



PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

April 2024
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:**
Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:**
Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:**
Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:**
Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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PA-Breds dominate Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards

By Nikki Sherman

Parx Racing and the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association held their annual Horsemen's Awards banquet on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Celebrations in Bensalem, Pa., honoring Parx Racing's Best of 2023. PA-Breds dominated, capturing more than half of the awards, including Horse of the Year.

The event was highlighted by the crowning of Aoife's Magic as Horse of the Year, a lofty but worthy achievement for the daughter of Smarty Jones, who also won Champion Two-Year-Old Filly. Bred by Mohns Hill Farm LLC, Aoife's Magic was untested in four starts at 2, all at Parx Racing, and won those races by more than a combined 20 lengths over distances ranging from 5½ furlongs to 1 mile and 70 yards. The chestnut filly earned \$261,600, averaging over \$65,000 per start, which was bolstered by victories in the \$150,000 Imply Stakes and \$200,000 Miss Behaviour Stakes.

Aoife's Magic was purchased by Art Hetherington's A and J Racing Stable LLC at the 2022 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale for just \$16,000.

At the end of the evening, trainer David Dotolo posted on his Facebook page, "We would like to say thanks to all of [her] friends and fans. We hope the Magic continues!"

Dotolo and Hetherington stepped their prized filly up in class and she made her first trip out of state for the \$100,000 Busher Stakes at Aqueduct March 2. She failed to rally and finished fourth of seven.

Champion Two-Year-Old Male Notice of Action was another graduate of the 2022 Fasig-

Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale, where he sold for \$15,000 to Andy Hawthorne. The son of Hoppertunity is trained by Hawthorne's wife Bobbi Anne Hawthorne and was bred by Bryan Minnich. Notice of Action never finished off the board in five starts at 2, again all at Parx, garnering \$209,100 for his connections. He captured his first three races, including a half-length score in the \$150,000 Prince Lucky Stakes on Pennsylvania Derby Day. He finished a solid third in the \$100,000 Pennsylvania Nursery in November and closed out his juvenile campaign with a second-place finish in the \$200,000 Wait For It Stakes, just behind current Kentucky Derby contender Uncle Heavy, whom Notice of Action soundly defeated in the Nursery.

Three-Year-Old Male Champion Gordian Knot returned as a sophomore after an excellent juvenile campaign against only PA-Breds. He was ready to prove his mettle against open company. But first the gelded son of Social Inclusion successfully prepped with a solid 1¾-length score at Penn National June 2 in the \$100,000 Danzig Stakes for PA-Bred 3-year-olds. He was ready to roll at Parx in July against both open and older company in a tough allowance that included stakes winner Tuskegee Airmen, and made easy work of it, crossing the line 1½ lengths in front.

The \$75,000 Salvatore M. DeBunda Sprint against 3-year-olds Aug. 22 was the first real test for Joseph Imbesi's homebred. Trainer Guadalupe Preciado had Gordian Knot primed for the race of his life: after grabbing the lead at the top of the stretch, he held off a furious late drive by Praetorian Guard to capture his first open stakes.

Gordian Knot closed out his championship season at Parx with a solid third-place finish in the \$400,000 Gallant Bob Stakes-G2 on Pennsylvania Derby Day. After being caught wide on the turn, he was just a few lengths behind multiple graded stakes winner Damon's Mound and Nautical Star, who was briefly on the Kentucky Derby trail earlier in the year. Gordian Knot has \$438,773 in lifetime earnings, with six wins and two seconds in nine starts.

The Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall Yearling Sale has been a brilliant place to find jewels for Parx Racing, as the 2020 edition saw Morning Matcha sell for \$18,000 to LC Racing LLC. Since then, Cash is King LLC and Gary Barber have joined the partnership as owners and they have been soundly rewarded. Morning Matcha boasts just shy of \$900,000 in career earnings, three stakes victories and multiple graded stakes-placings, including a second in the 2022 Cotillion Stakes-G1. She was Parx Racing's Champion Three-Year-Old Filly in 2022, and over the past two years was awarded Champion PA-Bred Two-Year-Old Filly and Champion PA-Bred Three-Year-Old Filly by the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association.

In 2023, Morning Matcha bookended her campaign with stakes wins, capturing the \$100,000 Unique Bella at Parx April 24

and closing out the season with a win in the \$125,000 New York Stallion Series Stakes at Aqueduct Dec. 3. Bred by Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC, Morning Matcha earned \$246,350 in 2023 with two wins, two seconds (Obeah at Delaware Park and Plum Pretty at Parx) and two thirds (Delaware Handicap-G2 and Aqueduct's Turnback the Alarm) from seven starts. She was named Parx Racing's Champion Older Female.

The final PA-Bred 2023 Parx award winner was Tom Coulter's homebred Nimitz Class, named Champion Older Male. The son of Munnings came out running at the beginning of 2023, scoring three straight stakes victories at Laurel Park: the \$100,000 John B. Campbell by 4½ lengths, \$100,000 Harrison E. Johnson Memorial by 6¼ lengths and the \$100,000 Native Dancer by 2¾ lengths.

Nimitz Class returned to race in Pennsylvania May 23 at Parx in a \$75,000 open allowance and devoured his competition by 5¼ lengths. After two second-place finishes in stakes company at Monmouth Park and Laurel, the colt's last three starts were back at Parx. The Bruce Kravets trainee finished second in the \$100,000 Storm Cat Stakes Aug. 21 on the Pennsylvania's Day at the Races card. He was primed for the race of his life in

his next start, the \$400,000 Parx Dirt Mile, held on Pennsylvania Derby Day. Amongst the competition was multiple Grade 1 winner Gunite, whom Nimitz Class soundly trounced while bounding home 1¾ lengths in front. He closed out his campaign with a third-place finish in the \$75,000 M.P. Ballezzi Appreciation Mile. On the board in all nine starts in 2023, winning five, he added \$482,600 to his bankroll, which grew to \$717,080 after three seasons.

That Parx Dirt Mile victory was brilliant enough to catch the attention of serious potential buyers. Nimitz Class was purchased privately by Qatar Racing, Black Type Thoroughbreds, Swinbank Stables, Steve Adkisson and Campeche Stables and has since moved to the barn of trainer George Weaver. He opened his 2024 season with a start in the \$3 million Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes-G1, so his new connections clearly have high expectations.

Combine that excitement for Nimitz Class with the potential for sophomores Aoife's Magic, Notice of Action and Uncle Heavy, and 2024 holds the promise of being an electrifying year for Pennsylvania-Breds.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Good luck to the breeders and connections of Uncle Heavy, Carmelina and Maximus Meridius as trainer Butch Reid targets the Wood Memorial card April 6 at Aqueduct. Uncle Heavy is pointed to the Grade 2 Wood Memorial, Carmelina the Grade 3 Gazelle and Maximus Meridius, the Bay Shore. It should be a fantastic day for Pennsylvania breeding and racing!

Want to breed to a PA-Sire like the breeder of Uncle Heavy? Go to pabred.com and view the 2024 Stallion Directory. While you're there, check out the new stallions standing in 2024. Breed to a PA stallion and receive 40% in Breeder Awards, up to 40% in Owner Bonuses,

eligibility for the PA-Sired, PA-Bred Series, and hundreds of Restricted Races. Wow!

The PA-Sired PA-Bred series is being expanded for foals of 2022 to include 3yos. The nomination fee is now \$500 until April 30. Replacing the trainer bonus this year will be a \$50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series: \$25,000 for first, \$15,000 for second and \$10,000 for third.

By now you should be familiar with the online registration system on our website. If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of

Ethics, which is attached to the registration form.

All broodmare domicile forms should have already been entered online for the 2024 foaling season, except for public sales and breed backs. Please submit your form when your mare enters the state. These domicile reports are MANDATORY and if not completed, your foal could be denied PA-Bred registration. As usual, please contact our office with any questions you may have.

Pennsylvania is the only place to Breed & Race! Go Pa!!



**BE SURE TO
NOMINATE
YOUR PA-SIRED,
PA-BRED 2YOS
TO THE PA STALLION
SERIES FOR \$500 BY
APRIL 30TH!**

NOMINATION FEES WILL
INCREASE ON MAY 1ST



RACE DATES —

SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2024 AT PARX

\$100,000 WHISTLE PIG STAKES

2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds,
6 furlongs

\$100,000 MISS BLUE TYE DYE STAKES

2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
6 furlongs

DECEMBER 30TH, 2024 AT PARX

\$100,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES

2YO PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs

\$100,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES

2YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs

PA DAY AT THE RACES AT PARX 2025

\$100,000 PRINCE LUCKY STAKES

3YO, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs

\$100,000 IMPLY STAKES

3YO fillies, PA-Sired PA-Breds,
7 furlongs



PENNSYLVANIA
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Please contact our office at

610.444.1050

with any program questions

2 & 3 YEAR-OLD
\$950,000
in purses & awards

PA-SIRED PA-BRED STALLION SERIES

\$50,000
BREEDER BONUS

which will be paid at end
of the 3YO races in 2025

- The Series is being expanded in 2024-2025 and will be run in three legs, six stakes, 2yos at 6f for **\$100,000**, 2yos at 7f for **\$100,000** and 3yos at 7f for **\$100,000**.
- The first two legs will consist of a 2yo race and a 2YO filly race.
- The third leg in 2025 will be for 3yos and 3yo fillies.



UNCLE HEAVY

WINNER OF THE
\$250,000 G3 WITHERS S.
AND THE \$200,000
WAIT FOR IT S.



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