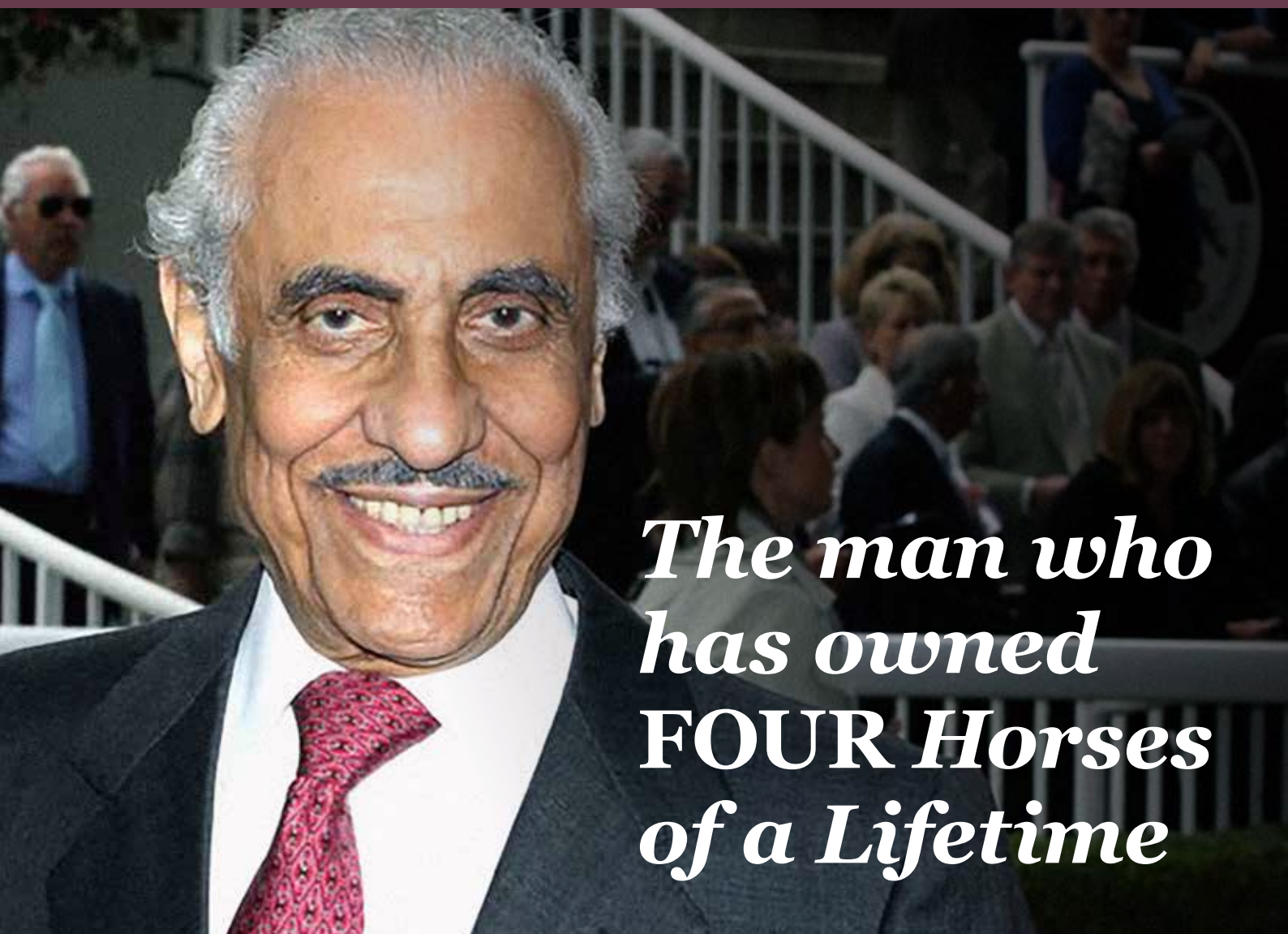


A special look at the top stories from thoroughbredracing.com. August 2019

TRC



*The man who
has owned
FOUR Horses
of a Lifetime*

Also inside: Why you should keep an eye on these ten exciting young sires / The saga of one of racing's most storied families / Drug-free racing could have 'enormous economic benefits' for America / What They're Thinking: Joe Harper

THOROUGHBRED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



Michael Burns



It Pays to Buy an Ontario-Bred

TIP Program worth Over \$16 million

Find a future Ontario-Bred star at a yearling sale, this fall.



ontarioracing.com

An owner could do no more than dream of owning even one of these horses

JA McGrath | August 19, 2019

Every owner dreams of possessing a Thoroughbred of such total dominance that he or she can be deemed the Horse of a Lifetime. The entire industry is geared towards uncovering such an animal - and, inevitably, towards celebrating a horse who can declared a champion among champions.

Dancing Brave and Pat Eddery sweep clear to win the 1986 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Photo: Juddmonte Farms





Frankel is out on his own, world-class runners trailing in his wake, in the 2012 Juddmonte International at York

The search continues with every crop of foals worldwide, yet even when one makes it to the top of the pile, there is comparison with other champions, contemporary and past, and thus a pecking order is established.

A horse of a lifetime must not only be dominant in his or her year(s) but must also possess a star quality. Best in a year is not a Horse of a Lifetime. That accolade is special, very special - so rare that even some of the world's most successful owners have never savoured the experience.

Khalid Abdulla certainly has. The Saudi prince who has owned and bred racehorses in Europe and the United States, largely through his flagship Juddmonte Farms, for over 40 years, has not had just one Horse of a Lifetime either. He's had FOUR.

Dancing Brave (foaled 1983), Frankel (2008), Arrogate (2013) and Enable (2014) all carried his famous green, pink and white silks, and all produced performances of such excellence that they are generally regarded as all-time greats.

Who can forget Dancing Brave's barnstorming finish in the 1986 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp, sailing down the outside to overwhelm a glittering collection of G1 winners? Or Frankel in the 2011 2000Guineas at Newmarket, setting a 'suicidal' early pace to lead the Classic field by 15 lengths at half-way, and then winning by six?

It was Arrogate, who stunned the crowd at Meydan in 2017 when coming from last after a tardy start to pass the entire field for an unforgettable triumph in the Dubai World Cup ... and then

there is Enable, the wonder filly, who is 12 from 13, winning her last 11 races on the trot, including two Arcs and two King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, an Epsom Oaks, an Irish Oaks, an Eclipse Stakes and Breeders' Cup Turf.

This week at York's famous Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival, Enable has the chance to further enhance her record by adding a second G1 Yorkshire Oaks in Thursday's renewal on the Knavesmire. According to Lord Teddy Grimthorpe, racing manager to Prince Khalid, the filly is ready. "She came out of the King George very well. She breezed well last week, and she is in good form."

Prince Khalid has owned horses for four decades, yet little is known about him by the racing public. He rarely speaks to the press, though he made an



Arrogate's barely believable victory in the 2016 Dubai World Cup under Mike Smith.
Photo: Dubai Racing Club

Prince Khalid has owned horses for four decades, yet little is known about him by the racing public

exception when he greeted the mare Banks Hill in the winner's enclosure after she landed Deauville's 2002 Prix Jacques Le Marois, less than 24 hours after his Beat Hollow had taken the Arlington Million in Chicago.

The owner beamed as he stood for the winning enclosure photos. "That must be the best 24 hours I have had since I started owning horses," the Prince told me. "For me, it is unique."

A rare insight into the joy his great horses and great winners can deliver. His statement came some time after the Dancing Brave era, also post-Rainbow Quest, Zafonic, Danehill, and well after his first two Epsom Derby winners, Quest For Fame and Commander In Chief.

However, there was even better to come, which must make rival owners

very envious. To have FOUR horses of a lifetime is almost unbelievable. Grimthorpe explained: "Prince Khalid is aware of the enormity of it all. It is pretty extraordinary. And those four horses are all slightly different.

"They are from different eras, they have had different trainers, and have come from different places. It is pretty remarkable."

Dancing Brave and Arrogate were both bought in the sales ring in America, while Frankel and Enable are both Juddmonte homebreds. Frankel, a son of Galileo, came about through a mare share deal with Coolmore.

But which of the quartet is the Prince's personal favourite? Which great win has given him the most enjoyment? Due to lack of documentary evidence, it is left to



Enable (Frankie Dettori) takes last year's Longines Breeders' Cup Turf at Churchill Downs, where she became the first horse to win the Arc and a BC race in the same year. Photo: Kaz Ishida

Grimthorpe to attempt to come up with some answers.

"He has enjoyed them all. I can say that with confidence. As for a favourite, I think Andre Fabre's quote that you don't rate your friends, or your children for that matter, is relevant.

"The big wins were remarkable ... Frankel's 2000 Guineas was hair-raising. I know it gave Prince Khalid a great deal of joy. Then, there was Dancing Brave's Arc, Arrogate in Dubai, and as for Enable ... simply majestic, and she is still not finished."

Racing worldwide keeps discovering new generations of optimists willing to invest in the dream of owning the horse of a lifetime. Prince Khalid Abdulla will always have a special entry in history as the owner who achieved it FOUR times.

"The big wins were remarkable ... Frankel's 2000 Guineas was hair-raising. I know it gave Prince Khalid a great deal of joy. Then, there was Dancing Brave's Arc, Arrogate in Dubai, and as for Enable ... simply majestic, and she is still not finished."

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   

Code Of Honor scores a massive victory for Frankel's brother Noble Mission, scorching away with last Saturday's 'Midsummer Derby', the G1 Travers Stakes at Saratoga, and in the process making himself one of the favourites for the Breeders' Cup Classic. Photo: NYRA.com



Why you should keep an eye on these ten exciting young sires

James Willoughby | August 29, 2019

TRC Global Rankings is quicker than other classifications around the world to identify young stallions who are starting to make a mark and are likely to progress significantly – as well as being a better guide to the quality of their progeny. Here James Willoughby looks at ten of the most promising sires already featuring in our standings.



LORD KANALOA (world-ranked #8)

Retired to Shadai Stallion Station in 2014, the top-class sprinter is an outcross for mares from the Sunday Silence line. TRC Global Rankings is extremely bullish on his prospects (our hierarchy, different from elsewhere, is built using actual probabilities of a head-to-head win next week against other stallions) as he is already inside the top ten after 19 winners from 104 Group/Graded runners. Chief among them is G1 Japan Cup and Japanese Triple Crown winner Almond Eye, who will likely be adding to her father's tally again this autumn.

NATHANIEL (#12)

Each successive win of the great dual G1 Arc winner Enable adds less to her father's Performance Index, but the impeccably bred son of Galileo will deliver more top horses from Newsells Park Stud in the UK to go with a portfolio mostly dominated by female runners, likely because of no more than chance. Nathaniel was a top-class runner himself and is a decent bet to maintain at least a top 30 standing in the next five years.

KINGMAN (#31)

One of the most naturally brilliant milers to race in Britain, Kingman is getting horses who have inherited the X-factor. We showed that he is tracking just behind another great Juddmonte stallion in world #3 Frankel at the same stage. This week, he established another new high with King Of Comedy's fourth in the G1 Juddmonte International at York adding to Boomer's win in the G3 Prestige Stakes at Goodwood.

CAMELOT (#36)

The Coolmore stallion added a German G3 winner to his burgeoning portfolio of mostly middle-distance horses – not surprising, of course, for a son of the brilliant Montjeu. Camelot now has 12 wins from 149 runs, but his lofty Performance Index of 1004 reflects the fact that his runners mostly face stiff competition in the shape of the progeny of Galileo, Dubawi, Frankel, Sea The Stars and others. The so-called 'strength of schedule' of a competitor

is an important feature of TRC Global Rankings, again not fully taken into account in other stallion rankings based on wins or money won.

ZOUSTAR (#36)

Nine-year-old Zoustar continues to be popular in the sales ring in Australia, thanks to producing G1 winners Sunlight and Top Knight among 12 winners from 71 Group/Graded runners. This is a really fine start. The Widden Stud, New South Wales, stalwart has been shuttling to Tweenhills Stud in the UK for the first time in 2019, and he will thus have the sustained support of Sheikh Fahad and Qatar Racing to break into the Northern Hemisphere elite also. He is poised to break into the world's top 30 soon.

HARBINGER (#46)

A freakishly talented middle-distance runner for Sir Michael Stoute in the UK, Harbinger was a shrewd pick-up by Shadai, not least because he shares with Lord Kanaloa the important attribute of being a highly suitable mate for Deep Impact mares. Following Blast Onepiece's G2 Sapporo Kinen win, he now has 20 winners from 219 Group / Graded wins in the cauldron of large-field Japanese racing. While less exposed than some stallions in this list – he had a relatively slow start at stud – his runners are improving with age.

DECLARATION OF WAR (#50)

Having entered stud at Coolmore in Ireland, then shuttled to Australia in 2014, the 2013 G1 Queen Anne and G1 Juddmonte International winner was then relocated to Ashford, Kentucky, in 2015. This year, the son of War Front has been sent to Japan. This makes for a very interesting pan-global reach, which should see a record of 12 wins from 84 Group/Graded winners supplemented in the next few years. His best runner so far from three crops of racing age is the tough miler Olmedo, trained in France by Jean-Claude Rouget, who added to his Classic-winning CV with a G3 win at Deauville recently.

AUSTRALIA (#68)

The son of Galileo has produced another progressive middle-distance horse in the shape of Sir Ron Priestley, winner of last week's G3 March Stakes at Goodwood. The week before, Buckhurst won the Royal Whip Stakes at the same level at the Curragh. While Australia awaits his first really top-notch runner, a record of eight wins from 42 runners is encouraging and it is only a matter of time.

SEA THE MOON (#112)

Few horses can have won the G1 German Derby in the style of this son of Sea The Stars in 2014. Though he is attempting to buck the long-term trend favouring faster horses at stud, it is intriguing to see what he might produce, given so much ability as a runner. He is up 24 places this week on the back of Pondus running second in the G3 Rose of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock in the UK. Prior to that, five of his last ten runners had won Group races, and with only 25 runners on the board he could make significant inroads into the world's top 100 this autumn.

NOBLE MISSION (#122)

The last stallion to watch on this list is our favourite. A brother to the brilliant Frankel and a top-class turf runner himself, Noble Mission was a fascinating acquisition for Lane's End Farm in Kentucky. Well, despite his turf breeding, Noble Mission has proved he can get top-class runners on dirt now that Code Of Honor has landed the G1 Travers at Saratoga.

On turf, we are certain to hear more of the British-trained Spanish Mission, who is owned by Team Valor and U.S.-based Earl Mack and is likely to be on his travels for Newmarket trainer David Simcock, a man adept in finding good opportunities for shipping horses around the globe. Spanish Mission may bid to add to his sire's U.S. resume in the new \$1 million Jockey Club Derby at Belmont Park on September 7.

Look for Noble Mission to enter the TRC top 100 very soon.

THE ULTIMATE RACEDAY

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2019
ASCOT RACECOURSE



TICKETS ON SALE
BRITISHCHAMPIONSDAY.COM

Drug-free racing could have ‘enormous economic benefits’ for America - Messara

George Dudley | August 12, 2019



John Messara with Jockey Club chief executive Jim Gagliano at the Round Table conference

“What do you want our sport to be? What are you prepared to do to get there?” - Jockey Club chairman Stuart Janney addressing the room in his closing remarks

The U.S. racing and breeding industry could receive enormous economic benefits if a policy of drug-free racing were adopted across the country, according to one of the world’s leading breeders. John Messara, chairman and owner of Arrowfield Stud in New South Wales, was talking at the American Jockey Club’s 67th annual Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga yesterday (Sunday).

Speakers from all facets of the industry – some from as far as Hong Kong and Australia – reviewed issues such as animal welfare, fixed-odds betting, television exposure, the application of the interference rule, and international stewarding.

To say that the American horse racing industry has had a difficult 2019 would be something of an understatement. With the wounds of Santa Anita still fresh, it was fair to say that this year’s conference was contemplative in tone and openly searching for answers, all the while preaching for a holistic approach and admitting the need for global best practices.

At the forefront of each presentation was equine welfare and how to combat an increasingly negative public perception of horse racing that has rocked the sport Stateside. A well received, candid presentation by David Fuscus, of Xenophon Strategies, offered lessons in crisis management and how the industry can improve the latter issue.

“I am the most anti-alarmist

person in the room; with that being said, this story is not going away,” said Fuscus. “You can’t wait it out, you can’t part the waters. This is the most critical time American horse racing has ever experienced.”

The Dean of the University of Kentucky, Dr Nancy Cox, talked of innovations at the agricultural college that will hopefully raise the bar in safe racing on dirt tracks across the board.

Messara: Integrity Act would ‘unleash an economic monster’

Joined on stage by his inquisitor, the Jockey Club’s chief executive, Jim Gagliano, John Messara detailed his rise from Sydney-based stockbroker to arguably the most influential figure in New South Wales racing and breeding.

The Arrowfield Stud chief was nevertheless quick to acknowledge the role that his team – especially his wife – had played in establishing Arrowfield as Australia’s pre-eminent breeding operation. Moreover, he raised a metaphorical glass to the great Danehill, who Messara believes “turned Australian breeding around”.

A glittering professional biography aside, it was the Australian’s global outlook and successful lobbying of his national government in the past that proved to be germane to proceedings, especially when he offered his objective opinions to the big issues and proposed harmonisations of regulations.

“I think that having a national drug policy – a no-drug policy actually – akin to the other jurisdictions in the world would unleash an economic monster here,” said Messara.

“Everyone has talked about why people don’t want it; well I think that one of the benefits is going to be that the likes of myself will start to look at America again as somewhere to shop for horses.

“As it stands today, it is difficult to judge whether we should be buying a mare [in the U.S.]. Was she treated with Lasix? Was she on Bute at some stage? What went on?

“Rather than get bitten by it, we stay clear.”

The Australian added that due to the uncertainty of stallion performance, the foreign perception is that America’s credibility as a provider of bloodlines is “low compared to what it could be”. He did nonetheless praise the industry infrastructure and called Kentucky the world’s most “magnificent breeding ground”.

Messara encouraged American horsemen to come together and sign the Horseracing Integrity Act, which he believes will be a “great base for the future” and create a level playing field.

“If you are good enough you will win [a fair, clean race], but importantly you will become a far more international industry from an economic point-of-view. That will become really valuable for all of those involved.”

Kelly calls for consistent international stewarding

Kim Kelly, chief stipendiary steward at the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), espoused the virtues of applying a global interference rule and recognised international stewarding standards. “It wouldn’t be acceptable to have different-sized nets in the U.S. Open [tennis] as opposed to Wimbledon.”

The Australian stressed the point of autonomous interference rule, which infamously changed the result of this year’s Kentucky Derby, by presenting delegates with a graphic showing that the vast majority of racing jurisdictions operate under category 1 rules. The hold-outs are the United States, Canada and Turkey, who compete under Category 2 rules, which Kelly believes “yields inconsistent and undesirable outcomes”.

Janney: ‘We must embrace change’

Among other things, the straight-talking Janney announced that the Racing Officials Accreditation Program is launching a scheme to send existing U.S. stewards overseas to gain experience in the professional operation of adjudicating races abroad.

He also revealed a 2020 projection of North America-registered Thoroughbred foal crop of 20,500, as well as revising the 2019 foal crop from 21,500 to 20,800.

“The Jockey Club should do several

Messara encouraged American horsemen to come together and sign the Horseracing Integrity Act

important things – and so should you,” Janney told the assorted guests before listing the points that will shape the vision of the Jockey Club in the coming year. “First, we should get our sport in shape to compete for the interest and support of the public,” he said. “With the advent of sports betting across the country, that competition is stiffer, more direct and consequential. For us, that means passing the Horseracing Integrity Act.”

Efforts to promote Thoroughbred racing in a positive light “will continue” as will the need for good partners to help the industry along the way.

Janney said that it is important to realise that “our problems as an industry are not strictly limited to the west coast”, going on to compare Marcus Vitali’s constant rule-breaking since 2011 with the alacrity of golf’s European Tour reacting to Thorbjørn Olesen alleged misdemeanours on a recent flight to the UK.

He concluded with a call to arms: “Horse racing is a sport rich in tradition, but we can and must embrace change. Consensus is not always easily achieved but, when proposed solutions make common sense, it should be.

“The programmes and initiatives that you have heard about today – especially the Horseracing Integrity Act – make all the sense in the world, and if indeed we want to become that highly regarded national sport we should embrace positive change; sooner rather than later.”

The world's richest race



SAUDI CUP

الكأس
السعودية

'I've been going there to ride for 20 years or so now. It's based on Belmont, a one-turn mile-and-a-quarter. **Of all the dirt tracks I've ridden, it's the one I like best** as you can win from the front, and you can win from behind – it's a fair track. The other thing I like is the kickback is so much less than on other dirt tracks. I can see turf horses handling it.' **Frankie Dettori**

Come with us ➤ on a journey

More jockey quotes, full race conditions plus news and special features at
thesaudicup.com



Can ‘the Queen’ add an important new chapter in the saga of one of racing’s most storied families?

Karen M Johnson | August 23, 2019

The past and the present share equal space in trainer Carlos Martin’s mind on a recent morning at Saratoga Race Course.

Dancing solo: Come Dancing (Manny Franco) winning the G2 Ruffian Stakes by 6½ lengths at Belmont Park in May. Photo: Chelsea Durand/NYRA.com

As Martin briskly strides down his shedrow — on the same ground his late father once walked — he tells a visitor, “This barn is where Dad had Groovy when he won the Forego in back-to-back years.”

Then, as Martin arrives at the stall containing a gorgeous brown mare who stands a stately 17 hands, he proudly introduces her as “our barn’s Queen”.

The ‘Queen’ is formally known as Come Dancing, a multiple Graded stakes winner who will run in the G1 Ballerina at Saratoga on Saturday (Aug. 24).

Martin, a third-generation horseman, has been training on the New York Racing Association (NYRA) circuit since 1989. He has saddled 5,400 career starters and has won more than 700 races with his runners, earning purse money in excess of \$28 million, but he has yet to have a Breeders’ Cup horse.

The \$500,000 Ballerina, a 'Win and You're In' qualifier for the Filly & Mare Sprint at Santa Anita in November, could remedy that.

But first things first. Martin, 50, is gregarious by nature and in possession of lively story-telling skills and is eager to share some memories of his grandfather and father.

Making a champion

He is the grandson of the late Hall of Fame trainer Frank 'Pancho' Martin, who saddled Outstandingly to win the first-ever Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, in 1984. And Martin's father, Jose, developed three champions during his robust training career: Lakeville Miss (2-year-old Filly, 1977), Wayward Lass (3-year-old Filly, 1981) and Groovy (Sprinter, 1987).

The wickedly fast Groovy came to Jose Martin's barn after running in the first two legs of the 1986 Triple Crown. Soundly defeated after setting the pace in both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness for his previous trainer, Groovy would then find his stride in the hands of Martin, who knew exactly what the 3-year-old needed.

"When Dad got Groovy in the barn, he told me he was going to make him a champion," Carlos Martin recalled. "I said, 'Dad, he just got eased in the Kentucky Derby!' He said, 'I will make him a champion sprinter.'"

Martin's father made good on that. Groovy went on to win seven Graded sprint stakes for Martin, including the G1 Vosburgh and back-to-back runnings of the Forego, which then was contested as a G2. He also finished second in the 1987 Breeders' Cup Sprint, the final race of his career. Despite his loss to Very Subtle, the first female to win the Sprint, Groovy was named the Eclipse Award sprint champion of 1987.

One of Carlos Martin's fondest memories of his dad and his work with Groovy is when the 3-year-old colt won his first Forego while defeating older horses, including that year's eventual older male champion, Turkoman.

"The first time Groovy won the Forego, Dad told [Jose] Santos, 'When you come to the top of the stretch, you will be three in front, but the only way you can beat Turkoman, who will be

flying the last eighth while running wide, is to drift to the five, six, or seven path,'" Carlos recounted.

"Dad told Santos that Turkoman won't go inside of Groovy. And just like my father said, Groovy held on over Turkoman and won by three-quarters of a length. I swear, if my father hadn't given those instructions, Turkoman was going to go right by Groovy.

"A lot of times my father adjusted on the fly, but a lot of times he had a good game plan. He knew what to do with a good horse."

Carlos Martin was training on his own when his father died from an aggressive form of lung cancer, which was diagnosed several years before his death in 2006. His passing came as both a source of grief and comfort to his son, who, to this day, tears-up while discussing it.

"I was relieved and sad at the same time because I know how he was [suffering] from the cancer," Martin said. "He was alive for my wedding to my wife [Diane]. That was a godsend. We got married October 15, and he died November 22. He made the wedding even though he was weak and sick. He made that day for me. Three days later, he was in the hospital, where he stayed until he passed."

Following Jose Martin's death at the age of 63, Carlos found solace in spending time with his grandfather, a 1981 inductee to the National Museum and Racing's Hall of Fame.

Taking the circuit by storm

Frank "Pancho" Martin, who was rarely ever seen without his trademark Cuban cigars clenched firmly between his teeth, campaigned two champions, Autobiography (Older horse, 1972) and Outstandingly (2-year-old Filly, 1984). The trainer, who possessed a shrewdness for placing horses in the right spots to win, took the NYRA circuit by storm from 1973 to 1982, when he topped the trainer standings each of those years.

Both Frank and Jose immigrated from Cuba to the United States. Carlos, who was born in Brooklyn, New York, said his grandfather wasn't keen on Jose becoming a trainer.

"[Granddad] discouraged him from becoming a horse trainer because he



Carlos Martin

thought my father should go to school and get educated, become a doctor or a lawyer, and take advantage of coming to America from Cuba," Martin said. "My grandfather thought the [racetrack] was not an easy life."

As a young boy, Carlos Martin started spending time around his father's barn, and when he decided he wanted the same life for himself, he received encouragement from both his father and grandfather.

"I was always with my father, seven days a week. My grandfather was always like this imposing figure to me," Martin said. "He was very much about following by example; he wasn't a warm and fuzzy granddad. But we got closer, later on, especially after my father got sick and I started spending more time with my grandfather."

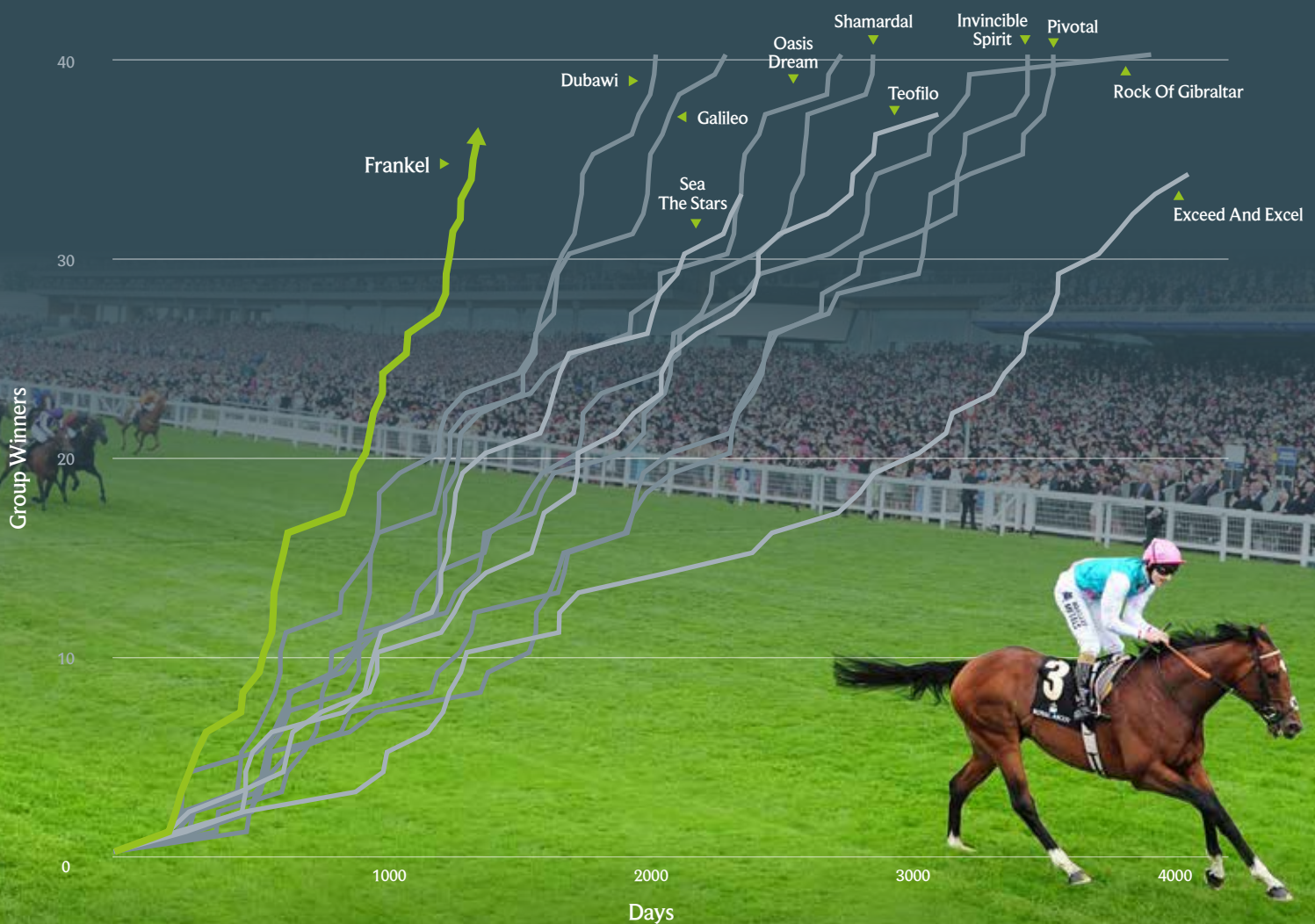
A problem with the Secretariat movie

"You had to approach Granddad a certain type of way," he added. "He could be a little gruff. But if you got to know him, he helped a lot of people. He always had a really good heart. He might yell and scream, but the guy who worked for him who needed \$1,000 for his wife or his baby to come to this country, he would help bring them here. If a racetrack character was down-and-out, he would be there to help. Granddad was generous to a fault."

The senior Martin was the trainer of Sham, who had the bad luck of being

RACING AHEAD OF HIS RIVALS

Frankel achieved 30 Group winners 431 days faster than any of the current top active European sires



Contact Shane Horan or Claire Curry

+44 (0)1638 731115

nominations@juddmonte.co.uk

www.juddmonte.com



JUDDMONTE

“Granddad didn’t want to go to the movie, but I made him. After seeing it, he said, ‘This is a bunch of BS. None of that stuff ever happened.’”

from the same 3-year-old crop as 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat. Sham finished second to Secretariat in both the Kentucky Derby and Preakness and then was last in the Belmont. When Disney released the movie Secretariat in 2010, Martin’s character was portrayed in an unflattering light. In one scene, he was seen as being rude to Secretariat’s owner, Penny Chenery.

“Granddad didn’t want to go to the movie, but I made him,” Martin recalled. “After seeing it, he said, ‘This is a bunch of BS. None of that stuff ever happened.’ He told me that he met [Chenery] one time and it was the day of the [Preakness], when she asked to meet Sham at the barn. She petted Sham and they shook hands and she said to my grandfather, ‘Good luck to you.’ And he replied the same to her. After the movie, I [teased] him, and told him he forever will be known as the villain trainer of Sham.”

As the conversation returned to Come Dancing, one thing is clear, the 5-year-old holds a fair amount of real estate in Martin’s heart. She is the first ‘big’ horse, not only in stature, but in accomplishments, to come through Martin’s barn in a while.

For many years, Martin had a barn full of horses for Carl Lizza, a prominent New York-based owner-breeder, who he met as a youngster when his father trained horses for the construction company owner. But when Lizza died in 2011, five years after the death of Jose Martin, and one year before Frank ‘Pancho’ Martin’s passing at the age of 86, Carlos Martin felt adrift in his professional life.

“All of them were my mentors and my safety net. After all my years in

the game, it was like starting from scratch,” he said. “It was scary. I had my own successes, but things become different when you don’t have that person to lean on, like I had with Mr Lizza. It was a bit of a shock to become a public trainer. So, it’s exciting to have another top horse, like Come Dancing, after some lean years, following Mr Lizza’s death.”

Among the new owners Martin attracted was Marc Holliday, a breeder who sells commercially, but who also keeps some of his homebreds to race. Holliday, who competes under the nom-de-course Blue Devil Racing Stable, bred Come Dancing, a daughter of Malibu Moon out of Tizahit, a Tiznow mare he purchased at auction for \$410,000. Come Dancing had been slated to be sold as a yearling, but Holliday withdrew her from the sale because there had been little interest in her in the run-up to the auction.

“I met Carlos about seven or eight years ago,” Holliday said. “He impressed me back then as an extremely hardworking and talented trainer from an obviously storied Thoroughbred racing family. As a third-generation trainer, he has extraordinary knowledge and experience in the sport, and that was apparent to me when I made the decision to begin giving Carlos horses to race. We’ve had a lot of success over the years since. It’s a business relationship, but it has also turned into a personal friendship that I value very much. He’s a good man.”

Martin said when Come Dancing arrived at his barn, he saw “a gorgeous filly who was crooked and offset in her right front leg”. But, nonetheless, the trainer was ecstatic to have an offspring of Malibu Moon in his care.

‘Elite-level filly’

“You’re always optimistic when you see a Malibu Moon filly, no matter the circumstances of how you got her,” Martin said. “Her first works were like, ‘wow.’”

Those eye-catching works translated to Come Dancing winning her first start as a 2-year-old, but then, during a gallop, she suffered a fractured pastern bone and didn’t race again until late in her 3-year-old season.

Since her return, Come Dancing has won three stakes, including this year’s G2 Ruffian and G3 Distaff Handicap. In her latest start, Come Dancing stumbled at the break before finishing second to powerhouse Midnight Bisou in the G1 Ogden Phipps over 8½ furlongs at Belmont Park on June 8.

“I think when Come Dancing has time between her races and is racing at seven-eighths, she is an elite-level filly,” Martin said. “I really feel confident about her chances in the Ballerina.”

Martin has yet to saddle a G1 winner at Saratoga — his sole G1 winner came in his third year of training with Buy The Firm in the 1991 Top Flight Handicap at Aqueduct — but he has two shots to get the job done on Aug. 24.

In addition to Come Dancing, Martin will start Bon Raison in the G1 Forego. Bon Raison, who is owned by Empire State Thoroughbreds, won the Tale Of The Cat on Aug. 9, becoming Martin’s first stakes winner in Saratoga since 2008.

Depending upon the results of the Ballerina and Forego, Martin could have good reason to add more of his own stories to the already compelling Martin family saga.

Footnote

Come Dancing was an impressive 3½-length winner of the Ballerina Stakes.

A full-page photograph of a jockey in red and white silks riding a dark brown horse during a race. The jockey is wearing a red and white helmet and goggles. The horse has a white blaze on its face. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

The *ONLY* Sire Of 2
**G1 BREEDERS' CUP
CHALLENGE WINNERS**
In 2019.

TEMPLE CITY

Now offering *early bird specials.*

 **SPENDTHRIFT**

THE BREEDERS' FARM | 859.294.0030

ANNALS OF TIME
Sword Dancer-G1

What They're Thinking: **Joe Harper: why racing needs to change the culture of the backside**

Daniel Ross | August 13, 2019

The baton of Del Mar Thoroughbred Club president may have passed from Joe Harper to Josh Rubenstein last year, but that doesn't mean the facility's long-time leader relinquished with it all involvement.

Indeed, Harper held onto his CEO title, and remains a fitting and visible presence at a track he has helped steer over many decades, on hand through a number of its seminal moments, like the staging of its first million-dollar race, the Pacific Classic, the 2019 running of which takes place on Saturday. Two years ago, Del Mar hosted the Breeders' Cup for the first time, with the anticipated round two scheduled for 2021.

Nevertheless, right now Harper and his colleagues continue to square up to one of the track's greatest challenges: the animal welfare crisis, which has engulfed the sport in California.

Joe Harper: "The last two years, [Del Mar has] been one of the safest, if not the safest, track in North America, according to the Jockey Club"



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

My world is very small here, but I think the man who had the biggest impact on California racing was [Frank E.] Jimmy Kilroe [who oversaw racing at Santa Anita, Del Mar and Hollywood Park]. He came from the East, and he brought the good horses with him. He was responsible for upgrading the quality of California racing.

Before that, it was just California – out there somewhere in La La Land. But Jimmy brought credibility with him. People knew him, they trusted him. He was a good friend and a good mentor to me, lots of good advice. When Jimmy spoke, everybody shut up and listened. He was an interesting and amazing man. I miss him.

Kilroe died in 1996 aged 84.

Which is your favourite venue and race (anywhere in the world – and not Del Mar)?

I haven't been many places, but I tell you I love Keeneland. I love the management there. The facility is great. They've plopped it right in the middle of the Bluegrass, and what better place for a racetrack. I think it says everything about racing, not just inside but outside.

We've very different looks, but when they re-did their track a number of years ago, they used the same architect, a guy called Morio Kow, who designed this whole track for us, built in 1991. You don't see too many two-sided grandstands, and I kept saying to Morio, 'I want to see the horses – the public should be interacting with the horses. I want them to see the paddock, when the horses come through the crowd.'

Morio said, 'well, we can make this thing two-sided. There aren't any of those, but why not.' Morio was innovative and Keeneland is beautiful. It's got the class.

What is your fondest memory in racing?

Two stand out. For years, John Mabee, who probably at one time had more horses than anyone in training in the country, was the track president – a

wonderful man and a great mentor to me. John always pushed us to have a million-dollar race. I said, 'John, we're not quite there handle wise.' But we were growing, and finally, we got to where we could afford a million-dollar race. And, of course, he won it – he won it with Best Pal. We'd made the race weight-for-age, and Best Pal was a 3-year-old, so he got the break and he won the race.

It was interesting – everyone liked John. Up in the Turf Club, everyone knew who he was, and they gave him a standing ovation when he and his wife walked down to the winner's circle.

And I think watching Zenyatta run. Zenyatta was an amazing horse – you'll never find a jockey who could have ridden her like Mike Smith did. When she was here, and kept winning the same races every year, I remember in the mornings, I'd go over to the stand along the backside, get a pretty good view. Zenyatta would come out onto the track by the stand, and her exercise rider would just let her stand there, look around. When she was ready, she'd take off.

Now, one morning she's standing there, looking around, and I asked [trainer] John [Shirreffs], 'how's Zenyatta this morning?' 'Ahh, she's just herself,' he said. I looked around, and she took a U-turn right off the track. It was so funny. He said, 'If she doesn't want to go, she doesn't go.'

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

Well I think right now, it's very clear – it's animal rights, after Santa Anita's debacle. It's even more clear when you have a U.S. senator say you should close. You've got the governor of California saying the same thing. It takes it to a whole different level.

Three years ago, we had a bad meet down here – we had 14 horses break down. The [media], they write about us. It's a great market here – the town's small enough to notice us, but big enough to support us. But when there were one too many breakdowns, they started to write about it, put it on television. That was the story.

So, after that summer, we got [veteran track superintendent] Dennis Moore down here, and [racetrack surface expert, Mick Peterson] from back East to do some testing. We banked the turns – kind of like picking up a rug, fluffing it and laying it back down again to take the inconsistencies out. And then we did the unthinkable profit wise, we got rid of some of our days at the beginning of the meet to have more time to acclimate to the track. We did a few other things, fewer horses and all that, and I think that helps. And so, the last two years, we've been one of the safest, if not the safest, track in North America, according to the Jockey Club.

Two to three weeks before we opened, all I did was go around to TV crews and say, 'we're not Santa Anita, we're safe. We've got a good record. We've done these things – we're going to do more things.' I knew the pre-opening story in the newspapers and on the television wasn't going to be about pretty hats and parties and concerts, it would be about whether the deaths continue. We weren't asking them to change their mind on that – we were asking them to look at what we've done. And they did.

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

A reporter asked me the other day, 'out of all the things we've done, what's the most important thing on the list?' And I said, 'the most important thing isn't on the list, the most important thing is to change the culture of the backside.'

It can't be business as usual. You can't go entering horses that you think are okay – you have to know they're okay.

So, we've got the vets looking at them of a morning, and writing names down, and calling trainers and saying, 'this guy's looking a little tight, short.' Or, 'this one's got a little back problem.' And right now, we're getting good responses [from the trainers]. 'Yeah, you're right – I noticed that the other day. I'll get my vet to look at it.' I think they're getting it – I think they realize it. They see the demonstrators. They read the newspapers.

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**



© Michele 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

TRC GLOBAL RANKINGS



25 August 2019

Jockeys

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Frankie Dettori	Great Britain	1096
2	Ryan Moore	Great Britain	1088
3	Mike E Smith	USA	1060
4	Christophe-Patrice Lemaire	Japan	1056
5	Zac Purton	Hong Kong	1045
6	Hugh Bowman	Australia	1044
7	William Buick	Great Britain	1039
8	Javier Castellano	USA	1035
9	Jose L Ortiz	USA	1034
10	Irad Ortiz Jr	USA	1031
10	Joel Rosario	USA	1031
12	Mirco Demuro	Japan	1029
13	Flavien Prat	USA	1028
14	James Doyle	Great Britain	1022
15	Mickael Barzalona	France	1019

Trainers

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	John Gosden	Great Britain	1083
2	Chad C Brown	USA	1079
3	Charlie Appleby	Great Britain	1075
4	Bob Baffert	USA	1059
5	Aidan O'Brien	Great Britain	1056
6	Andre Fabre	France	1031
7	James Cummings	Australia	1023
7	Saeed bin Suroor	UAE	1023
9	Sir Michael Stoute	Great Britain	1021
10	Steven Asmussen	USA	1013
11	Chris Waller	Australia	1010
12	John Moore	Hong Kong	1006
13	John W Sadler	USA	1005
14	Darren Weir**	Australia	1003
15	John Size	Hong Kong	1002

Owners

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Godolphin	Australia	1082
2	Coolmore Partners	Ireland	1067
3	Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum	Great Britain	1055
4	Juddmonte Farms / Prince Khalid Abdulla	USA	1049
5	Magic Bloodstock Et Al	Australia	1031
6	Madaket Stables Et Al	USA	1020
7	Sunday Racing Co Ltd	Japan	1016
7	White Birch Farm / Peter Brant Et Al	USA	1016
9	WinStar Farm Et Al	USA	1015
10	Klaravich Stables Et Al	USA	1014
11	China Horse Club Et Al	Australia	1013
12	Hronis Racing LLC	USA	1010
13	Lloyd Williams Et Al	Australia	1008
14	Michael Dubb Et Al	USA	1006
14	U Carrot Farm	Japan	1006

Sires

Rank	Name	Modal Country	Points
1	Dubawi	Great Britain	1088
2	Galileo	Ireland	1062
3	Frankel	Great Britain	1053
4	Sea The Stars	Great Britain	1038
5	Scat Daddy	USA	1034
6	I Am Invincible	Australia	1032
6	Shamardal	France	1032
8	Deep Impact	Japan	1030
8	Lord Kanaloa	Japan	1030
10	Curlin	USA	1024
10	Teofilo	Australia	1024
12	Nathaniel	Great Britain	1023
12	Street Cry	Australia	1023
14	Quality Road	USA	1022
15	Candy Ride	USA	1021