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THOROUGHBRED

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1993



N • E • W • S T O D A Y S

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CHURCHILL DOWNS TO UNDERGO \$1.8 MILLION IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Churchill Downs Board of Directors yesterday approved \$1.8 million for capital improvements at the track. Included in the millions will be extensive general maintenance of the backside stable area, such as painting, stall refurbishing and roof repairs for the barns, further improvements to the Churchill Downs grandstand, and updating of the track's fire protection system. The action took place at a regularly scheduled quarterly board meeting, where it was also announced that Churchill Downs has joined with other racetracks in Kentucky to form "Kentucky to the Front." The newly founded association is studying the issue of casino gaming at racetracks in Kentucky and hopes to make recommendations in early 1994.

STRUB STAKES TO HONOR TWO SANTA ANITA LEADERS

The Grade I Charles H. Strub Stakes, which heads the Strub Series of stakes races contested exclusively by four-year-olds each winter at Santa Anita, has been renamed simply the Strub Stakes to honor both the track's founder and his son, the late Robert P. Strub.

PHONE CHATTER RECOVERING

Trainer Richard Mandella said Phone Chatter, the daughter of Phone Trick who won the Nov. 6 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, is recovering well after surgery on her left hind leg. "The operation was last Tuesday at Alamo Pintado in Solvang," Mandella said. "It took an hour and 15 minutes and I watched the whole thing. It was arthroscopic surgery. They just open a slit, then drill and insert a screw. They closed it with two sutures." Phone Chatter is expected to be sidelined for several months.

HOLLYWOOD DERBY—SATURDAY.

\$400,000, 1 1/8 MILES, TURF, 3-YEAR-OLDS, 122 lbs.

P.P. Horse	Trainer	Jockey
1 Manny's Prospect	M. Smith	Flores
2 Minjinsky	J. Dupuis	Pedroza
3(a) Eastern Memories (IRE)	M. Hennig	Bailey
4 Nonproductiveasset	W. Dollase	Solis
5 Sharman	A. Fabre	Jarnet
6(a) Guide (FR)	R. Hess, Jr.	Desormeaux
7 Jeune Homme	F. Boutin	Pincay, Jr.
8(b) Bon Point (GB)	A. Fabre	Antley
9 Cigar	Hassinger Jr.	Valenzuela
10 Earl of Barking (IRE)	R. Cross	McCarron
11 Explosive Red	D. Vella	Nakatani
12 Fatherland (IRE)	G. Jones	Delahoussaye
13(b)Wharf	R. Frankel	Stevens
14 Fastness (IRE) (S)	J. Sahadi	Black

(a) Common ownership; (b) Juddmonte Farms Guide (FR), two-for-two in America, has been with trainer Bob Hess, Jr. since the summer. "We bought him around July 15 in Europe," said Hess, who is optimistic about Guide's chances Saturday. "He's the best he's ever been. If he is intrinsically fast enough, he'll win. He'll run as fast as he can." Fastness (IRE) paid a \$15,000 supplemental entry fee.

HOLLYWOOD TURF EXPRESS, SATURDAY

\$200,000, 5 1/2 FURLONGS, TURF, 3 & UP

P.P. Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1 Tsunami Spangler	R. Taylor	Solis	115
2 Wild Harmony	B. Mayberry	McCarron	117
3 Western Approach	R. Frankel	Desormeaux	116
4 Robin Des Pins	F. Boutin	Delahoussaye	119
5 Mot De France (FR)	D. Meredith	Black	113
6 Monde Bleu (GB)	A. Fabre	Nakatani	119
7 Didyme	R. Mandella	Stevens	116
8 Gundaghia	B. Baffert	Flores	116

With the recent retirement of Answer Do, who has won the race the last three years, the door is open for a new Turf Express champion. Bob Baffert would like to see Gundaghia, who won the first division of the race in 1991 and finished third last year, take Answer Do's place. "He's doing real well," said Baffert. "He likes the Hollywood Park turf. It's probably the best turf course in the country, or at least in California." Baffert feels the six-year-old gelding has a few good racing seasons left in him. "He's a very sound horse, very durable, probably the most durable horse on the circuit."

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Gundaghia broke his maiden in 1990 in a \$12,000 claiming race and has since gone on to win seven stakes. Trainer Richard Mandella will send out the three-year-old colt Didyme who won two races in France last year, defeating such highly regarded competitors as Kingmambo and Creaking Board. "We got him early this summer," says Mandella. "He had been injured last year. Crikette Head sent him over and they laid him up then told us to take our time and bring him up at our own pace. It's worked out real well. He's doing great. This race will be a step up in class obviously, but he won in hand the other day in the first race we ran him in. He acts like he's in good shape and I think he's talented enough. We'll find out." Four-year-old filly Western Approach worked three furlongs in :36 3/5 at Santa Anita on Wednesday in her final preparation for the Turf Express.

HAWTHORNE GOLD CUP—SATURDAY

\$400,000, Grade II, 1 1/4 miles, 3 & up

P.P. Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1 Likely Target	M.L. Reavis	Gall	111
2 Northern Trend	W.P. White	Guidry	112
3 Powerful Punch	H.L. Vanier	Bourque	116
4 Marquetry	R.J. Frankel	Smith	123
5 Dancing Jon	J.B. Sonnier	Silva	112
6 Stalwars	L. Ahrens	Diaz	116
7 Valley Crossing	R. Small	Seefeldt	117
8 Evanescent	L.M. Goldfine	Gryder	115

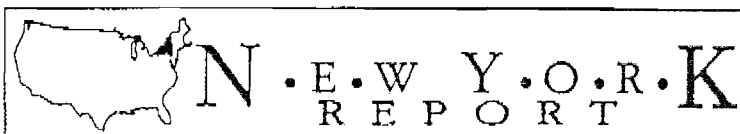
NEWS Continued

BEST PAL BACK IN TRAINING All-time leading California-bred money earner Best Pal has returned to Hollywood Park following a 10-day freshening period at Golden Eagle Farm. The five-year-old gelding finished 10th as the 9-5 second choice in the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic. "I'm not sure where and when he's going to run next," trainer Gary Jones said. "We don't have any immediate plans for him."

SUPER STAFF RETIRED Super Staff, upset winner of the 1992 Yellow Ribbon Stakes, has been retired from racing. The five-year-old Secretariat mare was in the midst of a comeback following a serious leg injury, but was still favoring the surgically repaired hind leg in morning workouts, when owner Juddmonte Farm, and trainer Ron McAnally decided to curtail the comeback. Super Staff has already been flown to Kentucky where she will enter the Juddmonte broodmare band.

RIVER SPECIAL READY TO RACE According to trainer Bob Hess, Jr., "River Special is training extremely well and will run before the end of the year at either Hollywood or Santa Anita." The three-year-old son of Riverman out of the Nijinsky II mare Nijinska Street won two Grade I stakes last year, the Hollywood Futurity and Norfolk, as well as the Grade II Del Mar Futurity. He also ran third in the 1992 Breeders' Cup Juvenile. "I'll probably bring him back in some sort of little stakes, maybe a \$50,000 or \$60,000 stakes," said Hess. "I'd

love to run him in the Malibu on December 26, but I don't know if that's necessarily going to be possible." Hess feels River Special is much better than he was last year. "He's a lot stronger. He's not necessarily taller, but he's a lot broader and a lot more powerful." On a more personal note, Hess welcomed a new addition to his family when wife Sheila gave birth to a seven-pound, two-ounce son, Christian, on Wednesday. Hess and his wife also have a three-year-old son, Garrison.



Yesterday's Results

8th-Aqu, \$44,000 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 9ft, 1:52 3/5, yl. Teresa M. Maher's TIFFANY'S TAYLOR (f, 4, Titanic—Tiffany Dream, by Blue Ensign) came from behind to sweep past the 11-horse field and win by 2, increasing her bankroll to \$173,480, wins to 7. The NY-bred trains out of Leo O'Brien's shedrow.

7th-Aqu, \$28,000 Alw., 3yo/up, 7f, 1:24 2/5, ft. In his first start since July, DANCING HUNTER (g, 3, Jade Hunter—Nijinsky's Beauty, by Nijinsky II), scored his first career Alw. win for trainer Willard C. Freeman. The KY.-bred 1/2 brother to I'LL TAKE A STAND (Flt to Fight, 15 wins, 2-5, \$223,785), is owned by John W. Meriwether.

5th-Aqu, Mdn., 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12 3/5, ft. The Allen Iwinski-trained entry SANDYS SERENDIPITY (f, 3, Conquistador Cielo—Brunswick Dawn, by Amber Morn), a 1/2 sister to Canadian Chp. LET'S GO BLUE (Bob's Dusty, G3-\$757,597), came from just off the pace to win her first time out by 2 1/2 for owner John A. Gambone.

9th-Aqu, Mdn., 2yo, 8f, 1:39 2/5, ft. Second choice BIT OF PUDDIN (g, 2, Obligato—Puddin Tane, by Vigors) defeated a field of 10 for trainer Leo O'Brien after placing 2nd in his last 3 tries. Owned by James F. Edwards, the Mike Smith mount made his move in the stretch to win by a neck.

3rd-Aqu, Mdn., 3yo/up, f/m, 9f, 1:56 4/5, ft. Bettors' choice in a field of 3, IRIAN JAYA (f, 3, Spectacular Bid—Why, by Stage Door Johnny), 1/2 sister to ASKRAWHY (Naskra, \$254,814), led wire-to-wire for an 8-length win. The VA.-bred is owned by Patricia Edgerton and trains under Richard Destasio.



Yesterday's Results

8th-Hol, \$39,000 Alw., 3yo/up, 8.5ft, 1:41 2/5, fm. Juddmonte Farms' colorbearer MODERNISE (c, 4, Known Fact—Modena, by Roberto), a GSW of \$130,976 bred in Kentucky by Rhyddian Morgan-Jones and trained by Bobby Frankel, returned from a 4-month vacation to register a 1/2-length tally, his first since



March. The half brother to ELMAAMUL (Hwt. in Ire, \$758,832) improves his NA/UK record to 13-4-2-3. Favored ZAAHI (G3, \$216,973 Slew of Gold) was third.

3rd-Hol, \$31,000 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 7.5f, 1:28 4/5, ft. STELLAR AFFAIR (f, 3, Skywalker—Fawn and Hahn, by *Grey Dawn II), running in the colors of Xalapa Farm, made her move after a 1/2-mile, then finished in front by 3 1/2. The Chris Speckert trainee tallied her 1st Alw. win, 2 out of 5 overall and has now earned \$39,950.

2nd-Hol, Mdn., 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 2/5, ft. Clifford Sise Jr. trained ALABAMA MOON (g, 3, Al Mamoon—Terra Miss, by Terresto) took the lead after a 1/2-mile, then defeated the 11-horse field to win by 5 for owner W. R. Welty, in his 3rd lifetime start.

4th-Hol, Mdn., 2yo, f, 8.5f, 1:46 1/5, ft. Running under jockey Chris Antley, CHROMOGENIC (f, 2, Chromite—Tentamount, by Tentam), a PA.-bred owned by Diane Garber, sat just off the pace through the opening 1/2, then battled to the wire to prevail by a head for trainer David Cross.

6th-Hol, Mdn., 2yo, f, 8fT, 1:37 2/5, gd. Howard B. Keck's LADY DANZ (f, 2, Danzig—Classic Crown, by Mr. Prospector) became the first winner for her G1-\$535,919 dam (a 1/2 sister to Chief's Crown), while going long on turf for the first time. The Carl Rosen Assoc. KY.-bred hit the board for the first time in 4 starts for trainer Charlie Whittingham.

9th-Hol, Mdn., 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 3/5, ft. Brother Petrosian's FARMER DREAM (c, 3, I'ma Hell Raiser—Ahora Si, by Nalees Man), bred in Kentucky by William P. Wornall, bounced back after a 10 1/4-length defeat to break his maiden in 5th start for trainer Sam Scolamieri.



EASTERN REPORT

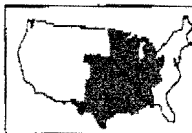
Yesterday's Results:

8th-Pha, \$21,000 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 8f-70yds, 1:45, ft. BLUE MOON NINETY (f, 3, Allen's Prospect—Promenador, by Cannonade), bred in Maryland by Country Life Farm and claimed for \$7,500 by owner-trainer Efraim Garcia, keeps climbing the ladder and has won 6 of her last 7 starts, including an allowance test last out. The wire-to-wire, 3 1/4-length victory extends record to 11-7-0-0 and \$46,455.

7th-Lrl, \$18,500 Alw., 3yo/up, 9f, 1:53 2/5, ft. Mrs. Jack Jeweler's 3-2 favorite SAN AMERICAN (g, 4, American Standard—Star San, by Five Star Flight), second by inches in his last two outings, collared front-runner STELIOS ART in mid-stretch and drew clear by 1 1/2 lengths for his 1st win of the season.

9th-Crc, \$18,400 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 4/5, ft. Wendy Dwoskin's 17-1 longshot SPIN A DREAM (f, 4, Fountain of Gold—Galamydreams, by Gallant Knave), bred in Florida by Harold Kitchen and racing from Steve Dwoskin's shedrow, picked up her first win of the year with a nose victory. Favored PANAMA HATTIE (Restivo) was 4th of six.

8th-Lrl, \$17,400 Alw., 2yo, f, 5.5f, 1:06 1/5, ft. Leonard Goldberg's 2-1 CLEVER ROSEY (f, 2, Clever Champ—Gentle Whisper, by Gentle King), bred in Maryland by Rita Riedlbauer and conditioned by Ralph Verderosa, returned from a 2 3/4-length debut win to score by 1 1/4 over eight foes.



MIDWEST REPORT

Yesterday's Results:

8th-CD, \$31,290 Alw., 3yo/up, 9fT, 1:53, yl. WHERE'S MY SHADES (h, 5, Shahrastani—Margaritaville, by Tom Rolfe), a Hill 'n Dale Farm Illinois-bred racing in the colors of Randy Martin and Kohn Kerber, shipped in from Hawthorne and captured his first Kentucky appearance by 2 lengths for trainer Rickey Harris. The 14-1 outsider hooked up with 30-1 longshot FRANCHISE PLAYER for a \$1,069 exacta.

4th-CD, \$30,750 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 8fT, 1:40 1/5, yl. John Franks' colorbearer MY MANDY (f, 4, Secreto—Double Dinky, by Nodouble), bred in Kentucky by Calumet Farm and BILL, Inc. and trained by William Bradley, held a slight advantage throughout and prevailed by 3/4 length for her sixth career victory.

7th-CD, \$29,980 Alw., 3yo/up, 8.5f, 1:47 1/5, my. Thomas Woodrum's Kentucky homebred MISTER BOOM BOOM (c, 3, Cannon Dancer—Miz Nutcake, by Replate), trained by David Banks in his first start outside New York, moved up from the claiming ranks and won by 2 for first win since January. Favored CHIM (Truxton King) was 5th of ten.

6th-CD, \$28,820 Alw., 3yo/up, 7f, 1:25 2/5, my. B. Heiligbrodt and W. New's RICHMAN (h, 5, Bet Big—Dazzling Concorde, by Super Concorde), a GSW of \$1,314,360, set all the pace and won by 2 lengths for his initial win of the season. The Lynn Whiting trainee improves record to 33-14-5-5.

1st-Haw, \$19,800 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11, ft. VELVET TULIP (f, 3, Valid Appeal—Payola Miss, by Nearctic Traveller), owned, bred, and trained by Neil Boyce and his racing stable, hit the wire 2 1/2 lengths in front to improve 8-4-3-0 and \$77,429.

3rd-CD, Mdn., 3yo/up, 8f, 1:40 1/5, my. Swifty Farms' Kentucky homebred DUSTY ASHER (c, 3, Bob's Dusty—Ride the Notes, by Stop the Music) came from within the middle of the pack and won by 2 lengths in his career opener.

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W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOULD BE DETERMINED HERE

By William Leggett

In the warm afterglow of Breeders' Cup X someone must have slipped something silly into the brainpans of more than just a few racing writers because common sense, as well as blood, has stopped flowing into their thinking processes.

In far too many newspapers racing fans are being told that somehow the outcome of the \$3,404,347 Japan Cup on November 28 should have an impact on the voting for the North American Horse of the Year. Nononononono! What has occurred is that the writers have jumped on the easiest story imaginable and given it credibility without ever examining the facts.

That is not something new for the writers because in some cases they are not, as the saying goes, the brightest porch lights on the block. The 1 1/2 mile Japan Cup is run left-handed, or "our way", and it is the richest race in the world. It is also the richest race in the world that nobody knows anything about due to the 20-hour time difference between this country and the Far East.

This year, though, it has drawn a most interesting field led by the Lex Syndicate et al's Kotashaan and the Tomaeato Farms' Star of Cozzene, two of the three 1993 grass stars under consideration for Horse of the Year. The third candidate is the Claiborne Farm's Lure, a non-starter in the Japan Cup after a sparkling winning performance in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

Lure will race next year; recent purchases Kotashaan and Star of Cozzene are going to Japan to commence stud duty in 1994 after running in the Japan Cup. Both were purchased for about \$3 million each, so a win in the Japan Cup could almost cut that price in half when one considers that the winning pot could be worth \$1,469,565 plus another \$43,478 to the winning owner. That adds up to \$1,513,043.

Brought down to basics, it is \$993,043 more than Lure got for his Mile victory; \$473,043 more than Kotashaan received for defeating Bien Bien in the \$2 million Turf; only \$46,957 less than Arcangues got for upsetting the \$3 million Classic.

Brought down to one more statistical basic, should Star of Cozzene win the Japan Cup he will get \$913,043 more than he got for winning this year's Arlington Million.

What does that all mean when it comes down to voting for Horse of the Year? Absolutely nothing. It is about the same as Fred McGriff making a post-season baseball tour of Japan with the Atlanta Braves and hitting 25 home runs against the Hanshin Tigers. Chances are we would never hear about it, and secondly those homers would not go into Fred's U.S. statistics.

Nor should they. Ditto the Japan Cup and our Horse of the Year. Some of the writers' stories seem to have the same thin grip on reality and modernity that George Bush often exhibited just when we didn't want him to: like standing in awe before the bar-code scanner at the Grocery Association Convention; or trying to be one with the young by stating that he loved the "Nitty Gritty Ditty Great Bird Band."

Eclipse voters have never been faced with the bewildering dilemma of separating three turf horses from each other and anointing one Horse of the Year: Round Table in 1958, John Henry twice ('81-'84), and All Along in '83. John Henry and Round Table were fine on dirt as well as grass, and in '58

Round Table did most of his running on dirt while winning 14 or 20 starts that year. And in '81, John Henry clinched his title by winning the Jockey Club Gold Cup on dirt.

All Along beat out Bates Motel and Devil's Bag for Horse of the Year. Oddly, the year before that, All Along had finished second to Bert Firestone's Half Iced, beaten a mere neck in the second Japan Cup. The first one had been won by another U.S. Horse, A.D. Scheffler's Mairzy Dotes, in 1981. John Henry ran 13th in the Cup that Half Iced won. And the pots were wonderful, too. Mairzy Dotes got \$295,455 while Half Iced received \$269,231.

That is a lot of money considering the times and the fact that shipping, lodging, meals and entertainment are paid for by the Japan Racing Association. The owner and spouse get first-class round-trip air transportation plus lodging for seven days; the trainer and spouse for 10 days; the jockey and spouse for seven days. The groom and exercise person go economy class, inhabit living quarters attached to the stables and are given coupons for meals.

And there are bonuses and participation fees all over the place. A horse can run ninth or worse and still get \$45,217. A "participating" trainer gets \$2,609, and should he win, another \$1,339 is thrown in.

The growth factor of the Japan Cup is one of the most remarkable accomplishments in world sports. In its first running 13 years ago it drew 89,200. Last year, 168,561 turned out at Tokyo Racecourse. Wagering on the first Japan Cup was about \$27 million. Last year it was over \$270 million, nearly four times what is bet nationwide on the seven Breeders' Cup races.

Through its first dozen runnings, four U.S. horses have won from 25 starters. Japan has won three times; Australia, France, Great Britain, Ireland and New Zealand once each. The four U.S. winners all went off at large prices, so much so that a flat \$2 bet on all 25 runners from this country still shows a profit of \$150.00.

While the arguments over Kotashaan, Lure and Star of Cozzene being named Horse of the Year haven't reached bumper-sticker proportions yet, strong cases can be made for each. They started a combined 28 times in '93 and were first or second 26 times. Don't be silly when you look at their records and try to bring into play that idiotic "Graded Races" bunk.

Lure defeated Star of Cozzene by a total of 2 1/4 lengths in the Early Times Turf Classic at Churchill Downs and the Early Times Dixie at Pimlico. If you know nothing whatsoever about racing in American, you call those Grade III races, and that is what happened. Star of Cozzene subsequently defeated Lure by a total of 1 3/4 lengths in the Manhattan Handicap and the \$500,000 Caesar's International at Atlantic City.

For some oblique reason those are Grade II races. Whenever Lure meets Star of Cozzene, or Star of Cozzene meets Lure for that matter, that's a Grade I race unless you are spending too much time listening to the Nitty Gritty Ditty Great Bird Band.

Star of Cozzene also defeated Kotashaan twice in 1993, so if you take Star or Cozzene out of the equation, Lure goes 8-8 while Kotashaan is 7-8 between Jan. 28 and Nov. 6, and that is including a wretched ride by Kent Desormeaux which cost Kotashaan the Del Mar Invitational. But you can't take Star of Cozzene out because he beat the two top contenders a total of four times while losing only twice.

So the voters will just have to do the correct thing and judge the three contenders on what they did in this country. As for the writers silly enough to consider the Japan Cup a part of the voting process, well there's a bar code scanner somewhere in their futures that they can discover for the very first time.