

## Colt gives Baffert a Kentucky Derby hopeful

## Medina Spirit holds off challengers to win Robert Lewis Stakes



In a photo provided by Benoit Photo, Medina Spirit and jockey Abel Cedillo, (inside), hold off Roman Centurian, (outside), with Juan Hernandez, and Hot Rod Charlie, (middle), with Joel Rosario, to win the Grade III, \$100,000 Robert B. Lewis Stakes horse race, on Jan 30, 2021, at Santa Anita in Arcadia, California. (AP)

ARCADIA, California, Jan 31, (AP): Medina Spirit led all the way and fought off two challengers late to win the \$100,000 Robert Lewis Stakes by a neck at Santa Anita and give trainer Bob Baffert a Kentucky Derby hopeful.

Ridden by Abel Cedillo, Medina Spirit ran 1-1/16 miles in 1:46.26 on a dirt track listed as good after 2.4 inches of rain fell through Friday.

Medina Spirit paid \$4, \$2.80 and \$2.20 as the even-money favorite in a field of six. The colt earned 10 qualifying points for the Kentucky Derby on May 1.

Roman Centurian returned \$7.60 and \$3.80 at 11-1 odds. Hot Rod Charlie was another nose back in third and paid \$2.60 to show as the 5-2 second

## HORSE RACING

choice. Baffert-trained Spielberg finished fourth, 11 lengths behind Hot Rod Charlie.

Cedillo sent Medina Spirit to the early lead before the colt was pressed on the backside by Wipe the Slate. Leading by a length at the top of the stretch, Medina Spirit was challenged by Hot Rod Charlie and Roman Centurian in a three-horse duel to the finish.

Baffert said Medina Spirit's effort reminded him of Silver Charm, his 1997 Kentucky Derby winner. The trainer earned his ninth victory in the Lewis.

"He had every reason to give it up late in the stretch when those horses came to him. I thought he was beat," Baffert said. "I thought they were going to get by and he wouldn't let them by, he fought on."

Medina Spirit was sold for \$35,000 at public auction in September. The victory, worth \$60,000, increased his career earnings to \$95,200.

## Kristoffersen defies deteriorating course to 'win' World Cup slalom

Zenhäusern finishes 2nd, Simonet in 3rd place

CHAMONIX, France, Jan 31, (AP): Henrik Kristoffersen showed glimpses of his best slalom skills Sunday, winning the last World Cup race before the world championships.

The Norwegian had an attacking, fluent opening run, and defied worsening course conditions in the final to land his second victory of the season.

Most of the top-ranked racers from the opening leg struggled on the rapidly deteriorating La Verte des Houches course, with the surface getting softer and softer as the sun came out in the afternoon after days of rain.

Kristoffersen was the last racer on course but managed to hold on to his first-run lead as he battled his way through the ruts.

The Norwegian beat Ramon Zenhäusern by 0.28 seconds and another Swiss skier, Sandro Simonet, by 0.66.

## SKIING

Simonet improved from 30th position after the opening run as he was among the racers who benefited from an early start in the final.

Kristoffersen's win came a day after he skied out a few seconds into his opening run of a slalom on the same course.

"I could have skied like this yesterday, too, if not for the straddle at the second gate. I feel really good on this kind of snow," he said.

Kristoffersen won the slalom season title for a second time last year but a victory in Italy in December had been his only previous podium finish in eight races in the current campaign.

"Life is not nice at all if you're skiing badly. This year has been really difficult for sure until now. We are struggling with the setup on the icy snow," the Norwegian said.

"Since the start of January up until now it has been super cold. The density of the ice has been really hard so then I don't have the right setup."



Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen speeds down the course during an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom, in Chamonix, on Jan 31, 2021. Inset: Kristoffersen celebrates on the podium of an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom, in Chamonix. (AP)

## Casey wins in Dubai for 15th European Tour title

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Jan 31, (AP): Paul Casey shot a 2-under 70 in the final round to win the Dubai Desert Classic by four strokes on Sunday for his 15th title on the European Tour — 20 years after his first.

The 43-year-old Englishman began the day with a one-shot lead over Robert MacIntyre, and built a five-stroke cushion with seven holes to play at Emirates Golf Club after his Scottish play-

ing partner made four straight bogeys from No. 7.

By rolling in a birdie putt from 3 feet at the par-5 18th hole, Casey

## GOLF

finished the tournament on 17-under-par 271 and clinched his first title on the European Tour since September 2019,

when he won the European Open in Germany. MacIntyre placed second on that occasion and he finished third in Dubai after a closing 74.

South Africa's Brandon Stone shot even-par 72 to climb into second place.

Casey, who won his first title on tour in 2001 at the Scottish PGA Championship, could move as high as 14th in the world ranking on Monday, up from 27th.

Clément Noël, who won the race on home snow Saturday, didn't qualify for the second run after coming off the race line in the opening run when his skis crossed and nearly failed to make the next gate.

The men's World Cup moves to Germany for speed races in Garmisch-Partenkirchen on Friday and Saturday, the last events before the worlds.

## Kuwait capture three silver medals at Asian Online Shooting Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31, (KUNA): Kuwait's shooting team won three silver medals at the Asian Online Shooting Championship organized by the Kuwait Shooting Federation.

The event, which featured more than 400 shooters from 22 countries, came to a close today.

Kuwait's shooter Saud Habib came second winning the silver at Men's Skeet competition.

Habib's compatriot Nasser Al-Maqlad also ranked second with the silver at Trap game and Iman Al-Shammaa won silver at Women's Skeet contest.

President of the Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, and Secretary-General of Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) Duaj Al-Otaibi congratulated the Kuwaiti athletes on their splendid performance and

## SHOOTING

remarkable outcomes during the championship, which featured the most outstanding shooters in the continent. He expressed pride for "good results" made by the Kuwaiti shooters.



KUNA Photo Kuwait national team player Talal Al-Rashidi in action during the shooting competition.

## Friedrich clinches 2-man WCup bobsled title

IGLS, Austria, Jan 31, (AP): Germany's Francesco Friedrich is the World Cup two-man bobsled champion again.

Friedrich clinched his fourth consecutive two-man title with his 11th win in 12 races this season. He teamed with Alexander Schuller for an easy victory, beating the Latvian sled of Oskars Kibermanis and Matis Miknis by nearly three-quarters of a second.

Friedrich's time was 1 minute, 43.08 seconds. Kibermanis

finished in 1:43.80. Russia's Rostislav Gaitukevich got his first World Cup medal, placing third with Mikhail Mordasov in 1:43.90.

## BOBSLED

Codie Bascue enjoyed his best finish of the season for the U.S., placing 10th with Kris Horn.

In the women's monobob race, Australia's Breanna Walker

earned her second victory of the season, with Elana Meyers Taylor of the U.S. finishing second and Canada's Melissa Lotholz third.

Kaillie Humphries of the U.S., who won both monobob races that she has entered this season, did not compete Saturday to continue preparations for the world championships that start next weekend in Germany. She will compete in the final women's World Cup bobsled race of the season on Sunday, with Lolo Jones in her sled.

## Texas A&amp;M's Mond named MVP

## Franks-to-Yeboah TD seals National's Senior Bowl win

MOBILE, Alabama, Jan 31, (AP): Texas A&M's Kellen Mond was the Senior Bowl Most Valuable Player but two fellow Southeastern Conference Western Division products made the decisive big play.

Arkansas' Feleipe Franks threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to Mississippi tight end Kenny Yeboah in the fourth quarter to help seal the National team's 27-24 victory over the American team.

Franks, a graduate transfer from Florida, set up the all-SEC West scoring connection with a 29-yard completion to Louisville's Dez Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick had six catches for 90 yards in the showcase game for senior and graduate NFL prospects, earning offensive player of the game honors.

Mond was the MVP with a huge third quarter when he passed for 141 of his 173 yards and a pair of touchdowns after a slow start.

"It was a great feeling whether it was a simple drop back or making an insane play," the former Aggies stand-out said. "Everything was kind of rolling my way. Obviously, kind of shaky at the beginning but it definitely shows a lot of poise to be able to bounce back." North Carolina running back Michael Carter also had a big game. Carter scored on a pile-driving 12-yard run late in the third quarter to help the National retake the lead after a Mond-led comeback.

Jamie Newman completed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Trevon Grimes with 49 seconds left for the American team after Franks and Yeboah made it a two-score game. The former Wake Forest quarterback, who transferred to Georgia but opted out before the season, set it up with a 35-yard completion to Bowling Green tight end Quintin Morris.

Tulane defensive lineman Cam Sample was the defensive player of the game. Sample had seven tackles and a share of a sack in a game blending players from Group of Five, small college and Power Five teams.

"We don't play the Alabama's or Ohio State's every week but we're always hungry," he said.

The game was played for the first time at South Alabama's new Hancock Whitney Stadium, with Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores leading the National team and Carolina's Matt Rhule coaching the American team. It also switched from the traditional North versus South format.

Fitzpatrick delivered in a short-handed group of receivers.

## FOOTBALL

"We were a little bit low on receivers," Flores said. "A couple of guys went out. Availability is key and he was available and able to capitalize on his opportunities."

Franks completed 9 of 16 passes for 122 yards. Carter averaged 8.0 yards per carry in his final season with the Tar Heels, and wasn't far off in the all-star game.

He gained 60 yards on eight carries and had two catches for 15 yards.

Mond, Texas A&M's career passing leader, delivered a pair of touchdown passes in the third quarter to help erase a 13-0 halftime deficit. Mond even converted one two-point play with a run and the other with a pass, following touchdowns of 15 yards to Clemson's Amari Rodgers and 14 yards to Tennessee's Josh Palmer. Newman competed 10 of 14 passes for 118 yards with a touchdown and interception.



American Team quarterback Kellen Mond of Texas A&M (12) throws against National Team offensive lineman Spencer Brown of Northern Iowa (FCS) (76) during the NCAA Senior Bowl college football game in Mobile, Alabama, on Jan 30. (AP)