



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2016, Los Angeles, CA – Paddy’s Day topped off an outstanding season in 2015 by winning the coveted Horse of The Year trophy as well as 4-Year-Old Colt, at the 29th annual Darley Awards sponsored by the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival and held at the Dolby Theatre.

Racing in the name of Quarter Moon Ranch LLC (owned by Scott and Lori Powell and Jim Schleimer), trained by Scott Powell and ridden by Kelsi Purcell, the bay colt won the \$150,000 HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan Jewel Crown bonus, 8 out of 11 starts, including 7 stakes, and earned over \$124,000. He was bred in Texas by Jane Teutsch. The entire Paddy’s Day team went on stage to accept the award.

In the other awards, Easter Man claimed the 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding and Jewel AA the 3-Year-Old Filly for owner Joe and Betty Gillis. Rosebrook Farm LLC’s RB Frynch Broad was named Champion 4-Year-Old Filly. So Big Is Better, owned by Mark Powell, won Champion Older Horse at age 11 and DC Willeys Song, owned by Jon and Krista Henningsgard, took home Champion Older Mare.

Leading jockey Kelsi Purcell, was emotional onstage accepting the Champion Jockey trophy. She was the regular rider of Paddy’s Day. Lynn Ashby was humble and gracious accepting her record eighth Darley award for trainer. Joe and Betty Gillis, who have been in the Arabian racing business for 24 years, picked up the Darley trophies for both Outstanding Owner and Breeder.

The Cup was extremely proud to have Steward Deb Mihaloff recognized with the HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Awards Outstanding Owner Award in recognition of her many years of racing successful horses with her husband Alan Kirshner and Cre Run Farm

In addition to the Darley trophies, the HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Awards were also presented. The following international individuals were recognized.

Mabrooka, France - Best 3-Year-Old Filly
Sylvine Al Maury - Best 4-Year-Old Filly
Taraq, Qatar - Best Mare
Rene-Laure Koch, France - Best Breeder
Deb Mihaloff, United States - Best Owner
Lynn Ashby, United States - Best Trainer
Kelsi Purcell, United States - Best Professional Jockey
Dina Heggum, Norway - Best Amateur Jockey
Fanny Olsson, Sweden - Best Apprentice Jockey
Karol Loureiro, Brazil - Best Photographer
Lara King, United Kingdom - Best TV Presenter
Victoria Shaw, Australia - Best Journalist
Maria Alvarez, Spain - Best Endurance Rider

Saturday saw newly crowned Horse of the Year Paddy's Day square off against 9 other rivals in the \$100,000 HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Award S. (Gr.1) at beautiful Santa Anita Park. It was a thrilling race that saw a big upset when Thess Is Awesome and jockey Travis Wales went wire to wire in the 1 1/16 mile race setting a new track record with a time of 1:54.75. Paddy's Day was second and Easter Man third. Dismissed at 45 to 1, Thess Is Awesome (Dahess x In Awe, by Monarch AH) paid \$94.20 to win, and the on-track handle was almost \$700,000. Lynn Ashby trains the 6-year-old stallion for owner Cre Run Farm who, with winning this race, gets an automatic entry into the 1.2 million Euro HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan Jewel Crown in Abu Dhabi in November.

On Sunday evening, the HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Annual Darley Awards Gala Dinner was held at the Beverly Wilshire Four Seasons Hotel. The highlight of this fantastic evening was the annual Arabian Racing Cup Stallion Breeding Auction, which attracted international attention on the 8 coveted breedings. The bidding was exciting and a total of \$47,000 was raised to support the Cup's racing and breeding incentive projects. The highest bid of the auction was \$12,000 for a breeding to top stallion Munjiz.

Denise Gault, who stepped down as Chief Steward at this event, said "I am so very pleased and congratulate all the Darley Champions as well as the nominees! It was a super Darley Awards, an unbelievably exciting Sheikh Fatima Darley Stake at Santa Anita, and a fabulous Darley Gala Banquet and Stallion Auction! As I pass the torch of Arabian Racing Cup Chief Steward to my fellow Steward, Michelle Morgan, I am excited for the "next generation" of the Cup, and wish her all the very best. I am remaining on the Board to work to help us achieve our goals together."

Incoming Chief Steward Michelle Morgan echoed Gault's feelings. "What a great weekend!" she said. "Congratulations to all the 2015 Darley winners on Friday night. Racing at beautiful Santa Anita race track was a perfect addition to the Darley weekend. The Gala dinner and Arabian Racing Cup Stallion Auction were huge successes. It was a perfect weekend, and we are already looking forward to the 2016 Darleys. Thank you to HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak and Lara Sawaya for making this all possible."

Founded in 1983 by Dr. Sam Harrison, the Arabian Racing Cup's Darley Awards ceremony is the showcase of U.S. Arabian racing. In 2012, the HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival and the Cup joined together to promote this prestigious event. The Darleys are headlined by the HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Darley Awards recognizing international women in Arabian Horse Racing.

The Darley Awards is under the direction of Lara Sawaya, Executive Director of the Festival, and organized by Arabian Racing Cup, The HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Global Arabian Horse Flat Racing Festival is sustained by the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority and coordinated by Abu Dhabi Sports Council with National Feed and Flour Production and Marketing CO. LLC as associate sponsors in cooperation with Emirates Racing Authority, IFAHR, Emirates Arabian Horse Society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare with The National Archives as the official partner and Emirates airline as the official carriers and sponsored by Bloom, Petromal, Rise General Trading Co. LLC, Hayatna, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), Al Awani General Enterprises, Kabale, Al Wathba Centre, the UAE's General Women's Union, The Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the HH Sheikh Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sports Academy, Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition 2016, Dr. Nader Saab Switzerland, Al Wathba Centre, Abu Dhabi Equestrian Club, Eastern Mangroves Suites-Abu Dhabi by Jannah, Yas Channel, Omeir Travels, Racing Post, Paris Turf and Laboratories Fadia Karam Cosmetics.