



in sharper focus.

DANCINGINHERDREAMS (Tapit)

★ "TDN Rising Star" ★

Sunday, Keeneland

6th-KEE, \$42,778, Msw, 2yo, f, 6f (AWT), 1:10 1/5, ft.

+ DANCINGINHERDREAMS, f, 2, Tapit

1st Dam: Mayan Milagra, by Menifee

2nd Dam: Dhaka, by Icecapade

3rd Dam: Cloudy Day Sunny, by Buckaroo

Click for [brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](http://brisnet.com/catalogue-style/pedigree) or [brisnet.com chart](http://brisnet.com/chart). Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.

O-John Oxley. B-Nancy Shuford (KY). T-John Ward Jr.

OVER THE MOONE

Sean and Anna Curtin saw something special in the Tapit filly they acquired at Keeneland January in 2009. They picked her up for a mere \$40,000, and hit one out



Sean Curtin

of the park when she brought \$330,000 as a pinhook for the Curtins' MoonStone Sales just eight months later at Keeneland September. The grey, now named Dancinginherdreams, made good on that promise when she attained ★ "TDN Rising Star" ★ status with an easy win in her debut for owner John Oxley at Keeneland Sunday.

"She was a standout," Sean Curtin recalled. "She looked like a racehorse to us. She was a flashy filly, maybe a little bit immature, but we never thought we'd get her for that price."

Curtin grew up on a farm in Ireland, and worked for Coolmore for a decade, on both sides of the pond. After managing a farm in New York for three years, he went out on his own in 2005.

He met his future wife ("at the sales, of course," she explained), and the two had just started buying horses together when Anna, then Gojanovich, signed the ticket on the short yearling by hot young sire Tapit that winter afternoon.

"She was by a super hot sire, and we really liked her as an individual," she said. "She was a little later in the sale, but we thought she'd bring more money. She was correct--the only fault we could find was that she was immature. It might have taken a little bit of imagination, but she really looked like a Tapit filly--the kind that runs."

The Curtins, who were married this past August, brought their new acquisition back to their 170-acre MooneStone Farm in Paris, Kentucky, where they board mares and foals and do sales prep.

"Moone is [Sean's] mother's maiden name--he's a good boy, naming the farm after his mother," Anna said with a laugh.

Dancinginherdreams thrived in her new environment, and the Curtins knew they had made the right buy.

"She matured quite a bit," Sean said.

Added Anna, "Sean does an amazing job, and he has them exactly where they need to be for the sales. She was really classy from Day 1, and by September, she had blossomed. She had grown up and come into her own.

"She was the filly we would go out to see on the farm every night," she continued. "She was always special--you were glad to have her standing in your paddock. We knew she was our big horse that year."

Still, the two had modest aspirations when they headed to Keeneland September.

"When I was taking her to the sale, I thought she'd bring \$80,000 to \$100,000," Sean remembered. "As people started taking an interest in her, I thought she'd bring more, maybe \$150,000 to \$200,000. She had a lot of really high-end people on her."

Anna was getting the same vibe.

"She vetted super clean, and she showed like a champ," she remarked. "She has tons and tons of class. We knew she was going to do well. We knew everybody liked her."

Dancinginherdreams was in the second half of Book 3 at Keeneland September 2009, and turned out to be the session-topping filly.

"I think part of the reason she did so well was that she's a clone of the good Tapit fillies," Sean said. "She's leggy and racy-looking, just like Careless Jewel and Stardom Bound."

Her former owners may have been just a bit surprised that she was so successful in her second trip through the sales ring, but the Curtins fully expected her to run a big race first time out.

Unfortunately, they had to be out of town for the momentous debut.

"We had to go to a wedding in Louisiana, and we couldn't get an earlier flight out," Sean explained.

But the couple was impressed by what they saw on TV.

"She's the type of filly that loves the crowds and loves the excitement," Sean said. "There were a lot of people at Keeneland Sunday, but it didn't faze her. She handled it all very well, and it didn't look like the race took anything out of her. It was fun to watch."

He added, "I was very happy [that she went to John Oxley and John Ward Jr.]. They will put the time into her--they won't push her."

The Curtins, who pinhook roughly a half-dozen horses each year, will be back at Keeneland November.

"I tend to buy yearlings with some sire power, and I try to buy in the range I bought her in," Sean said. "There is quite a strong contingent of pinhookers out there, and not so many foals, but we've been lucky to date. This is our fourth year pinhooking, and we've been relatively successful at it." **Cont. pg. 3**



"In Sharper Focus" cont.

The Curtins bought a second short yearling at Keeneland January in 2009, getting a colt by Sky Mesa (coincidentally bred by John Oxley) for \$25,000. He sold for \$70,000 to Chester Stables, agent, at Keeneland September and, now named Sky Maggy, the grey captured his turf bow in a maiden special weight test at Laurel Sept. 15 by five lengths.

There is a family history of success with Keeneland fall yearlings. Anna, who grew up in Canada riding show jumpers, came to the U.S. 10 years ago to work with Thoroughbreds on her uncle's farm.

That uncle was Carter Thornton, who passed away in April at age 92. Thornton operated Threave Main Farm near Paris, Kentucky, and sold a yearling by *Pretendre for \$1,200 at the Keeneland Fall sale in 1969. Two years later, that colt--Canonero II--came charging down the stretch at Churchill Downs to take the 1971 Kentucky Derby by 3 3/4 lengths.



Yesterday's Results:

PEBBLES S., \$100,000, BEL, 10-11, 3yo, f, 1mT, 1:35, fm.

1--#**ARUNA**, 119, f, 3, by [Mr. Greeley](#)

1st Dam: **Surya (MGSW-US, \$400,985)**, by **Unbridled**

2nd Dam: **Wild Planet**, by **Nureyev**

3rd Dam: **Ivory Wings**, by **Sir Ivor**

O/B-Flaxman Holdings Ltd (KY); T-H Graham Motion; J-Ramon A Dominguez; \$60,000. Lifetime Record: 7-3-1-1, \$139,277.

2--**Bet On the Blue**, 117, f, 3, E Dubai--Javana, by Sandpit (Brz). (\$8,000 2yo '09 FTKFEB). O-Hal E Snowden Jr. \$20,000.

3--**Sea Road**, 119, f, 3, [Tale of the Cat](#)--Packet, by Polish Navy. O-Alex Rankin, Richard M & Patricia Lenihan. \$10,000.

Margins: 3, 1, HF. Odds: 1.35, 19.40, 9.00.

• **ON THE WORKTAB** •

BELMONT PARK

Neglige (Northern Afleet), 5f, 1:01.51, 7/13

CHURCHILL DOWNS

Ash Zee (Exchange Rate), 4f, :52.80, 39/42

Kensei (Mr. Greeley), 6f, 1:14.40, 1/3

Riley Tucker (Harlan's Holiday), 4f, :52.80, 39/42

HOLLYWOOD PARK

Blind Luck (Pollard's Vision), 4f, :48.00, 10/54

Evening Jewel (Northern Afleet), 3f, :37.20, 20/30

Flawless (Mr. Greeley), 3f, :36.60, 12/30

Sidney's Candy (Candy Ride {Arg}), 5f, :58.80, 1/36

TDN TODAY

Around the World. 11 pages

Aruna kept the best company in France while under the tutelage of Jonathan Pease, competing with the likes of Rosanara (Fr) (Sinndar {Ire}), Anna Salai (Dubawi {Ire}) and Zagora (Fr) (Green Tune). In her final European start, the homebred was sixth in the May 23 G1 Prix Saint-Alary at Longchamp behind Sarafina (Fr) (Refuse To Bend {Ire}), who was recently third in the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. She was bet to favoritism when making her stateside debut Sep. 6 in a Saratoga allowance, and did not disappoint despite adverse circumstances. Last early behind a slow pace on a course that had been favoring speed, Aruna commenced a devastating rally, getting her last quarter in :22.16, to get up by a head. At the back again early this time behind a slightly faster pace, the dark bay was angled very wide in the stretch and inhaled the field with ease to win going away in hand. She covered her final quarter mile in :23.68 this time. Conditioner Graham Motion said of his emerging star, "She had won so impressively at Saratoga, going against what everyone had been doing all week. She had so much to do at the top of the stretch, and with how the turf had been playing it had been so hard to make up ground. I thought that race justified her being here today. Jonathan Pease had sent her to me and he really liked her, but she had a little problem with bleeding, so it was logical to send her over here where she could run on Lasix. For Jonathan to be that impressed with her, I knew she had to be a very nice filly because Jonathan is very reserved. I think she really has a future." [Click for the brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#)

★ **"TDN Rising Star"** ★

5th-BEL, \$52,000, Msw, 2yo, f, 1mT, 1:37 2/5, fm.

+ **RUTHENIA**, f, 2, [Pulpit](#)

1st Dam: **Ruthian (SW, \$212,592)**, by **Rahy**

2nd Dam: **Adoryphar**, by **Lyphard**

3rd Dam: **Adorable Micol**, by **Riverman**

Ruthenia was let go at 20-1 for this first go despite being a full-sister to Rutherienne, GISW, \$1,298,671, and ran more to her pedigree than her odds on the tote. The Payson homebred took up a nice stalking spot on the rail in third behind fractions of :24.55, :49.86 and 1:14.06, split horses coming into the lane and accelerated nicely when given her cue, kicking clear by 3 1/2 lengths. Second timer Hungry Island (More Than Ready) got up for second over Flying Vision (Pollard's Vision), a half-sister to last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf winner Tapitsly (Tapit). Sales history: \$325,000 RNA yr1 '09 KEESEP. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$31,200. [Click for brisnet.com catalogue-style pedigree](#), [brisnet.com chart](#) or [Video, sponsored by Taylor Made.](#) O-Virginia Kraft Payson LLC. B-Payson Stud Inc (KY). T-Christophe Clement.

All horses in the *TDN* are bred in North America, unless otherwise indicated