

GRADE 1 WINNER OLEKSANDRA IN-FOAL TO LEADING SIRE INTO MISCHIEF WILL CONTINUE TO TRAIN AND RACE FOR 120 DAYS BEFORE RETIREMENT ANIMAL KINGDOM MARE POINTING FOR REPEAT IN GRADE 1 JAIPUR STAKES

Animal Kingdom's Australian-bred Grade 1 winner Oleksandra has been declared "in-foal" to super-hot stallion Into Mischief on a March 10 cover date. According to The Jockey Club rules, "an in-foal mare may continue to race for 120 days from the date of cover." Bluewater Sales will offer her at Keeneland in November to dissolve the partnership.

Prior to her runner-up finish in the Wishing Well earlier this year, trainer Neil Drysdale reported on TVG that Oleksandra had a date with Into Mischief. Then TVG jumped the gun and reported that Oleksandra was being retired following her Wishing Well swan song. The fact is that the big Australian-bred mare will run two or three more times before her imposed retirement around mid-July. Races remaining on her dance-card include the License Fee and Jaipur Stakes (both at Belmont) and possibly one other race, yet to be named.



OLEKSANDRA shown winning stakes race at Saratoga.



2020 American Leading Sire INTO MISCHIEF

Racing in-foal mares is nothing new. In July of 2017, Kevin White, writing in *The Thoroughbred Daily News*, said "The effect that being in foal has on the racing performance of fillies has been the subject of discussion for decades. Every year without fail, fillies win races in the 120-day period during which they are permitted to race after being covered. There are multitudes of examples of this occurring from the lowest levels of the sport right up to the headline-making Group 1 wins of in-foal fillies such as Indian Queen and Chinese White. All of these successes have understandably served to reinforce the commonly-held theory that pregnancy can often correlate with improved racing performance in fillies." Full story can be found [here](#).

Oleksandra won the Grade 1 Jaipur Stakes last year despite being crashed into and stepped on by an aggressively-ridden runner breaking beside her from the gate. Although she got up in time for the victory, she had suffered a splint injury which kept her off the track until her return in the Breeders' Cup in which she ran below par.

Oleksandra is one of three G1 winners for her sire Animal Kingdom, two of which were bred by Team Valor International (Oleksandra and Australian Derby winner Angel of Truth.) The other G1 winner is Duopoly, winner of the American Oaks in 2020.