

JOHNSTON RACING made the perfect start to their February campaign when their sole runner on February 1, **Wadacre Gomez**, ran out the convincing winner of a Chelmsford handicap.

The four-year-old Brazen Beau colt, owned by Wadacre Stud, was a winner at Chelmsford in December, but was then slightly disappointing at Newcastle on January 1.

Back at Chelmsford, Wadacre Gomez turned out in a mile and a quarter handicap open to older horses and was one of six horses who went to post. Ridden by Jason Hart, the colt was sent into the lead from the outset, pursued by Forge Valley Lad and Outgun. The order remained the same as the field negotiated the back straight, with Wadacre Gomez a length clear turning for home. Quickening nicely in the straight, Wadacre Gomez kept finding for Jason to score by a length and three-quarters from Inspiritus, with Outgun the same distance back in third.

This was a decent performance by a horse who has now scored three times over course and distance. His other career

ROUNDUP

. . . of the yard's February winners

victory to date came at Newcastle in April of last year. This Chelmsford win was arguably his best run to date as it led to his official rating being upped to a career high of 83.

Placed three times as a juvenile last year, **Sennockian** was looking for his first success when making his seasonal debut at Newcastle on February 2. The three-year-old by No Nay Never, who was gelded last autumn, was in a field of five for the mile handicap. Ridden by Joe Fanning, it was his debut on an all-weather surface.

Tasmanian Legend made the running with Sennockian pressing him from the outset, racing closer to the stands' rail. With two furlongs to race, Sennockian drew level with Tasmanian Legend, but no sooner had he taken the lead than

Love Yours came to challenge on the stands' rail. Love Yours led into the final furlong, but Sennockian was not to be denied, and fought back to score by a head from the filly, with Good Morning Alex finishing a length and three-quarters back in third.

Owned by The Burke Family, Sennockian is out of the Compton Place mare, Lady Gorgeous. She was a decent two-year-old, winning a Newbury maiden en route to a run in the Lowther Stakes (Group 2). She was Listed-placed as a three-year-old. In the paddocks, she has produced a Group 1 winner in Pretty Gorgeous (by Lawman) and a French Listed winner in Alwaab (by Toronado).

The five-year-old **Wadacre Grace**, who seems to have shown a clear preference for racing on the all-weather surfaces, has been kept busy this winter and gained her reward for a series of consistent efforts when winning at Chelmsford City on February 9.

Wadacre Stud's Brazen Beau mare was one of five fillies who went to post for a fillies' handicap over a mile at the Great Leighs track, with Joe in the saddle.

PRESSING the leader throughout, Wadacre Grace was carried wide into the straight by the rapidly weakening Capuchinero, allowing the held up Lunarscape to mount a challenge on the inside. Clipsham Gold and Smiling Sunflower briefly threatened, but Wadacre Grace stayed on strongly in the closing stages and she won going away from her field.



Joe Fanning wins aboard Sennockian at Newcastle



Chelmsford win for Wadacre Gomez and Jason Hart

Lunarscape held on to second, while Clipsham Gold finished third, the distances being one and a half lengths, and a neck. This was a sixth career win for Wadacre Grace, with five victories achieved while racing over a mile.

At Lingfield on February 11 **Sennockian** followed up his Newcastle win earlier in the month with a cosy victory in a mile handicap. The Burke Family's No Nay Never gelding faced four rivals, and once again Joe was on board.

Ippotheos went straight into the lead while Joe was happy to settle Sennockian in second, racing on the shoulder of the leader. Turning for home, Ippotheos was shaken up as he led into the straight.

Clearly full of running, Sennockian took a narrow lead with a furlong to run, and staying on well the gelding won by a neck from Ippotheos, with Reveal a length and a half back in third.

This was an encouraging success for Sennockian, who confirmed the promise of his Newcastle run and once again hinted that he might be able to stay further if asked. A son of No Nay Never, Sennockian was acquired for €120,000 as a yearling at Goffs Orby Yearling Sale in 2022 and connections will be hoping he can build on the promise of these early-season successes.

Fitted with a hood for the first time, the three-year-old filly **La Fleur Petrus** produced a spirited performance to land a fillies' maiden event at Southwell on February 15.

Chris Wright's Street Boss filly made a belated juvenile debut last December, and had shown some ability in two runs this January. At Southwell, she was one of 11 fillies in a restricted maiden race over seven furlongs. Andrew Mullen took the ride.

As Please Please Me made the running La Fleur Petrus was a shade slow into her stride and then raced keenly in the opening stages. On settling, she raced in fourth behind Mleiha and

Pascal's Pal.

Turning for home on the outside of the field, La Fleur Petrus was asked for her effort by Andrew and made ground to take the lead from Pascal's Pal with just over a furlong to race. She kept on well to score by half a length from Pentacle, with the odds-on Pascal's Pal three-quarters of a length back in third.

La Fleur Petrus is by Street Boss, a dual Grade 1 winning sprinter son of Street Cry, out of the Stay Thirsty mare, Cheval Blanche. The dam won on her juvenile debut at Redcar, and then won twice as a three-year-old at Lingfield (over a mile) and at Salisbury (over seven furlongs).

Wadacre Gomez secured his second win of the month when recording a comfortable success in a Wolverhampton handicap on February 16. He had tried to follow up his Chelmsford win at Wolverhampton on February 9 but had to settle for second place.

A WEEK later, the colt was turned out once more at Wolverhampton in a handicap over a mile and half a furlong. There were 10 runners and Billy Loughnane was aboard. As the field turned for home, Wadacre Gomez went for a gap on the inside of the leader, Polling Day, and was soon three lengths clear.

Although he was chased by Al Rufaa and Civil Law, he had the race sewn up and was eased in the closing stages, beating Al Rufaa by three-quarters of a length.

This was another excellent performance from a colt who is clearly progressing well.

Love De Vega continued his good run of form when

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comfortably winning the feature race on Chelmsford City's card on February 24. Mick Doyle's five-year-old Lope De Vega entire was a winner at Chelmsford on January 11. Since then, he had run well both at Kempton and at Lingfield without scoring.

Returning to Chelmsford, he took on seven rivals in the seven-furlong handicap for older horses. Billy Loughnane took the ride and settled Love De Vega in second early on as Remarkable Force made the running.

Turning for home Love De Vega challenged Remarkable Force and got the better of that rival just before the furlong pole. Saturnalia was plugging on towards the inner, while Chola Empire made good late progress. In truth, however, the result was never in doubt and Love De Vega scored by a length and three-quarters from Chola Empire.

Love De Vega's young jockey was delighted.

'He's a legend to have anything to do with,' said Billy after the race.

'Love De Vega jumped good and the horse on my inside wanted to go forward, so I got a nice tow into the race. He was very tough towards the end.'

After landing wins at Newcastle and Lingfield earlier in the month, **Sennockian** made it a February hat-trick when winning a three-year-olds' handicap over a mile and half a furlong at Wolverhampton on February 26.

ALTHOUGH only four horses went to post, it was a fascinating contest and was to have a dramatic ending. Joe Fanning took the ride.

On exiting the stalls, Joe was content to bide his time, holding Sennockian up.

Turning for home, Ippotheos led on the rail, with Love Yours

racing on his outer. As the field negotiated the bend, Sennockian came widest of all into the straight, while Dr Foster was able to get a lovely split between Ippotheos and Love Yours. There then ensued a battle royal in the straight, as Sennockian and Dr Foster pulled clear of their rivals. First, Sennockian hung left towards the inside of the track, then Dr Foster appeared to hang right into Sennockian; neither horse flinched, and as they flashed past the post, Sennockian had prevailed by a nose to complete his hat-trick.

Just after the winning line, Joe Fanning was unseated from Sennockian and was knocked unconscious. 'I'm not really sure what happened,' reported Joe the following day. Joe was taken to hospital but, thankfully, he seems to have escaped major injury.

A yard double was completed when **Sax Appeal** landed the mile and a half handicap for older horses which closed the Wolverhampton card.

The Saxon Warrior gelding, a four-year-old owned by Johnston Racing, had had two outings since returning after gelding, both at Kempton in December and January. At Wolverhampton he faced six rivals and was ridden by Archie Young.

Sax Appeal was ridden into the lead from the outset and, stealing a length on his rivals in kicking for home, Sax Appeal stayed on strongly. Melek Alreeh and Upepo improved from the rear to launch a challenge, but Sax Appeal was always doing enough to win, scoring by a neck and three-quarters of a length from those rivals.

This was a second career success for Sax Appeal. The gelding is out of the Oasis Dream mare, Isobel Archer, herself a full sister to the Group 1 winner, Naaqoos, whose progeny include the winners Bow and Arrow and Liberated Lady, both by Ifraaj. ■



Love De Vega wins under Billy Loughnane

SUBJECTIVIST (GB)

2017 by Teofilo



Bay 2017, 16.1hh (1.64m) **TEOFILO- RECKONING (DANEHILL DANCER)**

SUBJECTIVIST requires no introduction, the winner of the Ascot Gold Cup in 2021, as well as the Dubai Gold Cup in 2021 and the Prix Royal Oak in 2020. He is an exceptional specimen, and a truly exciting addition to the roster.

Stud Director Grace Skelton said, 'The addition of SUBJECTIVIST to our Stallion Roster is a huge leap forward for Alne Park Stud. To stand a stallion of this calibre is an immense honour. He will stand at an introductory fee of £4000. We firmly believe that keeping this exceptional stallion in the UK is a real boost to British breeders and we hope that he will see plenty of support in his debut season.'

Mark Johnston said, 'I always say that, when placing horses, the opposition trumps all other factors. But, very rarely, you come across a horse where the opposition isn't a factor at all. Subjectivist was such a horse. In 2021, I truly believed that there wasn't a horse in the world that could beat him at two miles or more, in any ground. There is less and less need for British NH Breeders to travel to Ireland and, with the incentives on offer in the UK perhaps the Irish breeders will be thinking of coming over here!'

- NH Elite Mares' Scheme Eligible

STUD FEE: £4,000

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