

# DWC Carnival

## UPDATE

RACING AT MEYDAN

- Montsarrat Ready to Flaunt Speed
- Top 2-Year-Old Pedigrees On Tap
- Ejaaby Gets His Meydan Dirt Debut
- Japan's DWC Runners in Global G1s
- Quick Hits: Pavel, Yulong Warrior, Furia Cruzada

## MONTSARRAT READY TO FLAUNT SPEED



Dubai Racing Club | Andrew Watkins

**DUBAI (November 22, 2018)**—Front-running speed is the name of **Montsarrat's** game and that makes the nearly black charge one of the more exciting horses to watch perform in Dubai. The 5-year-old son of Poet's Voice twice flashed an awesome balance of speed and stamina last season, going gate-to-wire in 2200m and 2000m events (at Meydan and Jebel Ali, respectively), while also holding his own well to finish sixth of 12 in the Group 1 Al Maktoum Challenge R3 on March 10.

On Thursday, the Listed Jebel Ali Stakes winner will make his second start of the season and 27<sup>th</sup> lifetime—having commenced his career in England, going 4-4-1 from 17 starts through 2016 for Mark Johnston—after a surprisingly subpar effort going 2000m three weeks ago at Meydan. To try and shake things up a bit, while also allowing the Ahmad Ghalita Almheiri-owned gelding to stretch his legs, trainer Sandeep Jadhav will be cutting him back to 1600m in Meydan's Gulfnews.com rated conditions 85+ (Race 5). The AED 240,000 co-feature goes to post at 8:50 p.m. local time.

“He is used to running longer, but he’ll try to go a mile because he has a lot of speed and we will try to see what he can do on the front,” Jadhav said. “He will show his speed and he likes to do his job. He loves the ground and we were lucky on the draw in three (of 12). He’s doing well and I feel good about him going into the race.”

Jadhav will saddle two others, including two unproven on the dirt. Majed Ali Almarzooqui’s 5-year-old gelding **Hornsby**, a 1400m winner over Meydan’s turf course last season, will attempt to extend the dirt prowess of superstar sire Dubawi when he tries the surface for a second time. Last time he tried the sandy sod, he was well-beaten in December 2017.

“Hornsby didn’t run too bad on dirt in his first try when he was sixth,” Jadhav said. “He wasn’t 100% fit at that time. We wanted to give him one more chance on the dirt. He trains well on it. He has a nice turn of foot and the draw is good, but he doesn’t need a certain draw because he will drop back (and make a late run).”

Group 3 winner **Syphax**, a son of dirt Grade 1 winner and sire Arch, tries the dirt for the first time. Formerly in the care of Kevin Ryan, this will be his second start in the UAE following an eighth of 14 in March’s Abu Dhabi Championship (G3). The two-time winner from nine tries drew barrier eight.

“Syphax is working well on dirt and galloping well,” Jadhav said. “He still is not 100%, but he’s a good horse for the future and hopefully for the Carnival. We want to see how he’s doing right now (fitness-wise) and then look at bigger races, so we will see where he is Thursday night.”

## TOP 2-YEAR-OLD PEDIGREES ON TAP



Much like last week’s 2-year-old maiden event, won by Phoenix Ladies Syndicate’s **Superior** (pictured above with Conor Beasley in the saddle for trainer Ahmad bin Harmash), this week’s fillies-only affair over 1400m is one flush with fierce pedigrees and possible future stars. One that immediately pops off

the page for the same connections is **Ariette du Rue**, a daughter of runaway Kentucky Derby (G1) and Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) winner Street Sense who hails from a classy family that has dirt influence aplenty. The half-sister to Cymric, who was G1-placed at two and third in the 2017 Zabeel Mile (G2), is a descendent of phenomenal undefeated (13-for-13) American champion Personal Ensign, whose brilliance translated to the breeding shed, producing four to win or place in G1 company.

The orange and white of Phoenix Ladies will also be represented by **Lady Winslow**, who carries the same attractive grey coat of her sire, the brilliant Winslow Homer, whose career was plagued by injuries and stud career has been minimal. A son of Unbridled's Song, also grey, Winslow Homer was very precocious this time of year. Lady Winslow is out of Speaking Role, by Dubai World Cup (G1) winner Singspiel, who is a full-sister to 2010 Obeah Stakes (G3) winner Miss Singhsix, who also placed in four graded dirt stakes.

Two who have caught the eye training and trialing are Mohd Bintooq Al Marri's Doug Watson-trained **Lady Wedad**, a daughter of world-class late stud Elusive Quality, and Majed Ali Almarzooqui's Sandeep Jadhav-conditioned **Al Shamkhah**, a leggy daughter of promising young stallion Dialed In, the sire of Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) runner-up and Dubai World Cup runner Gunnevera.

Watson and company have been high on **Lady Wedad**, a granddaughter of Godolphin's awesome Imperial Gesture, a champion in the UAE who went on to win two G1s in America and place in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (2001) and Distaff (2002). Imperial Gesture is also a half-sister to Kentucky Oaks (G1) winner Sardula. Well-intended through and through, Lady Wedad sports a pedigree that is impeccably balanced.

Jadhav is just as optimistic about Al Shamkhah and hopes the 1400m trip suits her growing frame. He also sends out **Foggy Flight**, a grey like sire Rattlesnake Bridge and half-sister to six winners whose pedigree (out of a Successful Appeal mare) screams sprinter pace.

"I really like Al Shamkah, as she's a nice, big and tall filly," Jadhav commented. "She has a huge stride and she's working and galloping well at home. She was third in the trial and I think she will improve from that. Foggy Flight has lots of speed and works well at home. Hopefully she can get to the front, which helps a lot. We'll see how they run first time out and decide from there."

Watson also unveils **Habah** for owner Ali A. Aneizi, a daughter of speed influence Twirling Candy who has been working well at Red Stables, while trainer Satish Seemar lets loose a pair of first-timers in The Parmar Family's **Lady Parma** (by Exchange Rate out of a Dynaformer mare) and Nasir Askar's **Oya** (by Farhh out of a Dubawi mare). Each of Seemar's have ample sources of dirt class in their pedigrees, but both appear to slightly favour grass racing at distances farther than the 1400m of Thursday's 7:05 p.m. affair.

Two experienced runners in the field complete the decade of debutantes: Saleh Omar Ali bin Haidar's Helal Al Alawi-trained **Queen Monaco**—whose pedigree appears quite turf-heavy—and Ismail Mohammed's **Al Hayette**, who should markedly move forward on her switch to the dirt track, being a daughter of Belmont Stakes (G1) winner Union Rags out of a Hennessy mare (with generations of American dirt influence).



## EJAABY GETS HIS MEYDAN DIRT DEBUT



It is the proper time of year in Dubai when one often sees trainers experiment with their horses—especially those with Dubai World Cup Carnival aspirations who may or may not be able to qualify on rating just yet. Such is the case with talented turf sprinter **Ejaaby**, whose prowess appears to lay on the longer side of the dashes (between 1200-1400m).

Trained by reigning champion conditioner Doug Watson and owned by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the son of Helmet makes his first start on Thursday night since Mar. 3 and his initial start on the Meydan dirt track.

“He’s doing great and it’s his first time on the dirt,” Watson said. “He trains extremely well on it and his last piece of work last week told me that he deserves a shot on it. The Helmets like (Nov. 8 Meydan winner) **Taamol** and obviously (Dubai World Cup winner) **Thunder Snow** like it, plus there is no turf racing for him, yet. You never know until you run. He sure looked good on it in the morning. As far as (kickback), he’ll either like it or he won’t. The race will tell us that.

“He’s not Carnival eligible yet on the turf,” Watson continued. “We hope he takes to the dirt and moves up to another class. I hope he goes pretty close (Thursday night).”

A 4-year-old gelding with just 10 starts and two local wins already—a 1200m turf win on Jan. 20 and 1400m turf win on Feb. 3—the smallish charge has shown a marked turn-of-foot in the final stages of his races; something that could come in quite handy if he hopes to rein in the frontrunners he will face in Thursday’s third race (7:40 p.m.) over 1200m.

## JAPAN'S DWC RUNNERS IN GLOBAL G1S

Dubai Racing Club | Neville Hopwood



Japanese raiders on 2018 Dubai World Cup night are set to feature prominently in global showcase affairs, including Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) seventh-place finisher and 2016 Hong Kong Vase (G1) winner **Satono Crown**, who is slated to compete in the Japan Cup (G1) this weekend. The 2017 Takarazuka Kinen (G1) champ is looking to better his 10<sup>th</sup> in last year's Japan Cup for trainer Noriyuki Hori, who also saddled **Neorealism** to an eighth in the 2018 Dubai Turf (G1) behind **Benbatl**.

Kazuhiro Sasaki's 2017 Dubai Turf winner **Vivlos** (pictured above, left), as well as fellow Japanese female stars **Deirdre** (above, right) and **Crocospia**—second, fourth and seventh in this year's Dubai Turf—are splitting ranks and taking aim on Hong Kong's international Group 1s on Dec. 9.

Yasuo Tomomichi-trained Vivlos cuts back in the 1600m Hong Kong Mile (G1), Hashida Mitsuru-trained Deirdre is well-placed in the top-billed 2000m Hong Kong Cup (G1) and the still-improving Katsuichi Nishiura-conditioned Crocospia stretches out in the 2400m Hong Kong Vase (G1).

The fourth and final 'HKIR' event is the Hong Kong Sprint (G1), in which Godolphin's Japan-based **Fine Needle**—a dream of a prospect for the 2019 Al Quoz Sprint if he remains in training—is likely to run. The quartet of international races fall just shy of \$12 million in total prize money and often present a preview of global invaders for the \$35 million Dubai World Cup card 16 weeks later.



**QUICK HITS:** Speaking of the land of the rising sun, Reddam Racing's **Pavel** (above), who was a respectable fourth in the Dubai World Cup (G1) on March 31 behind Thunder Snow, West Coast and Mubtaahij, heads to Japan to compete in said country's top dirt affair, the Champions Cup (G1). Trainer Doug O'Neill has left the door open for another season in 2019 for the son of Creative Cause, including a possible return to Dubai. He joins Gunnevera as two possible U.S.-based Dubai World Cup candidates for return in the same race, which is now up to \$12 million in purse. The Champion Cup, over 1900m, takes place on Dec. 2 and boasts a purse of nearly \$2 million. Because of his victory in the Stephen Foster Handicap (G1) in June, Pavel is eligible for a \$700,000 bonus if victorious in 10 days... 2018 Al Bastakiya (Listed) winner **Yulong Warrior**, formerly in the UAE yard of Satish Seemar and now a stakes winner in America for the Doug O'Neill barn, finished sixth of nine in the \$250,000 Zia Park Derby on Wednesday... Local favourite and multiple South American Group 1 winner **Furia Cruzada**, last seen finishing a hard-trying seventh in the Dubai World Cup, put in a serious piece of work on Thursday morning over the Meydan dirt track for trainer Erwan Charpy and owner Avaz Ismoilov. Also 13<sup>th</sup> in the 2017 Dubai World Cup, the iron mare is possible for The Entisar (Listed) over the same 2000m on Dec 20 and reportedly stayed with her conditioner during the off-season; a change in strategy from years' past. Over the past two Meydan seasons, she has seven local starts, a Group 2 victory and a pair of Group 1 placings.

-END-