

# THOROUGHBRED™

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1996 \$2 Daily

## N • E • W • S T O D A Y

## W • E • E • K • E • N • D P R E V I E W

### ANOTHER RECORD SET AT KEENELAND

**SEPTEMBER SALE** A sale record for dollar volume was established Tuesday with two days remaining in the 11-day Keeneland September Yearling Sale. Gross sales for the auction totaled \$133,828,800 at the conclusion of Tuesday's session, topping the previous record, \$130,121,300, set last year. A total of 2,958 horses were sold last September compared to 2,519 so far this year. The cumulative average is \$53,128, up 11.5 percent from the \$47,642 at this point in the sale last year. A bay colt by Lively One--Ignition (Chi) (Damasus Silver) brought a top price of \$75,000 during Tuesday's session. Robert and Beverly Lewis bought the yearling from the Stone Farm consignment. During Tuesday's session, Keeneland sold 249 horses for \$2,917,900, an average of \$11,718, down 8.1 percent from last year's corresponding session average of \$12,755. The sale concludes Thursday.

**ROBERTS BACK AT YARMOUTH** Former British champion jockey Michael Roberts, out of action since breaking his left wrist in a fall at Sandown in July, makes his racecourse comeback at Yarmouth this afternoon. The South African-born rider sustained the injury when **Honeyshan (GB)** (Warrshan) swerved sharply following the finish of a maiden event. Having exercised several of trainer Clive Brittain's horses at Newmarket, Roberts is satisfied he is fit to make his return to racing and now plans to ride here straight through to the end of the season. He said, "I'm really looking forward to getting back on a few winners. It would be terrific if I could have one at Yarmouth."

News Continued, p. 2.

### STAKES CLOSINGS

**TODAY, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:**

- 9-28 \$75/75,000 **River Cities Breeders' Cup-GIII, LaD**, 3yo/up, f/m, 8.5fT (0)
- 10-04 \$750,000 **Buick Meadowlands Cup-GI, Med**, 3yo/up, 9f (\$500)
- 10-06 \$100,000 **Highlander-GIC, Wox**, 3yo/up, 6f (\$100)
- 10-06 \$100/75,000 **Grey Breeders' Cup-GIII, Wo**, 2yo, 8.5f (\$175)
- 10-06 \$100/75,000 **Mazarine Breeders' Cup-GIC, Wo**, 2yo, f, 8.5f (\$175)
- 10-27 \$300,000 **E.P. Taylor-GII, Wo**, 3yo/up, f/m, 10fT (\$300)



### Saturday, The Curragh, Ireland:

#### IRISH ST. LEGER-G1, 3yo/up 14fT

Saturday's race will be contested by a maximum of 14 runners. Acceptors for the test were published yesterday afternoon and possible challengers are: **Affidavit (Affirmed)**, **Blushing Flame (Blushing Groom {Fr})**, **Court Of Honour (Ire)** (Law Society), **Fill The Bill (Ire)** (Bob Back), **Gordi (Theatrical {Ire})**, **I'm Supposin (Ire)** (Posen), **Key Change (Ire)** (Darshaan {GB}), **Moonax (Ire)** (Caerleon), **Oscar Schindler (Ire)** (Royal Academy), **Posidonas (GB)** (Slip Anchor {GB}), **Sacramento (GB)** (Shirley Heights {GB}), **Sanmartino (Ire)** (Salse), **Vintage Crop (Ire)** (Rousillon) and **Viaticum (Ire)** (Scenic {Ire}). Vintage Crop, winner of this one mile six furlong event in both 1993 and 1994, has already been declared a definite starter.

### Saturday, Turfway Park:

#### KENTUCKY CUP CLASSIC H.-GIII, \$500,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/8m

MGSW **Judge T C** (Judge Smells), second in the 1995 Kentucky Cup Classic, breezed five furlongs in 1:03 2/5 over a sloppy Churchill Downs track Tuesday morning. Also working for the race was **Michael's Star** (Risen Star), runner-up to Judge T C in a Turfway Park allowance Sept. 6, who went five furlongs in 1:02 4/5 over Churchill's sloppy surface Monday. **Coup d'Argent** (Silver Buck), second to Kentucky Cup Classic probable **Pyramid Peak** (Mt. Livermore) in the GIII Baltimore Breeders' Cup H. July 6, worked five furlongs in 1:05 2/5 in the Churchill Downs slop yesterday. "I was real pleased with the work," said Coup d'Argent's trainer Elliott Walden. "He finished well. He went the last eighth in 12 seconds." Trainer Niall O'Callaghan reported that Pat Day will ride **Petionville** (Seeking the Gold), who was scratched from last Saturday's GI Woodward S. in favor of the Kentucky Cup. "He worked excellently at Belmont, five furlongs in a minute on Saturday," O'Callaghan said. Also probable for the race are **Wekiva Springs** (Runaway Groom), **Strawberry Wine** (Strawberry Road {Aus}), **Atticus** (Nureyev), **Isitingood** (Crusader Sword) and **Polar Expedition** (Kodiack).

Weekend Preview Continued, p. 2.



**Saturday, The Curragh, Ireland:  
NATIONAL S.-G1, 2yo, 7fT**

Connections of **Sahm** (Mr Prospector), a 20-1 chance for next year's Newmarket 2000 Guineas, **Azra (Ire)** (Danehill), third on her most recent outing in the G1 Moyglare Stud S. and **Fantastic Fellow** (Lear Fan) paid \$32,284 to supplement their charges into Saturday's race. Clive Brittain, trainer of Fantastic Fellow, winner of his only start, said, "We are going from a maiden to a Group One in a single step, but I haven't any hesitation about that. I'm convinced he is a very high-class horse."

**Saturday, Turfway Park:  
KENTUCKY CUP SPRINT H.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo, 6f**

Anstu Stable's **Stu's Choice** (Afleet) arrived at Turfway Park Tuesday morning from Belmont Park, where he is based with trainer Todd Pletcher. The colt, winner of the \$35,000 Mercer Raceabout S. at The Meadowlands in his last outing Sept. 6, breezed a half-mile in :49 2/5 at Belmont Monday. Pletcher said Chris Antley will have the mount Saturday.

Frank Stronach's **Goldminers Gold** (Crafty Prospector) and **Laredo** (Crafty Prospector), considered two of Canada's top three-year-old sprinters, each worked a half-mile at Woodbine Tuesday. They will arrive at Turfway Wednesday and will be coupled in the wagering for Saturday's event. Goldminers Gold, winner of the Detroit Race Course Breeders' Cup Sprint H. in his last outing July 27, was clocked in :49 3/5 for the half-mile work, while Laredo, winner of the Achievement H. (GIIC) at Woodbine in April, went in :50 2/5.

**News Continued.**

**HOOSIER PARK OPENS FRIDAY** The second season of Thoroughbred racing at Hoosier Park in Anderson, Indiana begins this Friday. "The response from trainers and the quality of horses coming in to Hoosier Park this season is overwhelming," said Racing Secretary Warren Groce. "We already have over 180 nominations for our stakes program this fall and will give out \$80,000 in purse money per day, with an expected increase beginning in October." Opening weekend will feature Indiana Championship Day Sunday, Sept. 22, in which \$300,000 in purse monies will be offered to horses owned or raised in the Hoosier state. The highlight of the meeting will be the second running of the \$100,000 Indiana Derby Oct. 5. Hoosier Park will conduct live Thoroughbred racing Fridays through Tuesdays from Sept. 20 until Nov. 30. Post time is 7 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, Mondays and Tuesdays, and 1:30 p.m. Sundays.

◆ **CANADA** ◆

**Stakes Result:**

**BUFFALO S.**, \$34,300, Assiniboia Downs, 9-15, 2yo, 1m, 1:40 4/5, ft.

1--**#ONLY DREAMING, 115, f, 2, Northern Prospect--Irish Dream (MSW), by Irish Ruler.** O/B-K-5 Stables Inc. (CAN); T-Emile Corbel; J-T.N. Gardiner; \$21,000. Lifetime Record: 6-3-1-1, \$65,058. \*Full to Coral Prospect (MSW, \$183,151).

2--**Canadian Focus, 120, c, 2, Asimov--Good Standards,** by American Standard. (\$820 yrlg '95 MANSEP). \$7,000.

3--**Ashlea's Debut, 115, f, 2, Main Debut--Anditalladdsup,** by Summing. \$3,500.

Margins: 16, 3/4, 1 1/2. Odds: 0.95, 1.10a, 5.35.

Only Dreaming, third in the Clarendon S. (GIIC) at Woodbine in June, most recently won the CTHS Sales S. over a muddy Assiniboia Downs track Sept. 2. Sent off the odds-on choice here, the bay filly bested colts by sprinting to the early lead then widening her advantage as she pleased to win with something left.

◆ **MIDWEST** ◆

**Local News, Keeneland:**

**Shake The Yoke (GB)** (Caerleon), winner of the G1 Coronation S. at Royal Ascot, is being aimed for the G1 Queen Elizabeth II Challenge Cup for fillies and mares at 1 1/8 miles on the Keeneland turf Oct. 5. Now owned by B. Wayne Hughes, the Elie Lellouche-trained filly's most recent run was a third in the G1 Prix du Moulin de Longchamp Sept. 8. Lellouche is hoping the Keeneland race will be a steppingstone to the Breeders Cup Mile at Woodbine Oct. 26. Also heading for the Keeneland event are the Criquelette Head-trained filly **Sensation (GB)** (Soviet Star), owned by Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum and winner of the G2 Falmouth S. in July, and the Andre Fabre-trained **Housa Dancer (Fr)** (Fabulous Dancer), now owned by Gary Tanaka.

**Local News, Turfway Park:**

Three hopefuls for Saturday's Kentucky Cup Juvenile Fillies S. posted recent works for the \$100,000 event. GIII Sorority S. runner-up **Corporate Vision** (Corporate Report) breezed a half-mile in :49 at Churchill Downs Tuesday; **Bettielou** (Fast Play), who broke her maiden at Turfway Sept. 7, went three-eighths in :36 4/5 at Turfway Tuesday; and Ellis Park Debutante S. fourth **Kings Lynn** (Mt. Livermore) worked five furlongs in 1:02 at Churchill Downs Monday.

*Sirelines that shape the breed . . .*

Danzig - Chief's Crown (USA), Danzero, Flying Spur  
Kalamoun - Baryshnikov, Kenmare (Fr)  
Mr. Prospector - Geiger Counter (USA)  
Roberto - Brocco (USA)  
Storm Cat - Catrail (USA)

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## ◆ EAST ◆

### Yesterday's Result:

7th-DEL, \$23,800, Alw, 2yo, 5 1/2f, 1:03 4/5, sy.  
**KING BUCK** (c, 2, King's Nest--Luxurious Gal, by Buckpasser) won his only previous start, a maiden special weight at Monmouth June 4, by 1 3/4-lengths. Making his second career start here off a 3 1/2-month layoff, the bay was sent off the even-money favorite and did not disappoint, leading from gate-to-wire for a 10 1/2-length romp over the sloppy going. He is 1/2 to Major Lux (MSW, \$159,667, by Majestic Light). Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$26,100.  
 O-New Farm. B-Glade Valley Farms, Inc. (MD).  
 T-Benjamin W. Perkins.

### Local News, Canada:

**Singspiel (Ire)** (In The Wings {GB}), winner of Goodwood's G3 Select S. last Saturday, will have his next run in the GI Canadian International at Woodbine September 29. Trainer Michael Stoute said, "The Goodwood win was a nice confidence boost and he goes to Toronto now."

### Local News, Florida:

**Silver Dome** (Silver Hawk), quoted among the favorites for this season's Epsom Derby after his defeat of one-time Classic market-leader **Sacho (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells) in a Newmarket maiden last October, is to continue his racing career in America. The colt, owned by Mahmoud Fustok's Buckram Oak Holdings, is to join the former Newmarket-based trainer Mohamed Moubarak in Florida within the next month. Silver Dome has only started twice, capturing his one juvenile start and running a disappointing fifth in Sandown's Thresher Classic Trial in April.

## ◆ So. CALIFORNIA ◆

### Local News, Del Mar:

Once again, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club has made a significant contribution to the Don MacBeth Memorial Jockey Fund through its program based on single-day multiple victories by riders during its 43-day race meet. This year's contribution--in the fifth straight year for the program--was \$7,000, bringing the five-year total to \$37,250. Since its founding, the Don MacBeth Fund has contributed over \$2 million in support of more than 650 injured or disabled riders throughout North America.

### Local News, California:

Jim Barrick, vice president of sales and marketing for Team Valor Racing Stables, announced his resignation yesterday at the company's Pasadena, California offices. Barrick joined Team Valor in July, 1991 and during his tenure there sales exceeded \$15 million and runners such as Star of Cozzene, Lady Blessington, Mighty Forum, Icy Warning and Sambacarioca were campaigned. Barrick joined Team Valor after a year-long stint with Centennial Farms. He had previously worked in corporate finance for the investment banking firms Kidder Peabody and Drexel Burnham. Barrick, 34, resides in Ventura, California and is considering a return to the financial world.

## ◆ FOREIGN ◆

### Yesterday's Results:

**PRIX DE SEINE-ET-OISE-G3**, \$70,436, Maisons-Laffitte, France, 9-17, 3yo/up, 6fT, 1:11.30, gd.

1--**KISTENA (FR)**, 123, f, 3, **Miswaki--Mabrova (GB)**, by **Prince Mab (Fr)**. O/B-Wertheimer et Frere; T-Criquette Head; J-O. Doleuze. \$43,044.

2--**Don't Worry Me (Ire)**, 122, f, 4, **Dancing Dissident--Diva Encore (GB)**, by **Star Appeal**. O-J F Gribomont. \$15,653.

3--**Moon Is Up**, 121, f, 3, **Woodman--Miesque**, by **Nureyev**. O-Famille Niarchos. \$7,826.

Margins: 2 1/2, 2, 3/4.

Also Ran: **General Monash**, Middleberg (GB), **Macanal**, Mahalia (Ire), **Atraf (GB)**, **Glenlivet (Swe)**, **Owen Meany**.

**JOHN MUSKER FILLIES S.**, \$30,173, Yarmouth, England, 9-17, 3yo, f, 10f 21ydsT, time n/a, gd.

1--**#FLAME VALLEY**, 119, f, 3, **Gulch--Lightning Fire (GB) (SW)**, by **Kris (GB)**. (\$190,000 yrl '94 KEESEP). O-Cheveley Park Stud; B-Flaxman Holdings Ltd; T-Michael Stoute; J-K. Fallon; \$20,036.

2 = **(DH)-Balalaika (GB)**, 119, f, 3, **Sadler's Wells--Bella Colora (GB)**, by **Bellypha (Ire)**. \$4,420.

2 = **(DH)-Berenice (GB)**, 119, f, 3, **Groom Dancer--Belle Arrivee (GB)**, by **Bustino (GB)**. \$4,420.

Margins: 3 1/2, dead-heat, 1 1/4.

### AMERICAN-BRED WINNER IN IRELAND:

**All The One**, c, 3, **Danzig Connection--Coiffure**, by **Sir Gaylord**. Roscommon, 9-16, **Creggs Apprentice H.**, 3yo/up, 12fT, \$3,593 to winner. O-Mrs L Flynn; B-Camelot Thoroughbreds; T-John Mulhern. \* 1/2 to **Split Curl (Northern Dancer)**, GSW, \$255,639; **Diver (Danzig)**, GSW, \$158,210. \*\*\$48,000 wnlg '93 KEENOV.

## BREEDERS' CUP NATIONAL STAKES RACE CLOSINGS



Closes 9-25	The Juvenile BC S.	Hst	2yo, c/g	6.5f	\$70K	Runs 10-5
Closes 9-25	Goodwood BC H.-GII	SA	3/up	9f	\$300K	Runs 10-5
Closes 9-25	Oak Tree BC Mile H.-GIII	SA	3/up	8f (T)	\$175K	Runs 10-5
Closes 9-25	Lady's Secret BC H.-GII	SA	3/up, f/m	8.5f	\$175K	Runs 10-6
Closes 9-25	Ancient Title BC H.-GIII	SA	3/up	6f	\$150K	Runs 10-6





**AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS IN ENGLAND:**

**Saheel**, c, 3, **Dayjur--Qirmazi** (Ch. 2yo Filly-Fr, MGSW-Fr, \$184,862), by Riverman. Yarmouth, 9-17, William Bulwer Long Memorial Maiden S., 3yo/up, 5f 43ydsT, \$6,464 to winner. O-Godolphin; B-Darley Stud Management; T-Saeed Bin Suroor.

**Fatefully**, f, 3, **Private Account--Fateful**, by Topsider. Sandown Park, Surbiton Fillies H., 3yo, f, 8f14ydsT, \$8,886 to winner. O-Godolphin; B-Darley Stud Management Co Ltd; T-Saeed Bin Suroor.

**AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS IN FRANCE:**

**Catfriend**, c, 2, **Capote--Beware of the Cat** (SW, \$164,094), by Caveat. Saint-Cloud, 9-16, Prix Hauban, 2yo, c/g, 8fT, \$17,609 to winner. O-AJ Larsson; B-Fawn Leap Farm; T-Robert Collet. \* 1/2 to Catnip (Flying Paster), MSW, \$123,224; Editor's Note (Forty Niner), GI, \$1,017,894. \*\*\$50,000 yrl '95 KEESep.

**The Mullah**, c, 3, **Elmaamul--Que Mona**, by Ribot. Maisons-Laffitte, 9-17, Prix de Carrieres-Sous-Poissy (Claimer), 3yo, c/g, 10fT, \$13,696 to winner. O-S. Grandjacquet; B-Way-Oak Cliff Stable Ltd.; T-Marcel Rolland. \* 1/2 to Prima Voca (Elocutionist), Horse of the Year-Belgium, GSW-Eng, Bel & Swe.

**◆ NEW YORK ◆**

**Local News, New York:**

An oil portrait of jockey Braulio Baeza drew a winning bid of \$1,000 to become the sales topper at the annual fall Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation Memorabilia Auction last Saturday at Belmont Park. The auction raised over \$8,000 to benefit the TRF, which rescues and provides lifetime care for Thoroughbreds at the conclusion of their racing careers.

**B • R • E • E • D • E • R • S  
E D I T I O N**

**STAKES RESULTS:**

**PIO PICO S.**, \$50,000, FPX, 9-16, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:17, ft.

1--**DEZIBELLE'S STAR**, 116, m, 5, **Prospective Star--Dezibelle**, by Valdez. O-Edward Taylor; B-Gordon Molitar (CA); T-Jerry Hollendorfer; J-D. Sorenson; \$27,500. Lifetime Record: 34-9-6-2, \$374,325.

2--**Dancin At the Wire**, 115, f, 4, **Murrtheblurr--Forever Dancing**, by Staff Writer. (\$11,500 yrl '93 ARZNOV). \$8,500.

3--**Bueno**, 114, f, 4, **Society Max--Neat Choice**, by First Draft Choice. \$6,000.

Margins: 1, NK, HF. Odds: 2.50, 32.20, 18.40.

**ALL SOLD OUT S.**, \$26,000, Fairmount Park, 9-17, (S), 2yo, f, 6f, 1:15, ft.

1--**#MONKS SISTER**, 115, f, 2, **Executive Order--Native Mary (MSP)**, by Super Native. O-M Y Stable Inc.; B-South River Ranch (IL); T-Michael W. Nance; J-J.B. Woodley; \$15,600. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-3, \$21,320.

2--**Pats Love Bug**, 115, f, 2, **Attribute--Gold Adds Up**, by Golden Addition. \$5,200.

3--**Social Pirate**, 115, f, 2, **Raised Socially--Pirate Rusty**, by Washington County. (\$3,000 yrlg '95 ILLAUG). \$2,600.

Margins: 1, 1 3/4, NO. Odds: 1.60, 1.90, 9.80a.

**ALLOWANCE RESULTS:**

**10th-FPX**, \$36,000, 9-16, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 3/5, ft.

**LITE 'N COMFY** (m, 5, **Kennedy Road--Finest Feathers**, by Silveyville) Lifetime Record: 20-7-4-0, \$124,500. O-Three Point Stable Inc. B-Old English Rancho, Headley & Pagluiso (CA). T-Robert W. Marshall.

**9th-DEL**, \$35,100, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10, sy.

**WISE DUSTY** (g, 5, **Bishop Northcraft--Ubenice**, by Gala Harry) Lifetime Record: MSW, 26-6-6-6, \$174,952. O/B-Adrian L. Merton (MD). T-Wayne M. Bailey.

**8th-PIM**, \$25,480, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:43 1/5, ft.

**COLONIAL SECRETARY** (c, 4, **Pleasant Colony--Secretary's Story**, by Secretariat) Lifetime Record: MSP, 22-5-6-1, \$111,055. O-Buckland Farm. B-T.M. Evans (KY). T-Eugene E. Weymouth. \*1/2 to Tucumcari (MSW, \$175,488, by Cherokee Colony).

**7th-PIM**, \$20,090, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m (off turf), 1:42 4/5, ft.

**DOUBLE FLOW** (c, 4, **Double Edge Sword--Overflowing**, by Raise a Cup) Lifetime Record: 23-5-1-3, \$50,380.

O-Carroll F. Hopkins. B-C.F. Hopkins (MD). T-J. Lenzini.

**MAIDEN WINNERS:**

**Big Bid**, c, 2, **Abel Prospect--Arabian Storm**, by Forceten. PIM, 9-17, 6f, 1:13 3/5. B-Donald W. Baldwin (Ca). \*1/2 to Meadow Storm (MSW, \$182,165, by Meadowlake).

**Quail Ridge Sub**, c, 2, **Apalachee--Winston's Sapphire** (SW), by Icecapade. FLX, 9-17, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:08 3/5. B-Howard C. Nolan & Gus Schoenborn Jr (Ny).

\*\$7,500 wlng '94 KEENOV; \$40,000 yrl '95 KEESep.

**Echo Echo**, c, 2, **Eastern Echo--Raise a Dynasty**, by Raise a Native. PIM, 9-17, 1 1/16m, 1:45. B-Nuckols & Gross (Ky).

**Variationonatheme**, c, 2, **Twilight Agenda--Sovereign Command**, by Sovereign Dancer. FPX, 9-16, 6f, 1:13. B-J. Fred Miller (Ky). \*6th winner for freshman sire.

<b>IT PAYS TO BE FRENCH BRED</b>					
RACE	WINNER	WINNERS PURSE	OWNER'S PREMIUM	BREEDER'S PREMIUM	TOTAL
PRIX NIEL-Gr. II (9/15)	HELISSIO	\$80,000	\$44,000 (55%)	\$20,000 (25%)	\$144,000
PRIX D'AUMALE-Gr. III (9/15)	JOYEUSE ENTREE	\$44,000	\$35,200 (80%)	\$11,000 (25%)	\$90,200

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**Crow of the Norse**, f, 3, **Obligato**--Norse Miss, by Noble Dancer (GB). FLX, 9-17, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:07 1/5.

B-Keane Stud (Ny). \*\$2,000 wlng '93 FTMDEC; \$3,000 2yo 1995 OBSJUN. \*\*Won by 11.

+ **Shattered**, f, 3, **Wild Again**--Temper the Wind, by Elocutionist. DEL, 9-17, 6f, 1:13 2/5. B-Christiana Stables (Pa). \*1/2 to Private Jet (MSW, \$257,152, by Icecapade) and Stem the Tide (MGIII, \$405,092, by Proud Truth).

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a + will denote winners who are first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.

## W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

### KEENELAND SEPTEMBER YEARLING ANALYSIS

By: *Bill Oppenheim*

The first four days of Keeneland's September Yearling Sale, September 9-12, presented a hugely significant slice of the auction market for analysis. On those four days last week, 1109 yearlings sold for \$103,983,900--this will end up being at least two-thirds of the total sale's gross--and averaged \$93,724, which was an 8 percent rise in gross and a 13 percent gain in average from corresponding 1995 figures.

Against that background, one statistic leaps off the page to those of us trying to analyze the sale--the number of yearlings sold for \$200,000 or more. On the first four days in 1995, 69 yearlings were hammered down for \$200,000 or more, 5.9 percent of those sold, or roughly one in 17. This year, the number leapt to 123, which was a 78 percent increase over 1995. This was 11.1 percent of listed sales, almost exactly one in nine. So breeders' chances of selling a \$200,000-plus yearling during Keeneland's first four days roughly doubled.

This is particularly interesting in light of the upcoming jump in the number of stallions who will be standing the 1997 North American season for \$50,000-plus. With the likes of Capote, Mt. Livermore and Silver Hawk virtually certain to be going to \$50,000 next year, the ability to sell a yearling for \$200,000 is obviously a big issue for breeders. This 78 percent jump in the ability to do so that is seriously good news for breeders facing significant stud fee rises for 1997.

But there is a kicker: one in nine is a lot better than one in 17, but it's a long way from being assured a profit. The fact that eight out of nine yearlings didn't sell for \$200,000-plus (though a lot of those were bred on stud fees far lower than \$50,000 or even \$30,000) does illustrate a point that's often forgotten or ignored by practicing or aspiring breeders--that you can lose money breeding a yearling just as you can owning a racehorse. Truthfully, that 78 percent jump still doesn't camouflage the fact that this is a tough business to make money in, no matter how one approaches it. The

majority of yearlings lose money for their breeders, just as the majority of racehorses lose money for their owners.

That all sounds very depressing, but is actually simply realism. The cost of stud fees is a huge issue, and over the past few months there has been much debate, pro and con, about the matter, though the fact is that 1997 stud fees are going to go up, and up quite a bit, on the more expensive horses. At various times I have argued that stud fees need to go up, but systematically, for American stud owners to have any chance of competing with the Japanese for stallions, but that the market in yearlings didn't really justify such rises. Given that breeding yearlings, like everything else in the industry, is risky business, that 78 percent rise in the number of \$200,000-plus yearlings in the first four days of the September Sale--especially compared to the 13 percent rise in average those days--can at least give breeders hope that if they have the right sire, the right paper and the right individual, they have a fighting chance of making money breeding to a \$50,000 stallion. That's a new development.

*Bill Oppenheim is a journalist and consultant specializing in pedigrees, sires, and the auction market. The former editor and publisher of Racing Update, he now lives in Scotland and may be contacted by phone (011-44-1887-830282) or fax (011-44-1887-830671).*

### WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by *Alan Porter*

#### PEDIGREE SHORTS...

Sadler's Wells' full-brother Fairy King has emerged as a very good stallion in his own right, and he enjoyed an excellent weekend with **Revoque (Ire)** (c, 2, **Fairy King--La Bella Fontana {Ire} {Lafontaine}**) taking the G1 Prix de la Salamandre and **Helissio (Fr)** (c, 3, **Fairy King--Helice {Slewpy}**) landing the G2 Prix Niel on the same card. Helissio, who is now the favorite for the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, has a particularly interesting pedigree as he goes back to a mare by Cutlass. Since Gambetta, the granddam of Cutlass, is a half-sister to Thong, the granddam of Fairy King, Helissio is linebred to the wonderful tap-root mare Rough Shod.

Freshman sire Deposit Ticket is making a bright start and he was credited with his second stakes-winner Saturday when **Swearingen (f, 2, Deposit Ticket--Firey Affair {Exploident})** captured the La Senorita S. at Retama Park. Deposit Ticket is a grandson of Northern Dancer and Swearingen's second dam is by Halo, so she is another smart runner with a double of Almahmoud. In addition, she is also 4x3 to Nearctic, the sire of Northern Dancer.

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