

SE News
HD **COUNTDOWN FOR 'PRINCE' OF TURF**
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NATHAN Tinkler sightings in Brisbane means the countdown has begun for the Magic **Millions** sellout of his Patinack Farm thoroughbred empire. MM auctioneer David Chester has banged his drum through all points in Asia in preparation for the Tinkler **sale** at **Gold** Coast in a fortnight.

While Tinkler (pictured) was spotted in Jags and Mercs around swish Moray St, New Farm, Chester was driving the MM message through **Hong Kong**, Macau, Malaysia and Singapore.

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"There will be 560 horses with prices totally unreserved, including the 350 racing stock," Chester told Traps from **China**. The Sept 28-Oct 1 sellout at the MM **Gold** Coast complex is ironic. The Tinkler MM splurge at the 2008 sales almost saved the **company**'s bacon. Tinkler contributed almost half the \$40 **million** turnover as the bloodstock **company** fought back from the financial chills of the global financial crisis and horse flu.

The blue, green and **gold** Patinack colours starred on all major Australian tracks. But when debts started piling up and a mystery Middle Eastern buyer for the Patinack empire failed to produce the cash, MM chairman Gerry Harvey declared enough was enough.

Along the way, Tinkler's **coal** empire sustained ups and downs and his backing for the Newcastle Knights NRL team began to falter.

MM fortunes have seldom looked brighter with the **company** aligning itself with the Channel 7 network. Seven bosses are sidestepping rumours the **company** wants to form a betting network via cable telecaster TVN or with a takeover bid for well-branded Tabcorp, which runs the NSW-Victorian TABs and Sky Channel cable TV. Tinkler, 38, prefers the New Farm apartment complex "Pietra" when in Brisbane. The address is better known as the base of so-called Tahitian Prince Joel Barlow, who was prescribed 14 years of jail treatment for relieving Queensland Health of \$17 **million**.

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