

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

TRC



Reaching the Promised Land

Also inside: Stories from the rich African American history at Churchill Downs / Five exciting new recruits join Spendthrift stallion roster / Are homebred stayers on the way back down under? / What They're Thinking: Barry Irwin




SAUDI CUP

الكأس
السعودية

**The world's most
valuable horserace**

Total purse \$29,200,000

All races are free to enter, with all expenses paid.




RACE	NH AGE	DISTANCE	PURSE	WINNER	SURFACE
THE JOCKEY CLUB LOCAL HANDICAP	4YO+	1800m (1m 1f)	\$500,000	\$300,000	DIRT
THE RIYADH DIRT SPRINT	3YO+	1200m (6f)	\$1,500,000	\$900,000	DIRT
THE 1351 TURF SPRINT	4YO+	1351m (6 ³ / ₄ f)	\$1,000,000	\$600,000	TURF
THE DIRIYAH DIRT MILE	3YO	1600m (1m)	\$800,000	\$480,000	DIRT
THE NEOM TURF CUP	4YO+	2100m (1m 2.5f)	\$1,000,000	\$600,000	TURF
THE OBAIYA ARABIAN CLASSIC	4YO+	2000m (1m 2f)	\$1,900,000	\$1,140,000	DIRT
THE RED SEA TURF HANDICAP	4YO+	3000m (1m 7f)	\$2,500,000	\$1,500,000	TURF
THE SAUDI CUP	4YO+	1800m (1m 1f)	\$20,000,000	\$10,000,000	DIRT

Entry Deadline: **TUESDAY JANUARY 7, 2020**

For full details, contact Adrian Beaumont: +44 1638 668881

E-mail: saudicup@irbracing.com

www.thesaudicup.com

@thesaudicup   

Saudi Cup Day

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2020

King Abdulaziz Racetrack, Riyadh,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)



The strength in depth on Japan is nothing less than awesome

James Willoughby | December 13, 2019

‘Trust the process’ is a mantra of many leading sports organisations around the world. It is a declaration that elite preparation is the mother of elite performance, and to achieve sustainable success it is necessary to have driving principles.

Above: Admire Mars (Christophe Soumillon) wins the Hong Kong Mile at Sha Tin on Sunday, a mighty day in the ongoing development of Japanese racing. Photo: Hong Kong Jockey Club

Cover photo: The equine paradise that is Northern Horse Park, part of the Northern Farm complex that includes the world-famous Shadai Stallion Station, on the island of Hokkaido in Japan. Photo: Amanda Duckworth

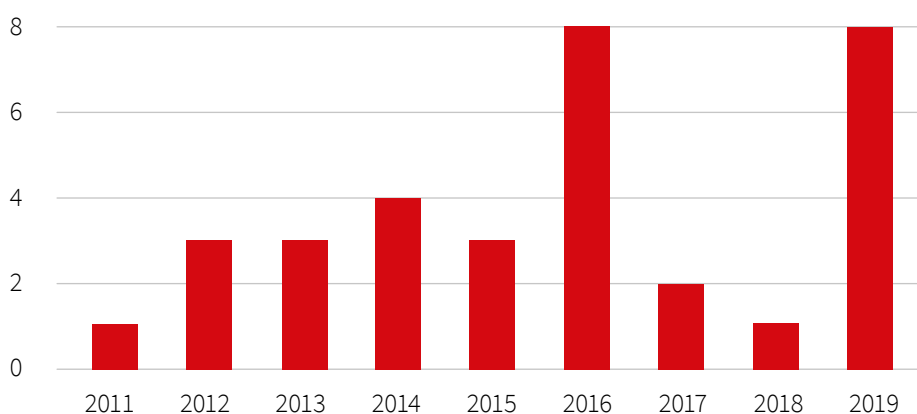
In horse racing, no country has showed the cause and effect can be linked by good thinking like Japan.

For the details, please review the excellent article *Why the Japanese breeding mindset is so much better for the long-term health of horse racing* by Nancy Sexton, which TRC published on June 11. Really, it is so clear why the Japanese are experiencing a golden period of success in races outside their own country; it is not a fluke; it is going to happen more regularly from now on.

The strength in depth in Japanese middle-distance horses is nothing short of awesome. The country swept the three Hong Kong International races at a mile or more last weekend – no surprise whatsoever to anyone who has followed this site. Few writers know this beat better than J A McGrath: why not review his Hong Kong Diaries on TRC from earlier this month.

It turned out the Japanese contingent did not need the mighty Almond Eye, but Silk Racing's superstar has been flattered time and again by runners to whom she

Count of Japanese wins on foreign soil



is linked by form lines. Our view is that, in terms of class, she is second only to Enable among active horses on the planet – and even this could be subject to change by the end of 2020.

While the writers above have helped to capture in words the rise of Japanese Thoroughbreds and the reasons behind it, it's high time for a statistical recap within the window of our rankings, for which we started collecting data comprehensively in 2011.

Japanese horses have run in 267 races outside their country in the last nine seasons combined. They have won 33 times, for a strike-rate of 12.4 percent. Of those wins, 13 have come in Hong Kong, seven in Dubai, six in France, five in Australia and one each in Great Britain and the USA. The plot above shows the distribution of wins across the time frame; a chronological list of winning horses, and details of the races won, is given below:

Date	Horse	Age	Sex	Sire	Group	Course	Country	Distance	RPR
3/26/2011	Victoire Pisa	4	horse	Neo Universe	1	Meydan	UAE	10	120
4/29/2012	Rulership	5	horse	King Kamehameha	1	Sha Tin	HK	10	125
9/16/2012	Orfevre	4	horse	Stay Gold	2	Longchamp	FR	12	119
12/9/2012	Lord Kanaloa	4	horse	King Kamehameha	1	Sha Tin	HK	6	122
9/15/2013	Orfevre	5	horse	Stay Gold	2	Longchamp	FR	12	121
9/15/2013	Kizuna	3	horse	Deep Impact	2	Longchamp	FR	12	116
12/8/2013	Lord Kanaloa	5	horse	King Kamehameha	1	Sha Tin	HK	6	129
3/29/2014	Just A Way	5	horse	Heart's Cry	1	Meydan	UAE	9	130
3/29/2014	Gentildonna	5	mare	Deep Impact	1	Meydan	UAE	12	116
4/26/2014	Hana's Goal	5	mare	Orewa Matteruze	1	Randwick	AUS	7	114
10/18/2014	Admire Rakti	6	horse	Heart's Cry	1	Caulfield	AUS	12	119
3/21/2015	Real Impact	7	horse	Deep Impact	1	Rosehill	AUS	8	117
12/13/2015	A Shin Hikari	4	horse	Deep Impact	1	Sha Tin	HK	10	121
12/13/2015	Maurice	4	horse	Screen Hero	1	Sha Tin	HK	8	120
3/26/2016	Real Steel	4	horse	Deep Impact	1	Meydan	UAE	9	120
3/26/2016	Lani	3	colt	Tapit	2	Meydan	UAE	10	107
5/1/2016	Maurice	5	horse	Screen Hero	1	Sha Tin	HK	8	122
5/24/2016	A Shin Hikari	5	horse	Deep Impact	1	Chantilly	FR	9	126
9/11/2016	Makahiki	3	colt	Deep Impact	2	Chantilly	FR	12	114
11/24/2016	Nuovo Record	5	mare	Heart's Cry	3	Del Mar	USA	11	104
12/11/2016	Maurice	5	horse	Screen Hero	1	Sha Tin	HK	10	124
12/11/2016	Satono Crown	4	horse	Marju	1	Sha Tin	HK	12	122
3/25/2017	Vivlos	4	mare	Deep Impact	1	Meydan	UAE	9	116
4/30/2017	Neorealism	6	horse	Neo Universe	1	Sha Tin	HK	10	119
7/22/2018	Geniale	4	horse	Deep Impact	3	Maisons Laffitte	FR	8	115
3/30/2019	Almond Eye	4	filly	Lord Kanaloa	1	Meydan	UAE	9	117
4/28/2019	Win Bright	5	horse	Stay Gold	1	Sha Tin	HK	10	120
8/1/2019	Deirdre	5	mare	Harbinger	1	Goodwood	GB	10	118
10/19/2019	Mer De Glace	4	colt	Rulership	1	Caulfield	AUS	12	115
10/26/2019	Lys Gracieux	5	mare	Heart's Cry	1	Moonee Valley	AUS	10	120
12/8/2019	Glory Vase	4	colt	Deep Impact	1	Sha Tin	HK	12	122
12/8/2019	Admire Mars	3	colt	Daiwa Major	1	Sha Tin	HK	8	119
12/8/2019	Win Bright	5	horse	Stay Gold	1	Sha Tin	HK	10	118

horseracingintegrity.com



PROTECT HORSES, REFORM HORSE RACING

Fans ■ Players ■ Owners ■ Trainers

One set of rules and a level playing field for everyone.

Support the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019

All these wins came on grass, except Victoire Pisa's, which was on the old Tapeta surface at Meydan. The table is shaded, with the darkest rows, like Rulership's, for example, being performances rated 125+ by Racing Post Ratings (RPR), the next darkest rows being those of 120+ and the lightest rows being the remainder.

Notice the proliferation of G1s; this, of course, makes sense given the shipping involved and the proliferation of valuable targets at home.

But this 'Redquake' of success around the world for Japanese horses is not, of course, the full story. At home, the quality and competition in domestic Group races continues on an upward curve.

A sure sign of the quality of competition in a country is strength in depth. No race in Japan proves this more than the G1 Autumn Tenno Sho, won by Almond Eye from Danon Premium and Aerolithe. Behind in seventh was the G1 Japan Cup winner Suave Richard, while eighth was Win

Japanese horses have run in 267 races outside their country in the last nine seasons combined. They have won 33 times, for a strike-rate of 12.4 percent. Of those wins, 13 have come in Hong Kong, seven in Dubai, six in France, five in Australia and one each in Great Britain and the USA.

Bright, who won the G1 Hong Kong Cup. Several other horses from this race have run well in the same or other top races, as well.

Finally, the table below contains the names of the best horses Japan has

produced since 2011. Here, we have merely ranked the horses by number of wins, with a minimum of five imposed, which is a lofty threshold. Each horse's last win is given, with the date in year-month-day format.

Horse	Sire	Wins	Last win	G1	G2	G3
Orfevre	Stay Gold	11	Arima Kinen	6	5	0
Gold Ship	Stay Gold	11	Tenno Sho	6	4	1
Kitasan Black	Black Tide	10	Arima Kinen	7	3	0
Lord Kanaloa	King Kamehameha	9	LONGINES Hong Kong Sprint	6	0	3
Gentildonna	Deep Impact	9	Arima Kinen	7	1	1
Win Bright	Stay Gold	7	Longines Hong Kong Cup	2	3	2
Almond Eye	Lord Kanaloa	7	Tenno Sho	6	0	1
Maurice	Screen Hero	7	LONGINES Hong Kong Cup	6	0	1
Mikki Isle	Deep Impact	6	Mile Championship	2	1	3
Lovely Day	King Kamehameha	6	Tenno Sho	2	2	2
Satono Diamond	Deep Impact	6	Kyoto Daishoten	2	3	1
Satono Crown	Marju	6	Takarazuka Kinen	2	3	1
Isla Bonita	Fuji Kiseki	6	Hanshin Cup	1	3	2
Clarente	Dance In The Dark	6	Keisei Hai Autumn Handicap	0	1	5
Fame Game	Heart's Cry	6	Diamond Stakes	0	2	4
Curren Chan	Kurofune	5	Takamatsunomiya Kinen	2	1	2
Hokko Tarumae	King Kamehameha	5	Tokyo Daishoten	3	0	2
Yamakatsu Ace	King Kamehameha	5	Kinko Sho	0	3	2
Suave Richard	Heart's Cry	5	Japan Cup	2	2	1
Fine Needle	Admire Moon	5	Sprinters Stakes	2	2	1
Danon Premium	Deep Impact	5	Yomiuri Milers Cup	1	3	1
Deirdre	Harbinger	5	Qatar Nassau Stakes	2	1	2
Whale Capture	Kurofune	5	Tokyo Shimbun Hai	1	2	2
Just A Way	Heart's Cry	5	Yasuda Kinen	3	1	1
Kizuna	Deep Impact	5	Sankei Osaka Hai	1	3	1
Bel Canto	Sakura Bakushin O	5	Ibis Summer Dash	0	1	4
Rey De Oro	King Kamehameha	5	Tenno Sho	2	3	0
Tower Of London	Raven's Pass	5	Sprinters Stakes	1	3	1
Lys Gracieux	Heart's Cry	5	Ladbroke's Cox Plate	3	0	2
Curren Black Hill	Daiwa Major	5	Kokura Daishoten	1	2	2
Fenomeno	Stay Gold	5	Tenno Sho	2	3	0
Incantation	Sinister Minister	5	Hai Musashino Stakes	0	0	5

35

BRITISH-BRED GROUP 1 WINS IN 2019

Lockinge Stakes
Oaks
Prince of Wales's Stakes
Commonwealth Cup
Eclipse Stakes
King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes
Falmouth Stakes
Sussex Stakes
International Stakes
Yorkshire Oaks
St Leger Stakes
Sun Chariot Stakes
Fillies' Mile
Fillies & Mares Stakes
Queen Elizabeth II Stakes
Irish Oaks
Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe
Prix de l'Abbaye
Prix de la Foret
Prix Vermeille
Prix de Royallieu
Prix Ganay
Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud
Grand Prix de Paris
Prix Jean Prat
Prix Maurice de Gheest
Prix Jean Romanet
Dubai Sheema Classic
Jebel Hatta
Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint
Northern Dancer Turf Stakes
Australian Guineas
H E Tancred Stakes
Ranvet Stakes
George Main Stakes

**22 INDIVIDUAL BRITISH-BRED GROUP 1 WINNERS RECORDED
AN IMPRESSIVE 35 GROUP 1 WINS ON THE FLAT IN 2019.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL BRITISH BREEDERS ON SUCH A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.





Celebrating priceless stories from the rich African American history at Churchill Downs

Amanda Duckworth | December 15, 2019

Above: Stories to tell: Ms Sylvia and Sam Alexander at Syl's Lounge in Louisville.
Photo: George Williams

At the urging of Ms Sylvia, retired jockey Sam Alexander stood in front of a packed crowd at Syl's Lounge, a beloved Louisville bar, and told his story. The room was a mix of lifelong friends who might as well be family and friendly strangers eager to hear about his life.

Ms Sylvia noted Alexander is the quiet sort as he was given the microphone, and, although he was uncomfortable in the spotlight, it was also clear that ‘no’ simply isn’t a word Ms Sylvia has accepted throughout the course of her life.

Alexander’s words were no less impactful for the soft and gentle way they were delivered, until, eventually, overcome by emotion, he suddenly handed the mic back, and walked out the front door into the brisk night.

His story is not in the recently released book *Better Lucky Than Good: Tall Tales and Straight Talk from the Backside of the Track*, but Ms Sylvia’s is.

Compiled for three years by the Louisville Story Program, the book was written by 32 people who have lived, worked and otherwise been a part of the backside at Churchill Downs. Its organizers wished they had additional time to gather even more of the rich history that is so rarely discussed in the public realm.

However, like Douglas Park, the mostly forgotten Louisville racetrack that used to coexist with Churchill Downs, so many of racing’s characters have faded from the official record.

Rich in thought

The event at Syl’s Lounge was meant to specifically celebrate the legacy of African American racetrackers in Louisville. It was an opportunity for those in the book to gather and tell their tales, and it also provided a chance for those like Alexander who still had a story to tell to tell it.

Ms Sylvia, officially Sylvia Arnett, is now in her 80s, but she grew up in the shadow of Churchill Downs, one of 11 children. Kids in the neighborhood learned to follow the horses from a young age, and she was a quick study.

“When we were kids, we would park cars, and we thought we were making big money getting a quarter to watch a car,” she said. “Later on, we learned to pool our little bits of money. There were racetrackers that came from out of town, and they always had good hunches. We would send our money over with an adult, and betting became an option at an early age.

“We learned to read the program, and we could tell you all about a mudder or



whether a horse was a filly or gelding. Racing was in your blood. If you were from South Louisville, the racetrack was it.”

Horses stayed with Ms Sylvia throughout her life. Her brother-in-law, Jacob Bachelor, worked oiling machinery at the local International Harvester Plant, but he also loved horses. He saved up extra money by hauling furniture for Green Company, and he eventually became an owner and a trainer. In 1972, he won the Debutante Stakes with a filly named Sylva Mill, who was named after his wife, Mildred, and Sylvia.

Then, in 1975, one of Bachelor’s horses, Naughty Jake (who was named after the trainer himself), won the Spiral Stakes, finished third in the Derby Trial, and could have competed in the Kentucky Derby. Bachelor opted not to run him because of the money he would have had to pay to enter. Sports Illustrated even published an article called *The Horse That Almost Ran* because having an African American owner-trainer, especially then, was so remarkable.

“We wanted him to run the horse in the Derby,” said Ms Sylvia. “We thought he had a heck of a horse, and he would have gotten there. But he wasn’t sure he was good enough, and you had to have a large sum of money to enter the horse. We didn’t do it, but we thought if we had went around the neighborhood

Ms Sylvia - and a copy of the new book - with Joe Manning (left), deputy director of the Louisville Story Program, and Darcy Thompson, executive director. Photo: George Williams

collecting money, we could have gotten that horse in, and we would have had an African American Derby trainer and owner.”

Ms Sylvia and her late husband, Johnny, began owning horses themselves in 1976. Although they had claimers and not stakes horses, they still had a good time with their small stable.

“We would be in the paddock, and once you had a horse and the neighborhood heard about it, you didn’t have to worry about it,” she said. “Everybody in the neighborhood would be over there at the paddock to see if what they were hearing was really true.

“So many times, we would go to the smaller tracks and you would hear people say, ‘Those African American people over there, they own that horse! They are getting ready to run that horse!’ We thought we were real celebrities. We were poor, but we were rich in thought.”

When Ms Sylvia’s husband retired from Ford, they decided to stop owning horses in order to open a local bar. They bought a club, renamed it Syl’s Lounge, and it will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2020.

Pass the mic

Standing in Syl's Lounge, the first thing Alexander did after wishing everyone a good evening was remind the crowd that his affection for Ms Sylvia is so deep that he used to call her Mom. He was seven when he started walking hots at Douglas Park, and it was Ms Sylvia's brother-in-law who helped give him his start as a jockey.

"Jake used to tell me all the time, 'What you should do is try and get your jock's license,'" he said. "Back then, it was all just black and white, no other nationalities, and there weren't any black jockeys riding. I said, 'Man, you want to make me the guinea pig?' and he said, 'Someone has to be!'"

"I was still in junior high school, and I was a boxer at Columbia Gym when Muhammad Ali was boxing. When I did that, they asked if I was going to be a boxer or a jockey. I said, 'I would rather be a jockey because those gloves hurt.' Jake put me on my first horse and bought me my first jock's saddle. I still have it at home now, but it's so old all the leather is peeling."

Alexander became a jockey at 17, and he still remembers how he surprised many with is talent before his career was interrupted by Vietnam.

"They said I couldn't do it, and I said I could," he said. "The biggest race I ever rode was a \$175,000 race, and I was 98/1. I won the race, and it paid \$210. From there, they were coming to me asking me to ride this one, ride that one. At the time it wasn't, like, real, the money, because I was just 17. I was on my way to Vietnam and didn't know it."

"They were drafting young kids out of school to go to war, and I said, 'I ain't gonna get drafted,' so I went and joined the Marine Corps. Glory be to God, I went in there and came out a staff sergeant and was honorably discharged. I was a tunnel rat. I was underground for eight months, two weeks and 26 days. When we left Standiford Field [the Louisville airport] there 75 of us, and only 25 of us came back. After that, I went back to riding. It just came natural to me."



Alexander retired around the same time as a Churchill legend, and, while he told his story about it with good humor and a smile, it also brought up the ever-powerful question of what-if.

"I retired with Pat Day," he said. "When they gave him the statue in the paddock, they gave me a season pass. I said why didn't you put a statue of me on the other side? They said, 'Well, uh, Mr Alexander, the reason we didn't is because you didn't win any Derbys.' I said, 'The only reason I didn't get to win 'em is because you wouldn't put me on 'em.'"

An important history

The aim of Better Lucky Than Good was to take an in-depth look into the lives of people from all types of backgrounds who were rarely asked their story. Stories beget more stories, and nights like the one at Syl's Lounge helped open the floodgates, as the mic was passed around to men and women who grew up with Churchill in their blood.

For instance, Freddie Winston, the son of legendary groom Scotland Yard, was in

Dream day: Ms Sylvia with Freddie Winston on the day his horse Kimberley Dream scored at Churchill Downs. Photo: George Williams

attendance and shared his own memories of the past and the very present. Earlier that day, Winston, who has retired from driving for the Transit Authority of River City, saddled his own horse, Kimberley Dream, to her third victory during the fall meet at Churchill.

As the freshly printed winner's circle photo was passed around and admired, Ms Sylvia held court, the unquestionably respected queen of her domain. Her stories about being a black racehorse owner in 1970s America? Unquestionably moving.

"The whole thing was truly unbelievable," she said. "To be in the paddock with a horse you were going to run in a race was unheard of. We were poor people. We didn't have anything, but we had the nerve. And it worked pretty good."

"Jake used to tell me all the time, 'What you should do is try and get your jock's license,'" ... I said, 'Man, you want to make me the guinea pig?' and he said, 'Someone has to be!'"



GULFSTREAM PARK
RACES

CHAMPIONSHIP

MEET 19/20

NOW-MAR 29



PREMIUM STAKES DAYS

JANUARY

SAT / 18	SUNSHINE MILLIONS
SAT / 25	PEGASUS WORLD CUP



FEBRUARY

SAT / 1	HOLY BULL
SAT / 29	FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH



MARCH

SAT / 28	FLORIDA DERBY
----------	---------------



FASIG-TIPTON GULFSTREAM 2YO SALE // WEDNESDAY-APR 1 → (NO LIVE RACING)

901 S FEDERAL HIGHWAY // HALLANDALE BEACH // 954.454.7000 // GULFSTREAMPARK.COM

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



YOU WORK LIKE HELL.

Quality across the board

the focus as five exciting new recruits join Spendthrift stallion roster

Amanda Duckworth | December 03, 2019

Vino Rosso (Irad Ortiz Jr) winning the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic: "I think every major stud farm would love to have a son of Curlin, and we did not have one [before Vino Rosso]," said Ned Toffey, Spendthrift's general manager. Photo: Casey Phillips/Eclipse Sportswire/CSM



Spendthrift Farm is adding five stallions to its roster for 2020, and in doing so it is adhering to its game plan of introducing quality for breeders at all levels. It is a method that has served them well, as farm stallion Into Mischief is on the cusp of being named the leading general sire in North America for 2019.

"I love the fact that we have a variety of price points represented in the incoming class," said Ned Toffey, Spendthrift's general manager. "That's something that is important to us. We are trying to

offer quality to breeders at all levels. Just because a horse's stud fee may not be as high as another horse's fee doesn't mean that he's not quality."

The proof is in the numbers for the

historic farm, which B Wayne Hughes bought about 15 years ago. Although the year isn't complete, Into Mischief is the leading general sire by more than \$2.5 million. He is also the world's fourth-highest-ranked dirt sire in the TRC Global Rankings. He was one of the first horses originally offered as part of Spendthrift's Share The Upside for breeders, and now he is one of the hottest sires around.

"He is a remarkable horse," Toffey said. "What he has done is a credit to our breeders and the support he has gotten. Without the support of the breeders, none of this happens. It's worked out well for

them, it's worked out well for us, and it's worked well for just about everybody who supported him.

"One thing that we always try to keep in mind is that our two best stallions here, Into Mischief and Malibu Moon, made their own way. Into Mischief at one point stood for as low as \$6,500, and Malibu Moon started his career at about \$3,000. These are horses who embody the idea that inexpensive doesn't mean lack of quality. That quality was always there, it just took all of us a little time to figure it out."

Plenty of Upside

Several of the Spendthrift new stallions come in with resumes that breeders are already keen to reward. While Into Mischief will command \$175,000 in 2020 and Malibu Moon will stand for \$60,000, the farm's third-highest priced stallion will be multiple G1 winner Omaha Beach, who is scheduled to retire in January after several more starts. He is currently set to stand for \$40,000.

By internationally renowned sire War Front, Omaha Beach is also from one of the most dominant female families in recent years. His granddam is Broodmare of the Year Take Charge Lady, meaning he is closely related to champions Take Charge Brandi and Will Take Charge, as well as G1 winner and successful stallion Take Charge Indy.

"This horse is such a complete package," said Toffey. "His pedigree is second to none, his looks are outstanding, he's got a great temperament, and he is just a class horse. It is so cliché and I hate to say it, but he really does tick all the boxes."

His victory in the G1 Arkansas Derby made Omaha Beach the favorite for the G1 Kentucky Derby before he was scratched due to an entrapped epiglottis. He returned in October to win the G1 Santa Anita Sprint Championship Stakes before running second in the G1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.

"To win Grade 1s at six furlongs and nine furlongs in the same year shows how versatile and innately talented this horse is," said Toffey. "On Breeders' Cup day, he got a little farther off the pace than any of us would have liked to see. It wasn't really his style, but on the day he made up about as much ground as any horse did. Even with the hiccup in the Breeders' Cup, the demand for this horse has been overwhelming. The quality is evident. He is

one who has really just sold himself."

Two other new stallions for Spendthrift ended their careers on high notes in the Breeders' Cup and also find themselves in demand. Breeders' Cup Classic winner Vito Rosso and Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Mitole will stand for \$30,000 and \$25,000, respectively.

As a 3-year-old, Vito Rosso won last year's G2 Wood Memorial. Then, he returned this year to finish first in three G1s - the Gold Cup at Santa Anita, the Jockey Club Gold Cup and the Breeders' Cup. By Curlin, he is out of the Street Cry mare Mythical Bride, who is a half-sister G1 Belmont Stakes runner-up Commissioner as well as Breeders' Cup Sprint runner-up Laugh Track.

"I think every major stud farm would love to have a son of Curlin [who is #1 in the TRC dirt rankings] on the roster, and we did not have one," said Toffey. "This is a horse who is a beautiful animal. He obviously had a very strong year, and then to finish the way he did, to retire sound after clearly the best performance of his career in the Breeders' Cup Classic, we couldn't be more excited. He brings his pedigree, his looks, his race record, and his soundness, so breeders have responded very well."

Mitole also drew praise on Breeders' Cup day, adding the Sprint to his list of accomplishments and becoming the only male horse in America to win four G1s on dirt in 2019. His other G1 victories came in the Churchill Downs Stakes, Metropolitan Handicap, and Forego Stakes.

"With Mitole, the two words that jump to mind are brilliance and consistency," said Toffey. "To see a sprinter go out there time after time and outrun the fastest horses in the country, and then to stretch out in the Met Mile in what was arguably the toughest field assembled in 2019 and win, it couldn't really be more impressive. To beat McKinzie and Thunder Snow the way he did, I think that really gives him an added dimension."

"He is very correct and very athletic. I love the fact this horse was able to not just sprint but to win the best mile race in America. It says so much about him. It really has become one of our most important races in America from the stallion-making end of things. That's an awfully big feather in your cap."

Share the Upside

For the breeders looking for more budget-friendly freshman stallions, Spendthrift

is also standing newcomers Maximus Mischief for \$7,500 and Coal Front for \$5,000 in 2020.

Both were included in the Share The Upside program — which results in a lifetime breeding right — that Spendthrift has made popular among breeders. That offer for Maximus Mischief, who arrived at the farm in September, has already sold out. Coal Front retired in November and is part of the program for \$7,500.

"The breeders are ultimately what drives this, and we try to make things work for them," said Toffey. "We have tried very hard to offer our breeders value, whether it is simply in the pricing or in the form of a program like Share The Upside."

Maximus Mischief is Into Mischief's fastest 2-year-old ever, and he notched the biggest victory of his career in the 2018 G2 Remsen Stakes.

"Into Mischief is already starting to look like a sire of sires based on the early returns of Goldencents," said Toffey. "Maximus Mischief is a big, impressive son of Into Mischief, who was precocious and is a physically imposing, classy looking animal. There is so much inherent ability there that breeders were very quickly lining up on this horse. We are excited to see what he can do."

Coal Front, a five-time Graded stakes winner, had his biggest day in this year's G2 Godolphin Mile on the Dubai World Cup undercard. By Stay Thirsty, he is out of the out of the multiple stakes-producing Mineshaft mare Miner's Secret. Coal Front cost \$575,000 as a 2-year-old and earned more than \$1.8 million.

"He is just about as good a looking horse as they make," said Toffey. "He had all the ability in the world and circumstances just kept his resume from being quite what you would expect to see in a higher-priced horse, hence his price point. When you look at him, it's easy to envision taking a yearling that looks like him to market and being in a pretty good position."

"I think breeders love the value that Share The Upside represents, and that was an important factor for people with both of these horses. We've tried to offer people value at all levels. Even with Into Mischief, who is the leading sire in North America, we still believe he is priced in a way that offers people value. We have tried to do that across the board, top to bottom."

Leading to Success

Two-year international management and leadership programme for the global thoroughbred racing and breeding industry

Includes the graduate certificate in Management (Thoroughbred Industry) accredited by UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School

www.godolphinflyingstart.com



UCD Michael Smurfit
Graduate Business School

Applications deadline
Monday, February 10th 2020

GENERATIONS *of success*

| Bated Breath

2007 b h Dansili - Tantina (Distant View)

The best value sire of blacktype winners in Europe in 2019

2020 Fee: £12,500 SLF

| Expert Eye

2015 b h Acclamation - Exemplify (Dansili)

The Breeders' Cup Mile Gr.1 winner with 2YO brilliance

2020 Fee: £17,500 SLF

| Frankel

2008 b h Galileo - Kind (Danehill)

The fastest sire to 35 Group winners in history with 14% Group winners to runners

2020 Fee: £175,000 SLF

| Kingman

2011 b h Invincible Spirit - Zenda (Zamindar)

The brilliant miler transferring his talent to his progeny

2020 Fee: £150,000 SLF

| Oasis Dream

2000 b h Green Desert - Hope (Dancing Brave)

Europe's most consistent source of Gr.1 speed

2020 Fee: £25,000 SLF

Contact Shane Horan, Claire Curry or Henry Bletsoe

+44 (0)1638 731115

nominations@juddmonte.co.uk

www.juddmonte.com



JUDDMONTE



Are homebred stayers on the way back down under? Maybe - but only if racing acts to keep up the momentum

Shane McNally | December 16, 2019

After years of being dominated in staying races by European and Japanese invaders, Australia and New Zealand are starting to show signs of a resurgence. Shane McNally reports.

It's not that Australian or New Zealand stayers were never good enough; it's that our stocks have diminished badly in recent years. It would be hard to imagine European visitors beating, let alone embarrassing, greats like Rising Fast, Galilee, Peter Pan, Phar Lap or Makybe Diva. The great majority of them wouldn't be competitive.

Rising Fast was the New Zealand great who remains the only horse in history to win the Caulfield Cup, Cox Plate and Melbourne Cup treble in the one year - back in 1954 - and was desperately unlucky not to make it successive Cups doubles the following year.

Above: One for the Aussies: Vow And Declare (far side) narrowly prevails in a blanket finish to the Melbourne Cup last month. Photo: Kristen Manning

Peter Pan was a dual Melbourne Cup winner in 1932 and 1934 who might have made it three straight but for a near fatal virus in the year in between, and Galilee was a freak who just outclassed the field in 1966. Phar Lap and Makybe Diva are legends who need no introduction to racing people anywhere in the world.

While even the most ardent knockers of Australian staying ranks - and many live in Australia - would argue with the claim that these horses were equal to virtually anything in the world, the problem lies within the claim itself. We need to cherry pick the greatest of them over the best part of a century. Suffice to say, our best are good enough to beat the world, we just haven't had enough of them, particularly in recent years.

So Vow And Declare's recent Melbourne Cup win has created new-found enthusiasm, but one swallow does not make a summer. Surprise Baby's excellent and unlucky fifth makes it two top performances, but that's hardly a flock. For Australian racing to be happy about its staying ranks, we will need to see this sort of success on a regular basis.

Vow And Declare was just the second Australian-bred winner in ten years since Shocking won in 2009. Prince Of Penzance saluted as a despised 100/1 outsider in 2015, but that was considered something of an aberration. This year's win was a major boost for the local breeding and racing industry and a nod to the European training practices that have been so successful in recent years.

Trainer Danny O'Brien had put the 4-year-old Declaration Of War gelding through a Brisbane winter campaign that saw him run second to a G1 Queensland Derby before winning the G3 Tattersalls Cup over 2200m and then have just two lead-up runs in the Melbourne spring - including a second in the time-honoured Caulfield Cup, leading into the Melbourne Cup 17 days later.

In past years, working on the model perfected by training legend Bart Cummings, whose record 12 wins in the Melbourne Cup will surely never be approached, horses often had four or five runs over a total of 10,000 metres to have them ready for the big two-miler. Surprise Baby, a son of Shocking, had also run just twice in the spring over a total of 4100 metres.

Promising signs

The signs are promising for an Australian and New Zealand resurgence. Victoria Derby winner Warning is also a son of Declaration Of War. He won the 2500m Classic at just his seventh race start and is being spoken of as a genuine candidate for next year's Melbourne Cup. Vow And Declare's NZ-bred stablemate Miami Bound won the G1 Wakeful (2000m) and G1 Victoria Oaks (2500m) like a stayer of the future. Both are listed in the top ten in betting for the 2020 Melbourne Cup.

It's a start, but a lot more evidence will be needed before confidence grows.

There's another factor to consider in the lack of success in recent years. The locals have been terribly outnumbered by the internationals. Whereas Vintage Crop started the winning trend as one of two raiders in 1993 – Drum Taps was the other – Australian and New Zealand gallopers have been in the overwhelming minority of starters over the past decade. This year, just four locally-bred horses (for the sake of the argument, local is Australian and NZ) ran in the Cup. The fact they ran first and a luckless fifth speaks volumes for them. In both 2018 and 2017, just six locals ran in each renewal.

The lack of numbers has been as much a cause for consternation as the success rate,

with many Australian racegoers calling for a limit on the number of raiders allowed to run. It's a short-sighted call, of course, and one that is likely to weaken rather than strengthen staying ranks and create a false economy.

Good start

The Victoria Racing Club has been addressing the issue by introducing ballot-free races. These are the Bart Cummings over the Flemington 2500m, the Lexus (Flemington 2500m), Caulfield Cup (Caulfield 2400m), Cox Plate (Moonee Valley 2040m) and, as of this year, the Andrew Ramsden (Flemington 2800m).

The latest addition, run in May, is the first move in giving horses a long-range plan to qualify. It's a good start, but they're all Melbourne races. If the Sydney, Adelaide and even Auckland Cups over 3200m and the Perth and Brisbane Cups of 2400m were given the same status, it could only strengthen the local ranks and qualify the home-grown product or, alternatively, entice overseas stayers to other cities to gain entry and boost those races.

Either way, Australian and NZ staying ranks would benefit.

None of these, however, are being considered in the immediate future. Racing Victoria General Manager International and Racing Operations Paul Bloodworth does not expect wholesale changes to the ballot exempt races.

He says the Victoria Racing Club, host and owner of the Melbourne Cup, has the final say and needed some encouragement to include the Andrew Ramsden this year. If any further races were to be considered, the most likely future additions would be the Geelong and Moonee Valley Cups run in the weeks leading up to the great race.

Much has been debated about the culture of breeding sprinters in a country famed for its great staying race, so an increase in prize money and balloting conditions for the distance races run outside the Melbourne spring would be likely to encourage change. The opportunity needs to be sufficient to encourage the breeding of stayers and to keep the right sires in Australia.

Unfortunately, just as we celebrate Vow And Declare's win, his sire Declaration Of War has been shipped to Japan - already the home of many of the world's best stayers. The stallion's departure thins the

potential staying ranks just at a time when confidence was building. There are still sires available to generate potential Melbourne Cup winners, however, if the interest warrants it.

NZ is currently better placed to once again produce the future stayers, even after the departure of legendary staying sire Zabeel. Shocking, based just outside of Matamata at Rich Hill Stud, has sired the winners of two Adelaide Cups, a Brisbane Cup and an NZ Oaks in the past two years. Waikato Stud-based Cox Plate winners Savabeel and Ocean Park have established themselves as top-flight sires, with the former already delivering multiple Classic and 3200m winners.

Former Kiwi champion Dundee, now based at Arrowfield in the Hunter Valley (NSW) is also fast emerging as an elite sire and a win by Transact in this year's VRC St Leger over 2800m gave an indication of his ability to deliver a stayer.

Something to work with

Even Golden Slipper (1200m) winner Pierro, based at Coolmore in the Hunter, has emerged as an unlikely sire of potential Classic winners and time will tell whether the 3200m of the Cup is a bridge too far.

Regal Power gave the young stallion his sixth G1 win in the Railway Stakes at Ascot (Perth) recently, but the gelding was already the winner of a WA Derby last season. Lightly-raced Matamata gelding Dragon Leap is being spoken of as a potential Classic winner and is being aimed at the time-honoured NZ Derby in just his first campaign.

A review of this year's major staying races across Australia still points to a lot of work ahead to be consistently competitive against the imports, with the Sydney Cup going to Shraaoh (Ireland), Brisbane Cup won by Sixties Groove (Ireland) and the Caulfield Cup won by Japanese stayer Mer De Glace. The latest Adelaide and Perth Cups, both downgraded to G2 status, were won by colonial-bred stayers (Surprise Baby and Star Exhibit).

It's a start. The combination of some promising and proven stayers, a good classic crop and emerging stallions who can sire horses with ability beyond a middle distance gives Australia something to work with ... now it's up to the racing bodies to provide enough encouragement for Australian and New Zealand owners to breeders to stay interested.



Tattersalls SALES DATES 2020

February Sale

January 30 - 31
Broodmares, Fillies/Horses
in Training & Yearlings

Craven Breeze Up Sale

April 13 - 15
Europe's Premier Breeze Up Sale
*Featuring the £15,000 Tattersalls
Craven Breeze Up Bonus*

Guineas Breeze Up & Horses In Training Sale

April 30 - May 1
Two Year Olds & Horses In Training

July Sale

July 8 - 10
Horses/Fillies In Training,
Broodmares, etc.

October Yearling Sale

Book 1 October 6 - 8
Europe's Premier Yearling Sale
*Featuring the £25,000 Tattersalls
October Book 1 Bonus*

Book 2 October 12 - 14

Book 3* October 15 - 16

Book 4* October 16 - 17

**Featuring the £150,000 Tattersalls
October Auction Stakes*

Autumn Horses In Training Sale

October 26 - 30
The World's Largest Horses
In Training Sale

December Sale Yearlings

Foals November 25 - 28

Breeding Stock

November 30 - December 3
Broodmares, Fillies/
Horses In Training, etc.

*All dates
subject to alteration*

What They're Thinking: Barry Irwin: let's concentrate less on racing's commercial side, more on the beauty of the sport

Barry Irwin | December 23, 2019

Newmarket is Barry Irwin's favorite racecourse.
"It offers the truest test for a racehorse," he says.
Photo: Newmarket Racecourses



Barry Irwin's Team Valor International is the most successful racehorse ownership syndicate in the world, with an astonishing catalogue of success that has brought earnings of nearly \$80 million, more than 300 stakes wins and victories in some of the most important races on the planet, including the Kentucky Derby, the Dubai World Cup and two Breeders' Cup contests.

The stable has won big races in the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Ireland, Italy, Hong Kong, South Africa, the UAE and Brazil.

Much of Team Valor's success over its 32-year life is down to Irwin's uncanny knack of unearthing horses of potential from one part of the world and fulfilling that potential in another. A former racing journalist and author, Irwin (pictured) is renowned for his views on the state of the sport, and rarely pulls any punches.



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

From my own personal experience in 50 years of racing both at home and abroad, I would name an individual with whom I had personal interactions. F. E. (Jimmy) Kilroe was a racing executive and official with the New York Racing Association and Santa Anita Park. He redesigned the structure at NYRA that allowed it to become a national leader among racetracks. His major contribution at Santa Anita was to personally hustle foreign connections to bring their horses to Southern California for major races.

He also was responsible for getting some of the biggest Eastern-based stables (Ogden Phipps, Paul Mellon among them) to spend the winter at Santa Anita. He single-handedly opened the portal to international competition between America and foreign nations. He was a man of great intellect who generated handicap ratings for The Jockey Club and The Blood-Horse. He had national and international respect and brought a certain worldliness to the enterprise of international sport.

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

My favorite racecourse in the world is Newmarket, because it offers the truest test for a racehorse. For sheer

pleasure, I would name Goodwood, a wonderful melding of the past and present with the most spectacular views of racing.

My favorite race in the world is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe because it brings together the top horses from the younger and older generations, as well as some of the top horses in the world. It is the most important race in the world.

What is your fondest memory in racing?

While most readers would expect me to cite my homebred Animal Kingdom winning the Kentucky Derby or the World Cup, it is actually 50/1 long shot Martial Law winning the 1989 Santa Anita Handicap, because we put our reputation on the line by paying \$40,000 to supplement a \$60,000 purchase from Sheikh Mohammed, and the win took place at my home track of Santa Anita, where I grew up. I could barely walk to the winners' circle my legs were shaking so badly.

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

The use of legal and illegal Performance Enhancing Drugs. Rampant use of these medications and designer drugs have cast a pall over the landscape and in great

part have driven me to abandon racing in America in favor of racing abroad, especially in Great Britain and Europe. Their use not only is dangerous to the well-being of the innocent animals involved, but has sapped the enthusiasm of horse owners, trainers and horseplayers.

Racing officials, groups that represent trainers and racetrack owners by and large have exhibited little to no interest in reining in the rampant use of drugs that deaden pain, buffer lactic acid, enhance the creation of red blood cells to deliver more oxygen to the lung and increase the metabolism of a racehorse. Only The Jockey Club and WHOA (Water Hay Oats Alliance) seem dedicated to cleaning up the sport along with a small group of like-minded individuals.

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

I would urge racing jurisdictions, breeders, sales companies and trade journals to devote less energy and capital to the commercial aspects of racing over the sport. Greed is ugly, racing is beautiful. Leaders should remember this. It is less a problem in Europe, but still a problem, and a major issue in America and Australia.

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](http://thoroughbredracing.com)



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



© Michèle MacDonald



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



22 December 2019

Jockeys

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1096
2	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1083
3	Christophe-Patrice Lemaire	Japan	1071
4	Joel Rosario	USA	1045
4	Mike E Smith	USA	1045
6	William Buick	Great Britain	1044
7	Zac Purton	Hong Kong	1041
8	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1038
9	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1037
10	Javier Castellano	USA	1031
11	Jose L Ortiz	USA	1028
12	Flavien Prat	USA	1025
13	James McDonald	Australia	1022
14	Mickael Barzalona	France	1021
15	Pierre-Charles Boudot	France	1019

Trainers

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	John Gosden	Great Britain	1083
2	Chad C Brown	USA	1078
3	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1076
4	Bob Baffert	USA	1051
5	Aidan O'Brien	Great Britain	1050
6	Andre Fabre	France	1026
7	James Cummings	Australia	1021
8	Steven Asmussen	USA	1020
9	Chris Waller	Australia	1018
10	Sir Michael Stoute	Great Britain	1017
11	Saeed bin Suroor	UAE	1015
12	Brad H Cox	USA	1009
13	John Size	Hong Kong	1006
14	John Moore	Hong Kong	1004
15	Jamie Richards	New Zealand	997

Owners

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Godolphin	Australia	1084
2	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1060
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1050
4	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	USA	1045
5	U Carrot Farm	Japan	1029
6	Silk Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1028
7	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1022
8	Magic Bloodstock Et Al	Australia	1020
9	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1019
9	White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al	USA	1019
11	Klaravich Stables Et Al	USA	1014
12	Danox Co Ltd	Japan	1009
13	Michael Dubb Et Al	USA	1006
14	Peters Investments Et Al	Australia	1005
14	WinStar Farm Et Al	USA	1005

Sires

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Dubawi	Great Britain	1082
2	Galileo	Ireland	1064
3	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1048
4	Shamardal	Great Britain	1046
5	Frankel	Great Britain	1044
6	Lord Kanaloa	Japan	1038
7	Deep Impact	Japan	1037
8	Scat Daddy	USA	1030
9	Pierro	Australia	1029
10	I Am Invincible	Australia	1027
11	Curlin	USA	1024
12	Lookin At Lucky	USA	1022
12	Zoustar	Australia	1022
14	Lope De Vega	Australia	1021
15	Teofilo	Australia	1020