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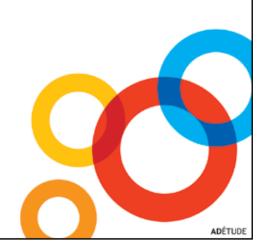
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MINE THAT BIRD

xxxxx

TAKES KENTUCKY DERBY CROWN

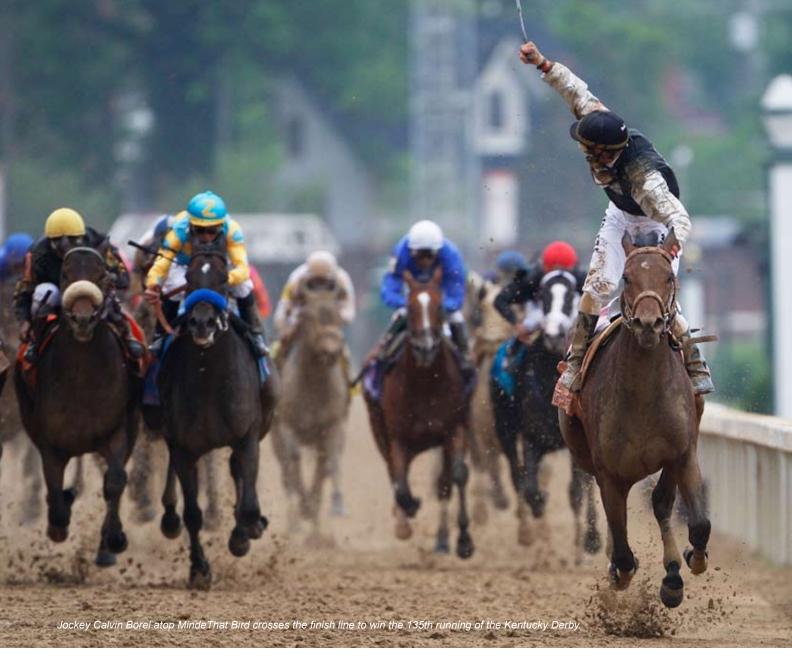
Mine That Bird, ridden by Calvin Borel, exploded in the stretch and flew to a massive upset victory in the 135th Kentucky Derby in Louisville, Kentucky.

XAAX

The field rounds turn one during the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby on May 2, 2009 at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky.

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Child & Lill to



Borel was masterful in piloting the gelding, a 50-1 longshot, to the triumph on the sloppy Churchill Downs track, finding room along the rail, guiding him through a tight gap and pulling away to win by 6 3/4 lengths in the second-biggest upset in the history of the race.

Mine That Bird was saddled by trainer Bennie "Chip" Woolley, a former quarter-horse trainer and onetime rodeo circuit rider who drove more than 20 hours hauling the horse from New Mexico to Louisville to take on the cream of American racing.

"They'll know who I am now," said the 45-year-old Woolley, who had to limp to the winner's circle on crutches thanks to injuries received in a motorcycle accident two months ago.

Woolley's triumph marked the sixth time in seven years that a trainer captured the Run for the Roses

in his first attempt.

Mine That Bird became just the ninth gelding to win the Derby, and just the second in the last 80 years -- along with 2003 winner Funny Cide.

"The horse had never been in the mud at all until he got here," Woolley said. "When you watched the horse train over this track, it was like he was born to run here, when it was dry. And when it was wet, he even looked better."

The victory was the second in three years for Borel in the 1/1/4-mile race. He won on Street Sense in 2007 with a similar stretch run.

"Calvin did a super job," Woolley said. "I just can't say enough about the way things went for us. Calvin picks a spot, every thing fell together. We were really lucky to get through there."

Mine That Bird got squeezed coming out of the

The victory was the second in three years for Borel in the 1/1/4mile race. He won on Street Sense in 2007 with a similar stretch run.

starting gate, but Borel got him to the rail in last place. Borel calmly worked his way up, and when he found a narrow opening in the stretch he urged his mount through.

"I had enough room -- he's a small horse," Borel said. "It was a Street Sense move," Borel said. "They can only go so fast, so far. When I hollered at him, he just went on."

Pioneer of the Nile, trained by Bob Baffert, finished second and Musket Man third in the first jewel of US flat racing's Triple Crown.

Friesan Fire, who went off a 7-2 favorite after morning-line favourite I Want Revenge was scratched morning with inflammation in his left front ankle, finished a distant 18th in the 19-horse



Jockey Calvin Borel atop Mine That Bird celebrates his win.





(L) Jockey Calvin Borel holds Kentucky Derby trophy with owner Leonard Blach after his win atop Mine That Bird in the winner's circle. field.

But Friesan Fire trainer Larry Jones said even that was better than his runner-up finish last year with Eight Belles, the filly that had to be euthanised on the track after breaking two legs galloping out.

"Beating one horse was better than running second and what happened last year," Jones said.

Jones said Friesan Fire was clipped shortly after the start. "If you see blood on the track, it's his," Jones said, but added he didn't think the horse was seriously injured.

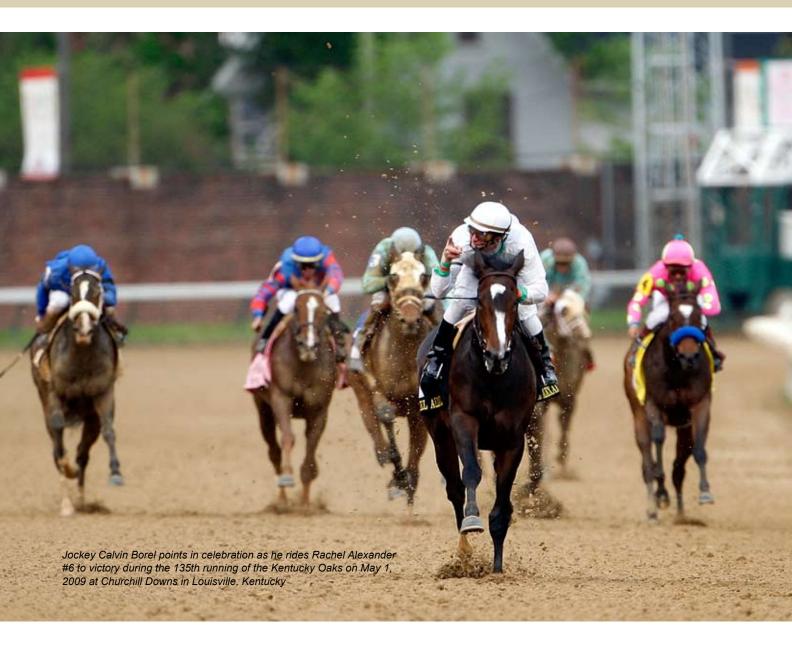
A long trip from Dubai ended in disappointment for Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum, who had two entries trained by Saeed bin Suroor. Regal Ransom, ridden by Alan Garcia, finished eighth, and Desert Party, with Ramon Dominguez in the irons, was 14th.

Jockey Kent Desormeaux summed up the difficulties faced by the pair in their bid to win America's most famous race. "I'd like to like the two horses coming in from Dubai, but that just seems like too much to do," he said when asked for his tips before the race.





Spectacular Kentucky Oaks win for Rachel Alexandra



Rachel Alexandra romped to a spectacular 201/4-length victory in the \$500,000 Kentucky Oaks in a scintillating curtain-raiser to Kentucky Derby in Kentucky Oaks.

Rachel Alexander, ridden by Calvin Borel, crosses the finish line.

The filly's performance no doubt left many Derby contenders thankful that her connections hadn't elected to run her in the first jewel in US flat racing's Triple Crown, preferring to race her against other females rather than take on the country's top colts in the Kentucky Derby.

With jockey Calvin Borel aboard, Rachel Alexandra stalked Gabby's Golden Gal along the backstretch. When asked, she cruised effortlessly to the front and pulled away. She notched her fifth straight victory, with Stone Legacy second, and Flying Spur third.

"She's unbelievable, one of the best fillies I've ever been on in my life," Borel said. "I've never been on a horse like this."

The eve of the Derby at Churchill Downs was marred by the death of Stormalory, a three-yearold colt that was euthanised after breaking down during the \$150,000 American Turf Stakes.

Stormalory, trained by Bill Mott and owned by Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum of Dubai, broke slowly under jockey Julien Leparoux in the 1 1/16-mile race before going down just before the far turn with an injury to his left front leg.





Rachel Alexander, riden by Calvin Borel, on the front stretch during the 135th Kentucky Oaks at churchill Downs

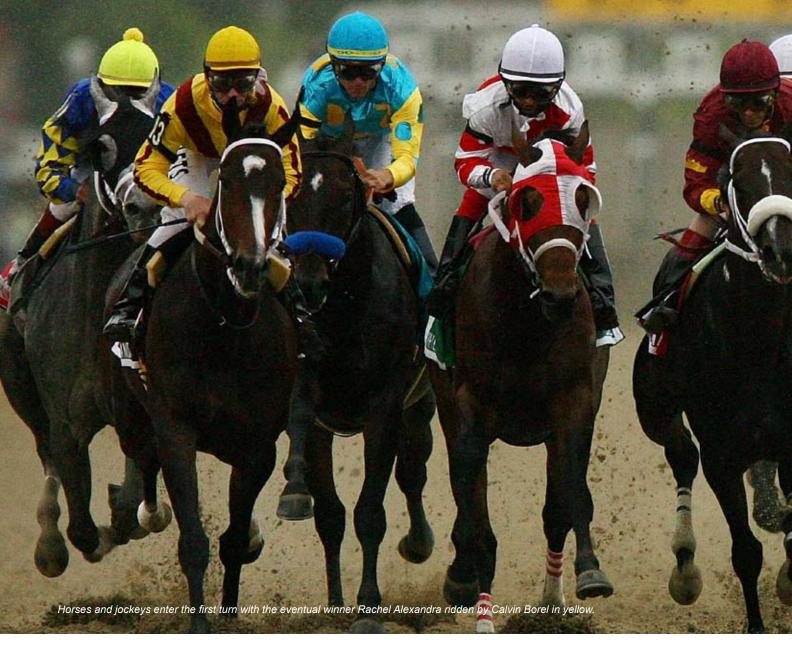
Calvin Borel, riding **Rac**hel Alexander acknowledges the cheers of the crowd.

Rachel Alexandra wins Preakness Stakes

14 HORSE&HORSEMAN

Jockey Calvin Borel riding Rachel Alexandra wins the 134th running of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course on May 16, 2009 in Baltimore, Maryland





Rachel Alexandra lived up to her star billing, becoming the first filly in 85 years to win the 13/16-mile Preakness Stakes in Baltimore, Maryland.

With jockey Calvin Borel in the irons, Rachel Alexandra became the first filly since Nellie Morse in 1924 to win the second jewel in US flat racing's Triple Crown, holding off a charge by Kentucky Derby-winner Mine That Bird.

Borel had piloted 50-1 shot Mine That Bird to the Kentucky Derby triumph, but elected to switch to Rachel Alexandra for the one milliondollar Preakness when new owner Jess Jackson decided to test her against colts.

This time Mike Smith guided Mine That Bird's charge, but fell short by one length.

Rachel Alexandra went off as the 9-5 favorite in the 13-horse field, and became the first horse to win the Preakness from the number 13 post.

Predictions that the outside starting spot would suit the physically imposing frontrunner proved true as she









moved to the lead early and wasn't threatened until Smith piloted Mine That Bird up through the field in a storming run reminiscent of his Kentucky Derby race under Borel.

"Probably inside the eighth pole I thought we got a shot at her from there, but she just doesn't falter enough," Mine That Bird trainer Chip Woolley said. "I'm real proud of him."

"She's the greatest horse I've ever been on in my life," said Borel, who had ridden Rachel Alexandra to a spectacular 20-length victory in the Kentucky Oaks for fillies on the eve of the Kentucky Derby and was delighted to have a chance to ride her in the Preakness.

Steve Asmussen, who took over as Rachel Alexandra's trainer after she was bought days after her Oaks triumph, paid tribute to previous trainer Hal Wiggins.

"What an amazing 10 days it has been," said Asmussen, who said his main task since the filly arrived in his barn was to "stay out of her way."

Calvin Borel, riding Rachel Alexandra, crosses the finish line ahead of Mine That Bird.



1

Musket Man finished third -- just as he did in the Kentucky Derby two weeks earlier.

Rachel Alexandra had won her five previous starts against her own gender by a total of 43 1/2 lengths.

Jackson was delighted that the decision to have her take on the boys produced a victory. "There was a lot of social criticism and doubt about whether she was capable," Jackson said. "I think I would've taken some heat if she hadn't performed well, so that takes some heat off my shoulders."

Mine That Bird's connections also felt vindicated. Co-owner Mark Allen said second place felt like a victory because it proved the little gelding's Derby "was no fluke."

"He was coming, but that filly, she run a big race," Allen said. "She's about a length better than Mine That Bird."







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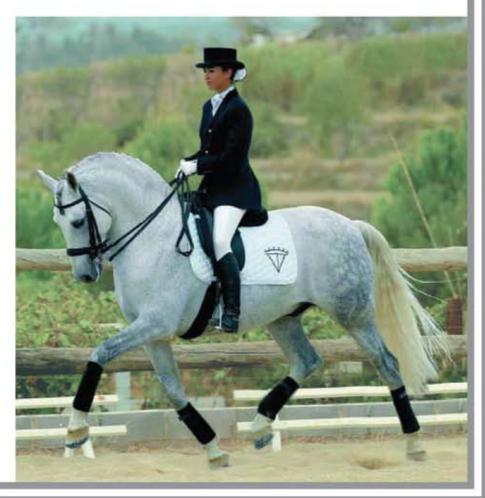
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Yeats makes history with fourth Gold Cup

Yeats made history at Royal Ascot by becoming the first horse to claim the Gold Cup for the fourth time.



Aidan O'Brien's eight-year-old, the heavy favourite with bookmakers, settled in behind the early leaders, then Johnny Murtagh sent him to the front well before the turn for home and he quickly put distance between himself and his rivals.

Patkai was the only one to come out of the pack and make inroads up the home straight, but Yeats found plenty for pressure to record a momentous victory.

Murtagh was overcome with emotion afterwards. "He loves fast ground, he loves Royal Ascot," said Murtagh, who partnered him last year when he equalled French horse Sagaro's record (1975-77) of three consecutive wins. "He comes alive. This is one of the greatest days of my career."

O'Brien conceded that he had felt a heavy burden hanging over him on the race's morning. "It's unbelievable. I have never felt such pressure before," said the 39-year-old Irishman, who had teamed up with Murtagh on the first day of Royal Ascot to win his sixth Group One St James's Palace Stakes with Mastercraftsman.

English 1,000 Guineas winner Ghanaati collected another top prize with a record-breaking victory in the Coronation Stakes on the penultimate day of Royal Ascot.

Ridden by Richard Hills for his trainer father Barry,

French horse Vison D'Etat (third right) ridden by Olivier Peslier races home to win the Prince of Wales Stakes on the second day of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting at Ascot.





Ghanaati (2-1 favourite) hit the front with two furlongs (400 metres) to go and readily held off French raider Reggane (9-1) by two lengths.

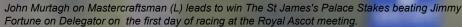
The filly's winning time of 1:38.32 improved the course record for the one mile (1.6 km) distance by 0.38 seconds.

Assistant trainer Charlie Hills, deputising for his

father who continues to battle throat cancer, told BBC TV: "Ghanaati is so professional. She's a beautiful stamp of a filly. She's just getting better and better."

Richard Hills said: "There are only two fillies in my life -- this one and my wife."

Among the winner's victims were French 1,000







Guineas winner Elusive Wave who finished fourth and Irish 1,000 Guineas heroine Again (seventh).

The victory completed a double on the day for jockey Hills and owner Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum who won the opening Albany Stakes for juvenile fillies on 16-1 shot Habaayib.

US raider Aegean started 11-4 second favourite to give trainer Wes Ward and jockey John Velazquez a third winner at the meeting but weakened to finish ninth.

Former champion trainer Henry Cecil, 66, also a cancer-battler, saddled the 71st Royal Ascot winner of his career when 9-1 chance Father Time won the Group Two King Edward VII Stakes under jockey Eddie Ahern.

US trainer Wes Ward and jockey John Velazquez struck for the second time in 24 hours at the Royal Ascot meeting.

Jealous Again (13-2) led all the way and spreadeagled a field of speedy juvenile fillies in the Queen Mary Stakes with breathtaking ease.

It was an extraordinary achievement for the trainer and jockey who had sprung a major surprise when 33-1 chance Strike The Tiger gave the US their first ever win at the royal meeting.

An overjoyed Ward said: "I came here to be vindicated and it is an honour and an accomplishment I will never forget. I am very proud of my horses."

Jealous Again, racing for only the third time in her life, came out of the stalls like a bullet, was never headed and had five lengths to spare at the line over Misheer (9-1).

Ward said: "In America we train them for speed... your horses are bred to go longer and ours are bred for speed and it worked out today."

The race was the second of the day to go for export and came on top of significant victories on opening day for Australia and Ireland as well as the US.

French raider Vision D'Etat delivered a perfectly



Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheik Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Princess Haya of Jordan on the fourth day of The Royal Ascot.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (2nd L) and her husband The Duke of Edinburgh (L) sit opposite Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (2nd R) as they arrive for the days' racing during Ladies Day, the third day of Royal Ascot, in Berkshire, west of London, on June 18, 2009. The five-day meeting is one of the highlights of the horse racing calendar. Horse racing has been held at the famous Berkshire course since 1711 and tradition is a hallmark of the meeting. Top hats and tails remain compulsory in parts of the course while a daily procession of horse-drawn carriages brings the Queen to the course.

Britain Queen Elizabeth II reacts as she arrives at the parade ring in an horse drawn carriage on the third day, Ladies' Day, of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting at Ascot near Windsor, Thursday, June 18, 2009.





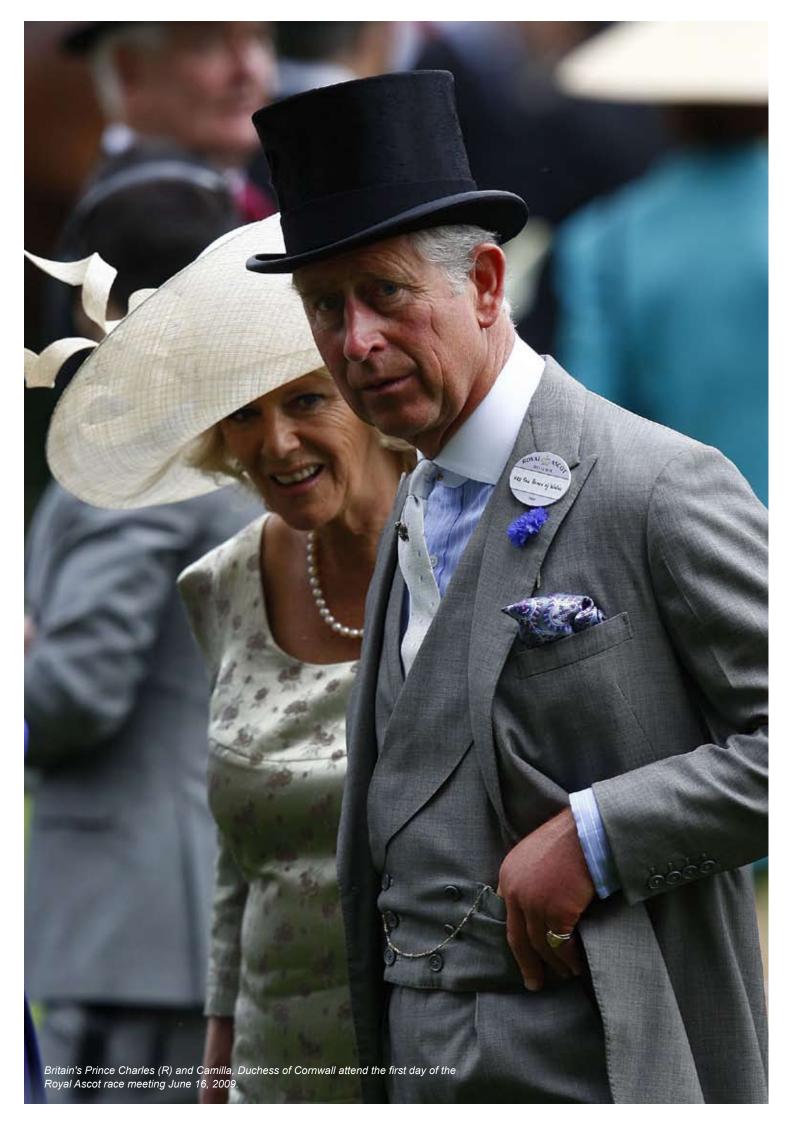
timed challenge under Olivier Peslier to land a thrilling race for the Prince of Wales' Stakes.

The 2008 French Derby winner was tucked in on the rails at the rear of the field as the eight runners swung into the straight.

But Peslier pounced on last year's Epsom Derby

runner-up Tartan Bearer, the 6-4 favourite, in the last 100 metres to win the coveted Group One prize by half a length at odds of 4-1.

Trainer Eric Libaud, who has had winners in Dubai and Hong Kong as well as France, said: "Of all the winners I've had in the world this is the most





special, the most beautiful."

Peslier, riding the colt for the first time, said: "The trainer told me it was best to leave it late. That was perfect for me."

Vision D'Etat, fifth in last year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, was quoted at odds of 10-1 for this year's race.

Earlier, Richard Hills picked the wrong one of his father Barry's two runners in the opening Jersey Stakes, opting for the 5-1 favourite Infiraad who finished last of 16.

Victory went to the other Hill's runner, 12-1 chance Ouqba who atoned for a disappointing run in the English 2,000 Guineas.

It was a first Royal Ascot winner for jockey Tadagh O'Shea who said: "Hopefully that will be the first of many for me. He deserved that. He's going places." The pattern was repeated in the Windsor Forest Stakes for fillies and mares with the Cheveley Park Stud's Heaven Sent (5-2) strongly fancied to give champion jockey Ryan Moore his first winner of this year's Royal Ascot.

But he was denied by 10-1 shot Spacious, the other Cheveley Park runner, who won by a length under Johnny Murtagh. The Irishman was on the mark again in the Royal Hunt Cup when riding 4-1 favourite Forgotten Voice to an easy success.

Paco Boy, the 100-30 second favourite, silenced critics who said he would not stay a mile when he swept to victory in the Queen Anne Stakes.

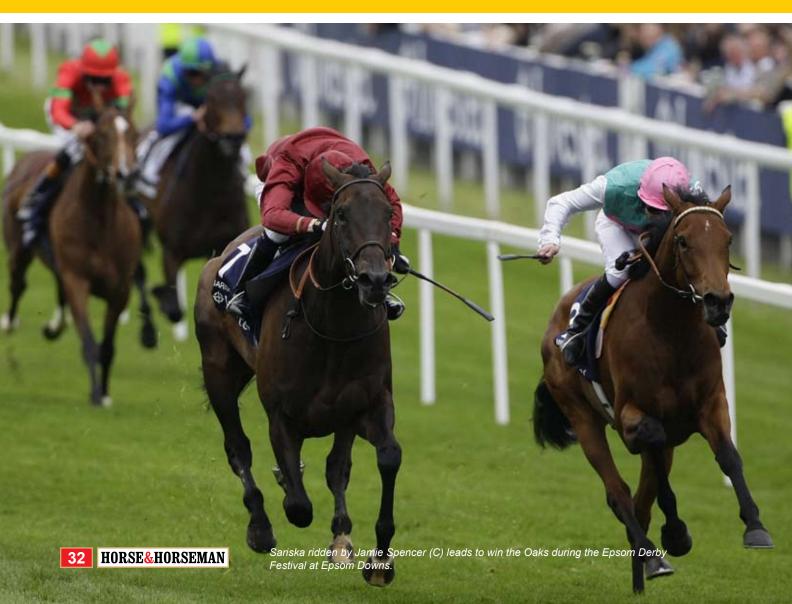
"He was electric today. He really is something else," said jockey Richard Hughes.

Later in the day Hughes rode two more winners, on 7-4 favourite Canford Cliffs in the Coventry Stakes and 13-2 chance Judgethemoment in the Ascot Stakes for an 88-1 treble.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,(C) tips his glasses to view a race horse in the parade ring on the first day of Royal Ascot, in Berkshire, west of London, on June 16, 2009.

HORSE RACING: sea the stars emulates nashwan to take derby

EPSOM, England: Sea The Stars became the first horse since Nashwan in 1989 to achieve the English 2000 Guineas and Epsom Derby double.





The Irish raider - giving trainer John Oxx his second Derby winner and rider Michael Kinane his third beat home two of Aidan O'Brien's six runners in the shape of Fame And Glory with Masterofthehorse third.

Sea The Stars (11/4), whose jockey turns 50 in a few weeks and keeps fit by running five miles a day, was always travelling smoothly behind the two O'Brien pacemakers Golden Sword and Age of Aquarius.

Kinane - who like all the other jockeys sported a black armaband in memory of six-time Epsom Derby winning trainer Dr Vincent O'Brien who died earlier this week - had to shake him up a little bit to get past the durable Golden Sword.

But once past him he had no worries and eased to a one-and-three-quarter length victory with a neck separating 9/4 favourite Fame And Glory under Seamus Heffernan and 16/1 shot Masterofthehorse ridden by Richard Hughes.

Oxx said that the son of Arc de Triomphe winner Urban Sea was a dream to train.

"He has a magnificent presence, he was a beautiful yearling," said Oxx, one of the shrewdest trainers in the business.

"He just had everything, and breaking him in he did everything right.

"He is so intelligent - right from the word go - he never let us down - all the way up - some horses look the business then let you down, this one went right to the top of the ladder."

Oxx, who previously won the Derby with Sinndar in 2000, said he was not at all concerned during the race.

"I was not very anxious during the race because it was going so well - Mick (Kinane) kept waiting to pick off the pacemaker - I knew he wouldn't stop, he was going so well."

Oxx said that trying to emulate O'Brien's feat of winning the triple crown as the legendary Irish handler who died on Monday did with Nijinsky in 1970 was beyond his star's capacities.

"He could go back to a mile and win any Group

one or over a mile-and-a-quarter," said Oxx.

"The St Leger is probably a bridge too far, I am a believer in the Triple Crown, but I was worried going into the Derby so I would be very worried going into the Leger - we will talk about it of course but the International at York, and the Irish Derby we'll have to think about."

Kinane said that the horse had come on hugely after his victory at Newmarket.

"He has improved enormously from Newmarket," said Kinane, whose previous Derby victories came with Commander In Chief and Galileo.

"Since then he was cast in his box, John has done a fantastic job, and he has improved physically, he really hit the gates (the starting stalls), he's so quick.

"He over-raced a bit through the race because they weren't going quick enough. "I was happy where I was, it was ideal because I knew Colm and Pat's horses weren't going to cave in - I knew I wasn't going to be getting any deadwood - I was never in any doubt - knew nothing would beat me for pace.

"I couldn't believe my luck when he came around last May - he's given me a new lease of life."

The horse's owner Christopher Choi, who owns nightclubs in Hong Kong, said that it was the race he had always wanted to win since his parents took him racing at a young age.

"It is unbelievable - I am so overwhelmed - I dont know what to think," gasped the 27-year-old.

"The nightclubs are just for fun - my family owned the dam of the winner, Urban Sea. It was them (my parents) that got me into racing, and I would go with them to the races in France with Urban Sea's trainer Jean Lesbordes."











Fashion © Fillies

















Fashion © Fillies





40 HORSE&HORSEMAN















































Bad to the

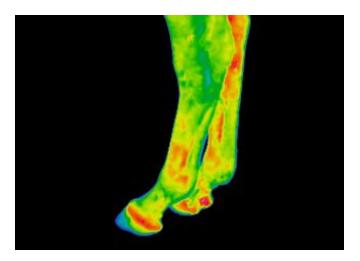
by: Marcia King

It began with a common paddock accident-crashing into a rail--and progressed into a bone infection. After several months of nursing and repeated surgeries, veterinary efforts failed to save the life of Alywow, a former Canadian Horse of the Year and million-dollar-plus Thoroughbred broodmare.

While bone infections don't automatically end with euthanasia, they can be difficult to treat. That's because most bone infections occur in the lower limbs, where blood flow under normal conditions is minimal, and it can be even less during active infection. As a result, the infection is harder to control.

Nicola C. Cribb, MA, VetMB, MRCVS, a resident in large animal surgery working with Ludovic Bouré, DVM, MSc, DES, Dipl. ACVS, ECVS, associate professor of large animal surgery at Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph, details what happens when a bone in the lower limb becomes injured and infected:

"Lower limb infections occur when bacteria colonize bone or synovial ¬structures, including joints, tendon sheaths, and bursa. An acute inflammation



occurs following bacterial inoculation, which results in disruption of the blood supply to the affected tissue. Because joint, tendon, and bony structures in the lower limb of the normal horse are all minimally vascularized (supplied with blood vessels), this disruption of the already nominal blood supply results in protection of bacteria not only from the natural defense mechanisms of the horse, but from antibiotics that need to be carried to the site of infection in the bloodstream."

Additionally, Cribb says that as part of the inflammatory response, the body can produce a substance called fibrin (which forms an essential part of blood clots) and an accumulation of fluid in the tissues called a seroma. In fibrin and fluids, ¬microbes are protected from the horse's immune system and antimicrobials.

"It is very difficult for the infection- fighting blood cells to penetrate these infected areas, making them ideal places for the bacteria to hide from any attempts to eradicate them," explains Cribb. "As a result, treatment of lower limb infections is problematic, and the prognosis for return to athletic soundness is guarded."

Whys and Wherefores

Bone infections occur when bacteria is introduced through the bloodstream, traumatic injuries, or following surgery or joint injections.

"Adult horses usually develop bone infection subsequent to traumatic incidents involving fractures, lacerations, and puncture wounds," says Rustin M. Moore, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVS, professor of equine surgery and director of the Equine Health Studies Program, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University. "Horses with long bone



fractures, especially if they are open fractures (skin penetrated or broken during or after fracture), are predisposed to develop bone infection. Long bone fractures often require internal fixation with plates and screws or other materials, making the area prone to infection even if the primary incident did not lead to an open fracture. This is often associated with long surgical procedures, damaged/injured soft tissues, and the presence of implants."

The cannon, splint, pastern, and coffin bones are most commonly affected, says Moore, as the lower limbs are more prone to injury due to their location and sparse tissue coverage of the bones in these areas. Adult horses can experience either osteitis (infection of the outer cortex) or osteomyelitis (infection involving both the cortex and medullary cavity inside the bone shaft where the marrow is stored).

"Foals usually develop bone infection secondary to bacteremia or septicemia (systemic infections spread through the blood), which are relatively common in neonatal foals that have failure or partial failure of passive transfer from colostral antibodies," states Moore. "Bacteria can also enter the body shortly after birth through the umbilicus or by ingestion or inhalation. These environmental pathogens then circulate in the foal's bloodstream and localize in joints and bones."

The most common locations for bone infections in foals, Moore says, are in the ends of long bones, including the physis (growth plate), epiphysis (the rounded end of the long bone), and metaphysis (the area between the growth plate and the diaphysis or shaft of the bone), but any bone can be involved since the infectious agent reaches the bone via the bloodstream.

"However, the distal radius, distal third metacarpus/ metatarsus, distal tibia, and distal femur are frequently affected," Moore notes.

Foals have a much greater tendency to develop osteomyelitis.

Clinical Signs and Diagnosis

"The hallmark sign of bone infection is pain or lameness, ranging from mild to non-weight bearing," Moore reports. "If the infection is severe or is located in strategic areas, then usually the associated pain is often quite marked. There can also be localized swelling, heat, and soreness to pressure. The animal may have a fever and may be depressed, lethargic, and/or inappetent (loss



of appetite). Some horses, especially foals, have increased white blood cell (neutrophil) counts and increased fibrinogen levels in their blood. But often, bone infections in foals may not become clinically apparent for a few to several weeks, particularly if it is a well-defined abscess."

Diagnosis is based on visual exam and various imaging techniques--radiography, digital radiography, nuclear scintigraphy, ultrasonography, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging. States Moore, "Radiographically, bony infection appears as lucency/lysis (decreased mineral content), which often takes 10 to 14 days after becoming infected to become apparent. Greater detailed radiographs such as those obtained with digital radiography and/or MRI or CT may be able to detect subtle differences sooner. Nuclear scintigraphy (bone scan) is more sensitive at detecting bony turnover, so this may be useful to detect areas of possible infection if a definitive diagnosis cannot be made with radiography."

Treatment

For a successful outcome, bone infection needs to be treated early and aggressively with bactericidal

antibiotics and, in some cases, surgery.

Antibiotics Moore sug gests using a broadspectrum bactericidal antibiotic based on the expected offending bacteria, then maintaining or adjusting the drug(s) according to the horse's response and the results of culture and susceptibility testing. He notes, "Most bony infections involve either aerobic or anaerobic bacteria, and without the selection and use of appropriate antibiotics, most established bony infections cannot be completely resolved."

However, antibiotic therapy can be expensive, carries the potential of leading to antibiotic resistance by the bacteria and--depending on the antibiotic--can cause toxic side effects such as kidney damage or diarrhea.

Often, a combination of systemic and locally administered antibiotics is required to achieve success. Systemically administrated drugs are delivered intravenously, intramuscularly, or orally, traveling through the bloodstream to the site of infection.

Cribb explains, "In the normal horse a very high dosage of antibiotics needs to be given





systemically to achieve therapeutic concentrations in the structures of the lower limb. The dose required is often so high it could be toxic to the horse and produce unwanted side effects. When an infection is present, the disrupted blood supply makes it even less likely that appropriate levels of antibiotics will be achieved when safe levels of antibiotics are administered."

To overcome these obstacles, antibiotics are placed at the infection site. "With localized antibiotics, systemic side effects and toxic effects are minimal," reports Cribb. "Delivery is achieved by either placing a tourniquet on the leg and perfusing the tissues of the lower leg or the medullary cavity of the bone with antibiotics, or by placing antibioticreleasing implants next to the infected tissues."

Moore says local antibiotic perfusion of the limb while using a tourniquet placed above the affected area allows more time for the antibiotics to remain in the vascular bed in the area of the bone infection, thereby providing a longer time for its diffusion into the affected tissues. infection has resolved. It can be time-consuming, technically challenging, traumatic to the limb, and costly, Cribb notes.

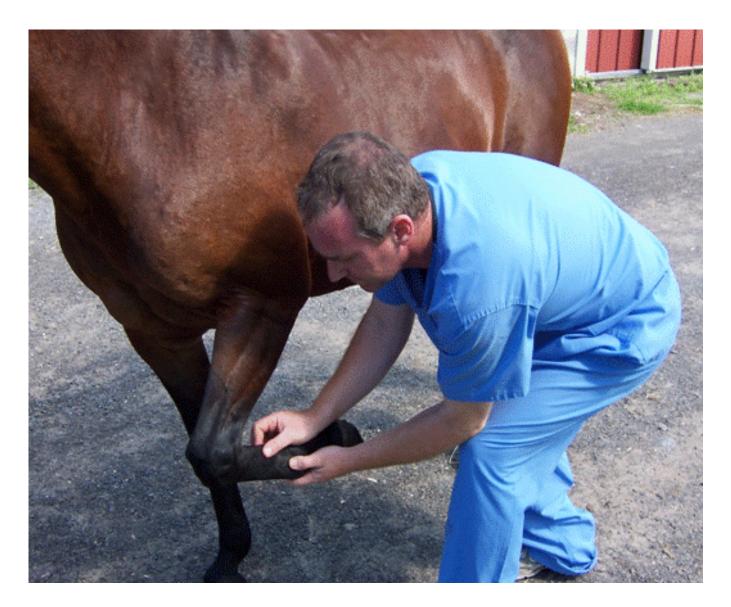
Delivering increased concentrations of antibiotics via implanted materials allows for a slow, continued release of antibiotics in the affected area. "However, the implants readily available and in clinical use in North America are non-absorbable, meaning that often a second surgery is required for their removal," Cribb says. "Complications can occur any time a horse is operated on, so the requirement for a second surgery is an obvious disadvantage."

Surgical options "Surgery of lower limb infections differs depending on the structure involved," says Cribb. "Regardless, the principles of treating the infection remain the same and include debridement and lavage to remove unhealthy tissue, bacteria, and harmful inflammatory mediators, and antibiotherapy to eliminate all remaining deep-seated bacterial infection."

Additional Help

Other options are employed to help defeat an

Perfusion is usually performed daily until the



infection. Draining the affected area to remove inflammatory exudates (pus) is often helpful and necessary, says Moore. "This can either be achieved by lavage (flushing) using needles or the arthroscope, by open drainage, or by the use of closed-suction drainage systems. Non- steroidal anti-inflammatory medications for pain and inflammation, physical therapy, bandaging, and splinting/casting are also utilized to control pain and inflammation. Although probably not used that often in horses or very often necessary, hyperbaric oxygen therapy may be useful for chronic, resistant infections, particularly those involving anaerobic bacteria."

Follow-up care depends on the location, nature, and severity of the infection. Says Moore, "If the infection is in or near a joint, then passive range of motion exercise or light, controlled exercise once the acute inflammation subsides and the lameness improves is important to help maintain range of motion and prevent scarring and fibrosis of the joint capsule and other tissues that may limit future movement and soundness. If the infection involves a bone, then exercise should be restricted until the infection is under control and the mineral (calcium) is replenished to prevent a pathologic fracture. If the infection involves a bone that is fractured, then exercise should be completely curtailed until the fracture is healed. Fractures can heal in the presence of infection, but only if rigid fixation can be maintained. It is often a race against time to get the fracture to heal before the implants--screws or plates--become loose secondary to lysis/softening of the bone subsequent to the bacterial infection."

Prognosis

Moore explains, "The prognosis varies, depending upon the location, severity, and duration of the infection. Adult horses with joint infections not involving the bone reportedly have an 85-92% chance for discharge from the hospital and a 57-65% chance of returning to athletic function. Adult horses with infected orthopedic implants (fractures repaired with plates and screws) reportedly have a 53-63% prognosis for hospital discharge. Although there is no specific data, generally if horses survive to hospital discharge, they should be able to resume their career or at least an alternate useful purpose.

"In adult horses, the prognosis often depends on the location, severity, structures involved, and in the case of a fracture repair, whether the infection can be controlled while the fracture is healing and whether this occurs before the implants loosen, since a fracture will not heal in the presence of infection if there is instability," Moore adds.

The prognosis for foals is generally substantially worse (about 45%) than for adult horses. Moore says in foals, prognosis depends on the number of bones or joints involved, the severity of infection at the time of diagnosis and treatment, the presence of systemic illness with a specific area of infection, whether or not the infection involves the joint and/ or physis, and the susceptibility or resistance of the causative pathogen to antibiotics.

Tomorrow's Treatment?

Because of the problems associated to antibiotic therapies, Bouré has been investigating a bioabsorbable implant that is placed at the site of infection and releases antibiotic slowly over time. Bouré says he and his colleagues combined amikacin (an antibiotic effective against most common equine pathogens involved in orthopedic infection) with hyaluronan (a natural constituent of the joint containing analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and cartilage- protecting effects) to form a gel. That is dried until a 1cm disc is formed. When arthroscopic lavage is used to remove inflammatory mediators and bacteria in the joint fluid and remove any fibrin in which the bacteria are sequestered, this implant could be placed in the joint. The disc rehydrates and breaks down, releasing the amikacin. The hyaluronan is naturally degraded, eliminating the need for disc removal.

Bouré plans to primarily use the implant for

joint infections. "However, the implant could be appropriate for use in any lower limb infections, including infected tendon sheaths, bursae, and bone infections," he says.

Although a study has been completed, Bouré says the implant is not ready for clinical use. Further research and modification is needed to provide better results.

Prevention

Good horsekeeping practices can reduce the risk of bone infection by eliminating sources of injury and contamination. "Remove all sharp objects that horses could either step on or become entangled with," suggests Moore. "A veterinarian should examine any horse that has sustained trauma to make sure there is no fracture or penetrating wound to a bone or joint.

For foals, "Provide the mare with a clean, noncontaminated environment in which to foal," he says. "Make sure the foal stands and nurses early and often during the first few hours to maximize the amount of colostrum (containing protective antibodies) that is ingested. Measure the foal's blood immunoglobulin levels within the first 24 hours to confirm adequate passive transfer; if levels are insufficient, administer immunoglobulinrich plasma.

"Careful observation and monitoring of foals for any signs of infection (depression, malaise, poor appetite, lethargy, fever, etc.) and any evidence of swelling of joints or umbilicus, coughing, diarrhea, or lameness is important and should be brought to the attention of your veterinarian immediately," he adds.

Take-Home Message

Bone infection can be a grave, sometimes lifeending condition that might not be overcome despite treatment efforts. Take the diagnosis of bone or joint infection seriously and initiate aggressive veterinary action to achieve a successful outcome.

World

Championship Endurance

Riding for Juniors and Young Riders in Babolnaa/Hungary

A successful newcomer in a traditional setting

Centuries old heritage in traditional environment – Babolna.

The stud farm of Babolna was founded in 1789 and has been a major location for horse breeding in Hungary throughout its existence. Josef Csekonics, captain of a cuirassier regiment, had the idea that horse breeding in Hungary would flourish better under professional stud masters and such create an imperial-royal stud as ordered by Joseph II, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. The purpose was to breed fast and strong horses, which were necessary both for the army and for the public. Only pure-bred Arabian stallions were allowed to be used, as ordered by the Royal Military Council in 1816 for Babolna. The first Arabian stallion brought to the stud from an expedition to the







Orient was **Shagya Senior** and after him this special Arabian breed was named Shagya Arabians, recognized as an independent breed in 1978.

This traditional village of Babolna got the FEI World Championship and organized a wonderful, joyful and successful event. All the youngsters seemed happy and were proud to have been selected by their countries to ride for the glory of their nations, in a country which had been behind the "Iron Curtain" for so many years, under the tough rule of the socialist "brother" Russia.

The opening ceremony was a highlight with 5-in-hand coaches in the old traditional uniforms of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, the VIP guests arrived in these elegant coaches to the event.

Unfortunately very heavy rains soaked the tracks, flooded the stables after midnight before the ride day and the officials had to work on new plans according to these conditions.

The start which was previewed for 7.00 am was postponed to 8.00 am, instead of the first and longest loop the second loop had to be done twice, a loop which was not so affected by the heavy rainfall. Also the vet gate had to be transferred to grassland, since the sand was too soft and soaked.

Ninety two horses and their riders from 23 nations left the starting line at 8am in hazy weather, and rain. Then the sun was rising and dried parts of the tracks and it was wonderful riding weather after all. Of the 92 horses which left, 67 come home safe, that is 72%, which is an enormous rate considering other world championships. Only 22 horses had problems in the vet gates and were disqualified.

Already in the second vet gate three











riders from UAE were in the lead with an average speed of 23 km/h, followed by Helen Perry on Wesam. Fahleh Nasser Bughenhaim (QAT) was coming in with 24,4 km/h.

The team of UAE was ahead of Qatar and France.

The 3rd vet gat saw Sheikh Abdulla bin Faisal al Qasimi on **Castlebar Sobia** coming in first, and going out on the last loop, followed by his countryman Hussain Ali al Marouqi on **Sergai.**

The first to come home after a 120 km ride was Hussain Ali al Marouqi (UAE), only 2 seconds ahead of Sh. Abdulla bin Faisal al Qasimi, whom he passed at the finish line. Five minutes later the three French girls Laetitia Goncalves, Lucie Marin and Lisa Riou came in, which made them win the team gold medal! The closing ceremony was a portrait of Hungary:

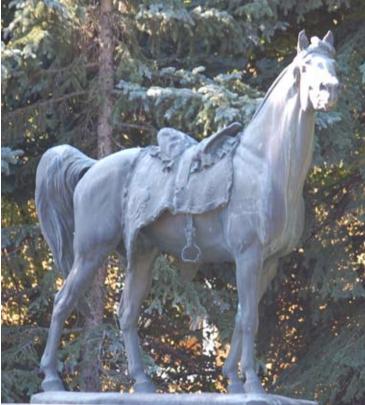
You had Czikos – Hungarian horse guardians – standing on two horses and three ahead inhand, demonstration of a sleeping horse and his little rider, the famous - and for centuries feared - horseman archers. A wonderful *Quadrille* ridden by beautiful ladies on lovely Shagya Arabs and a demonstration of different coaches 5-in-hand and 4-in-hand driven.

The prize giving ceremony was highlighted by Gold Cups, bicycles for the winners and swords for VIPs

One highlight was for everybody that the bronze medal of the teams went to the team of Hungary, to those wonderful hosts who organized this event with a smile and unforgettable hospitality.







Bonze sculpture of the first famous Shagya Stallion

RESULTS:

Individual

horse!

Gold:	Hussain Ali Al Marouqi (19 yrs old) UAE on "Sergai" (12 yrs old)
	In 5:15:10 hrs – average speed: 22.5 km/h
Silver:	HE Sh Abdulla Bin Faisal Al Qasimi, UAE, on "Castlebar Sobia"
Bronze:	Laetitia Concalves, France, on "Jasmina des Ayssade"
	In 5:2:01 hrs – average 22.1 km/h
Teams:	
Gold:	France 16:20:05 hrs
Silver:	UAE 16:40:05
Bronze:	Hungary 17:34:19
The Best Condition Horse, the important trophy, went to Lucie Marin's mare	
Lamiah el Oued, prize was a bucket full of apples and carrots, which she enjoyed like a diva, not at all disturbed by all the noise around, a really regal	

HANNAH AND KAILASHI STEAL THE SHOW

European Championships Arabian Sports Horses

Photographer: Christian Kellner

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Regine Mispelkamp, Shakaar Ibn Sanadiva GER

Teenage rider Hannah Friedl from Austria stole the show in the European Championships for Arabian Sports Horses 2009, claiming three gold medals on her horse Kailashi.

The 14-year-old Hannah, who also owns the Mandan daughter, was at her best during the four-day championships. She and Kailashi grabbed first positions in Western All Around, Western Pleasure and Trail to become the most successful rider of the event.

The silver in the Western All Around went to Daniela Mantler on Merlin 26 while Leona Dries completed the 1-2-3 finish for Austrian riders on Etan 2.

German entry Martin Pauli on Zid Ibn el Zahim finished behind Hannah and Kailashi in Western Pleasure with the bronze going to Austria's Manuela Kirsteuer on Khen Saabis Effendi.

The silver medal in Trail was captured by Doris Pfann on Baikal 2 while Doris also rode Muscateal's Saphir to third place -- the top three places again being won by Austrian entries.





Eva Etternell-Hagen, Virgio Pijano SWE



Germany's Regine Mispelkamp and his stallion Shakaar Ibn Sanadiva also enjoyed a successful championship as they landed two gold medals in the Classic All Around and Classic Pleasure.

Malgorzata Blaszczyk on Wandea (Poland) finished second in thew Classic All Around with the bronze medal being won by Lise Frandsen on Fair Orkan (Denmark).

Malgorzata Blaszczyk and Wandea were second to Mispelkamp and Shakaar Ibn Sanadiva in the Classic Pleasure as well. Isabella Bauer on Shahra (Austria) claimed the bronze medal.

Severine Jaulent on HS Pirandelo (Germany) took the gold medal in the Jumping with Johanna Frunck on Shejk El Kashmir (Sweden) and Daria Klimecka on Walor (Poland) finishing second and third respectively.

The European Championships for Arabian Sports Horses 2009 was held at the Austrian National Equestrian Centre



Denise Reichenwallner, Period GER







Dr. Martin Pauli, Zid Ibn El Zahim







Denise Reichenwallner on Period (Germany) won the Dressage gold. Lise Frandsen on Fair Orkan (Denmark) and Stefan Hirnbock on Padrons Khen Saabi (Austria) taking silver and bronze medals respectively.

Eva Eternell-Hagen on Virgio Pijano (Sweden) captured the gold medal in the Cross Country Indoor.

The Ladies Side Saddle title was won by Danuta Kononczuk on Eol (Poland) while the silver medal was taken by Eva Eternell-Hagen on Virgio Pijano (Sweden).

Martin Pauli on Zid Ibn el Zahim of Germany was the top combination in the Reining with Gerhard Hairas and Shiney Muscalena (Austria) winning the silver medal. The bronze medal was claimed by Doris Pfann on Baikal 2 (Austria).

Malgorzata Blaszczyk on Wandea (Poland) captured the gold medal in the Traditional Arabian Riding. Isabella Bauer on Shahra (Austria) won the silver while the bronze went to Danuta Kononczuk on Eol (Poland).

The European Championships for Arabian



Severine Jaulent, HS Pirandello, UK



HORSE&HORSEMAN





Sports Horses 2009 was held at the Austrian National Equestrian Centre in Stadl Paura from July 30 to August 2.

Riders and horsemen/horsewomen from 11 nations took part in the four-day event with Great Britain, Denmark and Luxemburg making their maiden appearance. The championships included 60 nominated horses, 44 different

classes, two European all around champion titles (Classic and Western) and nine mono European championship titles, which included dressage, reining, jumping, western trail, cross and western pleasure. There were also special competitions for Arabians like traditional Arabian riding. Ladies Side Saddle & Classic Pleasure was also a European Championship Title.





Stamm 30 is an equine specific highly concentrated source of proteins, vitamins and minerals, designed for foals, weanlings, yearlings, gestating mares, lactating mares, breeding stallions and performance horses.

Stamm 30 is manufactured in an "easy to use" pellet. Pelleting of Stamm 30 aids in increasing digestibility, reduces waste, and provides for uniform dispersion when being mixed with other feedstuffs.

Stamm 30 is very easy to use in conjunction with any type of feeding program or management application:

- It can be fed with oats or other unfortified grain to provide "balanced" nutrients for horses of all classes and ages.
- It can be mixed with sweet feed or pelleted rations when additional nutrient fortification is needed.
- It can be fed alone to mature horses being maintained on all forage diets (easy keepers) and to young growing horses experiencing developmental orthopedic disease (physitis, contracted tendons, osteochondrosis) as a low calorie source of essential proteins, vitamins and minerals.
- It can be fed as a "top dress" for performance diets when the stress of high levels of physical activity requires the maximum level of nutrient fortification.

Suggested Feeding Rates

Pounds day	Pounds day
Foals 0.5 - 1	Breeding Stallions 1.5 - 2
Weanlings 1 - 1.5	Lactaring Mares 2 - 3
Yearlings 1 - 2	Pregnant Mares 2
Performance Horses 1 - 2	

Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein (minimum)	.30.0%
Crude Fat (minimum)	3.0%
Crude Fiber (maximum)	7.5%
Calcium (minimum)	3.3%
Calcium (maximum)	4.3%
Phosphorus (minimum)	2.0%
Copper (minimum)19	5 PPM
Selenium (minimum)2.	5 PPM
Zinc (minimum)56	0 PPM
Vitamin A (minimum)35,000	IU/LB
Vitamin D (minimum)4,000	IU/LB
Vitamin E (minimum)250	IU/LB

Stamm 30 incorporates the most advanced developments in the field of equine nutrition. Stamm 30 utilizes proteinated trace minerals (copper, zinc, manganese) to increase the bioavailability of these critical elements needed for proper skeletal development and maintenance of the growing, mature and performance horse.

Magnesium requirements are higher for horses with a stress load or demanding physical regime. The performance horse, the breeding stallion, a gestating or lactating mare, and the growing foal are just a few classifications of horses demanding increased levels of magnesium supplementation. A proprietary bioavailable form of magnesium is added to Stamm 30 to increase muscle strength and structural integrity of the skeleton, as well as enhance the blood-clotting factor.

A blend of yeast cultures incorporated into Stamm 30 and designed specifically to compliment the digestive system of the horse ensures increased microbial activity. Each source of yeast is individually responsible for unique and improved enzyme production that enhances protein, starch, macro mineral (Ca, P, Mg), micro mineral (Cu, Zn, Mn) and fiber digestion.

Research has shown that natural sources of vitamin E have greater bioavailability than synthetic or man-made sources. In a study of Thoroughbreds in training, natural vitamin E was found to be 180% more bioavailable than synthetic forms of the vitamin. Among other physiologic responsibilities, vitamin E contributes most generously to the horse's antioxidant defenses. Antioxidants are especially important to equine athletes because they are thought to help horses recover more quickly from muscle soreness following intense exercise. Stamm 30 incorporates this revolutionary form of vitamin E.

Recently approved for use in equine diets, selenium yeast is a highly available form of the essential element which is included in Stamm 30. Mares receiving selenium yeast expelled their placentas in half the time it took other mares, and their colostrum and milk contained higher levels of selenium. Studies done on exercising Thoroughbreds supplemented with selenium yeast indicated that horses had a higher retention rate than those supplemented with the inorganic form of selenium.



The official feed supplier of the 🎆



HORSE&HORSEMAN 73

Legendary Horse

RUFFIAN winning till death



Ruffian was what one could call a horse with the will to win till death – and she did.

The filly was by appearance the perfect racing horse: tall, deep bodied with long legs, neck and body, dark bay in color. She was bred by Mr. and Mrs. Janney, sired by Reviewer, out of the Native Dancer mare Shenanigans and born in April 1972 at Clairborne Farms in Kentucky. When her time came to be trained, Frank Whiteley Jr. took her under his wings.

As a 2 year old, she started racing – and how she started! In her first race ever – a maiden – she broke the track record and won by 13 lengths.

And it was neither her last record nor her last victory. In fact at every stakes Ruffian entered she either equaled or broke the old record and won by an average of 8 lengths.

Her strength was to burst from the gate like a rocket and lead through the whole race, never even being headed by any other

horse in a race. Her nickname soon became "Queen of the Track" and she was given the Eclipse award "Filly of the Year 1974".

At the end of her first racing year she suffered from a minor leg fracture and had to pause for a while, but though her leg was broken, her spirit never was.

Even after only one year of racing, Ruffian's fan crowd was enormous and they were eagerly awaiting her return and her performance after the recovery. And they wondered if she could maintain her style of sprinting the whole race as the distances would get longer for 3 year olds, up to 1.5 miles. Was the filly a super horse?

The emotions rose high on her first race after recovery about 6 furlongs



and they were not disappointed. She burst ahead right from the start and came home leading by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. The dark lightning was back. She captured the 2 first legs of the Filly Triple Crown (now called Triple Tiara) by winning the 1 mile Acorn by 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ lengths and the Mother Goose Stakes by incredible 14 lengths.

If she could talk, Ruffian might have called the last leg of the Triple Crown – the 1.5 miles Coaching Club American Oaks – a bad race. Not because of loosing it – no – of course she won it, but it was the first time that another filly could stay someway near her in the end, so she won by "only" 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths. At this event she was held at the smallest pari-mutuel odds allowed: 1-20.

So what next? She had won everything with fascinating performance. One could be sure she would be given the title Filly of the Year again, even if she'd retire right away.

But fate took another turn. A Belmont match race was set up for the Triple Crown winners Foolish Pleasure, Master Derby and Avatar. Avatar withdrew for training and Ruffian was offered to substitute. Foolish Pleasure's trainer objected, as his jockey was also Ruffian's jockey in her races and he was afraid, that Valquez would be unconcentraded by observing his filly and letting Master Derby have an easy game. So for the first time in history a horse was paid not to race and Master Derby let the track to Ruffian and Foolish Pleasure, the colt that had won the Kentucky Derby that year. The filly had never competed against a colt, but her stamina and her undefeatable will to win made her a great choice with a real chance of winning.

Foolish Pleasure was given extra lessons in sprinting right from the start, as that was Ruffians strength and his trainer feared that if she was once ahead she would not give away her position.

In summer 1975, on July 7 Belmont Race Course

was surrounded by 50.000 cheering fans, millions more in front of their TV screens at home. Both horses were usually ridden by the same jockey – Jacinto Vasquez – but this time he chose Ruffian, expecting her to win.

Foolish Pleasure, now with Braulio Baeza aboard, had been a good student, he burst from the gate with his head in front – the first time in Ruffian's career, that she was headed, but she didn't like it. She had hit her shoulder at the gate and was now leaning hard on her right foreleg to ease the pain, but under the cheers of the applauding crowd she quickly caught up from the inside and stretched her head – she was leading again. The filly was fighting hard and increased her lead to ½ length.

The spectators were on their feet, excited to see the head to head race of 2 great horses. They were not aware by that time, what they would witness a few seconds later.

Both horses approached the clubhouse turn, when a terrible sound forced shocking silence on the onlookers. The jockeys later said it was "like the breaking of a board". Ruffian had fractured a leg, but she didn't much care of it, she had not yet given up her race. She fought to continue under Vasquez, who tried to pull her up and stop her immediately. Only after 50 yards she succumbed.

The crowd was on their feet again, but this time not cheering. They were praying for their beloved filly.

Tremendous efforts were made. A pneumatic cast was applied before loading her onto an ambulance, four superb veterinarians plus an orthopedic surgeon did a 12 hrs session to save her leg. She had to be revived two times during the surgery but she survived, the leg was fine so far, but the worst time was not yet gone.



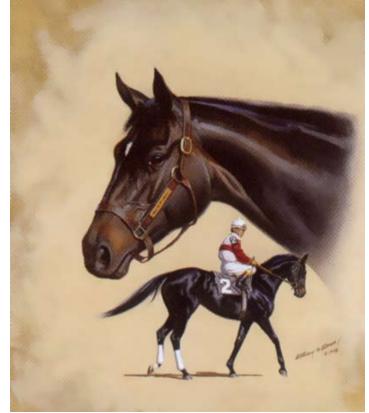


Everyone feared the time of awaking from the anesthesia. Horses often are confused at that time and start trashing around – and so did she. In her struggle she broke the new cast and fractured the other leg. Now no one could save her anymore, the chance of surviving another surgery and recovering was zero. It was decided to put her down to end her suffering.

The last honor given to the dark lightning, that never accepted anyone leading or even heading her, was to bury her near the flagpole at Belmont Park. There she rests now, her nose pointing towards the finishing line.

But her death didn't end her career. A year later she was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame.

The gruesome end at least brought some changes for the betterment of race horses. There were no match races put up between thoroughbreds



anymore and serious discussions on more humane treatment of race horses and appropriate medication started and made their way to the awareness of people and later put into practise.

In the Blood Horse list of top 100 US thoroughbreds she is on place 35 and there was another amazing ranking for her: Sports Illustrated ranked her 53rd in the list of top 100 female athletes of the century – as the only non-human.

Recently in 2007 a movie was aired about the life and death of Ruffian by ABC television network, the last tribute up to now.

"....She gave us power because what we dreamt she performed, so we asked for more. Track records, stakes records. Why not a world record, a consummate feat which would prove us to be the supreme dreamers of all? We approved when the track was tempered like an anvil, a little help from man to fulfill her destiny.

Her speed, her unearthly physical size, our vanity and finally her own savagery destroyed her.

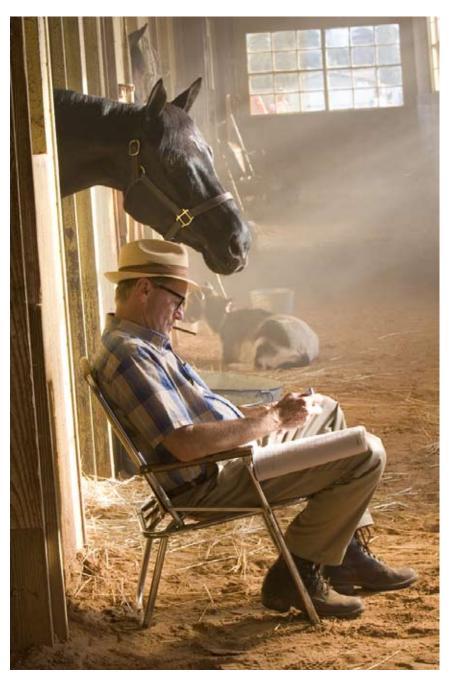
We live now with a busted dream, but the man in the pink shirt who made that lonesome trip to the far side of Belmont's infield a Sunday ago lives with a real loss. We will dream again, but Frank Whiteley will never have another Ruffian..."

Cary Robertson Jr.

Thoroughbred Record, 1975

Quick overview of her most important wins, honors and awards

Record: 11:10-0-0



Earnings: \$313,428

Astoria Stakes (1974), Spinaway Stakes (1974), Acorn Stakes (1975), Mother Goose Stakes (1975), Coaching Club American Oaks (1975),

U.S. Champion 2-Yr-Old- Filly (1974), 4th U.S. Triple Tiara Champion (1975), U.S. Champion 3-Yr-Old- Filly (1975)

U.S. Racing Hall of Fame (1976), #35 - Top 100 U.S. Racehorses of the 20th Century, #53 as only non-human – Top 100 female athletes of the century

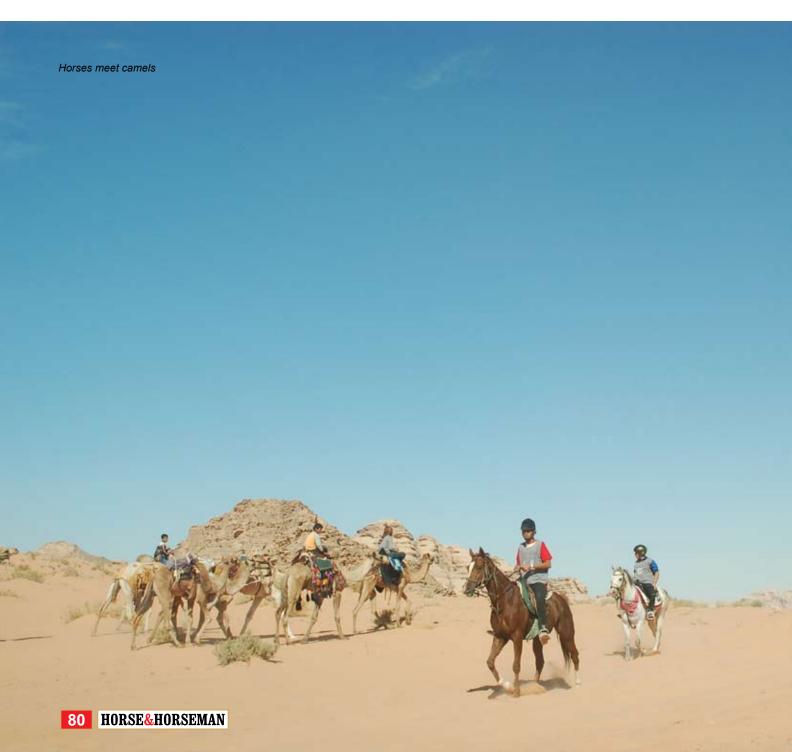
Ruffian Handicap at Belmont Park

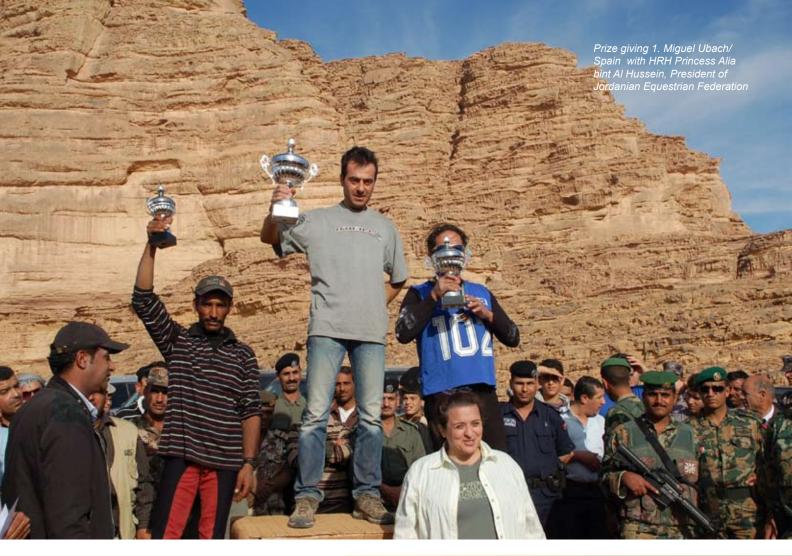
TV Film: Ruffian (2007)

No time for dreams – endurance ride in a magical country

King Hussein memorial ride in Wadi Rum/Jordan

What a landscape, what a fairy background for this 80km endurance ride, marvellously organized by the Jordan Federation under their President HRH Princess Alia bint al Hussein, a thoroughbred horse lady herself.





The Vet Check took place in a niche between two bizarre mountains, perfectly formed to serve as a grand stand for the visitors.

On the track

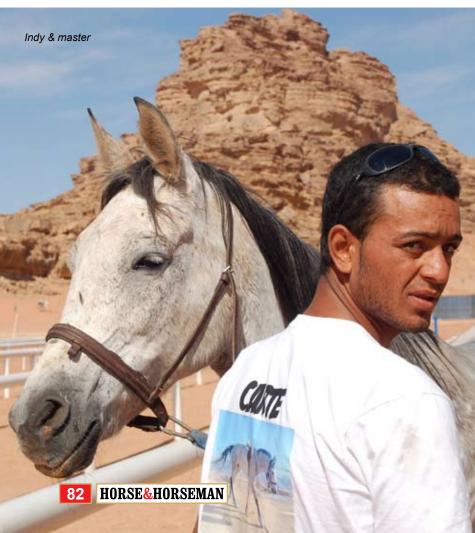
Two groups, Endurance Qualifier/80km and International Endurance Ride FEI CEI one star over 80 km, and more than 100 horses were presented at the Vet Check on 13th of November, 2009.

The ride was in 3 loops of 30, 30, 20 km and went over completely changing ground, from deep sand to rocks and gravel. Most of the horses were in very good shape and only a few were eliminated at the Vet Check. Looking at the "breed" it mostly said: local. Wonderfully shaped heads, elegant bodies and good sound legs and hooves, they loved to run.

A German lady, riding at international level in Europe, was promised a horse as an exchange for a possible ride in Germany on one of her horses. The horse they presented for her at the Vet Check was completely lame, obviously from the transport, finally, 5 minutes before the start







at 6.00 o'clock on 14th November, she was offered another horse, the owner was from Petra, and the horse was very much attached to him. Indy, the horses' name, fought a very fierce battle with poor Susanne, the German riders' name, for the whole first loop of 30 km. Had she taken all that power and tried for the first places, I think she would have come home after 80 km among the first 5 horses.

When the horses assembled for the start, it was dark and very cold, at the start the first light of the day came up and painted the amazing rock formations in all different colours of pink to red, an image one can never forget it was breathtaking!

For "greenhorns" like me the desert looked mostly everywhere the same, and without the scout qualities of Mr. Abdel Aziz Al Hasanat, father of "Indies" owner Hamzah, I would have been lost and never found back to the Vet Gate.

Once we got stuck in the sand, but out of the blue there were other 4-wheels who helped us out.

Following Susanne and Indy was fascinating; more so to see how the horse finally accepted the "new rider", became well bent and good at the reins, responding to the orders of her rider!

The World Champion of WEG Aachen 2006, Miguel Ubach from Spain who also was supposed to ride a rented horse from the Royal Stables, the horse was lame at the Vet Check, was so lucky to get "Qual" a Polish bred gelding from the stables of HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, normally ridden by the stable manager of HRH Prince Ali's stables, Jehad Shhaltough, who broke his ankle the evening before the ride.



This horse "Qual" was born in 1990 and looks like a very young horse, he won the international race and did the last loop of 20 km at an average speed of 27 km/h, amazingly fresh he came into the Finish after altogether 4 h 32 mins.51 seconds.







Of the 46 horses which had left the start at six o'clock in the morning, 24 came in "fit to continue" among them was "Indy" with Susanne!

That means more than 50% succeeded, which is a very good finishers rate.

Wadi Rum was an experience to all of us and we felt the spell of this corner of the world, which has been inhabited by mankind for the last 19 000 years, rock carvings found in the mountains here give us evidence of this theory. Too short was our stay there and we had too little time to experience history and fauna and flora, and: no time for dreams!



Susanne with German Vet Dr. Juliette Mallison, President German Endurance



Getaad Palace Land HUBLOT POLO GOLD CUP

Defending champions Gstaad Palace defeated Hublot 6½ - 6 in a close final to win the 14th Hublot Polo Gold Cup title for the second time running.

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TTT.

STREET, STREET

The Hublot Polo Gold Cup is a high goal tournament and is part of the World Polo Tour.

Around 7,000 spectators and guests enjoyed the action against four competitive teams -- Gstaad Palace, Hublot, Star Design and Porsche -- in the four-day tournament at Bernese Oberland.

Star Design finished third, beating Porsche with a score of $8\frac{1}{2}$ - 8.

"One can't imagine polo played with more passion, more skill or more class," said Alexander Schwarz, one of the announcers at the tournament.

Star Design managed only just to best Porsche in the semi-final with a close score of $8\frac{1}{2}$ - 8, after playing with great style and fervor, but always with a light touch. The match was characterised by long shots and the total dedication of the two Swiss team captains Daniel Aegerter (handicap 0) and Philipp Maeder (handicap 0). The former was able to captivate the public with an extraordinary direct shot to the goal, proof once again of his great skill.

Chris Carr, an announcer at the tournament, declared, "My heart almost stopped beating when Daniel Aegerter went down the field, leaving all the other players behind, then made his fantastic goal."

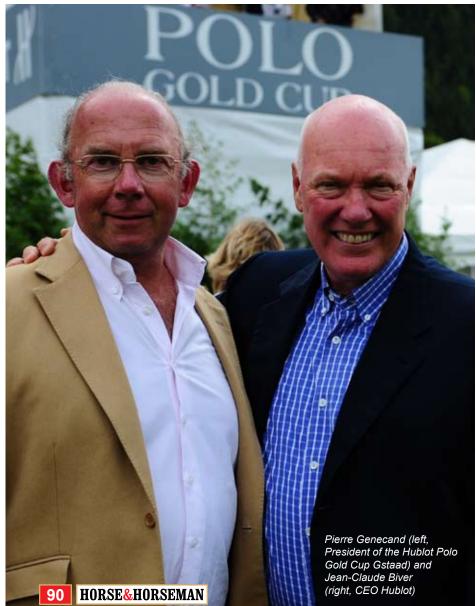
The close team work and exact shots of the Star Design team players, especially Juan Agostin Garcia-Grossi (handicap 8) made victory possible for Star Design. As for Philipp Maeder, captain of the Porsche team, he fought with determination till the end of the match. He was supported by his teammates the Argentine of Swiss extraction Federico Bachmann (Handicap 6) and the young Bautista Ortiz de Urbina (handicap 5), two excellent players who have proved themselves, and Pablo Jauretche (handicap 8) whose play was always brilliant and elegant.

Despite the Gstaad Palace team having 1¹/₂ advance points at the start of the match, the









Hublot team players were able to score nearly enough points to reach victory.

The high standard of play on the part of both teams fascinated the spectators. The competitive spirit and the pressure felt from the very beginning of the match by no means took away from the beauty and skill of these firstrate players.

The young Swiss polo talent, Sacha Pictet (handicap 0), of the winning team played a strong defence, while his father, the Gstaad Palace team captain, was unequalled in the offence.

Argentine Hector Guerrero (handicap 7) did honour to his name in backing his captain in every situation. Alejandro Agote (handicap 8) distinguished himself once again with his long shots which no one could stop. The Swiss and Italian Gualtiero Giori (handicap 1), captain of the Hublot team, was often the source of inspiration and motivation for the offence.









It was once again clear that the experience that Giori and the Menendez brothers (both handicap 7) have had playing together as a team for more than 13 years made for polo of an exceptionally high standard. The Menendez brothers move so well together that one can confuse them on the field.

Gstaad Polo Club President Pierre Genecand declared at the tournament's concluding ceremony: "We are very happy with the way the tournament went this year. The weather was splendid, the matches magnificent, the spectators thrilled, and the sponsors have pronounced themselves delighted."



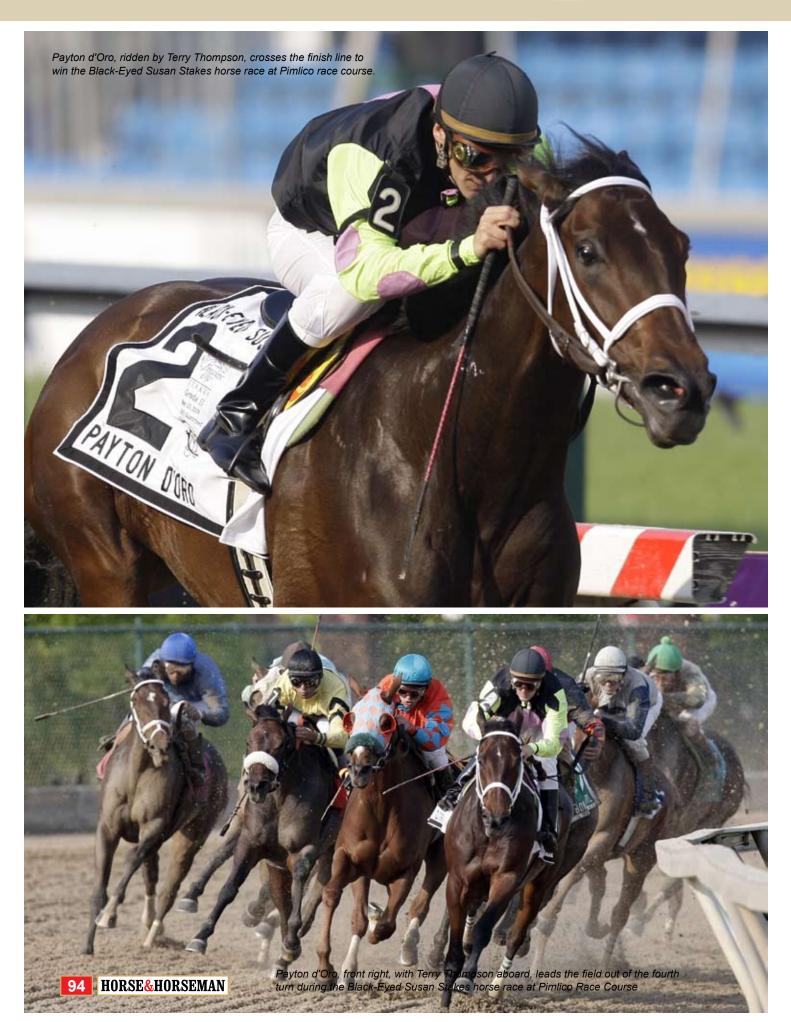
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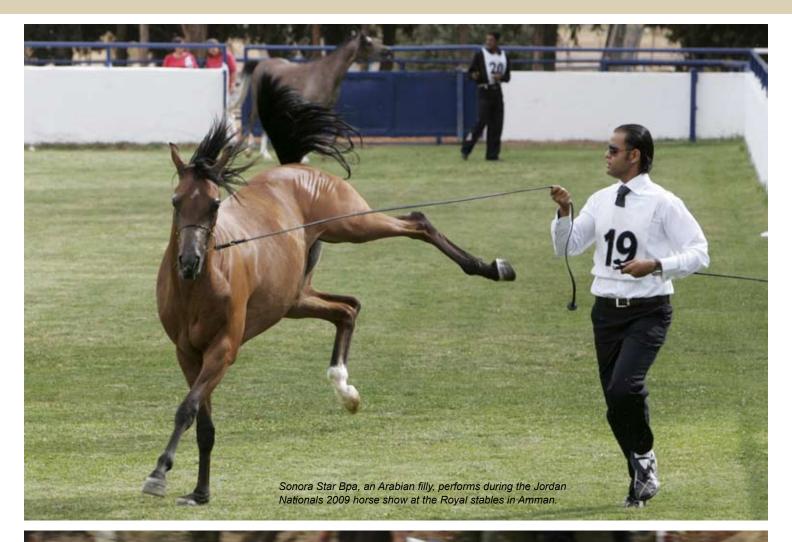
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Almasa, an Arabian filly, performs during the Jordan Nationals 2009 horse show at the Royal stables in Amman





Holiday makers and locals watch as jockeys race their horses across the beach during their traditional race along the beach in Sanlucar de Barrameda, southern Spain







Palestinians ride their horses during a race in the West Bank village of Turmosayeah, north of Ramallah. More than 100 competitors took part in the biggest local championship organised by the Palestinian Federation for Horsemanship.



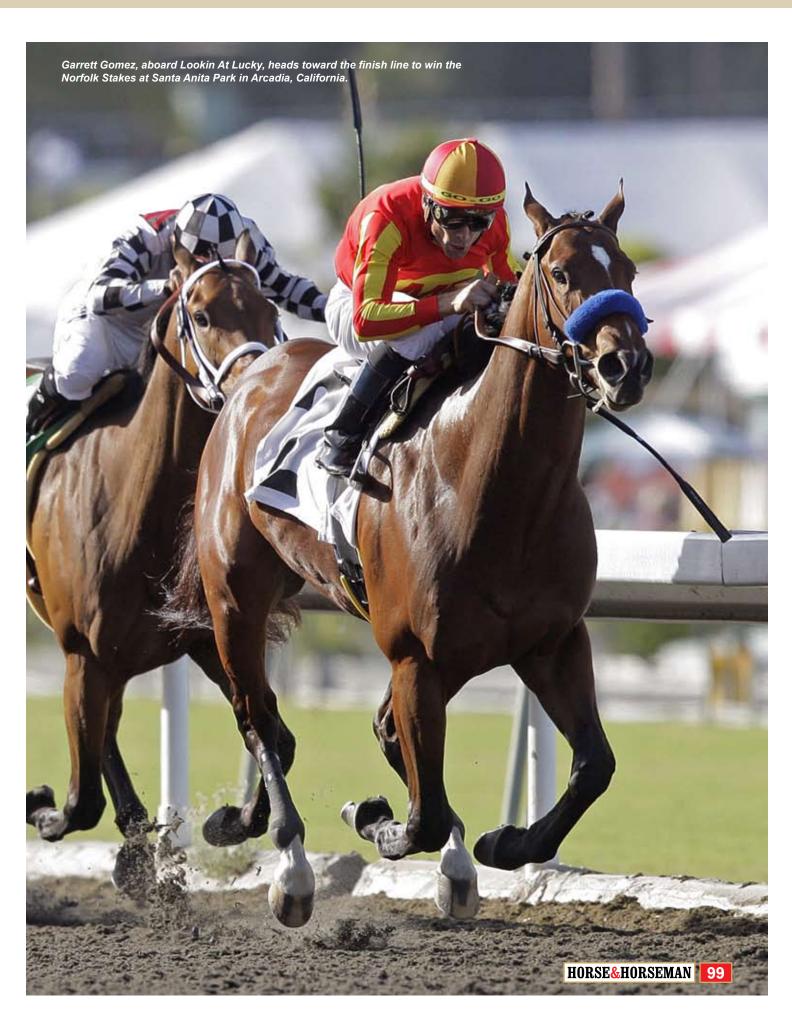
BUZKASHI IN AFGHANISTAN

Afghan horsemen compete during a game of buzkashi in Kabul. The Afghan national sport is played between two teams of horsemen competing to pick a headless calf, goat, or sheep carcass from the ground and throw it into a scoring circle.

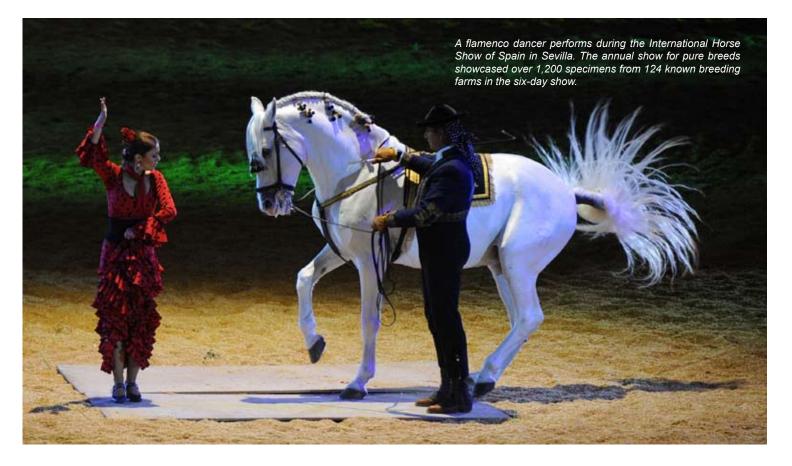














SHOCKING ROMPS HOME TO WIN MELBOURNE CUP

Australian stayer Shocking denied international contenders Crime Scene and Mourilyan to win the \$5.5 million Melbourne Cup at Flemington.



The Irish-bred four-year-old (9/1) finished the two miles too strongly for Godolphin's Crime Scene (40/1), romping home with three-quarters of a length to spare. South African-trained Mourilyan (20/1) was another one-and-a-half lengths away in third.

The win was a major triumph for Australian jockey Corey Brown, beaten by a nose on English galloper Bauer in last year's Melbourne Cup.

"I've had to watch the replay of last year's race for a year and now I can forget about it. I've won the Melbourne Cup," Brown said.

It was more Melbourne Cup heartbreak for the global Godolphin stable with its third second-place finish in Australia's iconic horse race. Crime Scene, Godolphin's only starter after deciding not to enter Kirklees, now joins Central Park (1999) and Give The Slip (2001) as the stable's runners-up.

Ridden by Kerrin McEvoy, Crime Scene looked set to draw away inside the final 200m but could not go with Shocking and was well beaten at the post.

"One year we are going to win, I don't know when," trainer Saeed bin Suroor said. "It was a great run by the horse. He showed a good turn of foot and if he stays sound, we'll bring him back next year."

McEvoy said he thought Crime Scene had a



chance of hauling in Shocking in the last 200m. "Shocking headed me at the furlong (200m) but my horse really let go well," he said. "He ran the trip right out and I thought for a minute we were going to fight back, but the other horse obviously got the better of him. It was a good run and gave us a big thrill." Mourilyan, trained by South African Herman Brown and ridden by Glyn Schofield, finished strongly out of the pack to grab the minor placing for his high-profile owner, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov.

"Everything went to plan -- the jockey rode a







Jockey Corey Brown, right, celebrate with Mark Kavanagh, trainer of the winning horse Shocking, with the winning trophies after the Melbourne Cup horse racing

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great race, he had every chance," Brown said. "He just got held up a little bit into the straight and had to wait, which cost him a bit, but overall I'm very happy with his run."

Only three internationally trained horses have captured the Melbourne Cup -- Vintage Crop (1993), Media Puzzle (2002) and Delta Blues (2006).

Australian galloper Alcopop started 15/4 favourite and finished sixth, just ahead of last year's winner and top-weight Viewed (11/2).

Viewed was the best finisher of Bart Cummings' three starters as the legendary Australian trainer chased a record 13th Melbourne Cup victory in 44 years.

Roman Emperor (10/1) was up with

Shocking, left, with jockey Corey Brown on board wins the Melbourne Cup horse racing



the lead to the home turn but faded to finish 21st of the 23 starters, while Cummings' other runner, Allez Wonder (25/1), came in 16th.

States - Bank and a state of the state

"Never mind, we'll just have to come back next year," said Cummings, who turns 82 later this month.

Munsef, prepared by English trainer Ian Williams and sent out at 50/1, finished a well beaten 12th. Newmarket trainer Luca Cumani, who finished second with Bauer and Purple Moon in the last two Melbourne Cups, was never a show with his 25/1 chance Basaltico finishing 18th.



SEA THE STARS COMPLETES UNIQUE TREBLE

PRIX DE L'ARC DE TROP

Sea The Stars earned the right to be called the greatest horse in turf racing history at Longchamp in Paris with a stunning victory in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe to record a unique treble of the English 2000 Guineas, Epsom Derby and the Arc. The Irish colt -- whose dam Urban Sea won the Arc in 1993 -- won his sixth successive Group One race in fine style, two lengths clear of perennial bridesmaid Youmzain, who became the first horse to earn the unfortunate mantle of finishing runner-up on three successive occasions.

Sea The Stars victory was all the more emotional because Urban Sea's trainer Jean Lesbordes' son Clement, who rode her on the gallops, was killed shortly after she won the Arc when a truck

ATA

PRIX DE L'ARC DE

Sea the Stars, ridden by 50-year-old jockey Mick Kinane, center, crosses the finish line to win the the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, horse race.





knocked him off his bike.

"When I saw Sea The Stars hit the front it brought back memories of Urban Sea and also of Clement," said Hong Kong businessman owner Christopher Tsui. "I really never dreamed that I would one day myself stand here at Longchamp and see my colours aboard an Arc de Triomphe winner. It's a very emotional moment."

Tsui, son of the owners of Urban Sea, also revealed that contrary to popular perception the reason he was always linked up to an I-Phone was not that he was listening to music. "It's for my mother back in Hong Kong because neither she nor my father ever come racing out of superstition," he said. "Thus I speak her through the race!"

Sea The Stars trainer, John Oxx, whose previous Arc winner Sinndar was the last Epsom Derby winner to land the great race back in 2000, also won the Group One Prix Cadran later with jockey Michael Kinane riding Alandi.

Alandi's victory rounded off a remarkable weekend

for the Aga Khan as he welcomed home five Group One winners here.

While Sea The Stars may well have ended his career another Irish legend definitely bowed out.

Four-time Ascot Gold Cup winner Yeats was unable to add an eighth Group One victory to his bow, but he finished a respectable third in the Prix Cadran.

"It's a relief that it is all over and that he came back sound," said trainer Aidan O'Brien.

Christophe Soumillon had earlier ridden the Aga Khan's Rosanara to victory in the Group One Prix Marcel Boussac, geeing up his two-yearold filly with two furlongs to run to take the prize and show the owner and trainer Alain de Royer Dupre what they will be missing when he leaves them at the end of the year. He had not had his contract renewed by the Aga Khan.

The Belgian riding ace -- who was only riding the winner because Lemaire broke his collarbone --





was then handed a pair of boxing gloves by a diehard French racing fan known only as 'Sydney', who usually only gives them to the jockey that rides the winner of the Arc.

Lemaire's nightmare weekend continued in the next Group One event the Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere as veteran Gerald Mosse brought home the Aga Khan's Siyouni in fine style ahead of English raider Pounced while Godolphin's Buzzword was third.

And as if things couldn't get worse Lemaire had to sit at home and see the Aga Khan win the next Group One, the Prix de l'Opera, with Maxime Guyon guiding home the distant relation to the ill-fated Shergar for young trainer Michel Delzangles.

There was to be no highway robbery by highly-fancied English runner Dick Turpin as the previously unbeaten Richard Hannontrained two-year-old colt never picked up and finished down the field.

Breeders' Cup

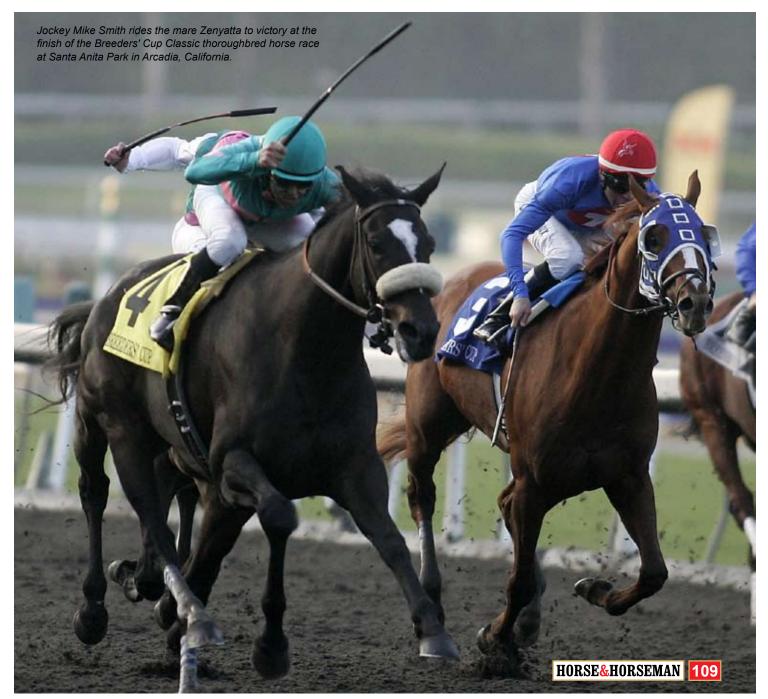
Zenyatta Records Breathtaking Classic Win

Zenyatta cemented her place in racing history with a stirring triumph in the Breeders' Cup Classic, a victory that left the great mare unbeaten in 14 starts, in Arcadia, California.

Her last-to-first triumph under jockey Mike Smith in the \$5 million Classic -- highlight of the two-day, \$25.5 million Breeders' Cup extravaganza -- left the six victories of a strong European contingent in the shadows.

Zenyatta, who surpassed Personal Ensign's US record of 13 straight victories for a filly or mare, proved herself against colts for the first time. Her 14th and likely last triumph was a gritty one, as she overcame a poor start to roar past a talentpacked field.

She seized the victory from Gio Ponti in the final





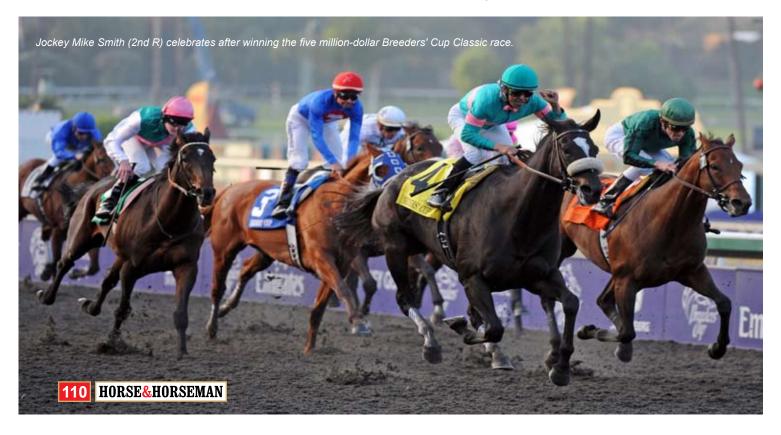
Fans scream support to jockey Mike Smith before winning the five million-dollar Breeders' Cup Classic race on the horse Zenyatta, owned by Jerome S. Moss.

furlong. Twice Over, saddled by legendary British trainer Henry Cecil was third with Tom Queally in the irons.

Zenyatta's beaten foes could only shake their heads and tip their hats. "The horse ran a great race," trainer Christophe Clement said of his Gio Ponti. "But he couldn't beat the winner. She's a freak. What can I say? She's a freak."

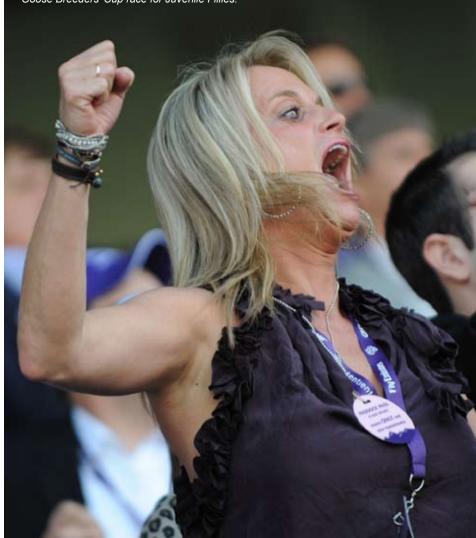
Queally, who piloted Cecils' Midday to victory in the Filly and Mare Turf on the first day, said there was little more that could have been done to foil Zenyatta. "We ran a cracker," he said. "My horse probably didn't handle the home turn too cute, but I don't think we would have beaten Zenyatta in a million years. She's an exceptional, exceptional filly."

Bob Baffert, trainer of sixth-placed Richard's Kid said seeing Zenyatta's win was a thrill. "It was the only time in horse racing that I didn't mind getting beat in a big race," Baffert said. "Zenyatta made the Breeders' Cup. And the way she won! I've never seen a crowd so





A race fan screams for her horse during the Grey Goose Breeders' Cup race for Juvenile Fillies.



captivated. It felt like a horse winning the third leg of the Triple Crown."

Added Saeed Bin Suroor, who saddled eighth-placed Regal Ransom and 12th-placed Girolamo for Godolphin in the Classic: "She's a different class. By far. By millions."

European standout Rip Van Winkle, trained by Aidan O'Brien, faded from third to finish 10th. O'Brien saddled just one winner over the two days, Man of Iron in the Marathon.

But overall European invaders took the spoils in six races.

Among them was another outstanding filly, Goldikova, who emulated the great Miesque in earning back-to-back Mile crowns. Goldikova, too, showed her heart as she ran down Courgeous Cat in the final yards to win by half a length.

Goldikova is trained by Freddy Head, who rode Miesque to consecutive victories in the same race in 1987-88.



Winner Julien Leparoux races to the finish line on Furthest Land in the Dirt Mile.





"I don't have the words to say what I feel," Head said, "Having ridden a horse like Miesque and now to train a horse like her, it's something you can't dream of."

Head admitted he found his current role more difficult. "I think I was more nervous before this race than when I used to ride Miesque," he said.

Conduit, trained by Sir Michael Stoute, won the 1 1/2-mile Turf for the second successive year. Presious Passion set a blistering early pace in the Turf, but Conduit, under Ryan Moore, chased him down in the final straight for a half-length victory. Dar Re Mi, trained by John Gosden and ridden by Frankie Dettori, finished third, while Conduit stablemate Spanish Moon was fourth.

Gosden and Dettori had already notched a victory with Pounced in the Juvenile Turf, while in the Juvenile Godolphin's British operation posted their first Breeders' Cup victory since 2001 with Vale Of York's stunning win. Vale Of York went into the race with just two victories and was a 30-1 long-shot under jockey Ahmed Ajtebi.

The second day's other three races went to US geldings. Local speedster California Flag won the Turf Sprint, Dancing in Silks won the Sprint and Furthest Land landed the Dirt Mile.

Furthest Land, a \$35,000 claimer, was ridden by Julien Leparoux, who notched three Breeders' Cup victories this year including wins on the first day in the Juvenile Fillies and Filly and Mare Sprint.

British trainer Henry Cecil captured the first Breeders'

Cup win of his storied career as European horses won two of six races and Life is Sweet set the stage for star stable-mate Zenyatta on the opening day of the races.

Jockey Thomas Queally brought the Cecil-trained Midday through an opening on the inside en route to victory in the \$2 million Filly and Mare Turf.

Fast-finishing Pure Clan was second, ahead of defending champion Forever Together.

"I think it's a lovely feeling," the 66-year-old Cecil said of his first Breeders' Cup victory. "I think the Breeders' Cup, I always sort of dreaded it," added Cecil. "To win it certainly lived up to my expectations, the excitement and thrill."

Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien experienced the thrill for the first time in a long time as Man of Iron kicked off the proceedings with a victory in the 1 3/4-mile Marathon.

Jockey Johnny Murtagh brought Man of Iron through on the inside to snatch a scintillating victory by a nose from Cloudy's Knight, with Godolphin's St. Leger-winner Mastery third under Frankie Dettori.

"That was brilliant," said O'Brien, who claimed his fourth Breeders' Cup triumph but his first since High Chaparral claimed a second straight Turf title in 2003.

Jockey Julien Leparoux was aboard two winners -- She Be Wild in the Juvenile Fillies and Informed Decision in the Filly and Mare Sprint.

Life is Sweet capped the day by storming to a 2 1/2-length triumph in the \$2 million Ladies' Classic.



Tapitsfly, third from right, , ridden by Robby Albarado, edges ahead of Rose Cathenne second from right, ridden by Javier Castellano.





ockey Garrett Gomez (L) celebrates aboard 'Life is Sweet' after winning the Classic thoroughbred horse race ahead of Kent Desormeaux aboard 'Mushka'.

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With Garrett Gomez in the irons, Life is Sweet, owned by Pam and Martin Wygood, came from last to first on the far outside to give trainer John Shirreffs a second straight Ladies' Classic victory.

"She grabbed hold of me and I had to slow her down a little bit," Gomez said. "I actually thought they'd start backing up at about the three-eighths pole and they kept kicking on and I started getting a little worried.

"I started making a little run and all of a sudden about the quarterpole they all started coming back and she started finding her stride."

Mushka was second, with Music Note a further length back in third. Careless Jewel, a 9-5 favourite, shot to a big early lead but faded to finish last.

Shirreffs saddled Zenyatta in the Ladies' Classic last year.

Americans were ahead in the ledger after four victories on the first day.

In the \$2 million Juvenile Fillies, She Be Wild charged up the rail under Leparoux to win for trainer Wayne Catalano.

Leparoux then piloted the Jonathan Sheppard-trained Informed Decision to victory in the Filly and Mare Sprint, denying Ventura a repeat victory.

Tapitsfly, trained by Dale Romans and ridden by Robby Albardo, won the Juvenile Fillies Turf, edging Rose Catherine by half a length.



PLAYER HONOURED

Golf great and self-described "horse nut" Gary Player was honoured by Breeders' Cup organisers with their first Sports and Racing Excellence Award.

The ebullient South African, owner of nine major golf titles, was delighted to receive the award, and get a chance to expound on his passion for racing.

"It's a disease with me," said Player, who said he terrorises his ranch staff back home in South Africa with his constant calls from all corners of the globe.

Player built a 20,000-acre breeding farm in his homeland, and he was thrilled to learn recently that his filly Lady Windermere has garnered Filly of the Year honours at home.

He has thrown himself into the study of bloodlines and breeding.

"The conclusion you come to after all the studying is that you know a heck of a lot about nothing," he said. "Horses are a lot like golf. They will both humble you. You have to have quality and you have to work hard."

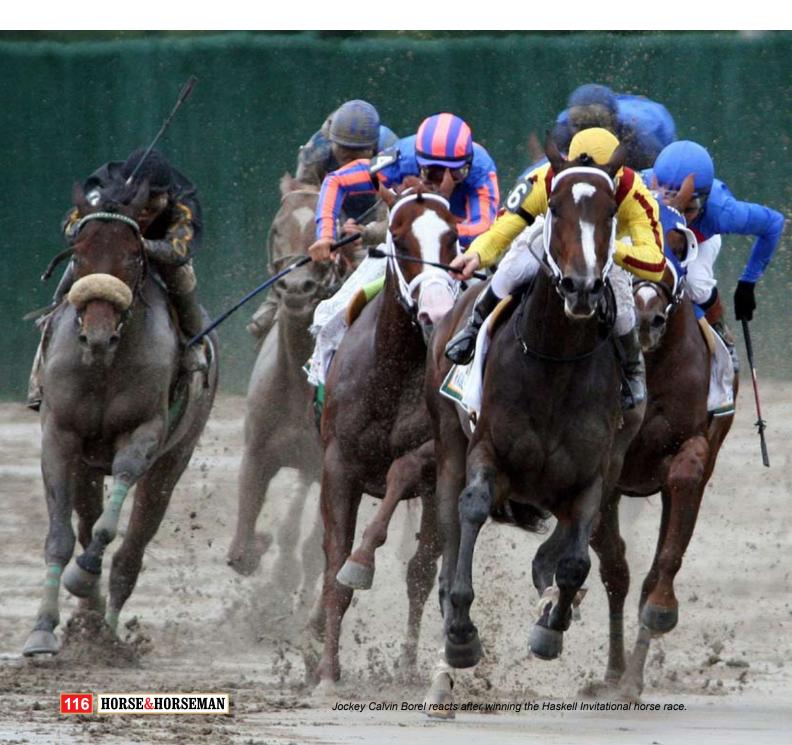
Player chided the connections of two of this year's thoroughbred superstars, Rachel Alexandra and Sea The Stars, for failing to run in the Breeders' Cup.

Rachel Alexandra owner Jess Jackson kept the Preakness-winning super filly out citing concerns over Santa Anita's synthetic track surface. European superstar Sea The Stars was recently retired to stud.

"We need these champions," he said. "I've never in my life said I wouldn't play Nicklaus or Palmer because the course is too long or too wet or it doesn't suit me. If you're a champ, you get in there and you play against the whole damn lot."

Rachel Alexandra Pips the Boys in Haskell Invitational

Rachel Alexandra turned on the speed around the far turn and rolled past the boys once again to win the \$1.25 million Has-kell Invitational in Oceanport (New Jersey) and establish herself as one of the greatest fillies in thoroughbred racing.



When the regal bay filly returned to the winner's circle with Calvin Borel patting her neck, the Monmouth Park crowd of 37,090 cheered mightily for racing's brightest star.

Rachel Alexandra was not bothered a bit by the sloppy track, and settled in behind the leader Munnings, with Belmont Stakes winner Summer Bird third in the sevenhorse field.

When Munnings went into the final turn, Rachel Alexandra accelerated and blew past him to lead by four lengths at the top of the stretch. With Borel urging her on, the filly extended the lead and beat Summer Bird by six lengths.

Rachel Alexandra, the 1-2 favorite, returned \$3, \$2.20 and \$2.10. Summer Bird, with Kent Desormeaux aboard, paid \$3.40 and \$2.60. Munnings was third and paid \$3.20.

Papa Clem was fourth, followed by Duke of Mischief, Atomic Rain and Bunker Hill.

The winning time for the 1 1-8 miles was 1:47.21.

"She's just a tremendous filly, and I'm glad she put on a good show," winning trainer Steve Asmussen said. "She's very special. She's been able to separate herself from everyone else."

Rachel Alexandra joins Serena's Song as the only fillies to win the Haskell. The daughter of Medaglia d'Oro became the first filly in 85 years to win the Preakness when she beat Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird by one length.

Jackson bought the filly after she won the Kentucky Oaks by 20 1-4 lengths on May 1 and said he wanted to run her against the boys. Now, Jackson said he just may have himself the best filly -- ever.

"There's not been a filly as good since Ruffian, and she just might be as good," Jack-son said.

Hall of Famer Ruffian won 10 of 11 races in 1974-75, but suffered a broken leg in her famous match race against Foolish Pleasure in 1975, and was later euthanised.



FEI EUROPEAN JUMPING AND DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Staut lands France's first jumping title in 10 years



France celebrated its first individual European jumping title for 10 years after Kevin Staut produced two fantastic clear rounds on Kraque Boom Bois Margo to rise to the top of the leaderboard in an exciting and intriguing two-round contest in the FEI European Jumping and Dressage Championship in Windsor.

Kevin started the afternoon session in sixth place and, with eventual silver medallist Carsten-Otto Nagel of Germany on the mare Corradina, produced a double clear round to pressurise the secondround leader, Albert Zoer of The Netherlands on Oki Doki.

There was a gasp when Oki Doki uncharacteristically hit the very first fence, but Albert kept his head and stayed clear, to salvage the bronze medal by just 0.65 from Ireland's unlucky Cameron Hanley on SIEC Livello.

"Even when you hit the first fence, you know you have to go on, and that's what I tried to do," said the sporting Albert.

Britain's hopes had rested on Ben Maher and Robin Hood, who lay second behind Italian hero Natale Chiaudani, but, despite the first round track jumping well and producing 12 clears, both riders plummeted out of the medals with 8 faults

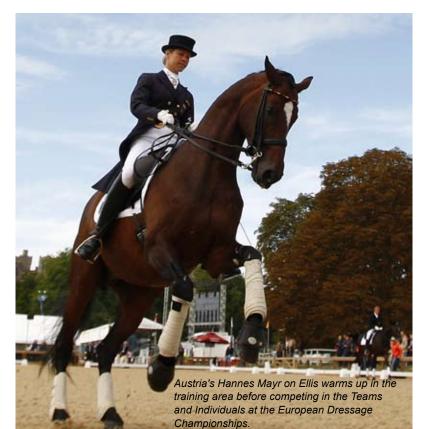
during the European Dressage Championships in Windsor, south England.

apiece.

The new European champion, France's first since Alexandra Ledermann at Hickstead in 1999, said his gold medal was "a victory for the French team. My week started badly when my horse got stressed in the floodlights in the first competition, but he just got better and better as the week went on.

The Netherlands produced a clean sweep of the medals in the final grand prix freestyle to music in the European Dressage Championships.

And to the delight of the capacity crowd, Edward Gal and Moorlands Totilas broke their own previous freestyle record, scoring over 90% -- the first ever rider to





break the 90% barrier.

From the moment he entered the ring, the Dutch-bred stallion dominated the arena and entranced his audience with the combination of huge ground covering and elastic paces to a specially adapted compilation of classical music -- with a modern touch -- named Totally Totilas. At the final halt the crowd broke into rapturous applause -- giving a unique reception for a dressage horse in Britain. There was even more cheering and whooping when the recordbreaking score was announced.

"I went into the arena thinking that we just had to do the best we could and to enjoy it -- and we did both," said Edward, who admitted to some tears when he saw his score. "It is really strange to even think of doing better but I know, especially as he is only nine, that there are still some things that will improve and that he can do better."

Grand Prix Special gold medallists Adelinde Cornelissen and the leggy chestnut Parzival added freestyle silver to their medal haul after a fluent and rhythmic freestyle demonstrating high scoring piaffe and passage.

Third Dutch team member and reigning freestyle champions Anky Van Grunsven and Salinero had the unenviable task of following Totilas into the arena. Performing to the former winning arrangement Chanson LEsprit -- the pair had to settle for bronze, albeit on a score of 87.25%."

British team silver medallist and individual





bronze medallist Laura Bechtolsheimer and Mistral Hojris had the audience tapping their feet during their freestyle set to a medley of lively music by sixties pop group 'The Shadows' -- a performance that gained them another personal best score and fourth place.

Swedish rider Helena Lundback was ecstatic to win her first Rolex watch, when she triumphed in the 44-starter Rolex Grand Prix.

Riding Madick, her Swedish team horse, she came off best in a two-horse jump-off against The Netherlands' Harrie Smolders on Exquis Walnut de Muze.

The class catered for riders who had not made it into the individual final for the European title, and there were 22 nations represented in total, plus some of Britain's leading riders.

Best of these was Tina Fletcher, third and the fastest of the five four-faulters, riding her

husband Graham's Promised Land, a Czechbred 14-year-old gelding.

The Swiss jumping team celebrated after regaining the upper hand in a nail-biting contest for the FEI European Championships for Jumping in a roller-coaster competition where the medals were up for grabs right up to the final rider.

It looked as if Italy might secure the gold, their Natale Chiaudani having proved the sensation of the competition with the only double clear, but Daniel Etter had already gone clear for Switzerland and, when his team-mate, Steve Guerdat, jumping very last of all, managed to produce a clear round under the highest of pressure, the Swiss squeezed ahead by 3.34 penalties.

Germany were consistent with three four-fault rounds in the second round to clinch bronze,



just 0.75 of a penalty in arrears, while the Netherlands, despite the best efforts of Albert Zoer and the popular Oki Doki just missed the medals in fourth.

A new star was born for The Netherlands when Adelinde Cornelisson set a record score and earned herself her first individual dressage medal when winning the gold for the Grand Prix Special.

In a close and exciting competition, Adelinde headed compatriot Edward Gal and Moorlands Totilas and Laura Bechtolsheimer not only gained the first British European dressage medal for 16 years -- since Emile Faurie and Virtu at Lipica in 1993 -- but set new heights in becoming the first ever British dressage rider to score over 80%. Adelinde and the Dutch-bred Parzival, the ultimate combination of thirty, had to produce the ride of their lives after Edward and his super star black stallion, even with a few mistakes, had already returned a new record score.

Edward and Totilas, now a licensed KWPN stallion on the strength of his performance, gained the individual silver medal after a test of breath-taking movements -- the combination recorded 32 tens from the five judges -- but some mistakes also.

Twenty-four-year-old Laura and the 14-year-old Danish bred Mistral Hojris had the difficult task of following the flamboyant Dutch combination into the arena for their test. Both kept their cool to produce their best test ever at a time that mattered most.

FRANCE'S VISION D'ETAT WINS HONG KONG CUP

France's Vision d'Etat streaked ahead of more favoured rivals to take the Hong Kong Cup, handing its rider the most wins in the city's international races.

Trained by Eric Libaud and ridden by Olivier Peslier, the four-year-old dominated the highclass field in the HK\$20 million (US\$2.6 million) race, the highlight of the glittering Cathay Pacific International Races.

"He was a bit lazy down the backstretch but he behaves like this when he is at his best, like at Royal Ascot when he won the Prince of Wale's Stakes in June this year," a jubilant Peslier said after snatching the Cup. "But this is what he does when he is relaxed and when he is in good form. I didn't want to get to the lead too soon because I was worried he would try to stop but he kept fighting to the line today."

The French jockey said the horse had some problems with its leg earlier. But after these were resolved, it just "kept running like a rabbit".

Vision d'Etat showed an impressive burst of speed in the home straight, pulling wide from Hong Kong's Collection and Britain's Presvis, which came second and third respectively.

South Africa's Eagle Mountain, the winner of the Cup last year, only managed fifth.

The 2,000 metre (1.2 mile) race made Peslier the jockey with the most wins -- a total of seven -- in the meeting.





French filly Daryakana won the 2,400-metre Hong Kong Vase. Britain's Spanish Moon, tipped as a possible winner, finished runner-up. The victory put Gerald Mosse, another French jockey, next in line to Peslier, with six wins.

Mosse said the filly's performance was the best he had seen. "She doesn't look like she could be that strong. She never did that kind of performance. But definitely she has a heart bigger than herself," the French rider said after the race. "I know she's given a great turn of foot on the straight. She made it. I am very happy."

Daryakana held off the challenge of local supremo Viva Pataca, owned by Macau's gaming tycoon Stanley Ho and ridden by Australia's Darren Beadman, which finished in sixth place. Great Britain's Youmzain, ridden by Kieren Fallon and the first horse to finish runner-up in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on three successive occasions, only came 10th.

The French victory did not affect the mood of the thousands who filled the giant stands on a sunny day at the city's Sha Tin course, as Hong Kong horses outclassed a strong overseas challenge by grabbing the top four positions in the Hong Kong Mile and the 1,200-metre Hong Kong Sprint.

Good Ba Ba, trained by Derek Cruz and owned by John Yuen, made history after it became the first horse to win the Hong Kong Mile three years in a row.

Its overwhelmed rider Olivier Doleuze knelt on the turf and bowed twice to the applause of the audience. "It's like a dream," he told the media after the race, which saw some close bunching. "In a race like this, you could choose to have heart and believe in your horse, and I did that."

Sacred Kingdom, ridden by Brett Prebble and trained by Ricky Yiu, powered to the line to take the title in the Hong Kong Sprint ahead of One World, ridden by Beadman and trained by Hong Kong's John Moore.

The annual meeting is one of the world's richest, alongside marquee events on the racing calendar such as America's Triple Crown, the Dubai World Cup and Royal Ascot in Britain.