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GO FOR GIN AT GULFSTREAM The 1993 Kentucky Derby winner, Go For Gin (Cormorant) is at Gulfstream preparing for a late-February-to-early-March debut, according to trainer Nick Zito. "He is going to the track every day and will start breezing later this month," said Zito. "The plan is to run him one time here at Gulfstream just to get him back going." Zito said Go For Gin spent the winter relaxing with the trainer's string. "He stayed with me and we hacked him around and gave him a little time off to let him fill out a little bit and he did, but he's never been a very big horse and he's never going to be." After last year's Breeders' Cup Classic, Zito met with owners Joe Cornacchia and Bill Condren and decided to bring the colt back for a '95 campaign. "All parties agree that he should run as a four-year-old," said Zito. "The overall picture is he deserves a shot."

MISTER BAILEYS SLIGHTLY IMPROVED

England's 2,000 Guineas winner, Mister Baileys (Robellino), has shown a slight improvement in his fight against the potentially fatal grass sickness of which he appears to be suffering. "There has been a marginal improvement in his condition and we are overjoyed about that," said Miles Littlwort, chief executive of Newmarket's National Stud, where Mister Baileys is due to begin stallion duties in Feb. "He has started to eat and drink again, which is obviously a good thing, but it will be a few days before we know if he is going to pull through."

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Today, Gulfstream:

GIII \$70,000a Spectacular Bid Breeders' Cup, 3yo, 6f

PP	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Odds
1	Mr. Greeley	Zito	Krone	5-2
2	M J Claim	Peccoraro	Douglas	6-1
3	Mr. Cellular	Sherman	Castillo	4-1
4	Dice Floe	Passero	Fires	10-1
5	Firm Decree	Alexander	Smith	8-1
6	The Frog Man	Azpuru	Santos	6-1
7	Make Me	Gomez	K. Chapman	20-1
8	Sea Emperor	Tortora	Russ	3-1

Nick Zito, who has successfully used the South Florida route to the Derby in two out of the past four years, sends out **Mr. Greeley** (Gone West), a \$185,000 Keeneland summer yearling purchase who is 2-for-6 lifetime. Last in the GI Champagne in his only stakes effort, he followed that race up with a three-length win at Aqueduct in his last start and has worked sharply at Gulfstream since shipping south. **Sea Emperor** (Naked Sky), 12th out of 13 in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and off the board in two turf starts since, looks to regain his main-track form that carried him to victory in two of the three Florida Stallion stakes for juveniles.

W • E • E • K • E • N • D P R E V I E W

Saturday, Gulfstream

\$100,000 GIII Appleton H., 3yo/up, 8.5fT

The Vid (World Appeal) worked five furlongs this morning on Calder's sloppy surface in 1:02 3/5 while **Awad** (Caveat) also covered the distance at Gulfstream in 1:02 2/5 in preparation for the opening weekend stakes at Gulfstream. The race will be Awad's first since his win in last April's GII Hialeah Turf Cup. "He came out of that race with a sprained ankle," said trainer Dave Donk. "It was the first time he had had a break and it was well-deserved." The five-year-old is looking for his seventh stakes win Saturday. Other probables include: **Presently** (Affirmed), **Brazany** (Strawberry Road), **Roman Envoy** (Roman Diplomat), **Carterista** (Dr. Carter), **Dove Hunt** (Danzig), **Country Coy** (Country Pine), **Jimlew** (Jebbar) and **Lotus Pool** (Spectacular Bid).



W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

SETTING HIS OWN PACE

By Bill Finley

The problem Bill Robinson has is that he wins too much and, after a while, winning gets boring. In harness racing, he's done it all. So what's left? Thoroughbreds.

Robinson, arguably the most dominant trainer in the history of standardbred racing, has quietly taken the first steps toward expanding his empire into the thoroughbred game. He purchased a maiden named Cherokee Pacemaker (Cherokee Fellow) last month at Calder and he plans to claim three or four more horses at the Gulfstream meet which begins today.

He's new, he's good and he's different. Robinson, 48, has already decided that he will largely ignore traditional thoroughbred training routines in the hope that his way is the better way.

Robinson's standardbred stable earned a record \$13.15 million in 1994, about \$4 million more than Wayne Lukas, who was the top money-winning thoroughbred trainer. Often sending out as many as four or five horses in a major race, he has won virtually every important pacing event there is--the Meadowlands Pace, the North America Cup, the Little Brown Jug, the Adios, Breeder's Crown races. His stable is a standardbred all-star team, and has included 1994 Horse of the Year Cam's Card Shark, 1991 Horse of the Year Precious Bunny, Presidential Ball, Riyadh, Arrive at Five, et. al.

At times, Robinson will admit that he feels unchallenged and that the thought of trying something new and different is tough to resist. Thus the thoroughbred experiment. He will start slowly, but no one, including himself, seems to know where this is going.

"I've got owners very interested in this," he said. "If they see that we can really do this, they would put up all kinds of dough. I don't want to jump into it. We'll take it step by step."

Robinson, for now, is only listed as the owner. The trainer of record is Robert Connors, who also has a standardbred background. Cherokee Pacemaker, a \$12,500 maiden claimer, has run twice since being purchased by Robinson and finished second both times.

A native of Ontario, Robinson was not an overnight success, but when he hit his stride the sport had never seen anything like it.

Unlike virtually every other trainer, he prefers to watch his horses train from the sidelines, instead of jogging them himself. He started bedding his horses on sawdust instead of straw and put a window in every stall. He will stable at a racetrack, but he prefers to train at a farm. Thoroughbred trainers are sure to find his methods even more unique, if not bizarre.

Cherokee Pacemaker is based at a standardbred facility in Pompano, Florida with a division of Robinson's 110-horse stable and his training routine will be similar to that of a standardbred. He is occasionally galloped under saddle, but he normally is hitched to a jogging

cart, which he pulls around the track. And he will eventually gallop as far as five miles a day over a standardbred track, which Robinson says is one of the deepest in the industry. He wants to find out if the typical thoroughbred should be trained as hard as the typical standardbred is.

"What I notice about thoroughbreds is that they don't seem to run well week after week," he said. "It takes a long time to get them to peak and a short time for them to get off the peak. It not like a standardbred. I can get them to peak off of qualifying rounds and then they'll race well 15 times in a row. You don't see that with a thoroughbred unless it's a super horse."

He says that he will attempt to run his thoroughbreds at least three times a month, which he believes will make them sturdier animals--perhaps as tough as standardbreds.

"Personally, I think the reason thoroughbreds don't keep their form is that they're not trained enough," said Robinson, never shy with his opinions. "They're not legged up enough, they have too much time off between races and they eat too much. Maybe I'm wrong, but that's what I think. You can do anything with a top thoroughbred, but the average thoroughbred is under-muscled. That's what I can't understand."

He is not ready to walk away from harness racing. "I still have to make a living," he said, but added the day could come when he lets his two sons run the harness operation while he concentrates on thoroughbreds.

"The atmosphere at these racetracks is much more at ease and I like that," he said. "People are more friendly and nobody is at anyone else's throat. I'm just a guy with one cheap horse and everyone treats me great."

For now, he will be content to experiment with four or five horses. Perhaps he'll come and go quietly, but it's unlikely. That's not Bill Robinson's style.

Bill Finley is a columnist for the New York Daily News.

B • R • E • E • D • E • R • S E D I T I O N

Yesterday's Results:

8th-PHA, \$15,500, 4yo/up, a1m70yd, 1:43, ft.

YOU'RE FADED (g, 4, Westheimer--Bonnie Fannie {SW, \$103,073}, by Sawbones). Lifetime Record: 14-3-3-6, \$47,550. O-Robert Powers. B- Robert Powers & Nicholas Santillo (SC). T-Buck K Mourar.

Maiden Winners:

Lyrlyrpantsonfire, c, 3, **Parfaitement**--Tsunami Mommie, by Told. PHA, 1-3, 6f, 1:11 4/5. B-Nauset Stable (Pa)

Colin Also, c, 4, **Carnivalay**--Lubayya (Fr), by Riverman. PHA, 1-3, 6f, 1:11 4/5. B-Mccarty Joy (Pa)