



## **Breeders' Cup World Championships Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4**

### **Tuesday Turf Notes Monday, October 30, 2017**

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#### **OVERSEAS**

Having cleared quarantine Monday night, all the English and French horses that arrived in the early hours of Sunday morning saw the Del Mar racetrack for the first time.

First out on to the dirt was the Gordon Elliott-trained **Beckford** (Juvenile Turf), who was quickly followed by **Juliet Capulet** (Juvenile Fillies Turf), **Decorated Knight** (Turf). All had a gentle stretch of their legs and did nothing more than canter.

**Rajasinghe** and **Sands of Mali** (Juvenile Turf) with **Suedois** (Mile) were next out on the main track. Suedois, winner of the Shadwell Turf Mile at Keeneland appeared to be suffering no ill effects from his flight and looked in great spirits in the hands of regular rider Fergal Davis.

Newmarket trainer Richard Spencer was at the track Tuesday morning as his Juvenile Turf hope Rajasinghe went out for a gentle canter on the main track.

“He didn’t do much this morning, but he’s in good order, and he’ll do a little more later in the week,” Spencer said. Of his draw in the outside post 14 on Friday, he said “Obviously it’s not ideal, but we have to take what we’re given, and we’ll see how the race unfolds.”

Gimcrack winner Sands of Mali was very fresh when he first came out on to the track but soon settled down having gone a circuit of the track at a steady trot.

The first Europeans out on to the turf track were the Sir Michael Stoute-trained **Ulysses** (Turf) and defending Filly & Mare Turf champion **Queen’s Trust**. Both looked at ease on the surface as they cantered around one lap of the track before returning to the barn.

Also on the turf were Godolphin’s **Wuheida** (Filly & Mare Turf) and **Masar** (Juvenile Turf) and **Home of The Brave** (Mile). The daughter of Dubawi (Wuheida), with Kirsty Milczarek once again in the saddle, did the strongest canter out on the track since arriving at Del Mar and was credited with a 6f work in 1:15 2/5 over a firm turf course, while Masar and the Hugo Palmer-trained Home of The Brave just stretched their legs with a gentle canter.

With the turf track closed it was the turn of the Roger Varian-trained **Nezwaah** (Filly & Mare Turf) and **Madeline** (Juvenile Fillies Turf) to go out on to the dirt. A decision was made not to put the blinkers on Nezwaah and she stepped up a gear from her previous exercises with a much stronger breeze with a 5f time of 1:01 4/5.

George Scott who flew in to California Monday night was on hand to see his first Breeders' Cup runner **James Garfield** (Juvenile Turf) out on the track and was very pleased and happy with what he witnessed.

"The drizzle will not put us off," Scott said. "He shipped over really well and has not lost much weight and has eaten everything since he has arrived. Preparations have gone sweetly so far but I do appreciate that there are still two days to go. Frankie (Dettori) who is riding for us is in great form at the moment. I flew over with him and he was very excited and was difficult to keep quiet. He is a magic rider and I am sure he is going to make something happen so I am hoping that it is going to happen on my horse."

Not long behind James Garfield were **Now You're Talking** (Juvenile Fillies Turf) and **Ribchester** (Mile) and both did nothing more than a gentle canter.

**Marsha** (Turf Sprint) was the final English horse out on to the track and with a pony alongside jogged a circuit of the track before returning back to the barn. Alyson West who traveled with the daughter of Acclamation said:

"We needed to get her out on to the track today. After spending two days in a box she was ready to come out and was getting a bit fresh"

Also on hand to watch Marsha was William Butler, Sir Mark Prescott's assistant trainer.

The four French challengers for this year's Breeders' Cup were the last on to the track. **Talismanic** (Turf) did his own thing and went off for a steady canter of one circuit of the main track while **Karar** and **Zenga** (Mile) and **Senga** (Filly & Mile Turf) jogged around the outside of the track with a couple of ponies.

Aidan O'Brien's Ballydoyle Stables Breeders' Cup contenders all arrived at the Quarantine Barn at Del Mar around 9:30 Monday evening on horse vans from Los Angeles International Airport after what traveling head lad Patrick Keating said was an uneventful flight from Ireland. The shipment comprised 13 Breeders' Cup runners in total, and they are scheduled to clear quarantine in time for trackwork on Thursday morning. The trainer was at the track in person Tuesday morning to cast an eye over his charges inside the shedrow of the Quarantine Barn.

## **TURF**

**Chad Brown (Beach Patrol and Fanciful Angel)** — Trainer Chad Brown's Breeders' Cup Turf duo of Beach Patrol and Fanciful Angel will attempt a unique triple in Grade I company. The pair has filled out the exacta in two of the biggest turf races on the calendar, the Aug. 12 Arlington Million and Sept. 30 Joe Hirsch Turf Classic, in their last two starts, with Beach Patrol winning each event. They now step up to America's top turf race, while both shipping from their New York base.

Beach Patrol is a three-time Grade I winner who relished the added ground in his first try at 12f last out. Always within striking range, the nearly black son of Lemon Drop Kid swooped to the front turning for home and manhandled his foes by five lengths under Joel Rosario.

It was the second time Rosario had been aboard the five-time winner from 16 starts and the pair appears to fit considerably well. In the Arlington Million, he gave James Covello, Head of Plains Partners and Sheep Pond Partners' earner of more than \$1.7 million a well-timed ride at Arlington, getting to the front at the top of the lane and out-lasting Fanciful Angel, who was then trained by Newmarket-based Marco Botti.

Fanciful Angel was subsequently purchased from Dubai-based Touch Gold Racing by the partnership of Michael Dubb, Head of Plains Partners and Madaket Stables.

“The biggest problem Beach Patrol is going to have here is the competition,” Brown said. “He’s going to face much tougher horses than he did in the Joe Hirsch. Then again, his number was very fast in the race and he’s a very consistent horse who shows up every time. He has very good positional speed early to get him the jump on contenders who are behind him. All these things line up for an opportunity to really do well.

“Joel really gets along with this horse so well,” Brown continued. “They’re a great team. He’s made a huge difference in this horse’s development this year.”

In Fanciful Angel, Brown is still on a learning curve with the the hard-knocking former English-trained son of top sire Dark Angel. In the Joe Hirsch Turf Classic, he was trying a distance beyond 1 1/4m for the first time. In fact, he had only tried a distance beyond one mile three times in his first 24 starts prior to said Belmont event.

“He’s doing well and continues to improve,” Brown said. “I love the way he’s training right now. He’s a headstrong horse, but he is manageable. It’s worth a shot here for a big purse that I think he could get a piece of.

“He gave me the impression that maybe he would like the extra distance,” Brown continued. “I know his form said he was running shorter, but he gave me the impression that he wanted to go longer. We tried it (in the Joe Hirsch) and so far it’s worked out well.”

**Bullards Alley** – Canadian International Stakes winner Bullards Alley was among the last horses to train Tuesday morning as he galloped once around the turf course with exercise rider Doug Morley aboard.

One day earlier he had drawn post two for the 1 1/2m race.

“I’m OK with it,” trainer Tim Glyshaw. “I just didn’t want then 12, 13, or 14. In a mile and a half race, the post isn’t as important as in sprints.”

The 5 yo Flower Alley gelding capped an exciting week for the trainer when he handed him his first Grade 1 win with his 10 3/4-length win at odds of 43-1.

“A month ago, I never would have expected to be here with two horses,” said Glyshaw, who also will saddle Buccherio in the Turf Sprint. “Bullards Alley gave me my first graded stakes win last year and then he gave me my second stakes win in eight days. It was pretty amazing.”

**Oscar Performance** – Amerman Racing’s Oscar Performance, winner of the 2016 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Turf at Santa Anita, jogged on the main track before the renovation break Tuesday morning under exercise rider Arnoldo Orellana.

Trained by Brian Lynch, Oscar Performance drew post position 14 for the 12f marathon.

“He is going to have to leave there running so he doesn’t get packed wide,” Lynch said of Oscar Performance, who will be ridden by Jose Ortiz.

Outside posts have not been an issue for Oscar Performance. He broke his maiden going 1 1/16m at Saratoga exiting post 10 in a 10-horse field and last year he broke from post 13 going a mile at Santa Anita in the 14-horse Juvenile Turf.

**Sadler’s Joy** – Woodslane Farm’s Sadler’s Joy makes his first Breeders’ Cup appearance in the Turf, but for his connections it’s been there, done that. Nonetheless, it’s still a rush for owner/breeder Lauren Woolcott and trainer Tom Albertrani as each attempts to reach the Breeders’ Cup winner’s circle for the first time.

“It’s really thrilling. We have been on the cusp and it’s all about the trip, as Tom says. The horse just looks fantastic and he’s on his toes, but it’s racing luck on race day. One of the most thrilling things is to be running against this great competition in these Grade 1s, and especially the Breeders’ Cup when you are, arguably, up against the world’s best. What an honor; what a thrill,” said Woolcott, who with husband Rene’ raised the 4yo son of exceptional turf sire Kitten’s Joy out of their Dynaformer mare Dynaire at their farm in The Plains, Va.

The Woolcotts, who switched from the steeplechase world to breeding and racing Thoroughbreds in 2006, are the breeders of Tonalist, who was sold as a yearling, won the Belmont Stakes and finished fifth in the 2015 Classic.

“We breed to race. We usually keep the fillies and sell the colts. Tonalist was our first colt and he was a lesson for us,” she said.

It’s a lesson well learned as Sadler’s Joy is a multiple graded stakes winner and has bankrolled more than \$1 million heading in to the Turf.

“He looks terrific. He looks fantastic and on his toes,” Albertrani said after the horse galloped twice around the course Tuesday morning under Alberto Garcia. “The Europeans seem to be the ones you’ve got to beat, but I have a lot of confidence in my horse. He’s run some big races and he’s got a great closing kick, I think as good as anybody in the race.

“It’s a short stretch run here for a closer and with the tighter turns, I think they need to make a good move and save some ground, and that’s going to be the key with my horse. We just need to get the right placing early and get a good trip and hope everything works out. We want a good clean trip so he can benefit from it.”

This is Albertrani’s first time at Del Mar, but it’s hardly his first Breeders’ Cup.

“I’ve been very fortunate to be here,” said the trainer, whose Breeders’ Cup record is 12-0-3-3. “I brought Twilight Eclipse to the Turf four years in a row (2013-16, seventh, sixth, third, eighth, respectively) and Brilliant Speed was third (2011 Turf). Luckily, I was with Godolphin when Daylami won this race (1999). Del Mar is very nice, and I’ll think it’s even nicer if my horse wins.”

Said Woolcott, “Our maximum number of broodmares, which we have yet to reach, would be 10 because we feel we can handle that with our staff and our farm. For such a small operation as we are, to have two Breeders’ Cup runners is miraculous.”

Should she wish to maximize her broodmare band, Breeders’ Cup winners and champions Lady Eli, Songbird, Tepin and Stellar Wind will be offered in the November sale.

“It’s going to be fiery, to say the least,” she said of the anticipated bidding war on each.

## **MILE**

**Heart to Heart** – Terry Hamilton’s Heart to Heart galloped on the main track at Del Mar after the renovation break with exercise rider Arnoldo Orellana for trainer Brian Lynch.

Listed at 6-1 on the morning line for the Mile, Heart to Heart will break from post position two under Julien Leparoux, who has been aboard for eight of the 6yo’s 13 victories.

“I think this course will suit him better than Keeneland,” Lynch said referring to Heart to Heart’s runner-up finish in the Shadwell Turf Mile. “The turns are a little sharper and I think the speed will carry a little more than it did at Keeneland.”

**World Approval** – Live Oak Plantation’s World Approval, one of seven horses in trainer Mark Casse’s Breeders’ Cup contingent and one of the three owned and bred by Mrs. Charlotte Weber, will break from post five in the Mile full field of 14 to the delight of his connections.

“It’s a perfect draw,” said the nine-time Sovereign Award-winning trainer, who recently became the ninth all-time leading trainer in earnings. “I think his running style, and with his tactical speed, he fits this course perfectly. I know a lot has been said about the one horse from Europe (Ribchester) but this is a new ordeal for him. I think being (from the U.S.) is a bit to our advantage. At least I hope so. This is a much tighter-turn track than they have been on before. Another thing is that speed here is a little different than speed in Europe.”

Casse, who arrived Monday after his horses, who had been training at Keeneland, got off the plane and were tucked into the barn in the afternoon, said that his travels to the sales and elsewhere of late necessitated getting reacquainted with World Approval.

“I hadn’t seen him in a while and I can’t believe how much bigger and stronger he looks. He used to be a little leaner and longer, like a Kenyan runner. Now he’s got some Ben Johnson in him. He looks a little more like a miler type,” he said.

Casse enters the 2017 Breeders’ Cup with a record of 35-3-5-2 and \$4,883,000 bankrolled by his charges. His son and top assistant Norman has been by his side all along, and especially as the team recorded its first wins in 2015 with dual champion Tepin (Mile) and Catch a Glimpse (Juvenile Fillies Turf) and came back last year with Juvenile winner Classic Empire. But this will be their final Breeders’ Cup as a father and son team, as Norman recently announced that he will be soon hanging out his own shingle.

“I think this does change things this time,” Mark Casse said. “Obviously, I’ve known it’s been coming for a while. It took me three times to read the (BloodHorse) article (about Norman’s career move) and get through it. It’s well noted that I’m an emotional kind of guy. I’m sure it’s going to be tough, but he’s not going very far. He’s going to be out there on his own and I’ll be his biggest fan. And I’ll try to beat him. And he’ll try to beat me, I’m sure. Who knows ultimately what’s going to happen? But I’m 100 percent behind him. I’m happy for him.”

Casse said he also is pleased to train the homebred son of dam Win Approval for Mrs. Weber, whose only previous winner in 15 tries was in the 2006 Mile with Miesque’s Approval, a half-brother to World Approval.

“It’s easy to say it’s nice to be here, but it is. I feel very proud to have three horses for Mrs. Weber,” said Casse, who also will saddle her homebreds Awesome Slew in the Dirt Mile and Holding Gold in the Turf Sprint

On Tuesday morning World Approval, along with the rest of the Casse contingent, had a light day after a long day of shipping and jogged a mile on the main track to stretch his legs and look around.

For the rest of the week, World Approval will go out each morning with Juvenile Fillies contender Gio Game at 6 am and exercise riders E.J. Bowler and Orlando Cross will be in the irons. The gray gelding will gallop on Wednesday.

## **FILLY AND MARE TURF**

**Avenge** – This 5yo daughter of War Front just missed scoring a front-running victory in the 2016 Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf before finishing third and is back, in all likelihood, to try and pull it off this year. Of course, she'll have to do it against the two that defeated her last year – Queen's Trust and Lady Eli.

Trainer Richard Mandella makes no excuses for the mare, simply saying, “She gets out of the gate really well and we’ll just see how it all works out.” Mandella doesn’t even expect post position 12 to be much of a drawback. Her speed from the gate probably will negate the outside post.

The fact she has a good history at Del Mar, with two victories in four outings, figures to make her dangerous.

She spent some time in the paddock Tuesday under the watchful eye of Mandella before going to the track for her morning exercise.

Regular rider Flavien Prat will be in the irons for Saturday’s race.

**Zipessa** – Empyrean Stables’ Zipessa galloped before the renovation break under exercise rider Jose Alvarado after arriving from Kentucky the day before.

Trained by Mike Stidham, Zipessa drew post position four the race in which she finished fifth last year at Santa Anita. Joe Bravo, who was aboard for last year’s race, has the call again Saturday.

“I am very happy with that,” Stidham said of the draw.

## **JUVENILE FILLIES TURF**

**Moon Dash** – Speedway Stable’s Moon Dash, a nose away from being undefeated in two starts, galloped early Tuesday morning over the main track, a day after arriving from Kentucky.

Trained by Mike Stidham, Moon Dash is listed at 15-1 on the morning line and will break from post position 14.

“I am obviously disappointed with the post,” Stidham said. “However, I am very lucky to have a very experienced rider.”

Stidham was referring to Mike Smith, who has won a record 25 Breeders’ Cup races and accumulated more than \$34 million in World Championships earnings.

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