday's Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

"I remember going through the field one day, and I remember how he'd talk, he had that Virginia accent, he said, 'Grandson, see those are colts by Bloom and there's a filly by Bloom and there's another colt by Bloom over there. You see how they look like they've been cut out with a cookie cutter?' I said, 'Well, I'm not sure.' He said, 'Well you see how they all look like the same, they've been stamped.' I said, 'Yes sir, I do.' I didn't. He said, 'Generally that's the mark of a good stallion.'"

Said by Hancock III while accepting his grandfather's Pillar of the Turf honor, the quote is gold, a look inside the world of raising Thoroughbreds and people at Kentucky's historic Claiborne Farm. The quote is also wrong. Bloom didn't stamp his colts, or his fillies. There was no cookie cutter. In fact, there was no Bloom. Well, there was a Bloom (several actually) but he wasn't at Claiborne Farm and Hancock Sr. did not tell his grandson about the horse's ability to stamp foals. Hancock III didn't say Bloom in that speech Friday either. He said Blenheim as in Blenheim II, one of the most influential stallions in Thoroughbred history.

The Special's writer somehow heard Bloom, which is understandable given the acoustics of the room, a digital recorder that picks up everything, Hancock's accent, pressure, whatever. That was the first mistake. The second was not looking up the horse's name, because ideally every name, number, date and place should be checked.



The third was not reading the quote closely enough upon editing and layout. The fourth was reading the Here and There pages for commas and typos, not facts.

But it's a print medium. Ultimately, you only get one chance to be right. And, the brain only handles so much. Everybody at The Special is overworked, a little frayed and jangly around the edges and we miss stuff. Lots of stuff.

But it's definitely not Bloom, it's Blenheim. We really should have gotten it right (it's changed on the website version if you want to look there). And Blenheim was a total dude, who deserves another look even if – we'll assume – he never made it to Saratoga.

He was born in England in 1927, a son of Blandford and the Charles O'Malley mare Malva. Bred by the sixth earl of Canrarvon Henry Herbert, Blenheim won the 1930 Epsom Derby for his owner the Aga Khan and retired to stud in France. His first crop included Mumtaz Begum, who became the dam of Nasrullah. The second crop included 1936 Epsom Derby winner Mahmoud.

Arthur "Bull" Hancock Jr. and a group of visionaries formed a syndicate and imported the stallion to the United States in time for the 1937 breeding season – and changed the game.

Blenheim's first American crop included Triple Crown winner and multiple champion Whirlaway. North America's leading sire of 1941, Blenheim ultimately sired 61 stakes winners from 536 foals. Jet Pilot won the Kentucky Derby. Mark-Kell was a champion. Her full-sister Nellie L. won the Kentucky Oaks. Blenheim's daughter Easy Lass (dam of champions Coaltown and Wistful) was a Broodmare of the Year. Another, Miss Rushin was the dam of Kentucky Derby winner Pensive. Yet another, Sweep In, produced Derby and Preakness winner Kauai King. And one more, Jane Gail, was the dam of Derby winner Hill Gail.

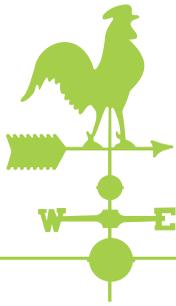
The English-bred Nasrullah ultimately followed Blenheim to Claiborne in 1950, and took the farm's – and racing's – fortunes to new heights. Nasrullah's progeny included Hall of Famers Bold Ruler, Noor and Nashua and a family tree that went on to Secretariat and Ruffian among others. Nasrullah led North America's sire list five times.

But Blenheim – who died in 1958 and is buried at Claiborne – started it all, and made a grandfather tell a grandson all about it long ago.

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Tod Marks
Left Bank streaks to victory in the 2002 Whitney.

Todd Pletcher

Left Bank. A \$600,000 purchase at the 1999 Fasig-Tipton Calder sale of selected 2-year-olds in training, son of French Deputy went on to productive career winning stakes going short and long. He made two starts at 2 – a juvenile campaign derailed because of colic surgery – and won 13 of 22 starts the rest of his career including the Grade 1 Vosburgh and Grade 1 Cigar Mile at 4 and the Grade 1 Whitney at 5. He set Belmont Park's track record for 6 ½ furlongs in 1:20.17 winning the Grade 2 Tom Fool Handicap in 2002 and a month later he won the Grade 1 Whitney in track-record time of 1:47.04. He started to show signs of colic after his Whitney win, underwent another surgery and later died in October after suffering complications from the operation.

"Track record in the Whitney, track record in the Tom Fool. He was purchased at the Gulfstream 2-year-olds in training sale, we were training at Hialeah and he came in, he'd been there a couple weeks and I remember back in the beginning of cell phones. I left my cell phone charging in the car overnight and when I got in my car at like 4:15, Cindy and George (Weaver), who were both working for me at the time, had tried to call me. I got in and

The Hall of Fame. The highest honor in racing – in anything really – beckons only a select few and the class of 2021 (and 2020 since racing missed the ceremony because of the coronavirus pandemic) is one of the most special in history as seven-time Eclipse Award winner Todd Pletcher goes in during his first year of eligibility and 13-time leading steeplechase trainer Jack Fisher joins him.

Technically inducted last year, trainer Mark Casse gets his due in 2021 after joining Canada's Hall in 2016. We get each to discuss a special horse in each edition. These aren't top 20 lists, just examples of the kinds of horses it takes to get trainers to the Hall of Fame.

We asked a simple question: Who got you here? And they answered.

saw I had missed like 20 calls and thought, 'This can't be good.' Long story short, he colicked during the night, they couldn't get him comfortable, took him to the clinic and they ended up doing surgery. They took out like 12 feet of intestine. Everyone was like, 'He's never going to be the same again.' Unfortunately in the end that's how he ended up dying. But he became an exceptional talent, versatile. An amazing horse. That Whitney was a huge win and he just had a good, long sustained career."

Mark Casse

Sealy Hill. Eugene Melnyk's homebred Ontario-bred daughter of Point Given won two of three starts at 2 before a spectacular 3-year-old campaign that earned her Sovereign Awards as Canada's

Horse of the Year, champion 3-year-old filly and champion grass mare. After a 12th in the Kentucky Oaks, Sealy Hill won three straight stakes in Toronto including the Woodbine Oaks before placing against older fillies and mares in the Grade 2 Nassau and Grade 1 E.P. Taylor to end the season. She ran again at 4 and ended her career with a second to Forever Together at 48-1 in the 2008 Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Santa Anita Park. Sealy Hill went on to a solid broodmare career, producing graded stakes winners Hillaby, Cambier Parc, Belle Hill and Gale Force.

"She was a fun one. She was like five times under the starting gate before she made her first start. We'd have to pull the gate out over her. She would

Continued On Page 47

Hall Talk —

Continued from page 46

flip over and lay under the gate. Extremely talented but had a lot of quirks. One of them, she was very bad in the gate. We had to school her all the time. She'd be all over the place when she ran. My funniest story about Sealy Hill is, she was named Horse of the Year in Canada. She was back at Winding Oaks (in Florida). I got to Phil Hronec and asked where Sealy Hill is. He tells me she's out in that paddock so I go out to see her. She's out in the middle of the paddock and I started walking out to see her. I get about 20 yards from her and she picks her head up, looks at me and I'm like, 'uh oh, this may not have been the smartest move in the world.' She was mean. Now I'm like this (walking backward). She came after me, I thought she was going to kill me. She tried to attack me, jump on top of me. What a great broodmare she was. Sealy Hill was out of Boston Twist. I actually bought her mare, she was by Boston Harbor, did the deal and got Eugene to buy her mom."

Jack Fisher

Revelstoke. He made five starts over timber. That's it. No flat career. No hurdle career. The Pennsylvania-bred son of Smarten won four out of five, including the 1994 Maryland Hunt Cup going 4 miles and over 22 imposing post and rail fences, in his

fifth and final start. He suffered his only defeat when second in the Hunt Cup the previous year. Owned by Fisher's parents John and Dolly, Revelstoke contributed to Fisher's prolific season in 1994 when he won 30 races, tripling the total he had had in any previous season. He finished second to Jonathan Sheppard that season and won his first of 13 titles in 2003.

"My dad had him and as a yearling, he kept jumping out. He had no talent on the flat and we didn't even try him over hurdles. He was one we ran before we were allowed to use Lasix. He bled so badly that I would run him once a year. He would bleed so badly and didn't care, just kept running.

"When he won the Hunt Cup, I'm in front, we're at the fourth fence and he started coughing. He didn't care. Riding that horse and training that horse, you never knew what he was doing, he would just take off. Going to the third fence in the Hunt Cup, he wasn't even looking at it, he was looking at the crowd. He gets there and is like, 'OK, now.'

"You never knew where he was going to take off. I just hung on to the yoke. It was the 100th running of the Hunt Cup, I was glad to get it out of the way, I didn't like that race, it scared the hell out of me. I could only run him once a year because he would bleed so badly, that's kind of my argument to keep Lasix, you have a horse like that. We were playing around the farm and he fell over a two-foot fence, broke his elbow, colicked, got Colitis X and died. That was tough."



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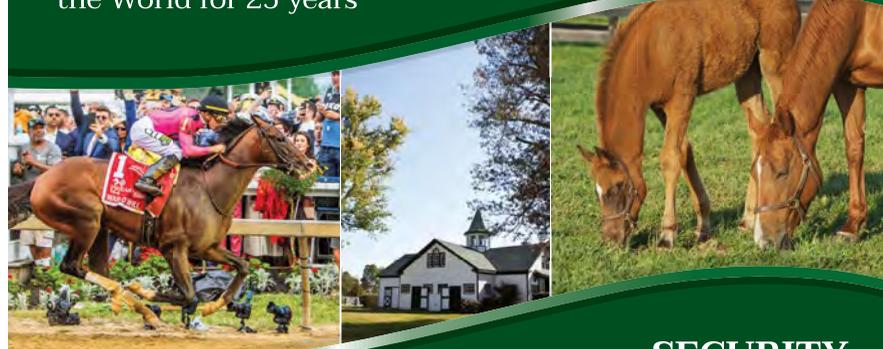
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Big Dreams

Not feeling inspired happens from time to time here at The Special. We know that's hard to notice, with copy churned out by the thousands of words but trust us, it happens.

A few days ago I mentioned needing some inspiration, feeling that the stakes previews, stakes recaps and Stable Tours weren't up to snuff. Someone suggested, "you should write a column, that might spark things up."

Columns aren't totally in my wheelhouse, although I'll occasionally whip one out after someone close passes away, hits a milestone or accomplishes something great (or not so great). Then there's the old standby, in the words of Sean, "let the tape recorder run."

On a visit to Tom Amoss' barn the first week of the meet to work on the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour, he told a great story about starting out in New York with John Parisella in 1987. Tom can talk – do you see him on the Saratoga Live shows? – so we let the tape recorder run for this gem:

"The day I went to work for him it was right after a weekend and Simply Majestic had just won the California Derby. The headline of the Form said 'Simply Majestic, on to the Kentucky Derby.' The next day the headline of the Form was 'Simply Majestic mistakenly not nominated to the Kentucky Derby.' It was chaos in the barn. Everybody was blaming everyone else for him not being nominated.

"I grew up with Al Stall and his family introduced me to racing when I was like 12 years old. His father was very generous with how he let the kids go everywhere with him. Without being adopted I was close to it. I got to do a lot of things, travel with them, spend time on the backside. Not at first. My introduction to racing was from handicapping. I was fluent in reading the Form when I was 12. We'd go to the races in New Orleans all the time. Al's dad was the commissioner of racing, even though we weren't truly supposed to be there everyone turned



Tod Marks

Trainer Tom Amoss, and a good story.

their head and looked the other way.

"One day I was spending the night at Al's house and he said, 'my dad's going to the barn in the morning, do you want to go?'"

"Yeah."

"You've got to get up early."

"That's ok."

Up to that point my view of racing was they put them in the gate and the fast one wins

When I went to the barn that morning and saw everything that went into it, and I just was like 'man, I want to do this' I was lucky early on I knew what I wanted to do for a living.

"Al graduated from school, we were roommates in college. He graduated about six months behind me. I sped mine up, took a couple summer schools. He got a geology degree. His mom was not for him going to the racetrack at all. He ended up taking a job in New Orleans as a geologist. I was in New York and calling him and telling him what's going on at the track. One of my favorite stories I called him one time and said we're running a horse today that we really like.

"Simply Majestic had just won the California Derby and needed a work partner to work on the grass. We had a filly in the barn and she was extremely well bred. Her mom was Terlingua and she was by Northern Dancer. She was really crooked. She'd run at Aqueduct and gotten beaten by like 20 lengths. Every time he worked her, her action was so poor that she would hit herself. You couldn't put enough bandage materials on her back legs to keep her from hitting. Patch material, everything. She'd find a way.

"So we needed a victim for Simply Majestic to work on the grass. She'd only run on the dirt. We sent them out together. Back then it was chaos at Belmont. You had this one day to work on the grass, everybody would rush to get on the turf course. Clockers, they couldn't catch them all. So here goes Simply Majestic, working a half mile with this horse and she outworks him on the grass and doesn't touch on her back bandages. She's a maiden, and a maiden with bad form. This was spring and a lot of the trainers, in this case I believe it was MacK Miller, would have some young 2-year-olds that they'd put on the grass and lay them up and bring them back in the spring. MacK had a horse that was a maiden but had run second in a stakes at Saratoga, in the race. It was a maiden race so the odds were tilted strongly to his horse. I called Al and said 'this horse wouldn't get beat.'

"So they run the race. Back then there was a 900 number you'd call to for the race results. Al said he punches in the code for the track it breaks into the middle of the call. So I'm listening, listening, listening and don't hear the horse's name. I'm like, 'oh no, this horse is going to run bad.' But it broke in the middle of the call and the next line was 'and turning for home it's Chapel Of Dreams by some 20 lengths.' She won by like 20, paid \$27. She won a lot of good races on the grass. She was a really good horse.

"That's my favorite betting story from when I was with Parisella."



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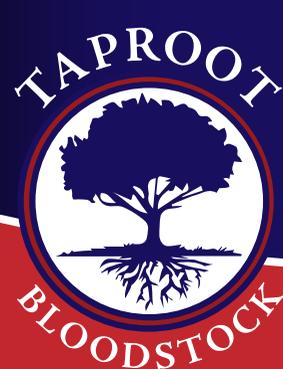
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Fasig-Tipton celebrated its 100th Saratoga sale this year. We've been here for 20 percent of them. We actually had grand plans to ask around and get 100 people to talk about their favorite or most memorable nights at the iconic sales. We didn't get that far.

Here's mine, written the last night of the first year.

You can say you were there. The Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Sales 2001.

They'll be talking about this one, like the day the Giants won the Pennant, the day the hockey team won the Gold, the day the wall came down.

"Remember back in '01, when that storm came through and the lights went off? Was that something or what? Hot. Horses were selling for millions. Kingmambos for \$3 million. The end of the Mr. Prospectors. Hot. Remember we all had cell phones. Highest gross ever. Eaton Sales. Lane's End. Taylor Made. Drinks were going for five bucks. Hot. They shut the kitchen down at Siro's. Walt Robertson and Terence Collier did the talking. Tabor. Godolphin. Demi. Man, what a night."

That's the way it'll be when they talk about big sales at Saratoga.

You knew this was going to be a banner night when you walked out of the house at 7:20. The sky was dark and Saratoga had that feel that only Saratoga can have. The air was like soup. You knew it was coming. Minutes before Hip 159, Commander Jag, walked into the ring, the rain came down, the sky went dark, spectators scurried to the castle. Yellow slickers ran past. And the analogies started.

"They call this Sod's Law at home," said Richard Hutchinson standing by the bar while the sky flashed.

Sod's Law, as far as we can tell, is when you prepare, prepare and then the rain comes down 10 minutes before the curtain's drawn. English, perhaps.



Tod Marks

Trust us, the rain didn't hurt a thing. Maybe it helped.

"There are no lights on anywhere around town so you better stay here and make yourself comfortable," Collier said early in the session.

The prices were beyond comfortable.

Two horses tapped the gavel at \$3 million. Hip 193, a bay colt by Kingmambo out of the Seattle Slew mare Seattle Way, created a duel between Demi O'Byrne (Coolmore) and John Ferguson (Godolphin). Back and forth they went until O'Byrne had his horse for a cool \$3 million. Derry Meeting sold the half-brother to stakes winner Seattle Bay. It was more than money for the Pennsylvania consignor. Bettina Jenney took over the farm after her husband Marshall died last year. She sat in the upper section dabbling tears as the bids piled up.

After the sale, she stood outside the stall and talked about what it meant.

"I'm thinking of Marshall, like mad. I'm so proud of Derry Meeting. I wish he was here, I kind of feel he might know," Jenney said. "I think he'd be

proud of us. He'd be proud of our team. He better be."

Jenney talked about the horse, the memory and the effort.

"It's pretty overwhelming," she said. "He's always had presence and he's gotten better and better. Hey Bob, when did we know he was this good?"

Thirty-year employee Bob Goodyear stepped in.

"We knew he was a pretty good colt the whole time. He's got a great walk, good bone and you can just see his class," Goodyear said. "He likes attention. We'll be following him that's for sure. You know he's something special. I'll miss him."

On this night, there would be company in that category.

Eaton Sales consigned the second \$3 million horse of the night, a Mr. Prospector colt out of the Storm Bird mare Stone Flower. Bob Baffert bought the bay colt by telephone.

Tom VanMeter of Eaton Sales walked out of the pavilion at the end of the night a happy man. Selling one of the last Mr. Prospectors was heavy on his mind.

"He was one of a kind. It's him and Northern Dancer and Nijinski as the great breed-altering sires. Their sons, daughters, grand-daughters, grandsons are legacies. To sell one of the last ones and a really good one is a special thing," VanMeter said. "This colt was very typical, just like him. Smooth top, a little light in his bone, not big horses, big hips, little feet, down in their pasterns a little bit but can run."

- Hip 193 would be named Russia. He won once in four starts in Ireland before going winless in four starts in the U.S. He wound up a jumper. Hip 215 was named Royal Walk. He made one start, a ninth for Jack Van Berg, at Santa Anita. It wasn't all bad. Hip 219, on the cover of that issue, sold for \$2,150,000. He would be named Vindication and become champion 2-year-old the following year.

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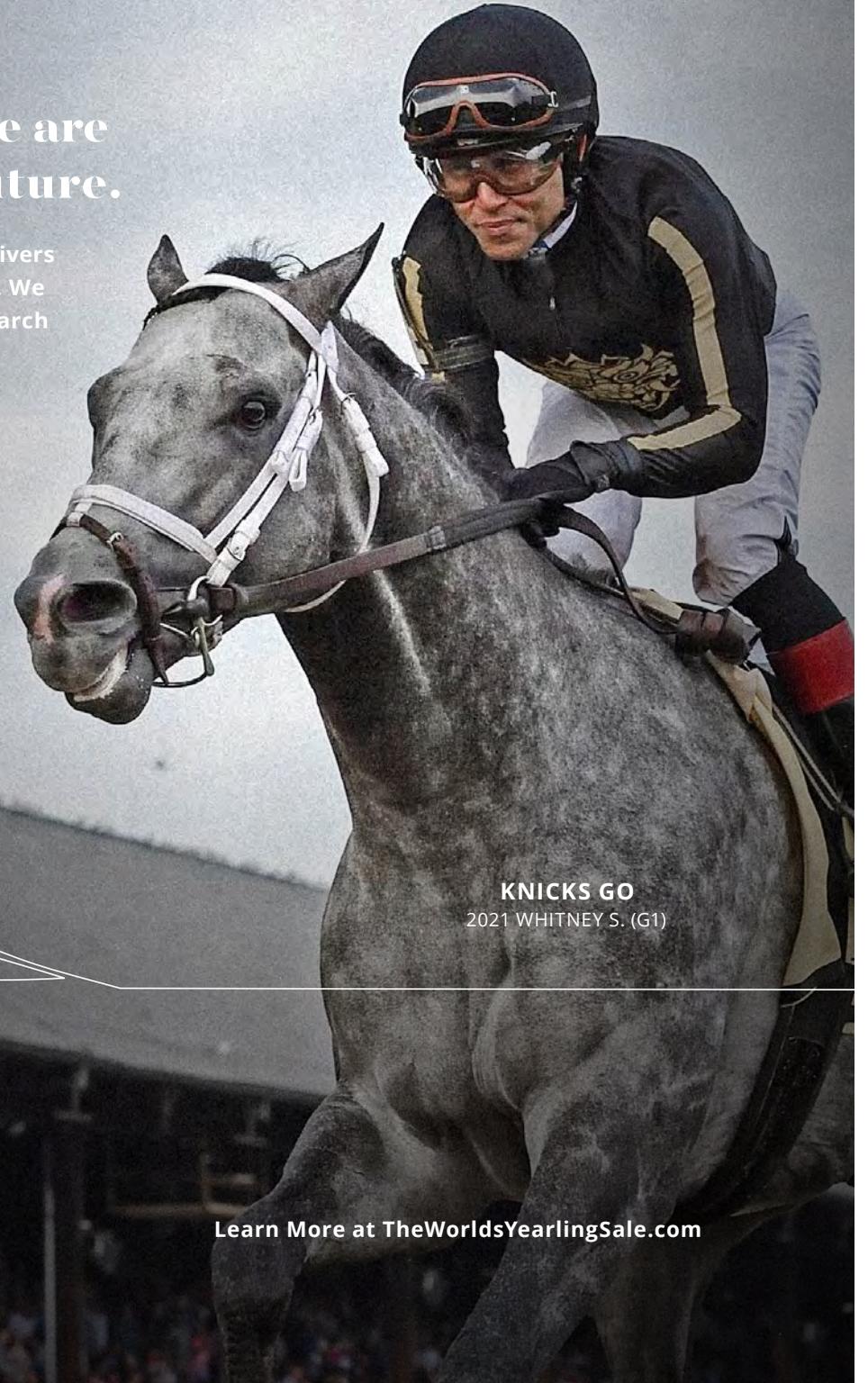
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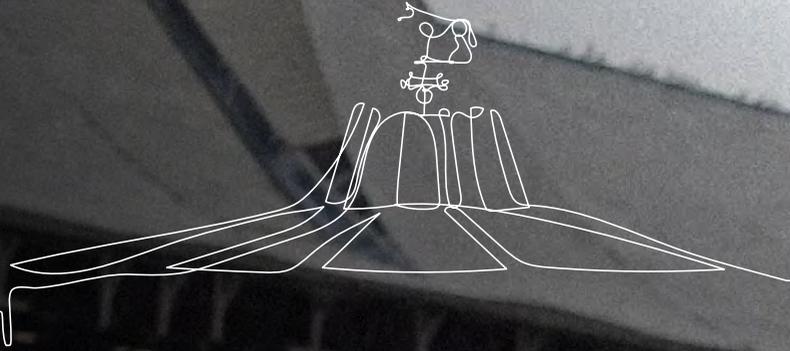
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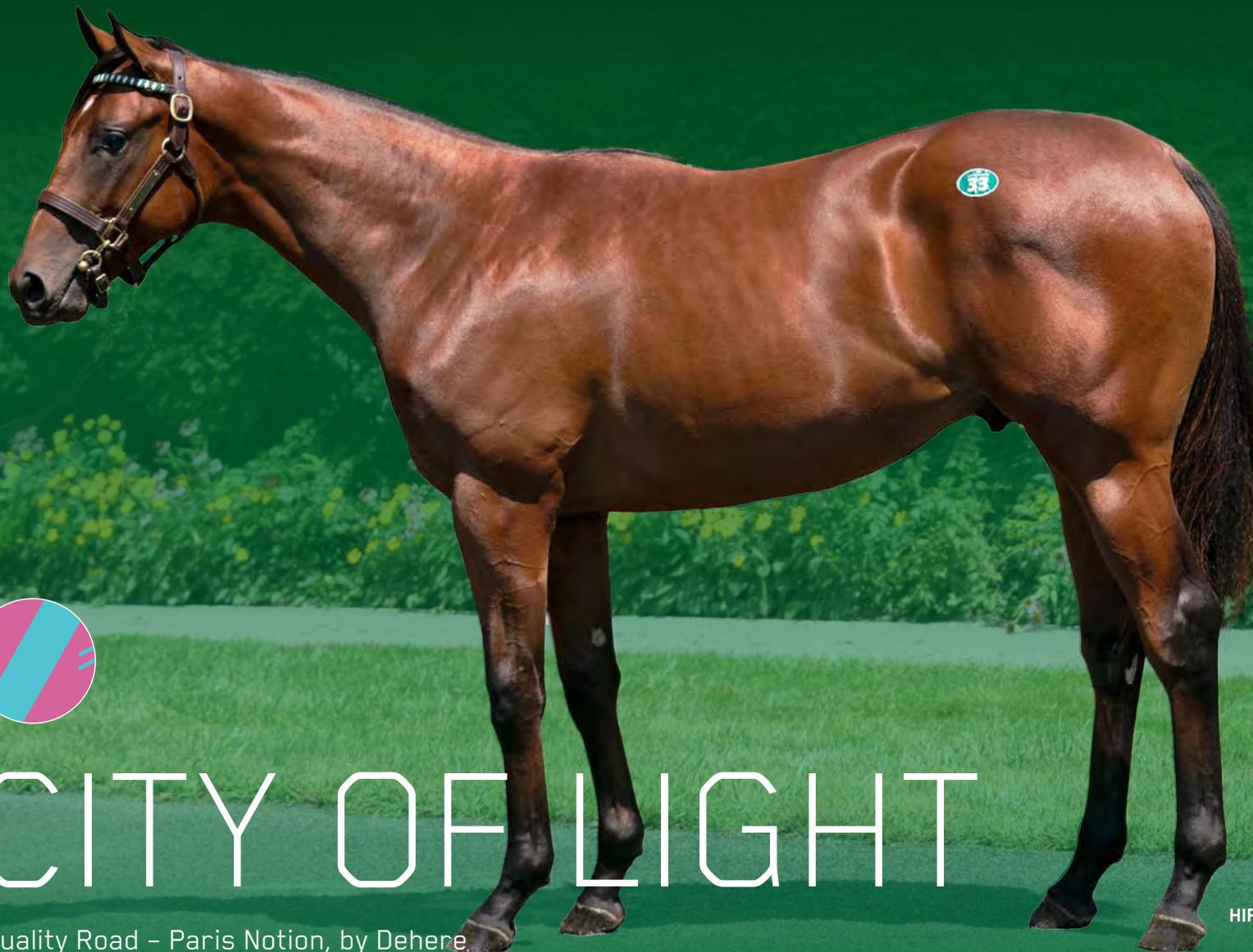
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