



Wednesday,
December 12, 2001

TDN

For information, call (732) 747-8060.

HEADLINE NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CHANGE

Officials at the Curragh racecourse are attempting to change the distance of the G2 International S. from nine furlongs to a mile next season, *Irish Thoroughbred Marketing* has revealed. Won by **Distant Music** (Distant View) this year, the race attracted only three runners. Also under consideration is a change of the race's conditions to exclude Group 1 winners. The European Pattern Committee will discuss the proposals next year.

P RESULTS P

Sunday, Parana, Brazil

GRANDE PREMIO PARANA-G1, R\$25,000, Hipodromo Tanumã, 12-9, 3yo/up, 2400m, 2:35.1, ft.

1-- **IMPARDONNABLE (BRZ)**, 132, c, 5, by **Exile King**

1st Dam : **Dash Dance**, by **Green Dancer**

2nd Dam : **Regateia**, by **Dr. Fager**

3rd Dam : **Metateia (Arg)**, by **Yantomio (Arg)**

O-Stud RAABC; B-Haras Lomuli; T-A F Correia;

J-Antonio Queiroz.

2-- **Wiseguy (Brz)**, 130, c, 4, Emmison (Ire)--What A Siren, by Miswaki. O/B-Haras J B Baros.

3-- **Mucho Dinero (Brz)**, 130, c, 4, Shudanz--Just The First (Brz), by Hampstead (Uru). O-Haras Kigrandi; B-Stud Tevere.

Margins: NK, 6. Winner's Odds: 2.00.

Impardonnable finally got his first Grade 1 win. After chasing the leaders all the way around, he took command in upper stretch and held off the late charge of Wiseguy.

Saturday, Sao Paulo, Brazil

GRANDE PREMIO CONSAGRACAO-G1, R\$25,000, Paulistano, 12-8, 3yo/up, 3000m T, 3:06.20 (NSR), gd.

1-- **URACAO NEGRO (BRZ)**, 112, c, 3, by **Be My Chief**

1st Dam : **Tell Suit (Arg)**, by **Two Harbors (Arg)**

2nd Dam : **Tell Tale (GB)**, by **Tamerlane (GB)**

3rd Dam : **All Hail (GB)**, by **Abide (GB)**

O/B-Haras Phillipson; T-E Sampao; J-F Durso. *1/2 to Teili (Arg) (Farnesio (Arg)), SW & MG1SP-Arg.

2-- **Isteband (Brz)**, 112, c, 3, Much Better (Brz)--

Charm Us (Brz), by Jackson (Brz). O-Stud TNT.

3-- **Tiptonic (Brz)**, 128, h, 5, Pleasant Variety--La Belle Celina (Brz), by Ghadeer (Fr). O-Stud Quintella.

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

P HONG KONG INTL P

CAITANO ON TRACK

Caitano (GB) (Niniski) was sent out to the Sha Tin turf course yesterday for his first piece of serious work since arriving in Hong Kong six days ago. He was partnered by Andrasch Starke, who will give way to Olivier Peslier in Sunday's G1 Vase. Trainer Andreas Schutz was pleased with the work, "I wanted him to work today as he hadn't done anything since Australia [Melbourne Cup] and he'll have another blow on Friday. Caitano has been around a long time and Andrasch has ridden him so many times that the horse is getting lazy for him, so we made the change. He's in good form and still has plenty of ability. We were very happy to get the invitation to Hong Kong after Australia and I hope he'll run the sort of race he did in the Vase last year when he ran third." Peslier commented: "I think he has even more air miles than me. He is a lovely old horse who tries his hardest. He travelled very well in the Melbourne Cup and looked to have every chance turning in, but just didn't get home. He is dropping back in trip and if he can reproduce his fourth in the Arlington Million, he should go well." Peslier was in reflective mood yesterday morning, saying, "I love Asia. There is an amazing enthusiasm about racing, both here and in Japan. In Japan they love the horses, and are so knowledgeable about the form. It's unbelievable, people queue outside the racecourse all through the night before the big meetings. I am very happy to be back in Hong Kong. Here the racing is so competitive, but this place has been very lucky for me. One of the best days of my career was riding a treble on Hong Kong International race day." Starke, meanwhile, who rides against Peslier in Wednesday's Hong Kong International Jockeys' Championship at Happy Valley, commented: "This is a great place, the world looks to Hong Kong for racing. It is very fair here, but also very tough. If you are successful it opens doors around the world. Winning the Championship

Congratulations to owner **Stonerville Stable**, breeder **Joanne Nor** and trainer **Ron McNally** for Taybr Made Graduate **NEPENTHE's** triumph in Hollywood Park's Waya H. on 12/8. Her dam, **ESTRELLA FUEGA** (in foal to Lear Fan) sells January 7 as Hip #218 at Keeneland January. Bams 1 & 6.

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BALLYDOYLE SWEEP DERBY AWARDS Ireland's Ballydoyle operation led the way at the 35th annual Derby Awards on Monday evening, with Aidan O'Brien and Michael Kinane being awarded best flat trainer and jockey respectively. Owners Susan Magnier and Michael Tabor also took the owners' prize at the Horserace Writers and Photographers Association function supported by Blue Square at London's Royal Lancaster Hotel. Despite the achievements of Godolphin's **Sakhee (USA)** (Bahri {USA}) and **Fantastic Light (USA)** (Rahy {USA}), that operation emerged from the awards empty-handed. Graham Rock was awarded the George Ennors Trophy for a lifetime's achievement in racing, while the honour of journalist of the year went to Alan Lee of *The Times*, and photographer of the year was Anne Grossick. Peter Maughan and Rodney Boulton of David Elsworth's stables, and Jimmy Scott of Sir Michael Stoute's yard, picked up the stable staff of the year award. The all-conquering duo of Martin Pipe and Tony McCoy were awarded best National Hunt trainer and jockey respectively.

ATHERACES LAUNCHES ON THE WEB Attheraces, the horse-racing media rights company, launched its racing information and betting website yesterday, which precedes the launch of the attheraces digital television channel next May. "This is an innovative site which will carry live video and audio from the 49 courses together with on line betting opportunities," said Chris Stoddart, chief executive officer of attheraces. Designed to be punter friendly, the attheraces website includes a variety of news, views, comments and tips, together with the latest weather and going reports. Racing enthusiasts can also access speed ratings, breeding details and read the full form analysis on jockey, trainer and horse, and place a bet. For more information, go to attheraces.

TDN Worldwide Today 2 pages

H B R I T A I N H

MADAME TO PERSEVERE

Madame Jones (Ire) (Lycius {USA}) failed in her bid to secure the all-time record for number of handicap wins in a season when only seventh in the attheraces.co.uk Handicap at Wolverhampton yesterday. She will, however, try again for the elusive 12th win at the same venue this weekend. Trainer David Evans told *Sporting Life*: "I did not really think she would do it today, but she has run well enough really and we will give her a couple of days off and run her again on Saturday. She is in three races at Southwell and two here and I think she will go for the Santa Claus Handicap here."

ASCOT TO EXPAND BUSINESS

Ascot will launch as a limited company after being greeted with approval by the High Court yesterday. The Ascot Authority, established under a 1913 Act of Parliament "to promote the welfare and prosperity of the Ascot races," will now have the chance to expand its administrative and management powers and fulfil its planned racecourse redevelopment. Lord Hartington, who will chair a new executive structure, said yesterday: "In keeping with the original intent of the 1913 Act, Ascot's priority is the success, welfare and prosperity of Ascot racecourse. A key part of this is the redevelopment and modernisation of Ascot to ensure it maintains its position as a world-class racecourse. The ability to update our business structure, through incorporation, is an important milestone in this next era for Ascot."

Yesterday's Results:

12.40 Wolverhampton, Watch With attheraces.co.uk Maiden S. (Class D) (Dir 1), £3,950, 3yo, 1m 100yds (AWT), 1:52.50, stn.

MES GLORY BE (GB) (f, 3, Gbry Of Dancer (GB) - Miss Blondie (USA), by Stop The Music (USA)), a 33-1 outsider, was settled off the pace as first Francis Flute (GB) (Polar Falcon {USA}) and then Bond Mirage (GB) (Primo Domini {GB}) led. She was ridden along with three furlongs to go as Proud Western (USA) (Gone West {USA}) took over and ran on well in the home straight to beat One For Me (GB) (Tragic Role {USA}) by a neck. Lifetime Record: 7-1-0-1, £3,093.

O/B- Khalid al Ghurair; T-Gay Kellaway; J-K Dalgleish.



PRIOLO - Sire of Gr.1 winner MIRIO and 2 SWs in 2001

Fee 2002: €5,500 October 1st (IR£4,332 October 1st)

Enquiries to: John Clarke, B.Agr.Sc., Annette Boland, Helen Boyce or David Somers, **IRISH NATIONAL STUD**, Tully, Kildare, Ireland.
tel: +353 (0)45 521251, fax: +353 (0)45 522129, e-mail: stud@irish-national-stud.ie, web site: www.irish-national-stud.ie



British Report cont.

1.40 Wolverhampton, Watch With attheraces.co.uk Maiden S. (Class D) (Div 2), £3,950, 3yo, 1m 100yds (AWT), 1:51.90, stn.

NITE-OWL FZZ (GB) (g, 3, Efsio (GB) -- Nite-Owl Dancer (GB), by Robelino (USA)) tracked the leaders as Reasoning (GB) (Selkirk (USA)) set the pace from Fille de Bucheron (USA) (Woodman (USA)) and was sent to the front with three furlongs to run. The 10-1 chance held a clear advantage at the top of the stretch and had enough left in reserve in the latter stages to hold the closing Young Tern (GB) (Young Ern (GB)) by 1½ lengths. Lifetime Record: 4-1-0-0, £2,765.

O/B-J Saul; T-Jimmy O'Reilly; J-Gary Bardwell.

H IRELAND H

THE MINSTREL MARE TOPS GOFFS SALE

Minstrel's Gift (GB) (The Minstrel (Can)), a half sister to MGSW Ha's Pal (GB) (Caerbon (USA)), attracted a bid of £30,000 from Newbiggin Ltd. to top the Goffs December Flat Sale. Offered by Clonfert House Stud, the 10-year-old mare is in foal on a March cover to Docksider (USA). A yearling filly by Pivotal (GB) -- La Cabrilla (GB) brought the second-highest price of £24,000. Mrs. M. A. Hall purchased the bay filly from the family of Cadeaux Genereux (GB) who was consigned by Grange Stud.



**GOFFS DECEMBER STATISTICS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2001**

SESSION TOTALS	2001	2000
No. Sold	105	98
Gross (£)	408,200	453,200
Average (£)	3,888	4,624

H FRANCE H

LEADING JOCKEYS

JOCKEY	RIDES	WINS	PRIZEMONEY
Dom inique Boeuf	1,170	149	FF4,290,102
Olivier Peslier	902	148	FF4,105,371
Davy Bonilla	939	108	FF2,624,354
Eritz Mendizabal	379	94	FF891,044
Christophe Soumillon	778	88	FF3,389,568

As of 12-7-2001.

H MAIDEN WINNERS H

Miss Glory Be (GB), f, 3, Glory Of Dancer (GB) -- Miss Blondie (USA), by Stop The Music (USA). Wolverhampton, Britain, 12-11, Watch With attheraces.co.uk Maiden S. (Class D) (Div 1), 3yo, 1m 100yds (AWT), £2,765 to winner. B-Khalid Al Ghurair.

Nite-Owl Fizz (GB), g, 3, Efsio (GB) -- Nite-Owl Dancer (GB), by Robelino (USA). Wolverhampton, Britain, 12-11, Watch With attheraces.co.uk Maiden S. (Class D) (Div 2), 3yo, 1m 100yds (AWT), £2,765 to winner. B-J Saul.

TELL IT TO THE TDN...

Want to send a "Letter to the Editor" of the *Thoroughbred Daily News*? Our address is 27 Mornouth St., Red Bank, NJ, 07701;
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TDN

AMERICAN

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

BROODMARE LOUDRANGLE DEAD AT 27 Canadian champion broodmare **Loudrangle** (Quadrangle--Lady Known as Lou, by Nearctic) died yesterday at Sam-Son Farm due to the infirmities of old age. The 27-year-old mare, pensioned from breeding since 1996, will be buried at the Milton, Ontario farm. One of the foundation mares of the Sam-Son breeding empire, the Canadian-bred produced Ruling Angel, named Canadian champion and horse of the year as a juvenile in 1986 and Canadian champion three-year-old filly Tilt My Hat. The blue-chen mare's first foal, stakes-winning Tiffany Tam, went on to produce three-year-old champion and Queen's Plate winner Regal Intention. She is also the third dam of 2001 Sovereign Award obler filly and mare candidate Mountain Angel (Mt. Livemore).

BREEDERS' EDITION

MADEN WINNERS:

Sneaky, f, 2, **French Deputy**--Danzing Tori, by Danzatore. PHA, 12-11, (C), 6f, 1:13 3/5. B-Red Gate Venture LLC (Ky). *\$20,000 yrl '00 FTKJUL.
Maggie's Song, f, 2, **Prospector's Music**--Y'all Sing, by Singular. SUF, 12-11, 6f, 1:13 4/5. B-Howard Grey (Fl).

STAKES CLOSINGS

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13:

12-15 \$200,000e **Hollywood Futurity-I, Hol**, 2yo, 8.5f (10000s)

12-26 \$200,000 **Malibu-I, SA**, 3yo, 7f (200)



TDN TODAY

American 2 pages

I EAST I

New Jersey Racing Dates Set for 2002:

New Jersey Thoroughbred horsemen and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which runs Monmouth Park and the Meadowlands, yesterday reached an agreement on the 2002 racing schedule. If the deal is approved by the New Jersey Racing Commission, there will be 77 days of racing at Monmouth and 64 nights at the Meadowlands next year. "It looks like we've got a two-year deal with the Sports Authority," Bud Keegan, the president of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, said. "The first year--that's 2002--the stable area at Monmouth will open Apr. 1 and racing will start May 11. We will race Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12 and May 18 and 19, then go to the regular five-day a week meet starting May 24. The Monmouth meet will close Aug. 31 and the Meadowlands will open Sept. 1, with racing five nights a week until Nov. 30. The stable area at Monmouth will be open until Dec. 1." The 2003 calendar will see a 92-day Monmouth season opening in April, with a 49-day Meadowlands meeting starting Sept. 1. In addition, the Sports Authority will pay for horses to van from Monmouth to the Meadowlands to race. "We were fighting for a reasonable length for our season and to get stabling at Monmouth for the entire season, and we have achieved those goals with this deal," Keegan said. "This is a good, fair deal." The horsemen and the Sports Authority will bring their proposal to the Racing Commission at their Dec. 20 meeting, but Keegan said, "I believe it will be approved." Officials from the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority were unavailable for comment. The purses were boosted to record levels by an \$11.7 million supplement from the state legislation this year, but the supplement has not yet

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been approved for 2002. "We don't know exactly what the purses are going to be next year," Keegan said. "The bill for the supplement goes before the legislature [tomorrow]."

INDUSTRY INFO

Breeders' Cup Vice President Earns Derby Award:

Pam Blatz-Murff, senior vice president of Breeders' Cup operations for the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, received the Derby Award for her service to International Racing. "Everyone at the NTRA and Breeders' Cup is thrilled for Pam and proud of her work on the behalf of International horseracing," said D. G. Van Cleaf Jr, president of the Breeders' Cup and vice chairman of the NTRA. "Her 19 years of service here have been critical in establishing and maintaining the Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships as a premier global sporting event." Monday's ceremony, held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London, was organized by the British Horserace Writers and Photographers Association.



FRESHMAN FOCUS

First-crop progeny to watch: Wednesday, Dec. 12

Sire (Sire's Sire), Farm, 1998 Fee, #2yos/Winners/SW
Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)

ALPHABET SOUP (Cozzene), Adena Springs, \$30K, 83/7/0

6-HOL, Msw, 1m T, +Leprechaun Kid, \$8K OBS AUG yrl

GERI (Theatrical {RE}), Japan, \$20K, 50/2/0

6-HOL, Msw, 1m T, +Prairie Predator, \$120K KEE SEP yrl

GONE FOR REAL (Gone West), Duchess, \$2K, 6/1/0

14-CT, Alw, 7f, Grayson, 2-1

LOST SOLDIER (Danzig), Franks, \$4K, 55/10/1

4-GG, Alw, 6f, Lost At Sea, \$100K OBS MAR 2yo, 9-2

OUTFLANKER (Danzig), Cloverleaf, \$3K, 34/11/1

3-CRC, Alw, 6f, Excellent Choice, 4-1

SUAVE PROSPECT (Fortunate Prospect), Farnsworth, \$3K, 38/9/0

6-HOL, Msw, 1m T, +Suave Meteorite

TEJANO RUN (Tejano), Hill 'n' Dale, \$5K, 43/7/2

8-HOL, Str, 6 1/2f, My Babycakes

VALID EXPECTATIONS (Valid Appeal), Huisache, \$5K, 67/26/2

3-CRC, Alw, 6f, Sea Span, \$50K OBS APR 2yo, 4-1

WILD ESCAPE (Wild Again), Emerald, \$4K, 28/5/0

4-CT, Alw, 7f, Wild Thunder, \$6K TEX AUG yrl, 6-1

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY...

December 11, 1983...John Henry became the first racehorse to surpass \$4 million in career earnings when he won the Hollywood Turf Cup.

December 13, 1986...Jockey Kent Desormeaux picked up his first stakes win, riding Goodbye to victory in the Maryland City H. at Laurel.

December 15, 1973...Sandy Hawley became the first jockey in history to win 500 races in a single year when he rode Charlie Jr. to victory in the third race at Laurel Racecourse.

December 17, 1936...Crooner Bing Crosby announced plans to construct a new racetrack, to be called the DelMar Turf Club.

December 17, 1993...Fire destroyed the 122-year-old grandstand of **Fair Grounds**, the nation's third-oldest racetrack.

December 18, 1983...Hollywood Park held the first \$1 million



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lion race for two-year-old Thoroughbreds, the Hollywood Futurity, which was won by Fali Time, ridden by Sandy Hawley.

December 20, 1980...In his last race, at Hazel Park, 15-year-old **Bucket O' Suds** set the record for most starts by a Thoroughbred, 273. He raced every year of his career, which began when he was a three-year-old in 1968.

December 20, 1987...D. Wayne Lukas' trainee **Tejano** became the first juvenile millionaire when he won the Hollywood Futurity with Laffit Pincay Jr. aboard.



last year was the most amazing day of my life, it was a better feeling than winning two German Derbies. It was a dream last year, the crowd was fantastic and the atmosphere electric. I think you only get a chance to win something like that once in your lifetime--I hope I am wrong."

FROM THE DESK OF...
Bill Oppenheim



END OF TERM

Up until last week, I think we were all prepared to concede Saratoga the Sale of the Year honors. Of the 10 major North American and European yearling sales I use to compile major sale figures, it was the only one that was up in number sold, up in gross (by 49 percent, to \$62 million, less than \$1 million short of catching Keeneland July), and up in average (by 26 percent), compared to last year. But that which is freshest is best: Tattersalls' December Sale was decidedly strong, and Saratoga is relegated to Yearling Sale of the Year. December 2001 was definitely the strongest of the year's major mixed sales, and so the Committee of Experts (me) is awarding co-Sale of the Year Honors to both. For the record, Tattersalls sold 10 percent fewer horses than last year, but the gross was down just one-fifth of one percent, and the average was actually up 11 percent. There were 42 fewer yearlings (-29 percent from last year), 94 fewer foals (-15 percent), but only 20 fewer mares, etc. in Book 3 (-3 percent). The average was up in all three sections.

In the second half of this year, then, there have been 14 major sales in North America and Europe used for these compilations. Over 11,000 horses were sold--12 percent fewer than last year's 12,578 at the corresponding sales--and they grossed over \$850 million. When you think about it, it's really incredible that more than 11,000 horses aver-

aged over \$76,000 each. That's big money.

But it was significantly less big money than last year, when the 14 sales broke the billion-dollar barrier for the first time, totaling \$1,037,000,000 and change. This year's corresponding sales dropped 12 percent in number sold, 18 percent in gross, and seven percent in average from last year's highs.

As usual, however, it's a little more complicated than we might think from just looking at the raw numbers. I've made the case on several occasions in the last two months that I think the market is down--almost unaccountably--only about 10 percent from last year. In fact, I now think we can pinpoint the figure as down eight percent. Take a look at the numbers in the accompanying table (p. 3).

This 14-sale market breaks down into four separate sectors: US yearlings (3383 sold in the four sales), EU yearlings (2794 sold in six sales), US November Mixed (two sales, Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton, of which Keeneland was 96 percent of the 2613 sold) and EU Mixed (Goffs November and Tattersalls December, in which, combined, there were 2310 sold). If you take the three sectors other than Kentucky November Mixed (line 5 of the table), you'll see that 8,487 horses sold at these 12 sales this year. The number sold and gross were each down eight percent from last year, and the average was off just three-tenths of one percent. These numbers were reasonably consistent across all the three sectors. Kentucky November, however, was off 23 percent in the number sold, 41 percent in gross, and 23 percent in average. All but eight percent of that, I think, was MRLS--the 'mare reproductive loss syndrome' almost certainly caused by millions of caterpillars being blown off cherry trees and depositing cyanide in grazing land in Kentucky last spring after a freak snowstorm. Of the \$187 million fall in receipts over the 14 sales, \$120 million of it came in Kentucky in November, and \$67 million in the other 12 sales covered. There were nearly 1000 fewer horses catalogued at Keeneland, and MRLS had to be the reason why.

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Why the Thoroughbred market should be only off eight percent when plenty of dotcom and other stocks are down 90 percent, and in light of the September 11 attacks, we can only speculate. I'm reasonably confident of my percentage call; ask me to explain the why's, I'm guessing like everybody else. My guess is this--and I think December supported this observation. The world enjoyed a massive economic boom in the eight years between 1992 and 2000.

Cont. p. 3

(Oppenheim cont. from p. 2)

Horse prices, for example, increased by 2 1/2-3 times during that period. Even if a quarter of the new wealth, created largely by dotcoms, disappeared, that could still leave three out of every four people newly wealthy since 1992, still wealthy. The theory is, so much new wealth has been created that even a significant retraction of certain sectors of the general economy still leaves a lot of newly wealthy people (not to mention a lot of 'old wealth' that got even wealthier) since 1992. Fortunately for us, a few of them who still have money have been attracted to the

	2001			2000	
	Sold (% change)	Gross (% change)	Avg. (% change)	Sold Gross	Avg.
US Yrds	3383 (-14)		\$402,962,600 (-9)	\$119,114 (+6)	3916
					\$440,606,600 \$112,514
EU Yrds	2794 (-0.4)		\$169,459,110 (-10)	\$60,651 (-10)	2806
					\$189,166,210 \$67,415
10-Sale Total	6157 (-8)		\$572,421,700 (-9)	\$92,971 (-0.8)	6722
					\$629,772,800 \$93,688
EU Mixed	2310 (-6)		\$92,360,166 (-2)	\$39,983 (+5)	2469
					\$94,084,580 \$38,106
Yrds & EU Mixed	8487 (-8)		\$664,781,866 (-8)	\$78,329 (-0.5)	9191
					\$723,857,380 \$78,757
US Mixed	2613 (-23)		\$186,013,100 (-41)	\$71,188 (-23)	3387
					\$313,268,800 \$92,492
4 Sale Groups	11080 (-12)		\$850,794,960 (-18)	\$76,787 (-7)	12578
					\$1,037,126,600 \$82,456



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\$500,000+ Mares and Fillies...

April Clark, of *Racing Update*, reckons there have been 297 mares or fillies (in other words, breeding stock--not weanlings) who have sold for \$500,000 or more at the major mixed sales in the last three years. That's a lot, isn't it? It seems a lot to me, anyway. These 297 have grossed over \$320 million, averaging over \$1,080,000. That's about two percent of the horses sold, and they've accounted for about 30 percent of all the money generated by the relevant sales during that time. The other 16,000 horses sold in the 1999-2001 major mixed sales have averaged around \$50,000 each.

The distribution of, and within, these 297 is quite revealing. In 1999, there were 106 mares and fillies who sold for \$500,000-plus. The number climbed 10 percent to 117 last year. You guessed it, a precipitous drop this year: just 77 \$500,000-plus mares and fillies, 37 percent fewer than last year. This was true of \$500,000 to \$1-million mares/fillies (53 in 2001, 73 in 2000, 78 in 1999) and \$1 million to \$2 million mares/fillies (just 11 this year vs. 31 in 2000, up from 18 in 1999), but the very, very top echelon did hold up better. The \$2-million-plus mares/fillies--which is roughly the top one-tenth of one percent--actually held up best of all: 10 this year vs. 13 last year and 10 in 1999. Great if you've got something to sell in the top .1 percent, but the news wasn't as good this year if you had a mare somewhere among the other 999 of each 1,000.

Interestingly, I reckon something like 124 of those 297 mares/fillies--42 percent--were bought by European interests, whereas the European sales overall consist of about 30 percent of the combined American-European market. I counted 37 separate European entities who signed for \$500,000-plus mares or fillies. The Jacobs' family's Newseels Park Stud was the leading buyer, which won't surprise anybody who was around the sales this year: they bought four in this price range last year and 13 this year, for 17 total. Coolmore probably bought about the same number over the three years: John Magnier signed for six, but a number of others were bought by various agents who are sometimes known to sign for mares or fillies who end up at Coolmore. WinStar Farms' Lisa Troutt bought 12 for \$500,000-plus at the 2000 Keeneland November sale, including five at \$1.4-million-plus, and they were second leading buyer at this level, during this time period. John Ferguson (Godolphin), Charlie Gordon-Watson (for various), and Reynolds Bell, Jr. (he usually buys for Richard Santulli) signed for nine each over the three-year period.

What all this means for next year, well, I can plainly say

to you, I dinna ken, which is Scottish for "I don't know." All we can really say is that the 2001 sales held up much better, generally, than most observers thought they would. The November sale crash is highly likely to prove a blip on the screens, as I read the numbers. In any case, even though \$850 million isn't as impressive as being able to say \$1 billion, it's still a huge amount of money. Eleven thousand horses brought more than \$850 million, and averaged over \$76,000. That's big business.



WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

Saturday, Calder Race Course

TROPICAL TURF H.-GIII, \$100,000, CRC, 12-8, 3yo/up, 1 1/8m T, 1:46 4/5, gd.

1--**BAND IS PASSING, 118, h, 5, by Pass the Line**

1st Dam : Fairforband, by Fairway Fortune

2nd Dam : Bandiera, by True Cobrs

3rd Dam : Wild Courage, by Bold Lad

O/B/T-Stanley M Ersoff (FL); J-C V Gonzalez;
\$60,000. Lifetime Record: 24-11-6-3, \$578,863.

Until recently, Band is Passing had been a very high percentage scorer. Indeed at the end of 2000, he boasted a better than 500 strike rate with nine victories in 16 starts. In 2001, however, he had found things somewhat harder and until the weekend he had just one win in seven starts. A score in Saturday's GIII Tropical Turf H. moved Band is Passing back close toward his previous win/bss ratio, and he now has 24 starts for 11 wins, six seconds and a third.

Band is Passing is by Pass the Line. A staying son of the unraced Northern Dancer horse Pas Seul, Pass the Line won four graded stakes events, the most prominent being the 1985 GI Arlington H. He also set a track record for a mile on dirt at Calder and equaled the Calder 8 1/2-furlong turf course record, and his deeds at that venue are marked by the Pass the Line H. An 8 1/2-furlong turf stakes, this contest was won, appropriately enough, by Band is Passing in 2000. Standing at stud in Florida, Pass the Line has sired five stakes winners, of which Band is Passing is by far the best.

Band is Passing is the first foal of Fairforband, a very hard-knocking mare who faced the starter 108 times, winning eight times and earning \$116,342, although never earning black-type. Band is Passing's granddam Bandiera was by the Hoist the Flag stallion, True Cobrs, and won just two minor contests. Fairforband was her only foal in North America prior to her exportation to Venezuela. The pedigree does get a little more impressive further down the female line. Bandiera herself was half sister to the Bolsa Chica H. winner Dedicata and her dam Wild Courage had a three-quarters sister Victory Post, who eventually made her way to Australia, where she became granddam of graded stakes scorer Jester Royale. Wild Courage's own granddam is Natasha, ancestress of a string of top-class performers around the world, among them Anees, the champion two-year-old of 1999, as well as Group/Grade 1 winners Capote Belle, Dark Lomond, Gregorian, Heart of Darkness, Gold and Ivory, Silk Prima Donna, Distant Relative and Ezzoud.

Fairforband, the dam of Band is Passing, was a daughter of Fairway Phantom, a Northern Dancer horse, and therefore Band is Passing has Northern Dancer 3x3 through the male line of both sire and dam. There is more to his pedigree than that, however. Band is Passing's grandsire, Pas Seul, although unraced, did have an imposing pedigree, since he was not only by Northern Dancer, but also out of the Sorority S. winner Big Advance, herself a three-quarters sister to champion Bold Bidder. Big Advance was a product of the Bold Ruler/Princequillo cross. The same cross is found in champion Bold Lad, the sire of Band is Passing's third dam.

Duplicating the Bold Ruler/Princequillo combination with Bold Lad in the pedigree has actually been a very successful formula, especially when Secretariat has been the other source. In all, there are at least nine other unrestricted stakes winners with Bold Lad paired with another three-parts relative bred on the Bold Ruler/Princequillo cross, including Grade I winners Lost Kitty and Royal Indy, and Gone West's Group/Graded stakes

"His 4.07 Comparable Index puts him in company much higher than his \$25,000 stud fee would indicate."

-TBH MarketWatch

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