

# THOROUGHBRED

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1993

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T O D A Y

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P R E V I E W

## WOOD MEMORIAL, PEGASUS ARE DOWNGRADED

The North American Graded Stakes Committee has announced the downgrading of 11 stakes races. For stakes run before May 1, 1994, the changes will not be in effect until their 1995 runnings. Only 2 GI's, the Wood Memorial Stakes at Aqueduct and the Pegasus Handicap at the Meadowlands, were affected. Both will assume GII status. Also downgraded were 3 GII's and 6 GIII's.

## MEADOWLANDS WRAP-UP

The Meadowlands closed its 67-night meeting Fri. with an average daily attendance of 8,083, the highest of any N.Y. metropolitan area track this year. Total on-track attendance for the meet numbered 541,593. Total handle came to \$131,263,366 and total on-track handle was \$77,421,630. Nightly purse distribution totaled \$123,000 at the start of the meet and through 4 purse hikes rose to \$165,000. "We are in a new era where the right mix of simulcast and live product and revenues will continue to help racing grow in New Jersey," said Executive VP Hal Handel. Joe Bravo captured his 3rd consecutive riding title. The training race ended in a tie between Juan Serey and the Meadowlands' all-time leader John Forbes. Jewel E Stables (Paul Listort) took the owner's title.

## PURSES INCREASED AT FAIR GROUNDS

New Orleans Fair Grounds is instituting an across-the-board increase in overnight purse monies. Purses will go up from \$500 to \$1000 per race, effective with the Dec. 15 card. Through the 1st 3 weeks of its meet, the Fair Grounds has seen on-track handle increase 3.6% over last season and overall handle, including OTB and out-of-state wagering, increase 33.5%.

## AQUEDUCT RACING CANCELLED-AGAIN

Racing was called off after the running of the 2nd race at Aqueduct yesterday; it was the 2nd consecutive cancellation. "With the rain and snow on Sat. and the sudden temperature fluctuations since then, it has been difficult to maintain a consistent racing surface," said Executive VP Lawrence A. Executive VP. "The dark days will continue all the time we need to get back for a full 9-race card on Wed.

## SATURDAY, HOLLYWOOD PARK

The GI \$250,000 Hollywood Starlet Stakes featuring 2-year-old fillies at 1 1/16 miles will showcase Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies runner-up **Sardula** (Storm Cat). Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Moss and trained by Brian Mayberry, the SW worked 6 furlongs at Santa Anita Thurs. in a bullet 1:12 2/5. Regular jockey Eddie Delahoussaye will ride. Challenging Sardula will be **Tricky Code** (Lost Code), who finished 7th in the BC but has since won the \$250,000 Miesque S. at 1 mile on the turf. **Private Persuasion** (Pirate's Bounty) will be supplemented to the race for a fee of \$6,250, with an additional \$6,250 to start. The Dan Hendricks Jr. trainee won the Cal Cup Juvenile Fillies Oct. 16.

## SUNDAY, HOLLYWOOD PARK

The GI \$500,000 Hollywood Futurity, featuring 2-year-olds at 1 1/16 miles, will bring together the 1st, 2nd and 4th-place finishers from the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Undefeated **Brocco** (Kris S.) is almost definite for the race. According to his trainer Randy Winick, "Right now I'd say it's definite that he will run." Meeting Brocco for the BC runner-up **Blumin Affair** (Dynasty) never finished worse than 2nd in 4 races. **Flying Sensation** (Flying Paster) won the BC Juvenile and was 4th in the BC. Trainer Duane An believes a small field will help his horse's chances. "I don't imagine we'll have a large field and I can't see too many supplemental nominations," said Warren. "You're going to have the 1-2-4 finishers from the BC, so a trainer would have to have the 2nd coming of Secretariat to supplement any horse that just broke his maiden." Eddie Delahoussaye has the mount. **Gracious Ghost** (Relaunch), 5th in the GIII Generous S. in his most recent outing, will be ridden in the Futurity by Kent Desormeaux.

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# W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

## A WINTER WONDERLAND

by: Alycia Borer

*"We feel that there's no finer place in the world for a racehorse than Aiken, South Carolina."- MacK. Miller, Hall of Fame trainer.*

The 52-year-old Aiken Training Center is open year-round. But according to its president, W.C. Freeman, "There's only 1 outfit that stays here in the summer."

For the past 7 years, Ron Stevens has based his entire operation in Aiken. "I don't go to the racetrack anymore," he said. "My emphasis is on buying young horses, breaking them and when they're ready to go to the racetrack I send them off to other trainers."

Stevens describes the atmosphere in Aiken as, "Very cordial, laid back, quiet. The weather is beautiful. We rarely miss a day of training here." Training takes place on the one-mile main track or a 5/8-mile track. Stevens also utilizes training surfaces provided by nature. "We've got fields, dirt roads, trails and 1600 acres of woods," he said.

Stevens spent 9 years as the private trainer for Cot Campbell's Dogwood Stables. For the past 3 years, while he continues to condition for Dogwood, he has taken on several new clients as well. It was Dogwood, however, that gave him his best student.

"I guess the best I've had would have to be Summer Squall," said Stevens. "We picked him out, broke him here at Aiken; then I brought him back here twice for recuperation and rest. Of course he was 2nd in the Derby and won the Preakness. This year we have Wallenda. I've got him right now kind of freshening up. I've had him here about a month now. I'm gonna keep him a couple of more weeks then send him on to Florida to Frank Alexander. He's in light training. We run him out in the paddock for about 3 hours a day and then we jog him a little bit and walk him around the trails here in Aiken. He hasn't seen the racetrack and I won't take him to a racetrack while he's here."

One of Aiken's attractions is the Trials, which are run on the Training Center's one-mile oval each year on the 3rd Saturday in March and feature 1/4-mile races for 2-year-olds and 1/2-mile races for 3-year-olds. Silver trophies are awarded to the winners.

Stevens believes that the Aiken Trials provide essential seasoning for young horses. "I've had several that have won here and they go to Keeneland in April and win their 1st out because they're just ahead of the Northern horses," said Stevens. "They don't have to win here, either. Just the experience is good. When I ran Summer Squall in the trials, he was 3rd. But we took him to Keeneland 2 weeks later and he won by 13 lengths his 1st out."

Stevens' schedule of training in Aiken year-round is

the exception rather than the rule. Trainers who migrate to Aiken for the winter months include Steve Penrod (Claiborne), Dave Maclean (Hill n' Dale), Bud-dy Raines and MacK. Miller (Rokeby Stables).

With the plethora of training talent there, Aiken has been home to many star Thoroughbreds. Thirty-seven of these are honored in the Aiken Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, which opened in Jan., 1977, is run by the city and is located in an old carriage house that was part of the Iselin estate. Among those celebrated on its walls are Tom Fool, Kelso, Gamely, Shuvee, Stage Door Johnny, Pleasant Colony, Relaxing, Conquistador Cielo, Christmas Past, Swale, Forty Niner and Pleasant Tap. Qualifications for induction are that the horse have trained in Aiken and been voted a National Champion. If he fulfills the latter requirement, '93 Kentucky Derby and Travers winner Sea Hero will become the newest inductee this spring.

MacK. Miller, has been wintering in Aiken for over 30 years. "We feel that there's no finer place in the world for a racehorse than Aiken, South Carolina," said Miller. "The winters are not as severe as they are in Kentucky, where I used to winter. We get to the racetrack every day. The springs are early, perhaps 5 to 6 weeks earlier than in Kentucky. And the water is marvelous for the horses."

Rokeby's yearlings arrived in Aiken Nov. 4 and the older horses came from New York Nov. 18. "We unwind the older horses and let them have 2 hours in the paddock, no saddle, for about 4 weeks," said Miller. "We let them down completely. They're turned out and just allowed to relax for about 2 or 3 hours a day out in the sun. We think they deserve it after they've been penned up in a stall all year."

There is no question that 1993 GSW Sea Hero and You'd Be Surprised deserve some relaxation. "Sea Hero is inactive at the moment," said Miller. "We've put a 2nd blister on his knees. He had a little calcium deposit above the joint in the left knee. Just wear and tear; he was not unsound." As for You'd Be Surprised, Miller said, "She's turned out. She'll go back in training about the 8th or 10th of January."

Rokeby presently has 21 yearlings at the Aiken Training Center. "We've got some well-bred horses and it's too early to predict what they may or may not do," said Miller. "They're in the infant stage of training, galloping every day. They're also walking through the gate every day and becoming familiar with that. It's fun because, the bottom line is, the 2-year-olds are the future of any racing stable."

Miller participates in the Aiken Trials on a limited basis. "We usually run one," he said. "We're not crazy about running them too quick, but we usually have a maiden 3-year-old that needs to be educated around mid-March, and we'll enter one."

About April 15, Miller will bring his string back up to New York. But for the next few months, he will enjoy the weather, the atmosphere and the hope of next year's 2-year-olds as another winter passes in Aiken, South Carolina.





# B • R • E • E • D • E • R • S

## EDITION



### F • O • R • E • I • G • N

#### REPORT

#### Sunday's Result:

**ASAHI HAI SANSAI S.**-G1, Nakayama, Japan, 12-12, \$935,824, 2yo, c and g, 8fT, 1:34 4/5, fm.

1--**NARITA BRIAN**, c, 2, Brian's Time (C.B. Stud-Jpn.) --Pacificus, by Northern Dancer. O-Hidenori Yamaji; B-Hayata Bokujo Niikappu Shijo (VA.); T-M. Okubo; \$496,745.

2--**Field Bomber**, c, 2, Secreto (Suwa Bokujo-Jpn) --Hail to Mom, by Secretariat; (\$110,000 two-year-old 1993 Barretts March 2yos in training sale).

3--**Trust Kankan**, c, 2, Natroun (JBBA Iburi Stallion Station-Jpn) --Maui Poker, by Poker.  
Margins: 3 1/2, 4, 1/2.

#### Allowance Results:

**2nd-Aqu, \$28,000 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 2/5, sy.** Making her Alw. debut, Richard Rudolph's **RENI** (f, 3, Palace Music--Positioned, by Cannonade), an Allen Paulson MD-bred, took her 3rd win in a row, by leading after a 1/2 mile, then accelerating to stretch the gap and win by 11 3/4 at the wire. The John Parisella trained entry now has a record of 5-3-1-0, earnings of \$33,620.

**10th-Pha, 12-13, \$20,925 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, state-bred, 7f, 1:27, ft.** Stakes-placed earlier this year, **ROMANTIC ENCOUNTER** (f, 3, Two Davids--You Like Dancing, by Northern Dancer), scoring her first Alw. win, led from gate-to-wire and finished in front by a 1/2. The PA-bred runs in the colors of Trinbrook Stables and was saddled by Uriah Lewis; earnings rise to \$52,509, wins now at 2.

**9th-Pha, 12-13, \$20,000 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:24 2/5, ft.** Running in the silks of Pesaridan Stables, bettor's choice **OUR PESARIDAN** (f, 3, Affirmed--Our Reunion, by Graustark) made her move on the stretch and took a 2 length victory for her 2nd win in a row. Conditioned by Edwin Broome, the IL-bred now has a bankroll of \$43,700, record of 3-4-1-0.

**8th-Haw, 12-13, \$19,360 Alw., 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 2/5, ft.** Winning for the 1st time this year, **PETITE D'ACCORD** (f, 4, D'accord--La Belle Paula, by Marshua's Dancer) made a triumphant dash that saw her in front from gate-to-wire, tallying her 3rd career win by 3 1/4 for trainer Gene Cilio. The E. Priscopo & P. Mazzocchi IL-homebred is a 1/2 sister to **ARCTIC QUEEN** (\$231,184, by Eskimo) and upgrades bankroll to \$60,657, record to 21-3-3-4.

**6th-Pha, 12-13, \$15,000 Alw., 3yo, f, 6.5f, 1:19, ft.** Leading the entire way for owner/trainer Michael Pacitti, **MY FAIR SADIE** (f, 3, Squire--Sadie Gray, by Sadair) triumphed by 3 over the 8 horse field in her 2nd career win. With earnings now at \$13,937, the PA-bred filly improves record to 6-2-1-0.

#### Maiden Winners:

**She's a Pill**, f, 2, Dr. Carter--Misty Panorama, by Sir Ivor. Haw, 12-13, 1m70yds, 1:45 3/5. B-John Hanson (Il.).

**Tower of Dreams**, c, 2, Irish Tower--Enjove, by Nodouble. Suf, 12-13, 8f, 1:39 1/5. B-Brereton Jones (Ky.).

**Hero's Warning**, g, 3, Hero's Honor--For Femme, by Forli. Pha, 12-13, 8.5f, 1:46 1/5. B-Mrs. Henry Paxson (Ky.). \*Won by 6.

**Brazen Fancy**, f, 3, Lucky North--Bare Fluff, by Barrera. Aqu, 12-13, 6f, 1:14 1/5. B-JD Farm (Fl.).  
**Prince Gem**, g, 3, Temerity Prince--Jude's Gem, by Roman Line. Beu, 12-13, 6f, 1:11. B-James Mahan (Ky.).

**Sharpsburg**, c, 3, Victorious--Becky's Alibhai, by Bold Hour. Tdn, 12-13, 1m40yds, 1:40 2/5. B-David Santen (Oh.).

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