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LEXINGTON YEARLING SALE

Lexington Selected Yearling Sale up 18% as Mission Brief brother brings \$800,000

By Derick Givner

The fireworks started early at Tuesday's opening session of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale at the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavilion in Lexington, Kentucky. HIP #1 Come See The Show brought a whopping \$550,000, and the momentum continued throughout the night, hitting a crescendo when HIP #70 Tactical Landing sold for a near record \$800,000.

Buoyed by the top pair, the sale was up an impressive 18% year over year.

The bidding was fast and furious on Come See The Show, with a \$200,000 opener from eventual winning bidder Richard Young, who owned two-thirds of the filly prior to the sale.

"I was bidding on one-third dollars, and yet there were two others in this room going against me," said Young, who will give the Pennsylvania-sired pacing filly by Somebeachsomewhere to Linda Toscano to train. "I was done at \$550,000. She went for about \$100,000 more than I wanted to spend."

For Young, it was his only purchase of the night, which has become something of a tradition.

"I've gone one and done seven times at this sale," he said.

Come See The Show is the second foal out of \$2,406,628 earner Put On A Show.

The buzz all night long surrounded Tactical Landing. Even those who were clear that they wouldn't be in on the bidding felt that the full brother to world champion Mission Brief would stand above the rest when the session came to a conclusion.

Ultimately, Ernie Martinez signed the ticket for \$800,000 for a group of owners that he said



DERICK GIVNER

Ernie Martinez was grinning from ear to ear after signing the \$800,000 ticket for Tactical Landing.

included Howard Taylor and many others. The final price tag was the second highest in history for a Standardbred yearling behind Detour Hanover, who went for \$825,000 in 2011.

"We've put together a great group of people and we're really excited," said a visibly-excited Martinez.

"I was hoping to get him for that (\$800,000), but we probably would have gone a little more," he continued. "These kind of horses don't come around every year. I saw him last

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YEARLING SALES PREVIEW

Examining the major first-crop sires

By Bob Marks

With the yearling season just around the corner, interest traditionally focuses on those offerings by the first crop stallions, which in many ways is a voyage to the unknown given the uncertainty as to where these stallions may ultimately rank on the sireing hierarchy.

With established stallions, prospective purchasers pretty much know what to expect, especially on the top end. With the first-crop sires it can be a crapshoot until such time as their ability to pass on championship qualities has been established. With that in mind, most prospective purchasers will look to see how sibling paternal half-brothers may have performed in order to at least have a barometer of what to expect.

The major first crop stallions this year are A Rocknroll Dance, Pet Rock, Betterthanched-



A Rocknroll Dance, who won the 2012 Meadowlands Pace, will see his first crop hit the sales in 2016.

Dance leads the pack with 69 foals expected to head to the races next year, many of which

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Seven horses sold for at least \$300,000 on Tuesday night

year as a weanling, loved him then, knew he should have been bought then, but they wanted to sell him as a yearling. We were just fortunate that we had enough bullets to get it done.

“The horse is the complete package. He’s very mature and very confident in the way he moves.”

Tactical Landing will be trained by Bob Stewart and hopefully embark on a career to rival that of his freaky-fast \$1.59 million-winning sister Mission Brief.

“It is the beginning of a long journey, but every journey begins with one step, so here is step one,” said Martinez.

Ron Burke, trainer of Mission Brief, was in on the bidding until the end.

“We were in it up to \$750,000,” said Burke. “I’m really happy for the connections to get so much for him.”

Finishing third on the sale-topper list was Pro Beach, a full brother to the talented 3-year-old pacing filly Darlinonthebeach. The colt by Somebeachsomewhere out of Darlin’s Delight went for \$475,000 to a group led by Jimmy Takter.

“He was definitely the best-looking colt, I thought, in the sale,” said Takter, who mentioned \$500,000 as his top price for the colt.

“It is not just her,” said Takter, referring to Darlinonthebeach as one of the reasons he bought the yearling. “It is the bottom of the family. It is one of the better pacing families in the sport.”

Bud Hatfield, Brixton AB and Marvin Katz are to be his partners on the venture.

Following a strong opening night in 2015 when 98 yearlings went through the ring for an average of \$109,531, most were hoping the sale would stay flat or gain slightly. Though only 87 were sold, the average was \$129,333 and the gross of \$11,252,000 exceeded the 2015 total.

“I was surprised that we were up that much,” said Randy Manges, co-sales manager. “We had a couple of really high-priced horses tonight, and that made a difference. The colt that brought \$800,000; that was the highest we’ve ever sold.

“He brought more than I expected,” continued Manges. “I’m always optimistic, but we can’t be that optimistic. That was a big surprise. I’m very happy for the consignors. Hunterton Farms and the connections are very good consignors.”

In total, seven yearlings sold for at least \$300,000. Two, including Tactical Landing, were by Muscle Hill. Three were sired by Somebeachsomewhere.

The Lexington Sale continues on Wednesday night and concludes on Saturday. While the brothers and sisters of champions usually sell on opening night, Manges is hoping the good fortune carries through the next four nights.

“There are a lot of very nice horses selling tomorrow night and throughout the sale,” said Manges.



GWINNER PHOTOS

Tactical Landing (above) went for \$800,000 on Tuesday night while Pro Beach was a \$475,000 purchase by Jimmy Takter.



Top picks for 2nd & 3rd sessions at Lexington

While opening night at the Lexington Selected Sale at the Fasig-Tipton Pavilion had all of the essentials of a true opener in that the headline pedigrees and individuals were assembled, by days two and three, the action slows down some. That said, there are still many worthy candidates and those that didn't get what they needed the day before are still shopping.

Let's examine some numbers that I and undoubtedly others would be inspecting.

HIP #97 – MSMILLIONHEIRESS

Just three yearlings into the second session and here is another example of the Cantab Hall-Enjoy Lavec cross responsible for Father Patrick. This full sister to Uncle Peter will get looked at by all the trotting buffs and if she looks the part she'll sell well.

HIP #130 – POSIEDON

Here is a Cantab Hall colt and the first foal of the best daughter of the brilliant Syrinx Hanover. It's known that often daughters of great mares out-produce their mothers in the breeding shed, thus he will get looked at. How he'll sell will depend upon looks, but the wise buyers will inspect every Cantab Hall in the sale.

HIP #151 – WESTERN DEO

He is by the great Western Ideal and the first foal of a Lis Mara daughter of Wordly Beauty. The dam's sister, World Of Her Own, has done okay thus far and this young man will get looked at for sure. I'd imagine he'll be one of the more attractive Western Ideal prospects available this year.

HIP #167 – OVER THE HILL

You ignore any Muscle Hill prospect at your own risk as he's been a siring revelation thus far. This colt is from a Cantab Hall daughter of the great Moni Maker and it stands to reason one of those Moni Maker daughters will throw lightning. I can't guarantee what he'll bring, but he'll be out of the stall and on the viewing track more often than not.

HIP #264 – BENNETT'S SURPRISE

I've love when a consistent producer of solid raceway types finally gets chance with a solid Grand Circuit stallion, in this case the Blue Chip Farms stud Roll With Joe. Seems I've seen the Cole Muffler brother Iam Bonasera in programs and races all over the place and I'd venture over to the Preferred Marketing consignment to get a look-see at this yearling sister.

HIP #275 – NIGHT RHYTHM

It's the first Muscle Hill from what not too

long ago was a highly productive family. The dam is a daughter of Day For Night, the best daughter of Victorious Tail, and I know I'd be curious to see what this Muscle Hill colt looks like. What he will bring price-wise is a mystery, but I imagine he'll have plenty of inspection traffic, especially if the first day Muscle Hills sell through the proverbial roof and not everybody who wanted one was successful in obtaining one.

HIP #302 – FLATLINER AM

I'm a little prejudiced here having bred and managed the career of dam Art Sale, but I would probably overlook this one were it not by a first-crop sire. So often a vigorous young stallion can wake up a productive but aging broodmare, thus I'll be taking a look at this A Rocknroll dance sister to Rocklamation. So, too, I'd imagine will the Ron Burke brigade.

HIP #310 – LINE DANCER

Second dam Burning Point was a monster, thus daughter Burning Beaches has a license to be a broodmare and there will be those Art Major enthusiasts who will trek up to Peninsula Farm for a peek. It is kind of refreshing to see the absence of repeat names within the first three pedigree generations.

HIP #358 – BACK IN LA

Conceivably a first day pedigree being a first Cantab Hall from a Kadabra daughter of an old line power family and brother to a Muscle Massive stakes colt named Hollywood Highway. The positioning kind of suggests what you're likely to see, but if you race in Pennsylvania you'd better take a look. I know I would.

HIP #375 – ZHAMBO BI

A Donato Hanover colt from a daughter of the brilliant No Nonsense Woman and for that reason alone, I'd be heading to Hunterton for a quick perusal. Remember too, by this time much of the money has been spent, another reason why the media often scratches their collective heads when well bred colts like this turn out to be bargains down the road. He has a successful sister by the not so successful Equinox Bi, another reason to take a good look.

HIP #386 – WARRAWEE TRUCE

She is a Donato Hanover filly from a daughter of Peaceful Way. The first foal by Chapter Seven hasn't done anything but I remember one from that maternal tribe who was kind of a late bloomer. It's a Donato filly and I'm taking a look.

HIP #387 – SCORPIUS DE VIE

Not too long ago some very sharp people forked up over \$400,000 for this guy's full brother Prince De Vie. For that reason alone, I'll pull him out of the stall for a quick once over.

Relatives by Cantab Hall make top 10 appearances

By Greg Reinhart

While Muscle Hill had the sale topper, Pennsylvania-based sire Cantab Hall did quite well for himself on the first night of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale, with yearlings from the same family placing in the top ten.

Gallant Man, HIP 65, fetched \$350,000 from agent Myron Bell. Gallant Man, a colt who was part of the Kentuckiana Farms consignment, is the second foal out of unraced Muscles Yankee mare Forever Graceful, a full sister to Hambletonian champion Muscle Massive, a half-sister to Merrie Annabelle winner Thats-notmyname, and the stakes-winning colt Muscle Mass. Forever Graceful's first offspring, Live For Greatness, was the co-sale topper last year in Lexington, bringing \$350,000. Also by Cantab Hall, he has won twice in Stallion Series competition this year with a mark of 1:57 4/5 taken at Pocono.



GIWINNER PHOTO

Stephanie Bell signs the ticket for Gallant Man.

After two other yearlings went through the ring, HIP 68 Redeeming Grace went under the hammer, and she would bring \$285,000 from AM Bloodstock. Redeeming Grace is the ninth foal out of the Pine Chip mare Graceful Touch, making her a half-sister to the dam of Gallant Man and to Muscle Massive and the other horses listed above. Redeeming Grace was consigned by Hunterton Sales Agency, Inc.

Another notable Cantab Hall yearling to be sold was HIP 83 Brothers N Arms, a full brother to Father Patrick and Pastor Stephen. He's out of Gala Dream, an Enjoy Lavec half-sister to Chocolatier and Sugar Trader. Brothers N Arms, from the Brittany Farms consignment, was purchased by Courant AB and SRF Stable for \$230,000.

Henderson, Cherry hope for success with pacing purchases

By Greg Reinhart

Craig Henderson and Eric Cherry (Let It Ride Stables) took home some of the highest-priced pacers that sold during Tuesday night's opening session of the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale.

Henderson shelled out \$300,000 to take HIP 47 I'm A Big Deal (Somebeachsomewhere-Big McDeal-McArdle) from the Cameo Hills Farm consignment. I'm A Big Deal is the first foal out of the dam, a world champion who earned over \$818,000 and had a mark of 1:49 1/5 at The Meadows.

"I thought he was the best colt in the sale and I was fortunate enough to sell one-third of #1 (Come See The Show) that went for \$550,000, so I spent a bit of the money I made on that sale," said Henderson. "I probably went about \$30,000 higher than I wanted to, and I probably wouldn't have done it if not for the sale earlier. I really thought he was the best colt in the sale, and I like buying high quality and taking my chances."

Henderson and Ron Michelin, with Erv Miller acting as agent, also grabbed HIP 84 Butchie Beach, a filly by Somebeachsome-

where and out of the McArdle mare McGibson. Butchie Beach, who was consigned by Northwood Bloodstock Agency Inc. is a half-sister to the Dan Patch Award winner Boston Red Rocks (Rocknroll Hanover, \$863,785).

Cherry went to \$200,000 to grab HIP 30 Dance On The Beach (Somebeachsomewhere-Weapons Against-Western Terror), who was consigned by Vieux Carre Farms. Weapons Against is a half-sister to A Rocknroll Dance (Rocknroll Hanover, \$2,429,441), and this is her first foal.

"It all depends on what the prices are," said Cherry on his number of purchases, which totaled three. "This year I was really looking to buy three or four. I'm really going more the homebred route. I'm focusing on the pacing side with Somebeachsomewhere like everyone and on the trotting side of Muscle Hill.

"It's hard enough with yearlings when the top two percent get half the winners of the broodmares and the other 98 percent get half the winners. I try to focus on the maternal families I like with the proper combination of pedigree and conformation."

Ross Croghan will train and Jeff Webster will break Dance On The Beach.



GIWNER PHOTO

Owner Craig Henderson was happy with his purchase of I'm A Big Deal.

LEXINGTON TOP 12 FROM OPENING NIGHT

<u>YEARLING NAME</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>SIRE</u>	<u>DAM</u>	<u>SIRE OF DAM</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Tactical Landing	C	Muscle Hill	Southwind Serena	Varenne	800,000
Come See The Show	F	Somebeachsomewhere	Put On A Show	Rocknroll Hanover	550,000
Pro Beach	C	Somebeachsomewhere	Darlin's Delight	Bettor's Delight	450,000
Gallant Man	C	Cantab Hall	Forever Graceful	Muscles Yankee	350,000
Ciao Dolce	F	Credit Winner	Pizza Dolce	Conway Hall	300,000
I'm A Big Deal	C	Somebeachsomewhere	Big McDeal	McArdle	300,000
Tasmania	C	Muscle Hill	Spectacular Bay	Andover Hall	300,000
Redeeming Grace	F	Cantab Hall	Graceful Touch	Pine Chip	285,000
Check Her Out	F	Credit Winner	Check Me Out	Donato Hanover	260,000
Captain's Wench	F	Somebeachsomewhere	Worldly Treasure	Artsplace	230,000
Brolic	C	Somebeachsomewhere	Yellow Diamond	Western Terror	230,000
Brothers N Arms	C	Cantab Hall	Gala Dream	Enjoy Lavec	230,000