

MIND YOUR BISCUITS A TOUGH COOKIE IN THE CLASSIC



Dubai Racing Club | Michael Adolphson

Louisville, Kentucky, USA (November 2, 2018)—Two-time Dubai Golden Shaheen sponsored by Gulf News (G1) winner **Mind Your Biscuits** is primed for his toughest test on Saturday at Churchill Downs. The Dubai racing favourite, thanks to his dramatic back-to-back victories in the world's richest dirt sprint, will be stretching out to the testing distance of 2000m and taking on the likes of Dubai World Cup champion **Thunder Snow** and UAE Derby winner **Mendelssohn** in the US\$6 million Breeders' Cup Classic. Also in the race is **Accelerate**, the top-rated U.S. dirt horse thus far in 2018 and the favourite in the Grade 1 affair, as well as the leading American 3-year-old, **Catholic Boy**.

"He's doing great and we are really confident going into the Breeders' Cup Classic," said trainer and part-owner Chad Summers (see photo). "On the plane ride back from Dubai, we started thinking about the Classic. We even seriously looked at running in the Godolphin Mile (to stretch him out in distance) when we were in Dubai, but we really wanted to beat and have some revenge on **Roy H** and the purse difference made us stay in the Shaheen.

“Having that extra week in Dubai is the only way this plan would have come to fruition,” Summers continued. “I definitely want to say a big thanks to Dubai Racing Club and all those involved for allowing us to make this happen. Last year, we lost so much weight from the trip that running in the Met Mile was off the board. This year, we had the extra week, so we came back and he only lost maybe five pounds, if that.

“Every day he trains stronger and better and loves it here,” Summers concluded. “He’s in the bridle and loves what he’s doing. We’re ready.”

The chestnut son of Posse will break from barrier 11 on Saturday in what will be a full field of 14.

UAE DERBY CHAMP MENDELSSOHN READY TO POUR IT ON



Dubai Racing Club | Penelope Miller

It was not that long ago, in 2000, when the powerful Coolmore partners came to Churchill Downs for the Breeders’ Cup with an ace of a colt ready to claim Breeders’ Cup glory in one of the most elusive of races on the world championships card—the 2000m Breeders’ Cup Classic on dirt. That horse was **Giant’s Causeway** and the famously tough chestnut came within inches of pulling off the deed, if not for equally as gritty foe in Tiznow.

Fast-forward 18 years—plus a series of failed attempts with less surface-appropriate pedigrees—and the conglomerate is back with a bona fide star with dirt-friendly bloodlines (like Giant’s Causeway) worthy of Classic glory. His name is **Mendelsohn** and he is already a Breeders’ Cup winner, having annexed the US\$1 million Juvenile Turf in 2017. Still, it was when the son Scat Daddy and half-brother to three-time Breeders’ Cup winner **Beholder** tried the Dubai dirt in the \$2 million UAE Derby (G2) that we saw the kind of brilliance of which he is capable.

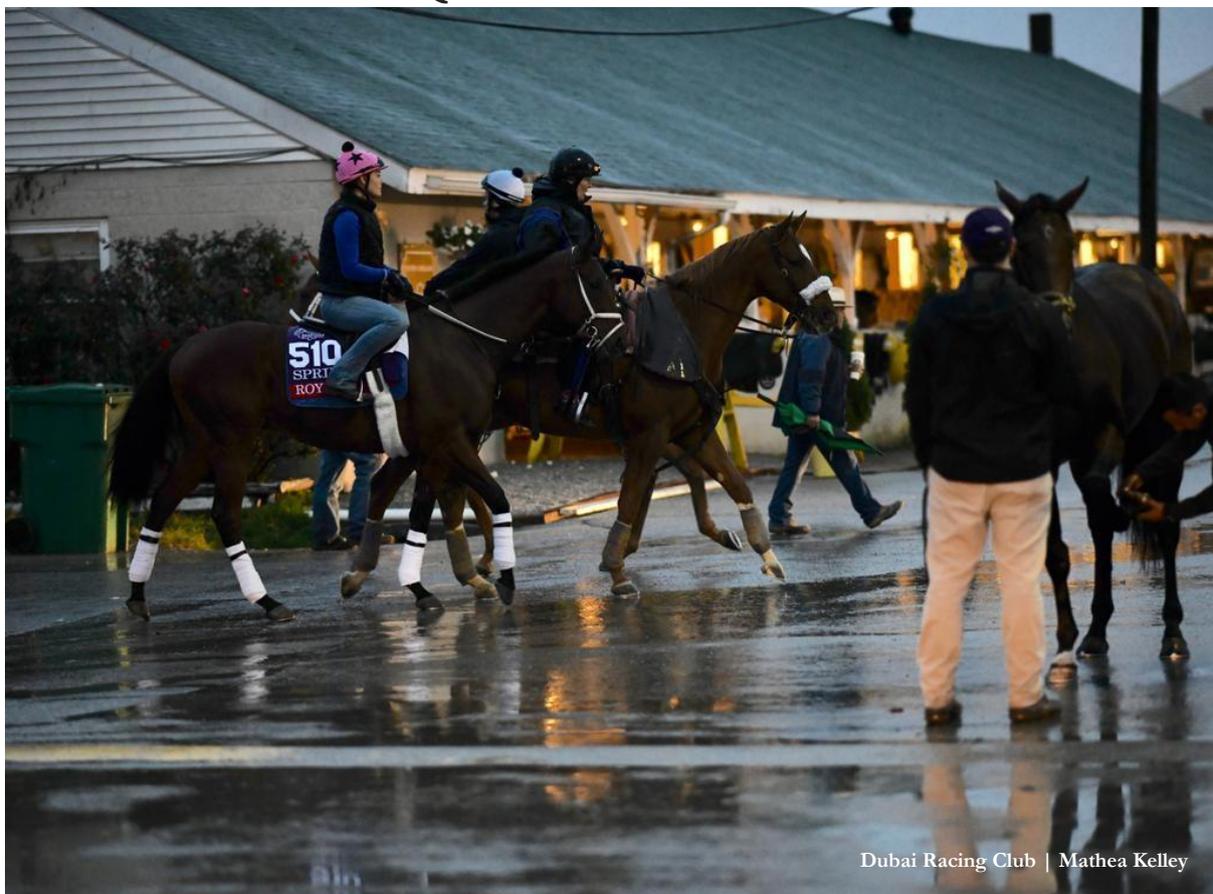
The \$3 million Keeneland purchase has not won since his 18+-length dismantling of his UAE Derby foes, but he has accounted well for himself and is showing every sign of a positive trajectory. Last out, he attended a brutal pace and valiantly still fought on, finishing third in the Jockey Club Gold Cup (G1), a key prep for the Classic and his first attempt against older horses. On Saturday, he faces his most stern test, but one can

assume that trainer Aidan O'Brien will have him primed for a peak effort just seven months after what was his toughest defeat, when eased into last in the Kentucky Derby over this same surface.

The bay colt has arrived in fine fettle and made a gorgeous account of himself in the rain on Thursday morning, doing a lap around the Louisville oval and letting out a couple of his customary screams to greet the many photographers. Multiple Group 1-winning jockey Donnacha O'Brien sat calmly in the saddle. Regular jockey Ryan Moore will ride on Saturday when they break from barrier nine of 14. Ballydoyle has entered an astounding 16 to race at Churchill Downs this weekend.

"I am happy with them all," Aidan O'Brien said. "They have been in the barn for two days, so it was nice to get them out (Thursday morning). Hopefully the rain will stop and the ground will dry out. This track dries out quickly here at Churchill Downs."

MILLER'S DUBAI QUARTET TAKES ON BREEDERS' CUP



Dubai Racing Club | Mathea Kelley

Trainer Peter Miller has once again come to the world stage of horse racing with a salty group of sprinters—they just happen to be the same ones he had last time the best in the world were grouped together on Dubai World Cup night. Lining up in the Grade 1 \$1 million Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint will be the same trio he brought to Dubai for the Group 1 *\$1 million Al Quoz Sprint sponsored by Azizi Developments: **Stormy Liberal**, **Conquest Tsunami** and **Richard's Boy**. In the Grade 1 \$2 million Breeders' Cup Sprint, he brings beaten Group 1 *\$2 million Dubai Golden Shaheen third-place finisher **Roy H**.

"They're all doing very well and have come out of their Dubai trips and raced afterward very well," Miller said. "They all shipped well (from California to Kentucky) and I think it's just a matter of how they'll handle the soft turf. You have to have the right horse and temperament to go to Dubai and back and it just depends on the horse."

Once again, Stormy Liberal, who will be defending his title in the Turf Sprint, appears the key player. The son of Stormy Atlantic was a gaining second in the Al Quoz, just beaten by Godolphin's **Jungle Cat**, who has since gone on to win a Group 1 in Australia.

"Stormy Liberal has done everything right since Dubai and won his last three race," Miller continued. "Everything has gone very smoothly with him and that's key. We would certainly consider going back over to Dubai with him and our other horses. As long as they remain sound and stay in good form, they're staying in training because they're all geldings."

Soft ground will definitely be a factor on Saturday over the 1100m, one-turn course—something more than a few horses in the field may not enjoy.

"I think Richard's Boy and Stormy Liberal may enjoy it the most, but it's one of those things you just don't know until you see it. There was give in the turf at Meydan and they ran well and this should dry out fairly well. I feel ok with all three of them, as far as the race goes. They all get over the ground well."

*The Al Quoz Sprint will hold a purse of \$2 million in 2019. The Dubai Golden Shaheen has been upped to \$2.5 million.

WEST COAST GETS SECOND SHOT AT THUNDER SNOW



Six months ago, much of the racing world was preparing to crown Gary and Mary West's **West Coast** as racing's next superstar dirt horse. Unfortunately for the Bob Baffert trainee, West Coast was not meant to be the conditioner's fourth winner of the Dubai World Cup. The muscular bay colt finished second to Godolphin's **Thunder Snow** after allowing said rival to acquire an easy lead and failing to catch him when the real running started.

Fast-forward seven months and the rematch is on—but this time there are new shooters to tackle and both horses must overcome recent layoffs. Thunder Snow enters with two starts since his popular tour-de-force victory, while West Coast has raced but once, begetting a solid runner-up effort to the top-ranked older

horse in America, **Accelerate**. West Coast will have a new rider in 2005 Dubai World Cup (**Roses in May**) winner John Velazquez.

“West Coast is really coming into this great,” Baffert said. “He looks great and is better than he was last year. I like using guys I’ve clicked with before and Johnny fits him well. I really like the way he ran against Accelerate last out (in the Grade 1 Awesome Again; his first start since the Dubai World Cup) when he gave his heart and just got beat that day.

“One thing about him is that he always shows up at a mile and a quarter; the further the better for him,” Baffert concluded. “He just stays and is a one-pace cruising kind of horse who just gets stronger as the race goes on. I think that freshening really helped him. I expect a big race out of him.”

TALISMANIC DEFENDS LONGINES BREEDERS’ CUP TURF TITLE



Godolphin is represented quite well once again at the Breeders’ Cup, with a quality over quantity approach this year. Aside from flagbearer **Thunder Snow**, who stands a big chance in the Breeders’ Cup Classic, another horse with massive opportunities at success is defending Longines Breeders’ Cup Turf **Talismanic**, who was last seen by Dubai fans when finishing unplaced in the Dubai World Cup sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1).

The son of Medaglia d’Oro has greatly impressed onlookers with his typically professional and calm demeanor all week and he has shipped with fellow Andre Fabre trainee **Waldgeist**—a much less serene animal on the track. Still, Talismanic looks dangerous in what is a highly anticipated renewal of the \$4 million 2400m grass affair. The big favourite is one of the top-rated horses in the world, Juddmonte Farms’ John Gosden-trained **Enable**. Talismanic breaks from barrier one of 13 in a contest that is expected to be over very soft ground.

Godolphin also starts multiple G1 winner **Wild Illusion** as one of the favourites in the Filly & Mare Turf (\$2 million), well-regarded G3 winner **Line of Duty** in the Juvenile Turf (\$1 million) and proven G1 winner **La Pelosa** in the Juvenile Fillies Turf (\$1 million). All three of those are trained by Charlie Appleby, who

has an enviable 2-for-3 record at the Breeders' Cup, including a win last year with Godolphin's **Wuheida** in the Filly & Mare Turf.



QUICK HITS: 2014 UAE Derby winner **Toast of New York** did not make the field for the Classic, so he will be pointed to a consolation prize in the form of the Marathon Stakes (G2) over 1³/₄ miles Friday evening. While its \$200,000 purse is 1/30th that of his intended Classic run, he arguably stands a better chance at success. **Pavel** and **Gunnevera**, fourth and eighth in the Dubai World Cup, continue to train well for the Breeders' Cup Classic, flying under the proverbial radar for the respective connections...2016 Dubai World Cup Carnival alumnus **Vale Dori** continues to train well for the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Distaff, restricted to fillies and mares, prompting trainer Bob Baffert to say: "This is a tough group, but she's got a lot of class and she likes to win. She's won a lot of races."

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