

Oppenheim Looks at Champions of 2003

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TOC QUESTIONS ROLE OF GRADED STAKES

COMMITTEE The Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC), frustrated with recent attempts by the American Graded Stakes Committee to raise the minimum purses for Grade I races and to implement a mandatory comprehensive drug testing plan for all graded stakes, has begun an evaluation of the Graded Stakes Committee's role in Californian racing and will "explore alternatives," according to TOC consultant Drew Cuoto. Cuoto was quick to point out that the TOC is not approaching the evaluation with any predetermined goals. "We do not have an objective with this," he said. "We're trying to get a better understanding of the process." Last week, the Graded Stakes Committee announced that its new drug testing protocol, which mandates testing for 140 drugs in horses competing in all graded stakes, would likely be implemented by the summer of 2004. The issue of who will pay for the tests remains a sticking point. In August, the Graded Stakes Committee, following closed-door meetings, raised the minimum purse for Grade I events to \$250,000. That ruling had wide-ranging financial implications for California racing, as Santa Anita Park, for example, will have to ante up \$350,000 to retain the Grade I status of seven of its races. "The way in which the Graded Stakes Committee made their decisions and directed the implementation of these decisions has moved the TOC to take a look at its interests," continued Cuoto. "There is no goal, other than to see if the current process suits the needs of the horsemen and if there is something that might suit their needs more effectively."

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EXPLOITED wins at Golden Gate, becoming
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EXPLOIT

WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

LA BREA S.-GI, \$250,000, SAX, 12-27, 3yo, f, 7f,
1:21 3/5, ft.

1--**ISLAND FASHION**, 123, f, 3, by **Petionville**

1st Dam: **Danzigs Fashion** (SW, \$197,658), by **A Native Danzig**

2nd Dam: **High View Fashion**, by **Bold Tropic** (SAf)

3rd Dam: **Fleet Fashion**, by **Jungle Road**

O/B-Everest Stables (KY); T-M Polanco; J-K Desormeaux;
\$150,000. Lifetime Record: 10-4-1-0, \$1,112,970.

Click for the free brisnet.com pedigree.

Although he sired the magnificent European colt Dubai Millennium, [Seeking the Gold](#) has been a better sire of fillies than colts. It's somewhat paradoxical, then, to discover that he is turning out to be quite a sire of sires. Four of his sons--the Australian-based Secret



Island Fashion Horsephotos

Savings, [Cape Town](#), Mutakddim and Petionville--have sired Grade I winners. The U.S. trio have all been represented by top-class fillies in 2003, Cape Town getting the GI Acorn and GI Kentucky Oaks heroine Bird Town in his first crop (and four two-year-old

stakes winners in his second), Mutakddim scoring with the GI Test S. victress Lady Tak and Petionville being responsible for Island Fashion, who gained Grade I triumphs in the Alabama S. and this weekend's La Brea S.

Petionville is the most prolific of Seeking the Gold's U.S. stakes-winning colts with five black-type wins. All of these came from nine starts in his second season, after he had scored in a Santa Anita maiden on his only two-year-old outing. While generally avoiding the leaders of his generation, Petionville collected the San Miguel and Gold Rush S., the GIII La Jolla H. and GIII Louisiana and GII Ohio Derbys. His best performance, however, might have been his third in the GII Swaps S., where he was beaten only 2 3/4 lengths by three-year-old champion Thunder Gulch, with eventual two-time GI Breeders' Cup Mile hero Da Hoss in second.

Cont. p. 2



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(Pedigree Perspectives cont. from p. 1)

Petionville remained in training at four, but after winning a six-furlong Churchill Downs allowance race first time out, he failed to make the frame in four subsequent outings before retiring to stand at Crestwood Farm in Lexington, Kentucky.

Although the three U.S.-based sons of Seeking the Gold to be represented by Grade I winners this year all achieved this feat via daughters, Petionville is certainly not a filly sire. His first crop, five-year-olds of 2003, included the graded stakes winning males Voodoo and True Passion, and the second includes the colt Publication, successful in the GII Arlington-Washington Futurity, as well as the two-time graded stakes winning filly Caught in the Rain. Lifetime, Petionville has had 12 stakes winners from his first four crops, a very creditable feat considering that his 2001 crop (two-year-olds of 2003) of 46 is his biggest, and that he retired to stud at the very modest fee of \$10,000. After dropping to \$6,500 in the intervening years, Petionville stands for \$10,000 again in 2004, and at that fee looks an exceptionally good value.

At his stud fee, it wasn't to be expected that Petionville would attract mares from the top draw, but Island Fashion's dam Danzig Fashion certainly wasn't without credentials. She is by the unraced Danzig stallion A Native Danzig, but was a more than useful runner in her own right, winning nine of 34 starts and \$197,658, and gaining a black-type win in the Likely Exchange S. at Turfway Park, as well as thirds in stakes at Turfway and Ellis Park. Danzigs Fashion is the only runner of note produced by her dam High View Fashion (by the South African-bred Bold Ruler grandson Bold Tropic), but more quality is evident under the third dam Fleet Fashion. She produced two stakes winners, including Fleet Road, who was also graded stakes placed and went on to become dam of a pair of black-type winners in Tuzia (also second in the GI Personal Ensign H.) and Tanja, as well this year's GI Preakness S. runner-up Midway Road.

Island Fashion is bred on a version of the very successful Mr. Prospector/Danzig cross, a combination

which has already been responsible for at least 13 Group/Grade I winners worldwide, including [Fusaichi Pegasus](#), Dancethruthedawn, Ecton Park, Voodoo Dancer, Almutawakel, Dark Ending and Elusive City.

Seeking the Gold has not previously been the best medium for the cross, though; his only stakes winner out of a Danzig-line mare is Japanese graded scorer Gold Tiara. When we look at the six-cross pedigree of Island Fashion, however, two other important features are particularly evident.

Firstly, Petionville is inbred to Raise a Native through his sons Mr. Prospector and Majestic Prince, while Island Fashion's broodmare sire A Native Danzig is out of a Raise a Native daughter.

Secondly, tucked away at the bottom of her pedigree as the sire of her fourth dam, Island Fashion has Fleet Nasrullah. That horse, a very close relative to the dam of Mr. Prospector, frequently appears in the pedigrees of good Mr. Prospector-line runners, including Hall of Gold, another Petionville stakes winner; and Victory Ride, a Grade I winner by Petionville's sire Seeking the Gold.

| UPCOMING MAJOR U.S. STAKES | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Date | Race | Track |
| Jan. 1 | GIII El Conejo H. | Santa Anita |
| | GIII Tropical Park Derby | Calder |
| Jan. 3 | GII San Pasqual H. | Santa Anita |
| | GIII Hal's Hope H. | Gulfstream |
| | GIII Honey Fox H. | Gulfstream |
| | GIII Mr. Prospector H. | Gulfstream |
| Jan. 4 | GIII Appleton H. | Gulfstream |
| | GIII Santa Ysabel S. | Santa Anita |
| Jan. 10 | GII San Fernando H. | Santa Anita |
| | GII San Gorgonio H. | Santa Anita |
| | GIII Golden Gate Derby | Golden Gate |
| | GIII Spectacular Bid S. | Gulfstream |
| Jan. 11 | GIII First Lady H. | Gulfstream |
| | GIII San Miguel S. | Santa Anita |
| Jan. 17 | GII Santa Catalina S. | Santa Anita |
| | GIII Holy Bull S. | Gulfstream |



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FROM THE DESK OF...
Bill Oppenheim



NAMING CHAMPIONS

Eclipse Awards and other championships are vitally important for owners, who on the whole subsidize everybody else in the horse business. I don't believe that it adds one dollar to the value of a horse to have won a championship award, but it sure gives the owner some return, though not financial, on his or her investment. So awards are good things, and necessary, and I am serious when I say I feel privileged to be an Eclipse voter.

In some cases, the Eclipse Award winners in each category are no-brainers. This year, for example, Mineshaft will be champion older horse on the dirt, and Halfbridled will be a nearly unanimous choice as champion two-year-old filly. But some of the categories are quite open, two-year-old colt, for example, and three-year-old filly. Because the voting closed Monday and there is therefore no chance that my comments could possibly influence any other voters (like they would anyway), I have listed my first choices, and reasoning, below. But this year in particular, I found the turf categories really difficult. Should I vote for the European horses (possibly High Chaparral, certainly Islington or Six Perfections) who swooped in to win a Breeders' Cup race and were patently superior to their American counterparts or should I vote for the best horse overall over the course of the year in North America, regardless of the Breeders' Cup outcome? Guidance from above is unclear: the horse has to have started in the U.S. during the year. That's about it, as I understand it.

So, to open debate, here's who I voted for, and why:

Two-Year-Old Colt: With Silver Wagon, Eurosilver, Birdstone and Ruler's Court skipping the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, I went for Cuvee over Breeders' Cup winner Action This Day. Cuvee won three graded stakes during the year, including wide-margin wins in the GI Saratoga Special and the GI Futurity, running Beyers of 103 and 101, respectively. Action This Day won one Grade I in a Beyer 92.

Two-Year-Old Filly: Halfbridled, no-brainer.

Three-Year-Old Colt: I went for Funny Cide (best Beyer 114, in the Preakness), with two Classic wins, over Empire Maker (111), with one Classic and two other Grade Is. This is pretty much a toss-up.

Three-Year-Old Filly: Very difficult category: Bird Town (101, Ky Oaks), Spoken Fur (104, Mother Goose), Composure (102, Santa Anita Oaks), and now Island Fashion (101 in the Alabama) each won two Grade Is, and you can make a case for Elloluv (105, Ashland) and Lady Tak (110, Test), as well. But they kept beating each other, and none of them won a race against older fillies and mares. Of the American-trained fillies, I thought Bird Town's game second to Sightseek in the Beldame tipped the scales, and so she got my vote for second choice. But of all the three-year-old fillies to have raced in the U.S. during the year, the French-trained filly Six Perfections achieved the highest level of form in beating males, mostly older, in the Breeders' Cup Mile (Beyer 105). She got my vote on that single performance. In my view, on an international scale, Six Perfections and Russian Rhythm were between six and 10 pounds better than their American counterparts, but my Eclipse vote was based only on Six Perfections' one race in America.

Older Male (Dirt): A strong group this year, but Mineshaft won four Grade Is and ran seven consecutive Beyers between 114-118. He's the winner. Candy Ride (123, in drilling Medaglia d'Oro in the Pacific Classic), Congaree (120, three Grade I wins), Breeders' Cup Classic winner Pleasantly Perfect (119), and Medaglia d'Oro (119) all proved themselves really good horses, but Mineshaft accomplished even more than the rest of them. He got my vote for Horse of the Year, too.

Older Filly (Dirt): Another real tough one. Azeri (109) won three Grade Is, Sightseek (115) won four. I stuck with Azeri. They never met this year and the only col-lateral form lines (mainly through Got Koko and Take Charge Lady) are inconclusive. If Sightseek had won the Breeders' Cup Distaff, I would have probably gone for her. Adoration (101), who won that race, didn't really figure. *Cont. p. 4*

LEADING SIRE GULCH

His **51st** Stakes Winner is **SNOWDROPS (GB)**
 1st Pago Hop S.-L on Dec. 20

Other 2003 Stakes winners:

- NAYEF** (Group 1 Winner)
- SCRIMSHAW** (Grade 2 Winner)
- THE CLIFF'S EDGE** (Grade 2 Winner)
- MARIENSKY** (Grade 3 Winner)
- FROM AWAY** (\$200,000 Stakes Winner)



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Male Turf: Storming Home won three Grade Is (though disqualified from the Arlington Million), beating Johar in the Clement L. Hirsch, but lost the plot in the Breeders' Cup Turf. I thought the race rather set up for Johar, and I also believe High Chaparral is really a better horse than Storming Home. So I ranked them High Chaparral, Storming Home, Johar, though obviously that is especially open to debate.

Female Turf: The Bobby Frankel-trained, Juddmonte-owned Heat Haze (104) and Tates Creek (107) each won two Grade Is, but both were behind the European trio of Islington, L'Ancrese, and Yesterday in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf. That certainly put Islington ahead among older fillies. But here I did reach into the European form book. Islington won both her starts in Group 1 filly/mare races, and lost all four of her starts against, admittedly, top-class older males like Falbrav and High Chaparral. Six Perfections ran twice in Group 1s against older males and won them both. So Six Perfections for me, over Islington.

Sprinter: This category is often difficult, especially when there is a clear distinction between six-and seven-furlong form. On balance, I thought that Aldebaran's three Grade Is from seven furlongs to one mile (best Beyer 122) earned him my vote over Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Cajun Beat (120). I didn't think Congaree's seven-furlong win in the Carter was enough to give him sprinter honors, especially as Aldebaran turned around and beat him in the Met Mile.

A Better Mousetrap...

A sort of intelligible world order is being shaped by international handicappers--the official ones, who do ratings. These are immensely valuable, because international ratings standards make a big contribution to achieving perspective, which is how we evaluate horses from different parts of the globe, given that every time the horses themselves meet up, it's on somebody's home court. Complete objectivity (ratings based on number of meters per second, adjusted for surface, for example) is probably neither really possible nor really desirable, but some sort of rating system with objective data and mechanisms certainly is.

Two examples. True or false: The best Asian and Australasian horses are basically horses who merit a handicap/Timeform rating of about 122. Group 1 domestic races there (the top invitational international races excluded) are the equivalent of Grade II races in North America and Europe. I don't know the answer. It's a hypothesis I'd like to be able to test. Example number 2: Choisir, winner of the King's Stand-Golden Jubilee double at Royal Ascot, earned a Timeform 'final black book' rating of 128, which ranks him among the top four horses to have raced in North America or Europe at seven furlongs or under, along with Oasis Dream (Timeform 131), who beat him in the July Cup, Aldebaran (Beyer 122), and Cajun Beat (Beyer 120). But are there better at home? Choisir wasn't even rated the top sprinter in Australia until he left there. And what about that rocket by El Moxie (son of Conquistador Cielo), Silent Witness, in Hong Kong? Who is the best sprinter on the planet?

I don't propose to be able to answer all those questions right away; they're just examples of the kinds of questions it would be great to have informed opinions about, if not answers. But I would like to propose a little exercise today, an example of how a championship structure could be erected to cover North American and European racing in 2003. I'm going to propose 20 voting categories, and list the horses I would propose as finalists in each category.

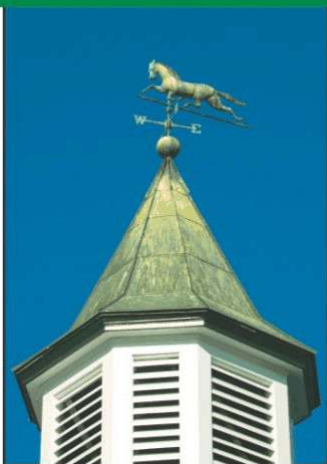
Twelve of the categories are for champion two, three and four-year-old-and-up males and females, on dirt and turf: three ages times two sexes times two surfaces. Category number 13 is for champion sprinter in North America and Europe, regardless of age, sex or surface. Then NA/EU champion two, three, and four & up, and overall NA/EU Horse of the Year. That's 17. The final three are: NA/EU Champion Owner (Juddmonte Farms), Breeder (Juddmonte Farms), and Trainer (Bobby Frankel). Whoops. Those last three would be up for a vote, too, really.

So on page five are my proposed finalists in each of the first 13 categories, though of course if we were really voting, there would be a provision for write-ins. What do you think?

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BILL OPPENHEIM'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

| Name | Best Beyer 2YO C/G DIRT | GI Wins | Timeform | Name | Best Beyer 3YO F TURF | GI Wins | Timeform |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| Cuvee | 103 | 1 | n/a | Russian Rhythm | n/a | 3 | 123 |
| Action This Day | 92 | 1 | n/a | Six Perfections | 105 | 2 | 124 |
| Lion Heart | 98 | 1 | n/a | Yesterday | 105 | 1 | 120 |
| 2YO C/G TURF | | | | 4YO+ C/G/H DIRT | | | |
| Milk It Mick | n/a | 1 | 120 | Mineshaft (4) | 118 | 4 | n/a |
| Three Valleys | n/a | 1 | 119 | Candy Ride (4) | 123 | 1 | n/a |
| One Cool Cat | n/a | 2 | 118p | Pleasantly Perfect (5) | 119 | 1 | n/a |
| Bago | n/a | 1 | 121p | Congaree (5) | 120 | 3 | n/a |
| American Post | n/a | 2 | 118p | Medaglia d'Oro (4) | 119 | 1 | n/a |
| 2YO F DIRT | | | | 4YO+ C/G/H TURF | | | |
| Halfbridled | 99 | 2 | n/a | Falbrav (5) | n/a | 4 | 134 |
| 2YO F TURF | | | | 4YO+ F/M DIRT | | | |
| Attraction | n/a | 0 | 118 | High Chaparral (4) | 112 | 2 | 130 |
| Carry On Katie | n/a | 1 | 109p | Storming Home (5) | 112 | 2 | n/a |
| Red Bloom | n/a | 1 | 110p | Johar (4) | 112 | 1 | n/a |
| Denebola | n/a | 1 | 113p | 4YO+ F/M TURF | | | |
| 3YO C/G DIRT | | | | Azeri (4) | | | |
| Funny Cide | 114 | 2 | n/a | Sightseek (4) | 115 | 4 | n/a |
| Empire Maker | 111 | 3 | n/a | Adoration (4) | 101 | 1 | n/a |
| 3YO C/G TURF | | | | 4YO+ F/M TURF | | | |
| Dalakhani | n/a | 3 | 133 | Islington (4) | 109 | 2 | 125 |
| Alamshar | n/a | 2 | 134 | Ipi Tombe (5) | 99 | 1 | 126 |
| Oasis Dream | n/a | 2 | 131 | Heat Haze (4) | 105 | 2 | n/a |
| 3YO F DIRT | | | | Tates Creek (5) | | | |
| Bird Town | 101 | 2 | n/a | CHAMPION SPRINTER | | | |
| Spoken Fur | 104 | 2 | n/a | Aldebaran (5) | 122 | 3 | n/a |
| Composure | 102 | 2 | n/a | Cajun Beat (3) | 120 | 1 | n/a |
| Island Fashion | 101 | 2 | n/a | Oasis Dream (3) | n/a | 2 | 131 |
| Elloluv | 105 | 1 | n/a | Choisir (4) | n/a | 1 | 128 |
| Lady Tak | 110 | 1 | n/a | | | | |

In addition, divisions honors would be awarded for: **Top 2yo in NA/EU 2003, Top 3yo in NA/EU 2003, Top 4yo+ in NA/EU 2003, Best Horse to Race in NA/EU 2003, Leading Owner, Leading Breeder and Leading Trainer.**

The TDN would like to hear from its readers. What are your opinions on a worldwide championship? E-Mail us at news@thoroughbreddailynews.com

GIANT SALES PRICES

Weanlings have sold for \$2.9 million, \$1.35 million, etc. 1st yearlings in 2003 have sold for \$2,200,000 (Europe's highest priced yearling of 2003) \$1,150,000, \$875,000, \$610,000, \$560,000, \$540,000, \$500,000, \$450,000, \$425,000, \$420,000, \$400,000, etc.

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NORTH AMERICA

★ **EAST** ★

Racing Resumes at Philly Park:

Racing returned to Philadelphia Park yesterday despite an ongoing dispute between track management and the local jockey colony. "We are racing today," track Chief Executive Officer Hal Handel told *Blood-Horse* yesterday. On Monday, jockeys refused to ride in protest of the track's delay in payment. Track officials blamed the delay on slower turnaround for drug testing, but the jockeys countered that even losing mounts fees were being withheld. "As for not including the losing mounts fees, we're on a fiscal-year basis and the year ends in midweek," Handel said. "Our system is now geared to generate 1099s and that explains the delay. The fees will be paid later this week, if not today."

★ **CENTRAL** ★

Afternoon Deelites to Clear Creek Stud:

Afternoon Deelites (Private Terms--Intimate Girl, by Medaille d'Or) will relocate from Airdrie Stud in Kentucky to Clear Creek Stud in Louisiana for the 2004 breeding season. A multiple Grade I winner on the racetrack, Afternoon Deelites is the sire of graded stakes winners Deeliteful Irving and Miss Pickums, as well as stakes winners Premeditation, True Phenomenon, Prospect's Delight and Homemaker. "We are very pleased to establish a working relationship with one of Louisiana's best farms," said Airdrie owner Brereton Jones. "The Louisiana Breeders' program has really taken off with the approval of slots at their tracks. With the success that Afternoon Deelites has enjoyed he should do exceptionally well in their program and will most probably be at the head of the class."

TDN TODAY

Around the World 3 pages

Tenpins Heads Louisiana Handicap:

Multiple graded stakes winner **Tenpins** (Smart Strike) leads a field of eight handicappers in Friday's Louisiana H. at Fair Grounds. Tenpins, the 2-1 morning-line favorite, is looking to rebound from an uncharacteristic 12th-place effort in the Nov. 28 GII Clark H. The five-year-old won this year's GIII Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Breeders' Cup H. and GIII Philip H Iselin Breeders' Cup H. Also in the field is **Roar of the Tiger** (Storm Cat), a full brother to European champion Giant's Causeway, who has not raced since winning a Fair Grounds allowance last January.

★ **WEST** ★

Yesterday's Results:

6th-SUN, \$19,000, Msw, 3,4,5yo, 6f, 1:09, ft.
+ **IRON TIGER** (c, 3, Iron Cat--Darling Prospect, by Allen's Prospect) was let go at 18-1 for his debut, but made 'em all pay. He broke in at the start, recovered quickly to set :21 4/5 and :44 2/5 fractions and held Mr. Glendale (Belong to Me) safe by one length. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$11,400.
O-Jimmy R Clemmons. B-Louis & George Lucas (CA). T-Jim Clemmons.

FRESHMAN FOCUS

First-crop progeny to watch: Wednesday, December 31

*Sire (Sire's Sire), Farm, 2000 Fee, #2yos/Winners/SW
Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*

- ACCELERATOR** (A.P. Indy), Dead, 77/12/0
6-TP, Msw, 1m, Moody Mama
- BERT'S BUBBLEATOR** (Advocator), Stockwood, \$3K, 9/0/0
3-CT, Msw, 4 1/2f, B. B.'s Johnny, 10-1
- CRYPTO STAR** (Cryptoclearance), Murmur, \$4K, 42/6/1
5-LRL, Msw, 5 1/2f, +Star Jessi, 20-1
- LIL'S LAD** (Pine Bluff), Lane's End, \$10K, 65/10/1
6-TP, Msw, 1m, Carolina Lily, \$6K KEE SEP yrl
- REAL QUIET** (Quiet American), Taylor Made, \$10K, 72/9/0
2-SA, Msw, 1 1/16m, Chasenthebluesaway, 5-1
- VICTORY GALLOP** (Cryptoclearance), Winstar, \$15K, 87/12/2
2-SA, Msw, 1 1/16m, +Red Lifesaver, \$70K KEE SEP yrl, 10-1

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 **SOPHOMORE SPOTLIGHT**

First-time starters/stakes runners: Wednesday, Dec. 31

*Sire (Sire's Sire), Farm, 1999 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/SW
Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*

DOUBLE HONOR (Gone West), Farnsworth, \$, 138/69/2
10-CRC, Stk, 1 1/16mT, All the Honor, \$25K EAS MAY 2yo
INDIAN CHARLIE (In Excess {Ire}), Airdire, \$10K, 149/49/2
10-CRC, Stk, 1 1/16mT, Askforaraise, \$19K OBS APR 2yo
TALE OF THE CAT (Storm Cat), Ashford, \$25K, 236/87/10
5-LRL, Msw, 5 1/2f, +My Turbeau Cat, \$30K KEE APR 2yo, 15-1

 **MIDDLE EAST** 

MACAU REPRESENTED AT DUBAI FESTIVAL

Macau will send approximately 12 horses for this year's Dubai International Racing Carnival, which begins Jan. 29 at Nad al Sheba, according to Ian Paterson, Director of Racing for the Macau Jockey Club. Sending the largest contingent is Malcolm Thwaites, a leading conditioner in Singapore, who will send six of the contestants. "The trainers have got together as a sort of 'Team Macau' and will send over one person to oversee the collective training of all of their horses, though when they run, they will run under the names of their individual trainers," explained Paterson. The Peter Leyshan trained **Dantana (Aus)** (Danzero {Aus}), who arrived in Dubai early, will be followed by the rest of the Macau contingent Jan. 15. "This is the largest contingent we have sent to race abroad, our pioneer runner was Active Bo Bo, who came over to Dubai in 2001 and won the 1200-meter Mahab Al Shimaal. We are all really looking forward to the Carnival, which I am sure will be a great success," Paterson added.

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 **AUSTRALASIA** 

WHAT'S DOING DOWN UNDER 
By **BRONWYN FARR**

GST UNPLUGGED

Australian yearling consignors are quietly positive about the 2004 sale season and their optimism is buoyed by timely tax reform that will enhance a fast-growing international buying bench.

The industry has won an arduous two-year battle to reform Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) legislation that effectively choked export growth, and with the 2004 yearling sale series around the corner, the breakthrough is timely.

Aushorse, which has 55 major farms as its driving force, has worked in tandem with Australian sale companies to attract international activity at the yearling majors, but many key offshore buyers were vehement in their opposition to GST rules that meant 10 percent tax was payable unless their horse was exported within 60 days; a scenario not feasible to an Asian market that prefers to import ready-to-run horses.

However, with Magic Millions looming on Jan. 8-11 as the first of the majors, and nearby rival New Zealand Bloodstock offering an easy 12-month GST exemption at Karaka, Aushorse took its case once more to the Federal Government and the impasse has been resolved. Aushorse argued out that, although export numbers had doubled in the past decade, prohibitive GST legislation was dissuading a hard-won international market and NZ was benefitting.

In 2001, a total of 2,460 Thoroughbred horses were exported. In 2002, that number reduced to 1605, with 2003 figures indicating similar shrinkage.

In its submission, Aushorse said growth of the Australian bloodstock industry had far exceeded domestic demand with international purchasers accounting for more than 30 percent of A\$147,606,250 gross receipts for yearlings sold at Australia's major sales in 2003.

Now the Australian Tax Office (ATO) will amend its previous public ruling, so that the 60-day export period can be extended to 12 months with provision for further time where required. Significantly, the ATO has acknowledged that breaking-in and barrier trialling in this period was necessary to prepare horses for export (in the past, GST would automatically have applied because the goods were considered "altered").



2yo GREEK SUN now two-for-two after his runaway four-length win the Hill Rise S. at Santa Anita Monday.

Congratulations from Sequel Bloodstock, Becky Thomas, Agent, to connections Peter Angelos, Bobby Frankel and Rodney Jenkins.



GST Unplugged cont.

The third major concession is that the ATO will improve the process whereby non-resident purchasers can apply for GST registration--all moves applauded by Magic Millions and William Inglis, whose staff have been bogged down in a GST quagmire with buyers unhappy about being lured into a foreign tax regime.

"This is an excellent step forward for our industry--as GST was threatening to stultify our export of yearlings at a time when Australian-bred horses have done so well overseas," said Aushorse chairman John Messara.

**BREEDERS' EDITION
AMERICA**

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-TPX, \$26,900, NW2X, 3/up, f/m, 1m, 1:38 4/5, gd. RADIANTLY (f, 3, Mountain Cat--Pure Radiance, by Irish River {Fr}) Lifetime Record: 17-3-3-3, \$98,770. O/B-McKee Stables Inc (KY). T-Dale L Romans. *1/2 to Foster's Landing (Numerous), GSP, \$264,860.

7th-MNR, \$25,000, 12-29, NW2L, 2yo, f, 6f, 1:14 1/5, gd. SMART CALLER (f, 2, Caller I. D.--Smartly Styled, by Cox's Ridge) Lifetime Record: SP, 11-2-5-1, \$42,110. O-Doro J Stable Inc. B-High Pointe Farm, Inc (KY). T-Wayne G Minnock.

8th-MNR, \$25,000, 12-29, NW2L, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:14, gd. ALICITA MY LOVE (f, 3, Birdonthewire--Ayers Rock {SP}, by Slew the Knight) Lifetime Record: 3-2-1-0, \$31,426. O/T-Charlton Baker. B-Adena Springs (FL). *\$3,000 yrl '01 OBSJAN.

7th-CRC, \$24,000, NW1X, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8mT, 1:48 1/5, fm. MARQUETHEAT (f, 3, Marquetry--Fired Heater {SW}, by World Appeal) Lifetime Record: 12-2-3-2, \$52,960. O/B-Hidden Point Farm Inc (FL). T-Laura Posada.

11th-CRC, \$24,000, Opt. Clm. (\$40,000-\$35,000), NW3X, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11, ft. JUST SAY THE WORD (c, 3, Rubiano--Spring Miss, by United Holme) Lifetime Record: MSP, 21-4-6-6, \$123,909. O-Oxenber & Montanari. B-Offshoot Farm LLC (KY). T-E Plesa Jr. *\$52,000 yrl '01 KEEJAN; \$62,000 yrl '01 KEESEP; \$137,000 2yo '02 OBSFEB. **1/2 to Quick Rhythm (Cure The Blues), SW, \$140,972; Never Wavering (Wavering Monarch), MSW & MGSP, \$435,516.

3rd-CRC, \$23,800, Opt. Clm. (\$62,500-\$57,500), NW1X, 2yo, 6 1/2f, 1:17 2/5, ft. BARONAGE (c, 2, Fortunate Prospect--Baroness Stutz, by Stutz Blackhawk) Lifetime Record: SP, 7-3-0-1, \$53,250. O-Thorobeam Farm. B-Farnsworth Farms (FL). T-Edward Plesa Jr. *\$40,000 2yo 2003 OBSAPR. **1/2 to Trucking Baron (Compliance), SW, \$458,272.

9th-PHA, \$22,000, NW3X, 3/up, 6 1/2f, 1:16 3/5, ft. SURE YOU CAN (c, 4, Outflanker--Hidden Fire {MSP, \$102,010}, by Gold Meridian) Lifetime Record: 35-8-4-7, \$146,735. O-Richard Malouf. B-John W Bush (FL). T-Scott A Lake.

10th-PHA, \$21,000, NW2X, 3yo/up, f/m, a1m70yd, 1:44, ft. ROUSING AGAIN (f, 3, Awesome Again--Rousing, by Alydar) Lifetime Record: 12-3-2-3, \$74,120. O-Larry Williams. B-Round Table LLC (KY). T-Clifford W Sise Jr. *\$175,000 yrl '01 KEESEP. **1/2 to Chindi (El Prado {Ire}), MGSW, \$932,421.

8th-PHA, \$20,000, NW1X, 2yo, 1 1/16m, 1:47 4/5, ft. FAMILY BOOK (c, 2, Family Calling--Bride's Book, by Notebook) Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-2, \$23,820. O-Two C Stables. B-Jerry Robertson (FL). T-Anthony Correnti. *\$3,500 2yo 2003 OBSAPR.

**BREEDERS' EDITION
EUROPE**

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

FRANCE, Deauville, 2.00, 12-29, €14,000, 3yo, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:18.40, stn.

SOLO TANGO (FR) (c, 3, Goldneyev--Miss Bonfosse {Fr}, by Hard Leaf {Fr}) Lifetime Record: MSP-Ity, 15 starts, 2 wins, 8 places, €45,750. O-Mme L Auriemma; B-M & Mlle A Dyvrande; T-M Nigge.

FRANCE, Deauville, 3.00, 12-30, €14,000, 3yo/up, 6 1/2f (AWT), 1:19.00, stn.

JOKARI (FR) (g, 6, Ski Chief--Nexia {Fr}, by Linamix {Fr}) Lifetime Record: 26 starts, 4 wins, 9 places, €85,538. O-D Khan; B-H G Boutin; T-Yves de Nicolay.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mistral d'Arnoult (Ire), c, 2, Monsun (Ger)--Timing (Fr), by Funambule. Deauville, France, 12-30, Mdn, 2yo, c/g, 7.5f (AWT). B-M Henochsberg & P Ades Hazan.



Touch of the Blues - Gr.1 Winning Miler - Gr.2 Winner as a 2YO in France

By CADEAUX GENEUREUX, dam by NUREYEV and 3-parts sister to INDIAN SKIMMER - Fee 2004 €9,000 Oct.1st

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