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# THOROUGHBRED™

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1995 \$2 Daily

## N • E • W • S T O D A Y

### SNOWSTORM WREAKS HAVOC WITH EAST COAST RACING

A major snowstorm forced the cancellation of racing and simulcasting at several East Coast tracks yesterday and today. Tuesday, simulcasting was called off at The Meadowlands and live racing was cancelled at Philadelphia Park. In addition, Laurel Park cancelled both live racing and simulcasting Tuesday as well as simulcasting today, citing icy conditions and inclement weather both in Maryland and at race tracks scheduled to be simulcast. Aqueduct Racetrack also canceled live racing and simulcasting for today due to the storm, which dumped up to a foot of snow in the Northeast. Wednesday's Aqueduct card, including the GII Ladies H., will be run Thursday; the races originally carded for Thursday will be run Friday.

### COBRA GOLF SOLD TO AMERICAN BRANDS

Thoroughbred owner/breeder Gary Biszantz, Chairman of the Board and a major stockholder in Cobra Golf, will have more time to devote to his Thoroughbred interests now that Cobra Golf has been sold to American Brands for \$700 million, or \$36 a share. Cobra is the country's second-largest maker of premium oversized golf clubs; American Brands is the world's largest manufacturer of golf balls. "The company has employed me as a consultant and given me a title of Chairman Emeritus," said Biszantz. "They'd like to keep me around for five years and to have my knowledge for consultation and meetings and strategy, but pretty much my time is my own." Biszantz recently purchased the 82.3-acre former Due Process Farm near Lexington, Kentucky, which he has renamed Cobra Farm. "As far as racing is concerned, it allows me to spend more time with my stable, my farm and to become more of an active participant in Thoroughbred racing," said Biszantz. "I'm fairly active on the TOBA board and the Graded Stakes Committee and some of things I'm working with on a national basis. What I enjoy most is being at the sales, purchasing my own stock and being up in the morning to watch my horses train and watch Team Biszantz put it all together."

### HALF-INTEREST BOUGHT IN DISTINCTLY NORTH

A half-interest in this year's leading European first-season sire **Distinctly North** (Minshaanshu Amad) has been purchased from Coolmore Stud by the Glenlogan Park Stud in Queensland, Australia for an undisclosed sum. Distinctly North has sired 13 individual winners this year, including the G2 Mill Reef Stakes winner at Newbury, Kahir Almaydan, and other stakes winners Rabican and Sacramento. Trained by Jack Berry and racing in Robert Sangster's colors, he was the fourth top-rated two-year-old in England in 1990, winning three races, including the G2 Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster, when he broke the track record for five furlongs. Glenlogan Park Chairman John Haesler handled the deal with Coolmore and said, "This is a window of opportunity which I took advantage of while bloodstock agent Rob McAnulty and I were in Ireland inspecting yearlings. I never went there to buy him specifically. It was only after we inspected some of his yearlings that we were really taken by their looks, so I decided to inspect him and purchased a 50 percent share." Haesler's 50 percent will allow Distinctly North to travel to Australia next July for Southern Hemisphere covering duties with other shuttle stallions. Distinctly North joins the expanding Glenlogan stallion roster which already includes St. Jude, St. Covet and Allanon.

### MEADOWLANDS REDUCES FEES

Meadowlands Racetrack will eliminate its \$2 parking fee and reduce the cost for general admission from \$2 to \$1 when its Standardbred meet opens December 26. The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, which operates both Meadowlands and Monmouth Park, may do the same for the 1996 Thoroughbred season at both tracks, according to Executive V.P. and C.O.O. for Racing Hal Handel. "We can wait and see how it works here," said Handel. "We have come to the conclusion that to be successful and responsive to our guests, we have to reinvent ourselves every few years. We're looking at different things for our Thoroughbred meet and for Monmouth and we have the luxury of first being able to evaluate how they work here."

<b>INSIDE</b>	NEWS CONTINUED . . . . .	2
	FOREIGN REPORT . . . . .	2
	HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS . . . . .	3
	TOTAL PAGES . . . . .	3

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**NYRA, NYC OTB REACH AGREEMENT** New York State Racing and Wagering Board Chairman Jerry Bilinski announced Tuesday that continued negotiations between the New York Racing Association and the New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation have resulted in an agreement which resolves the remaining outstanding differences between the parties. It will be in effect through June 1, 1996. There are four main points of the agreement, as follows. First, NYC OTB will pay NYRA two percent above the statutory requirement on all incremental telephone handle on NYRA races effective retroactively to March 1, 1995. Second, NYC OTB will pay NYRA 1.85 percent above the statutory requirement on all out-of-state Thoroughbred phone bets. Third, on handle over \$130 million on NYRA races, NYC OTB will pay NYRA one percent above the statutory requirement on wagering at NYC OTB facilities other than teletheaters, bars and restaurants. Lastly, NYC OTB will pay NYRA 1.05 percent above the statutory requirement on all handle on NYRA races in teletheaters, bars and restaurants retroactively to July 21, 1995. "I would like to applaud both sides for the many hours spent to resolve the dispute," said Bilinski. "While the parties involved were concerned about their own needs, it was evident that the overall health of the racing industry was paramount on their minds throughout these discussions."

**IN CASE TO GREEN WILLOW** In Case (Storm Cat) will stand the 1996 breeding season at Green Willow Farms in Westminster, Maryland for a fee of \$2,000 live foal. The five-year-old began his career in England, winning his five-furlong debut at Doncaster at two, and went on to win two of four starts at three. Shipped to the U.S. this spring, he won a six-furlong allowance for trainer Bobby Frankel at Hollywood Park and two more at Belmont before wrapping up his career with a second-place finish in the Gill Sport Page H. at Belmont. He retired with six wins from 18 starts and earnings of \$149,260.

**HALF-MILLION DOLLAR CARRYOVER AT HOLLYWOOD TODAY** Hollywood Park officials estimate a two-day carryover could result in a single ticket pick-six payout of approximately \$1,300,000 on today's races at Hollywood. Bettors failed to select six winners Saturday and Sunday, resulting in a carryover of \$484,094.58 for today's card, the largest two-day pick six carryover in the track's history.

## ◆ FOREIGN ◆

### American-Bred Winners in England:

**Red Rusty**, g, 2, **The Carpenter**--Super Sisters (Aus), by Call Report. Lingfield Park, 12-18, Invicta Bloodstock Maiden (Div. 1), 1m (all-weather track), 2yo, \$4,600 to winner. O-Executors of the late R.E. Mason; B-Ron Mason; T-Dave Morris.

**Robo Magic**, g, 3, **Tejano**--Bubble Magic, by Clever Trick. Lingfield Park, 12-18, Le Reve H., 6f (all-weather track), 3yo/up, \$5,644 to winner. O-A.D. Green & Partners; B-Curtis C. Green; T-Les Montague Hall.

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

### ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**9th-CRC**, \$20,900, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:25 1/5, sy. **SUPAH JESS** (f, 3, **On to Glory**--Max Donnell {SP}, by Critique) Lifetime Record: 10-4-4-0, \$60,940. O-Bee Bee Stables Inc. B-Norman Hansen & Martin Schmidt (FL). T-Emanuel Tortora.

**10th-CRC**, \$17,500, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m (off turf), 1:55 1/5, sy.

**MAJORCA** (f, 3, **Salem Drive**--Rosarian Star {MSW, \$101,577}, by Master Derby) Lifetime Record: 8-3-1-1, \$47,453. O-Dean Grimm Jr. B-Dean Grimm (KY). T-Roger L. Attfield. \*1/2 to Sky Carr (MSW, \$422,122, by Carr de Naskra).

### MAIDEN WINNERS:

**Dancing Mercedes**, f, 2, **Metfield**--Dancing Genie, by Gentleman Gene. CRC, 12-19, 5f, 1:00 3/5. B-Vinery & David Margulies (Ky). \*12th winner for freshman sire.

+ **Tone Zone**, f, 3, **C. Poppa Hall**--Dike Ora, by Dike. CRC, 12-19, a1 1/8mT, 1:51. B-Cleo Hall (Fl).

### STAKES CLOSINGS

**TODAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20:**

1-1 \$125,000a **San Gabriel H.-GII, SA**, 3yo/up, 9fT (\$50)

12-30 \$100,000a **La Brea-GII, SA**, 3yo, f, 7f (\$50)



## Arrowfield stands stallions like:

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# W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By: **Mary Jane Howell**

Does Santa Claus really exist?

By the time we are adults, we know that he lives only in the minds of children--or so I thought. During Fasig-Tipton's Midlantic December Mixed Sale I found out that there is still a Spirit of Christmas, although he sometimes appears without his red suit.

I have worked for Muirfield East, Robert P. Levy's farm in Chesapeake City, Maryland, for seven years. During the farm's first year, I fell in love with a wonderful weanling that shipped in, and my life has never been the same.

Mr. Levy's friend John Nash had given him the bay daughter of Super Sunrise out of Twice Precious in exchange for a season to Five Star Flight. She became my project, and was more like a pet than a future racehorse. When it came time to break her, our farm manager Wendy Moon let me do a lot of the work; pretty soon Mr. Levy noticed how attached I was to the filly (now named First Flight Out) and he gave her to me as a present. A formal contract, effective January 1, 1990, made us co-owners and future racing partners.

I felt like National Velvet reborn. After some time off, First Flight Out was sent to Laure Connelly's North Carolina farm for fine-tuning, then on to trainer Carol Murray, who was based at Atlantic City during the summer of 1990. On my days off, I would drive to the track and help Carol. My favorite job was cooling out First Flight Out and grazing her behind the barns.

First Flight Out made her first start at Philadelphia Park November 17, 1990; her eighth-place finish was recorded in history in the *Daily Racing Form* as "dull." But she improved in her second start, finishing second. I brought my newborn son Gabriel and my mother out to the Meadowlands to cheer her on for her third start. She finished in the middle of the pack, but my family was just thrilled to see the names Howell and Levy as owners; you would have thought we owned a Derby horse.

Unfortunately for my filly, a winning style seemed just out of reach. The following spring, Mr. Levy began to lose patience and when someone came forward to buy her, she was sold. I was devastated. I didn't care if she ever won a race, I just wanted her as my horse. I suppose feelings like that often bankrupt owners, but Mr. Levy's business sense overruled emotion.

With the money from the sale, I was able to put a down payment on a house--which Mr. Levy saw as more important than owning a horse that didn't earn her keep. I knew he was right, but it still hurt to lose her. And just to make my misery complete, First Flight Out won in her first start for her new owners and then won three more times in 1991.

I was able to keep track of First Flight Out as she continued to race on the Jersey circuit, and I even made it to some of her races, vowing to buy her back if she was being mistreated. She ran seven times in 1992, then disappeared, resurfacing at Gulfstream Park in 1993. She ran 17 times that year, almost always in the money, but for \$4,000 purses. I was worried.

But I wasn't the only one keeping track. Her original owner, John Nash, claimed First Flight out from a race at Philadelphia Park and, after 44 starts, eight wins and almost \$51,000 in earnings, he retired her to his Pennsylvania farm; she returned to Muirfield East in the spring of 1994 to be bred to Bet Twice. Life was good for "my" mare until fate stepped in, and Mr. Nash had to sell nearly all of his horses.

First Flight Out was due to be sold in the Midlantic Sale Sunday evening; I was in ignorant bliss of this development until Wendy broke the news Sunday morning. As soon as I could, I sprinted to her stall and was greeted with a nicker as she buried her head against my chest. I had to have her back; I couldn't lose her again.

I didn't think there were any more guardian angels watching over us--no more John Nashes to give her a nice home while I breathed a sigh of relief. But Wendy got to work on her cellular phone, and tracked down Mr. Levy. He couldn't believe that I wanted to own First Flight Out again, but after a long lecture on girls and horses and fate, he said we could bid on her. I had no idea how high he would go, but Wendy had him on the phone when she came into the ring, and when things stalled at \$1,500 he must have looked in the mirror and seen Santa, because he went one bid higher and First Flight Out was ours--again.

The most wonderful Christmas present I have ever received was unloaded--again--at Muirfield East Monday morning, December 4. First Flight Out romps in a paddock right outside my office window; my son, now five, and my husband Mike bring her carrots every day. We are all looking forward to her foal, due in April, and Mr. Levy, always a planner, has been advising me on breeding arrangements for next spring.

So the next time someone is groaning about the fate of the Thoroughbred industry, remember my story. Good things still happen in this sport--they just need a few more people like Robert Levy to help them come true.

## Live Foal, Inc.

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Live Foal season in **WOODMAN**,  
sire of three-year-old **Hishi Akebono**,  
winner of Sunday's **G1 \$1,815,369 Sprinters S.** in Japan.  
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