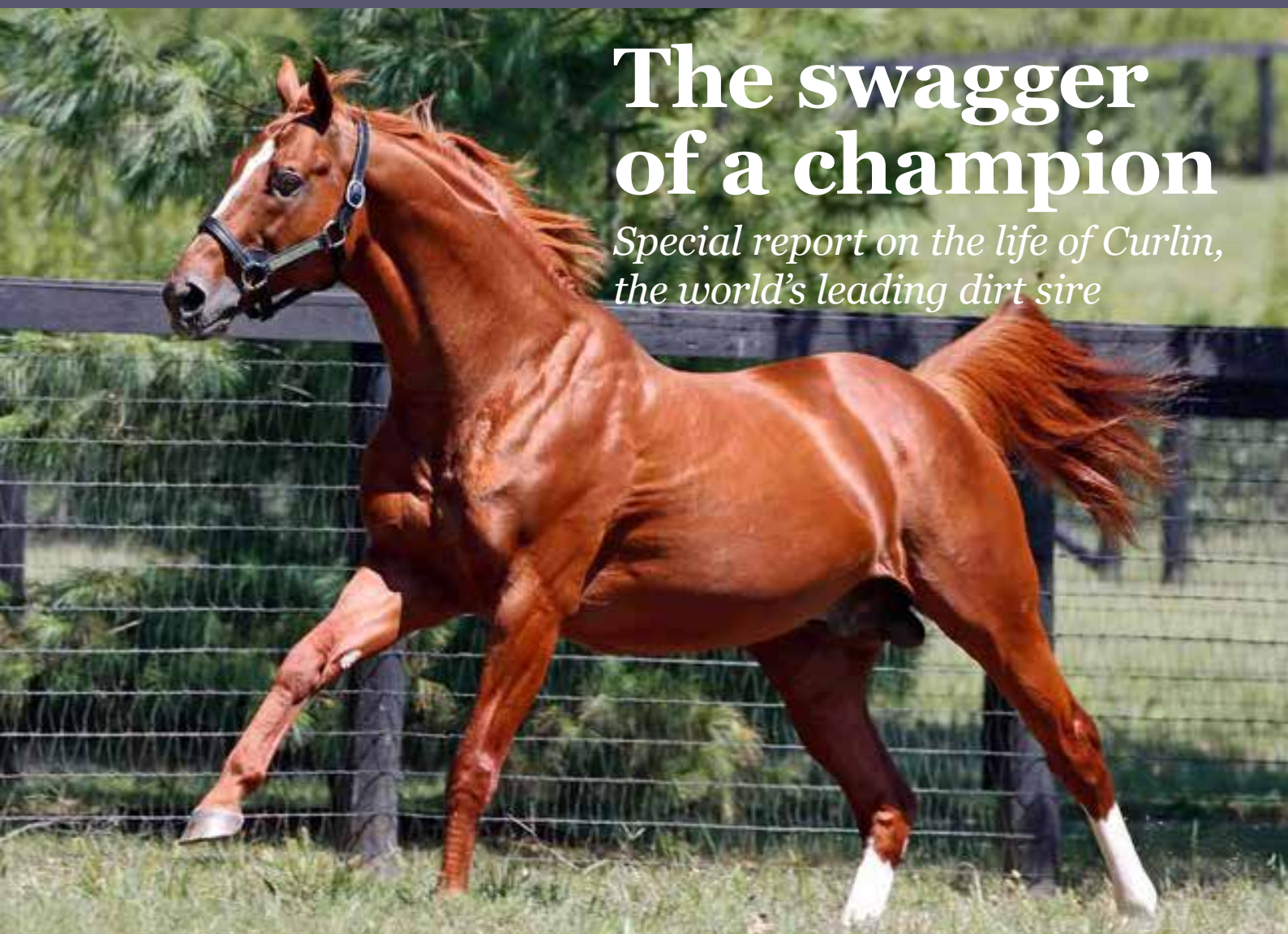


A special look at the top stories from thoroughbredracing.com. September 2019

TRC

The swagger of a champion

*Special report on the life of Curlin,
the world's leading dirt sire*



**Also inside: New stayers' race tops the bill on the Saudi Cup undercard /
The challenge facing an equine therapy centre / America's regulatory and integrity
structures are failing us / What They're Thinking: Christophe Soumillon**

NOV 1 & 2

THE COMPETITION IS FIERCE.

AND THAT'S JUST FOR TICKETS.



LIMITED SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR
THE BREEDERS' CUP. DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE
TO WATCH THE BEST THOROUGHBREDS IN THE
WORLD COMPETE AT SUNNY SANTA ANITA.

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY
BREEDERSCUP.COM/TICKETS • 1.859.514.9428

Curlin at Hill 'n' Dale: the world's top-ranked dirt with groom Christina Zurick. Photo and cover photo: Michele MacDonald



How's life for the horse who has become America's most reliable sire of Classic performers?

Within the arched passageways of the tree-lined courtyard at Hill 'n' Dale Farms' stallion complex, they call him Big Red. He walks with a confident swagger, his massive shoulders and hindquarters gleaming like liquid fire in shades of crimson and gold in the late summer sun.

While some might find it tantamount to sacrilege to employ the moniker legendarily applied to racing immortals Secretariat and Man o' War, Curlin not only looks the part, he has earned the distinction for this era, continuing to excel in every category.

With the Keeneland September yearling sale, the world's largest marketplace of young stock, set to begin on September 9, Curlin currently stands as the leading sire of auction yearlings by average price among those with at least three sold this year at an eye-popping \$835,000.

That ranking follows the racing success of his best progeny, which overall has been

so brilliant, particularly in recent years, that Hill 'n' Dale has been able to promote Curlin as the leading lifetime sire by average earnings index.

He is also the leading dirt sire in the world according to the TRC Global Rankings.

Although not as highly regarded by the commercial market earlier in his stud career, Curlin has powered upward dramatically over the past five years to attain his kingly status.

After falling to a nadir in 2014, when he stood for only \$25,000 at Lane's End, sired a crop of only 40 foals and recorded a yearling average sale price of \$134,375, the now 15-year-old currently is a leader in almost every category, including commanding a \$175,000 fee per mating this season.

Hill 'n' Dale Farms president John Sikura is quick to point out that "the horse has done all the work and the achievement is his".

With his offspring now encompassing multiple Classic winners and champions, Curlin has superbly fulfilled Sikura's most idealistic goals when the farm acquired a 20 percent interest in the two-time Horse of the Year and moved him in 2015 with the support of Stonestreet Farms, which retains majority ownership.

"It was a bet well in front of his achievements at the time we invested in the horse — we were three steps in front of his current value. We hoped and thought and had a belief that the achievement would catch up to the investment and surpass it, and fortunately that is what has happened," Sikura reflected.

"The opportunity presented itself and we bid boldly, and if it didn't work out, it would have been a hard hole to climb out of, but you take a position and make bets," Sikura said. "Curlin has certainly been very rewarding and we think that the best is yet to come. He really is just now into the heart of his stallion career."

Judging by the quality of mares visiting his court at Hill 'n' Dale in the last few seasons and by his yearlings being offered at 2019 auctions, Curlin could indeed just be finding his best stride as a sire.

Only a few examples are needed to reveal the level of mares he is covering, many due to strong support from Stonestreet and Hill 'n' Dale, with other breeders including Coolmore, Godolphin, Shadwell, Juddmonte and 2018 Eclipse Award winner John Gunther.

This spring, Curlin was bred to the dam of Triple Crown winner Justify and champions Judy The Beauty, Indian Blessing and Lady Aurelia; G1 winners

such as Eskimo Kisses, Midnight Lucky, Round Pond, Marketing Mix, Hard Not to Like, Lear's Princess, Dreaming Of Julia, Cavorting and Rachel's Valentina, as well as to the dams of champions Accelerate, Shared Belief and Close Hatches.

In 2018, Curlin's book included champions Beholder, who produced a filly this spring for Spendthrift Farm, and Rags To Riches, who delivered a colt in April for a Coolmore partnership. Champion Tepin, who was purchased by Coolmore for \$8 million while in foal to Curlin in 2017, subsequently foaled a filly.

With such abounding quality in his mates, as well as the ongoing success of his progeny in racing, it's no wonder Curlin is now siring top yearlings in the auction ring.

At the recent Fasig-Tipton Saratoga selected sale, Curlin sired the top three highest-priced yearlings, with a pair of colts going for a sale-topping \$1.5 million each and another for \$1 million, with the latter price also achieved by a Tapit colt. Another Curlin colt was close behind while selling for \$950,000.

The Curlin ranks have never been stronger at Keeneland, where the stallion has 60 total yearlings in the September catalog, with 41 included among the cream of the crop in Book 1's three stellar sessions. Only Triple Crown winner American



THOROUGHBRED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

It Pays to Breed in Ontario

TIP Program worth Over \$16 million

Buy, Breed & Race in Ontario

ONTARIO RACING
ontarioracing.com

El Tormenta
Winning the
Ricoh Woodbine Mile Stakes G1

Michael Burns

Playful mood: "Some days [Curlin will] stand there like a statue and not move, and then some days he'll sidestep and he just doesn't want to stand still. You really can't do much about it," says stallion manager Larry Walton. Photo: Michele MacDonald



Pharoah, who has 90 total individuals from his second crop in the entire catalog, has more yearlings in Book 1 at 42.

“The fact that Curlin is top heavy in Book 1 just shows what people think of him,” Sikura noted.

What Curlin tends to add to matings are qualities most top breeders are seeking.

“He throws his big shoulder in his foals, and good bone and a lot of body — he puts himself in a lot of his offspring, and that’s a plus,” said Hill ‘n’ Dale stallion manager Larry Walton. “He’s your true American dirt horse. He’s got everything you could want, the short cannons, big shoulder, big hip. He’s perfect, in my opinion.”

Stonestreet bred 11 of the Curlin yearlings consigned to the September sale, with six in Book 1 including a colt out of Horse of the Year Rachel Alexandra’s G1-winning daughter Rachel’s Valentina, a half brother to G1 winner Tara’s Tango, a colt out of New Zealand champion Bounding, and fillies out of G1 winners Cavorting and Dreaming Of Julia.

The Hill ‘n’ Dale consignment includes five Curlin yearlings in Book 1, led by colts out of champion Blind Luck and G1 winner Got Lucky and a filly produced by G1 winner Sam’s Sister.

While the fortunes of Curlin have never been higher, he is the epitome of a horse who has made his own way in the fickle world of racing and breeding, eclipsing skepticism just as easily as he did rivals on the racetrack and rising to become a pre-eminent influence on the American Classics.

Bred by Fares Farm, the son of Smart Strike and the Deputy Minister mare Sherriff’s Deputy was sold for the relatively modest sum of \$57,000 at the 2005 Keeneland September sale. Trainer Ken McPeck signed the ticket as agent and later related that Curlin “had a little vet issue as a yearling”.

While Curlin did not start until February of his 3-year-old season, he immediately flashed lightning-in-a-bottle kind of talent, winning a seven-furlong debut at Gulfstream Park by 12¾ lengths for the Midnight Cry Stable of lawyers Shirley Cunningham Jr and Bill Gallion and trainer Helen Pitts, previously McPeck’s assistant.

Eventually, in the only ugly chapter connected to Curlin’s life, Cunningham and Gallion would be disbarred and sent to prison after being convicted of taking millions of dollars owed to clients from a \$200 million settlement regarding the

anti-obesity drug Fen-Phen. The federal government seized their assets, including their ownership of Curlin, which by that time had been reduced to 20 percent — and that was the share that Hill ‘n’ Dale ultimately was able to purchase.

Regardless of the stormy controversy with Gallion and Cunningham, Curlin just kept on running.

Classic jewel

By the colt’s second start, the Rebel Stakes at Oaklawn Park, Stonestreet had become controlling owner, with Padua Stables and George Bolton taking minority interests in the overall deal reported at \$3.5 million, and Steve Asmussen had taken up training duties. Curlin racked up another impressive victory and then went on to a 10½-length romp in the Arkansas Derby.

Regarded so highly that he was sent off the close second choice behind champion juvenile Street Sense in the Kentucky Derby, the inexperienced Curlin was steadied early before making a five-wide bid and finishing third to the favorite at Churchill Downs.

The chart of the race shows the depth of his generation as winner Street Sense and runner-up Hard Spun both have gone on to strong stud careers for Darley. Among the also-rans in the field was multiple G1 winner Scat Daddy, who sadly was injured but would become legendary as a Coolmore sire of international acclaim with Triple Crown winner Justify to his credit.

In the Preakness, Curlin earned his classic jewel. After stumbling at the start, he again rallied five-wide and persevered, digging in to gain a hard-fought head victory over Street Sense in the final stride as Hard Spun finished third.

While Curlin proved best of all the males in the Belmont Stakes, tenacious champion filly — and future mate — Rags To Riches refused to yield in an epic stretch battle, defeating Curlin by a head. But Curlin went on to capture the Jockey Club Gold Cup Stakes and the Breeders’ Cup Classic and seal his first Horse of the Year title.

Formidable physical force

By the end of that 2007 season, Stonestreet founder Jess Jackson had acquired the interests of Bolton and Padua.

As Curlin turned four, he matured into a formidable physical force, and he crushed his rivals in the Dubai World Cup by a record-setting 7¾ lengths under Robby Albarado. The stunning chestnut returned to action quickly, capturing the Stephen Foster Handicap at Churchill Downs before finishing second in the G1 Man o’ War Stakes on turf.

Curlin subsequently secured victories in both the Woodward Stakes and Jockey Club Gold Cup, but did not seem to relish the synthetic surface at Santa Anita Park in 2008, finishing fourth behind Raven’s Pass in the Breeders’ Cup Classic.

That race marked the only time in his entire career that Curlin finished worse than third, but it did not keep him from a well-deserved second Horse of the Year title. He retired to Lane’s End as North America’s all-time earnings leader with \$10,501,800, a mark that later would be broken first by California Chrome and then by Arrogate and Gun Runner.

Curlin began his stud career in 2009 with a fee of \$75,000 while standing alongside his sire, who was advertised at \$125,000. As the effects of the global economic crash chilled bloodstock markets, Curlin’s fee was lowered to \$40,000 for his second season and remained at that level through 2012 prior to being reduced to \$25,000 for 2013 and 2014.

Yet, with his initial crop, Curlin showed the first flash of what he would become known for as a sire. His son, Palace Malice, proved he was the rare kind of individual who could excel at the highest level over varied distances, capturing the 1½-mile Belmont Stakes from Derby and Preakness winners Orb and Oxbow before brilliantly prevailing over Goldencents in the one-mile Metropolitan Handicap at four.

Unassailable status

Curlin’s second crop included Preakness runner-up Ride On Curlin, and his third crop

In 2018, Curlin’s book included champions Beholder, who produced a filly this spring for Spendthrift Farm and Rags To Riches, who delivered a colt in April for a Coolmore partnership.

THE ULTIMATE RACEDAY

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2019
ASCOT RACECOURSE



TICKETS ON SALE
BRITISHCHAMPIONSDAY.COM

starred champion filly Stellar Wind, multiple G1 winner Curalina and Keen Ice, who would win the Travers Stakes and become the only colt to defeat American Pharoah in the year of his historic Triple Crown.

Preakness winner Exaggerator followed in Curlin's fourth crop, joined by Cigar Mile Handicap victor Connect; Belmont runner-up Irish War Cry was in Curlin's fifth crop, and juvenile champion Good Magic followed in the next crop along with G1 winner Vino Rosso and Preakness third Tenfold.

To date, there can be little argument that Curlin has become America's most reliable sire of Classic performers, yet he also can get precocious 2-year-olds and scintillating milers. He also has sired a strong group of turf performers, with Graded winners on the grass in Texas Ryano, Diversy Harbor, Moulin de Mouglin and Current.

While his status now is unassailable, Curlin was just beginning to become consistently prominent with his offspring when Sikura made his move to acquire the stallion for Hill 'n' Dale. The deal was announced just after Keen Ice had bounded home in the Travers but prior to Stellar Wind being honored as a champion and a season before Exaggerator's Classic triumph.

"I felt very strongly that Curlin was going to be an important sire. He was on the cusp of so many great things," Sikura said in looking back, noting that Curlin's stud fee was boosted from \$35,000 in 2015 to \$100,000 for his initial Hill 'n' Dale season prior to rising first to \$150,000 and then to \$175,000. "The fact that it's come to fruition is very rewarding for myself and the work we have done with [Stonestreet owner] Barbara Banke, having a shared belief in the horse that has now come true.

Top, top mares

"You really don't know that you have a specific expectation other than a belief that the horse can be a great stallion and will be a great stallion," Sikura added in considering how Curlin's stud career has soared. "As you achieve those milestones with progeny, the market gets on board and you're rewarded in the sale ring. Those things really work hand in hand.

"One of the commitments we made to Barbara Banke when we bought into the horse and relocated him was to support him with top, top mares, and we did that. I bred our best Hill 'n' Dale mares before it was widely accepted that he was a sire of

this magnitude," Sikura continued. "He was a \$35,000 stallion who enjoyed a good year when he came. When he went from \$35,000 to \$100,000 the first year here, he got all of our best mares and has continued to do so.

"The first crop, of those bred at Hill 'n' Dale since the horse has stood here, are now 2-year-olds. His prior achievement we had nothing to do with; that really set the table for his success here. But we're hopeful and expecting that the follow-through will be great," he said.

Curlin is like "a family member" to Banke, she has said. Along with Rachel Alexandra, Curlin gave Banke and Jackson a sweep of the Horse of the Year titles from 2007 through 2009, firmly establishing the nascent Stonestreet operation as a major force in American racing, and both horses are now enshrined in the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York.

"My husband, Jess Jackson, loved this horse," Banke said when Curlin gained his place in the Hall of Fame in 2014, three years after Jackson had passed away at age 81. "[Curlin] took us on a magnificent ride. For two years, it was unbelievably exciting."

Special visiting times

While there have been many changes in racing and breeding and in the lives of the people close to him since those heady days, there are many similarities for Curlin in his daily life today, although obviously he no longer has to endure the stress of racing competition.

He still projects the confidence that Asmussen so often cited during his racing days and he still has legions of fans, some of whom send him gifts and some of whom regularly visit, Walton said. Hill 'n' Dale tries to accommodate those who are passionate about Curlin with special visiting times, and Walton said the stallion handles the attention well, often posing nobly for photos with fans patting his shoulder.

In his new line of work, Curlin remains a superior performer.

"He's pretty easy to get along with, and he behaves himself pretty well," Walton said. "In the breeding shed, he's very good. He knows his job and gets his job done. He's really fertile, which is good. He got 94 percent [of the 128 mares that he covered] in foal this breeding season."

Hill 'n' Dale's stallion grooms ply Curlin with peppermints and other candies because they like "to spoil him a little", but

Walton said even with sweets, the stallion displays a range of moods and notions about what he wants to do.

"Every day is different when you bring him out to show him. Some days he'll stand there like a statue and not move, and then some days he'll sidestep and he just doesn't want to stand still. You really can't do much about it; you just have to put up with it," Walton said.

"Turning out, he's easy. We give him a little grain when we turn him out; we kind of baby him a little bit. He deserves it. We try to keep him happy," he added.

No pushover

While Curlin is mostly a model citizen and enjoys robust health with no special needs other than persistent attention to keep his white socks sparkling, he is no pushover and demands respect.

"He's a big horse and he knows his size. He weighs over 1,400 pounds and he's 16.2½ — that's a lot of horse," Walton pointed out.

When Curlin is set free in his paddock, even in the hot sun of a summer afternoon, he does not hesitate before bounding off in a free-flowing gallop, covering the ground as few runners have been able to do in recent decades, the earth trembling under his feet.

Challenging his neighbor in the adjoining paddock, champion Midnight Lute, Curlin flags his tail and tosses his head before taking off again. The briefest sight of him in motion, a flame across the Kentucky bluegrass, would be enough to sway any doubters.

Another strong statement for Curlin is the half life-sized statue of the stallion, who is portrayed regally surveying his domain, that has been positioned in a roundabout outside the Hill 'n' Dale stallion barn. Sikura commissioned two of the statues from artist Nina Kaiser in 2017, and the second one was installed at Stonestreet's Lexington farm only about three miles away.

"We're glad that Curlin is now accepted without any reservation as far as what you can get for them, what they can achieve and who would want them. That's a great thing and it's reflective of people's confidence in him as a sire of great racehorses," Sikura said.

"He has enjoyed the support of mares that are peerless. He's answered all the questions and that's why he's been rewarded in the sales ring," he continued. "That's how the market perceives the horse and how we perceive the horse. There has to be a shared belief, which I think he has enjoyed. Long may it continue."

How do you grow grass in the desert? Find out at thesaudicup.com



SAUDI CUP

الكأس
السعودية



A staying handicap on turf

3000m (15f)
Value: **\$2,500,000**
\$1,500,000 to the
winner.
An open handicap.

A dirt sprint

1200m (6f)
Value: **\$1,500,000**
\$900,000 to the winner.
Three-year-olds and up.
Weight for age.

A middle- distance turf race

2100m (10.5f)
Value: **\$1,000,000**
\$600,000 to the winner.
Four-year-olds and up.
Weight for age.

A dirt mile for three- year-olds

1600m (8f)
Value: **\$800,000**
\$480,000 to the winner.
Three-year-olds.

A turf sprint

1350m (6.7f)
Value: **\$1,000,000**
\$600,000 to the winner.
Four-year-olds and up.
Weight for age.

An Arabian race on dirt

2000m (10f)
Value: **\$1,900,000**
\$1,140,000 to the
winner.
Arabian horses aged
four and up.

On February 29th, 2020 in Riyadh

COME WITH US ON A JOURNEY

The **\$20m** richest race in the world
now has an undercard on both dirt and turf

New stayers' race tops the bill as \$6.8m Saudi Cup undercard looks sure to attract Europeans

Jon Lees | September 18, 2019



Europe's leading trainers have been offered an enormous financial incentive to support Saudi Arabia's new Saudi Cup race meeting with the unveiling of three turf races on an undercard worth a total of \$6.8 million.

Prince Bandar (front row, centre), chairman of the Saudi Jockey Club, with some of the leading European trainers at the London launch of the Saudi Cup undercard on Monday. There's one jockey in there too - can you spot him? Photo: Sam Barker



If the \$20 million Saudi Cup, which will be run on dirt in Riyadh on February 29, has more appeal to U.S. competitors, organisers behind the latest addition to the international racing calendar believe there is something for everyone else among the five supporting races.

And, judging by the turnout of elite trainers, including John Gosden, Sir Michael Stoute, Richard Hannon, Andrew Balding and Roger Varian, plus Willie Mullins and Mick Halford from Ireland and John Hammond from France, at the official announcement in Fortnum & Masons in London on Monday, that optimism may not be misplaced.

The main lure will be a \$2.5 million staying handicap to be run over 3000 metres (15 furlongs) on the new turf course under construction at the King Abdulaziz racetrack. There will also be a middle-distance turf race over 2100m (10.5 furlongs) and a turf sprint over 1350m (6.7 furlongs) worth \$1 million each. A dirt sprint and a 3-year-old only dirt mile, worth \$900,000 and \$800,000 respectively, complete the schedule.

Gosden said, "These races will offer terrific targets for a range of horses – from sprinters to stayers, plus a mile race for 3-year-olds which is worth a good deal more than the early Classics. I'm already thinking about which horses I could take."

Varian said, "For the right horse, it is an exciting programme of races."

The Saudi Cup, scheduled four weeks after the Pegasus World Cup and four weeks before the Dubai World Cup, is designed to attract the world's best dirt horses, with the first, second and third from the Pegasus at Gulfstream Park in Florida in January receiving an automatic invitation.

The staying handicap could provide another international stop-off for Europe's Melbourne Cup contingent, if not Australia's, for whom travel and quarantine protocols are expected to prove insurmountable in year one of the new Saudi Cup venture.

"With the Saudi Cup in particular you are really looking at the Breeders' Cup Classic-type horse," said Tom Ryan, director of strategy and



international racing for the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia. “We really see that as a very high-echelon dirt race.

“With the undercard, we set out particular targets. If you take the long-distance handicap, that is targeted at a group of horses that are predominantly older and good travellers.

“We have been a little bit strategic in other areas so we see the 3-year-old race on the dirt over a mile as a step into the UAE Derby [at Meydan on the Dubai World Cup card]. We have tried to fit in races that will make sense in the long term.”

The layout of the track has also been a factor in the framing of races. “On the turf track, in particular, there are only certain starts that will work from the stalls-placement perspective,” said Ryan.

Cheltenham Festival alternative

“The 1350m sprint start happens to be right on the verge of the back straight to allow it to be safely run. There was a significant level of interest from the UK trainers for a mid-distance race, but 2000m was a bit

close to a bend so we stepped it back 100m so it became 2100m.

“The staying handicap was a race that we felt would ignite a little bit of imagination among the trainers. There is a very identifiable trend for those type of horses to travel, so whether it is Willie Mullins or Gordon Elliott or any of those stayers in the UK that have travelled to Melbourne, we have tried to set the prize money at a desirable enough level for them to keep those horses in training over the winter and maybe not go to Cheltenham for a Supreme Novices’ Hurdle or something like that.

“We have had great fun with it. We’ve been in regular contact with the Asian Racing Federation and people in Meydan, and they are quite supportive of the races we’ve chosen. Through horses coming into the region a little earlier, it might have a positive knock-on effect on Dubai World Cup night.”

The King Abdulaziz dirt track, which has been open to local racing from October through to April for many years, has been widely acclaimed by visiting jockeys as one of the best surfaces in the world.

King Abdulaziz racetrack in Riyadh, where the Saudi Cup card will be staged. The photo was taken before work on the turf track began

Turf racing has yet to take place there and, even though the new course has still to be completed, the organisers are confident it will be ready in time.

Ryan said, “Because of the temperature ranges at the time of the year, we are ultimately going to race on a rye grass that would normally be seen on a European surface. Traditionally the timescale would appear tight. We have a longer period to settle the turf in than they had the first year the turf track was used at Meydan.

“There are technological advancements and careful selection of the materials that make all of this happen. We are getting weekly reports, and we are at a stage now that they say they are handsomely ahead in the programme.

“We see a situation where horses will be on that track in the early part of January on a trial basis. We don’t have a moment of doubt.”

Your next chances to find a Derby winner

**Weltstar -
winner of the
German Derby
2018 - a BBAG
graduate**



**Windstoss - winner of the German
Derby 2017 - a BBAG graduate**



**Isfahan - winner of the German
Derby 2016 - a BBAG graduate**



October Mixed Sales

18th and 19th October 2019

Sales Dates 2020

Spring Breeze Up and HIT Sale • 22nd May 2020

Premier Yearling Sale • 4th September 2020

October Mixed Sales • 16th and 17th October 2020



www.bbag-sales.de





FRANKEL

2008 b h Galileo - Kind (Danehill)

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING
Better than any
OTHER SIRE

14%

Group winners to runners

18%

Blacktype winners to runners

36

Reached 30 Group winners
faster than any other
European stallion in the
history of the Pattern

Contact Shane Horan or Claire Curry

+44 (0)1638 731115

nominations@juddmonte.co.uk

www.juddmonte.com



JUDDMONTE



The challenge facing an equine therapy centre helping trauma victims turn their lives around

Daniel Ross | September 23, 2019

The Baltimore County Equine Center is found in a corner of the Maryland countryside that looked on a recent sunbaked July morning as though it had been torn from a John Henry Twachtman painting, a delirious quilt of yellows and greens and browns, hawks circling the thermals and honey bees gorging on pollen in the hazy golden sunlight.

Scientific acceptance is growing of the important role of equine therapy for veterans and others suffering from PTSD. Photo: Siobhan Budnitz/Baltimore County Equine Programs

“Yeah, it’s really beautiful here,” said a county employee who volunteers at the center, during a tour of its broader 150-acre agricultural playground, the Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park — the “Ag Center” — a place where experimental crops are grown, beehives kept, and produce for nearby soup kitchens reared in bulging glasshouses. “It’s just kind of perfect, isn’t it?”

Perfect, indeed, for all sorts of things, including a marriage of convenience between a racing industry under fire for its broken covenant to protect retired racehorses and a portion of the public left too long to suffer in the shadows.

That’s because the center with its six resident off-track Thoroughbreds — five from the Foxie G Foundation and one from Sagamore Farm — has over the past year and a half played host to a number of equine therapy programs that have filled a glaring void in the area.

Perfect setting: the ‘Ag Center’ occupies 150 acres of beautiful Maryland

countryside. Photo: Ellie Williams
Perfect setting: the 'Ag Center' occupies 150 acres of beautiful Maryland countryside. Photo: Ellie Williams

One is a partnership with Saratoga WarHorse, a Thoroughbred therapy program for veterans suffering PTSD. "With 22 veterans taking their own lives every day, it is an accomplishment to positively affect even one life," said Allison Cherkosly, executive director of Saratoga WarHorse.

Using as a blueprint the Monty Roberts Join-Up approach, the center also provides therapy for local first responders. Then there's a burgeoning relationship with the Eagala program, what's described as an 'equine-assisted psychotherapy' for at-risk youth who have suffered things like developmental trauma, and sexual and physical abuse.

"We're the only police or law enforcement agency that I can think of in the country, or in the world as a matter of fact, that's doing what we're doing," said Gerald Brooks, a 32-year veteran of the police force. Now retired, he still



Last year, 65 veterans from all over the U.S. took part in 13 Saratoga WarHorse classes in Baltimore. Photo: Siobhan Budnitz/Baltimore County Equine Programs





Key worker: Drama, one of six off-track Thoroughbreds at the centre, has been used on all three equine therapy programs. He is from the Foxie G Foundation. Photo: Ellie Williams



Perfect setting: the 'Ag Center' occupies 150 acres of beautiful Maryland countryside. Photo: Ellie Williams

works as a civilian for a local police department and volunteers his time (and money) as an instructor in the first responder program.

Most importantly, these programs work, said Brooks. "I remember vividly a couple folks who came through here who later said that the program saved their life," he said.

'It's been frustrating'

As splendid as the results have been, however, teething problems have dulled the shine a little. For one, a local political movement aims to reduce the equestrian footprint at the Ag Center.

"What was this built for? For the agricultural industry," a nearby farmer and a member of the agricultural council complained to the Baltimore Sun last year, about the facility. "We are methodically being pushed out without any consultation."

And despite a five-year Motion of Understanding (MOU) between the program and Baltimore County, no Saratoga WarHorse classes have been conducted at the facility since June — a

window being used to iron out a few issues stemming from a prior change in leadership, said Cherkosly.

Nevertheless, right now, the center's Eagala program, along with those geared towards county employee first responders — many of them veterans, is continuing as normal. What's more, "all three of our program locations each take a few months off every year, so this break isn't out of the ordinary," said Cherkosly, which leaves her optimistic of the WarHorse program's swift resumption of service at the center.

"Saratoga WarHorse invested a significant amount of time, money and resources to open this third location at the request of Baltimore County, so we have every intention of fulfilling our contract with the County for the next four years," said Cherkosly.

'Trust-building experience'

All this comes as a time of growing scientific acceptance of equine therapy, spearheaded by Columbia University's Man O' War Project — the first university-led trial to study the effectiveness of equine-assisted therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD.

Last year, 65 veterans from all over the U.S. took part in 13 Saratoga WarHorse classes in Baltimore, with each three-day session going something like this:

The participants gather on the first day for a meet-and-greet dinner, and an overview of what they can expect from the program. Then, the following day, they're given a crash course on how horses think as prey animals, how they react to humans and other stimuli, said Brooks, who instructed some of the classes.

The hands-on part begins with lessons on the lunge line, along with a run through of the Monty Roberts join-up routine to connect with the horse. When the participants are ready, they move these exercises — first conducted with humans standing in for the horses — from a large arena into the smaller confines of a pen.

"And then we do it with the actual horses," said Brooks.

The whole process "puts everything that they carried up to that day on the back-burner ... You can see the

emotional release on their faces,” he added. “We’ve heard from many, ‘it’s the best night sleep I’ve gotten in a long time.’”

Then comes the debrief.

“We don’t document these things because they’re highly confidential,” said Brooks. Though he gave an example of the sort of remark he hears afterwards:

“I just want to go home and hug my kids.”

‘That was taboo’

PTSD isn’t an intractable problem only for veterans. This 2017 review study found that policemen and firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty, and can be as much as five times more likely than the civilian population to suffer PTSD and depression.

“I’m a big believer that there should not be stigma if you are a first responder who needs help,” said Marc Junkerman, a local law enforcement veteran of the Harford County Sheriff’s Office.

“For years and years and years, that was taboo. And that has been one of the biggest silent killers, the fear of ridicule. The fear that you’re going to lose your job. You’re going to be looked on as less than,” he added. But now, “we’re starting to break down those walls.”

Last year, 65 veterans from all over the U.S. took part in 13 Saratoga WarHorse classes in Baltimore. Photo: Siobhan Budnitz/Baltimore County Equine Programs
Last year, 65 veterans from all over the U.S. took part in 13 Saratoga WarHorse classes in Baltimore. Photo: Siobhan Budnitz/Baltimore County Equine Programs
Junkerman is coordinator of his department’s wellness and resilience program. Classes at the equine center aren’t mandatory, though he has in mind an ideal candidate when fishing for recruits. “Someone who’s looking to help themselves,” Junkerman said. Not that first responders are always cognizant of this need.

“Here’s the funny thing: sometimes when you’re down in the hole, everybody else knows it but you,” Junkerman said.

When he’s selling the program, it’s with first-hand authenticity that he relays the details. “It was one of the best experiences I’ve had where you had the ability to look yourself in the mirror, to really figure out what this particular program means to

you,” said Junkerman, an army veteran before he joined the police force.

“This is about you going in there, connecting with the animal, conquering your fears, realizing that this is bigger than all of us, and sort of putting down the weight and surrendering to the moment, which is something very challenging for first responders and police officers.”

Typically, participants of SaratogaWar Horse are limited to the program’s three-day outline. But, if local first responders wish to return to the equine center in Baltimore for follow-up sessions, “they can come to Eagala,” said Berger.

So, just what is Eagala?

‘He was just in a fog’

“It’s not rainbows and unicorns I’m afraid,” explained Ellie Williams, who runs the program at the equine center.

Williams was born in England, emigrated to the U.S. when she was a teen. To the untrained ear, her accent’s as American as a Fourth of July rodeo. But every now and then her roots reappear in her voice, like tea leaves at the bottom of a cup.

Williams worked in child services for ten years, and it was during this time that she became disillusioned with the thin menu of help on offer for the children she encountered who had suffered all kinds of horrific traumas and abuses.

“I never found a good therapeutic intervention for them,” Williams admitted. And then she stumbled across the Eagala program - an “out-patient equine therapy” perfectly geared towards at-risk youth, foster children and adoptees.

Eagala is about 14 years old, has been at the Ag Center for about a year-and-a-half. “Having to be kind, patient and calm with a horse is helping them learn to build relationships in a healthier way,” she said, about the reason Eagala works for troubled kids.

Key worker: Drama, one of six off-track Thoroughbreds at the centre, has been used on all three equine therapy programs. He is from the Foxie G Foundation. Photo: Ellie Williams
Key worker: Drama, one of six off-track Thoroughbreds at the centre, has been used on all three equine therapy programs. He is from the Foxie G Foundation. Photo: Ellie Williams

“A horse will give you immediate

feedback. If you hit it, there’ll be a reaction,” Williams said.

Eagala also serves veterans found guilty of things like drink and drug offenses. “I had a veteran, he survived Afghanistan, Iraq, and he came back, and his son died in a horrific boating accident. He did what most people do – he self-medicated, and just was in a fog,” she said.

“And the physicians, they were like, ‘take this, this’ll help you,’” said Williams, about the way in which the veteran was initially offered a pharmaceutical band-aid rather than therapy. “They never helped him deal with the trauma of losing his son, which triggered the loss of losing his buddies from overseas.”

When the veteran was in the Eagala program, however, “there were times when he stood in the field and he was just tears, sharing the loss of his son,” she said. “I tell you, those horses were facing away, not paying any attention, and as soon as he had that emotion, the alpha horse literally picked his head up, turned around, and went straight to him, head on his chest, like, ‘I’m here for you.’”

‘That’s what we’re really missing’

Money — or lack thereof — is an ubiquitous problem when it comes to the first responders’ program.

“Hopefully we’ll come across some funding soon,” said Brooks, who volunteers his time with another instructor, while a nearby Marriott Hotel donates rooms to the participants. “That’s what we’re really missing.”

But despite the lingering questions marks and challenges, Brooks is optimistic for the future. In early September, representatives from other Maryland jurisdictions toured the facility — a visit that Brooks and Co. hope will spur broader interest in the programs there, especially considering the urgency of the mental health crisis facing the nation’s police, firefighters and combat veterans.

Just take the New York Police Department, which experienced six police suicides over a period of just ten weeks during the summer.

“It has had a profound effect on me and I know it has had a profound effect on the people who come through here,” Brooks said. “At the end of the day, it’s good for the horses, too.”

HOW DO YOU LIVE UP TO
THE GLORY OF YOUR PAST?



YOU WORK LIKE HELL.

Coming new to

 **SPENDTHRIFT**



Plenty of questions need answering over the Justify positive test at the Santa Anita Derby, but the real story doesn't really involve either the horse or trainer Bob Baffert. Photo: Alysse Jacobs

America's regulatory and integrity structures are failing us

Charles Hayward | September 17, 2019

If you are reading this, you already know that Justify tested positive for the drug scopolamine after winning the Santa Anita Derby before going on to win the Triple Crown. The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) never explained to the racing public what had happened. We only learned about this development 15 months after the fact thanks to this article by Joe Drape in the New York Times last week (September 11).

From my perspective, this was not handled appropriately by the CHRB, but, in my view, Baffert and Justify do not figure in the real story, which does need further explanation.

According to Drape, the CHRB took more than a month to confirm the results. Instead of filing a public complaint, the board made a number of decisions in private, dropped the case against Justify and modified the rule regarding scopolamine, finding that Justify and a "handful" of other horses had eaten jimson weed, which contains scopolamine. It should be noted that scopolamine cases have resulted in disqualifications, purse reimbursements, fines and suspensions over past decades, according to Drape.

Information that was not revealed

There are procedural steps that the staff and board of the CHRB undertook that are material to the Justify case that can be questioned, but more importantly one has to understand what actions were taken and why?

For example, Drape writes the following Dr Rick Sams, who ran the drug lab for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission from 2011 to 2018, said scopolamine can act as a bronchodilator to clear a horse's airway and optimize a horse's heart rate, making the horse more efficient. He said the amount of scopolamine found in Justify - 300 nanograms per milliliter - was excessive, and suggested the drug was intended to enhance performance. "I

think that it has to come from intentional intervention," he said.

The CHRB staff offered no information about the other horses that may have been contaminated. They did not give their names or those of their trainers?

Was the contamination that the board asserted for the unnamed horses consistent with the 300 nanograms alleged to have been found in Justify. Were there more environmental results that the staff chose not to share with the public?

This event was especially troubling for me, because I have written on numerous occasions how ineffectual and unprofessional many state racing regulatory agencies are and how poorly they collectively serve the Thoroughbred

racing industry. I had always considered the CHRB to be one of the better ones. However, this, along with the serious issues that Santa Anita faced this winter, convinces me that we need a centralized national organization to manage integrity issues that are stipulated in the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019.

Need for out-of-competition testing

One of the most important initiatives that will have to be addressed head on by USADA (U.S. Anti-Doping Agency) is the dramatic need we have in the U.S. for Out-of-Competition Testing (OOCT). In fact one of the first jurisdictions in the U.S. to take on OOCT was California and the CHRB.

California first focused on the logistics of developing the proper program and policies. Keep in mind, that OOCT may conjure up images of vets, trainers and CHRB staff traveling all over the state. In fact, OOCT will test a number of horses that are stabled and train on track, but the goal is to test these horses on a random basis to capture proper results that simply cannot be captured in a traditional post-race test.

California developed its original plan focusing on the mechanics on how the horses were going to be selected and tested with results on a timely basis. Dr Rick Arthur, Equine Medical Director of the CHRB, has done a brilliant job developing the expanded program, incorporating all aspects, including penalties, and has gotten tremendous pushback from the TOC (Thoroughbred Owners of California) and the CTT (California Thoroughbred Trainers).

The U.S. is far behind the rest of the racing industries around the world regarding OOCT. In the U.S., OOCT is approximately one percent of the drug tests that are conducted. That compares very unfavorably the other major racing jurisdictions, which are a minimum of ten percent, and in most countries closer to 20 percent. In the U.S., OOCT for baseball is 25 percent and for swimming and cycling it is 60 percent.

Why is OOCT so important? The racing industry has been led to believe by the current constellation of vets, trainers and regulators that post-race testing catches the cheaters.

IT DOES NOT!

Peter Sacopulos is a lawyer and former operator of Green Gables Stud in Clay County, Indiana, and he wrote a brilliant

article on OOCT for the National HBPA Horsemen's Journal, Summer 2013 issue, in which he says:

"Out-of-competition testing aims to detect prohibited substances, primarily blood-doping agents, that are not detectable in post-race tests [and] that are specifically identified and prohibited by regulation and/or rules. Many of the substances targeted by out-of-competition testing are detectable for only a short period of time after being administered to the horse. In short, a horse administered a blood-doping agent prior to race day may test negative in a post-race test but may have received the potentially positive race-performance effect of the prohibited substance."

The best of the best

Many of the new blood-doping agents and synthetic drugs fall into this category. Put simply, post-race testing accounts for 99 percent of the test samples that we collect in the U.S. The American racing industry is spending large sums of money to catch cheaters by concentrating on post-race tests. Even if we had new state-of-the-art labs with enhanced testing procedures, we would have virtually no chance of catching the cheaters without a rigorous out-of-competition testing and rigorous enforcement initiatives.

Okay, I have written a great deal about cheaters, which may lead you to ask, how does Hayward know that there is all this cheating going on in our sport? Let's do a brief math exercise that will provide you some tools for your own use. Let's go back over the last ten years of contemporary trainers elected to the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame:

Trainer	Induction year	Lifetime win % on induction
Tom Voss	2017	14.80
Steve Asmussen	2016	20.83
King Leatherbury	2015	18.06
Gary Jones	2014	18.50
Roger Attfield	2012	17.80
Jerry Hollendorfer	2011	19.50
Bob Baffert	2009	22.50
Janet Elliott	2009	15.30

Here is the previous decade of Hall of Fame Inductees:

Trainer	Induction year
Carl Nafzger	2008
John Veitch	2007
Nick Zeto	2005
Sydney Watters Jr	2005
Shug McGaughey	2004
Sonny Hine	2003
Bud Delp	2002
Richard Mandella	2001
Neil Drysdale	2000
D Wayne Lukas	1999
Bill Mott	1998

The National Museum and Hall of Fame did not have any trainer winning percentages for the last group of trainers. However, I would speculate that the overwhelming majority of these Hall of Fame trainers, the 'best of the best', will have a win percentage of 17-20 percent. These are some of the great trainers of this generation, which would indicate that consistent winning success over 20 percent is extremely rare to achieve.

In trying to identify a pool of possible trainers for a new program of OOCT, I would suggest using the trainer stats from the Daily Racing Form and prioritizing those trainers that have achieved and maintained over three to six months a percentage of 25 percent or higher in the following categories:

- First time starters in both MSW or MCL
- First back off a layoff of 90 or more days
- First race off a claim
- Race after a win

In addition to this targeted list of possible cheaters, a broader program for the remaining trainer base would need to be developed.

While we are on the topic of dealing with cheating by trainers in a small portion of our races across the country, the Daily Racing Form conducted an extensive survey of betting customers in October 2015. These three questions from that survey represent important betting and integrity issues:

Do you believe states are currently effectively catching trainers or veterinarians who are using illicit drugs?

No	78%
Yes	16%
No opinion	6%

Do you believe states are capable of adopting uniform medication rules without the structure that would be imposed by the Thoroughbred Horse Racing Integrity Act?

No	60%
Yes	31%
No opinion	9%

Are you in favor or opposed to passage of the proposed Thoroughbred Horse Racing Integrity Act?

In favor	64%
Opposed	22%
No opinion	14%

Please remember that DRF customers are generally serious bettors who apparently continued making bets even when 78 percent of them believed that illicit drugs were being used on the racehorses. Also, pari-mutuel in the U.S. reached a high point of \$15.18 billion in 2003 and has flattened out at \$11.27 billion in 2018 (a decline of 25.8 percent). I know from my own experience, when I find myself trying to handicap the cheaters instead of the horses, I lose interest and confidence in the amount that I wager.

In turning back to the regulatory environment, I do want to mention a few issues regarding the work of the then New York State Racing and Wagering Board when I worked at NYRA and the experiences of a student of the New York Gaming Commission.

During the late 2000s, when I was working at NYRA, I experienced something truly remarkable.

During the pre-race activities when the horses walked into the paddock area before saddling, the NYRA vet responsible for the paddock spotted a horse with a small needle mark with blood on its neck. The vet quickly called the head of security, who immediately checked the trainer's

premises and found one full syringe and one empty one. That already was a serious violation of NYRA rules.

The security head escorted the trainer to the state steward's office. The trainer signed a statement saying that the syringes belonged to him, but then he would talk no further.

We sent the material off to the NY Racing and Wagering Board exec, asking for him to inspect the needles for their content, test some blood that was drawn from the horse and inform us how he planned to proceed. We sent everything off and waited to hear from the Racing and Wagering Board. The call never came. Nor did I ever get my phone call returned.

Clearly the NY Racing and Wagering Board was not interested in catching a cheater that day.

We have been fortunate to have Tom Noonan write for this site. Tom is a lawyer, breeder, owner, bettor and student of NYRA and New York racing politics. Last summer, Noonan wrote this excellent article, Does New York care about horses being doped? He wrote:

"New York's lackadaisical attitude towards OOC is particularly disturbing for a number of reasons:

- *It typically takes 20 percent of the national betting handle, meaning bettors cannot be confident they are getting an honest product.*
- *Transparency is always a beneficial characteristic, but even more so in a business where suspicions and rumors tend to be rampant.*
- *Disclosing the identities of trainers and horses who have been tested would be a benefit to all, but particularly to those of the 'knowing whippers'.*
- *Publishing data on testing is the most effective deterrent there can be.*
- *My fear, however, is that New York's program - to the extent that it even exists - is nothing more than a sham. How can it be that not a single Thoroughbred tested positive over a period of more than four years."*

I have come to believe that no one in the state regulatory offices, in the executive offices of the racetracks, and certainly not the trainers nor the vets want to catch the cheaters.

The system is broken, and, if it is not replaced, the Thoroughbred racing industry has no future.

Similarly, I think that the time has come for leaders in the racing industry to accept the fact that the Racing and Medication Consortium (RMTC), the Association of International Racing Commissioners (ARCI) and the state regulatory/racing commissions have failed to provide leadership and direction for the integrity of the Thoroughbred racing industry.

'A disservice to the sport'

Certainly, on the part of the RMTC, excellent work was accomplished by talented staff, while executives and board members worked hard on the critical goals and initiatives. However, for example, this group has been working since 2012 to organize the National Uniform Medication Program (NUMP). This initiative was a critical component of harmonizing rules and medications across the country. After seven years, less than half of the 32 horse racing states have adopted the plan, with no indication that a national uniform program will be accomplished. The results for promulgating a national OOC program have been more disappointing.

Natalie Voss wrote this excellent article on this topic on the Paulick Report in which she asks Joe Gorajec, 25-year former Executive Director of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission, "What is stopping the states from out-of-competition testing?"

"It is either the lack of funding or a lack of will or the combination of both," he told her. "Without out-of-competition testing, horsemen can cheat with impunity. This is a disservice to the sport and the betting public."

As I sit here finishing this article, Keeneland has finished a very strong opening week of the September sale. I am pleased that things are performing well on the breeding side of the business. I am afraid, on the racing, wagering and integrity fronts, we are in a serious state of decline, whatever the numbers say.

The Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019 provides a serious positive alternative to what the state regulators can do for the business, and USADA's history and experience would give us a fighter's chance to take the betting business back from the cheaters.

TATTERSALLS OCTOBER YEARLING SALE, Book 1

OCTOBER 8 – 10



JAPAN

Grand Prix de Paris, Gr. 1 & Juddmonte International Stakes, Gr. 1

purchased at Tattersalls October Yearling Sale, Book 1

EUROPE'S LEADING SOURCE OF
CLASSIC/GROUP 1 WINNERS



T: +44 1638 665931 sales@tattersalls.com www.tattersalls.com   

What They're Thinking: **Christophe Soumillon: we need to be more transparent to open up racing to punters**

Sally Ann Grassick | September 10, 2019

Christophe Soumillon has been one of the world's elite jockeys since the start of the millennium. The 38-year-old Belgian, the Aga Khan's retained jockey, has been French champion ten times, holds the European record for wins in a calendar year (306 in 2017) and has won nearly 100 G1s all over the world. His big-race roll of honour includes two Arcs, a Breeders' Cup Turf, a Japan Cup, a Hong Kong Derby, a Canadian International, a King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, a British Champion Stakes and an Irish Champion Stakes, as well as the last two Dubai World Cups aboard Godolphin's Thunder Snow.

He spoke to Sally Ann Grassick as part of our What They're Thinking series.

Big-race supremo: Christophe Soumillon after Thunder Snow's second Dubai World Cup victory. Photo: Michele MacDonald



Who do you think is the most important figure in the history of racing around the world?

It is difficult to name just one person. If you were to ask me who is currently the most influential person in our industry, with the greatest achievements, then I would have to say Aidan O'Brien. In previous years, trainer Francois Mathet had a massive effect on French racing.

If you are talking about owner-breeders, then you have to mention His Highness the Aga Khan, who has been a major influence in European breeding and racing as a whole, whether it be in Ireland, England or France. Sheikh Mohammed and Coolmore are two others who have revolutionised racing on a global level.

I can't just pick one name; it would be like choosing the best football team between Barcelona, Real Madrid and Manchester United. They are three owner-breeders who have changed racing around the world and who, thanks to their vision, have won top races internationally. I have seen things change so much in racing, just during my lifetime, thanks to them.

As for jockeys, then it would have to be Lester Piggott and Frankie Dettori who stand out for me. They made England the centre of the racing world thanks to their success on the international stage. The racing world moves very quickly, a few years ago Andre Fabre was changing the face of racing in France, and now we are talking about John Gosden's success in the UK.

We are lucky enough to be surrounded by talented people in racing and we seem to have been blessed with champions in recent years, be it Treve, Enable or Frankel. I am looking forward to seeing what the next ten years will bring for our industry.

Which is your favourite venue and race (anywhere in the world)?

My favourite race will always be the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. It stands to rights that my favourite racecourse would have to be ParisLongchamp. I have won big races all over the world, but what I love the most about ParisLongchamp is the atmosphere. I love its location too - just five kilometres' walk from the Eiffel Tower. It is a magnificent place right in the heart of the Bois de Boulogne. All the English want to come because they have such a good time there. All the Europeans, whether they be Italian, Spanish, Belgian or German, want to be there too.

It is currently the favourite target of the Japanese, even though they have yet to win an Arc. Everybody wants to come and win a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. The entire racing world looks at the Arc as a major elite race: it is our own version of the World Cup. They tried to do something similar with Champion's Day in the UK, but I think that Arc weekend is still a unique event.

What is your fondest memory in racing?

For me personally, it would have to be Zarkava. She was the highlight of my entire career. To find such a talented filly and be able to maintain an unbeaten partnership together brought me unparalleled satisfaction. I appreciated what we achieved together back then, but I appreciate it even more now.

It makes me nostalgic to witness champions such as Treve and Enable winning two Arcs. At the time when Zarkava retired to stud, very few horses had managed to do the Arc double and it seemed an almost impossible feat. We can see nowadays just what the superstars of racing can achieve, and she is definitely part of that elite group. We knew that we had the best horse then. Who knows if that would have been the case the following year? One this is certain; she has made her mark in the racing history books.

What do you see as the biggest challenge racing faces today?

I think that there are too many races, which means punters don't have time to study the form properly and take a real interest in what is going on. There is less transparency and visibility about how a horse is training in the mornings, compared to countries like Japan, Hong Kong, Australia or the States, where we see horses taking part in barrier trials and know their times and weight. There is always an unknown with horses even if you have all the information available, as sometimes you never know why a horse runs badly, but at least you have more transparency and reassurance for punters.

Maybe then you would have more people betting on racing as they would think that it is possible to find a winner if you study the available information properly. At the moment that is not the case in France as there are too many variables; one day it is a left-handed track, and the

next right-handed. One day soft going, and the next fast. One day the horse runs on the turf and the next on the all-weather. Punters can feel a bit lost, like they are betting on a different race every two minutes; it is more like a lottery rather than studying the form.

Less and less people buy the Paris Turf every day to study the form before racing, but at least social media has made videos of past performances more available to punters. It is also hard when trainers and jockeys can't reveal all the information about their runners, as it might annoy the owner or breeder, so punters feel like they are in the dark.

Some people prefer not to say anything rather than lie in an interview. We need to do our best to open up our sport to punters to encourage them to bet more on it.

If you could change one thing in racing, what would it be?

For me, what makes a big-race day special is the crowd. The more people there are on a racecourse, the better the atmosphere. It is like a football match: if the stadium is half empty then the match doesn't have the same atmosphere even if you have best players on the pitch. When a stadium is full and there is tension in the air and a huge roar from the crowd, then you can feel the passion and all your sensations are heightened.

The most important thing is to get people to come to the races. Popularity breeds popularity; if you can get enough people to come racing then the crowd will follow. Atmosphere is everything. The Thursday evening Jeuxdi concept at ParisLongchamp is a good example of this. People want to go to a cool and popular event, and if they have a good time and there is a great atmosphere, then they will go back again and bring their friends. They don't care how good the racing is, they just want to have a fun time with some food and drink and their friends.

It is a great feeling for a jockey to ride in front of a crowd like on those evenings or on Arc day. Even if you are disappointed to have been beaten, it is hard to feel down for long when you see the reaction and passion of the crowd. Very few sports can create such a wide range of emotions in the space of two minutes. It makes me sad to see empty stands on racecourses. It is not a good sign for our sport.

TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



The Thoroughbred Racing Industry's ranking system

Available at thoroughbredracing.com

Thoroughbred racing has its rankings of the world's leading horses and the world's best races, but the sport is devoid of meaningful classifications of the humans involved, the jockeys, the trainers, the owners.

After two years in development, Thoroughbred Racing Commentary (TRC) filled that void with the creation of TRC Global Rankings. Updated weekly, this is the only system in the world that assesses the accomplishments of every jockey, trainer, owner and sire.

Advertise in TRC Monthly Roundup

A look at the top stories from thoroughbredracing.com



**Full page, half page and quarter page formats available.
Contact: george@thoroughbredracing.com**



Thoroughbred Racing
Commentary

Sign up for our free newsletter

Make sure you never miss the inside track on the international thoroughbred racing industry direct to your inbox three times a week.

**And also receive
TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS weekly updates**

Sign up at www.thoroughbredracing.com

Join the conversation on social media...

 /ThoroughbredRacingCommentary

 @TRCommentary

TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



22 September 2019

Jockeys

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1100
2	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1093
3	Christophe-Patrice Lemaire	Japan	1058
4	Mike E Smith	USA	1055
5	William Buick	Great Britain	1047
6	Zac Purton	Hong Kong	1042
7	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1041
8	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1036
9	Jose L Ortiz	USA	1033
10	Javier Castellano	USA	1032
10	Joel Rosario	USA	1032
12	James Doyle	Great Britain	1030
13	Mirco Demuro	Japan	1027
14	Flavien Prat	USA	1025
15	Mickael Barzalona	France	1021

Trainers

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	John Gosden	Great Britain	1089
2	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1085
3	Chad C Brown	USA	1077
4	Aidan O'Brien	Ireland	1059
5	Bob Baffert	USA	1054
6	Andre Fabre	France	1031
7	James Cummings	Australia	1024
8	Sir Michael Stoute	Great Britain	1021
9	Saeed bin Suroor	UAE	1019
10	Steven Asmussen	USA	1014
11	Chris Waller	Australia	1013
12	John Moore	Hong Kong	1003
12	John W Sadler	USA	1003
14	Darren Weir**	Australia	1000
15	Brad H Cox	USA	999

Owners

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Godolphin	Australia	1087
2	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1069
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1054
4	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	USA	1048
5	Magic Bloodstock Et Al	Australia	1027
6	White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al	USA	1020
7	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1018
8	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1014
9	Klaravich Stables Et Al	USA	1013
10	WinStar Farm Et Al	USA	1012
11	China Horse Club Et Al	Australia	1011
12	Lloyd Williams Et Al	Australia	1010
13	Hronis Racing LLC	USA	1008
14	U Carrot Farm	Japan	1007
15	Michael Dubb Et Al	USA	1005

Sires

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Dubawi	Great Britain	1093
2	Galileo	Ireland	1070
3	Frankel	Great Britain	1052
4	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1049
5	Shamardal	France	1040
6	Lord Kanaloa	Japan	1036
7	Scat Daddy	USA	1033
8	I Am Invincible	Australia	1030
9	Deep Impact	Japan	1028
10	Nathaniel	Great Britain	1025
11	Teofilo	Australia	1024
12	Street Cry	Australia	1023
13	Curlin	USA	1022
13	Lope De Vega	Australia	1022
15	Candy Ride	USA	1021