



A Mega-Sale for Michael Bello...

Michael Bello's **Megahertz (GB)** (Pivotal {GB}) was something of a cult heroine on the Southern California circuit and could always be counted on to spot the field many lengths in the opening furlongs, only to savage her rivals with one of her patented bursts of late speed. Small in stature but large in heart and talent, the chestnut prevailed in 13 added-money events in the United States, including the GI John C. Mabee H. and the GI Yellow Ribbon S. In 21 starts in the Golden State, Megahertz was worse than third just once--a close fifth to Islington (Ire) in the 2003 GI Breeders' Cup F/M Turf at Santa Anita. It was with a great deal of inner turmoil that Bello decided to enter Megahertz, in foal to Bernardini, in the November sale, but it paid dividends during Tuesday second session. The eight-year-old mare was hammered down to Headley Bell, bidding on behalf of the Lael Stable of Roy and Gretchen Jackson, for a tidy \$2.1 million. "She was a jewel they felt they wanted in their stable," Bell commented. "She was an incredible racemare and the Jacksons appreciate all that she did, and they wanted to own her if they could. We're hopeful to add a little size [to her foals]. We know her [Giant's Causeway] foal well, it's a good foal, and Bernardini is a horse we all respect. We feel that will be a good mating." Mill Ridge consigned Megahertz to the sale, having boarded her at the farm. They also care for her 2007 foal, a colt by Giant's Causeway. "She's as gritty as ever and has a lot of class about her," said Mill Ridge's Bayne Welker. "Coming in here, her size was a bit of an issue, but, honestly, since she's been in foal, she's filled out quite a bit and doesn't look so small any more. I think she was very well sold." Welker said that Bello intends to keep and race the Giant's Causeway colt. With their purchase yesterday, the Jacksons have now added three quality mares to their holdings. They also purchased Pussycat Doll and Valbenny (Ire) at Sunday night's Fasig-Tipton sale.

The King and his Court...

Health issues over the past few years have diminished the number of Kingmambo weanlings, yearlings and in-foal mares available to the buying public, but those that do find their way into the sales ring are a red-hot commodity. That's clear when examining the results of Keeneland's Book 1. A total of seven mares in foal to Lane's End's top sire were offered during the first two days of selling at Keeneland. Not one elicited a bid of less than \$1 million. Six of those mares found new owners, including Kamarinskaya, who sold Monday for \$3.2 million, the highest-priced mare of the half-dozen that sold.



Kingmambo Lane's End photo

Two sold for \$2.3 million (Rosa Parks {GB}, Sand

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Springs), while others sold for \$1.9 million (Winds of March {Ire}), \$1.25 million (Kushnarenkovo {GB}), and \$1 million (Ebaraya {Ire}). The average price paid for the mares was as gaudy \$1,991,667. All were purchased by different buyers. Only Vadahilla (Fr) failed to find a new home. She RNA'd on Monday for \$1.25 million. Notably, four of those that sold--Winds of March, Ebaraya, Rosa Parks and Kushnarenkovo--were by Sadler's Wells, representing a potent cross that has produced no fewer than six group winners, according to the *TDN's* Andrew Caulfield, including Classic winners Virginia Waters and Divine Proportions and recent G1 Criterium International hero Thewayyouare. (To top that off, Indy Five Hundred, who sold in foal to Kingmambo at Sunday's Fasig-Tipton sale, made \$3 million.) The two Kingmambo weanlings that were put through the ring during Book 1 Kingmambo were just as popular. A Kingmambo--Crystal Crossing (Ire) filly made \$850,000 on agent John Gasper's bid, while John Ferguson went to a session-topping \$950,000 for a Kingmambo--Because (Ire) colt on Tuesday. Because, incidently, is by Sadler's Wells. On Tuesday, Lane's End announced that Kingmambo would stand the 2008 season for a fee of \$250,000. The farm said the 17-year-old son of Mr. Prospector was likely to cover a book of approximately 65-75 mares next year.