

Nobody wins a Triple Crown cat fight

Just when you thought horse racing couldn't get more dysfunctional, the so called "brains" at Churchill Downs Inc, Maryland Jockey Club and the New York Racing Association yell "hold my beer!"

The recent announcement of the new six race championship series by CDI and NYRA cuts the MJC (Preakness) out of the club and offers more evidence that apparently greed is good. Corporate raider Gordon Gekko would fit right in. Greed has always been the elixir that has caused the sport to eat itself—over and over again. It gets even uglier. The NYRA-CDI press release was rushed as to circumvent the MJC's announcement that they were moving the Preakness to three weeks after the



CHUCK HARPER

Derby instead of the customary two. This has been the root cause of the issue to begin with.

This is exactly what is wrong with horse racing. Rather than working together for the greater good of the sport, the heavy hitters are more interested in protecting their own turf — pun intended. Earlier in the year, when it was announced that CDI would purchase the intellectual property

rights to the Preakness for \$85 million, it was generally thought that it would work to make the Preakness relevant again. That might have been the case until MJC announced that they would match the \$85 million to retain the rights to the Preakness at newly renovated Pimlico. This investment has cost a whopping

\$500 million to date, about \$100 million over budget. Protecting their investment and keeping it out of the hands of racing behemoth CDI has proven to be very expensive.

This is where things get a little fuzzy for me. I wonder how soon after the MJC announced they would match the CDI offer did the agreement between CDI and NYRA come to be. Or was it even after the fact? All I know is that the Racing Championship Series announcement was rushed to the media so as to beat MJC's announcement that they extended the Preakness by one week. Once again leaving the folks at MJC at the starting gate ala Baeza in the Whitney. More to come on that. Was this a coincidence? I think not. This plot would have given Gordon Gekko goose-bumps.

So, the ball is back in

your court Pimlico. Something tells me that the proud folks in Maryland are not going to just lay down for this. How best could they stick it back to the CDI- NYRA boys than to go full nuclear and announce that after further review, they have decided to move the Preakness to Sunday July 4, 2027, making it the third leg of the triple crown.

Yes, it does seem a little childish and it is. Another appropriate line from the movie Wall Street comes to mind when Gordon Gekko proclaims that "bulls make money, bears make money, pigs get slaughtered!" On the battlefield of money, profit and corporate power, the line gets blurred as to just who the good guys and bad guys are. Let's hope that cooler heads prevail and the three entities come together for the long-term betterment of the sport. That could still happen but

right now this is a cat fight that no one can win.

SOVEREIGNTY BACK ON TOP IN THE WHITNEY

Saturday at Saratoga, the 2025 Horse of the Year Sovereignty finally showed them why. After two very lackluster races to begin his four-year-old campaign, he put it all together and chased down fantastic filly Nitrogen to win the \$1 million Whitney Stakes going away by four widening lengths. The other Bill Mott trained horse Baeza once again walked out of the gate and finished a dull fourth. The complexion of the race was set from the break when it was clear that Nitrogen was going to the front at all costs. The race favorite Magnitude, whose best races have come on the front end, could not get the lead and slowly retreated to finish a surprising 6th. The other surprise was the sev-

enth-place finish of White Abarrio. Is retirement looming for this warhorse? The race created more questions than it answered, however. Is Magnitude a sure-fire need the lead type? The pace was a hot one set by Nitrogen (:23 :46 1:09 1:35 and 1:47.4 final = 112 Beyer speed figure).

All of Sovereignty's wins have resulted in the pace melting down including the 2025 Kentucky Derby and the Travers. Is he pace dependent? What must Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott do to get a very talented horse like Baeza out of the gate? Hopefully we'll get some answers when they run the Jockey Club Gold Cup Sept. 18, opening day of newly renovated Belmont Park.

Chuck Harper is a horseracing columnist for the Oldham Era. He can be reached at derbyboy1320@gmail.com.

Churchill Downs, NYRA create new six-race series

BY CAMERON DRUMMOND
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Churchill Downs and the New York Racing Association are partnering for a new horse racing series that's being billed as a season-long championship for 3-year-old Thoroughbreds.

Starting in 2027, the Thoroughbred Championship Series will crown a 3-year-old champion following a six-race series that will be held across three venues.

Louisville's Churchill Downs and New York's Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course will be the sites for the six-race series, which will be used to determine a champion 3-year-old Thoroughbred. The series, which will stretch out over five months, begins with the Kentucky Derby. Next year's Derby is set for May 1 at Churchill Downs.

In addition to the Kentucky Derby, the TCS is expected to include the fol-

lowing five races: the Belmont Stakes on June 5 at Belmont Park, the Matt Winn Stakes in July at Churchill, the Jim Dandy Stakes in late July or early August 2027 at Saratoga Race Course, the Travers Stakes in late August 2027 at Saratoga and a newly created championship race in September 2027 at Churchill.

The horse that accumulates the most points during the series will win the championship. In a news release, Churchill Downs and NYRA said the points system would encourage the best 3-year-old Thoroughbreds and their connections to compete against each other more frequently.

During a conference call with reporters, Churchill Downs Inc. CEO Bill Carstanjen also highlighted the importance of creating storylines through a season-long racing series.

"Today's fans experience sports differently than they did even a decade ago. They

want stories that unfold over time. They want rivalries, standings and meaningful competition that builds from one event to the next," Carstanjen said. "They want a championship they can follow throughout an entire season, and they want to see a champion crowned each year to celebrate."

In winning the TCS, a horse will be rewarded for its consistency. A horse can become the champion even without winning a single race, Carstanjen said Monday.

"The winner will be the horse who demonstrates consistent excellence and stamina in the face of the world's toughest competition across the six races," Carstanjen said. "... This isn't simply about adding another series to the calendar; It's about connecting our greatest events into one compelling season. It's about giving fans a reason to continue following the sport's biggest stars beyond the Kentucky

Derby, and it's about creating meaningful incentives that encourage the nation's leading 3-year-olds to continue competing against one another throughout the summer and into the fall."

Beginning next year, the TCS will exist alongside horse racing's traditional Triple Crown — featuring the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes — as well as the Breeders' Cup, which serves as horse racing's annual World Championships.

Notably, the Preakness Stakes is not set to be part of the TCS.

Earlier this summer, Churchill Downs attempted to acquire the intellectual property of the Preakness Stakes and the accompanying Black-Eyed Susan Stakes, but the state of Maryland instead has acquired those rights from 1/ST Racing.

The creation of the TCS also could impact the fields for other signature races featuring 3-year-old Thoroughbreds.

This year's edition of the Breeders' Cup will be held for the fourth time at Keeneland in Lexington. Belmont Park is set to reopen in September following a multi-year renovation. The past three editions of the Belmont Stakes have been run at Saratoga while Belmont was being renovated.

There will also be a financial incentive for TCS participation. Along with individual race purses, a \$5 million prize pool will be awarded based on the final standings.

David O'Rourke, the CEO and president of NYRA, also participated in Monday's conference call and said one of the goals of the TCS is to carry the energy created by the spring's signature races

into the summer and fall. O'Rourke said a goal of the new series is to keep lifelong fans engaged while capturing the attention of a new audience for horse racing.

"This format is built on standings, a season-long chase that develops real rivalries and brings a playoff atmosphere to racing," O'Rourke said. "... It's a structure sports fans instantly understand."

All six races expected to be part of the TCS will be shown on national TV. The three Churchill Downs races will be shown on NBC, and the three New York-based races will be broadcast on FOX.

Additional information about the TCS — such as the series' eligibility rules, nominations process, points system and prize distribution — has yet to be announced.

UK

FROM PAGE A4

receivers coach Daikiel Shorts and former UK teammate Dane Key there.

Gilmore lasted only a few months at Nebraska, leaving the team before the conclusion of spring practice. He transferred back to Kentucky that summer for the 2025 season, when he caught 28 passes in 12 games.

After UK coach Mark Stoops was fired, Gilmore

again entered the transfer portal. This time he signed with Baylor, but Gilmore never actually left UK. When Stein opened his first spring practice in March, Gilmore was back on the Wildcat roster.

"We had an opportunity to bring him back, which was really exciting for us," Stein said in spring practice.

Gilmore was among a handful of UK players held out of the spring game due to injuries, but Stein expressed confidence no one in the group was in

danger of missing the season.

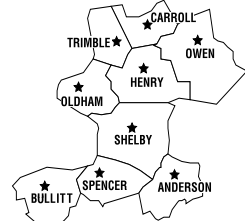
He was still on the UK roster update for the team's preseason media day Monday but was removed before the first practice Thursday.

Gilmore's departure leaves one fewer option for UK's receiver rotation. His spring injury prevented him from showcasing how his skill set fits Stein's offense, but he had more catches at the FBS level than any other receiver on the roster last season.

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LLOYD EADES ESTATE

SATURDAY AUGUST 22ND 11:00AM EASTERN TIME

277 ACRE FARM IN 5 PARCELS, 4700 SQ FT HOME, TENANT HOME, BARNs,
LONG ROAD FRONTAGE, BUILDING PARCELS, SHELBY COUNTY, KY



LOCATION: 6995 LaGrange Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065

REAL ESTATE: PARCEL 1: 78 Acre parcel with 1,242 square foot modular home/tenant house, barn, and machinery shed. The home has three bedrooms and two baths. The land is mostly cleared and currently in crops and hay.

PARCEL 2: 3,700 finished square foot custom 5-bedroom 2.5 bath home on 5 acres, 36 x 50 metal barn/shop/storage building. This Quality home has many added features including a walk-out basement, attached two-car garage, large primary suite with whirlpool tub and walk-in shower, spacious kitchen, enclosed sunroom, large laundry area on main floor, and a family room with brick fireplace.

PARCEL 3: 179-acre crop farm with long road frontage, good crop and hay land, and access from LaGrange Road as well as Clore Jackson via an easement.

PARCEL 4: 6 acre building site on Clore Jackson Road. This is a nice building site for your rural residential home or an ideal tract to add to tract 3 for even more potential.

PARCEL 5: 8 acre building site on Clore Jackson Road. As well as Tract 4, this tract is ideal for building or to use in combination with other tracts.

TRACTS WILL BE SOLD INDIVIDUALLY AND OFFERED IN COMBINATIONS USING THE ULTIMATE CHOICE METHOD.

TERMS: A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid to determine the total sales price. The winning bidder of a parcel will need to put down as a deposit the day of the auction 10% of the total sales price and the balance will be due on or before September 22nd 2026. Parcels are sold as is.

PUBLIC INSPECTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH 2:00 PM TO 4:0 PM EASTERN TIME

A WILLARD AUCTIONS COMPANY
H. BARRY SMITH, REALTORS AND AUCTIONEERS
223 MIDLAND PARK DRIVE, SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065
502-633-2746 888-631-2746

Auctioneers: H. Barry Smith (CAI), Jimmy Willard (CAI), Shawn Willard (CAI), Jeff Riggle (CAI), Patrick Hargadon, Todd Barlow, Rob Winlock, Dean Burk, Courtney Roberts



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
CARROLL CIRCUIT COURT
Civil Action No. 26-CI-00087

FARMERS BANK OF MILTON

PLAINTIFF

VS.

AMENDED NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

DANNY C. THARP, ET AL

DEFENDANTS

** **

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Carroll Circuit Court on July 6, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the South door facing Highland Avenue of the Carroll County Courthouse door, 440 Main Street, Carrollton, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Carroll County, Kentucky, on **WEDNESDAY, August 19, 2026**, at the hour of **12:00 p.m.** prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:

Being the same property conveyed to Danny C. Tharp from Kenneth Mefford, unmarried-widower, by Deed dated May 22, 2023, of record in Deed Book 227, Page 516, in the Office of the Carroll County Court Clerk.

Property Address: 620 Boone Road, Carrollton, KY 41008

Map ID #: 23-118-02

THERE IS INCLUDED ON THIS PROPERTY a 1986 Schultz Manufactured Home, 28' x 60', VIN No. M216466, which has been converted to real estate by Affidavit of Conversion of record in Misc. Book 3, Page 620, in the Office of the Carroll County Clerk.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of \$167,810.22, with interest in the amount of \$7,956.49, with interest continuing to accrue at the rate of \$34.01 per day, with late charges of \$275.00 and Mortgage Release Fee of \$46.00, together with its attorneys fees in the amount of \$1,713.00, court costs in the amount of \$1,858.45 incurred herein, and reimbursement of all fees paid or to be paid to the Special Master Commissioner;

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of ten (10%) percent cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 7.500% per annum from date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid, to the extent of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price whichever is less, as a minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Carroll Circuit Court or the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchaser to effect such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to effect said insurance and furnish the policy or evidence thereof to the Commissioner if it so desires, and the premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.

The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:

- All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
- Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
- Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
- Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Carroll County.

/s/ Edward M. Bourne
SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER
CARROLL CIRCUIT COURT