



THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2010
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FROM THE DESK OF...
BILL OPPENHEIM
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ROLL THE DICE

Slight change of plan. Rather than focus strictly on Kentucky sires among the legions of unproven stallions in the four sire crops (first foals 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012) yet to have runners, there is so much inter-connectedness (especially with operations like Darley, Shadwell, Coolmore, Juddmonte, etc., which have stallions around the globe)

Corinthian-Pearly Beach, from sire's first crop *gainesway.com*



that I think we get a better perspective if we look at the bigger picture. However, the

attached tables (see p9) showing stud fee comparisons are organized by country/continent--for breeders in one country, or on one continent or other, you may need the perspective that you're going to breed to a nearby stallion, not one 3,000 miles away.

Beginning with the stallions whose first foals will be two-year-olds of 2011: the odds are that the Leading Freshman Sire of 2011 is going to be owned by Darley, Shadwell or Coolmore. According to the *Instatistics* section of the TDN website, there were 14 North American or European stallions with their first foals 2009 (first yearlings 2010, first two-year-olds 2011), which averaged \$50,000 (or the equivalent) or more at the 2010 yearling sales. Of the 14, seven are owned by Darley (five of them three-year-olds of 2007 bought as part of Darley's \$200-million stallion swoop that year), two by Shadwell--so that's nine Maktoum stallions--and three by Coolmore. That leaves two independents: Corinthian (Pulpit) at Gainesway in Kentucky and Lawman (Invincible Spirit) at Ballylinch Stud in Ireland.

You'll remember from last week the top 12 (non-F2006) North American sires are down an aggregate 41 percent in stud fee from their 2007-2008 highs, with 75 percent declining. For this group of 14, their stud fees are down an aggregate of 49 percent from their entering 2008 stud fees. You can now breed to these 14 stallions for fees ranging from five-eighths of their original stud fee down to one-third, and essentially averaging half. The fees for all 14 have declined; if this sire crop's Iffraaj or Congrats is among them, they'll never be cheaper. **Cont. p2**

MARYLAND DATES STILL UP IN THE AIR

The Maryland Racing Commission met for four hours Tuesday, but, at the end of a session, the state was still without a live racing calendar for 2011. The Maryland tracks are dark now for the Christmas holiday, but, if a dates agreement is not reached by the end of 2010, the state will have to stop offering full-card simulcasting until the issue is resolved. Frank Stronach, whose MI Developments is the majority owner of the Maryland Jockey Club (in partnership with Penn National Gaming), had indicated that a verbal agreement had been reached with horsemen for 146 days of live racing next year, but the horsemen would not sign off on the deal because of conditions that included ceding some simulcasting rights, a \$1.7-million contribution to help defray operating expenses at the tracks, and the closure of the Bowie training center. The two sides were unable to reach an accord, and the MRC is not scheduled to meet again this year. In a press release, Gov. Martin O'Malley said, "I would encourage the track owners, industry representatives, and horsemen and breeders to return to the table and reach an agreement that protects the jobs that depend on our rich history of racing in Maryland. We will continue to explore the legal options available to us." In related news, trading on MID was halted by the Toronto Stock Exchange yesterday after it was reported that Stronach would give up voting control in the company in exchange for the racing assets, which include Laurel and Pimlico.

ALL EYES ON
WILDCAT HEIR
 NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING SECOND CROP SIRE

2nd Crop Sires	Fee	'10 Earnings
WILDCAT HEIR	\$10,000	\$4,503,029
AFLEET ALEX	\$25,000	\$4,447,471
POLLARD'S VISION	\$12,500	\$3,222,460
GHOSTZAPPER	\$20,000	\$2,946,206
ROMAN RULER	\$15,000	\$2,782,965

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Oppenheim cont.

Darley's seven F2009 stallions with \$50,000-plus yearling averages (four in Kentucky, three in Europe) include the top three new sires by yearling average at the sales this year: Teofilo (Galileo; 47 sold of 52 offered, average US\$159,181); Street Sense (43 sold of 60 offered, average \$129,933), the 2006 GI Kentucky Derby winner from Street Cry's first crop; and Hard Spun (Danzig; 62 sold of 92 offered, average \$107,662). Teofilo was the unbeaten European Champion Two-Year-Old of 2006, when he won all five of his races for



Teofilo *dailymail.co.uk*

owner-trainer Jim Bolger, including a narrow defeat of F2008 sire (first two-year-olds 2010) Holy Roman Emperor (Daneshill) in the G1 Dewhurst S., in that year the decider for the European Two-Year-Old championship. We don't know how good Teofilo might have been, because he unfortunately never made it back to the races at three. He was very well received by the market, with almost 90 percent of the yearlings offered by him listed as sold, but even so, his fee is down to €15,000 for 2011, a 63-percent drop from his original €40,000 fee in 2008.

Street Sense became the first and still only horse ever to win both the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile (in 2006) and the next year's GI Kentucky Derby. The legendary Carl Nafzger (also conditioner of Unbridled) trained Street Sense for owner-breeder Jim Tafel. Interestingly, Street Sense was beaten in all three starts on synthetic surfaces, the first time as a two-year-old, when he was third to Great Hunter in Keeneland's GI Breeders' Futurity. It must have been the tightener he needed, though, because in his next start Street Sense won the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Churchill by 10 lengths, making such an impression on Demi O'Byrne, racing manager of runner-up Circular Quay, that four years later, at the '10 Keeneland September Sale, he bought a yearling by Street Sense--the first yearling by a Darley stallion bought by Coolmore, I believe, since 2006.

For his first start at three, Nafzger took Street Sense to Tampa for the GIII Tampa Bay Derby, which he won narrowly from Any Given Saturday. He was then beaten by Dominican in the GI Blue Grass on the Polytrack at Keeneland, but again it was contesting the race that mattered, because three weeks later Street Sense gave Nafzger his second GI Kentucky Derby win, defeating Hard Spun and Curlin. After being narrowly defeated by Curlin in the GI Preakness S., Nafzger skipped the GI Belmont. He brought Street Sense back in August at Saratoga to win the GII Jim Dandy and GI Travers, but was then beaten by Hard Spun in the GII Kentucky Cup Classic on the Polytrack at Turfway, and closed out his career with a fourth behind Curlin in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic in the Monmouth slop.

"Lane's End adds to A.P. INDY legacy"

- Thoroughbred Times

**GRADE 1 WINNER
DISCREETLY MINE**

Mineshaft – Pretty Discreet



DISCREETLY MINE, on his way to victory in the Grade 1 King's Bishop S.

- **BEST 3YO BEYER OF 2010**
- **WON GRADED STAKES 6 1/2 fur. to 1 1/16 mi.**
- **WON AT 2 & WAS GRADE 1 PLACED**
- **WON 4 GRADED STAKES AT 3**
- **OUT OF GRADE 1 WINNING MARE**

2011 FEE: \$15,000 Stands & Nurses

Click here to read all about him or go to <http://www.lanesend.com/news/#dmfast>

LANE'S END

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Oppenheim cont.

Street Sense's yearlings impressed a lot of tough judges, not just Demi, and the positive chatter is reinforced by the fact that his yearling median (\$125,000) was so close to his average (\$129,933). That can only happen if the stallion is consistently throwing good individuals. They do look more two-turn than one-turn horses, but if the collection of judges who have touted this horse is right, his \$40,000 fee for 2011 (barely half his original \$75,000 fee) could make him a very good buy next year.

Hard Spun, who is by Danzig out of a mare by Turkoman (son of Alydar) from a top Darby Dan family, was never out of the first four in 13 lifetime starts, in which he displayed tremendous class and versatility. Racing for Rick Porter's Fox Hill Farm and trained by Larry Jones, Hard Spun was unbeaten in his three starts at two, including minor black-type wins at six and seven furlongs.

But it was as a member of a vintage crop of 2007 three-year-olds that he really made his mark. He set the pace and gave way grudgingly to Street Sense in the GI Kentucky Derby, got to the lead in the GI Preakness, but tired to finish third to Curlin and Street Sense, then patently failed to stay when fourth to the filly Rags to Riches in the GI Belmont S. He came back in August to run second to Any Given Saturday in the GI Haskell, then, in a key career move, they dropped him down to seven furlongs and he outclassed specialist sprinters in Saratoga's seven-furlong GI King's Bishop S. He then led all the way to beat Street Sense in the GII Kentucky Cup Classic--his second win from two starts on Turfway's Polytrack--and closed out his career with a game second to Curlin, having set the pace, in the GI Breeders' Cup Classic at Monmouth.

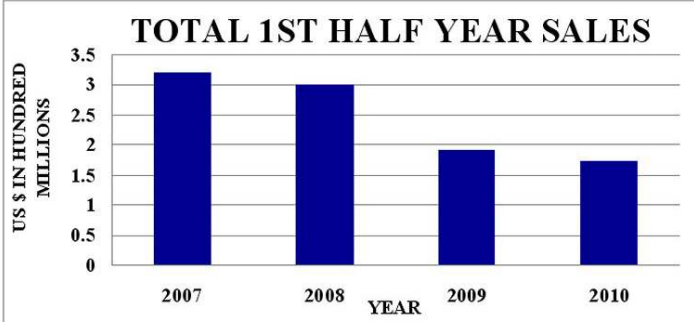
The key thing that makes him such a promising sire prospect is that he won a Grade I at seven furlongs, yet had the speed and class to run second in both the GI Kentucky Derby and GI Breeders' Cup Classic at 10 furlongs. If you like his chances, he's down to \$30,000 for 2011, a 40-percent drop from his original 2008 fee of \$50,000.

Argentine-bred Invasor, by Blushing Groom's influential son, Candy Stripes (also damsire of Candy Ride), won 11 of his 12 career starts and over \$7.9 million, his only loss coming when he was fourth to Discreet Cat in the G2 UAE Derby in 2006. He won the final six starts of his career after that, all Grade/Group 1 races. He won four times from four Grade I starts in America later in 2006, culminating in a one-length win over Bernardini in the 2006 GI Breeders' Cup Classic, which earned him the Horse of the Year title. He ran twice in 2007, winning the GI Donn H. at Gulfstream Park before shipping to Dubai to score a decisive win in the G1 Dubai World Cup, in what was to be his final race.

Weekly Sales Ticker

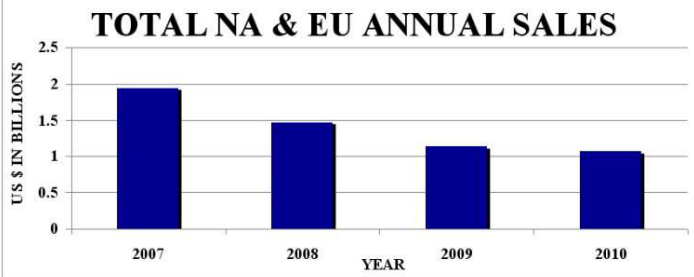
by Bill Oppenheim

"In 2010, over 36,700 horses were catalogued, and over 22,200 sold, at the sales we cover in TDN; those are declines of 21 percent in 22 percent, respectively, from 2007. -- nearly 10,000 fewer catalogued, over 6,000 fewer sold. The North American and European auction market grossed over \$1.94-billion in 2007, and had dropped to just over \$1.06-billion by 2010 -- a decline in gross revenues of 45 percent. The average also dropped 30 percent, from just over \$68,000 to \$47,764. That's pretty tangible evidence that the thoroughbred market has lost nearly half its value since 2007."
- Bill Oppenheim



TOTAL 1ST HALF SALES (EUROPE AND US) (MIXED + 2YO SALES)

YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	% W/D	% S/R	% S/C	GROSS	AVE
2010	8,336	6,631	4,682	20.5%	70.6%	56.2%	\$172,659,333	\$36,877
2009	9,811	7,293	5,245	25.7%	71.9%	53.5%	\$192,704,228	\$36,741
2008	11,462	8,616	6,156	24.8%	71.4%	53.7%	\$301,388,229	\$48,958
2007	12,865	10,140	7,219	21.2%	71.2%	56.1%	\$323,680,056	\$44,837



TOTAL NA & EUROPEAN ANNUAL SALES

YEAR	CAT	RING	SOLD	%W/D	% S/R	% S/C	GROSS	AVE
2010	36,782	30,494	22,270	17.1%	73.0%	60.5%	\$1,063,697,227	\$47,764
2009	38,239	30,685	22,740	19.8%	74.1%	59.5%	\$1,136,669,094	\$49,985
2008	43,997	35,010	24,659	20.4%	70.4%	56.0%	\$1,472,255,581	\$59,705
2007	46,444	38,738	28,549	16.6%	73.7%	61.5%	\$1,942,417,130	\$68,038

Data compiled by Brianne Stanley



Oppenheim cont.



2009 Invasor--Bells for Marlin filly; she brought \$275K at KESESEP *shadwellfarm.com*

Invasor is the fourth-leading first-year sire by yearling average (\$92,614), though his median of \$42,500 ranks him only 11th in that category. Sheikh Hamdan bought the three highest-priced yearlings by him: a \$350,000 filly at Saratoga, and a colt for \$300,000, and another filly, for \$275,000, at Keeneland September. If you like the idea of breeding to a winner of nearly \$8 million for \$20,000, that's Invasor's stud fee for 2011, down 43 percent from his 2008 fee of

\$35,000.

The two independents, Corinthian and Lawman, finished fifth and sixth by yearling average, each with averages of \$85,000 and change. Corinthian beat First Samurai (Giant's Causeway) in the 2006 GII Fountain of Youth S., but was disqualified, then injured and sidelined. He made up for it at four, though, winning the GI Met Mile over Political Force and Lawyer Ron, then finished up with a wide-margin win in the Monmouth slop in the inaugural (therefore ungraded) Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile--actually run at a mile and 70 yards.

Lawman, from Invincible Spirit's first crop, won the 2007 G1 Prix du Jockey-Club (that's the new, 10-furlong one). He probably did better than expected at the sales because the individuals were selling themselves. For those who like to roll the dice on stallions whose first yearlings have sold well because they've had a lot of good individuals, Lawman would probably be the number one gamble, with Honorable Mention in that category to Street Sense, of the more expensive stallions, and Scat Daddy, of the less expensive ones.


The next seven, in yearling average order, are: Coolmore, Coolmore, Darley, Darley, Shadwell, Coolmore, Darley, Darley. I kind of joke about it, but this does look like an awfully deep and talented group of sire prospects. Coolmore's three are: six-time Group 1 winner Dylan Thomas (Danehill); the classy G1 St. James's Palace S. (1m) winner Excellent Art (Pivotal); and Scat Daddy (Johannesburg), who won the GI Champagne S. as a two-year-old in 2006, and the GII Fountain of Youth and GI Florida Derby as a three-year-old in 2007. I thought his yearlings sold like they looked the part, which would also be suggested by his yearling median (\$45,000) being reasonably close to his average (\$54,502). His price has dropped by two-thirds: originally \$30,000 in 2008, Scat Daddy will be standing for \$10,000 in 2011. That would have to look pretty tempting in light of his \$45,000 median for 45 yearlings sold.

1st Crop ■ **Classic-Winning 3yo**
Miami Deco winner of Canada's Breeders' S.

2nd Crop ■ **Quality 2yos**
Breeders' Cup Juvenile Filles-G1 placed
Delightful Mary and GSW LOU BRISSIE

In 2010
2yos Averaged
\$145,857

including **\$500,000**
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Shadwell is also represented by 2006 GI Belmont S. winner Jazil (Seeking the Gold), and other than him it's all Darley-Darley-Darley-Darley: 2007 G1 Epsom Derby winner Authorized (Montjeu); 2007 GI Haskell winner Any Given Saturday (Distorted Humor); three-time 2007 Group 1 winner Manduro (Monsun); and Discreet Cat (Forestry), winner of his first six starts in devastating fashion, including the 2006 GI Cigar Mile. He's a half-brother to this year's recently retired GI King's Bishop winner, another rocket, Discreetly Mine (Mineshaft), out of a Private Account mare who has now thrown two seriously high-class fast horses. Discreet Cat, in his first six races, displayed so much raw ability that it would be no surprise if he turned out to be a good sire. He'd be one I'd definitely roll the dice on, personally. That's my opinion, therefore, of course, eminently fallible, but I was really impressed by him as a three-year-old.

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Oppenheim cont.

FIRST FOALS 2010: EUROPEAN DOMINATION

As we've highlighted since we began to tally up the figures for sires that had their first weanlings sell this year, it's striking the extent to which European form dominates the early commercial returns. The top five sires on auction weanling average were all European-based as racehorses. The top two American prospects, all-time leading North American money earner Curlin (Smart Strike) and Big Brown (Boundary), averaged just \$61,000 (albeit with just four weanlings sold) and \$62,153, respectively.

Coolmore's Henrythenavigator (Kingmambo) and Princess Haya's (originally Stornerside's) Raven's Pass (Elusive Quality) met a number of times as three-year-olds. 'Henry' won each of their first three meetings, Ravens' Pass the last two.

Henrythenavigator had been a very precocious two-year-old, winning over seven furlongs at Gowran Park in May, then scoring in the key G2 Coventry S. at six furlongs at Royal Ascot. He was beaten on his two subsequent starts at two, both in Ireland, both with give in the ground.

Given a good break after finishing only third behind New Approach and Curtain Call in the G2 Futurity S. in August, 'Henry' won his first four races at three to establish himself as Europe's top three-year-old miler (among the colts; superstars Zarkava and Goldikova were the best three-year-old fillies). First, he won the G1 2000 Guineas while defeating New Approach, with Raven's Pass fourth, and followed that effort with a win in the G1 Irish 2000 Guineas, again defeating New Approach. Then, he won the G1 St. James's Palace S. at Royal Ascot, with Raven's Pass second and, finally, added the G1 Sussex S. at Goodwood, with Raven's Pass again second.

But Henrythenavigator was beaten in his three subsequent starts when only fourth to Goldikova on good-to-soft ground at Longchamp, then twice by Raven's Pass, in the G1 Queen Elizabeth II S. at Ascot, and, of course, when they famously ran one-two in the 2008 GI Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita.

Meanwhile, New Approach (Galileo), trained by Jim Bolger, had succeeded stablemate Teofilo and had been the unbeaten champion two-year-old of Europe in 2007, when he won all five of his races, including the G1 National S. at The Curragh and the G1 Dewhurst at Newmarket.

Now owned by Princess Haya, he bounced back from his two Guineas defeats by Henrythenavigator to win the G1 Epsom Derby in her colors. His three subsequent runs were all at 10 furlongs. He finished third to the resurgent four-year-old Duke of Marmalade (Danehill) in the G1 Juddmonte International, but followed up with wins in the G1 Irish Champion S. and Newmarket's G1 Champion S. In the latter race, he slammed Twice Over (Observatory), who has won the two subsequent runnings of the race, by six lengths.

Sheikh Hamdan's Tamayuz, from Nayef's first crop, proved the best French three-year-old miler in 2008. From the same crop and in the same stable as Goldikova--Freddie Head's--Tamayuz really made a name for himself when he defeated Raven's Pass in the G1 Prix Jean Prat, then Natagora in the G1 Prix Jacques le Marois, but was probably over the top for the season when only fourth to Raven's Pass, with Henrythenavigator in second, in the Queen Elizabeth II at Ascot in September.

<p><i>In Other News</i> - A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Other Media</p> <p>EVERY WEEK SINCE MAY 6TH DENALI STUD HAS RANKED AMONG THE TOP FIVE CONSIGNORS ON THE AMERICAN GRADED STAKES STANDINGS</p>	 <p>DENALI STUD Where attention to detail is standard Craig & Holly Bendoroff (859) 987-6212 denallstud.com</p>
<p><u>Thar She Blows! Santa Anita</u> <i>Musings on opening day at Santa Anita, dirt and a takeout increase</i> Bill Christine, HorseraceInsider.com</p> <p><u>Blame who? Zenyatta for Horse of the Year</u> Bill Dwyre, Los Angeles Times</p>	

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Oppenheim cont.

Duke of Marmalade had been from Teofilo's and Holy Roman Emperor's year, so he is a year older than Henrythenavigator, Raven's Pass, New Approach, and Tamayuz. He had been sidelined after running second to Strategic Prince in the G2 Richmond S. as a two-year-old, and never won a black-type race until he was four, but Duke of Marmalade ran 13 times at three and four, every one a Group 1 race. In six starts at three, he finished second, third, or fourth six times, at distances ranging from eight to 10 furlongs. At four, he won his first five starts of the year, all Group 1s, ranging from 10 to 12 furlongs. So, true, he never won a black-type race until he was four, but when he did, Duke of Marmalade won five Group 1s in a row. With a \$90,000 average for his weanlings sold, Duke of Marmalade had the lowest average of the five European-raced sires leading this sire crop commercially, but the market says this is a pretty formidable crop. There's demand for them.



Duke of Marmalade
coolmore.com

Though it's surprising Curlin averaged only \$61,000 for his weanlings sold--less than his 2008 stud fee--it is probably no more significant than the fact there were only four sold. Yes, he's a son of the notoriously uncommercial World Top 12 sire, Smart Strike. True, Curlin never ran at two. So maybe he's not going to sire those precocious, commercial types. But he did win \$10.5 million, including the GI Preakness, GI Breeders' Cup Classic and G1 Dubai World Cup. I look for him to challenge the early European commercial domination of this sire crop at the yearling sales next year.

Big Brown is another who's entitled to average considerably more than the \$62,153 his 13 weanlings averaged, and indeed his \$60,000 median is encouraging in that context. Big Brown won the GI Florida Derby, GI Kentucky Derby and GI Preakness by an average of five lengths each, consistently running Beyer numbers between 105-109. He was hands down the best North American three-year-old of his generation, and is maybe entitled to a little more commercial respect than he gets.

Quite a few from this sire crop have good credentials for mid-range sires. Midnight Lute (Real Quiet) won the GI Breeders' Cup Sprint twice, the only horse ever to do so. England's Newsells Park's founder, Klaus Jacobs, unfortunately died in 2008, but it has become one of Europe's leading commercial nurseries since Julian Dollar came in as general manager in 2007, assisted by a couple of crack Irish lads in Gerry Meehan (yearlings) and Gary Coffey (racing manager). I do concede a professional relationship with them, but they've done Mount Nelson (Rock of Gibraltar) all by themselves, and have to be commended for really giving the horse every shot in a tough commercial environment.

Derby Horse. Derby Pedigree. Fee: \$20,000 LFSN \$18,000 due 1/1/11

SUPER SAVER

WHY I BOOKED 3 MARES:

"He has it all: presence, quality, class, conformation, pedigree and ability. I think he's absolutely magnificent!"

-Shannon White, Fares Farms

WINSTAR FARM LLC

Tiz Wonderful (Tiznow) is the horse the numbers say is throwing the stunning lookers. If you just follow those market signs that find the unheralded sire of top individuals, you have to respect those numbers. It's such a strong pointer that it automatically means Tiz Wonderful upgrades to a 50-50 shot to actually make a sire. Speaking of unheralded, there was an interesting market pointer to do with the Grade II-winning two-year-old Ready's Image (More Than Ready), though there were only eight weanlings offered by him, all eight sold, and their \$30,000 median was higher than their \$26,775 average. That's usually a positive indicator.

And one I did think was being overlooked, the 2007 North American two-year-old champion, War Pass (Cherokee Run), unbeaten in all four of his starts at two. He ran an off-the-graph Beyer 113 when winning the GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile by almost five lengths, and, even if the figure was inflated by the slop at Monmouth that day, there was no fluke about his previous Beyer 103 in his equally easy win in the GI Champagne S. at Belmont Park. Twelve of the 13 weanlings offered from his first crop sold, but averaged just \$20,600. He's a bit of a forgotten man already.

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op/ed

by bill finley

FROM THE HARNESS GAME, HOPE

By Bill Finley

Amid the slumping economy, the empty grandstands and the tumbling bottom line, it's sometimes easy to



Jeff Gural www.observer.com

forget that horse racing can be pretty special, even rather popular. Jeff Gural remembers. He came into the sport of harness racing during its golden era, when the stands were packed at Yonkers and Roosevelt Raceways and a driver, Carmine Abbatiello, had his own beer commercial. Whether it's harness or Thoroughbred racing, Gural isn't convinced that the sport can't climb its way back

and do so without a crutch called slot machines.

That's why he's willing to take a huge chance on the Meadowlands, a once-bustling, profitable operation that has become a sad, decrepit money drain, a track New Jersey Governor Chris Christie had given up for dead. Maybe Gural is right and maybe harness racing at the Meadowlands can rise again under his leadership. Everyone should hope so. This is about more than a harness track; it's about smart, well-meaning people who will do everything in their power to revive a horse-racing product with the type of vision and leadership that has been missing from all horse racing industries.

Should this work, Gural will have proven something for both breeds--that all it takes to get the sport back on its feet is a willingness to do the right things, tough as they may be.

Like Monmouth Park, the Meadowlands is owned by the state of New Jersey and it loses money. Both breeds saw slot machines at the Meadowlands as the magic wand that would make everything right again, but the Atlantic City casinos and their political clout have always stood in the way. When Christie was elected last year, he not only made it clear that he would not allow slots at the tracks, but that he had no intention of continuing to subsidize New Jersey racing, either with state money or with casino money that was being used to prop up purses.

With the last day of racing scheduled at the Meadowlands on Dec. 18 and with no solutions in sight, Christie was ready to close the most important harness track in America, if not the world. The effects on the entire industry would have been devastating.

Derby Horse. Derby Pedigree.

Fee: \$20,000 LFSN
\$18,000 due 1/1/11

SUPER SAVER

WHY I BOOKED 2 MARES:

*"In terms of conformation and type,
he's a study in what a
classic horse should look like."*

-Robert S. Keck, Crestwood Bloodstock

WINSTAR
FARM L.L.C.

Enter Gural.

Gural is the chairman of Newmark Knight Frank, a commercial real estate firm in New York City. He's made a lot of money in the real estate business, but his real passion is harness racing. A long-time horse owner and breeder, he became a racetrack owner when he bought Vernon Downs and opened Tioga Downs once slots were approved at the New York tracks.

There's no doubt that Gural would never have become a track owner if it weren't for the slots, but he's not at all like most racino operators. At Vernon and Tioga, a major emphasis is put on the racing. It's marketed and promoted. The racing fans are treated like valued and respected customers, and Gural and his team are always looking for new ways to make the on-track experience better and lure more people through the door. It's universally recognized that under Gural's leadership, Vernon and Tioga have grown into the type of success stories that are increasingly hard to find in racing these days.

There's no great secret here. Gural just does all the things everyone knows need to be done to make racing successful, but so few are willing to try.

At his tracks, there is an opening and closing day and most cards are held on the weekends. They are not gambling factories. He gives people a reason to look forward to live racing, just like they do at Keeneland, Saratoga and Del Mar, three tracks still prospering in Thoroughbred racing. As best he can at tracks that don't produce huge betting handles, he puts together quality programs with races rich enough to attract the sport's biggest stars.

"I don't see why horse racing can't be popular," Gural said. "It's popular in Saratoga Springs. It's popular in Lexington, Kentucky. It's just not popular when you race 52 weeks a year, five days a week. If we became a Saratoga-type experience, where people know this is a fun place to go, they're open on weekends in the summer and when I go there I'll have a good time, then it can work."

Cont. p8



Op-Ed cont.

He wants to operate about 100 days a year, including a Monmouth-style elite meet with a full slate of major races like the Meadowlands Pace and the Hambletonian.

But even a short, quality meet won't work at a place that is a dump, and the Meadowlands has become just that. He says it's not the type of place someone would ever dream of taking a date, so he wants to create an entirely new grandstand. It will be small, modern, comfortable, with good food and drink and all sorts of amenities. It will be clean. It will be customer-friendly.

"I have no interest in trying to figure out a way to run the Meadowlands as it is and make a profit, because I don't think you can," he said. "I don't think it's the type of place I would bring my girlfriend to if I were out on a date. The place is obsolete and falling apart."

At Tioga, he lowered the takeout and saw handle soar. He says that won't be as easy to do at the Meadowlands because Tioga's revenue largely comes from slots while all of the Meadowlands' revenue comes from wagering. But he has proven at Tioga that a lower takeout will stimulate the volume of betting and he will keep his eye on doing something similar at the Meadowlands.

He's also adamant that the sport find a way to keep its stars campaigning beyond their three-year-old years, something that is also a big problem in harness racing. Gural is pushing for adding a provision to the conditions for the stakes at the Meadowlands, Vernon and Tioga that a horse is ineligible if his sire was not at least five at the time the horse is conceived. That would all but force horses to stay in training as 4-year-olds. No one would buy a yearling who is not eligible to compete in several of the sport's biggest stakes.

"If I am putting my money up and we're going to try to get people to come here with no slot money and no subsidy from Atlantic City, I need (2009 Harness Horse of the Year) Muscle Hill to race at my track at four," he said. "The next time a Muscle Hill comes around, we have to keep him competing. I need him to race six or eight times and I need the purse money to be there for it to make sense for him to race."

Gural hasn't committed to anything yet. He helped broker a deal with Christie to keep the track open through March. Over the next three months or so, he's going to sit down with architects and the money people and try to figure out if his vision of a new Meadowlands makes economic sense. He will only lease or buy the track from the state if he is convinced he can make this work.

But Gural isn't talking like he's about to back away. "This is a challenge," he said. "I like challenges."

This is his vision: a racetrack run by the best and smartest in the business, people who care about the sport and not just the slots, a racetrack that treats its customers like royalty, a racetrack that has a short, exciting meet with great racing.

Derby Horse. Derby Pedigree. Fee: \$20,000 LFSN \$18,000 due 1/1/11

SUPER SAVER

WHY I BOOKED 4 MARES:

"I love his female family, it keeps producing top sires."

-Chris Bacarri, Bacarri Bloodstock

WINSTAR FARM LLC

He wants the takeout to be lower, and he wants to cater to big bettors. He wants to make a day at the track fun again. He wants the stars not to come and go quite so fast. He wants to make horse racing work, work so well that it doesn't need slot machine handouts.

"We have to change the model," he said. "We're playing the same movie over and over again, and the public has given its opinion on what they think of the movie. We have to change the movie."

If things go right, the Meadowlands will embark on an exciting new era come April 1 with Gural taking over. He will change the model; he will start playing a better movie. If this works, he will have shown others what to do. Root for him. *Have feedback for publication? Email suefinley@thoroughbreddailynews.com or post your comment in the [TDN Forum](#).*

SECOND ANNUAL TDN READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

The *TDN* is proud to present the 2010 Readers' Choice Awards. We at the *TDN* have come up with our favorite performances on the year and beyond, but we want your input, too.

So from now until Dec. 26, we will be accepting your votes for additional nominees. Then, from Dec. 27 through Jan. 16, we will be accepting votes for the award winners, to be announced in the Jan. 23 edition of the *TDN*. All voters will be entered in a drawing, with five winners getting to choose a framed 11x14 photo by Sarah K. Andrew, or a free full-page ad in the *TDN*.

A list of categories and nominees follows today's TDN, or you can view them by clicking [here](#).





2011 Stud Fees for 14 F2009 Sires (\$50,000+ 2010 Yearling Average)

SIRE	HIS SIRE	ST	FARM or OPERATION	2010 \$YLG AVG	FEE 2011	FEE 2008	PCT CHANGE
TEOFILO	GALILEO	IR	DARLEY	159,181	15,000	40,000	-63
LAWMAN	INVINCIBLE SPIRIT	IR	BALLYLINCH	85,255	15,000	25,000	-40
DYLAN THOMAS	DANEHILL	IR	COOLMORE	82,914	17,500	50,000	-65
EXCELLENT ART	PIVOTAL	IR	COOLMORE	73,758	10,000	25,000	-60
AUTHORIZED	MONTJEU	GB	DARLEY	71,828	15,000	25,000	-40
MANDURO	MONSUN	IR	DARLEY	53,698	15,000	*20,000	-40
	SUB-TOTAL	EU		6 SIRE S \$	118,644	254,028	-53
STREET SENSE	STREET CRY	KY	DARLEY	129,933	40,000	75,000	-47
HARD SPUN	DANZIG	KY	DARLEY	107,862	30,000	50,000	-40
INVASOR	CANDY STRIPES	KY	SHADWELL	92,614	20,000	35,000	-43
CORNITHIAN	PULPIT	KY	GAINESWAY	85,425	25,000	40,000	-37
ANY GIVEN SATURDAY	DISTORTED HUMOR	KY	DARLEY	69,028	20,000	40,000	-50
JAZIL	SEEKING THE GOLD	KY	SHADWELL	56,857	7,500	12,500	-40
SCAT DADDY	JOHANNESBURG	KY	COOLMORE	54,502	10,000	30,000	-67
DISCREET CAT	FORESTRY	KY	DARLEY	50,603	17,500	30,000	-42
	SUB-TOTAL	NA		8 SIRE S \$	170,000	312,500	-46
	TOTAL			14 SIRE S \$	288,644	566,528	-49
<i>Yearling averages from Instatistics</i>							
<i>*Manduro stood in GB in 2008, this fee was GBP Otherwise fees in local currencies, totals in US\$.</i>							

2011 Stud Fees for 20 F2010 Sires: 1st foals 2010 (\$20,000+ 2010 Weanling Sale Average - 3+sold)

SIRE	HIS SIRE	ST	FARM or OPERATION	2010 \$WNLG AVG	FEE 2011	FEE 2009	PCT CHANGE
RAVEN'S PASS	ELUSIVE QUALITY	IR	DARLEY	161,549	22,500	40,000	-44
NEW APPROACH	GALILEO	GB	DARLEY	108,127	22,500	30,000	-25
TAMAYUZ	NAYEF	IR	SHADWELL	107,600	15,000	15,000	0
DUKE OF MARMALADE	DANEHILL	IR	COOLMORE	90,930	25,000	40,000	-38
HAATEF	DANZIG	IR	SHADWELL	48,781	4,000	6,500	-38
MOUNT NELSON	ROCK OF GIBRALTAR	GB	NEWS ELLS	39,915	7,000	10,000	-30
ASTRONOMER ROYAL	DANZIG	FR	H REBOURSIERE	35,877	5,000	8,000	-38
SAKHEE'S SECRET	SAKHEE	GB	WHITSBURY M	31,110	5,500	6,500	-15
	SUB-TOTAL	EU		8 SIRE S \$	148,416	216,256	-31
HENRYTHE NAVIGATOR	KINGMAMBO	KY	COOLMORE	208,000	35,000	65,000	-46
BIG BROWN	BOUNDARY	KY	3 CHIMNEYS	62,153	40,000	65,000	-38
CURLIN	SMART STRIKE	KY	LANE'S END	61,000	40,000	75,000	-47
MIDNIGHT LUTE	REAL QUIET	KY	HILL 'N' DALE	56,400	17,500	20,000	-13
STREET BOSS	STREET CRY	KY	DARLEY	53,950	17,500	25,000	-30
TIZ WONDERFUL	TIZNOW	KY	SPENDTHRIFT	39,263	12,500	12,500	0
MAJESTIC WARRIOR	A.P. INDY	KY	COOLMORE	33,261	10,000	20,000	-50
INTO MISCHIEF	HARLAN'S HOLIDAY	KY	SPENDTHRIFT	32,250	8,500	12,500	-32
READY'S IMAGE	MORE THAN READY	KY	WALMAC	26,775	6,500	12,500	-48
HEATSEEKER	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	KY	HILL 'N' DALE	26,150	10,000	20,000	-50
COWTOWN CAT	DISTORTED HUMOR	FL	JOURNEYMAN	22,916	4,000	8,000	-50
WAR PASS	CHEROKEE RUN	KY	LANE'S END	20,600	15,000	30,000	-50
	SUB-TOTAL	NA		12 SIRE S \$	216,500	365,500	-41
	TOTAL			20 SIRE S \$	364,916	581,756	-37

TDN SECOND CROP SIRE LIST

BY CUMULATIVE EARNINGS THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

[Click here](#) to create your own sire list

1	Shamardal (2002) by Giant's Causeway FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: IR (€ 20,000)	Earnings: \$7,067,807 AE/R: \$48,409																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 86</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 15</td> <td>BTH: 25</td> <td>GSW: 10</td> <td>GSH: 13</td> <td>G1SW: 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>195</td> <td>146</td> <td>[58.90%]</td> <td>150</td> <td>[7.69%]</td> <td>[12.82%]</td> <td>[5.13%]</td> <td>[6.67%]</td> <td>[1.03%]</td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 86	Wins	BTW: 15	BTH: 25	GSW: 10	GSH: 13	G1SW: 2	195	146	[58.90%]	150	[7.69%]	[12.82%]	[5.13%]	[6.67%]	[1.03%]	
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 86	Wins	BTW: 15	BTH: 25	GSW: 10	GSH: 13	G1SW: 2												
195	146	[58.90%]	150	[7.69%]	[12.82%]	[5.13%]	[6.67%]	[1.03%]												
2	Dubawi (Ire) (2002) by Dubai Millennium (GB) FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: GB (£ 20,000)	Earnings: \$6,344,459 AE/R: \$38,923																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 107</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 18</td> <td>BTH: 28</td> <td>GSW: 11</td> <td>GSH: 19</td> <td>G1SW: 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>210</td> <td>163</td> <td>[65.64%]</td> <td>201</td> <td>[8.57%]</td> <td>[13.33%]</td> <td>[5.24%]</td> <td>[9.05%]</td> <td>[0.95%]</td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 107	Wins	BTW: 18	BTH: 28	GSW: 11	GSH: 19	G1SW: 2	210	163	[65.64%]	201	[8.57%]	[13.33%]	[5.24%]	[9.05%]	[0.95%]	
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 107	Wins	BTW: 18	BTH: 28	GSW: 11	GSH: 19	G1SW: 2												
210	163	[65.64%]	201	[8.57%]	[13.33%]	[5.24%]	[9.05%]	[0.95%]												
3	Wildcat Heir (2000) by Forest Wildcat FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: FL (US\$ 8,000)	Earnings: \$5,700,796 AE/R: \$41,012																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 97</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 9</td> <td>BTH: 15</td> <td>GSW: 1</td> <td>GSH: 4</td> <td>G1SW: 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>202</td> <td>139</td> <td>[69.78%]</td> <td>218</td> <td>[4.46%]</td> <td>[7.43%]</td> <td>[0.50%]</td> <td>[1.98%]</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 97	Wins	BTW: 9	BTH: 15	GSW: 1	GSH: 4	G1SW: 0	202	139	[69.78%]	218	[4.46%]	[7.43%]	[0.50%]	[1.98%]		
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 97	Wins	BTW: 9	BTH: 15	GSW: 1	GSH: 4	G1SW: 0												
202	139	[69.78%]	218	[4.46%]	[7.43%]	[0.50%]	[1.98%]													
4	Afleet Alex (2002) by Northern Afleet FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: KY (US\$ 15,000)	Earnings: \$5,368,839 AE/R: \$39,769																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 71</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 11</td> <td>BTH: 19</td> <td>GSW: 3</td> <td>GSH: 6</td> <td>G1SW: 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>211</td> <td>135</td> <td>[52.59%]</td> <td>123</td> <td>[5.21%]</td> <td>[9.00%]</td> <td>[1.42%]</td> <td>[2.84%]</td> <td>[0.95%]</td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 71	Wins	BTW: 11	BTH: 19	GSW: 3	GSH: 6	G1SW: 2	211	135	[52.59%]	123	[5.21%]	[9.00%]	[1.42%]	[2.84%]	[0.95%]	
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 71	Wins	BTW: 11	BTH: 19	GSW: 3	GSH: 6	G1SW: 2												
211	135	[52.59%]	123	[5.21%]	[9.00%]	[1.42%]	[2.84%]	[0.95%]												
5	Roman Ruler (2002) by Fusaichi Pegasus FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: KY (US\$ 20,000)	Earnings: \$4,685,074 AE/R: \$31,871																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 84</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 4</td> <td>BTH: 13</td> <td>GSW: 2</td> <td>GSH: 7</td> <td>G1SW: 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>219</td> <td>147</td> <td>[57.14%]</td> <td>143</td> <td>[1.83%]</td> <td>[5.94%]</td> <td>[0.91%]</td> <td>[3.20%]</td> <td>[0.46%]</td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 84	Wins	BTW: 4	BTH: 13	GSW: 2	GSH: 7	G1SW: 1	219	147	[57.14%]	143	[1.83%]	[5.94%]	[0.91%]	[3.20%]	[0.46%]	
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 84	Wins	BTW: 4	BTH: 13	GSW: 2	GSH: 7	G1SW: 1												
219	147	[57.14%]	143	[1.83%]	[5.94%]	[0.91%]	[3.20%]	[0.46%]												
6	Pollard's Vision (2001) by Carson City FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: KY (US\$ 10,000)	Earnings: \$4,638,273 AE/R: \$48,315																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 58</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 7</td> <td>BTH: 7</td> <td>GSW: 1</td> <td>GSH: 3</td> <td>G1SW: 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>146</td> <td>96</td> <td>[60.42%]</td> <td>132</td> <td>[4.79%]</td> <td>[4.79%]</td> <td>[0.68%]</td> <td>[2.05%]</td> <td>[0.68%]</td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 58	Wins	BTW: 7	BTH: 7	GSW: 1	GSH: 3	G1SW: 1	146	96	[60.42%]	132	[4.79%]	[4.79%]	[0.68%]	[2.05%]	[0.68%]	
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 58	Wins	BTW: 7	BTH: 7	GSW: 1	GSH: 3	G1SW: 1												
146	96	[60.42%]	132	[4.79%]	[4.79%]	[0.68%]	[2.05%]	[0.68%]												
7	Kitten's Joy (2001) by El Prado (IRE) FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: KY (US\$ 40,000)	Earnings: \$3,681,258 AE/R: \$30,423																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 75</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 5</td> <td>BTH: 12</td> <td>GSW: 1</td> <td>GSH: 5</td> <td>G1SW: 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>190</td> <td>121</td> <td>[61.98%]</td> <td>121</td> <td>[2.63%]</td> <td>[6.32%]</td> <td>[0.53%]</td> <td>[2.63%]</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 75	Wins	BTW: 5	BTH: 12	GSW: 1	GSH: 5	G1SW: 0	190	121	[61.98%]	121	[2.63%]	[6.32%]	[0.53%]	[2.63%]		
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 75	Wins	BTW: 5	BTH: 12	GSW: 1	GSH: 5	G1SW: 0												
190	121	[61.98%]	121	[2.63%]	[6.32%]	[0.53%]	[2.63%]													
8	Offlee Wild (2000) by Wild Again FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: KY (US\$ 7,500)	Earnings: \$3,588,061 AE/R: \$43,756																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 52</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 4</td> <td>BTH: 10</td> <td>GSW: 1</td> <td>GSH: 2</td> <td>G1SW: 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>115</td> <td>82</td> <td>[63.41%]</td> <td>97</td> <td>[3.48%]</td> <td>[8.70%]</td> <td>[0.87%]</td> <td>[1.74%]</td> <td>[0.87%]</td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 52	Wins	BTW: 4	BTH: 10	GSW: 1	GSH: 2	G1SW: 1	115	82	[63.41%]	97	[3.48%]	[8.70%]	[0.87%]	[1.74%]	[0.87%]	
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 52	Wins	BTW: 4	BTH: 10	GSW: 1	GSH: 2	G1SW: 1												
115	82	[63.41%]	97	[3.48%]	[8.70%]	[0.87%]	[1.74%]	[0.87%]												
9	Ghostzapper (2000) by Awesome Again FYR: 2007 (2 Crops), Stands: KY (US\$ 30,000)	Earnings: \$3,359,825 AE/R: \$39,527																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 52</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 5</td> <td>BTH: 10</td> <td>GSW: 1</td> <td>GSH: 2</td> <td>G1SW: 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>159</td> <td>85</td> <td>[61.18%]</td> <td>84</td> <td>[3.14%]</td> <td>[6.29%]</td> <td>[0.63%]</td> <td>[1.26%]</td> <td>[0.63%]</td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 52	Wins	BTW: 5	BTH: 10	GSW: 1	GSH: 2	G1SW: 1	159	85	[61.18%]	84	[3.14%]	[6.29%]	[0.63%]	[1.26%]	[0.63%]	
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 52	Wins	BTW: 5	BTH: 10	GSW: 1	GSH: 2	G1SW: 1												
159	85	[61.18%]	84	[3.14%]	[6.29%]	[0.63%]	[1.26%]	[0.63%]												
10	Saint Liam (2000) by Saint Ballado FYR: 2007 (1 Crops), Stands: Dead/Retired/Exported (USA)	Earnings: \$3,349,612 AE/R: \$47,851																		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NmdFls</td> <td>Rnrs</td> <td>Wnrs: 46</td> <td>Wins</td> <td>BTW: 4</td> <td>BTH: 10</td> <td>GSW: 3</td> <td>GSH: 4</td> <td>G1SW: 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90</td> <td>70</td> <td>[65.71%]</td> <td>77</td> <td>[4.44%]</td> <td>[11.11%]</td> <td>[3.33%]</td> <td>[4.44%]</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 46	Wins	BTW: 4	BTH: 10	GSW: 3	GSH: 4	G1SW: 0	90	70	[65.71%]	77	[4.44%]	[11.11%]	[3.33%]	[4.44%]		
NmdFls	Rnrs	Wnrs: 46	Wins	BTW: 4	BTH: 10	GSW: 3	GSH: 4	G1SW: 0												
90	70	[65.71%]	77	[4.44%]	[11.11%]	[3.33%]	[4.44%]													



NORTH AMERICA



EAST

Yesterday's Results:

SOUTHAMPTON S., \$75,000, PHA, 12-21, 2yo, 6f, 1:09 3/5, ft.

1--**ROYAL CURRIER**, 120, g, 2, by **Red Bullet**

1st Dam: Top of the League, by Lite the Fuse

2nd Dam: League of her own, by Seattle Slew

3rd Dam: Triple Strike, by Secretariat

(\$5,500 2yo '10 ADNAPR). O-Mat Stables; B-Adena Springs (FL); T-Patricia Farro; J-Stewart Elliott; \$44,000. Lifetime Record: 6-4-2-0, \$138,150.

Another winner bred and raised with the **ADENA ADVANTAGE** Put it to work for you! www.AdenaStallions.com

2--**Fort Hughes**, 116, c, 2, **Henny Hughes**--Forty Greeta (Arg), by Roar. O-Darley Stable. \$15,000.

3--**Sky Wars**, 114, c, 2, **Sky Mesa**--Kiss Me Twice, by Kissin Kris. (\$9,000 RNA yrl '09 KEESEP). O-Premier Stables Unlimited & TAG Stables. \$8,475.

Margins: HD, 2 3/4, 2HF. Odds: 3.00, 0.40, 8.50.

Royal Currier led nearly every step in his career debut, a \$35,000 maiden claimer at Monmouth July 2, but was caught near the wire and settled for second. Trainer Wesley Ward dropped him in for \$20,000 next time at the Oceanport oval Sept. 6, and the Florida-bred scored by 6 1/4 lengths, and was claimed by his current connections. He promptly captured an optional claimer at Delaware 16 days later, then returned to Monmouth and finished second in a starter allowance Oct. 9. Sent to Belmont, the gelding wired his foes in the Grey Planet S. on Halloween, but was the second choice here to **★ "TDN Rising Star" ★** Fort Hughes. Royal Currier was forwardly placed while three wide, and made his move for the lead with the chalk to his outside. He dug in gamely and fended off Fort Hughes to secure his second straight stakes success. [Click for the brisnet.com chart.](#) [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)



Royal Currier fends off Fort Hughes *EquiPhoto*

Eclipse Award winner at 2

1st **Cashcall Futurity Stakes-G1** becoming the first North American two-year-old male in 22 years to win three grade 1 stakes.

1st **Norfolk Stakes-G1**

1st **Del Mar Futurity-G1**

1st **Best Pal Stakes-G2**

1st MSW over 6 furlongs first out at Hollywood Park on **July 11** despite being a **May 27** foal.

2nd **Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1** beaten a head despite breaking from the 13 post.

Sold for \$475,000 at Keeneland's April 2YO in training sale after working an eighth in :10 flat.

“right off the bat he showed me he was super special”



Bob Baffert

Lookin At Lucky **NEW FOR 2011**

5 time Grade 1 winner by **SMART STRIKE**

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East Report cont.

BRANDYWINE S., \$72,810, PHA, 12-21, 2yo, f, 6f, 1:09 3/5, ft.

1--#**ALEXANDRA RYLEE**, 118, f, 2, by [Afleet Alex](#)

1st Dam: Sira, by Capote

2nd Dam: Sigrun, by Crafty Prospector

3rd Dam: April Dawn Marie, by Baldski

O-Cash is King LLC; B-Roll Z Dice Stable 1 (PA); T-Robert E Reid Jr; J-Frankie Pennington; \$44,300. Lifetime Record: 4-3-0-0, \$111,320. *13th SW for sophomore sire (by Northern Afleet).

2--**Coax Liberty**, 116, f, 2, [Successful Appeal](#)--Chelsie's House, by Housebuster. (\$30,000 wlng '08 KEENOV; \$80,000 yrl '09 FTKJUL; \$60,000 2yo '10 OBSFEB). O-Copper Penny Stables. \$15,100.

Another **IBS** and Partners Pinhook Success

Bought & Sold by **GLENCREST FARM**

3--**Doing Great**, 120, f, 2, Great Notion--What Do I Do, by Two Smart. O-R Larry Johnson. \$8,530.

Margins: 4HF, 3 1/4, 5HF. Odds: 2.10, 0.70, 3.90.

Alexandra Rylee led every step when unveiled at Saratoga on the GI Travers S. undercard, and added a four-length tally in a Pennsylvania-bred allowance over this track and trip Oct. 18. Her perfect record came to an end when she faltered as the 3-5 chalk in a local open allowance Nov. 12 and wound up a distant fourth behind Coax Liberty. Sent off as the second choice to that filly this time, the bay



EquiPhoto

broke from the rail and held her ground heading into the turn. She turned for home with the lead and drew off to a decisive score. [Click for the brisnet.com chart.](#) [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

3rd-PEN, \$31,000, Msw, 2yo, f, 6f, 1:13 1/5, ft.

+ **DA BOWS** (f, 2, **Dehere--Roses N Bows**, by Roar), off at 9-5 in her career opener, held on gamely to get the job done. Rated off the pace down the backstretch, she rangled up outside the leaders on the far turn, took over at the top of the lane and held off the late charge of Luciana (Lion Hearted) by a nose. Sales history: \$19,000 yrl '09 OBSAUG. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$18,600. [Click for the brisnet.com chart.](#)

O/T-R L Beattie Jr. B-Sez Who T'breds & A Yagoda (NY)

Xchanger to O'Sullivan Farms in West Virginia:

Domenico Zannino's multiple graded stakes winner **Xchanger** (Exchange Rate--Saragoza, by Crafty Prospector) will stand the 2011 season at O'Sullivan Farms in Charles Town, West Virginia. Winner of the Gill Sapling S. in 2006 and Gill Barbaro S. in 2007, the grey entered stud in 2009 at Florida's Rising Hill Farm. He will stand for \$1,500 live foal in 2011.

Classic winner at 3

1st **Preakness Stakes-G1**

1st **Haskell Invitational Stakes-G1** by 4 lengths

1st **Rebel Stakes-G2**

1st **Indiana Derby-G2**

Blood-Horse

International Thoroughbred Breeding and Racing

August 7, 2010/No. 32

Lookin Good



LOOKIN AT LUCKY DOMINATES FOES IN THE HASKELL

Lookin At Lucky



PRESS PLAY

5 time Grade 1 winner by **SMART STRIKE**

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NEW YORK

NYRA to Have 250 Live Racing Dates in 2011:

The New York State Racing and Wagering Board has approved 250 days of live racing at the New York Racing Association's three tracks in 2011, according to *Daily Racing Form*. There were 253 days of live racing on the 2010 calendar. Belmont will have two fewer Wednesday cards during its spring meeting, and there will be one less card at the Aqueduct winter meet. Saratoga is slated to have a 40-day meeting in 2011, and will have two Friday cards that kick off at 2:30 p.m.



First-crop starters to watch: Wednesday, December 22

*Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2007 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*

CONGRATS (A.P. Indy), Vinery Ltd., \$13K, 108/24/3

8-CRC, Alw, 6 1/2f, The Marikutana, \$37K OBS AUG yrl, 4-1

OSIDY (Storm Cat), Elite Thoroughbreds, \$4K, 34/6/0

8-FG, Msw, 1m, Storm Osidy, \$3K LOU OCT yrl, 12-1

• ON THE WORKTAB •

AQUEDUCT

I WANT REVENGE (Stephen Got Even), 5f, 1:00.70, 1/1

FAIR GROUNDS

APART (Flatter), 4f, :50.80, 19/28

WORKIN FOR HOPS (City Zip), 3f, :37.00, 6/9

FAIR HILL

REASON TO DRINK (Milwaukee Brew), 4f, :48.80, 1/1

GULFSTREAM

FIRST DUDE (Stephen Got Even), 4f, :50.50, 33/42

PALM MEADOWS

SOVEREIGN DEFAULT (Northern Afleet), 4f (g) :48.70, 6/28

PAYSON PARK

BATTLE OF HASTINGS (GB) (Royal Applause {GB}), 5f, 1:02, 1/3



REMINDER:
 Due to the Christmas holiday, the TDN office will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 and Saturday, Dec. 25.
There will be NO newsletter for Sat., Dec. 25 or Sun., Dec. 26.
 All news and results from Dec. 24 and 25 will appear in the Dec. 27 issue.
Have a wonderful holiday!

LOOKIN AT LUCKY
 Bay Colt, Foaled 27 May 2007

LOOKIN AT LUCKY Smart Strike Private Feeling (1999)	Mr. Prospector Classy 'n Smart Belong to Me Regal Feeling	Raise a Native Gold Digger Smarten No Class Danzig Belonging Clever Trick Sharp Belle
---	--	--

By SMART STRIKE (1992), Black-type winner of \$337,376, Philip H. Iselin H. [G1], etc. Leading sire twice, sire of 11 crops of racing age, 894 foals, 689 starters, 71 black-type winners, 10 champions, 513 winners of 1582 races and earning \$79,465,679, including Curlin (\$10,501,800, Preakness S. [G1]), English Channel [G1] (\$5,319,028), Lookin At Lucky [G1] (\$3,307,278), Soaring Free [G1] (\$2,110,371).

1st dam
PRIVATE FEELING, by Belong to Me, 2 wins at 3, \$18,245. Dam of 2 winners--
LOOKIN AT LUCKY (c. by Smart Strike). Champion, see record.
KENSEI (c. by Mr. Greeley), 4 wins at 2 and 3, placed at 4, 2010, \$581,159, Jim Dandy S. [G2] (SAR \$300,000), Dwyer S. [G2] (BEL, \$120,000), 2nd Derby Trial S. [G3] (CD), 3rd Woody Stephens S. [G2] (BEL), Jerome H. [G2] (BEL).

2nd dam
Regal Feeling, by Clever Trick, Winner at 2 and 4, \$50,435, 2nd Bay Meadows Lassie S. [L] (BM, \$10,000), Dam of 8 other winners, including--
GRAND CHARMER (f. by Lord Avie), 6 wins, \$210,087, Pucker Up S. [G3], Susanna Dickerson S.-R (HOU, \$15,000), 2nd Palisades S. [L] (KEE), etc. Granddam of **WAIT A WHILE** (f. by Maria's Mon, \$2,181,917, **champion** 3-year-old filly, American Oaks Invitational S. [G1] (HOL, \$450,000), Yellow Ribbon S. [G1] (OSA, \$240,000) twice, Ballston Spa H. [G2] (SAR, \$120,000) twice, Davona Dale S. [G2] (GP, \$90,000), Lake Placid S. [G2] (SAR, \$90,000), San Gorgonio H. [G2] (SA, \$90,000), etc.).
Get Smarter (g. by Smart Strike), Winner at 2 and 3, \$66,450, 2nd Hallandale Beach S. [L].

3rd dam
SHARP BELLE, by Native Charger, 10 wins, 2 to 4, \$151,690, Monmouth Oaks-G1, etc. Half-sister to **SUE BABE**, **NORTHERN PROSPECT**. Dam of--
Robert Le Diable, Winner at 3, \$65,653, in France, 2nd Prix Michel Houyvet, Prix Frederic de Lagrange, etc. (Total: \$64,504).
 Other black-type-placed winners: **Regal Feeling** (above), **Lady Chatterley**.

RACE RECORD: At 2, **champion 2-year-old colt**, 5 wins (CashCall Futurity [G1] (HOL, \$400,000), Del Mar Futurity [G1] (DMR, \$180,000), Norfolk S. [G1] (OSA, \$180,000), Best Pal S. [G2] (DMR, \$90,000)), once 2nd [G1] (OSA, \$180,000), in 6 starts; at 3, 2010, four wins (Breeders' Cup Juvenile [G1] (OSA)) in 6 starts; at 3, 2010, four wins (Preakness S. [G1] (PIM, \$600,000), Haskell Invitational S. [G1] (MTH, \$600,000), Indiana Derby [G2] (HOO, \$294,278), Rebel S. [G2] (OP, \$180,000)), once 3rd (Santa Anita Derby [G1] (SA)) in 7 starts. Totals: 9 wins, once 2nd, once 3rd in 13 starts. Earned \$3,307,278.



“Lookin At Lucky is the most striking of individuals and he is without doubt the best stallion prospect I saw in America all year”
Demi O'Byrne

Lookin At Lucky

Fee: \$35,000

5 time Grade 1 winner by **SMART STRIKE**

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**LEADING SIRES BY 2010 NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
GRADE/GROUP 1 WINNERS (through Dec. 21)
standing in U.S. and Europe**

<u>Stallion</u>	<u>Sire</u>	<u>G1 Winners</u>
Galileo (Ire)	Sadler's Wells	7
Oasis Dream (GB)	Green Desert	4
Candy Ride (Arg)	Ride the Rails	3
Dansili (GB)	Danehill	3
Giant's Causeway	Storm Cat	3
Malibu Moon	A.P. Indy	3
Marju (Ire)	Last Tycoon (Ire)	3
Medaglia d'Oro	El Prado (Ire)	3
Montjeu (Ire)	Sadler's Wells	3
Speightstown	Gone West	3
Street Cry (Ire)	Machiavellian	3
Unusual Heat	Nureyev	3
Anabaa	Danzig	2
A.P. Indy	Seattle Slew	2
Bernardini	A.P. Indy	2
Congrats	A.P. Indy	2
Danehill Dancer (Ire)	Danehill	2
Distorted Humor	Forty Niner	2
Dubawi (Ire)	Dubai Millennium (GB)	2
Dynaformer	Roberto	2
King's Best	Kingmambo	2
Lion Heart	Tale of the Cat	2
Noverre	Rahy	2
Pivotal (GB)	Polar Falcon	2
Shamardal	Giant's Causeway	2
Singspiel (Ire)	In the Wings (GB)	2
Victory Gallop	Cryptoclearance	2

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The **brisnet.com** 'Race of the Day' is the 6th Race, \$39,000 Allowance, at Fair Grounds. For pps and a complete race analysis, click [here](#).

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Track</u>
Dec. 26	G1 La Brea S.	SA
	G1 Malibu S.	SA
	GII Sir Beaufort S.	SA
Dec. 27	GII San Gabriel S.	SA
Jan. 1	GII Robert J. Frankel S.	SA
	GIII Daytona H.	SA
	GIII Stage Door Betty H.	CRC
	GIII Tropical Park Derby	CRC
Jan. 2	GIII La Prevoyante H.	CRC
	GIII Monrovia H.	SA
Jan. 5	GIII Old Hat S.	GP
Jan. 8	GII San Pasqual S.	SA
	GIII Hal's Hope S.	GP

TALE OF EKATI
NEW FOR 2011

Tale of the Cat - Silence Beauty (Jpn),
by Sunday Silence • Fee: \$15,000 S&N

Stamped himself as a leading 2yo after
defeating champion Kodiak Kowboy
in the Futurity S. (G2).

DARBY DAN
COM



BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-PHA, \$47,600, NW1X, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10, ft.
HOLYFIELD (c, 3, Blazonry--Will Be a Bates, by Bates Motel) Lifetime Record: 8-2-4-2, \$112,370.
 O-Mercedes Stables LLC. B-Fergus Galvin (KY).
 T-Anthony W Dutrow. *\$30,000 wlng '07 KEENOV;
 \$140,000 yrl '08 FTKJUL.

Hip 247 - 1/2-sis by Bluegrass Cat sells KeeJan with Hunter Valley

5th-SUN, \$30,000, NW1X, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 3/5, ft.
FOREST PASSAGE (g, 3, Forestry--Pass Me the Salt {SW}, by Salt Lake) Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-0, \$39,488.
 O-Pierre Jean & Leslie A Amestoy. B-Stonewall Farm Stallions (KY). T-Andres Gonzalez. *\$170,000 wlng '07 KEENOV; \$120,000 RNA yrl '08 KEESEP; \$80,000 RNA yrl '08 FTKOCT.

8th-MNR, \$23,000, 12-20, NW3L, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11, gd.

CHIEF COMPLAINT (g, 3, Fusaichi Pegasus--Arbor, by Forestry) Lifetime Record: 10-3-1-0, \$51,767.
 O-Beechwood Racing Stable LLC. B-Farfellow Farms Ltd (KY). T-Louis V Ruberto Jr. *\$45,000 yrl '08 KEESEP; \$45,000 2yo '09 OBSAPR.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ **Lady Graystone, f, 2, Quarry--Quick Interview, by Private Interview.** PEN, 12-20, (S), 6f, 1:13 3/5.
 B-Tea Party Stable Inc (PA).

BREEDERS' EDITION EUROPE

MAIDEN WINNERS:

So Is She (Ire), f, 2, Kheleyf--River Beau (Ire), by Galileo (Ire). Southwell, Britain, 12-21, Mdn, 2yo, 7f (AWT).
 B-Bayview Properties Ltd. *€5,000 wnlng '08 GOFNOV; £10,000 yrl '09 DONAUG.

Titus Bere (Fr), g, 3, Della Francesca--Leginit, by Dehere. Deauville, France, 12-21, Cond, 3yo, c/g, 1 3/16m (AWT). B-SNC Regnier & San Gabriel Investments Inc. *€38,000 yrl '08 ARQAUG.

Casa Ingrid (Fr), f, 3, Singspiel (Ire)--Nigrita (Ger) (SW-Ger), by Lichine. Deauville, France, 12-21, Cond, 3yo, f, 1 3/16m (AWT). B-A Tordjman. *€110,000 yrl '08 ARQAUG. **1/2 to Nicaragua (Ger) (Acatenango {Ger}), SW & GSP-Ger; Tulipe Royale (Fr) (Java Gold), G1SP-Fr, \$128,381.

LOOKING TO GET MORE RUN FOR YOUR MONEY?

NORDIC TRUCE (G3/NTR)



18 Stakes Horses in 2010, including 8 2YOs

Will soon hit the \$5-million mark for progeny earnings for the fourth consecutive year!

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\$15,000 payable when foal stands and nurses

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Retiring a Champion or Graded Stakes Winning-mare and want to let us know who she's being covered by and where she's being boarded?

Email the following information to editor@thoroughbreddailynews.com and we'll include it in our new "First Dates" section. Please include the 2011 covering sire, the mare owner, and the farm where she's being boarded, and reference "First Dates" in the subject line of the email.

BLACK-TYPE STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22:

01-05 \$100,000 *Old Hat-III, GP, 3yo, f, 6f (0)*

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23:

01-01 \$150,000 *Robert J Frankel-II, SA, 4yo/up, f/m, 9fT (225)*

www.stakesdigestweekly.com

