

Bluegrass Thoroughbred



Services, Inc.



Bloodstock & Racing News - June 2007

A DIARY FROM AUSTRALIA ...

by John Stuart

We continued to rack up travel miles after a late March trip to Dubai for the World Cup as guests of Darley, and a trip East for the *Preakness* and the Fasig-Tipton 2yo sale, (where finally we saw good demand for lower priced 2yos), and then off to Australia on May 23rd. We flew into Melbourne and met up with host David Bernsen, the North American representative for Racing Victoria Limited (RVL) and Magic Millions - one of the two major sales companies. Immediately, despite about a 31-hour trip door to door, we went out to one of the Melbourne racetracks, Flemington, home of the famous 2 mile race - the *Melbourne Cup*. We toured trainer Danny O'Brien's stable and then met with the Director of Racing for Racing Victoria, Leigh Jordan, and finally with the top brass of the famous riverside racecourse - Rod Fitzroy (Chairman) and Dale Monteith (CEO). The view from their Board Room looks directly down the six furlong stretch - fantastic! The \$4.2 million dollar *Melbourne Cup* has a four-week festivity and press build-up, then literally brings the country to a halt the first Tuesday in November. Last year, the Japanese ran one-two, securing their country's first win. Make no mistake, Japan's racehorses are far more competitive in worldwide racing than they have ever been (you probably remember last year's wins in Dubai - Sunday Silence moved their breed way up). Prior to the Japanese win, the English-bred mare Maybe Diva won three straight runnings - an incredible feat.



We met on the subject of an American horse traveling to Australia - quarantine is long, travel is long, and it's going to cost \$100,000 to ship, run, return, plus not many American-breds can stay and, most importantly, no medication permitted. With the glove thrown, we got right to work and found a horse to meet the challenge! During the trip, we purchased Live Oak Plantations' 6yo Unbridled stayer **TACIT AGREEMENT**, who has been winning a series of distance stakes at Calder, and arranged for him to ship to Australia for an Australian group to take a crack at the big one.

Monday morning, we set out for the Victorian breeding center of Ngambie to meet with Mike Becker, President of Thoroughbred Breeders Victoria (the industry breeding association) and operator of Independent Stallions. This is the location where, with David Bernsen's guidance, we arranged for **ARTIE SCHILLER** to stand dual hemisphere. Except for the Coolmore and Darley stallions (and Vinery's More Than Ready), there are no stallions heading to Australia (that I know of) mainly because the North American stallions frankly haven't been very successful at stud. Personally, I think if more horses like Artie had gone to Australia, there would be more demand as he is a big, fast, sound turf horse - a world class miler! Artie, who will breed a crack in the wall, has just bred his first book of 140 mares and was the subject of a full-page story in the national newspaper *The Australian* while we were there. We met with a vet and an accountant who will look after our interests. Although, after spending a day with Mike Becker, I'm not worried about this bloke - a first class fellow! Artie is going to stand for what he does in America - usually you can breed to an American horse for half the money - for example, Henny Hughes is about \$20,000 US (In the USA, he is \$40,000 - I'm sure Artie will be better!)



Australia Diary... (cont. from pg. 1)



We were taken aback at how dry it is in Australia – 10 year drought with the last 2 years putting the water tables at the most critical levels in their history. If your farm wasn't alongside a river you were in deep trouble. In rainy New Zealand, a bale of hay costs about \$4, but in Australia they are up to \$25. Didn't seem to bother the local vinerys we visited on the way to the airport for the Gold Coast (we like our wine dry!)

We organized our trip to take in the major breeding and mixed sales at the Magic Millions – a 2 hour flight to the Gold Coast - Australia's version of Miami. In fact, they have a Palm Beach and Miami right next door. I thought the Tattersall's

sales company was very gracious in Newmarket, but make no mistake about it – Magic Million sales company works for your business like no other Thoroughbred sales company anywhere I've seen. Started only 20 years ago, they are now the third largest horse auction Company in the world (I think). The next day looking at their weanlings there were people from everywhere – including Iran – but they had been trying to recruit some Americans and we were the subject of much curiosity.



We spent a day looking at weanlings – big, strong, sound horses perhaps a bit plain compared to ours - mostly from European stock – we were impressed. We signed for Lot 31 the next day at AUSS\$120,000 a lovely General Nediym filly out of a New Zealand mare which I graded a strong 6. We partnered-up on four others and then late in the day fell victim to the enthusiasm of the Magic Million auctioneers – the most fun bunch in the world while on the podium – teasing, cajoling, and personalizing the auction process. Our group bid \$1.1 million on a big strong Redoute's Choice colt out of a champion producer, and were outbid by Coolmore with a record (for a weanling) bid of \$1,150,000. Wow! What a market for babies – pretty confident it will be the same way for next year's yearlings – where our Australian purchases will go.





Bluegrass Thoroughbred News



Page 3 of 8

Australia Diary... (cont. from pg. 1-2)

What I found was that so many people in this country participate in racing – the papers report everything. The Australians bet like crazy with lower takeouts and many own a piece of a horse – much broader ownership. There's a gambler in Tasmania who supposedly wagers – get this – \$2 billion a year. Meanwhile a cab driver spent \$1,400 on a horse and finds himself at Royal Ascot this week to try to win back-to-back renewals of the Gr.2 *Kings Stand* with his horse *Takeover Target*. The bartender back at the Sheraton Mirage Hotel knows more about racing than most racing people I've ever met.



**Breeders' Cup Juvenile Champion ARAZI
at Independent Stallions**

After the weanling sales, we went up to Brisbane for the races at Eagle Farm - the feature race being the \$500,000 *Queensland Oaks* – there were 8 races with the minimum pot being \$150,000. That's why an Australian horse won't be coming here – there is too much opportunity to win serious money there. Big festive crowds, lots of beer drinking, and young people dressed for the occasion – frankly, a lot more fun than racing here. It was European-type racing, with big fields, pretty much all turf throughout the country.



The country is undergoing a boom – it's mineral rich and China and the Far East need minerals. They also send along proven racehorses for big money to Hong Kong (pushing the European and American horses out) helping to create a robust market for young horses – their market is moving up 30% a year and seems much healthier than ours. They incidentally are very critical of our horses – too much medication and too many unsound horses being bred to unsound horses that are ruining the breed. By the way, that criticism regarding our American horses isn't limited to the Australians.

They sell weanlings the first week, mares the second week, and yearlings the third week. We stayed for a couple days of the mares, but our buying was limited to taking a leg in a 2yo race filly by *Rock of Gibraltar* who is being trained by David Hayes, the really dynamic leading trainer who I had dinner with along with some really fun South Africans one night. Unlike other places in the world, the leading trainers in Australia seem to have progeny who can also become leading trainers – one of the dinner conversations!

During the broodmare sale, we were worn out and flew back to Los Angeles – then we were REALLY worn out!! Despite the jet lag, it was too much fun - I will be returning to Australia for this sale and others.

Many thanks to Austrade (Australian Trade Organization) and Ian Smith, US-Based Trade Commissioner for organizing our journey.

To see more photographs from the Magic Millions and more - visit our [photo gallery](#).



New BTSI Team Member: Kelly “Kiwi” Jackson

In May 2007, just in time for yearling sales prep, Bluegrass hired Kelly T. “Kiwi” Jackson to take over yearling management at our Cavalier Farm on Harrodsburg Road. Kelly has 15 years’ experience in the industry, is a fantastic horseman, and a great addition to the BTSI team.

Kelly, born in Napier, New Zealand in August of 1975, surprisingly did not grow up around horses or come from a family associated with the business in any way. He graduated from Napier Boys’ High School in 1993 and went on to earn a degree at *Te Awamutu College*. When Kelly turned 17, his mother told him to ‘get a job,’ and through family connections, went to work for Graeme Sanders’ Racing Stables. He worked for Graeme for 3 1/2 years, and eventually worked up to an assistant barn foreman. From there, he went on to work for Ashwell Farms as its farm manager (stallions, broodmares, yearlings, weanlings - ALL), where he stayed for a little less than 4 years. He traveled extensively with the stallions - to Ireland and Japan for one year in each location. In 1999, he moved to the bloodstock side of the business, working the sales for New Zealand Bloodstock. After his stint there, he returned to work for Graeme Sanders, and he decided to get his trainer's license.



*Otaki-Maori Racing Club where **FURNISH** nearly nabbed a Gr.1 victory*

At the ripe-old age of 24, Kelly took a horse named **FURNISH (NZ)** (owned and raced by Tony Cole & G.J. Morgan) to a Group 1 race, and missed the victory by a nose. He achieved 19 winners in 64 starts in his stable before ‘retiring’ to America.

Kelly worked originally in the states for Hall-of-Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard as an exercise rider, in Pennsylvania. He went back to sales - working a while for Hill ‘n’ Dale, etc. He got on with Robert Scanlon, helping him with the sales. He also worked for Randy Miles.

Kelly’s parents, Mark & Lorraine Jackson, and a sister remain in New Zealand. He also has an older sister who lives in Sydney, Australia.

Hobbies: In high school, Kelly was apparently a talented rugby player - their New Zealand high school team came to America on two occasions (California & Texas) to play college teams in exhibition matches. One of Kelly’s teammates was Phoenix Suns’ forward Sean Marks of the NBA. Kelly enjoys basketball, American football and travelling - having been to Singapore, Ireland, Australia, Hong Kong, England, France, Scotland, and Canada.

We’re excited about Kelly coming to work for us. He brings just the right mix of horsemanship, experience, and personality to our team.

If you’d like to reach Kelly, email him at kelly@bluegrasstbred.com.



Kelly and “Cheesecake”



Willow Oaks Stable's homebreds have an incredible Saturday in June -

Willow Oaks Stable is owned and operated by Caroline & Jerry Stautberg in Monkton, Maryland. They have a large broodmare band, from which they primarily breed to sell - however, do keep some to race. All on one day last weekend, their homebreds had amazing performances at three different racetracks -

Including two stakes winners in Louisiana:

MIDDLEWEIGHT (2000 g. by Grand Slam out of Dusty Gloves by Run Dusty Run)

Already a mutiple stakes-winner, this 7yo gelding is proving he's not done yet. After starting his 7yo campaign with a 3rd place finish in the *Delta Mile* at Delta Downs on March 2nd, he fizzled in the *Gulf Coast Classic* on March 31st, finishing last. He started his comeback - finishing 2nd in an allowance optional claimer on May 11th, on to nab the *Barksdale H.* at Louisiana Downs on June 23rd.

[Click Here for Middleweight's Chart](#)



Middleweight in the Maxxam Gold Cup

Middleweight is owned in partnership by Stewart Madison and Peter Gaffney and is trained by Al Stall, Jr., with a record of 35-8-5-9, earnings \$343,055. Middleweight is also a 1/2-brother to SW **FIN ENTERTAINMENT**.



Cajun Conquest's sire, CAME HOME

CAJUN CONQUEST (2004 c. by Came Home out of Probable Storm by Tabasco Cat)

Making his first start at 3 in a maiden claimer at Fair Grounds, Cajun Conquest finished 3rd, then ran 2nd, losing by a nose, in another claimer on February 19th. He broke his maiden by 3 1/2 lengths on March 24th at Fair Grounds and ran 3rd in allowance next out at Louisiana Downs on June 1st. His big victory came in the *Seeking The Gold S.* on June 23rd, which he won by a head in his first start on the grass. [Click Here for Cajun's Chart](#)

Cajun Conquest is owned by Pat & Steve Roe and is trained by Patrick Mouton. His record is 5-2-1-2, earnings of \$74,810.



Willow Oaks....(cont. from pg. 5)

COY COYOTE (2004 f. by Honour and Glory out of Desert Prowler by Desert Wine)

Coming from a family no strangers to stakes races, this filly proved herself a worthy contender as a 2yo - winning the G3 *Mazarine Breeders' Cup* at Woodbine last fall. After changing trainers, she took the winter and spring off - and in her first start back in June 23rd at Monmouth, she finished 2nd in the *Without Feathers S.* in her first start in the states.



COY COYOTE in the *Mazarine Breeders' Cup*

[Click Here for Coyote's Chart](#)

Coy Coyote is owned by Harlequin Ranches and is now trained by Michael Dickinson (formerly trained by Reade Baker). Her record is 6-3-2-0, with outstanding earnings to date of \$195,129.



PROPHET JOHN (2003 c. by Tiznow out of Haunting by Kris S.)

This 4yo colt made his debut at Keeneland last spring and grabbed the show for(then) trainer Nick Zito. It would take him five more starts to break his maiden - which finally happened at Gulfstream on March 14th of this year, where his winning streak began. The dark bay colt has now won four in a row - under the tutelage of three different trainers, the latest being an allowance victory at Arlington Park on June 23rd.

[Click Here for Prophet John's Chart](#)

Prophet John's yearling full-brother, Hip 336 in the Fasig-Tipton July Selected Yearlings Sale

Prophet John is owned by Matt Wilkinson and his current trainer, Patrick Mitchell. His record is 9-4-2-1,

with earnings of \$77,420. We expect good things from this colt. We are selling Prophet John's full-brother in the upcoming Fasig-Tipton July Selected Yearlings Sale.

[Click Here for Hip 336 Catalog Page](#)



Horses to Watch:

FLASHY BULL (2003 c. by Holy Bull out of Iridescence by Mt. Livermore) - Maybe unexpected for some, but we saw it coming!! The 4yo took home his first G1 victory in the *Stephen Foster* on Saturday, June 16th. [Click Here for the Stephen Foster Chart](#) His record is 18-5-5-3, earnings of \$829,313. He is owned by West Point Thoroughbreds LLC and trained by Kieran McLaughlin. Flashy Bull's dam, Iridescence, was purchased in the 2005 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale on behalf of Mueller Farms, Inc. for \$140,000. Since the mare's purchase (in foal to The Cliff's Edge), the mare has produced two stakes horses - both Flashy Bull and 1/2-brother PINK VIPER (c. by Smoke Glacken). [Click Here for Iridescence's '05 KeeNov Catalog Page \(BEFORE\)](#), [Click Here for Iridescence's Current Pedigree \(AFTER\)](#).



Horsephotos

POTRA CLASICA (ARG) (2001 m. by Potrillon out of Is You Class by Judger) - A consistent stakes performer for Chuck Miller's Racing Stable, the filly finished 2nd in the *Liberada S.* on June 24th at Calder Racecourse (Jeff Amling's filly El Bank Robber was 3rd by 1/2 length). [Click Here for Potra's Chart](#) Potra Clasica was purchased privately from South America by BTSI on behalf of the partnership M-2 Stable, LLC for \$50,000. Her record is 18-6-3-1, with American earnings of \$220,920 (since her purchase from Argentina). She is trained by Marty Wolfson.



SOMETHINABOUTLAURA (2002 m. by Dance Floor out of Crystals of Ice by It's Freezing) - Another fantastic Chuck Miller race mare, owned in partnership with John Sikura, trainer Jerry Hollendorfer, & George Todaro, this mare went up against a very tough group of stakes performing fillies and mares in the *Redondo Beach S.* and came out the winner by a head. [Click Here for 'Laura's Chart](#) Somethinaboutlaura was purchased by BTSI in the 2006 Fasig-Tipton February Mixed Sale for \$375,000 on behalf of the partnership, and has earned nearly \$650,000 since her purchase. She now has a record of 26-14-4-3 and earnings of \$823,315.

Dixie Crisp (2004 f. by Dixieland Band out of Two Step Trudy by Capote) - She got her black-type in the *Dipsea Trail S.* at Golden Gate on May 26th, missing the win by just 2 1/4 lengths. She was recently 3rd in a tough allowance at Hollywood Park on June 24th. She is owned in partnership by Bluegras sFarm Partners, Andrew Rosen, and trainer Jerry Hollendorfer. Keep your eyes on this filly! [Click Here for Dipsea Trail S. Chart](#) BTSI purchased this filly privately from Eisaman Training Center.



Bluegrass Thoroughbred News



Page 8 of 8

Horses to Watch (cont. from pg. 7):

G City Gal (2003 f. by Elusive Quality out of Credenza by Lord Carlos) - This talented MGSP filly won an exciting allowance on June 1st. [Click Here for G City Gal's Chart](#) She is owned by Circle C Group Stables and trained by Todd Pletcher. Her record is 10-3-4-2, earnings of \$221,393. BTSI sold this filly in the 2004 Fasig-Tipton July Selected Yearlings Sale for \$80,000.



SEDGEFIELD (2004 c. by Smart Strike out of Belva by Theatrical (IRE)) - Trainer Darrin Miller was considering sending the talented colt to either the G2 *Ohio Derby* or the G1 *Belmont*, however a chip in his left front ankle squashed those hopes. He has had surgery, and will hope to make a quick recovery. BTSI sold this colt in the 2004 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale for \$100,000.

EYES ON EDDY (2002 m. by Touch Gold out of Oedy's Appeal by Valid Appeal) - She will not be denied any victory these days - she won another tough allowance at Churchill Downs on June 9th. [Click Here for Eddy's Chart](#) Eyes on Eddy is owned by Stonestreet Stables LLC and trained by Steve Asmussen. Eyes on Eddy was sold in the 2003 Keeneland September Yearlings Sale for \$135,000. She sold last Keeneland November to Jess Jackson's Stonestreet Stables for \$400,000.

Upcoming Story (2004 f. by Tale of the Cat out of Old Star (ARG) by Southern Halo) - She continues to compete in graded stakes company - finishing 3rd in the G3 *Dogwood Breeders' Cup* at Churchill Downs on June 2nd. [Click Here for Dogwood Chart](#) She is owned by Lewis Lakin and trained by Patrick Biancone. BTSI sold Upcoming Story in the 2005 Fasig-Tipton July Selected Yearlings Sale for \$80,000. After clocking the 2nd-fastest 1/4 mile work at Barretts last spring, she sold for \$170,000 as a 2yo-in-training.



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