

# DWC Carnival

## UPDATE

RACING AT MEYDAN

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## FRESU, FURIA FRESH & READY FOR CARNIVAL



Dubai Racing Club | Andrew Watkins

**DUBAI (December 6, 2018)**—Locally based jockey Antonio Fresu has kicked off the 2018-19 season in solid form, while showing marked enthusiasm in his third Dubai season and ninth overall (since commencing his career in May 2011). The go-to rider for Erwan Charpy's Green Stables, Fresu has already landed a trio of victories this season—noticeably widening his clientele—and finished in the top four with 22 of his 66 runs heading into Thursday evening's Meydan card. As the year turns, his future appears only to get brighter, as his main employer prepares his top charges for the Dubai World Cup Carnival, including Avaz Ismoilov's multiple Group 1-winning local favourite **Furia Cruzada**.

"It's always difficult with more jockeys around and every stable has his own jockey or second rider, as well, but I have done well and I love working for Erwan," Fresu said. "I'm riding a full book almost every day now and have been riding for many different trainers who have been kind enough to ride me. Like in racing, it's just about finding good luck and good rides and hopefully we find more."

Chilean-bred two-time Dubai World Cup sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) alumnus Furia Cruzada has known no other partner than Fresu in her seven Meydan starts over the past two DWC Carnivals. Those efforts have been highlighted by a victory in the Al Maktoum Challenge R2 (G2) in 2017 and a pair of Group 1 placings.

“Furia is the one I am obviously most excited about,” Fresu continued. “She is coming along very well and I’m seriously looking forward to it. She needed a break after the World Cup. She had come from South America and then went to England (in late 2015), then Dubai (in late 2016), then France (in May 2017), then back to Dubai for last year’s Carnival. Being a filly, she needed a bit of time and honestly she looks better and stronger this year.

“(Group 1-winning Charpy trainee and DWC Carnival invitee) **Logrado** is another one we got not too long ago that I’m hoping to see race soon,” he continued. “He’s a tough horse and one who should be a nice Carnival horse for the Maktoum Challenge or races like that. The South American horses are definitely stronger and tougher and you can feel that with him.”

As Fresu mentioned, Furia Cruzada—a seven-time winner from 34 starts—had a continuous campaign between continents that ended with a respectable seventh in the Dubai World Cup behind **Thunder Snow**. This time around, Charpy changed things up a bit, including a much-needed layoff, as well as tweaking how she does her morning work. Headstrong during said mornings, the 7-year-old mare often does her serious work on the grass—a surface over which she has done some of her best performing—and many of maintenance drills on the dirt paths adjacent to Green Stables.

“I had her stay with me all summer and get lots of rest,” Charpy said. “Last year, she came back to me and did not look too well after having to travel back and forth and racing in France. She was tired, so it took a while to get her back to her best. This year, she is fresh and happy and hopefully it makes her that much better.”

On Thursday morning, Charpy took the daughter of Newfoundland over to Jebel Ali Racecourse to breeze 1000m on its uphill all-weather surface as a change of scenery.

“I like to work her on the turf, but it’s not open yet here, so I took her to Jebel Ali to work,” Charpy continued. “She’s nice and big now and very well. She had a nice stiff five furlongs up the hill. She worked very well; loved it. We are looking to run in The Entisar on (December) 20<sup>th</sup>.”

Fresu will be aboard in said Listed affair—the first course-and-distance step on the road to the 2019 Dubai World Cup. It will mark the earliest Furia Cruzada has commenced her UAE campaign, but Fresu is confident she will enjoy the Dubai winter as much as he does—and it is easy to see why. The 27-year-old native of Ozieri, Sardinia, and winner of the 2017 UAE Oaks (G3) is coming to Dubai in full throttle after a European season that saw him win the Italian 1000 Guineas (G3), among a plethora of victories.

“She looks great and hopefully she can give us some more fun this season,” Fresu concluded. “I feel really good working here and we always have fun. I always am keen to come back because of that.”

## TWO-YEAR-OLDS TO WATCH ON THURSDAY



Two-year-olds are always exciting this time of year, especially as the season heads down the road to the world's richest dirt race for 3-year-olds, the \$2.5 million UAE Derby (G2) on Mar. 30. Sponsored by The Saeed & Mohammed Al Naboodah Group, the 1900m fixture has quite often been won or placed in by horses racing locally. This season, the talent of the juvenile stock appears to be on the rise.

No other 2-year-old declared for Thursday's third race, a 1600m conditions event for 2-year-olds, is more indicative of said sentiment than Phoenix Ladies Syndicate's Ahmad bin Harmash-trained **Walking Thunder** (above), a son of Violence who decimated his rivals at first asking five weeks ago. He stretches out from 1400m and appears squarely the class of the race. Still, it is worth looking at a few well-bred and promising types.

Fawzi Nass-owned and -trained **Lacienegaboulevard**, named after the street that goes through Hollywood, California, sports a star-worthy, precocious pedigree. A son of U.S. 2-year-old champion (2012) Shanghai Bobby, he is the third foal to race out of Lady Pecan, who was Grade 1-placed at two over 1700m for three-time Dubai World Cup-winning trainer Bob Baffert. Both aforementioned siblings are winners. Nass also starts **Bila Shak**, a half-brother to 2013 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1) runner-up Giovanni Boldini who cost \$250,000 at Keeneland's September 2017 sale.

Alqemmah Racing Team's **Lahmoom** made a brilliant appearance in the Parade Ring on debut on Nov. 8, but failed to factor over this same distance when the real running started. Giving the chestnut son of Exchange Rate the benefit of the doubt is worthwhile, considering how trainer Sandeep Jadhav's yard has been heating up and the fact that his dam, Saint Ballado mare Mykindasaint, won two stakes races as a 2-year-old. Similarly, Byerley Team's Helal Al Alawi-trained **Private Ryan**, a cleverly named son of Declaration of War, required saving in his debut in order to factor on Nov. 22, but deserves a second look after a bit of experience. Though his sire's offspring lean toward grass, his dam, Grace Anatomy, was Grade 1-placed on dirt at two in America for trainer Doug O'Neill.

# HEAVY METAL PREPARING FOR ENCORE

Dubai Racing Club | Andrew Watkins



Always a thrill to watch, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum's **Heavy Metal** has one way of running: faster than everyone else, from beginning to end. The son of Exceed and Excel did his father's name proud during the 2017-18 Meydan season, racing six times and winning four, including the Group 2 Godolphin Mile sponsored by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum City – District One (on Dubai World Cup night).

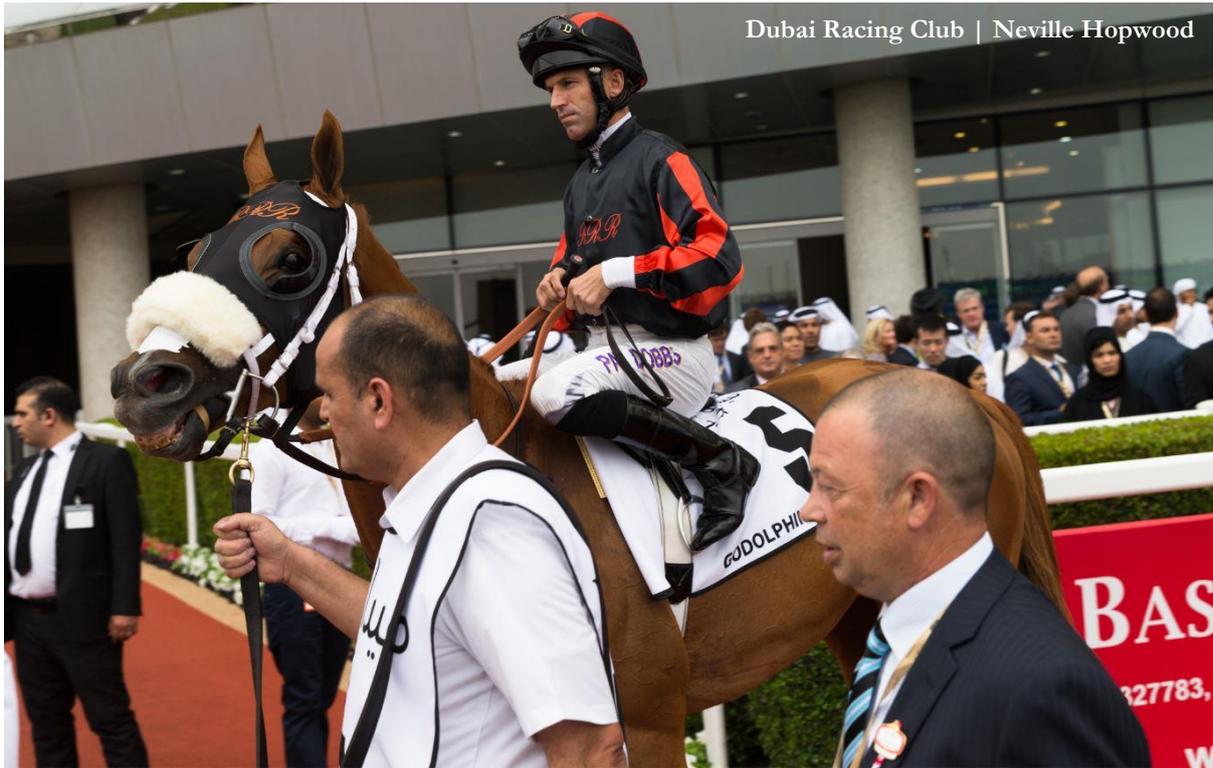
In addition to that gate-to-wire win, the bay gelding won the Firebreak (G3), Al Maktoum Challenge R1 (G2) and Dubai Creek Mile (Listed)—all at 1600m in similar fashion. A 15-time winner from 59 starts, the British-bred Sandeep Jadhav trainee is likely to kick off his season with a defence of his Al Maktoum Challenge R1—a race in which he defeated subsequent Dubai World Cup winner **Thunder Snow** last season.

“He’s in good form and doing really good as a whole,” Jadhav said. “He’s galloping well and in good shape, so that is great to see. We have breezed him four times so far, but he never actually shows a lot of speed at home. In the race, it is totally different.

“He’ll go after the first round of the Maktoum Challenge, hopefully,” he continued. “That might change, you never know, but we’ll go for that first.”

The only blemishes on last season were a tired fourth in the Burj Nahaar (G3) on Super Saturday behind well-regarded Doug Watson trainee **Kimbear** and a third to Thunder Snow when stretching beyond his scope in the 1900m Al Maktoum Challenge Round 2 (G2). He has raced 21 times at Meydan and has eight victories since his local bow on February 28, 2015. His long and storied career commenced in mid-2012, highlighted by a win in the Richmond Stakes (G2) for then-trainer Mark Johnston.

Heavy Metal could be on a collision course with Godolphin Mile runner-up **Muntazah**, who returns on Sunday at Abu Dhabi in the National Day Cup (Listed) over a turf mile. Owned by Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the well-regarded son of Dubawi has been impressing trainer Watson, who said that coming back in the same Al Maktoum Challenge R1 is a possibility for the multi-surface specialist.



**QUICK HITS:** Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi's **Second Summer** (above), winner of the 2017 Godolphin Mile for then-trainer Doug Watson, continues his preparation for the 2019 Dubai World Cup Carnival locally. The Ali Rashid Al Rayhi trainee will likely start in either the 1600m Dubai Creek Mile or 2000m The Entisar (both Listed) on Dec. 20... Group 1 winner **Special Fighter** continues to prepare for another Dubai season. About to turn eight, the Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed Al Maktoum runner was last seen running ninth in the 2018 Godolphin Mile... One of the more intriguing horses seen galloping in the mornings is new Mike de Kock acquisition **Fire Away**, a former trainee of Shug McGaughey and breeder Phipps Stable. Of regal blood, the son of War Front was purchased by Form Bloodstock for \$450,000 at Fasig-Tipton's Summer Selected Horses of Racing Age Sale in Kentucky and owns seven wins from 23 starts, including this year's Dixie (G3) on Preakness Stakes Day at Pimlico.

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