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\$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

F • O • R • E • I • G • N R E P O R T

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

ANNOUNCED The National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame yesterday announced this year's nominees for the Official National Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame. The winners names will be announced at Churchill Downs during Kentucky Derby week, and the actual inductions of the new Hall of Fame members will take place Monday, August 7 in Saratoga Springs, New York in a public ceremony. The nominees are as follows:

Jockeys: Jerry Bailey, Don Brumfield, Earlie Fires, Craig Perret, Don Pierce.

Trainers: Bobby Frankel, Phil Johnson, Robert Wheeler, Virgil "Buddy" Raines, Willard Proctor.

Modern Male Horse: Exceller, Foolish Pleasure, Manila, Needles, Pleasant Colony.

Modern Female Horse: Bold 'n Determined, Glorious Song, La Prevoyante, Life's Magic, Mom's Command.

Oldtimers Division: Ballot, Borrow, Crusader, Granville, Mad Hatter.

FLORIDA BILL WOULD ALLOW CARD

ROOMS A bill which would permit pari-mutuel establishments to set up card rooms at tracks and frontons has been introduced in the Florida Senate. Florida Senate Bill 2432 would allow games of poker, pinochle, bridge, rummy, canasta, hearts, dominoes or mah-jongg in which the winnings of any player in a single round, hand or game does not exceed \$10 in value. The bill is an extension of a law that has been on the books in Florida since the mid-1980's allowing \$10 table-limit games in condominium association card rooms and social centers. But while that law does not permit a fee to be charged for each hand, a fee would be taken out of every pot to cover expenses under the new bill. Ten percent of the proposed take would be earmarked for taxes, with two percent directed to purses. The Seminole and Miccosukee Indian tribes currently conduct \$10 table-limit card games on their reservations 24 hours a day throughout the year with a 25-cent per-hand fee, but are not required to pay a percentage to the state. The current bill is seen as a way to redirect some of that Indian business. There are currently 35 licensed parimutuel facilities in Florida.
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Yesterday's Result:

PRIX RIGHT ROYAL, \$48,702, Evry, France, 3-28, 4yo/up, 15 1/2fT, 3:49 2/5, hy.

1--**ALWAYS EARNEST**, 126, g, 7, **Alleged--Nettie Cometti (GII, \$571,900)**, by *Giacometti. O-Mme. R. Bearg; B-Michael L. Stevens; T-Mme. Bollack-Badel; J-A. Badel; \$28,175.

2--**Samiri (FR)**, 123, c, 4, Lashkari (GB)--Samirza, by Riverman. O-J.P. Senchal; \$9,660.

3--**The Little Thief (FR)**, 130, c, 4, Ela-Mana-Mou (IRE)--Oui Papa (FR), by Riverman. O-G. Ohrstrom; \$6,037.

Margins: 1 1/2, 3/4, short neck.

*Winner was the 1994 Highweight Older Horse in France, 14 furlongs and up.

STAKES PREVIEW:

Today, Santa Anita:

MIRAMONTES H., \$75,000a, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT
The field of nine, from the rail out, is as follows:
Opera Score (Nureyev), Nakatani; **Cocooning** (Saros {GB}), F. Martinez; **Inner City (IRE)** (Bob Back), McCarron; **Party Season (GB)** (Shirley Heights), Delahoussaye; **Warning Label** (Never Tabled), Pincay Jr.; **Turkish Blazor** (Ferdinand), Black; **Talloires** (Tremolino), Desormeaux; **Memento Mori** (Super Moment), Solis; **Bit Of Petrone** (Petrone), Sanchez.

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News Continued.

MAISONS-LAFFITTE BACK ON TRACK

Maisons-Laffitte, the Paris track which seemed doomed last year when French racing announced economy cuts, looks set to stage 15 fixtures this season. GIE-Galop, France's ruling body, has agreed to grant the track eight meetings in July and seven in September. All will have parimutuel wagering. Maisons-Laffitte has, however, lost most of its important events to other courses. For example, the Prix Djebel, among France's traditional classic trials and already chosen to be the starting point of undefeated Dewhurst hero **Pennekamp** (Bering {GB}) in 1995, will take place April 15 at Evry.

JAPANESE CHAMPION RETIRED Last year's Champion Two-Year-Old Colt in Japan, **Fuji Kiseki** (Jpn) (Sunday Silence), was found to have a bowed tendon in his left front March 24. After being told by a Japan Racing Association veterinarian that it would take more than a year for the leg to heal, owner Yomoji Salto and trainer Sakae Watanabe decided to retire the colt. Fuji Kiseki, winner of all four of his career starts for earnings of \$1,416,166, took the G1 Asahi Hai Sansai S. at Nakayama Racecourse as a juvenile, then returned earlier this year to win his only race as a three-year-old, the G2 Yayoi Sho S. The black colt was bred by Shadai Farm, which purchased his dam, Millracer, as a broodmare at the 1989 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale for \$190,000.

STEINBRENNER SUES VAN COMPANY According to an Associated Press report, New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner is suing a Pennsylvania company for contributing to the accidental strangulation death of one of his racehorses. In court papers filed Monday, Steinbrenner said Brook Ledge Inc. of Oley, Pa., was negligent when it transported his three-year-old standardbred stallion Artrandi from Garden State Park to The Meadowlands Dec. 15. When Artrandi arrived at The Meadowlands, he was dead; three other Steinbrenner-owned horses arrived unharmed. The lawsuit blames Artrandi's death on the inexperience of van driver Steven Melice, stating Melice operated the vehicle so recklessly that Artrandi fell and became entangled in two crosstie chains that were holding him in a confined space. Melice, who no longer works for Brook Ledge, told The Record of Hackensack, "I took the van from Point A to Point B. I checked on the horse twice. I did my job." Steinbrenner, who is also involved in Thoroughbred racing and breeding, owns Kinsman Stud Farm in Ocala, Florida.

BOB JOHNSON SR. DEAD Texas Senate parliamentarian Bob Johnson Sr., 66, passed away at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas early Monday morning from complications of a heart condition. Johnson was instrumental in lobbying for the successful passage of pari-mutuel wagering in 1987. "He had as much to do with the passing of pari-mutuel wagering in Texas as any other person that I know," said Retama Park Chairman Joe Straus Jr. "He helped shape pari-mutuel legislation and make it palatable to both the Legislature and the Senate." Funeral services will be held March 30 at River Bend Baptist Church in Austin.

CHARLES TOWN RESUMES WEDNESDAY

AFTERNOON RACING The Charles Town Races will resume Wednesday afternoon racing beginning April 5, track President D. Keith Wagner announced Monday. "We've received numerous requests to revert to our normal 1 p.m. post time Wednesdays," he explained. "When we reopened earlier this month, we said we'd do our best to give the fans what they want, so if they prefer Wednesday afternoon racing, that's what we're going to give them." Charles Town will present its final Wednesday evening program March 29, post time 7:15 p.m.

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

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

6th-HIA, \$16,500, 3yo, a1 1/8mT, 1:47, fm.
TRUCKING BARON (c, 3, Compliance--Baroness Stutz, by Stutz Blackhawk) Lifetime Record: 6-3-0-0, \$28,970. O/T-Edwin T. Broome. B-Farnsworth Farms (FL).

7th-PHA, \$16,050, 4/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:44 4/5, ft.
TEARS FOR MONEY (m, 5, Stalwart--Play for Money, by Cresta Rider) Lifetime Record: 4-3-8-8-5, \$68,869. O-Arenel Farms. B-Frank Stronach (CAN). T-K. Kunes.

9th-HIA, \$16,000, 4yo/up, a1 1/8mT, 1:47 2/5, fm.
O'GREEN (c, 4, Greinton {GB}--Miss Clipper {Aus} {G1-Aus}, by Alert {GB}) Lifetime Record: 9-3-0-0, \$28,610. O/B-Allen E. Paulson (KY). T-Frank Gomez.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Mr. Affirmed, c, 3, Affirmed--Deal With Love, by Secretariat. HIA, 3-28, 7f, 1:25 3/5. B-Mr. & Mrs. Louis Wolfson & Mrs Ethel Jacobs (Ky). *1/2 to Dearly Loved (MGSP, \$224,948, by Raise a Native).
Phidias Frieze, c, 3, Pentelicus--Well Defined, by Well Decorated. HIA, 3-28, 7f, 1:23 4/5. B-Ocala Stud Farms (FL). *\$90,000 2yo 1994 OBSFEB. **1/2 to Enjoy the Silence (MSW, \$260,751, by Valid Appeal).



W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

TRAK CLIK IN HIP PIC

By: John Lee

Hollywood is shipping to New York, according to *New York Magazine* and other trend trackers. The evidence: Jerry Seinfeld, who sets his show in New York, now wants to live there; Steven Spielberg plans to build a studio on Long Island; Bugs Bunny is rumored to be looking at an apartment in Trump Tower.

New York's racetracks are already hip to the "Tinseltown" trend. Aqueduct Racetrack "shoulda, coulda, woulda" been nominated for an Oscar (the movie-biz equivalent of an Eclipse) for its supporting role in the DeNiro (the actor, not the horse) film, "A Bronx Tale." Belmont Park was a featured player in an episode of the TV hit "Mad About You." Last fall, Woody Allen went to Belmont Park to film scenes for his next movie, which at this point goes by the catchy name of "Woody Allen Fall Project 1994." The plot revolves around Woody as a sports writer who, with his wife, played by Helen Bonham-Carter, adopts a baby. Woody later falls in love with the baby's natural mother, a reformed porno star played by Mira Sorvino, daughter of actor Paul Sorvino.

Turns out it wasn't Allen's first visit to Belmont. A scene from "Zelig" was shot there and considering the autobiographical nature of some of his films, it's surprising he didn't film a scene from a movie like "Annie Hall" there as well.

"I always used to come here on a first date with a woman I wanted to impress," Allen said between takes in the Belmont Park paddock. "It's better than going to a show. Here you participate, you move around, go out to see the horses, make a bet and then if you win, she squeals...it's a lot of fun."

And the squeal isn't the only appeal.

"The racetrack is such a world apart. The atmosphere is great--you can leave the rest of the world behind," Allen said. "Racing can be exceptionally beautiful, particularly at a track like Belmont Park. It's a classic, like Wrigley Field. Look out here in the paddock, you've got the statue of one of the great ones--Secretariat. I remember watching his Belmont Stakes. I wasn't here--I saw it on television with Diane Keaton in a hotel in Las Vegas."

And though horse racing appeals to him, the horses give him *angst*.

"The horses are beautiful animals, but they scare me; I don't want to get near them. It's like when I go to the beach--I love to look at the ocean, I love the atmosphere there, but no way I want to go in."

It also wasn't the first visit to Belmont Park for the film's producer Bob Greenhut. The 52-year-old New Yorker divides his time among real estate, film production and Thoroughbred racing. "This is the con-

vergence of my two worlds," Greenhut said, "Horse racing and film making." And it takes place on his favorite kind of real estate--the racetrack.

Greenhut owns Jay Cee Jay Stable and currently has about a dozen Thoroughbreds under the care of his longtime trainer John DeStefano. He has campaigned multiple stakes winners Michelle Can Pass and Penny's Reshoot (named for actress/director Penny Marshall), who, sadly, was humanely destroyed in January after developing a serious leg infection.

A longtime racing fan who used to pocket walking-around money working at the racetrack while a University of Miami student, Greenhut is a serious student of the game.

"I've learned a lot about this business. I'm surprised by how much I didn't know going into it," Greenhut said. "I started with claimers and we've been able to upgrade our quality from there. I try to remain serious about the business side and apply the lessons I've learned in other businesses."

One lesson Greenhut learned was not to paint himself into a corner. "As soon as you set goals, the horses are likely to tell you you're wrong--they don't know what your plans are," Greenhut said. "I might have plans going into a sale, but if I see an incredible horse going at an incredible price, I might want to change the plan and go for him. You've got to stay flexible enough and be experienced enough to seize an opportunity when you see one."

When Greenhut saw the opportunity to draw his two worlds together by steering Allen's latest project to Belmont Park, he jumped on it.

Along with Allen, Greenhut, cast and crew, came about 100 extras. In the most serious breach of dress code since M.C. Hammer went topless in the late stages of the Mother of all Gooses, the extras--dressed in classic railbird style--were positioned throughout the box seat area for the first day's filming. Only problem was they didn't stay put once they discovered the betting windows. They put the production assistants in a snit, but the extras didn't hurt the handle any.

Everybody wanted to get into the act. Fran LaBelle, *Daily Racing Form* columnist, and Bill Nader, recently named New York Racing Association simulcasting director, managed to infiltrate a box within camera range, but their performances were given a thumbs down by Belmont Park facilities manager and resident drama critic, John Olin--who himself figured prominently in the second day of shooting as the guy who says "riders up" over and over and over again during the multiple takes of the paddock scene. This reporter played the part of a trainer giving multiple pre-race instructions and legs-up to jockey Katy Sweeney--it was *deja vu* all over again.

But one real star played a cameo role: Angel Cordero Jr. donned the silks one more time to play the part of a jockey, a role even Olin would admit he had mastered long ago.