

# IFHA QUARTERLY

*The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities  
newsletter in partnership with the Japan Racing Association*



## IN THIS ISSUE

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**IFHA PROFILE:  
OSAF, WORKING TO  
IMPROVE RACING IN  
SOUTH AMERICA  
PAGE 2**

---

**AT HOME WITH 2021  
LONGINES WORLD'S  
BEST RACEHORSE  
KNICKS GO  
PAGE 7**

---

**2021 LONGINES  
WORLD RACING  
AWARDS REVIEW  
PAGE 9**

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## IFHA Chair elected Vice-President of the IHSC

In February, the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) announced the IHSC General Assembly unanimously elected IFHA Chair Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges as the Vice-President of the IHSC. Engelbrecht-Bresges had previously served as the standing representative of the IFHA on the IHSC General Assembly.

“We have many ongoing projects in different fields and I look forward to continuing this close working relationship with Winfried and the IFHA, and I would like to extend my warm congratulations to him on his election,” IHSC President Ingmar De Vos said. “I also would like to convey my warmhearted thanks to his predecessor Louis Romanet for his great contribution to our organisation.”

# OSAF's Global Racing Mission

by Amanda Duckworth

Last September, the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) announced it would be adding a fourth vice-chair position to its leadership team, and that Horacio Esposito, the advisor in international affairs for Organización Sudamericana de Fomento del Puro Sangre de Carrera (OSAF), was elected.

Created in 1958, OSAF is the main South American organization representing horse racing in the region. Among its primary objectives, OSAF aims to encourage an extensive exchange of information between its members and with international organizations worldwide. It also seeks to improve the quality of pattern races within South America while promoting the harmonization of racing protocols and regulations within the region.

“It was an honor that the members of the IFHA have thought of appointing me for such a relevant position,” said Esposito. “For many years now, I have been working hard for the countries within my region to get closer to the IFHA's guidelines and objectives.”

“I have been holding the position of Advisor for International Affairs to five presidents of OSAF. My role was and is to help interpret everything that is related to the international aspects of the Thoroughbred industry, especially those related to the IFHA and other organizations and/or sponsors such as Longines.”

Carlo Rossi, who is the owner of Valparaiso Sporting in Chile, is the current president of OSAF. He is also driven to elevate South America's standing within the wider global view of horse racing.



OSAF's Horacio Esposito became the fourth IFHA Vice-Chair in 2021

“It is a duty with a very high responsibility, and it means a great honor to be able to work regionally and to represent South America at an international level,” said Rossi. “You need to reconcile the special interests of our region with the IFHA's strategic guidelines. This is no easy task, as there is much diversity within our region: there are different horse racing structures, some more oriented towards breeding and others more towards racing. Even though their interests are similar, sometimes there are different points of view on certain matters, and it's difficult to find a common ground.”

“By being members of the IFHA, Latin America becomes integrated within the rest of the world and opens the participation of our representatives into the different technical committees of the IFHA and the IFHA Executive Council. This not only allows us to be permanently aligned with the recommendations set by IFHA, but it also allows us to have dynamic communication with the members in other regions and IFHA experts, in order to achieve mutual goals and improve the racing sport regionally and its positioning worldwide.”

*Continued on page 3*

## OSAF's mission cont.

A key area of improvement for OSAF over the past several decades has been the fight against doping in Thoroughbreds and jockeys. The OSAF Veterinarian and Racing Analysts Committee was created in 2009 to address doping control and equine welfare. Then, in 2013, OSAF completed harmonization of the ban of Lasix in Group 1, Group 2, and Group 3 races in its member racecourses.

The ban was extended to all black type races in OSAF's main racing nations—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay—in 2014, and that same year, OSAF achieved the harmonization of the use of the regulatory whip in all member racecourses, according to the recommendations set by the IFHA.

The following year, OSAF introduced the practice of doping control and alcohol checks for jockeys in its member countries. Then, in 2016, OSAF's



Carlo Rossi is the president of OSAF

representatives joined the IFHA's International Committee of Harmonization of Raceday Rules and the International Movement of Horses Committee.

“OSAF has always followed the strategic guidelines set by the IFHA, and in the last decade has made a special focus in priority matters such as doping control, quality control of pattern race quality, and harmonization of regulations,” said Rossi. “OSAF is fully in line with the IFHA's agenda and priorities, therefore our current focus is set on the control of forbidden substances, quality control of our pattern races, equine and jockey welfare, and the progressive ban of the use of the whip.”

Since 2019, testing for all Group races at member tracks has been carried out by an IFHA reference laboratory. However, one area that has been affected by the pandemic is OSAF's efforts to get San Isidro Racecourse in Argentina named as one of the IFHA's certified reference labs.

“In 2017, the guidelines to achieve this were set, following the series of technological and analytical requirements set by the experts in doping control within the IFHA,” explained Esposito. “In 2018 and 2019, San Isidro's laboratory made a big acquisition of new equipment for testing, set on the further training of their analysts under the guidance of experts from other IFHA reference labs, and relocated its new refurbished premises within San Isidro Racecourse, opening their new laboratory.

“The processes towards obtaining the IFHA's recognition had then begun, and many major changes were implemented, but then both due to the pandemic and economic reasons, there has been a delay in moving forward with this ambitious plan. Further acquisition of special testing equipment and the incorporation of

*Continued on page 4*

## OSAF's mission cont.

more, specialized technicians and staff was needed but, unfortunately, everything has stopped for the moment.”

The reality of global economics has impacted racing in South America in other ways as well. Although the standards of racing have been raised tremendously in recent times, it is still hard to attract competitors from other continents. In turn, it makes it difficult to compare South American horses on a global scale unless they leave, which does not benefit the local breeding programs.

“Although we have a history of more than 100 years in the industry, the economic situation within our countries is weak, and cannot be compared with that of other countries and regions around the world,” said Esposito. “Our purses are very low compared with the rest of the world and, therefore, we find that there are no horses from other regions coming to compete in South America.

“Then, we find ourselves in the need to export our horses, either because they are being sold or because their owners take them to compete abroad, to more attractive racing markets. In this way, the good development of our racing activity becomes much more difficult to sustain and achieve.”

Rossi and Esposito remain passionate about elevating the region's standing, however, and that is because it is more than just a job for the two men, who will both turn 67 later this year. In addition to their positions within the sport, they are also owners and breeders.

Chilean-born Rossi is a professional business engineer, businessman, and board member of several different companies in Chile and Latin America. His grandfather started Alpino Stud in 1945, which Rossi now owns. Valparaiso Sporting Club was a founding member of OSAF, and Rossi

joined its board in 1994 before eventually becoming president.

“It's true that I come from a very traditional family, which has been in horse racing since the 1940s,” said Rossi. “It's part of my background, and it's an honor for me to be able to continue this tradition. It brings me closer to my love for Thoroughbreds and my passion for racing, in a place where I can contribute to make positive changes to the sport, both within my country and in all of our region. It feels like I'm honoring my family and my people.”

Esposito was born in Argentina, and earlier in his career, he played key roles in the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of International Affairs, and as an advisor to the President of the Economic Commission in the Argentine Senate. In 2006, he founded the Latin American Racing Channel (LARC), which focused on broadcasting rights to and from South America. As a member of LARC, he organized four international conferences to promote every aspect of the horse racing industry.

“This passion began many years ago when I had to lead the restoration of the Maroñas Racecourse in Uruguay, and later as the CEO and member of the board of the racetrack,” said Esposito. “I must admit that it is really my passion, and I share it with my family and my friends in the countries where I have horses, like Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina.

“But I think that what really encouraged me was having the opportunity to be able to travel all over the world and discover how important it is in some countries to be a Thoroughbred owner. And, of course, I will always dream of having some of my horses competing outside South America.”

Making South American racing relevant on the international stage is a driving force behind the upcoming Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano (G1) on 2 April at Hipódromo Chile. The race, which is held at a different South American racetrack each year, features horses from at least five different countries in the region competing against each other.

*Continued on page 5*

## OSAF's mission cont.

“It is the most important race in our region for many reasons,” said Rossi. “In the first place, this is the race with the highest ratings average, where the best horses from our racing nations compete. It is also the race with the largest purse in all our region, and it is the only Group 1 race in the world which is itinerant, changing country and racecourse each year.

“In 2016, it became an open race, allowing for any horse from anywhere around the world to compete. This has been a major achievement for our race and our region, as it has attracted the attention not only of sponsors and international media, but there are also more and more applicants to enter the race, each year. As a matter of fact, being winner of our ‘Latino’ is an added value, a milestone in the reputation of horses that then travel to other regions to compete.”

Last year’s winner, Aero Trem, is a prime example

of this, as he recently finished a respectable fifth in the Saudi Cup (G1).

“In my opinion, this is a great achievement: both his result in the Saudi Cup and the fact was invited to compete in an international race for having won the Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano,” said Esposito. “This is not a very common thing for us.”

Aero Trem is expected to compete next in the Dubai World Cup Sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1) on 26 March, which will also help expand South America’s global horse racing footprint.

“During the last decade, our races have become more international in regards to the export of horses and broadcast to and from the rest of the world, and this is precisely due to the hard work made by OSAF and its members, to ensure a racing sport of export quality,” said Rossi. “We run under the same conditions, regulations, and quality control as those applied around the world, so any race fan must know that they are watching something they’re familiar with and love.”



Aero Trem won the 2021 Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano (G1) and has begun racing internationally in 2022



# 2022 JAPAN GROUP 1 RACES

Date	Race		Racecourse	Distance	Purse	Nomination Close
5 Jun	Yasuda Kinen		Tokyo Turf	1600m 8f	¥ 388,800,000 € 2,990,800	19 Apr
26 Jun	Takarazuka Kinen		Hanshin Turf	2200m 11f	¥ 432,000,000 € 3,323,100	3 May
2 Oct	Sprinters Stakes		Nakayama Turf	1200m 6f	¥ 368,200,000 € 2,832,300	9 Aug
30 Oct	Tenno Sho (Autumn)		Tokyo Turf	2000m 10f	¥ 432,000,000 € 3,323,100	6 Sep
13 Nov	Queen Elizabeth II Cup		Hanshin Turf	2200m 11f	¥ 281,800,000 € 2,167,700	20 Sep
20 Nov	Mile Championship		Hanshin Turf	1600m 8f	¥ 388,800,000 € 2,990,800	20 Sep
27 Nov	Japan Cup	 	Tokyo Turf	2400m 12f	¥ 864,000,000 € 6,646,200	4 Oct
4 Dec	Champions Cup	 	Chukyo Dirt	1800m 9f	¥ 259,200,000 € 1,993,800	4 Oct

The currency exchange rates used above is 1€=130JPY. Approx. figures per exchange rates as at Feb.2022.  
Nomination Fee: Free of Charge.



## At home with 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse Knicks Go

Knicks Go, the 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse, retired to Taylor Made Farm in Kentucky following a second-place finish in Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes presented by 1/ST BET (G1) in January. Travis White, who is the stallion nominations manager and has been at Taylor Made for 15 years, answered questions about what Knicks Go means to the farm, how he has adapted to his new life at stud, and the global nature of horse racing.



2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse Knicks Go at Taylor Made Farm in Kentucky

### Q: What does it mean to Taylor Made to be the home of the 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse?

A: To end his career as the reigning Longines World's Best Racehorse, I think having that caliber and quality of horse at the farm is great. The more global we can become, the healthier it is for the industry as a whole. Obviously, we have some things to work out in North America, but we continue to put up some of the greatest racehorses in the world, especially on dirt. Anytime we can display that on an international stage, it is a good thing. Ultimately, we want to have 8-10 horses like him up there in the stallion

barn, but it's not easy to do. You are competing against other farms that have unlimited cash flow, and we aren't in that position. Having a horse like him not only is an honor and helps our stallion operation, but it can help improve our sales business by attracting new clients. When you have a horse of his quality, you have high quality breeders and owners breeding to the horse. He has everything that we wanted, and that we think commercial breeders want, so hopefully that carries over to the sales and then to the racetrack going forward.

### Q: Knicks Go was campaigned in the United States, but he is owned by the Korea Racing Authority. Did Taylor Made have a previous relationship with the KRA?

The KRA's racing manager in North America is Jun Park. He is a bloodstock agent here in town, so we were all familiar with him just from being at the sales, plus he and Brooks Taylor already had a pretty good relationship. At the time these discussions were taking place, we didn't know if they were wanting to sell the horse, syndicate the horse, or just stand the horse outright. Ultimately, they told us they wanted to maintain 100% ownership in Knicks Go but have someone manage and stand the horse for them. That was very attractive for us, not only because we wanted to get involved with such a good horse but with the KRA as well. It has worked out really well.

Racing is becoming more and more international, and I think it's very important we continue to try to become even more international. Just look at the success of the Japanese at the Breeders' Cup last year and how active they are at the sales as far as buying the very high-end broodmares. Australia was also very active at the November sales last year. It is very important for breeders

*Continued on page 8*

## Knicks Go at home cont.

here that those guys want to participate in our sales, and that we provide them with horses that they can go on and be successful with anywhere in the world, whether it's here or Europe, Japan, Saudi Arabia, or Australia. It's very important for our core business to attract international interest.

**Q: Trainer Brad Cox told the IFHA that Knicks Go was a keen horse while training but a calm horse in the barn. Is his demeanor the same on the farm?**

A: That attitude has definitely carried over into his stallion career, at least the early part of it. He's very calm, and he is a great horse to be around in his stall and paddock. That said, once you lead him out to the path to the breeding shed, he knows what he's there for, and he seems to be enjoying it. He's very good at it as well. He takes care of business, and he doesn't take a long time to breed. He knows what he needs to do. He has handled it very well and has been a professional about it. He's booked full, so he will breed plenty of mares this year.

We also like to keep our horses outside as much as possible, weather permitting. With the



Knicks Go's biggest win came in the 2021 Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1)

weather starting to change over to spring now, he will stay out all night and then come in the next morning to get his bath and breakfast. Then we start breeding. We try to let them be outside between breeding sessions, too, if possible. We usually breed first thing in the morning, then after lunch, and then if we need, we have a third session later in the afternoon. He's a very easy horse to deal with, so it's been great so far.

**Q: Knicks Go had a break at the farm after winning the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) but went back into training for the Pegasus. Do you have to do things differently when the breeding season starts so soon after retirement?**

A: Ideally, in a perfect world, you would like to let them come to the farm and gradually test breed them and work with them as much as you can before breeding season starts. However, in this day and age, with some of these extremely high dollar races being very early in the year, it has kind of changed things around a little bit. The purse money is so good you can't blame them. We did it before with California Chrome, and it didn't impact him at all. Gun Runner was the same situation.

Knicks Go ran in the Pegasus on that Saturday, and he got back here to the farm on Monday morning. We gave him a day or two to relax and let down in his paddock, but then we started test breeding later that week. We were preparing him and ramping him up for the breeding season. He only had about a 10 day turn around, but he has really taken to his new job.

**Q: What attracted Taylor Made to Knicks Go?**

A: He really fits into what the market here gravitates toward these days, which is early speed and dirt. Plus, he had the ability to carry it

*Continued on page 11*

# 2021 Longines World Racing Awards

Longines and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) were proud to celebrate the 2021 Longines World Racing Awards on 25 January during a virtual ceremony.

Co-organized by Swiss watch brand and the IFHA, the ninth edition of the Longines World Racing Awards recognized the top Thoroughbred racehorses, horse race, and jockey of the previous year.

From the National Horse Racing Museum in Newmarket, England, presenter Francesca Cumani revealed that the title of 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse belonged to Knicks Go, while the 2021 Longines World's Best Horse Race was the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) in France. During the ceremony, Ryan Moore was also celebrated as the 2021 Longines World's Best Jockey.

Knicks Go finished 2021 on a rating of 129, which was the highest in the world. He earned that rating in the Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) in his final start of the year. Knicks Go began his season by taking the Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (G1) last January, and he added additional victories in the Whitney Stakes (G1), Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Handicap (G3), and Lukas Classic Stakes (G3) before his dominant win at the Breeders' Cup World Championships.

"He has a ton of class," said trainer Brad Cox. "He's a very intelligent horse. Going into the Classic, we had a lot of confidence with him. He had been training extremely well. Ultimately, the Classic was the race that put him in a position to become the top-rated horse in the world.

"He obviously had a fantastic year, and this was the cherry on top in regards to what he could



**Knicks Go: the 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse**

accomplish in 2021. It's a very prestigious honor to be mentioned along with the past recipients of this award, the champions throughout the world. To be at the top is a true honor and something we are very proud of."

Knicks Go ran one time in 2022, finishing second in the Pegasus, before retiring to Taylor Made Farm in Kentucky.

There was a three-way tie for second between Europe's Adayar, Mishriff, and St Mark's Basilica, who all finished 2021 on a rating of 127. Adayar earned his rating in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Qipco Stakes (G1); Mishriff achieved that mark with his victory in the Juddmonte International Stakes (G1); and St Mark's Basilica received his rating from having won the Coral-Eclipse (G1).

St Mark's Basilica has been retired to Coolmore in Ireland, while Adayar and Mishriff have remained in training for 2022. Mishriff

*Continued on page 10*

## Longines Awards cont.

competed in the Saudi Cup (G1) and has since returned to England. Adayar has not yet made his first start of the year.

Rounding out the Top 5 of the highest ranked horses in 2021 was Japan's Contrail, who achieved his rating of 126 when he won the Japan Cup in Association with Longines (G1) by two lengths in his final career start. He was then retired to Shadai Stallion Station.

The Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings are established by international handicappers according to the performance of the horses in top races. Overall, 279 horses, trained in 14 different countries, were rated 115 or higher in 2021. The full list and further information on the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings are available on the IFHA website.

The Longines World Racing Awards also celebrated the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1), held at ParisLongchamp in France, as the 2021 Longines World's Best Horse Race with a

rating of 124.75. This award recognizes the best-rated race of the highest-rated Group 1 international races as established by a panel of international handicappers. The ratings of the top four finishers in each race serve as basis for the assessment.

This is the fifth time the Arc has won the award, with additional recognition coming in 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019. America's Breeders' Cup Classic (G1) won in 2016, while England's Juddmonte International Stakes (G1) took the title in 2020.

"It was a very special renewal of the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 2021, as we celebrated the 100th running of the race," said France Galop's CEO Olivier Delloye. "Being crowned the world's best horse race was definitely the icing on the big birthday cake. Having the Arc win this title is a matter of satisfaction and great pride for France Galop and French racing."

In association with the award show, the IFHA

*Continued on page 11*



France's Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (G1) was named the Longines World's Best Horse Race for the fifth time

## Knicks Go at home cont.

two-turns. What everybody wants is a dirt horse who can go two-turns and potentially win the Kentucky Derby or the Breeders' Cup Classic. I think a lot of people forget how good he was as a juvenile. He won a Grade 1 at Keeneland as a 2-year-old, and he ran a really good race to finish second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1). That was already enough right there to make him a valuable stallion prospect. Then he set a track record at Keeneland in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (G1) in 2020, and he came back in 2021 to win the Whitney Stakes (G1), which is the most prestigious older handicap race at Saratoga, and America's biggest race in the Breeders' Cup Classic. He's one of very few horses who could do all of that. It is that combination of his performances and accomplishments.

He and jockey Joel Rosario were such a good fit together. Knicks Go had the ability to get out there and run the turns very well, and he would put three or four lengths coming out of the turn on his competition. The fact he could maintain that high rate of speed for a mile and a quarter is just very, very special.

## Longines Awards cont.

published its annual list of Top 100 Group 1 and Grade 1 races. Twelve countries comprise 2021's list, representing the foremost racing events throughout the world across 41 different racecourses. Australia leads all countries with 25 total races, followed by the United States (19), Great Britain (17), Japan (11), Hong Kong SAR, China (8), France (5), Germany (4), South Africa (4), Ireland (3), United Arab Emirates (2), New Zealand (1), and Uruguay (1).

During the ceremony, Ryan Moore was also celebrated as the Longines World's Best Jockey of the year. The awarding of the Longines World's

Best Jockey title is based upon performances in the 100 highest-rated Group 1 and Grade 1 races as established for the year by the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee. Moore also was named the Longines World's Best Jockey in 2014 and 2016.

In 2021, Moore won six of the world's Top 100 Group or Grade 1 races, with his qualifying victories coming in the Longines Hong Kong Vase (Mogul), Al Quoz Sprint Sponsored by Azizi Developments (Extravagant Kid), Prince of Wales's Stakes (Love), Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Dream of Dreams), Coral-Eclipse (St Mark's Basilica), and Irish Champion Stakes (St Mark's Basilica).

"I've always felt throughout my time riding that racing was a global sport, and the most important thing was to be competitive all around the world because then you know where you are," said Moore. "At the end of the day, you only win these awards because of the horses you are riding.

"I am very lucky that I get to ride some of the best horses for the best owners all around the world. You can't do anything without the horse, so it's only because of them."

The scoring process rewards jockeys for finishing in the top three, giving Moore a total of 112 points on the year. William Buick was a close second with 104 points, while James McDonald ended the year in third with 96 points. No other jockey in the world scored above 68 points.

### BONUS CONTENT:

Visit the IFHA's YouTube channel to watch the 2021 Longines World Racing Awards. The 30 minute show has features with all of the winners, as well as a look back at some of the most memorable races of the past season.



# LONGINES



The Longines  
Master Collection

# LONGINES

# WORLD RANKINGS

Life Is Good leads the first edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings for 2022. He earned a rating of 124 by winning the Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes presented by 1/ST BET (G1) in January over 2021 Longines World's Best Racehorse Knicks Go.

In the Pegasus, Life Is Good made all en route to posting a 3 ¼-length victory. The 4-year-old colt is expected to make his next start in the Dubai World Cup Sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1).

Sitting in co-second with a rating of 120 are Emblem Road and Home Affairs. Emblem Road achieved his rating in the Saudi Cup (G1). The locally trained runner won the race by a half-length over Country Grammer, who is rated at 119, and Midnight Bourbon, who is rated at 117. In Australia, Home Affairs defeated Nature Strip, who is rated at 119, by a short head in the Black Caviar Lightning (G1).

In addition to Country Grammer and Nature Strip, five other horses are also co-fourth with a rating of 119. They are: Jet Dark, Mandaloun, Man Of Promise, Speaker's Corner, and Zaaki.

The next edition of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings will be published on Thursday 14th April.



Life Is Good earned a rating of 124 in his first start of the year

## LONGINES World's Best Racehorse Rankings Leading Horses

for 3yos and upwards which raced between  
1st January 2022 - 6th March 2022

Rank	Horse	Rating	Trained
1	Life Is Good (USA)	124	USA
2	Emblem Road (USA)	120	KSA
2	Home Affairs (AUS)	120	AUS
4	Country Grammer (USA)	119	USA
4	Jet Dark (SAF)	119	SAF
4	Man of Promise (USA)	119	UAE
4	Mandaloun (USA)	119	USA
4	Nature Strip (AUS)	119	AUS
4	Speaker's Corner (USA)	119	USA
4	Zaaki (GB)	119	AUS