

TDN Q&A

*With the best horse in the world in **Frankel (GB)** (Galileo {Ire}), the Juddmonte team is riding high. What's it like to be behind such a marvelous Thoroughbred and is there even a smidgen of a chance that Frankel will come to the U.S. for the Breeders' Cup? The TDN sat down with Juddmonte's racing manager, Lord Teddy Grimthorpe, and asked those very questions.*

TDN: Considering the horse is unbeaten and has such a reputation and following, how much pressure is there every time he runs?



Lord Teddy Grimthorpe
Racing Post

TG: We try not to think about that at this stage. Henry (Cecil) has been very keen to have the horse as tip top as he can for every race, so he's going in on top, in really good form and really well prepared. Then there's his incredible ability and his great stride and that does the rest for us. His ability and his stride, it's extraordinary.

TDN: Henry Cecil, undergoing cancer treatments, was not able to attend Frankel's last race, a win in the Sussex S. How is he doing?

TG: I spoke to with him (Friday) night. He's in very good form. All the vibes are good and he's tremendously positive. He has to go through this treatment, which really knocks him sideways. He's really concentrating on two things--his health, quite rightly, and he's staying home and concentrating on the horses, as well. The only thing that's not happening is him going racing. Other than that, he's very on top of everything.



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TDN: It's apparent that the Breeders' Cup will not be on Frankel's schedule. Is the door even open a crack? Any chance the Juddmonte team will change its mind?

TG: If they laid down some Polytrack at Santa Anita, that would open a little bit of a crack. I am sure in Prince Khalid's mind he would have liked to bring the horse to Santa Anita for the Breeders' Cup Classic, but the moment the dirt got put back in, his main objective was rather taken away from us. With that and the rise of the Champions Day at Ascot, which, in terms of prominence, has become very



Frankel
Racing Post/Edward Whitaker

important in Europe, the Breeders' Cup is very doubtful. At the moment, Henry would be looking to end his career there, at Ascot, in the Champion S.

TDN: But why not the Breeders' Cup Mile on the grass?

TG: The Breeders' Cup Mile is a really an important race. It wouldn't totally be impossible. But having gone the mile and a quarter, I think that Henry would want to look at the Champion S. You never say no; certainly lots of different things happen in racing. I know we would have loved to bring Frankel to Bobby (Frankel's home track). That would have been something else, but it doesn't look in the stars at the moment.

TDN: Frankel has never run beyond a mile, but he is now being prepared for mile-and-a-quarter races, starting with the Juddmonte International. Are there any worries about the change in distances?

TG: It's certainly an unknown. Looking at him now as a 4-year-old, he's much more mature, mentally and physically, which is the most important thing. In the early stages of his career, he wouldn't settle that well or he would take a pretty strong hold. Now, he's much more malleable and relaxed in the early stages of his races. He gets into a good stride. I think from that point of view, we're very confident that he can handle the mile and a quarter.

TDN: He's remarkable to watch. What separates him from horses who are merely good?

Q&A cont.

TG: A lot of good horses will quicken. But if you look at him at Ascot in the Queen Anne in June, he kicked from about three out and he was really just getting into stride when he hit the line. That's extraordinary.

TDN: You must have known Bobby Frankel very well. What are some of your memories of him?

TG: I met Bobby years and years ago in Florida at the 2-year-old sales and got to know him much better when I joined Juddmonte. He trained for Prince Khalid for nearly 20 years and he was really responsible for the tremendous success that Juddmonte had, especially in the West Coast and throughout the USA. He was an integral part of Juddmonte. Everyone that knew him well said he was incredibly tough on the outside but incredibly soft on the inside. I don't think anyone cared for his horses or his help more than he did.



Bobby Frankel
Horsephotos

TDN: Perhaps this is an exercise in futility, but we Americans really want to see Frankel in the Breeders' Cup. Any chance we can change your minds?

TG: (Laughs) We love the Breeders' Cup and the interest from American fans has been phenomenal and it has not gone unnoticed by anyone at Juddmonte. But we have always said we have to try to do the very best for the horses. With Frankel, whatever that may be is what we will do.