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FEATURE PRESENTATION • GI HASKELL INVITATIONAL

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STEALCASE JOINS HASKELL FRAY

Multiple graded stakes placed **Stealcas** (Lawyer Ron) has been added to the list of contenders for Sunday's GI Haskell Invitational at Monmouth Park after impressing trainer Mark Casse with his most recent work at Saratoga. The John Oxley runner worked five furlongs at the Spa Sunday in 1:01.92. "He breezed so well at Saratoga yesterday that afterward we decided we'll be there," Casse confirmed Monday. Sixth in the GIII Gotham S. and fifth in the GIII Spiral S., Stealcas was third over a sloppy track in the Apr. 28 GIII Derby Trial. He was most recently second in the June 16 GIII Matt Winn S. "Last out he got into all kinds of trouble and still finished second," Casse said of his charge's Matt Winn effort. "With the tough trip he had, I don't even know how he managed to get second." Shaun Bridgmohan has the mount on Stealcas.

Likely Haskell favorite **Paynter** (Awesome Again), coming off a runner-up effort in the June 9 GI Belmont S., worked six furlongs in a bullet 1:11.80 at Del Mar Monday. The Bob Baffert trainee worked in company with **Liaison** (Indian Charlie), who is



Paynter

Benoit

expected to start in Saturday's GII Jim Dandy S. Liaison was credited with a work time of 1:12.40. Haskell hopeful **Nonios** (Pleasantly Perfect) also worked six furlongs at Del Mar yesterday, covering the distance in 1:15 with jockey Corey Nakatani in the irons for trainer Jerry Hollendorfer. Both Zayat Stable's Paynter and G.B. Smith Jr.'s Nonios are expected to ship from Southern California Thursday.

DEL MAR, SPA WAGERING UP OPENING WEEK

Del Mar reported strong numbers for its 2012 opening week, with on-track handle up 8% from a year ago. Daily average on-track handle for race days from Wednesday through Sunday was \$2,649,568. Southern California ITW and ADW handle was up 2.4% at an average of \$3,623,918. Out-of-state handle rose 1.9% to \$5,470,061. Overall handle was up 2.4% to \$12,227,863. Despite setting a single-day attendance record of 47,339 on opening day, the average attendance fell 8.4% to 21,467 as compared to 2011.

Numbers were also up during the first week of racing at Saratoga. Attendance for the first four days of racing at the upstate New York track was 75,369--up 2% from 2011. On-track handle for the week totaled \$12,731,605, an increase of 14.2%. All-sources handle was up 12.3% to \$63,688,669.

QIPCO COMMITS TO CHAMPIONS SERIES

QIPCO Holding yesterday announced the completion of a new contract to extend its sponsorship of the British Champions Series and British Champions Day for a further five years. Upping the total purse of its feature meeting to £4 million from its current £3 million, the move guarantees the enhanced status of the new Champions Day with additional prize-money incentives for the card's three non-Group 1 races should they be upgraded by the European Pattern Committee. QIPCO also extends partnership rights for the Guineas Festival, the Sussex S. and British Champions Day. *Cont. p3*

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In This Issue

PEB's TDN Sketch of the Week



'LEG UP ANYONE?'

Peb's TDN Sketch of the Week is available on www.pebsite.com
Currently accepting commissions.

Andrew Caulfield

Andrew Caulfield examines the pedigree of Saturday's GI CCA Oaks winner Questing (GB) (Hard Spun) and discusses the early success of her young sire.

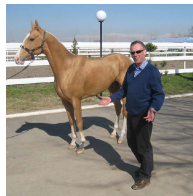
Coverage begins page 5



Questing
Horsephotos

From Uzbekistan . . .

BBA Ireland director Patrick Cooper reminisces about his recent trip to Uzbekistan.



TDN

THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

60 Broad St., Suite 100

Red Bank, NJ 07701

(732) 747-8060

(732) 747-8955 (fax)

www.thoroughbreddailynews.com

www.thetdn.com

Barry Weisbord, co-publisher

barryweisbord@thetdn.com

Sue Finley, co-publisher

suefinley@thoroughbreddailynews.com

Editorial

editor@thoroughbreddailynews.com

Jessica Martini, Editor-in-Chief

Alan Carasso, Managing Editor

Marie Kizenko, Senior Editor

Christina Bossinakis, Senior Editor

Lucas Marquardt, Features Editor

Steve Sherack, Racing Editor

Brian DiDonato, Racing Analyst/Soc. Media Dir.

Justina Severni, Assistant Editor

Advertising

advertising@thoroughbreddailynews.com

Alycia Borer, Director of Advertising

Lia Kusch, Senior Advertising Designer

Sarah K. Andrew, Adv Assistant/Distribution

Amanda Crelin, Advertising Assistant

Customer Service

customerservice@thoroughbreddailynews.com

Vicki Forbes, Director of Customer Service

Information Technology

Robert Williams, Director of IT

robertwilliams@thoroughbreddailynews.com

Gregg Casillo, DB Administrator, Programming

greggcasillo@thoroughbreddailynews.com

Marketing

Gary King, Marketing Manager

garyking@thoroughbreddailynews.com

TDN Newmarket Bureau: Cafe Racing

caferacing@aol.com

Sean Cronin

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Quipco Commits to Champion Series (*cont. from p1*)

"We believe that Britain hosts the world's best horseracing," Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani, Chief Executive of QIPCO Holding, said. "We respect and appreciate the heritage of the sport and we would like it to maintain its status as the most important and deep-rooted in the world. This new deal highlights our commitment to the sport in this country and our desire to make QIPCO British Champions Day the best day's Flat racing on the international calendar. We are still in the early stages of a journey which we hope will contribute to the overall well-being of top-level Flat racing in this country for many years to come, with the subsequent benefits filtering down to the industry as a whole. This objective complements our own expanding bloodstock and racing operation, in which we have made a very substantial, ongoing investment and which will continue to be based in the UK. The deal reflects the very positive experience that we have enjoyed with British Racing to date, and the pleasure we derive from our association with Britain's most famous and iconic race meetings such as the Guineas, Derby, Royal Ascot, Goodwood and York. We believe that the British Champions Series helps to signpost Britain's most important and prestigious races to a wider audience and are delighted that it has already contributed to a new broadcast deal for the sport starting in 2013."

Chris McFadden, Chairman of British Champions Series Limited, added, "This is fantastic news for British Horseracing. We are absolutely delighted with this new, long-term deal with QIPCO, which puts British Champions Series Limited on a firm financial footing and which will enable us to meet our commercial objectives. Our shareholders have made a huge financial investment in delivering the Series and the Day, but none of this would have been possible without QIPCO Holding. The Series is a partnership between QIPCO and British Racing and on behalf of everyone involved in the industry in this country, and in particular Newmarket and Goodwood who are thrilled to benefit from the long-term sponsorship of the Guineas Festival and Sussex S., I would like to thank Sheikh Hamad and his brothers for their fantastic ongoing support."

Rod Street, Chief Executive of British Champions Series, also commented, "It took considerable effort and sacrifice to get the concept of British Champions Series and British Champions Day off the ground and QIPCO's long-term commitment reflects the benefits of such innovation. Securing a major sponsor is part of virtuous circle of higher prize money, high quality horses, customer participation and broadcast coverage, all of which safeguards the status of British Flat racing, and a five-year deal gives us the time and resource to grow the Series and Day further. The inaugural QIPCO British Champions Day last October attracted six of the world's 10 highest-rated, active horses, something that no other raceday in the world could match last year, and it is vital that we increase prize money as much as possible going forwards to establish the day as a really serious player on the international stage."



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RACETRACK ROUND-UP

‘STAR’ SET FOR CONFIDENCE BOOST?

Trainer Hughie Morrison is considering dropping the G1 English and Irish Oaks runner-up **Shirocco Star (GB)** (Shirocco {Ger}) in class, with a possible run in the Listed Galtres S. mooted at York Aug. 23. Despite the presence of the G1 Yorkshire Oaks over the same 12-furlong trip featuring on that card, the Meon Valley Stud homebred looks likely to take the easier option if she has recovered from Sunday’s exertions in time. “She’s a Group 1 horse who’s just waiting to win a group race and on Sunday she beat the horses that beat her on the two previous occasions,” Morrison commented yesterday. “She will go on any ground, as she’s a very tough filly who tries. We could look at the Galtres, but it could come too quick--there are races around and I’m sure her time will come. Hopefully, if she stays in training next year she will be able to compete from anything at a mile and a quarter upwards. I wouldn’t be frightened to bring her back to a mile and a quarter.”

YORK TARGET FOR MAIN SEQUENCE

The Niarchos Family’s **Main Sequence** (Aldebaran) looks set to run in the Aug. 22 G2 Great Voltigeur S. at York, connections revealed yesterday. Runner-up in the G1 Epsom Derby June 2, the homebred was a luckless fourth in the G1 Grand Prix de Paris at Longchamp last Saturday and is set to prep for the G1 St Leger at Doncaster Sept. 15. “It is not set in stone yet, but we are looking at the Great Voltigeur and then the St Leger,” the owner-breeders’ Racing Manager Alan Cooper told *PA Sport*. “That is not definite yet, but [trainer] David [Lanigan] is very happy with the horse and he has come out of his last race well.”

Italian Hat Trick at Ascot

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July 25	GII Lake George S.	SAR
July 27	GIII Cougar II H.	DMR
July 28	GI Diana S.	SAR
	GII Jim Dandy S.	SAR
	GII San Diego H.	DMR
July 29	GI Haskell Invitational	MTH
	GI Bing Crosby S.	DMR
	GII Amsterdam S.	SAR
	GII Molly Pitcher H.	MTH
	GIII Matchmaker S.	MTH
	GIII Oceanport S.	MTH
	GIII Royal North S.	WO
	Wonder Where S.	WO

In Other News: A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Other Media
Where attention to detail is standard



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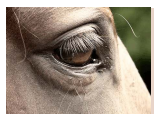
‘McGuinty Government Puts Horse Racing on March to Death
“Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to meet with hundreds of people involved with the Ontario horse racing industry. I have visited horse tracks from Windsor to Kawartha and from Fort Erie to Sudbury. One thing I have heard at every stop is that Dalton McGuinty and Liberal Finance Minister Dwight Duncan’s decision to end the successful slots-at-racetracks agreement marked the beginning of the end for Ontario’s horse racing industry and with it over 60,000 direct or indirect jobs (at a time when we already have 600,000 unemployed men and women here in Ontario).” **Guest Columnist Monte McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, Canada Free Press**

THE WEEK IN PHOTOS

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Millionaire Grade 1 winner Awesome Maria strikes a pose on the scenic Saratoga backside. PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR A SLIDESHOW OF THE WEEK IN PHOTOS



PEDIGREE INSIGHTS

BY ANDREW CAULFIELD

TVG COACHING CLUB AMERICAN OAKS-GI,
\$300,000, SAR, 7-21, 3yo, f, 1 1/8m, 1:50 1/5, ft.

1--#**Q**QUESTING (GB), 121, f, 3, by [Hard Spun](#)

1st Dam: Cherchouse (MSW-Fr & SP-US,
\$109,044), by Seeking the Gold

2nd Dam: Sassy Bird, by Storm Bird

3rd Dam: Tash, by Never Bend

O-Godolphin Racing LLC; B-Darley (GB); T-Kiaran P
McLaughlin; J-Irad Ortiz Jr; \$180,000. Lifetime
Record: MGSP-Eng, 8-3-1-1, \$314,874. [Click for the](#)

[eNicks report & 5-cross pedigree.](#) Werk Nick Rating:

D+. [Click for the brisnet.com chart,](#) the [brisnet.com](#)

[PPs](#) or the [free brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree.](#)

[Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales.](#)

There was a nice link between two of the weekend's big-race results. Saturday's GI Coaching Club American Oaks fell to Questing, a filly sired by Danzig's son Hard Spun from a Seeking the Gold mare. A day later, the G2 Prix Robert Papin--a race whose roll of honor includes such luminaries as Blushing Groom and Arazi--fell to the unbeaten Reckless Abandon, whose sire, Exchange Rate, was Danzig's best winner out of a Seeking the Gold mare.

Altogether it was a fine weekend for Hard Spun, as the Darley resident supplied the exacta in the CCA Oaks, with Zo Impressive chasing home Questing. Another first-crop daughter, Filare l'Oro, failed by only half a length to land the GIII Virginia Oaks, while over in France yet another daughter, Spellwork, failed by the same small margin to win the Prix Madame Jean Couturie. Spellwork is another of Hard Spun's four first-crop foals out of Seeking the Gold mares. *Cont. p6*

QUESTING (GB), c, 2009

Hard Spun	Danzig	Northern Dancer	Nearctic
		Pas de Nom	Natalma
	Turkish Tryst	Turkoman	Admiral's Voyage
		Darbyvail	Petitioner
Cherchouse MSW-Fr, 19-5-1-2 6Fls, 1GSW	Seeking the Gold	Mr. Prospector	Alydar
		Con Game	Taba (Arg)
	Sassy Bird 2-0-0-1 11Fls, 2SW	Storm Bird	Roberto
		Tash 16Fls, 2GSW, 2SW	Luiana
			Raise a Native
			Gold Digger
		Buckpasser	
		Broadway	
		Northern Dancer	
		South Ocean	
		Never Bend	
		Natashka	

5 stallions sired Stakes winners since Saturday...

STALLION	RACEHORSE	RACE
DYLAN THOMAS	Tannery	Kilboy Estate S.-Gr.3
DYLAN THOMAS	Chutney Flight	Prix Madame Jean Couturie-L.R.
EXCELLENT ART	Hazel Lavery	Aphrodite S.-L.R.
EXCELLENT ART	Sparkling Portrait	Glasgow S.-L.R. (19th July)
GALILEO	Great Heavens	Irish Oaks-Gr.1
HIGH CHAPARRAL	Toronado (2yo)	Winkfield S.-L.R.
ORATORIO	Takar	Minstrel S.-Gr.3

Great Heavens (Galileo) after she won the Irish Oaks-Gr.1 for owner/breeder Lady Rothschild and trainer John Gosden



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Zo Impressive, of course, had earlier followed up her second in the GI Acorn S. with victory in the GI Mother Goose S., so Hard Spun has exerted a powerful and impressive influence on the New York Triple Tiara.

I have to admit that I wasn't certain that Hard Spun had what it takes to make a top flight stallion. There were no major worries on the score of conformation, especially as his sound constitution had allowed him to race 13 times. And there was much to admire about his racing record, which had seen him show encouraging precocity for a big horse. After an unbeaten juvenile career, he survived a thorough testing at three, when he demonstrated considerable class, consistency and versatility. In addition to winning graded races over seven, eight and nine furlongs, he was also second over a mile and a quarter in the GI Kentucky Derby and GI Breeders' Cup Classic.

On the World Thoroughbred Racehorse Rankings, Hard Spun was rated the best American 3-year-old sprinter, with a figure of 120 (just one pound below the best older sprinter, Midnight Lute), and he was rated 122 in both the Mile and Intermediate categories. This made him the fifth-best American 3-year-old behind Curlin (129), Street Sense (126), Any Given Saturday (124) and Rags To Riches (123).

My main concern about Hard Spun stemmed from the fact that his broodmare sire was Turkoman--the most likely source of Hard Spun's height of 16.2. There was no doubting Turkoman's ability as a racehorse, as he had ended 1986 as champion older male, but this son of Alydar had struggled significantly as a stallion. From more than 700 foals, he managed to sire only a handful of graded stakes winners, the best of them being the Grade I turf performers Turk Passer and Man From Wicklow.

Turkoman's broodmare daughters have proved more effective, their first Grade I winner being Point Given. This big horse may have been one helluva racehorse, but his record as a stallion is ordinary, especially given the opportunities he initially received. So would Hard Spun fare any better, I wondered? To be fair to Hard Spun, as a son of Danzig, he is by a far better stallion than Point Given's sire Thunder Gulch.

He comes from a much stronger female line, too. His third dam Luiana is best known as the dam of Little Current, winner of the GI Preakness and GI Belmont in 1974, and she was also a half-sister to that exceptional brother-and-sister team of Chateaugay (Kentucky Derby and Belmont S.) and Primonetta (champion older female of 1962 and Broodmare of the Year in 1978).

It certainly looks as though I shouldn't have worried. Hard Spun has stolen the limelight from his fellow Darley debutants of 2008, including Street Sense, Discreet Cat and Any Given Saturday. Twenty-two members of his substantial first crop have so far earned black-type. In addition to his Grade I winners Questing and Zo Impressive, he has enjoyed group/graded success with Red Duke and Hierro. His daughter Hard Not to Like was a good second in the GI Ashland S. in April to become one of 10 Hard Spuns which have so far been placed at graded level.

By the way, am I the only person who finds it sad that the distance of the CCA Oaks has been cut back to a mile and an eighth for the last three years? It was contested over a mile and a half as recently as 2003 and the gradual reduction of its distance leaves the Alabama S. as the only Grade I dirt race for 3-year-old fillies over a distance as long as a mile and a quarter. You now have a New York Fillies' Triple Tiara in which the second leg is only 110 yards longer than the first and the third is only 110 yards longer than the second. If a mile and a quarter is now really too far for the majority of America's leading 3-year-old fillies, you may have part of the answer as to why international buyers have become increasingly lukewarm about the American Thoroughbred.

Had the CCA Oaks still been over a mile and a quarter, I doubt the extra distance would have troubled Questing. Hard Spun stayed the distance well enough and his grandsires Northern Dancer and Turkoman were both major mile-and-a-quarter winners. Questing's broodmare sire Seeking the Gold was another Grade I winner over a mile and a quarter, in the Super Derby, and, like Hard Spun, was runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Classic.

Cont. p7

Fasig-Tipton Four in Graded Stakes-Fest!

Saturday, July 21

SILVER MAX...G2 Virginia Derby...Fasig-Tipton Yearling

VOLCAT...G3 Virginia Oaks...Fasig-Tipton Yearling

Sunday, July 22

RIDING THE RIVER...G2 Nijinsky Stakes...Fasig-Tipton Yearling

EDEN'S MOON...G2 San Clemente...Fasig-Tipton 2-y-o

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That said, Questing's dam Chercheuse was tried unsuccessfully over a mile and a quarter in France before turning to sprinting. She won listed races over six and seven furlongs. Chercheuse's dam Sassy Bird was a sister to Mukaddamah, a high-class miler.

Questing's third dam Tash is also the third dam of that tough and talented filly Switch, who recently added the GII A Gleam H. to two Grade I wins over seven furlongs. The GI Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Anees is another of the Grade I winners descending from Questing's fourth dam Natashka. This champion 3-year-old filly won the Alabama S. over a mile and a quarter, as did Questing's fifth dam Vagrancy. So if Questing turns out for the Alabama on Aug. 18, history suggests she will take a lot of beating.



WRITERS UP

UZBEKISTAN OR BUST

By Patrick Cooper

Sitting in a pub in Dublin on the way to a rugby match, I had a conversation with a lady who has spent most of her working life in the former Soviet Bloc. "You are going where?"

"Uzbekistan." "Oh God. I have always wanted to go there, but my husband says it is too dangerous." Not exactly a ringing endorsement to a man with a ticket booked.

I had been invited to visit Uzbekistan by Avaz Ismoilov, who is the Uzbek vice president of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) and the man behind the building of the new racecourse in Tashkent.



Avaz Ismoilov in front of the stables under construction on the new racecourse in Tashkent.

He was in Ireland last year and asked me to visit him in Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. So as I was due to visit Kazakhstan in March, I thought, 'why not?' Now,

I do know Kazakhstan reasonably well, having been there four times. So in March this year, accompanied by my Kazakh friend and agent, Akhat Razak, off I set with some trepidation.

Uzbekistan is the country on the Northern border of Afghanistan and has Kazakhstan to the East and North, and other 'stans' dotted on the west side.

Cont. p8

Sire of **Zenyatta** and **Street Sense** plus, this season, **Princess Highway**, the best middle-distance three-year-old among European fillies, and **Hong Kong G1** winner **Zaidan** and **G1 Royal Ascot colt** **Carlton House**.

A Street Cry named desire



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Right: let's get the politics out of the way. Uzbekistan is a police state. They are everywhere, so it would be a difficult one to argue over. The President is called Islam Karimov. He looks a gentle soul in his bespoke suits and friendly smile. Unfortunately he developed a bit of a reputation after two radical Islamists were reputedly boiled alive.

The British Ambassador was sacked in 2002 after questioning his country's links with the Karimov regime. Human rights would not be high on the agenda, but the local people I spoke with were at pains to remind us of the chaos across the border in Afghanistan. Karimov provides stability to get on with making a living. Not an endorsement, but an understanding of how real politics works both in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.



Akhat Razak, Kazakh representative of BBA Ireland in Central Asia.

Uzbekistan has been an ally of the U.S. in its 'War on Terror,' and I did notice in the museum in Tashkent, the two most prominent photographs of Mr. Karimov were with those pre-eminent American warlords of the last 50 years, George W. Bush and Henry Kissinger.

"Akhat, how do we get there?"

"Uzbek Air" was the reply. Looking at the slightly strained look on my face, he burst out laughing and said, "Patrick, remember, I have flown Ryanair." So, Uzbek Airways picked us up in Almaty (largest city and former capital of Kazakhstan) in a fairly new Airbus and with some very polite flight attendants took us comfortably to Tashkent.

Flying over Tashkent revealed a very large urban sprawl. It is a city of three million and as it is built in a high-risk earthquake area. There are no high-rise buildings over about 20 floors and precious few of them.

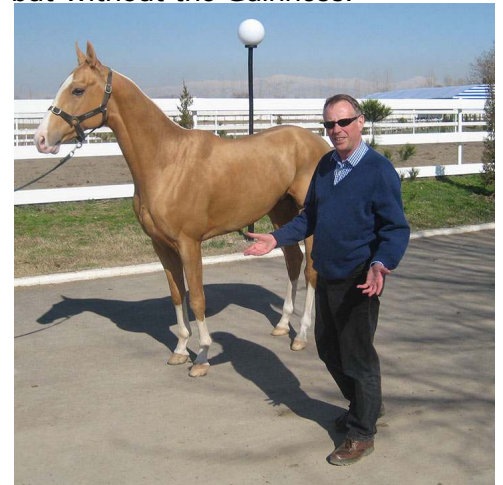
Landing in Tashkent, I was separated from Akhat and joined a queue in an area furnished like a suburban bungalow while a stern young man in a military uniform and a hat too big for him checked our passports. A problem, no visa. But I assured him I was told I did not need one. "Sit there." I was guided to a comfortable leather sofa. A wait of 20 minutes ensued while I chatted to a friendly customs officer before another man with plenty of forms and a demand for \$70 arrived and I was through.

Avaz came himself to pick us up and he drove us the short journey down Tashkent's wide boulevards to a business hotel that occupied two stories of an office block. There was none of the noise and bustle you would associate with modern cities. Traffic jams have not reached Tashkent yet. Our hotel overlooked the Presidential Palace (a low-slung version of the White House) and the Parliament buildings. The architecture is very modern and, apart from the central square, which has a university, the city centre has the all the appeal of a Boca Raton shopping mall.

It was a holiday weekend in Uzbekistan, the beginning of Spring and the start of their New Year. We retired to a rather sterile dining area to sip tea and watch the country celebrate on television.

President Karimov was in a stadium that we could see from our window, watching traditional dancing and folk music. He was sitting in seats looking benevolent and even got up for a twirl or two which was the signal for everyone in the stadium to do likewise. The foreign dignitaries did not seem to be entering in to the spirit of it. I suspect attendance was probably not entirely voluntary. The television showed a dozen or so of these events around the country. Think St Patrick's Day in Ireland circa 1951, but without the Guinness.

Next up, we were headed to Avaz's main stables located just outside the city. Avaz loves his horses. He is Chairman of the Association which runs the local breed called the Akhal-Teke. I would describe them as the Siamese cats of the equine world. They are the local endurance horses and are judged by



The author with an Akhal-Teke yearling at Avaz's farm

the hue and colour of their coats. The ones with a golden colour are much prized. Extremely light on their feet, with long necks and lithe bodies, they are very elegant breed. Think Stubbs painting.

Avaz has three American barns which hold everything from Thoroughbred mares and foals to Akhal-Teke stallions. Outside there is a floodlit 10-furlong sand gallop/racecourse. As the temperatures reach 50 degrees celsius in the summer, training takes place in darkness.

A sumptuous picnic was laid out and we spent three very pleasant hours as all the stock were brought out and inspected by Avaz with his trainers and grooms. Like all great enthusiasts of things Equine, time was of no import to Avaz as he debated and discussed his horses.

Dropped back into the city, there was time out for a bit of a stroll. Arming myself with the identity card you are issued by the hotel (twice I was asked to produce it by young men in black leather jackets), off I set. Tashkent prides itself on its parks and fountains. The fountains are of the dancing variety, in tune to the local folk music. Gathered around one, I counted 21 citizens on a family night out, carefully watched by 16 members of the local constabulary. **Cont. p9**



It is all a little eerily quiet. Thoughts of 1984 keep swirling around in the brain. You cannot approach any of the official buildings. Stern-looking men in uniforms whistle and cross their arms in front of their chests. Best to keep moving. Interestingly, for such vast open spaces, there are no bicycles. Not macho enough for the locals, apparently.

Back in the hotel I decide to test the internet. Very surprisingly, there does not seem to be any censorship. Google 'Amnesty International' and up it comes. I try all the obvious sites for criticism of the regime and none seem to be blocked.

This is also the cleanest country I have ever been to. There is no litter. Even driving through the vast Soviet-era housing projects that surround the city, there are potholes and scenes of poverty and dilapidation, but no litter.

The local currency is the Som. Officially the rate is 1000 Som to roughly 50 cents. Who knows what the real on the street rate is. So when I asked Avaz where I changed money, he handed me a wedge of notes that would not be out of place in Zimbabwe or the Weimar Republic.



Counting money in downtown Tashkent. We were stopped from taking any more photos.

All shops have money-counting machines. I bought a bottle of Georgian (country not state) plonk in the local supermarket. I needed 69 1000-som notes to complete the transaction. A wheelbarrow would be required in the Hugo Boss shop next door. (Yes, all the major luxury bands are represented on the up-market streets.)

The following morning, we are off to Samarkand. For those of you who have never heard of Samarkand, google it. It was the most important city on the great Silk Road. Founded well over 3,000 years ago, it was the home of the great Mongol Empire of Timur (Tamburlane). It was a centre of great learning and the 15th century university is one of the truly great historical edifices.

We leave early in the morning to catch the train. Samarkand is two hours southeast of Tashkent, about 250 miles from the Northern Afghan border. To get on the train, we go through four passport checks and we are not even crossing a border. We are travelling first class and without doubt, the 10-seater first class is the smartest I have ever been on. (No surprise to hear that Mr. Karimov is from Samarkand.) One last check as two smartly dressed fit-looking men in sharp suits give us a once over, and we are off.

We get chatting to a man sitting opposite who is bringing his grandson home. The countryside is dull and flat. We are in cotton country.

This is home to one of the great ecological disasters of all time. The Aral Sea has been emptied to water the cotton fields, and in the last 40-odd years, it has been reduced to a mere 10% of its original size.

Our neighbour is full of chat and is fascinated to know what an Irishman is doing in Uzbekistan. As soon as the word 'horse' comes up, he becomes very animated. We have been told to find ourselves a taxi and guide when we get to Samarkand. He is having none of it and he says he has a friend who likes horses and he will look after us. Endless phone calls later and it is all set up. As we approach Samarkand, the towering mountains of Northern Afghanistan appear in the distance.

There is a scrum at the station but our new friend points in the direction of a grim-faced youngster with a battered Chevrolet. (Every second car in Uzbekistan is a Chevy. There is a giant General Motors plant outside Tashkent. Business is business).

I am a little confused as to where we are going and Akhat does not seem to be much wiser. Suddenly we are off the bustling streets and headed into an industrial estate. I start to think of all those who might be disposed to putting up a little ransom money. It is a depressingly short list.



The train to Samarkand: first class, all the way.

We pull up in front of a giant solid gate painted in military beige. Now I know I am in trouble. In we go and inside is a dressage set-up that would not be out of place in Wellington. Two dressage arenas, indoor and out, with one mirrored. There are air-conditioned stables containing around a dozen magnificent warm bloods imported from Germany and Holland.

The single jump in the main arena is in the colours of the Irish Flag. It also came from Germany. There is all the quiet hustle and bustle of a busy yard. It was an amazing place to find 300 miles from Afghanistan.

We spent a half-hour looking around and then a student arrived to be our guide for the day. The whole day is paid for by our unknown benefactor who owns the dressage stables.

First stop was the tomb of Daniel, he of The Lion's Den fame. Quite how he ended up here was unexplained. You take off your shoes and circle the coffin, which is covered in a rug and is at least 30 feet long. No wonder he bested the lions. Afterwards for a few cents an Iman says a prayer for you under the tree outside.

Cont. p10



All the time you are driving alongside old sand cliffs which are part of the ancient 3-millennium BC fortifications. We visited the observatory of Ulugh Beg, which was built in 1424, but was destroyed by religious fanatics in 1449. (Think of the giant Buddhas of Bamiyan, destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, and obviously a few things have not changed over here in the last 600 years.)

The University buildings and the Mausoleum of the Mongol Emperors are a must-see for any traveller of an intrepid nature. You could probably spend a good



Started in 1417, The Registan (University) is worth the trip alone.

weekend here without ever getting to the bottom of everything to visit. The museum in Tashkent backs up what we see in Samarkand. The Mongol Emperors did not die of old age. If your foes did not get you,

your family would. Ulegh Beg was murdered by his son. Shame, as he was one of the great minds of the Middle Ages, right up there with Galileo and Leonardo Da Vinci.

Whilst we are sightseeing, our guide and Akhat are on their mobiles trying to get us back to Tashkent by train as it is full with the end of the holiday. We are dropped off at a local restaurant to await a travel agent. Taken in behind some curtains, we are presented with a table laden with the local bread, fresh vegetables and fruit. All fresh and very good.

A young man brings us in two steaming plates of Osh, which is reputed to be the food upon which Alexander The Great's army marched. It is a lightly scented lamb curry with garlic and carrots and is delicious. Street vendors sell it out of large cauldrons on the pavements. At the end of the meal, we try to pay. No way, and the young lad refused a tip as he said his father would be very angry.

Our guide returns with another young man who speaks fair English and runs the local travel agency. We jump into his car and head for the train station. Along the way, we pull into another backyard. Here we go again, more ransom needed. However this time it is to buy gas for the car. They explain that although gas is cheaper at the pumps they rarely have enough so there is a thriving black market.

No luck at the train station, so we head off to find a car to take us back. I cannot understand the anxiety to get on the train as it only 350 kilometers to Tashkent. Five hours later, I understand why. This is without doubt the worst road I have ever been on. Once upon a time it was a four-lane highway. **Cont. p11**

THOROUGHBRED OWNERVIEW

A free informational website
for Thoroughbred owners

OWNERVIEW.COM



NYRA Photo ©

"I love this site! It is incredibly helpful to have one site that you can go to for all of the information that owners need on a regular basis. Nice job!"

"Good job. Sorely needed to protect the all important investors in our business. Thank you."

"I love the OwnerView site."

"This is a great website."



Now it is cratered. To call the holes potholes would be to insult them. We also passed through 12 police checkpoints on the 350 kilometre journey.

The taxi driver is a chatty fellow. He has been brought up on Western films and on hearing I am Irish, he is delighted to inform me that the Irish are the best mobsters. This he feels is a huge compliment. Nice to know we are famous for something else other than drinking, fighting and horses.

The youngsters we chatted to in Samarkand were very aware of the outside world. All spend their lives on mobile phones and to live in London is the Holy Grail. We touch on politics. Almost all their tourists are from Japan and Korea, so a Western view is rare. The most oft heard question is, "Why do Americans hate Muslims?" It is not long after Robert Bales's purported massacre of civilians in Afghanistan and radical Islamist Mohamed Merah's murder of seven people in Toulouse in Southern France. Neither side is blameless. No one that I spoke to was anti-American, but universally they felt America was anti-them.

The following day, Avaz had arranged a day at the races on his farm. He set up eight races trying to match like with like. It is a private show but large SUVs arrive and soon there is an enthusiastic audience of about 100 or so.

One of the more unusual aspects of their horse husbandry is that they do not give horses water after a race. They will let them wet their lips, but no real water for an hour or so afterwards. This is



Construction at the track in Tashkent

also the case in the endurance races in Kazakhstan. The trainers believe they will get sick and no amount of telling them our way has any effect.

After the races, Avaz brought us to see the racetrack that is under construction. It is on the outskirts of the city and is being built to a very high spec. The stables would grace Al Quoz (home of Godolphin). The plan is to open in September. It is costing 40 million Euros to build in a joint public/private partnership. I look forward to seeing it finished as no expense is being spared.

I ask Avaz about the future business plan. He is a bit vague, but assures me that Mr. Karimov will open the course and he expects a big attendance. Therein lies the rub in this part of the world. There is no legalised gambling, as it is secular Muslim state. Over the last 10 years, large racecourses have sprung up over the former Soviet block. They are opened in grand fashion and for a couple of years the President might visit, but after that nothing. There is no culture of Thoroughbred racing, and with no gambling it is difficult to know how any will survive.

RACING UK

RACE REPLAY

is now available daily in the TDN and on Progeny PPs.

Racing UK video joins our existing **AT THE RACES** video, giving you the most comprehensive European video in the industry!



Dubai can do it, but there is only one Sheik Mohammed. For all those convinced China is the way forward, remember it cannot work without betting (currently there is none) and the racing must be deemed to be straight.

That night, we leave for Dubai, which is four hours west. It is increasingly difficult in this global world to visit somewhere genuinely different. Uzbekistan is. Should you go? Certainly, if you have an Avaz to host you and an Akhat to translate. Samarkand is a miracle and I am told Bukhara is even more spectacular. Grab your passport (Canadian), and go. The people are friendly once you get past the uniform. The streets are safe (for obvious reasons), the history is magnificent and the atmosphere unusual to begin with. you are also highly unlikely to run into someone you wish to avoid. *Patrick Cooper is director of BBA Ireland. All photos by Patrick Cooper.*

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DEL MAR PADDOCK SALE RESULTS The Barretts Paddock Sale at Del Mar was conducted just after racing ending at the seaside oval Sunday night. The inaugural auction saw 25 horses of racing age gross \$973,500 and average \$38,940. There were 11 horses reported not sold. Acting on behalf of Jerry Durant, bloodstock agent Mersad Metanovic signed the ticket at \$200,000 for the night's highest-priced offering, 2-year-old **Fightin Mean Mad** (Lifestyle). By Indian Charlie, Lifestyle, a \$1.1-million KEESEP yearling purchase, was conditioned by his owner, Larry Rivelli, who also previously conditioned Sunday's sale's topper.

"She had very good balance, a keen eye and looked really racy, she just had the whole package," said Metanovic. "We were there when she arrived, and saw her the moment she stepped off the van. We already knew what we wanted, but we just needed to see whether the price would be were we wanted to be."

Owned by Richard Ravin, the bay filly captured an Arlington maiden race June 20 in her only start to date. The filly will join Jeff Bonde's string and is expected to head to the Aug. 2 GIII Sorrento S. Fightin Mean Mad is eligible for a bonus under Del Mar's 'Ship and Win' program, which offers horses who have made their last start outside of California a \$1,000 bonus and 25% of purse money won in a horse's first start at the track.

Metanovic also signed for the second highest price of the session, **Nechez Dawn**, by Indian Charlie out of Valid Annie (Valid Appeal). The 3-year-old was secured on behalf of David Mowatt's Ten Broeck Farm.

Offered through Checkmate Thoroughbreds, **Mega Dream** (Medaglia d'Oro) was bought back for \$300,000 by Metanovic, who campaigns the filly in partnership with Durant and Barry Arnason. In her latest start, the 5-year-old was second in the July 7 GII Royal Heroine Mile. She is expected to contest either the Aug. 2 Daisycutter S. over five panels or the 6 1/2-furlong GIII Rancho Bernardo H. Aug. 9 before a tilt at the GI Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint in November.

FASIG TEXAS SALE CATALOGUES 170 A total of 170 yearlings have been catalogued for the upcoming Fasig-Tipton Texas Summer Yearling Sale at Lone Star Park. The Aug. 27 sale gets underway at 5 p.m., following a short reception in the sales pavilion. "It's an exciting and varied catalogue, with yearlings from Texas and a number of neighboring states with strong racing programs," commented Texas director of sales Tim Boyce. "Several of our sires are young, national leaders from Kentucky--Bluegrass Cat, Corinthian, English Channel, Hard Spun, Harlan's Holiday and Scat Daddy among them." Catalogues for the auction are in the mail or can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

The **brisnet.com** 'Race of the Day' is the 5th Race, \$36,000 Allowance, at Penn National. For pps and a complete race analysis, click [here](#).

STALLION NEWS

PEAKS AND VALLEYS DIES

Canadian champion **Peaks and Valleys** (Mt. Livermore--Strike a Balance, by Green Dancer) died from the infirmities of old age. The 20-year-old stallion was named Canada's champion 3-year-old colt and Horse of the Year in 1995. He won that season's GI Molson Export Million, GI Meadowlands Cup H. and GII Illinois Derby while racing for his breeder, Josephine Abercrombie's Pin Oak Stable. "The success Mrs. Abercrombie enjoyed with Peaks and Valleys was a turning point for our program," said Pin Oak general manager Clifford Barry. "He let all of us know what it was like to participate in racing at the very highest level." Peaks and Valleys began his stud career at Pin Oak Stud before relocating to Gardiner Farms in Ontario in 2006. He is the sire of graded stakes winners Dollar Bill, Chamrousse, Higher World, Meribel and Happy Trails. Peaks and Valleys will be buried at Pin Oak Stud.

AMERICAN STANDARD DIES

American Standard (In Reality--Too Bald, by Bald Eagle) died last Saturday due to the infirmities of old age. The 32-year-old pensioner was buried near his paddock at Duchess Views Farm in Pine Plains, NY. "I do not remember American Standard having one sick day in his 32 years of life," said Duchess Views co-owner Michael Lischin. "He was a smart, happy, character of a horse who always looked and acted years younger than he was. We are glad he was healthy and active right up until the day he died. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to stand him as a stallion and then to care for him during his many years as a pensioner." A multiple stakes winner on the track, American Standard is the sire of multiple graded stakes winners Bluesthestandard and American Royale.

NEW YORK

Mariano Rivera at Siros Fundraising Dinner:

New York Yankees legendary closer Mariano Rivera will participate in "An Evening with Mo," a fundraising dinner to benefit his foundation at Siro's Trattoria at the Lodge in Saratoga Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to dinner and conversation with the Yankee great, attendees will receive a signed baseball and have their photo taken with Rivera. The Mariano Rivera Foundation addresses children's needs through programs that focus on education, health and wellness. To purchase tickets, call 516-355-4514. For more information on the foundation, visit www.themarianoriverafoundation.org.

Saratoga cont. p2

**Banke to Reveal Rachel Alexandra Foal Name Friday:**

Stonestreet owner Barbara Banke will reveal the name of Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra (Medaglia d'Oro)'s first foal during a ceremony at Saratoga Friday. The foal is a colt by two-time Horse of the Year Curlin and the name announcement will be made following the running of the Curlin S. Stonestreet invited fans to submit names for the colt and received over 6,500 suggestions. "Even in retirement the love and affection shown to Curlin and Rachel Alexandra continues to amaze us," commented Banke. "We feel the name the fans selected carries on the legacy of these two amazing athletes. We picked Saratoga to make our announcement because of the deeply ingrained histories of both parents and NYRA's wonderful fans." Stonestreet representatives at Saratoga Friday will distribute vouchers redeemable for a glass of Kendall Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay.

Yesterday's Results:

EVAN SHIPMAN S., \$98,000, SAR, 7-23, (S), 3yo/up, 1 1/8m, 1:49 1/5, ft.

1--**#LUNAR VICTORY, 118, h, 5, Speightstown--**

Lunar Colony, by A.P. Indy. (\$350,000 yrl '08 KEESEP). O-Juddmonte Farms Inc; B-William Parsons Jr & David S Howe (NY); T-W I Mott; J-J Alvarado; \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 13-5-3-2, \$200,992.

NY-breds Start With a Bigger Advantage nybreds.com

Hidden Brook raised & sold for David Howe & Bill Parsons

2--**Sailmate, 118, c, 4, Friends Lake--Distinctive Flag,** by Distinctive Pro. (\$20,000 yrl '09 FTNAUG).

O-Gold Mark Farm LLC. \$20,000.

3--**Johannesburg Smile, 120, h, 5, Johannesburg--Serenity's Smile,** by Dixie Brass. O-Francis J Paolangeli. \$10,000.

Margins: 2HF, 1HF, 6 3/4. Odds: 1.20, 2.80, 1.60.

At three, Lunar Victory earned a single victory for trainer John Gosden in eight English starts, but he has become considerably more profitable since his arrival stateside. Runner-up in a sloppy state-bred allowance at the Big A Dec. 7, the bay closed out his 4-year-old campaign with a six-length score going a mile against Empire-breds Dec. 28. Back on top in a \$25,000 optional claimer there Feb. 4, he returned to the winner's circle after venturing into open company for his latest at the Ozone oval Mar. 3. Well supported for his U.S. black-type bow, the 5-year-old kept early leader Johannesburg Smile in his sights up through opening fractions of :23.54 and :46.85. Remaining glued to that rival's hip down the backstretch, he forged past at the quarter pole, opened up a big lead and strolled under the wire a geared-down 2 1/2-length winner. "He broke really sharp and I let him run the first part of the race," said winning rider Junior Alvarado. "From there, I was just waiting as much as I could. I didn't want to let him go too early because he had a little bit of a layoff. At the quarter pole, he passed the other horse like it was nothing." [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales](#).

4th-SAR, \$87,000, Alw, NW1X, 3yo/up, 1mT, 1:34, fm.

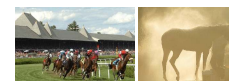
TIZ SARDONIC JOE (c, 3, Tiznow--Distorted Blaze, by Distorted Humor) needed three tries but finally got off the mark while trying turf for the first time over this course last August. Transferred from Steve Asmussen following that wire-to-wire score, the bay showed early speed, but faded to fifth in his debut for the Kenneally barn in a nine-panel allowance at Churchill Downs June 21. Given a 5-1 chance here, the homebred eagerly came away from the gate and was eased back to a stalking third through sensible splits of :23.52 and :46.66. Asked for a little more turning for home, he gradually wore down Change of Command (Gators and Bears) at midstretch and was a 1/2-length clear of closer Set the Sail (Mizzen Mast) at the wire. The winner is a half to Danse Grecque (Hold That Tiger), MGSP-Fr, \$168,736 and Joes Blazing Aaron (Graeme Hall), GSW, \$146,656. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales](#). Lifetime Record: 5-2-0-0, \$84,559.

O/B-Joseph T Witek MD (KY). T-Eddie Kenneally.

Saratoga cont. p3



SARATOGA



143rd Season, July 20-Sept. 3
Post time: 1 p.m. EDT

THE WEEK AHEAD...**Graded Stakes:**

July 25 - **GII Lake George S.**, 3yo, f, 1 1/16m (turf)

July 28 - **GI Diana S.**, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m (turf)

GII Jim Dandy S., 3yo, 1 1/8m

July 29 - **GI Amsterdam S.**, 3yo, 6f

Events:

July 25 - Memorial Service for Richard Hamilton. At National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. 7:30 p.m.
New York Racing All-Stars Charity Basketball Game. Saratoga Recreation Center. 7 p.m.

July 26 - National Steeplechase Association Official Painting Presentation. Following first race.

At the Post Live: Serling on Saratoga. Broadcast on ESPN Radio 104.5 live from Hatties Restaurant. 9-10 p.m.

July 27 - Family Fun Fridays, College Day, Party at the Spa, A Toast to Taco's New Name from Stonestreet (name announcement for Rachel Alexandra's weanling colt).

July 29 - Baseball Cap giveaway.

Dining Reservations: (888) 516-NYRA

Dining Options: The Post - Blue Smoke, Shake Shack; Turf Terrace Dining Room, Club Terrace, At the Rail Pavilion



6th-SAR, \$87,000, Opt. Clm. (\$25,000), NW1X, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m, 1:50 3/5, ft.

BAFFLE ME (f, 3, [First Samurai](#)--Wonderously, by Awesome Again), third in last summer's Colleen S. at Monmouth, rounded out the season with a sixth in the GI Spinaway S. Sept. 4. Tiring to fifth in her 2012 return going six panels at Gulfstream Apr. 7, the chestnut was a well-distanced third in an allowance back at the Jersey shore May 12. In her latest trip to the post, Baffle Me finished third going a mile at Belmont behind Questing (GB) (Hard Spun), victorious in last weekend's GI Coaching Club American Oaks and Book Review (Giant's Causeway), who won a seven-panel allowance here July 20. Sent off at 9-2 this time the chestnut took control early, led at every call and was all out to fend off closer Hard Life (Rock Hard Ten) by a head. Sales history: \$130,000 yrl '10 KEESEP.

Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales](#). Lifetime Record: 7-2-0-3, \$102,077.

O-Lee Lewis. B-The Peter J Callahan Revocable Trust (KY). T-Mark A Hennig.

5th-SAR, \$85,000, Msw, 2yo, f, 8.5fT, 1:42 2/5, fm.

+ DA MI BASIA MILLE (f, 2, [Pure Prize](#)--Miss Cozze, by Not For Love), hailing from a barn that strikes with a healthy 22% of first-time starters, was let go at a generous 8-1. Unhurried out of the blocks, Da Mi Basia Mille stumbled a few strides in, but recovered nicely to settle toward the back of the pack as Emotional Kitten (Kitten's Joy) led through an opening quarter in :22.55. Inching closer to the front following a half in :46.99, the Maryland-bred was brought out five wide by Jose Lezcano turning for home and wore down the tiring leader and drew clear to graduate by 1 1/4 lengths over the fast-closing favorite Citizen Emma (Proud Citizen). The pacesetter held on for third. Click for the

[brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales](#). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$51,000.

O-Henry H Prieger & David B Lester. B-Prantlack Farm & David Lester (MD). T-Christophe Clement.



8th-SAR, \$85,000, Msw, 3yo/up, 1 1/8m, 1:51 4/5, ft.

GRANDPA LEN (g, 3, [Rockport Harbor](#)--Small Pleasures, by Cat Thief), had shown little in four previous outings this year, his best effort coming in a sloppy off-the-turf event over this distance at Belmont May 4. After two more unplaced tries on the grass, he entered this contest a 22-1 outsider. Settled close to the pace early, the gelding was able to find room on the inside of rivals at the head of the stretch. He passed Tiz Yankee (Tiznow) at the sixteenth pole to post a comfortable 1 1/4-length win. The winner is a half-brother to Sumei (Orientate), SP-Pr. Sales history: \$62,000 yrl '10 KEESEP; \$150,000 2yo '11 OBSMAR. Lifetime Record: 9-1-1-1, \$77,448. Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales](#).

O-Leonard Leveen & Michael P Shanley. B-C Kidder, N Cole & N Robenalt (KY). T-David G Donk.

Recommended by Murette Farrell

7th-SAR, \$60,000, Msw, (S), 2yo, 5 1/2f, 1:04 3/5, ft.
+ SOUL HOUSE (c, 2, [Limehouse](#)--Soul Violins, by Stormin Fever) was granted a 6-1 chance despite his trainer's 31% strike rate with firsters. Off a step slowly, the dark bay was taken up by Joel Rosario as Dark Roast (Mingun) ducked in at the start. Settled in sixth through honest opening splits, he was taken out three wide turning for home and took over from Weekend Hideaway (Speightstown) late to post a one-length victory. Sales history: \$16,000 yrl '11 FTNAUG; \$87,000 RNA 2yo '12 OBSAPR. Click for the [brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made Sales](#). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$36,000.

O-Jeffrey Einardt. B-Wellspring Stables (NY). T-Larry Rivelli.

NY-breds Start With a Bigger Advantage [nybreds.com](#)

VINERY SALES GRADUATE

EASTERN U.S.

Piermarini Becomes Third Leading Female Rider:

Jockey Tammi Piermarini rode three winners at Suffolk Downs Monday to surpass Patti Cooksey as the third-leading female rider of all time. Piermarini has ridden the winners of 2,139 races. "It's a real honor and it was even more special to do it on a Massachusetts-bred in my home state," said Piermarini, a native of Amesbury, MA. "The great thing is so many of my wins came here, at home."

• ON THE WORKTAB •

Churchill Downs

Flashy Lassie (Flashy Bull), 4f, 51.80, 61/65

Del Mar

Rousing Sermon (Lucky Pulpit), 4f, 49.40, 20/35

Switch (Quiet American), 4f, 46.20, 2/35

Liaison (Indian Charlie), 6f, 1:12.40, 2/9

Paynter (Awesome Again), 6f, 1:11.80, 1/9

Fair Hill Training Center

Toby's Corner (Bellamy Road), 6f, 1:12.80, 1/2

Saratoga

Thunder Moccasin (A.P. Warrior), 3f, 39.97, 13/13

Arthur's Tale (Bernardini), 4f, 51.34, 53/55

Endorsement (Distorted Humor), 5f, 58.96, 1/39

Justin Phillip (First Samurai), 5f, 1:00.02, 5/39

Saratoga Training Track

Dayatthespa, 4f, 50.27, 7/25

Air Support (Smart Strike), 4fT, 48.00, 8/42

Karlovy Vary (Dynaformer), 4fT, 50.00, 40/42

Get Stormy (Stormy Atlantic), 5fT, 57.38, 1/37

Winter Memories (El Prado {Ire}), 5fT, 59.83, 8/37



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IN JAPAN:

A Shin Top, c, 2, [Tale of the Cat](#)--Ecology, by Unbridled's Song. Chukyo, 7-22, Chukyo Nisai Stakes, 7fT. Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$280,633. O-Eishindo Inc; B-Randal Family Trust R David & Marylyn A Randal Trustees; T-Masato Nishizono. *\$400,000 yrl '11 KEESEP. **1/2 to General Quarters (Sky Mesa), MGISW-US, \$1,226,655. ***A Shin Top sprinted to the front and kept on going in the lane for a sharp victory. "He just wanted to go faster today," said winning pilot Suguru Hamanaka. "He should be more settled and controlled next time."

Little Gerda, f, 3, [Closing Argument](#)--Bijoux Miss, by Buddha. Niigata, 7-21, Novice Race, 5fT. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$58,228. O-Yoshiko Kuriyama; B-Dapple Bloodstock; T-Ippo Sameshima. *\$15,000 RNA yrl '10 FTKOCT. **She dwelt at the start, but Little Gerda kicked it into high gear late to win going away by 1 3/4 lengths. "We had a very smooth trip as she was never boxed in through the race," said rider Eiji Nakadate. "The stretch run was impressive."

Master Eclair, f, 3, [Elusive Quality](#)--Sabathani (SW-US), by Major Impact. Sapporo, 7-21, Novice Race, 5f. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-1, \$73,418. O-Hattori Farm; B-Hidden Springs Farm; T-Koji Maki. *\$25,000 wnlg '09 KEENOV. **Stalking from third, the dark bay had enough in the tank to prevail by a neck. "She had an easy trip today," offered winning pilot Akihide Tsumura. "She showed brilliant acceleration and had lots left in her tank. She will improve a lot."

Best Surpass, c, 3, [Pulpit](#)--Flashy Lady (SP-US), by Vision and Verse. Chukyo, 7-22, Plate Race, 9f. Lifetime Record: 5-2-1-1, \$222,152. O-Isao Ogawa; B-Ivon County Farms Inc; T-Kenichi Fujioka. *\$110,000 yrl '10 KEESEP. **Best Surpass asserted at the top of the stretch, but cut it close late to survive by a neck. "He was very powerful and was likely to win easily when he was on the final bend, but once he took the lead, he lost his concentration," explained jockey Kota Fujioka.

Cafe Himiko, f, 4, [Bandini](#)--Yamato Damashii, by Tiznow. Niigata, 7-22, Plate Race. Lifetime Record: 13-3-4-0, \$520,000. O-Kyoko Nishikawa; B-Katsumi Yoshizawa; T-Yasuhisa Matsuyama.

IN BRITAIN:

Hunting Rights, c, 2, [E Dubai](#). See "Breeders' Edition Europe."

IN FRANCE:

Smoking Sun, c, 3, [Smart Strike](#). See "France."

ROOKIES

First-crop starters to watch: Tuesday, July 24

Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2009 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)
WEIGELIA (Safely's Mark), 15/1/0
7-PRX, Msw, 5f, Isabella Swift, \$1,000 EAS SEP yrl, 8-1

First/Second-crop starters to watch: Tuesday, July 24

Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2008 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)
DON CORLEONE (Incurable Optimist), 10/0/0
1-FL, Msw, 6f, +Lauren Gabriella, 10-1
LAWYER RON (Langfuhr), Stonewall, \$30K, 145/34/4
7-PRX, Msw, 5f, +Jurys Out, 10-1

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BRITAIN



Yesterday's Results:

Ayr, 14.00, Mdn, £6,800, 2yo, 7f 50ydsT, 1:36.93, sf.
ONE WORD MORE (IRE) (c, 2, **Thousand Words {GB}**--**Somoushe {Ire}**), by **Black Minnaloushe**, runner-up in a similar event at Newbury July 13, chased the early speed in third. Taking over on the bridle at the quarter pole, the 1-5 chalk ran on well in the latter stages to beat **Dark Ocean (Ire)** (Dylan Thomas {Ire}) by a cozy 2 1/4 lengths. One More Word, a half-brother to **Archers Road (Ire)** (Titus Livius {Fr}), GSP-Eng, \$128,111, is the third winner by his freshman sire (by **Dansili {GB}**). Sales history: 14,000gns RNA wnlg '10 TATDEC; £36,000 yrl '11 DONAUG. Lifetime Record: 3-1-2-0, £6,776. [Video, courtesy Racing UK](#).
O-Tony Wechsler & Ann Plummer; B-John Fielding; T-Charles Hills.

Windsor, 18.10, Mdn, £5,500, 2yo, f, 6fT, 1:11.56, gd.
CALIFANTE (GB) (f, 2, **Kyllachy {GB}**--**Call Mariah**, by **Dixie Union**), third in a seven-furlong Newbury maiden June 26, was settled behind the early speed. Making smooth headway at the quarter pole, the 13-8 favorite hit the front a furlong later and was ridden clear to notch a two-length score from **Annie's Fortune (Ire)** (Montjeu {Ire}). Sales history: 8,500gns wnlg '10 TATDEC. Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, £4,381. [Video, courtesy attheraces.com](#).
O-Rockcliffe Stud; B-J Hicks, K Nikkel & S Robertson; T-Richard Hannon.

TDN TODAY

Around the World. 7 pages



Britain cont.

Windsor, 19.10, Mdn, £3,500, 3-4yo, 10f 7ydsT, 2:04.68, gd.
+ SURPRISE MOMENT (IRE) (f, 3, Authorized {Ire})
--Criquelette {GB}, by Shirley Heights {GB} (SW-Eng),
 sent off at 4-1, showed greenness towards the rear initially and was ridden with three furlongs to race. Staying on under a drive, the homebred reeled in Courage (GB) (Invincible Spirit {Ire}) close to home to prevail by a half length. The winner is a half to Flying Cloud (Ire) (Storming Home {GB}), GSW-Fr & Eng, G1SP-Ire, \$284,872; Candice (Caerleon), GSP-Eng; Captain Webb (GB) (Storming Home {GB}), SW-Eng, \$136,959; Open Offer (GB) (Cadeaux Genereux {GB}), MSP-Fr. She hails from the family of this year's G1 Golden Slipper S. winner Pierro (Aus) (Lonhro {Aus}). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, £2,264. [Video, courtesy attheraces.com.](#)

O-Godolphin; B-Darley; T-Saeed bin Suroor.

FRANCE



Yesterday's Result:

PRIX PELLEAS-Listed, €55,000, Compiègne, 7-23, 3yo, c/g, 1 1/4mT, 2:02.92, gd.

1--**#SMOKING SUN, 128, c, 3, by Smart Strike**

1st Dam: Burning Sunset (GB) (SW & GSP-Fr), by Caerleon

2nd Dam: Lingerie (GB), by Shirley Heights (GB)

3rd Dam: Northern Trick, by Northern Dancer

O-Niarchos Family; B-Flaxman Holdings Ltd; T-Pascal Bary; J-Stephane Pasquier; €27,500. Lifetime Record: 4 starts, 3 wins, 1 place, €67,500.

2--**Gris de Reve (Fr), 128, g, 3, Slickly (Fr)--Oa Chereve (Fr), by Kaldounevees (Fr).** O-Joseph Alonso; B-Mme Françoise Alonso & Joseph Alonso; T-Jean-Pierre Gauvin; €11,000.

3--**Qizween (Fr), 128, c, 3, Muhtathir (GB)--Luna Negra (Ire), by Kaldoun (Fr).** (€26,000 yrl '10 ARQOCT; €33,000 2yo '11 ARQMAY). O-Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum; B-Eric Puerari & Oceanic Bloodstock; T-Damien de Watrigant; €8,250.

Margins: HF, 1, 2. Odds: 1.50, 6.60, 6.60.

Also Ran: Star on the Rocks (Fr), Novelty Seeker, Milord (Ger), Shalamzar (Fr).

Smoking Sun's opposition has made his introduction a stiff task, but the homebred bay had nonetheless come through three prior tests with an enhanced reputation. Starting out with a half-length defeat of subsequent G3 Prix du Lys third Ashkiyr (Fr) (Rock of Gibraltar {Ire}) at Longchamp May 13, the half-brother to GSP Ikat (Ire) (Pivotal {GB}) bested subsequent G1 Grand Prix de Paris runner-up Last Train (GB) (Rail Link {GB}) by a nose in a conditions heat back at that Bois de Boulogne track in his penultimate go June 2.

Listed Prix Pelleas cont.

He came here off a second to Sunday's G2 Prix Eugene Adam victor Bayrir (Fr) (Medicean {GB}) in the June 24 Listed Prix Ridgway at Saint-Cloud, and showed a willing attitude to register a deserved first black-type score. Smoking Sun was positioned in a handy fourth until inching into third at halfway. Rowed along off the home turn, he quickened to the fore with 300 meters remaining and was ridden out to hold his advantage. Trainer Pascal Bary indicated the Aug. 15 G2 Prix Guillaume d'Ornano at Deauville is a possible target. [Click for Equidia video.](#)

OBSERVATIONS on today's European racing scene

2.20 Chantilly, Cond, £5,900, 2yo, f, 6fT

REPONDS MOI (More Than Ready) bids to build on a fourth in the Listed Prix Yacowlef for debutantes over five furlongs at Deauville at the end of June. The Wertheimers' daughter of the 1996 G1 Cheveley Park S. heroine and 1997 G1 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp runner-up Pas de Reponse (Danzig) is saddled here by Freddy Head.

4.05 Tipperary, Mdn, €12,500, 2yo, 7f 100ydsT

THE FERRYMAN (IRE) (Galileo {Ire}) gives us all the opportunity to start to evaluate the worth of his highly regarded and much-vaunted stable companion Mars (Ire) (Galileo {Ire}), who he chased home at a 4 3/4-length margin at Dundalk last Monday. Susan Magnier's color-bearer is bred to be smart in his own right, being out of her Pattern-race performer Dietrich (Storm Cat) and he is joined by another Ballydoyle representative in **Line Drummer (Fr) (Galileo {Ire})**. The €260,000 Arqana purchase is a half-brother to the 2006 G1 Prix Jean Prat hero and Haras d'Etream resident Stormy River (Fr) (Verglas {Ire}) and faces a solid yardstick in Jim Bolger's G2 Coventry S. seventh **Leitir Mor (Ire) (Holy Roman Emperor {Ire})**, who tries again to shed his maiden status here.

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IRELAND



Tuesday, Tipperary, post time: 2:35 p.m.

DANEHILL DANCER TIPPERARY S.-Listed, €42,500, 2yo, 5fT

SC	PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	WT
1	4	Blue Bullet (Ire)	Red Clubs (Ire)	Carroll	W Mullins	129
2	7	Dylanbaru (Ire)	Ftstpsnthsand (GB)	Lordan	Stack	129
3	2	Parlmnt Square (Ire)	Acclamation (GB)	J O'Brien	A O'Brien	129
4	5	Tale of Fame (Ity)	Tale of the Cat	J Egan	Costello	129
5	1	Boston Rocker (Ire)	Acclamation (GB)	Foley	Lynam	126
6	6	Slope (GB)	Acclamation (GB)	Lee	Wachman	126
7	3	Zoola (Ire)	Iffraaj (GB)	Murtagh	Heffernan	126

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a ▲ will denote a first-time Grade/Group 1 winner, a + will indicate first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.



Irish report cont.

Invincible Spirit to Breed on Southern Hemisphere Time:

Invincible Spirit (Ire) (Green Desert--Rafha {GB}, by Kris {GB}) will be available to cover mares during Southern Hemisphere time from September to November at the Irish National Stud, it was announced yesterday. In a deal with McKeever Bloodstock, the Stud will offer the services of the internationally renowned 15-year-old sire to Australasian clients at a fee of €20,000, which represents a significant drop on his Northern Hemisphere fee of €60,000. The move comes shortly after the recent G1 July Cup success of his son Mayson (GB), the latest in a long line of established performers he has sired, including the triple Australian Group 1 winner Yosei (Aus). To keep costs down for visitors, it was announced that fees relating to the keep of mares will be significantly reduced and agistment would be kept to €25 per day, capped at €1,500 for longer-term boarders. Invincible Spirit had shuttled for four seasons to Chatswood Farm in Victoria, which saw him boast 65% winners-to-runners ratio.

GERMANY

Sunday's Result:

Hoppegarten, 14.00, Mdn, €6,000, 2yo, 6fT, 1:12.80, gd.

+ **PENELOPA (GB)** (f, 2, [Giant's Causeway](#)--Lady Linda {MGSP-US, \$307,377}, by [Torrential](#)) went off as the 7-2 second favorite and broke well to race in the vanguard. Strongly pressed by Mauriac (Ger) (Clodovil {Ire}) in the final eighth, the 100,000gns TATOCT yearling showed her sire's tenacity to assert close to home and win by a neck. Lifetime Record: 1 start, 1 win, €3,500.

O/B-Litex Commerce AD; T-Miltcho Mintchev.

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ITALY

Sunday's Result:

CRITERIUM PARTENOPEO - TROFEO S.G.A.-Listed, €34,200, Naples, 7-22, 2yo, 7 1/2fT, time: n/a, gd.

1--**CASTELLO ARAGONESE (GB), 127, c, 2, by Authorized (Ire)**

1st Dam: Bronwen (Ire), by King's Best

2nd Dam: Tegwen, by Nijinsky II

3rd Dam: Beautiful Aly, by Alydar

(2,500gns yrl '11 TATOCT). O/T-Raffaele Biondi; B-Rabbah Bloodstock Ltd; J-Pierantonio Convertino; €19,000. Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, €44,364.

2--**Freetown, 127, c, 2, [Speightstown](#)--Fresnay (GB), by Rainbow Quest.** (€40,000 yrl '11 ITYSEP).

O-Scuderia Effevi SNC; B-Grundy Bloodstock Ltd; T-Stefano Botti; €8,360.

SGA Sold! Italy's Premier Yearling Sale is Sept. 21, 2012!

3--**Demeteor (Ity), 123, c, 2, Mujahid--Eros Love (Ity), by Love the Groom.** O/B-Scuderia Razza Dell'Olmo; T-Riccardo Menichetti; €4,560.

Margins: 1HF, 3HF, NK. Odds: 1.80, 3.20, 16.40.

Also Ran: Rock of Malta (Ire), Guinness Will (Ire), Freetrack (Ire), Sicilian Legend (Ire). Scratched: Spirit Dream (Ity).


After a debut success over six furlongs at Pisa May 10 and a second in a 7 1/2-furlong conditions event at the San Siro June 17, Castello Aragonese was sent back over the latter course and distance to record a first black-type success in the Listed Premio Giuseppe de Montel at the start of the month. Defying a subsequent penalty and early keenness here, the bay was committed on the front with over three furlongs remaining and, despite running around late on, was always holding Freetown.

EUROPEAN-BRED WINNERS

IN JAPAN:

Ek Chuah (GB), c, 3, Dalakhani (Ire)--Oliena (Ire), by Desert Prince (Ire). Chukyo, 7-21, Novice Race, 9f. Lifetime Record: 6-1-1-0, \$81,013. O-Koji Maeda; B-Value Bloodstock; T-Yoshito Yahagi. *45,000gns wnlg '09 TATDEC; €90,000 yrl '10 ARQAUG.





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BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-PRX, \$51,260, NW1X, 3yo/up, 1m70y, 1:40 4/5, ft.

HOLY INVADER (c, 3, [Invasor {Arg}](#)--Mariisima {Pan}, by Jed Forest) Lifetime Record: 9-4-2-2, \$106,345. O-Stud El Aguila. B-Haras El Aguila (KY). T-Anthony W Dutrow.

5th-DEL, \$30,375, Opt. Clm. (\$20,000), NW1X, 3yo/up, 1m70yT, 1:39 3/5, fm.

YOUNOHOWIAM (g, 6, [Teton Forest--Petite Wink](#), by Classic Go Go) Lifetime Record: 29-5-1-8, \$92,805. O/B-Frank J Schaffer (KY). T-Joseph P Shuman.

9th-MNR, \$23,000, 7-22, NW3L, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09 4/5, ft.

GLINT (c, 4, [Sharp Humor--Glimmer](#), by Deputy Minister) Lifetime Record: SW, 10-3-1-1, \$115,300. O-TK Stables LLC. B-WinStar Farm, LLC (KY). T-Kellyn Gorder. *\$340,000 2yo '10 KEENOV; \$32,000 RNA yrl '09 KEESEP.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Lucky Lady Lawyer, f, 3, [Lawyer Ron--Lucky'n Loved](#), by Fire Maker. DEL, 7-23, 6f, 1:11 3/5. B-James M Herbener Jr. (KY). *\$30,000 wlng '09 KEENOV; \$45,000 yrl '10 KEESEP. **1/2 to Jump On In (Jump Start), GSW, \$176,800.

AMERICA'S BEST SELLERS...TAYLOR MADE

Victor Laszlo, g, 4, [Victory Gallop--Aqualung](#) (SP), by Geiger Counter. SUF, 7-23, 6f, 1:11 1/5. B-Mrs James B Moseley (MA).



WINNERS BY AMERICAN SIRE

IN JAPAN:

Alumnus (Jpn), c, 2, [Any Given Saturday](#)--Loving Pride, by Quiet American. Chukyo, 7-22, Novice Race, 7fT. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$63,291. O-H R H Princess Haya; B-Darley Japan Farm; T-Takayuki Yasuda.

Escape Magic (Jpn), c, 4, [Maria's Mon](#)--Magic Storm, by Storm Cat. Chukyo, 7-22, Plate Race, 6f. Lifetime Record: 5-1-1-1, \$178,228. O-Sunday Racing; B-Northern Farm; T-Shozo Sasaki.

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BREEDERS' EDITION EUROPE

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

FRANCE, Compiegne, 14.20, 7-23, €34,000, 3yo, 1mT, 1:35.71, gd.

MONSIEUR PLAYBOY (GER) (c, 3, [Muhtathir {GB}](#)--Minar Salam {Ire}, by Danehill Dancer {Ire}) Lifetime Record: 6 starts, 2 wins, 3 places, €40,600. O-BS Racing SARL, Konstantinos Valvis, Nicolas Baric, Mme Ghislaine Bozo & Ralphy Meajohn; B-Jacques Cuquemelle, Meridian International SARL, Ralphy Meajohn & Konstantinos Valvis; T-Pia Brandt.

FRANCE, Compiegne, 16.25 (Female Jockeys), 7-23, €24,000, 4yo, 1mT, 1:35.07, gd.

I FIGHT FOR KISSES (GER) (c, 4, [Ransom O'War--Ice Lodge {Ger}](#), by Grand Lodge) Lifetime Record: 18 starts, 2 wins, 8 places, €28,600. O-Scuderia Raber; B-Bernd Schone; T-Sarka Schutz.

CONDITIONS RESULTS:

BRITAIN, Haydock Park, 20.30, 7-21, £13,000, 3yo/up, 7fT, 1:28.85, gd/sf.

RHYTHM OF LIGHT (GB) (f, 4, [Beat Hollow {GB}](#)--Luminda {Ire}, by Danehill) Lifetime Record: SW-Eng, GSP-Fr & SP-Tur, 14-4-2-1, £101,749. O-Lowe Silver Deal; B-Hermes Services Ltd; T-Tom Dascombe. *500gns yrl '09 BRIDEC.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ **Oriental Lady (Ger), f, 2, [Doyen \(Ire\)](#)--Oriental World (Ger), by Platini (Ger). Cologne, Germany, 7-22, Mdn, 2yo, f, 7fT. B-Gestut Auenquelle.**

Hunting Rights, c, 2, [E Dubai](#)--Possession, by Belong to Me. Southwell, Britain, 7-23, Mdn, 2yo, 7f (AWT). B-Darley.

Rhythm of Life (Ger), c, 3, [Auenadler \(Ger\)](#)--Rosomachia (Ger), by Machiavellian. Cologne, Germany, 7-22, Mdn, 3yo, 7fT. B-Gestut Westerberg. *€16,000 yrl '10 BBASEP.

Dougal Philips (GB), g, 3, [Echo of Light \(GB\)](#)--Bella Bertolini (GB), by Bertolini. Ballinrobe, Ireland, 7-23, Mdn, 3yo/up, 1 1/8mT. B-Gracelands Stud. *4,000gns yrl '10 TATOCT.

Verano (Ger), c, 3, [Lord of England \(Ger\)](#)--Vive La Vie (Ger) (SP-Ger), by Big Shuffle. Cologne, Germany, 7-22, Mdn, 3yo, 9f 55ydsT. B-Gestut Etzean. *€11,000 yrl '10 BBASEP.

Malaysia (Ger), f, 3, [Mamool \(Ire\)](#)--Mashinka (Ger), by Alwuhush. Hoppegarten, Germany, 7-22, Mdn, 3yo, 1 1/2mT. B-Lothar Paulick.



WINNERS BY EUROPEAN SIRE

IN JAPAN:

Taiki Premium (Jpn), c, 3, [Montjeu \(Ire\)](#)--Scoubidou (Ger), by Johan Cruyff (GB). Chukyo, 7-22, Novice Race, 11fT. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-1, \$90,000. O-Taiki Farm; B-Maishima Bokujo; T-Yasutoshi Ikee.