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THOROUGHBRED™

D • A • I • L • Y N • E • W • S

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1995

\$2 Daily



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T O D A Y

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P R E V I E W

KEENELAND OPENS FRIDAY A Florida Derby rematch, the appearances of some of the top stars in the country and record purses. These promise to be some of the highlights of the 1995 Keeneland spring meeting, which opens Friday, April 7 and will run for 15 days through April 28. The headline race of the meet will be the \$500,000 Blue Grass S. (Grade II), featuring Florida Derby one-two finishers **Thunder Gulch** (Gulch) and **Suave Prospect** (Fortunate Prospect). The April 15 Blue Grass, with a 3:40 p.m. (EDT) post time, will be televised live by ESPN from 3-4 p.m. The April 22 Ashland S. (Grade I) is also expected to draw a standout field including Jim Beam winner **Serena's Song** (Rahy), **Minister Wife** (Deputy Minister), GII Bonnie Miss heroine **Mia's Hope** (Rexson's Hope) and Alcibiades victor **Post It** (Notebook). Purses for the spring meeting are projected to average \$380,533 daily, a Keeneland record. Purses at the 1994 spring meeting averaged \$302,049. For the seventh straight year, Keeneland will run a stakes race daily during the spring meeting.

FLORIDA THOROUGHBRED CHARITIES

DISTRIBUTES FUNDS The Florida Thoroughbred Charities Inc. recently began distributing some \$50,000 garnered from fund-raising events such as its annual Stallion Seasons and Silent Auction. Some of the organizations targeted for contributions this year include the United Way of Marion County, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, Florida FFA Foundation, Marion Therapeutic Riding Association, Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation, Marion County/Florida 4-H Foundation and the Central Florida Community College Scholarship Fund. Since 1990, the Florida Thoroughbred Charities Inc. has raised more than \$370,000 for charity.

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Saturday, Aqueduct:

BED O' ROSES H.-GII, \$100,000a, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m Shug McGaughey-trainee **Recognizable** (Seattle Slew) won her last start at Aqueduct, the GII Distaff H. March 19, by two lengths. "She's doing fine," said assistant trainer Buzzy Tenney. "She's coming off a good race and actually a good six months." Recognizable has won three of four starts this year, including the GIII Sabin H. and GIII First Lady H. at Gulfstream, giving her a career record of seven for 12. "She'll probably blow out the day before the race," Tenney added. **Beckys Shirt** (Cure the Blues), runner up to Recognizable in the Distaff H., is also pointing to the Bed o' Roses. "It's in my plans," said trainer Richard Dutrow. "She came out of her last race good, but the only problem is we'll be running against the same horse that beat us." Coming into the Bed o' Roses off two straight five-length allowance tallies is **Imah** (Gate Dancer). The five-year-old mare took the Toes Knows S. at Laurel last year. "She's doing excellent, never better," said trainer Dominic Galluscio. "She'll work an easy half this week with Jorge Chavez on her, and he'll be riding her (in the race)."

TRIPLE THREATS:

Saturday, April 15, Keeneland:

BLUE GRASS S.-GII, \$500,000, 3yo, 1 1/8m GII Fountain of Youth and GI Florida Derby runner-up **Suave Prospect** (Fortunate Prospect) worked five furlongs in 1:02 3/5 over a fast Keeneland track Tuesday. Fractions were :26 and :38 4/5, with the colt going the last quarter in :23 4/5 and galloping out six furlongs in 1:16. "I'm very pleased with the way he worked," said trainer Nick Zito. "I think he's doing well. I look for a big Blue Grass." Suave Prospect, who will be ridden by Julie Krone, is among at least six horses being pointed to the GII event. The others are **Thunder Gulch** (Gulch), **Tejano Run** (Tejano), **Jambalaya Jazz** (Dixieland Band), **Pyramid Peak** (Mt. Livermore) and Tampa Bay Derby winner **Gadzook** (Meadowlake). Other Blue Grass possibilities include **Bick** (Manila), **Cinch** (Temperence Hill), **In Character (GB)** (Never So Bold {IRE}), **Knockadoon** (Dixieland Band) and **Petionville** (Seeking the Gold).



SOUTHERN C.A.L.I.F.O.R.N.I.A REPORT

Today, Santa Anita:

THE PROVIDENCIA S., \$75,000a, 3yo, f, 1 1/8mT

The field of seven, from the rail out, is as follows:

One Hot Mama (Incinderator), Atkinson; **Kindred Soul** (Woodman), Nakatani; **Makin Whopee (FR)** (Linamix), Delahoussaye; **Wilga** (Blushing John), McCarron; **Stately Star** (Deputy Minister), Antley; **Artica** (Frosty the Snowman), Pincay Jr.; **Marfa Smeralda** (Marfa), Pedroza.



F.O.R.E.I.G.N REPORT

AMERICAN-BRED WINNER IN ENGLAND:

+ **Karina Heights**, f, 3, **Irish Tower--Love Sick**, by Raise a Native. Nottingham, 4-4, Flying Horse Maiden Fillies S., 5fT, \$6,596 to winner. O-Robert Sangster; B-Brereton C. Jones; T-Bill Watts. *First-time starter.



E.A.S.T.E.R.N REPORT

Local News, Hialeah:

Hialeah Park will be closed this Thursday, April 6. Racing resumes Friday, April 7 at 1 p.m. with an 11-race card. Thursdays will be the dark day for the remainder of the racing season, which ends May 21.

Local News, Pimlico:

WMAR-TV in Baltimore, Md. is planning to broadcast much of its daytime programming Saturday, May 20, Preakness Day, live from Pimlico Race Course. WMAR, which became an ABC-TV affiliate Jan. 2, 1995, plans to begin its coverage from Pimlico at 9 a.m. Preakness morning and continue through 6 p.m., including ABC's "Wide World of Sports." Programming plans include news features, interviews and live coverage of the eight races leading up to the Preakness telecast.

FOALING NEWS:

FLOWING, 7, El Gran Senor--Flo Russell (Round Table)

Foal born 3-25-95, a colt by Mr. Prospector.

Will be bred back to Seeking the Gold.

Boarded at Brushwood Stable (Pa) and Indian Creek Farm (Ky).

Accomplishments: Hwt Older Mare in Ireland 5-7 Furlongs, MG3-Ire, GSP-Ity, \$113,638.

B.R.E.E.D.E.R.S EDITION

STAKES RESULT:

THE FIRE PLUG S., \$31,750, PIM, 4-4, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 4/5, ft.

1--**TIDAL SURGE**, 119, g, 5, **Little Current--Exclusive Case, by Our Native**. (\$1,200 yrl '91 FTMSEP; \$18,000 2yo 1992 FTMMAY). O-Lloyd E. Brauning Jr.; B-Thomas P. Taylor (MD); T-Tim F. Ritchey; J-M.T. Johnston; \$19,050.

Lifetime Record: 26-8-4-5, \$144,628.

2--**Alleged Impression**, 117, g, 4, **Sitzmark--Power Phrase, by Alleged**. \$6,350.

3--**Goldminer's Dream**, 117, h, 6, **Crafty Prospector--Twelve Tribes, by Fifth Marine**. \$3,492.

Margins: 1, 1/2, 2. Odds: 11.80, 4.90, 0.90CT.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

4th-PIM, \$18,000, 3yo, f, 5 1/2f, 1:05, ft.

MY BIRTHDAY GIRL (f, 3, **Dover Ridge--Jessica, by Friend's Choice**) Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-0, \$27,075.

O-Marc S. Beaumont. B-Laurie Calhoun (MD).

T-William E. Hairfield.

10th-HIA, \$17,600, 4yo/up, f/m, a1 1/8mT, 1:47 4/5, fm.

ANNIE'S VALENTINE (f, 4, **Rexson's Hope--Crazy Desire, by Shan Pac**) Lifetime Record: 13-3-2-4, \$40,520. O/B-Donald Wilson (FL). T-Arcott H.

Thompson.

8th-PHA, \$16,616, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11 4/5, ft.

FERGIE'S SPIDER (g, 5, **North Tower--Silver Spider, by Wise Exchange**) Lifetime Record: 35-6-7-8, \$67,011. O-Bradán Stable. B-Stephen R. Ferguson (MD). T-Suzanne H. Jenkins.

6th-PIM, \$16,500, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12 1/5, ft.

CARSON KITTY (f, 3, **Carson City--Halley's Comeback, by Key to the Kingdom**) Lifetime Record: 9-2-0-2, \$21,902. O-Allan H. Spath. B-Crescent Hill Farm & Dr. W.A. Rood (KY). T-Leon Blusiewicz. *1/2 to Dixie Band (SW, \$152,270, by Dixieland Band).

7th-PIM, \$16,500, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:12, ft.

SEND 'M HOME (c, 4, **Private Account--Safely Home, by Winning Hit**) Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-1, \$24,810. O-Dark Hollow Farm. B-Mr. & Mrs. David Hayden (MD). T-Ann W. Merryman. *1/2 to Safe at the Plate (MSP, \$114,923, by Double Zeus) and Safely Kept (Ch. Sprinter, MGI, \$2,194,206, by Horatius).

MAIDEN WINNER:

Ace in the Hole, g, 3, **Stacked Pack--Doucement, by D'Accord**. FLX, 4-4, 4 1/2f, :57 4/5. B-Carol Lee Farley & Sally Ann Bailie (Ny).



W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

DERBY DAMES

By: Bill Leggett

The authoritative win by Robert and Beverly Lewis's Serena's Song in Saturday's \$600,000 Jim Beam at Turfway Park probably got a little less attention than it deserved.

While Serena's Song is the first filly to try a major Kentucky Derby prep since Eliza finished third in the 1993 Santa Anita Derby, what is far more important is that she is the first filly to win one since Winning Colors took the Santa Anita Derby seven years ago.

Taking things one step further, Winning Colors is the last filly to run in a Derby, and the last three--Winning Colors, Althea and Life's Magic--were all trained by D. Wayne Lukas. Winning Colors, of course, became the third filly ever to win the Derby while Althea and Life's Magic, the first all-filly entry in the history of the race, ran 19th and eighth respectively in 1984.

It was automatic that Lukas would not commit his bay filly by Rahy to Kentucky Derby 121 May 6 because he also has Timber Country, co-owned by the Lewises, awaiting this weekend's \$700,000 Santa Anita Derby and Michael Tabor's Thunder Gulch preparing for the \$500,000 Blue Grass April 15.

Lukas maintains that Serena's Song will be pointed to the April 22 Ashland at Keeneland and then the Kentucky Oaks on the eve of the Derby. "The Oaks itself," Lukas said, "is a very prestigious race. We've stepped out of her division already and been successful. I think this filly has a chance to make some serious money down the line."

Wayne, old chap, that line has already started. Serena's Song already has earned more money in 1995 (\$634,100) than any filly has ever bankrolled up to a similar stage in a three-year-old career. If one adds up the '95 earnings of Thunder Gulch, Serena's Song and Timber Country, they come to \$1,116,600 with the major pots still coming up.

Should any of those three get into the Derby, Lukas will tie H.J. (Derby Dick) Thompson with the most starters in the history of the race at 24. It took Derby Dick 18 years to accumulate the record; Lukas can break it in his 18 years of trying if two of the trio start for him this year. (Thompson won four; Lukas one).

Lukas is no stranger to the Oaks or the Ashland. Fillies he trained have accounted for four Oaks and two Ashlands. And, if you haven't been paying strict attention to the boom in Kentucky purses, both races have shot up to \$300,000-added for '95, making them the two richest races in the land for three-year-old fillies. In 1982, the year Team Lukas won both of them with Blush With Pride, the Oaks was worth \$150,000-added and the Ashland \$100,000-added.

How many times Lukas will have to face the question of "is it possible you may still start Serena's Song in the Derby" is unfathomable. Serena's Song makes Lukas an even bigger story than he usually is, and that is considerable, to say the least.

But how do fillies get to the start in the Derby? Winning Colors lost Santa Anita's Las Virgenes to eventual Kentucky Oaks winner Goodbye Halo by a neck before taking the Santa Anita Oaks by eight and the Santa Anita Derby by 7 1/2. Her next start was at Churchill.

Althea was an old hand at racing against colts and, coupled with Life's Magic, went off favored to take the '84 Derby. She had won the Hollywood Juvenile, Del Mar Futurity and Hollywood Futurity as a two-year-old, then lost the Fantasy at Oaklawn before winning the Arkansas Derby and going into the Derby. Life's Magic was her shadow and went on to Churchill after a fifth-place finish in the Santa Anita Derby.

In '86 it looked like Lukas might try Family Style in the Derby after she ran third in the Arkansas Derby, but he backed off and ran the filly in the Oaks instead, where she finished third. Genuine Risk, the Derby winner of 1980, represented something else because she was the first filly to run in the race in 21 years.

She had been 4-for-4 as a two-year-old, losing the championship of her division to Smart Angle, who was 6-for-9. The following spring Genuine Risk won an allowance race at Gulfstream and a small handicap at Aqueduct before running third in Plugged Nickel's Wood Memorial.

As fascinated as racing fans and insiders get about Genuine Risk and Winning Colors, their roads to immortality were much easier in many regards than the one that Harry Payne Whitney's Regret took to become the first filly Derby heroine in 1915. Fourteen fillies had tried to win a Derby in its previous 40 runnings. Regret ran in the biggest field in history up to that time, 16.

Her previous start had been in August of 1914 when she won the Hopeful at Saratoga. She ran but three times that summer, all at Saratoga, all against colts, all races over a two-week period. And she won them all, then went on to a two-length victory in the Kentucky Derby in her three-year-old debut. Regret's next start following the Derby came three months later in the Saranac Handicap at Saratoga, where she beat colts again.

In her first two years of racing, Regret earned only \$29,890 for being 5-for-5 against males. Should Serena's Song run in this year's Derby, it will cost her owners \$20,600 in nomination, entry and starting costs. But it's not just about money. Regret didn't get her name in the history books for the purses she earned. The Kentucky Derby is the height of prestige, but winning five straight graded stakes, including the Jim Beam against seven male rivals, is not bad in itself. Maybe Serena's Song doesn't need the Derby. Maybe she's proven herself already.