

THOROUGHBRED™

D • A • I • L • Y N • E • W • S



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1995 \$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

S • T • A • K • E • S P R E V I E W

HANSHIN RACECOURSE SUFFERS DAMAGE IN EARTHQUAKE

Hanshin Racecourse suffered severe damage in Tuesday's earthquake in Central Japan, the Japan Racing Association reported yesterday. The track is located in the city of Mishinomiya, approximately 35 minutes from Kobe, a port city 280 miles west of Tokyo which took the brunt of the earthquake's destruction. The JRA reported that one of Hanshin's grandstands was heavily damaged in the quake, which measured 7.2 on the Richter scale. Television monitors toppled from their supports, and sprinkler systems on the second and third floor stands were set off, causing flooding. The footbridge leading from the train station to the racecourse was also damaged, and a three-story parking lot was completely destroyed. The next race meeting at Hanshin is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25, with no word yet on whether the damage can be repaired in time. There was no damage reported at Japan's horse farms, most of which are located on the northern island of Hokkaido, far from the quake's center. By early Wednesday, 1,800 dead had been counted in the earthquake, according to national police, with another 966 missing and 6,334 injured.

BAY MEADOWS MEET CONCLUDES

Two new successes--full-card simulcasting and the "Friday's Alive" programs--highlighted the 1994-5 racing season at Bay Meadows Race Course. The season concluded Monday, Jan. 16. Bolstered by full-card simulcasting, total handle at the 103-day meeting was \$291,257,932.50, up 6.36 percent from the 105-day 1993-4 meeting. During the course of the meet, Bay Meadows fans were able to watch and wager on racing from Del Mar, Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, the California State Fair in Sacramento, the Los Angeles County Fair at Fairplex Park and The Big Fresno Fair, as well as international racing from Hong Kong. Daily average handle of \$2,827,747 was up 8.42 percent from last year. However, on-track figures were less impressive. Bay Meadows daily average on-track handle of \$983,526 represented a 1.54 percent decline, and daily average on-track attendance of 4,663 was down 8.3 percent. Russell Baze captured his 12th Bay Meadows riding title with 161 victories, while Jerry Hollendorfer garnered his ninth straight training championship with 75 wins.

Today, Gulfstream Park:

THE JOE NAMATH H.-GIII, \$60,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m

PP	HORSE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ODDS
1	Promiseville	Attfield	Bravo	15-1
2	Mia Bird Too	Poulos	Douglas	6-1
3	Oh Niner	Vanier	Sellers	8-1
4	Dayflower	Clement	Samyn	15-1
5	Clean Wager	Brittain	Bailey	8-1
6	Link River	Mott	Smith	5-1
7	Sovereign Kitty	Schosberg	Santos	5-2
8	Sambacarioca	Wolfson	Castillo Jr.	3-1
9	Regal Joy	Bates	Penna	10-1

Sovereign Kitty (Sovereign Dancer), third in three Grade I stakes and the winner of the Grade II Cotillion H. at Philadelphia Park in her last start Sept. 24, is the morning line favorite. Grade I winner **Link River** (Gone West) and **Sambacarioca** (Irish Tower) share highweight of 119 pounds with Sovereign Kitty. Team Valor's Sambacarioca is the defending Joe Namath champion. The six-year-old mare took last year's running by a length in wire-to-wire fashion.

Saturday, Gulfstream:

PREVIEW S., \$75,000, 3yo, 1 1/16m

Trainer Nick Zito confirmed Monday that **Suave Prospect** (Fortunate Prospect), winner of the GIII What a Pleasure S. at Calder in his last outing Dec. 11, will start under jockey Jerry Bailey. Zito recently acquired the horse when owner W.J. Condren purchased part of him from Lee Sherman. "He is doing fine," said Zito. "I would have liked him to have worked quicker for this race, but maybe that is just his style. He is a very professional horse. I think he has some potential. He will be able to handle a distance; it is just a question of whether he can step up a notch in quality." Also expected to run are **Highest Yield** (Settlement Day), **Akiba** (Tejano), **Casperoo** (Silver Buck), **Rush Dancer** (Woodman), **Bullet Trained** (World Appeal) and **Royal Mitch** (Homebuilder).

INSIDE	STAKES PREVIEW	1,2
	NEWS CONTINUED	2
	HOLY BULL'S FAN MAIL	3



News Continued.

STRUB STAKES NEXT FOR STRODES CREEK

Strodes Creek (Halo), a well-beaten fourth as the 7-5 favorite in Saturday's GII San Fernando S. at Santa Anita, emerged from the race none the worse for wear and will now be pointed to the \$500,000 Strub Stakes February 5, trainer Charlie Whittingham said. The big bay broke poorly from the gate and never threatened in the 1 1/8-mile event. "The good news is he came out of the race without a scratch," said Whittingham. "He took a step back right when the gate opened and he broke in a tangle. And after that, he just didn't like the track at all. Now, it's on to the next one." Trainer Richard Mandella said **Dare and Go** (Alydar), who overcame a troubled trip to finish third in his dirt debut, will also take another shot at San Fernando winner **Wekiva Springs** (Runaway Groom) in the Strub. "I'll tell you what, these four-year-olds around here are a pretty tough bunch," Mandella said. "But we were pleased with his race and we plan to run in the Strub." Grant Hofmans, son and assistant to trainer David Hofmans, said last year's Molson Million winner **Dramatic Gold** (Slew o' Gold) also emerged from the San Fernando in excellent condition and will be pointed to the Strub.

OCALA SECOND SESSION RESULTS A yearling gray or roan colt by Prospectors Gamble--Reincarnation (Le Moqueur) topped yesterday's second session of the Ocala Breeders' Sales 1995 Winter Mixed Sale. Consigned by Beth Bayer, agent, the colt, a half-brother to three stakes horses, was purchased for \$26,000 by Louis Ross, agent. There were 151 horses sold Tuesday for a gross of \$631,200 and an average of \$4,180, down 9.9 percent from last year's second session average of \$4,641. The sale concludes today.

Stakes Preview, Continued.**Sunday, Santa Anita:****SAN PASQUAL H.-GII, \$200,000a, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m**

Last year's GI Hollywood Gold Cup winner **Slew of Damascus** (Slewacide) is scheduled to run in the San Pasqual, trainer Craig Roberts confirmed Monday. Roberts said he planned to ship the 10-time stakes-winner to Santa Anita from his Bay Meadows base Tuesday, and hopes to work the seven-year-old gelding either Thursday or Friday. Slew of Damascus finished fourth, beaten 16-lengths, as the even-money favorite in the GIII William P. Kyne H. Dec. 31. That race, however, was contested on a sloppy track, and Roberts said he hopes it explains the outcome. "I like to think so, anyway," Roberts said. "I know he didn't maneuver like normal, but you never know about a seven-year-old. You just hope he isn't tailing off." Howard B. Keck's four-year-old **Numerous** (Mr. Prospector), scratched from Sunday's San Fernando H., will instead run against older horses in the San

Pasqual, trainer Charlie Whittingham said Sunday. The Grade III-winning colt worked six furlongs in 1:13 3/5 over Santa Anita's muddy main track Saturday. "We didn't really want to run Numerous against our other horse (Strodes Creek), so we decided to run him in the San Pasqual instead," said Whittingham. "He's a superior mudder, and maybe he would have liked the track yesterday more than Strodes Creek. But in the long run, this might be the best thing." Mel Stute, conditioner of GIII Lazaro S. Barrera H. winner **College Town** (Snow Chief), said the four-year-old will probably work Thursday. "And if he works well, we'll probably run him," said Stute. Other confirmed starters include **Best Pal** (*Habitony), McCarron, 122; **Del Mar Dennis** (Dixieland Band), Solis, 118; **Toss-of-the-coin** (Magesterial), no rider, 116; and **Nancy's French Fry** (French Legionaire), Gary Baze, 115.

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

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-PHA, \$18,727, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:16 4/5, gd. KODARI (g, 5, Nepal--Voracious Beauty, by Verbatim) Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-0, \$28,504. O-Heather C. Hunter. B-Heather C. Baldwin & Mrs. Jane Rowan (PA). T-Ronald S. Glorioso.

7th-PHA, \$16,628, Alw, 3yo, 5 1/2f, 1:03, gd. MR. KNOWITALL (g, 3, North Prospect--Granny Smith, by Stonewalk) Lifetime Record: 9-3-2-1, \$36,546. O-Valley Forge Stable. B-Justice Farm (KY). T-Allen Iwinski.

8th-PHA, \$16,616, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10 2/5, gd. BUDDING ACCOUNT (m, 5, Pass the Tab--Rare Bloom, by Protanto) Lifetime Record: 45-12-6-6, \$68,320. O/T-Rodrigo Madrigal. B-Gustav Schickedanz (CAN). *1/2 to P.J. Ruckus (SW, \$102,103, by Bold Ruckus).

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Aguila Reef, g, 3, Another Reef--You're Impossible, by L'Natural. PHA, 1-17, 6f, 1:11 3/5. B-Susan B. Thayer (Pa).

Lil Merry Sunshine, f, 3, Chief's Crown--Flying Heat (SW, \$372,842), by Private Account. GPX, 1-16, 1 1/8m, 1:53 4/5. B-R.N. & A.G. Clay (Ky).

Sarajen, f, 3, Conquistador Cielo--Left Them Laughing (SW, \$120,048), by Shecky Greene. SAX, 1-16, 1 1/16m, 1:45. B-John W. Rooker (Ky). *\$50,000 yrl '93 KEESEP.

Screen Oscar, c, 3, Silent Screen--Lovely Nurse (SP, \$164,346), by Sawbones. AQU, 1-16, 1 1/16m, 1:46 2/5. B-Sea Spray Farms (NJ).



W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

THE PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY BULL

by: Frank Carlson

Holy Bull hasn't reached the statue of Lourdes or the Vatican, but he has become a destination point for tens of thousands of fans on a pilgrimage to see the apparent 1994 Horse of the Year.

For thousands more who will never get to a racetrack to see the Bull in person, they write. They write in long hand, with typewriters, some use computers, others print very carefully with pen and ink. A few sent birthday cards or Christmas cards. Some letters go on for pages; others are just a couple of lines. There are poems and baked goods passed along. The envelopes are addressed to Holy Bull or Jimmy Croll. Some have the correct address; others just list the name of a racetrack. They all arrive.

Mr. Croll, I hope you won't think this is too silly...but I wanted to send you some cookies for Holy Bull. If it helps, I send some to Mr. Prospector for his birthday every year. They tell me loves them. All the best to you and "The Bull," Stephanie.

It has to be part of the grand plan for Jimmy Croll to have Holy Bull. The man has the patience of Job and then some. While Croll was at Keeneland last fall, a couple of fans approached him in the barn area and asked if he would mind posing for a photo. The boys explained they had driven from Alaska non-stop to see Holy Bull. Croll said, "If you drove all that way to see my horse, the least I can do is walk a couple of feet to have a picture taken."

Thanks so much for the T-shirts! Charlie & I wore ours all day before the Woodward--what a GREAT race! Here is the Wash. Post clipping for your scrapbook. We thought he "sprouted wings too"--he had some helpers! Love, Chee Chee.

When Calder Race Course held its Holy Bull day, thousands crowded around the walking ring cheering Holy Bull and imploring Croll to sign already autographed photos of the horse. Croll smiled and obliged as often as time allowed. Bobbie Croll, Jimmy's wife, paced nervously as Holy Bull bucked and jumped. "I won't relax until he's back in his stall," she said.

Dear Jimmy, I don't think this card will reach you on time (Vrolijk Kerstfeest = Merry Christmas), but it's such an appropriate card (I just came across this particular card yesterday) that I had to send it to you. Of course I'm also hoping Holy Bull will 'like' this card. From a 'lonely' Bull fan in Holland, Jacques Van Merrinbeer @ (Holland). The picture on the front of the card shows a moose with two Christmas ornaments dangling from his antlers.

A morning soon after Holy Bull arrived at Gulfstream Park. A middle-aged lady cautiously ap-

proaches Croll, who is standing outside his office. "Pardon me Mr. Croll, but I took this picture of Holy Bull a couple of weeks ago and thought you might like a copy." Croll nods approval and the woman continues, "I'd like to take his picture all year if it's all right with you." Croll nods again. A couple of minutes later, Croll, Holy Bull and his groom are positioned with the sun to their backs for the beginning of a year-long odyssey of picture taking.

The Daily News called Bull "the fastest horse on the planet." It's about time they realized it! Enc. is a picture of me and "my girl," Al's Mischief. She was just about to go clean in Stadium jumping and win overall at the event when this picture was taken.

Jimmy Croll sits in the morning sun reading the local paper or the next day's Form. The mornings used to be restful. A time to gather one's thoughts. Reflect on the coming day. Those days will return, but not in 1995. Croll drops the paper in half when he hears his name, "Mr. Croll, I watched all of Holy Bull's races last year," says a 30-something gentleman. "I wonder if the wife and kids and I could get a picture with you and Holy Bull?"

Croll puts the paper on the ground, where it will remain the rest of the morning. There are pictures to pose for, hands to shake, babies to chuck under the chin. Holy Bull seems to understand the attention and he playfully rolls back his upper lip for some poses.

Dear Mr. Croll, My family appreciated your decision to race Holy Bull at Saratoga in the Travers. We have followed him since the '92 Futurity and we endured the crowd at Saratoga to see a glimpse of him. My son Matthew is a fan of his. Would you be able to send Matt a picture of the "Bull?" I'm sure Matt would appreciate anything that you could send him. Thank you for your time and consideration. We wish you the best. Sincerely, Frank L. Marchesini.

Back at the barn, Croll doesn't have to tell Holy Bull's groom or hot walker to be careful. They are constantly on guard so that the horse and his followers steer clear of harms way. They still have another year to get through.

© Copyright Thoroughbred Daily News. This newspaper may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without prior written permission of the copyright owner, MediaVista.

Information as to the races, race results and earnings was obtained from results charts published in Daily Racing Form and utilized herewith with the permission of the copyright owner, Daily Racing Form.