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Bob Baffert unleashed yet another top prospect Friday when **"TDN Rising Star" Midnight Hawk** (Midnight Lute) overcame a slow start and went on to a 6 1/4-length victory against fellow 2-year-old maidens.



Midnight Hawk
Benoit Photo

Mike Pegram, a longtime client of Baffert, bred the son of Midnight Lute, but wound up selling the grey colt over dinner after a Chicago Blackhawks game.

"Mike was having dinner with a couple of friends--Joel Quenneville and Mike Tice--when the subject of the horse came

up," Baffert commented.

Quenneville, affectionately known as "Coach Q," is the head coach of the Blackhawks and was in Los Angeles for a game against the Kings. Mike Tice, who played in the National Football League for a number of years, is also a former head coach of the Minnesota Vikings.

Midnight Hawk was named for Quenneville's team.

"The colt trained really well, but I didn't think he'd win that easily," Baffert said. "When he broke poorly, I thought it was over. He's still pretty green."

Baffert concluded, "They just wanted to have some fun when they bought the horse, but now they're pretty pumped up." --*Courtesy, Mike Superstein, Hollywood Park Stable Notes*

HOLY LUTE RETURNS IN MALIBU

By Catlyn Spivey

As Hollywood Park enters its final days, horsemen have no time to dwell on the closing of the historic landmark. Live racing continues at Santa Anita in Arcadia Dec. 26 and is headlined by three graded stakes, including the GI Malibu S.



Holy Lute
Benoit Photo

Trainer Jim Cassidy has a lot to look forward to in **Holy Lute** (Midnight Lute), who gears up for the event at seven furlongs after putting in a final five-panel blow out in 1:01 flat yesterday over the Santa Anita main track. The lightly raced 3-year-old prepares for the Malibu off a disappointing 10th-place finish in the GI Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile. Cassidy faults a bad

trip for the lackluster performance.

"Mike [Smith] said to not be upset because we got carried out in the first turn and then if he took a hold of him we would've been too far back," Cassidy said. "He was going really well, but then he didn't get after him, because he wasn't finishing strong. It was just a bad trip. I didn't know if he could win the race, but I thought he'd run better. So, of course, I was disappointed, but Mike [Smith] thought no worse of him."

Late in his 3-year-old year, Holy Lute has only started five times due in part to an injury as a 2-year-old. "He had a shin injury and I had to give him some time, which I don't mind doing," Cassidy said. "A lot of times I get babies and when I think a lot of them I don't mind giving them the time at all."

Cont. p3

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In This Issue



Hollywood Park
Horsephotos

NTRA President and CEO Alex Waldrop releases a statement about the closing of Betfair Hollywood Park.

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Caviar's Half-Sister Nominated for Maiden Race

Belle Couture (Aus) (Redoute's Choice {Aus}), a half-sibling to champion Black Caviar (Aus) (Bel Esprit {Aus}) has been nominated for a maiden race at Bendigo on Sunday.

Page 4

John Deere Award Goes to Dr. Berglar

Dr. Cristoph Berglar, who campaigned homebred **Novellist (Ire)** (Monsun {Ger}) to three Breeders' Cup Challenge Series victories in the G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud, G1 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. and G1 Grouser Pries von Baden was presented with the John Deere Award for outstanding breeder.

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TBDN
THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS

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Holy Lute Returns in Malibu (cont. from p1)

Cassidy purchased the colt privately on behalf of Class Racing Stable for \$120,000 after he RNA'd as a yearling at Keeneland September. "I was sent back to buy a couple of colts and he wasn't on my list," he said. "I didn't see him because there were so many horses there. I was looking at another horse and he came walking by me and I paid a lot of attention to him. I was like, 'Wow, I really like this horse.' I hadn't done any work on him and I really didn't know much about him, so when he went in the ring, I was waiting on the horse I was meant to bid on. I just happened to look at the board and I saw this colt had RNA'd."

Cassidy immediately went on a mission to find a representative of Denali Stud, who consigned the colt. "They said they were looking for \$120,000 and only got \$115,000. I shook the lady's hand and said, 'He's sold.'"

Since changing hands, Holy Lute broke his maiden at Del Mar at second asking Aug. 10 and immediately followed up with a score in the El Cajon S. Aug. 30. Back to back wins led the connections to graded stakes company in the GII Indiana Derby Oct. 10, where Holy Lute finished a troubled third behind MGSW Power Broker (Pulpit).

For the Malibu, other possible entrants include GIII Damascus S. winner **Zeewat** (Harlan's Holiday) and runner-up **Flashback** (Tapit). Undefeated **Bakken** (Distorted Humor), **Governor Charlie** (Midnight Lute), and **Distinctiv Passion** (With Distinction).



"For more than 75 years, Hollywood Park has been one of Thoroughbred racing's most treasured venues, hosting the sport's biggest names, from Seabiscuit to Zenyatta, Shoemaker to Pincay, Whittingham to Frankel. The track's closure is a major loss not only for the Southern California circuit but also those who live and work at Hollywood Park. We commend California racing for its plan to redistribute Hollywood Park's live racing dates at Santa Anita, Del Mar and Los Alamitos with minimum disruption to horsemen and fans alike."

-- Alex Waldrop, President & CEO, National Thoroughbred Racing Association
Horsephotos

op/ed

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AT 2 | 3 Wins in 4 Starts Including G2 Remsen & G2 Nashua



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RACETRACK ROUND-UP

Belle Couture Nominated for Bendigo Maiden...

Belle Couture (Aus) (Redoute's Choice {Aus}), the 3-year-old half-sister to undefeated champion Black Caviar (Aus) (Bel Esprit {Aus}), has been nominated for a maiden race Sunday at Bendigo (Victoria) over 1100 meters, but is not a confirmed starter at this point, according to trainer Danny O'Brien. "She's a chance to run," the conditioner told *Australian Associated Press*. "We galloped her [Tuesday] morning. We'll see how she pulls up [Wednesday] morning and then we'll decide if we accept on Thursday. She's not far off running. If everything falls into place, we'll be at Bendigo." Belle Couture has had two jump-outs over 800 meters in the past couple of weeks at Flemington, a close runner-up effort Nov. 22 followed by a victory Dec. 6 ([video](#)).



Belle Couture following her second trial
racingvictoria.net.au

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A daughter of Helsing (Aus) (Desert Sun {GB}), Belle Couture became the second of three straight Inglis Easter sales-toppers when selling for A\$2.6 million to BC3 Thoroughbreds in April 2012. Her year-old half-brother All Too Hard (Aus) (Casino Prince {Aus}) fetched A\$1.025 million to reign supreme at the 2011 Easter Sale, while Belle Couture's full-brother--the colt known as 'Jimmy'--topped this year's renewal on a BC3's A\$5-million bid. The latter is currently battling laminitis as a result of an apparent spider bite. Acceptances for Sunday's race are due Thursday morning at 9:30 local time.

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SET...

TO HONOR AND SERVE

AT
3

G1 Cigar Mile &
G2 Pennsylvania Derby

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NEWS TODAY

JOHN DEERE AWARD RECIPIENT NAMED

Dr. Christoph Berglar, who bred and campaigned Novellist (Ire) (Monsun {Ger}), has been named the recipient of the John Deere Award as outstanding breeder in the Breeders' Cup Challenge series and Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships. The award is given annually to the breeder with the highest number of points accumulated based on first place finishes in the challenge series or championship races. Novellist topped the rankings with his Group 1 victories in the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth S. and Grouser Pries von Baden. "We are delighted to receive this award from John Deere," said Dr. Berglar. "For us, Novellist was a great blessing and blessings teach us powerful lessons. Novellist taught us joy, humility and gratitude."

*Did You Know?...
GISW SHE'S A TIGER
(Tale of the Cat)
was tabbed as a
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SALES NEWS

DE CHAMBURE STEPS DOWN

Marc de Chambure has announced that he is to give up his post as international representative at Arqana. Despite bringing to an end his three-year spell in the position, the vice president of the sales company will remain on the board of directors. Chairman Eric Hoyeau explained, "We would like to extend our warm thanks to Marc for having invested so much in us throughout his mission; a tireless traveler, Marc has been such a great help in opening up new markets and establishing initial contacts which will hopefully enable us to win new client bases in the future. By using his experience and his network of contacts, Marc decidedly helped to develop Arqana's profile abroad as well as its employees' expertise. Marc's departure obviously in no way calls into question our ambitions for international development. With a team of seven people covering the globe all year round and a network of 13 foreign representatives in every major racing and breeding country Arqana has a powerful sales team in place in order to continue developing its international clientele. The 2013 sales season, which was marked by the participation of many new foreign investors, is once again stunning evidence of this. Arqana will continue to strengthen its foreign networks while also deploying further means in France to accelerate the recruitment of new French owners."

GO!

TO HONOR AND SERVE

AT
4

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in both.



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from the first crop of **Two Step Salsa**



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IN OTHER NEWS...

A Daily Roundup of Racing Articles in Other Media

[The declining state of Hong Kong horse names - and the true meaning of Llaregyb](#) Since we first tackled the declining standard of Hong Kong horse names a little over a year ago, quality has slipped and it seems owners need a refresher on how best to name their new charge.

Michael Cox, South China Morning Post.

[Namibia: Doping Scandal Hits Horse Racing](#) The gloves are off in a war of words and accusations between horse owners following damning allegations that some unscrupulous racehorse owners have resorted to the ugly practice of injecting their animals with performance enhancing drugs ahead of major races leading to a dangerous act of potential result manipulation.

Carlos Kambaekwa, allafrica.com.

[Thinking about it](#) So here we are, wondering where all that 2013 money went. Here are some resolutions for the horse player in 2014.

Jay Cronley, ESPN.com.

[Esquire network's new series Horseplayers, premiering Tuesday, January 21](#) One to watch: Esquire TV brings the intricate horseracing world into your living room. In the high-stakes world of professional horse race handicapping, the only thing bigger than the bets are the characters placing them -- and the best in the business are members of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA).

April Neale, monsterandcritics.com.



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 Whether it's sales, racing or breeding...read the latest musings from Bill Oppenheim!
You can find all of Oppenheim's columns in the [TDN Archive](#).

MALIBU S. - RECENT WINNERS

Yr	Winner	Sire	Trainer	Time
'12	Jimmy Creed	Distorted Humor	Mandella	1:20.36
'11	The Factor	War Front	Baffert	1:19.89
'10	Twirling Candy	Candy Ride (Arg)	Sadler	1:19.70
'09	M One Rifle	One Man Army	Headley	1:21.05
'08	Bob Black Jack	Stormy Jack	Kasparoff	1:20.20
'07	Johnny Eves	Skimming	Robbins	1:21.08
'06	Latent Heat	Maria's Mon	Frankel	1:21.39
'05	Proud Tower Too	Proud Irish	Gonzalez	1:21.62
'04	Rock Hard Ten	Kris S.	Mandella	1:21.89
'03	Southern Image	Halo's Image	Machowsky	1:22.65
'02	Debonair Joe	Ole	Silva	1:22.40
'01	Mizzen Mast	Cozzene	Frankel	1:22.13
'00	Dixie Union	Dixieland Band	Mandella	1:21.62

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Bidding closes 4pm UK-time Friday

New York

Wednesday, Aqueduct, post time: 1:18 p.m.
DAMON RUNYON S., \$100,000, 2yo, (S), 1m 70yds

PP	HORSE	SIRE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	ML
1	Samraat	Noble Causeway	Ortiz	Violette Jr.	6/5
2	Forever Utopia	Utopia (Jpn)	Castro	Terranova	12/1
3	Howaboutwe	Da Stoops	Arroyo	Antonucci	20/1
4	Deceived	Broken Vow	Velasquez	Gyarmati	9/5
5	Balderdash	Grand Slam	Garcia	Feron	12/1
6	Geaux Mets	Posse	Cohen	Jacobson	9/2

Brisnet.com PPs

Eastern U.S.

Laurel Park Amends Schedule for Winter Meet:

The Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has announced a change to the upcoming winter meet at Laurel Park. Laurel will now host racing on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for the first two months of the stand and a Friday card will be added for the last five weeks of the meet.



All winners in the U.S. race on Lasix unless otherwise indicated

Kentucky

Keep Up Retired to Mill Ridge Farm:

Last year's GIII River City H. winner **Keep Up** (Unbridled's Song--Keeper Hill, by Deputy Minister) has been retired from racing and will stand his freshman year at Mill Ridge Farm. He retires with a lifetime record of 18-7-1-4 with earnings of \$300,545. Keep Up, who was also campaigned by Mill Ridge, is out of the MGISW Keeper Hill. The 6-year-old will be a part of the "Share the Upside" program for \$4,000 for two years or will stand for \$5,000. "Considering his pedigree, heart, class and imposing good looks, we want to give him a chance at stud," said Headley Bell, managing partner of Mill Ridge Farm. "The 'Share the Upside' incentive program introduced by Spendthrift and successful with Into Mischief allows the small breeder an opportunity to participate and dream. We invite breeders to come to Mill Ridge and inspect Keep Up, they will like what they see."



Tuesday Cancellations
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1	DUNKIRK	\$15,000	14	2	2	6	\$1,108,138
2	Pioneerof the Nile	\$20,000	13	1	1	2	\$715,210
3	Colonel John	\$17,500	7	1	1	5	\$656,103

Source: Bloodhorse.com, 16th Dec.

DUNKIRK

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Central U.S.

Monday Night's Results:

9th-RPX, \$40,000, Alw, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:39 2/5, ft. CUSTODY (f, 3, [Broken Vow](#)--Visit, by Dixie Union) graduated at first asking at Arlington over the synthetic July 26, 2012. Immediately thrown into graded stakes company, the Dilschneider homebred finished fourth in the Gill Arlington-Washington Lassie that September. Since being switched to turf at Remington, she won two of her last three allowance tests, most recently over 1 1/16 miles Nov. 9. Attempting traditional dirt for the second time here, the 13-1 shot came out of the gate in good order and set a dawdling pace through the first turn. Conceding the lead willingly to runner-up Tastefullyxcessive (Early Flyer) by the half, she bided her time off that rival's flank. The bay drove clear in the stretch to win by 5 3/4 lengths. Lifetime Record: 7-4-0-1, \$96,761. [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [VIDEO](#).

O/B-Adele B Dilschneider (KY). T-Donnie K Von Hemel.



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INDUSTRY INFO

Churchill Downs Joins AGA Board of Directors:

Churchill Downs Inc. along with Wynn Resorts and Station Casinos will join the American Gaming Association (AGA) board of directors. "This is a critical step in the AGA's evolution as a representative of the entire gaming industry," said AGA President and CEO Geoff Freeman. "We will continue to be passionate advocates for the enormous value the gaming industry provides and there is increasing support for our agenda."

ROOKIES

First/Second-crop starters to watch: Wednesday, Dec. 18

*Sire (Sire's Sire), current farm, 2009 Fee, #foals of racing age/Winners/BlackTypeWnrs * Race #-track, race type, distance, runner, odds (if available)*
ELITE SQUADRON (Officer), Wintergreen, \$5K, 37/10/0
 4-HAW, Msw, 6f, +Nelyn's Flyer, 7-2
ROCK PULPIT (Pulpit), 11/2/0
 4-HAW, Msw, 6f, +Rockaroo, 15-1
 4-HAW, Msw, 6f, +Pew, 12-1

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IN BRITAIN:

Frost Fire, f, 3, [Medaglia d'Oro](#). See "Britain."

IN KOREA:

Jilpung Daese, f, 2, [Roman Ruler](#)--Epitome of a Lady (SW), by Poteen. Seoul, 12-15, Cond. (\$48k), 1400m. B-John R & Martha Jane Mulholland (KY). *\$5,000 yrl '12 FTKOCT; \$27,000 RNA 2yo '13 OBSAPR. **Remained undefeated in two starts with a four-length victory as the 3-10 favorite.

Bred, Raised & Sold by Mulholland Springs

Heart Roy, c, 2, [Seeking the Dia--Folie du Soir](#), by Wild Again. Seoul, 12-14, Maiden (\$48k), 1400m. B-Two Hearts Farm LLC & Seeking the Dia Syndicate (KY). *\$22,000 yrl '12 KEESEP; \$20,000 2yo '13 FTMMAY. **Improved on a runner-up effort on his Nov. 16 debut to score by 3/4 of a length as the 2-1 second betting choice.

IN SINGAPORE:

Italian Job, g, 3, [Saint Anddan](#)--Baybrooke, by Montbrook. Kranji, 12-15, Progress Race (\$60k), 1200m (AWT), 1:10.28. B-Steve Tucker & Lynne Boutte (FL). *1/2 to Cinnamon Road (Delaware Township), SW & GSP, \$271,251; and Abdel's Ghost (Black Mambo), SP, \$261,669.

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IN ARGENTINA:

Cortar Cintas, f, 3, [El Corredor](#)--Direct Deposit, by Deposit Ticket. Palermo, 12-16, Cond., 1200m, 1:11.60. B-Dr & Mrs Charles H Huber & The El Corredor Syndicate (KY). *\$10,000 yrl '11 KEESEP.

Leyenda West, f, 4, [Gone West](#)--Press Camp (MSW & GSP, \$130,300), by Comic Strip. Palermo, 12-16, Maiden, 1200m, 1:11.90. B-Spendthrift Farm LLC (KY). *\$9,000 wnlg '09 KEENOV.

AMERICA'S BEST SELLERS...TAYLOR MADE

TELL IT TO THE TDN...

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BRIS Speed Ratings
Top Weekly Stakes Races

Horse	Sire	Race	BRIS Speed
Sunbean	Brahms	LA Champions Day Classic S.	107
Lucayan (FR)	Turtle Bowl (IRE)	Hollywood Turf Cup S.-G2	105
Ide Be Cool	Ide	LA Champions Day Juvenile S.	104
Heitai	Fusaichi Pegasus	LA Champions Day Sprint S.	103
Quaesitor	Friends Lake	Valedictory S.-G3	102
Candyman E	Candy Ride (ARG)	Spooky Mulder S.	101
Shared Belief	Candy Ride (ARG)	CashCall Futurity-G1	101
Ladyzarbridge	Zarbyev	LA Champions Day Ladies S.	99
Simmstown	Limehouse	Kenny Noe Jr. H.	98
Heart Stealer	Speightstown	Sugar Swirl S.-G3	96
Raiseanothergator	Reformer Rally	LA Champions Day Starter H.	96
Uno Duo	Macho Uno	Fickle Fanny S.	96
Blueskiesrainbows	English Channel	Native Diver S.-G3	95
Teddy's Promise	Salt Lake	Playa Del Rey S.	95
Jonesy Boy	Smarty Jones	Queens County S.	93
Guadalupe High	Cuvee	LA Champions Day Ladies Sprint S.	92
Louies Flower	Flower Alley	Remington Springboard Mile S.	92
Baffle Me	First Samurai	South Beach S.	91
More Than Even	Stephen Got Even	Useeit S.	91
Tribal Gal	Tribal Rule	City of Phoenix S.	90
Hud's Rebellion	Ole Rebel	Louisiana Champions Day Turf S.	89
Paladin Bay	Sligo Bay (IRE)	Ontario Lassie S.	88
Big Sugarush	Kipling	Jim Thorpe S.	85

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Yesterday's Results:

2nd-SWL, £4,500, Hcp, 3yo/up, 8f (AWT), 1:44 1/5, ft.

FROST FIRE (f, 3, [Medaglia d'Oro](#)--Alta Love, by Gone West), a \$525,000 FTSAUG yearling, was a latest second in an extended nine-furlong handicap on Wolverhampton's Polytrack Dec. 6 and broke well to lead. Maintaining the pressure late on, the 11-4 second choice was driven out to score by 1 3/4 lengths from Ivy Port (GB) (Deportivo {GB}). The dam is a 1/2 to MGSW & GISP Lasting Approval (With Approval) and to GISW Icon Project (Empire Maker). Lifetime Record: 5-1-2-1, £4,854. [VIDEO, courtesy attheraces.com](#). O-Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum; B-Woodford Thoroughbreds LLC; T-Mark Johnston.

Bred & Sold by Woodford Thoroughbreds

TDN Q&A

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POSSE



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Currently #3 on New York General Sires List
\$5,000 LFSN

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BREEDERS' EDITION AMERICA

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

6th-RPX, \$36,750, NW1X, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m70y, 1:46 4/5, ft.

DREAM ROYAL (m, 5, Chapel Royal--Dream Gable, by Winthrop) Lifetime Record: 37-7-7-3, \$123,455. O-Ron & BJ Kincade. B-John T L Jones Jr (OK). T-Martin Lozano. *\$9,000 yrl '09 KEESEP.

9th-MNR, \$28,400, 12-16, NW4L, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09 2/5, gd.

MARCHWOOD (GB) (g, 3, Assertive {GB}--Reeli Silli {GB}, by Dansili {GB}) Lifetime Record: 22-4-7-6, \$93,719. O-TEC Racing (Elliott S Logan). B-Mickley Stud & Mr B Robe (GB). T-Ernest M Haynes. *4,500gns wlng '10 TATDEC; £7,000 yrl '11 DONSEP.

7th-MNR, \$22,200, 12-16, NW2L, 3yo/up, 5f, :57 3/5, gd.

POISON APPLE (c, 3, Distorted Humor--Miss Mary Apples {GSP, \$171,172}, by Clever Trick) Lifetime Record: 10-2-5-1, \$76,891. O-KatieRich Stables. B-Katierich Farms (KY). T-Mark Hubley. *1/2 to Miss Red Delicious (Empire Maker), MSW, \$203,425; Dr. Diamonds Prize (Pure Prize), SW & GSP, \$240,903.

• ON THE WORKTAB •

FAIR GROUNDS

Prayer for Relief (Jump Start), 4f, :49.20, 7/43
Teardrop (Tapit), 4f, :51.60, 53/70

HOLLYWOOD PARK

Eblouissante (Bernardini), 5f, 1:00.00, 3/32
Pontchatrain (War Front), 5f, 1:01.00, 11/32

OAKLAWN PARK

Strong Mandate (Tiznow), 3f, :34.80, 1/8

SANTA ANITA

Awesome Baby (Awesome Again), 5f, 1:00.20, 11/34
Chips All In (North Light {Ire}), 5f, 1:00.00, 9/34
My Best Brother (Stormy Atlantic), 5f, 1:01.00, 18/34
Suggestive Boy (Arg) (Easing Along), 5f, 1:04.40, 34/34

TAMPA BAY

Motor City (Street Sense), 4f, :51.80, 15/18



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5th-MNR, \$22,200, 12-16, Opt. Clm. (\$15,000), NW1X, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m70y, 1:42 3/5, gd.

TOWN FLIRT (m, 5, Speightstown--Open Flirt, by A.P. Indy) Lifetime Record: 23-4-4-5, \$153,961. O-KatieRich Stables. B-Dark Hollow Farm, Fast Kitty Farm, Arnold Davidov & Mr & Mrs David Hayden (MD). T-Mark Hubley. *\$200,000 2yo '10 FTFEB.

ADDITIONAL MAIDEN WINNERS:

Gumper, g, 2, Even the Score--Miss Boot Scoot (SP), by Fred Astaire. MNR, 12-16, 1m, 1:39 4/5. B-Quest Realty (VA). *1/2 to Call Me Clash (Clash by Night), SW, \$169,796.

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