

The Racing Biz

FASIG-TIPTON MIXED SALE GUIDE

Hips of note in Monday's sale

Mixed sale is... A Tale of Two Dispersals

Call it a tale of two dispersals.

Maryland breeder Brice Ridgely achieved perhaps his greatest racing fame as the result of a single horse of national repute: Eclipse champion juvenile Declan's Moon.

William Harris, who lived in Virginia but whose horses were Maryland-breds, on the other hand, gained renown largely as the result of a steady stream of good horses from one female family: that of the graded stakes placed Amanti and her daughter Thirty Eight Steps.

Ridgely passed away this past August, while Harris died in November 2013. Both men's racing and breeding stock will be sold on Monday, at the Fasig-Tipton Mixed Sale in Timonium – one last gift for the region's Thoroughbred industry.

"You've got a couple of dispersals," said Bob Manfuso, whose Chanceland Farm is selling several mares. "It's an interesting group of horses from that perspective."

Indeed.

Becky Davis, who is consigning the Harris dispersal, says that she has begun to see rising interest among Maryland breeders, a result, she believes, of the slot revenue boosting purses and breeder awards.

"I've had a lot of interest," she said. "A lot of clients looking to buy a broodmare."

Harris enjoyed his greatest success with a quartet of runners – graded winner Sweet Goodbye and stakes winners Five Steps, Deer Run, and Norstep – out of the same dam, Thirty Eight Steps, by Thirty Eight Paces.

Sale facts and figs

HORSES BY BRED STATE

1. Maryland - 83
2. Pennsylvania - 34
3. West Virginia - 8
4. Virginia - 2
5. New Jersey - 1

All others - 69

That family will be amply represented during Monday's sale.

Ramanti (Hip 71), a 12-year-old mare by Yarrow Brae, is a half-sister to Thirty Eight Steps and has produced one winner from one starter. "She's really nice," said Davis. "I'm hoping she'll be a strong one."

The dispersal includes Breezy Bray (Hip 14) – a daughter of Thirty Eight Steps and a full-sister to stakes winner Five Steps – who has produced three winners to date. Breezy Bray's weanling son, Hip 104, is also slated to go through the ring. He's by Greeley's Conquest, and Davis called him "a good-looking colt."

Ridgely's greatest equine feat – breeding his modestly accomplished mare, Vee Vee Star, to then-unknown Maryland stallion Malibu Moon, the mating which produced Declan's Moon – will also be on many minds on Monday.

Take Vee Vee Star. The now-18-year-old mare, who has produced three other winners, will go through the ring as Hip 62. She's not pregnant, and though she's getting up in years, the opportunity to buy a Grade 1 producer doesn't come along every day.

Looking for something younger?

Then you could take a gander at Hip 20, the four-year-old Delaneys Star. She's a winner in her own right and a half-sister, by Latent Heat, to Declan's Moon. "She's pretty, correct, and a winner," said Bill Reightler, who is consigning the Ridgely dispersal. "She should be a bright spot."

And if even that seems too old? There's always Hip 180, a weanling filly by exciting young sire Friesan Fire, who is... you guessed it... out of Vee Vee Star, and therefore a half to Declan's Moon. Reightler calls her "a quality individual."

Overall, Davis has 19 horses from the Harris dispersal, while Reightler has eight from Ridgely's.

"I'm honestly hoping that having two dispersals will draw a lot of people's attention," said Davis. "There's good quality in there that won't have reserves that maybe they can get a bargain on."

Reightler agreed. "Horsemen are opportunists, so if they think there's an opportunity there, they'll come to the sale," he said.

Sale facts and figs

HORSES SOLD AS...

1. Weanling - 88
2. Broodmare - 78
3. Racing/Broodmare prospect - 11
4. Yearling - 8
5. Horse of racing age - 8
6. Broodmare prospect - 4

Keen (?) Observations

- **Small is beautiful?** The number of hips catalogued has declined from 210 in 2013 to 197 this year; that's a drop of nearly 11 percent.

At the mixed sale, it's in with the new!

If you squint your eyes in just the right way, you might – might – be able to see the future of mid-Atlantic racing through the prism of Monday's Fasig-Tipton Mixed Sale.

New sires are set to play a prominent role, as are as-yet-unproven, but promising, dams.

More than 30 of the numbered hips are related to three popular new Maryland sires: Freedom Child (who covered 12 of the mares for sale); Friesan Fire, who covered four and sired 10 youngsters on offer; and Street Magician, who sired five weanlings.

Keen (?) Observations

- **Maryland, my Maryland.** The number of horses offered at the sale that were bred in Maryland has risen, from 64 a year ago to 83 this year. One reason: slot machines have fueled rising purses and breeder bonuses in the Free State, and optimism has broken out. Maryland-breds account for over 42 percent of the hips in the book this year, up from about 30 percent a year ago.
- **My old Midlantic home.** Fueled by that rise in Maryland-breds, the number of horses bred in that state, plus Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and West Virginia has risen from 122 to 128. Midlantic-breds now account for about 65 percent of the hips on offer, up from 58 percent last year.

Street Magician is the only one of the three to have had runners to date, and he's already turning heads. He's had five winners to date, and with Rockin Jojo's win in the Blue Mountain Juvenile Fillies on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, two of them are stakes winners.

Edwin Merryman, of Anchor and Hope Farm, has one of the Street Magician weanlings, a colt out of the winning Exchange Rate mare Snovember, who is from the family of Grade 1 winner Swap Fliparoo. "She's a beautiful filly," says Merryman. "An outstanding weanling."

Consignor Becky Davis has three of the five Street Magicians on offer, and one of those, Hip 128, has her excited. Out of the winning Lion Hearted mare Go Lion Go, she's a half-sister to a winner and the latest of a solid family.

Davis and consignor Bill Reightler are selling a number of Friesan Fire weanlings. Davis says that Hip 118, out of the stakes-producing Storm Cat mare Dyna Two, "will turn some heads."

And Reightler adds that Hip 180, out of Vee Vee Star, the dam of Declan's Moon, and part of the Brice Ridgely dispersal, is a "quality individual."

Reightler is also consigning 11 of the 12 mares that are in foal to Freedom Child. He's excited about several of them – notably, Hips 19, 28, 32, and 85 – and is quick to point out something

the astute buyer will note. Freedom Child, who stands at Country Life Farm, is owned by Spendthrift, which is backing the new stallion by sending its own mares to him. Among them is Hip 19, Danzing Celtic, a stakes-producing Danzig mare with plenty of black-type behind her.

It's not just about new sires, of course.

There are also some intriguing mares on offer, though perhaps fewer than in previous years.

"People are hanging on to their nicer mares a little," said Chanceland Farm's Bob Manfuso. "They're starting to realize that you have to have product."

Manfuso himself picked up a couple of new mares at Keeneland this fall, and he's making room by selling a couple in Timonium.

Among those are Jolie Visage (Hip 35), a stakes-placed Broken Vow mare who's in foal to Girolamo. She has not yet had a runner to start. Maria's Court (Hip 54) is another interesting offering from the Chanceland group, a half-sister to Maria's Mon who's in foal to Smarty Jones. And then there's Sweet Elixir, who's a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Borrego, who's not pregnant; she's Hip 83.

There are even a couple of horses of racing age that are worth a look. Both Hip 192 -- Absolute Twist -- and Hip 198 -- Slaminator -- are nicely bred, unraced two-year-olds. The former is a Lemon Drop Kid colt and the latter, a gelding by Grand Slam, has a couple of works under his belt.

For Manfuso, the key is sending the right horses to the sale.

"I really try to lean towards this market and try to support this market," he said. "I believe the \$50-\$100,000 product will sell as well here as at Keeneland."

Fasig-Tipton's Paget Bennett agreed with that. "It's been proven over and over that you can bring a good horse to Timonium and be successful," she said.

Hips to Watch

Broodmares

Hip Notes

- ✓ 5 Afleet Alex mare in foal to Old Fashioned
- ✓ 8 1/2 to millionaire Silmaril
- ✓ 12 Stakes-placed runner
- ✓ 22 Stake winner in foal to Sky Mesa
- ✓ 33 1/2 to G2 winner
- ✓ 37 1/2 to 2 stakes producers
- ✓ 49 Excellent female family
- ✓ 54 1/2 to Maria's Mon, in foal to Smarty Jones
- ✓ 55 stake winner
- ✓ 57 very good female family
- ✓ 61 1/2 to stake producer, in foal to Defrere
- ✓ 63 stake producer in foal to Majestic Warrior
- ✓ 71 Part of Harris dispersal
- ✓ 79 good female family, in foal to Despite the Odds
- ✓ 83 1/2 to G1 Borrego and to stake producer

Everybody else

(weanlings thru 165, yearlings thru 188, horses of racing age)

Hip Notes

- ✓ 92 1/2 to 2 stake horses
 - ✓ 104 good female family
 - ✓ 105 1/2 to Alma D'Oro
 - ✓ 108 very productive dam
 - ✓ 113 good regional family
 - ✓ 118 7 sibs winners, 2 stake horses
 - ✓ 134 1/2 to 2 winners, good family
 - ✓ 140 1/2 to 5 winners, stake winner
 - ✓ 141 1/2 to 6 winners, 2 stake winners
 - ✓ 151 1/2 to stakes winner
 - ✓ 165 good family
 - ✓ 182 1/2 to 8 winners, 2 stakes horses
 - ✓ 188 good family
 - ✓ 192 unraced Lemon Drop Kid colt
 - ✓ unraced Grand Slam gelding
- www.TheRacingBiz.com

Reightler consignment highlights

Bill Reightler is consigning nearly 40 percent of the horses in Monday's sale. Here are some highlights:

Hip Notes

- ✓ 3 -- Zubani, Proud Citizen mare earned more than \$360,000, in foal to Corinthian
- ✓ 17 -- Chance Dance, stakes-winning mare has produced four winners, in foal to Bellamy Road
- ✓ 19 -- Danzing Celtic, stakes-producing Danzig mare in foal to Freedom Child
- ✓ 20 -- Delaneys Star (at right), winning Latent Heat mare, half-sister to champ Declan's Moon, in foal to Majestic Warrior
- ✓ 28 -- Final Humor, Distorted Humor mare has produced two stake horses, in foal to Freedom Child
- ✓ 32 -- Gold Stones, stakes-winning Quarry mare in foal to Freedom Child
- ✓ 43 -- Lady of Summer, stakes-placed El Corredor mare in foal to Hunters Bay
- ✓ 85 -- Tamberino, stakes-winning Freud mare in foal to Freedom Child
- ✓ 96 -- Last Gift, Orientate weanling a half to three winners
- ✓ 114 -- Weanling filly by Dialed In out of a Dixie Union mare comes from solid female family
- ✓ 147 -- Weanling Afleet Alex filly is half to three winners and latest from a good family
- ✓ 148 -- Weanling colt by First Defence out of Paying Off is half to multi-stakes winner Joint Custody
- ✓ 161 -- Fort McHenry, weanling colt by Outflanker is half to seven winners, one a stake winner
- ✓ 163 -- Weanling colt by Mission Impazibile out of stakes-winning Carson City mare
- ✓ 180 -- Weanling Friesan Fire filly is a half to champion Declan's Moon
- ✓ 185 -- Spring Meadow Jump, yearling Jump Start gelding has strong family behind him
- ✓ 189 -- Rita's Jewel, yearling Freud filly has six winning sibs, one a stake winner
- ✓ 190 -- Hero's Pryde, yearling Dublin colt is half to three winners



Keen (?) Observations

- **I wanna race...** The number of horses aimed at the racetrack-- as opposed to the breeding shed -- has risen from about 47 percent of all hips to nearly 53 percent. Overall, the sale includes 104 weanlings, yearlings, and horses of racing age (a catchall for horses two-years-old and up that are not potential broodmare prospects), versus just 82 broodmares and broodmare prospects; another 11 are listed as racing/broodmare prospects. Some observers think that suggests a larger shift in the marketplace, as breeders, particularly Maryland breeders, aim to boost, rather than cull, their broodmare bands. The number of broodmares on offer has fallen from 92 to 78.
- **But not just yet...** Don't hold your breath waiting for these prospects to appear at a track near you, however. Most -- 88 of them -- are weanlings; that number is up from 77 a year ago.
- **Girl Power:** Given the sale's general focus on breeding stock, it's perhaps no surprise that the preponderance of hips on offer are female. Of the 197, 134 are mares or fillies (75 and 59, respectively), while there are 63 males (57 colts and six geldings).
- **And just for fun...** There are nine gray/ gray or roan horses in the sale. If you follow that sort of thing.