

SEEKING A STAR

With a pedigree designed for the classics and a strong breeze in :10.20 under his belt, Hip 326 had been widely touted as a potential sale topper at the Fasig-Tipton Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Calder yesterday and lived up to his billing as John Moynihan signed the ticket for \$1,000,000 on behalf of Demi O'Byrne for the chestnut son of Seeking the Gold-Bounteous (Ire) (Last Tycoon {Ire}). "He's a nice horse,



\$1 million Sale Topper, Hip 326 HorsePhotos

the best horse of the sale by many lengths, I thought," said Moynihan.

"He's got the pedigree, he's beautiful and he went like a million dollars on the track. If you have all three ingredients, they sell." As for the colt's immediate future, Moynihan said, "I don't know. At this point, I think he'll probably stay here, but he could go abroad." Moynihan echoed the thoughts of many other at the sale. "If you're going to try and buy horses like this, you have to be prepared to give that much," he said. "It's tough to get the good horses." The colt's dam Bounteous is a daughter of Irish group winner Fair of the Furze (Ire) (Ela-Mana-Mou {Ire}), making her a half-sister to champion White Muzzle (GB) (Dancing Brave) and to the dam of G1SW Almutawakel (GB) (Machiavellian). Bounteous was sold for \$650,000 at Keeneland November in 1999 with the saletopper in utero. The colt didn't meet his reserve at Keeneland September last year, with the bidding stopping at \$230,000, but things were different this time around. "He was the talk of the sale from day one," said the colt's consignor, Robert Scanlon. "I thought he'd bring a million, but the way the sale was going I was starting to wonder. It was a strong catalogue and there were great horses, but the sale just wasn't as strong as I'd thought it would be."

More on the sale, p2

FASIG-TIPTON CALDER SALE TOP SIX COLTS

Hip#	Sire	Dam	Price
326	<u>Seeking the Gold</u>	Bounteous (Ire)	\$1,000,000
Consigned by Robert N Scanlon, agent Purchased by Dr Dermot O'Byrne			
127	<u>A.P. Indy</u>	Lucinda K	\$900,000
Consigned by M and H Training and Sales, agent Purchased by B Wayne Hughes			
213	<u>Seattle Slew</u>	Sharp Call	\$800,000
(\$320,000 wnlg '00 KEENOV) Consigned by Terry Oliver, agent Purchased by Michael Gill			
245	<u>Cherokee Run</u>	Swazi's Moment	\$720,000
(\$170,000 yrl '01 KEESEP) Consigned by Sequel Bloodstock (Becky Thomas), agent Purchased by The Thoroughbred Corporation			
153	<u>Arch</u>	Mixed Appeal	\$660,000
(\$82,000 wnlg '00 KEENOV; \$27,000 yrl '01 KEESEP) Consigned by Solitary Oak (Danny Pate), agent Purchased by Dr Dermot O'Byrne			
179	Phone Trick	Pert Lady	\$575,000
(\$170,000 yrl '01 KEESEP) Consigned by Robert Scanlon, agent Purchased by Dr Dermot O'Byrne			

State of the Market All of the relevant numbers rose slightly from the 2001 edition of the sale, including gross, average, median and, pointedly, the number not sold. According to Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning, "The top was pretty strong, the middle was OK and the bottom was terrible. This is similar to the trends we saw at OBS [earlier in the month]. The reality is when you're having a third buybacks in select yearling sales as we've seen, you're going to have more than a third at the two-year-old sales. We're living in a marketplace that's not euphoric and that's a fact of life. A few years ago if you thought a horse would bring \$300,000, a buyer might go to \$600,000 and still be happy. That doesn't happen anymore. Now if they've got 300 written in their catalogue they might go to \$325,000, but no higher." His colleague Walt Robertson concurred. "It doesn't take much to put somebody off in this marketplace. But if a horse does everything right, watch out."

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☆ EAST ☆

Yesterday's Results:

10th-PHA, \$20,520, Msw, 3yo, 6f, 1:11 4/5, ft.
+ FOOLISH GAMBLE (c, 3, Dumaani--Besmirk {MSW, \$128,175}, by Smile), a \$17,000 FTKJUL yearling and \$28,000 FTMMAY two-year-old, recorded two bullet works over this track in February in preparation for his debut and was sent off at 7-2. The grey colt came from just off the pace to take the lead at the top of the stretch en route to a 2 1/4-length victory. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$11,400.
 O-Rabbit's Foot Stable. B-Clarkland Farm (Ky). T-L Knee.

☆ SO. CALIFORNIA ☆

D'wildcat Nearing Return:

The speedy **D'wildcat** (Forest Wildcat), off since a 10 1/2-length romp in the Gill Swale S. last March at Gulfstream, zipped through a bullet half in :46.40 at Santa Anita Monday, his final prep for Sunday's GI San Carlos H. It was the four-year-old's fourth consecutive bullet drill. "He's doing as well as a horse can do," said trainer Bob Hess Jr. A bone chip was discovered in the colt's knee following the Swale, necessitating the long layoff. "He'll be even better this year," Hess predicted. "He's sound now. Last year, he was a little immature and just not set. Now he's matured and ready to go." Among the other runners pointing for the San Carlos is **Snow Ridge** (Tabasco Cat), the leading sprinter thus far at the Santa Anita meeting.

TDN TODAY

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STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27:

03-09 \$350,000 *Fair Grounds Oaks-III, FG, 3yo, f, 8.5f (100)*

03-09 \$300,000 *Santa Anita Oaks-I, SA, 3yo, f, 8.5f (300)*

03-09 \$200,000 *Gulfstream Park Breeders' Cup Sprint-II, GP, 3yo/up, 7f (200)*

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28:

03-10 \$750,000 *Louisiana Derby-II, FG, 3yo, 8.5f (2500)*

04-06 \$750,000 *Santa Anita Derby-I, SA, 3yo, 9f (2500)*



☆ FOREIGN ☆

AMERICAN-BRED WINNER IN FRANCE:

Electric Cove, f, 3, Spinning World--Electric Talent, by Capote. Marseille-Borely, 2-26, Prix de Pertuis (Cond), 3yo, f, 1 1/8mT, \$6,480 to winner. O-Jean-Pierre-Joseph Dubois; B-Mt Brillant Farm LLC; T-Marc Pimbonnet. *\$60,000 yrl '00 KEESEP.

BREEDERS' EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-MNR, \$41,600, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:13 3/5, ft. COUNTRY SUNSHINE (m, 6, Iron--Befit, by Sort) Lifetime Record: 27-7-7-4, \$184,510. O/B-Sharon G Marshall (PA). T-Catherine Robinson.

9th-PHA, \$20,000, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:11, ft. O'DASSUNY (c, 4, A. P Jet--Alluring Alice, by Compliance) Lifetime Record: 10-2-0-3, \$31,750. O-Stix-N-Stones Stable. B-John L. Desmond (NY). T-Stephen O'Connor.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ Foolish Gamble, c, 3, Dumaani--Besmirk (MSW, \$128,175), by Smile. PHA, 2-26, 6f, 1:11 4/5. B-Clarkland Farm (Ky). *\$17,000 yrl '00 FTKJUL; \$28,000 2yo 2001 FTMMAY.
Du Too, c, 3, Dumaani--Gold Premieress, by Premiership. MNR, 2-25, 5 1/2f, 1:07 4/5. B-Ellen B Kill Kelley (Ky). *\$4,000 yrl '00 FTMOCT. **1/2 to American Century (Pioneering), SW & MGSP, \$124,888.

Jaunty Joe, c, 4, Honor Grades--Poage's Landing, by Herat. TAM, 2-26, 1mT, 1:41 1/5. B-Donald L Peltier, Jr (La). *\$100,000 yrl '99 FTKJUL; \$130,000 2yo 2000 FTFFEB. **Full to Epic Honor, GSW, \$303,785.

Leading Runner, c, 4, Pok Ta Pok--Lead Article, by Dr. Do Much. PHA, 2-26, 6f, 1:10 3/5. B-Paul E Labe, Sr (Pa).

A + will denote winners who are first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races.

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ISTABRAQ HAS AWAY DAY Reigning champion hurdler **Istabraq (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells {USA}) satisfied connections after completing a racecourse exercise at Leopardstown yesterday. Istabraq, who will attempt to secure a record breaking fourth G1 Champion Hurdle win at Cheltenham Mar. 12, was accompanied by fellow Cheltenham hopeful and stablemate **Darapour (Ire)** (Fairy King {USA}) in a steady routine which also saw both horses jump two flight of hurdles. Big race partner Charlie Swan told *Racing Post*: "This was the first time I'd sat on Istabraq since he ran here at Christmas and he felt fantastic. I was delighted with him. He jumped the hurdles great and he was very quick at them. We went as fast as we could on the ground--it was loose but very heavy. I thought we went a nice even gallop, but there was a strong wind and that probably steadied us when we ran into it. I asked him to move up at the three and he felt great when he did so. We were only working up to the furlong marker as I wanted to pull up before we reached the winning post. The ground is at its worst there. He is on target for Cheltenham and hopefully that will put him spot on." Trainer Aidan O'Brien added: "This was his final day away before Cheltenham and it was the first time he has jumped a hurdle since Christmas. Charlie said he felt unbelievably clear (in his wind). Charlie was very happy with him and, when he is happy, then I am happy." Istabraq remains a best priced 2-1 for the Champion Hurdle.

★ BRITAIN ★

Yesterday's Results:

1.40 Lingfield, Littlewoods Bet Direct Daily Special Offers Maiden S. (Class D) (Div 1), £3,955, 3yo/up, 1 1/4m (AWT), 2:10.78, stn.

LINNING WINE (IRE) (g, 6, Scenic {Ire}--Zallaka {Ire} {SP-Fr}, by Shardari {Ire}) was settled just off the pace behind the leaders as Route Barree (Fr) (Exit To Nowhere {USA}) set a moderate tempo, but made good progress approaching the final quarter mile as Our Imperial Bay (USA) (Smart Strike {USA}) went to the front. He challenged for the lead soon after, went to the front inside the final eighth and ran on well to beat Our Imperial Bay by an easy 1 1/2 lengths at odds of 7-2. Lifetime Record: 2-1-1-0, £3,678.

O-The Winning Line; B-H H The Aga Khan's Studs SC; T-Brendan Powell; J-S Carson.

3.10 Lingfield, Littlewoods Bet Direct Daily Special Offers Maiden S. (Class D) (Div 2), £3,955, 3yo/up, 1 1/4m (AWT), 2:07.96, stn.

REGAL GALLERY (IRE) (f, 4, Royal Academy {USA}--Polistatic {GB}, by Free State {Ire}), a well backed 7-2 chance, was positioned towards the rear in eighth as Taggerty (Ire) (Definite Article {GB}) led, but made rapid headway into third at the three-furlong pole. She was ridden approaching the final quarter mile as Caliwag (Ire) (Lahib {USA}) led, challenged at the distance and was driven out in the closing stages to assert a one-length superiority over Caliwag. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-0, £2,769.

O/B-Mrs B Sumner; T-Con Horgan; J-Fergus Sweeney.

DONCASTER SALES WEBSITE GETS FACELIFT

Doncaster Bloodstock Sales Ltd's website, www.dbsauctions.com, has undergone a major facelift and is now more user friendly, up-to-date and faster. The website provides information for those interested in bloodstock sales and one particular feature that has been improved is the section dealing with sales catalogues and results. This section is now faster and easier to navigate and allows the user to view all DBS catalogues since August 2000 with information including all sales results to date. The website is reviewed and updated on a daily basis with news stories and information about forthcoming sales for both vendors and purchasers. DBS Managing Director Henry Beeby commented: "The DBS website has always been a useful tool for our clients, but it is now even more customer friendly than ever. In particular, the section dealing with our catalogues and sales results have been radically simplified to allow users to access the relevant information very easily. DBS prides itself on its personal approach and we are confident that our website is as easy to use and informative as any in the bloodstock world."

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