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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1997

\$2 Daily

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INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

RELEASED For the second year in a row, **Cigar** (Palace Music) was rated highweight on the International Classifications, which were released yesterday. The probable two-time Horse of the Year was rated at 135 pounds by the panel of senior Jockey Club handicappers from Europe and American racing secretaries. This was the second year that North American horses were included in the scale and the first year for the inclusion of Japanese horses. Cigar was weighted one pound above the top-rated three-year-old **Helissio (Fr)** (Fairy King) and six pounds over the tied runners-up in the four-year-old and over category--**Halling** (Diesis {GB}) and **Pentire (GB)** (Be My Guest). American Champion Three-Year-Old **Skip Away** (Skip Trial) was the fourth rated three-year-old, behind Helissio, **Mark of Esteem (Ire)** (Darshaan {GB}), 133, and the highest rated filly or mare--**Bosra Sham** (Woodman), 131. Eclipse Champion Three-Year-Old Filly **Yanks Music** (Air Forbes Won) was listed at 126 pounds--the second highest filly on the classification and tied for sixth highweighted three-year-old with **Unbridled's Song** (Unbridled), **Louis Quatorze** (Sovereign Dancer) and **Even Top (Ire)** (Topanoora {Ire}). Breeders' Cup Distaff heroine **Jewel Princess** (Key to the Mint), at 126, was the highweight for older fillies and mares. American runners are not included in the two-year-divisions, where highweight honors went to the juvenile colt **Revoque (Ire)** (Fairy King), 123, and filly **Pas de Reponse** (Danzig), 116.

EDNA BROKAW MORRIS DEAD Edna Brokaw Morris, wife of the late Thoroughbred owner John A. Morris, died Sunday at her home in Manhattan. She was 88. Mrs. Morris and her husband, who died in 1985, were familiar figures around the New York tracks for decades. Their all-scarlet racing silks were the oldest continuous colors in the country, originating before the Civil War by Mr. Morris's family. The 1867 Kentucky Derby was won by the filly Ruthless, owned by Francis Morris, Mr. Morris's great-grandfather. Services will be held today at 10 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church on Madison Avenue and 71st Street. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Girl Scout Council of Greater New York, 43 West St., NY, NY 10010. Mrs. Morris is survived by her sons Alfred and Dr. John Morris Jr.

News Continued, p. 2.

Wednesday, Gulfstream Park:

- THE JOE NAMATH H.-GIII**, \$75,000, GPX, 1-15, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m (off turf), 1:44 1/5, sy.
 1--**@RARE BLEND, 118**, f, 4, **Bates Motel--Buttercup, by Baldski**. (\$65,000 2yo 1995 OBSMAR). O-Joseph Allen; B-Lloyd G. Wickboldt (FL); T-Claude McGaughey III; J-J D Bailey; \$45,000. Lifetime Record: 17-7-2-5, \$307,373.
 2--**Queen Tutta**, 114, m, 5, Kris S.--Tutta, by In Reality. (\$95,000 yrl '93 KEESEP). O-Edward P. Evans; B-F A Genter Stable, Inc (FL); \$15,000.
 3--**Hurricane Viv**, 121, f, 4, Zafarrancho (Arg)--Bottega, by Raise a Cup. (\$1,600 yrl '94 OBSJAN). O-Jerry W. Schmid; B-Barbara Licwinko (FL); \$8,250.

Margins: 4, 4, 4 3/4. Odds: 0.80CT, 4.50, 4.00. Also Ran: Bold Ruritana, Fluffkins, Gambling Girl. Scratched: Alyfama, Delta Love, Mediation, Streisen, Turkappeal, Valor Lady.

Rare Blend, victorious in her only prior career start over a sloppy track in the \$100,000 OBS Championship last March, hadn't raced since finishing eighth in the GIII Mrs. Revere S. over the Churchill Downs turf Nov. 23. Returning from a two-month layoff here as the overwhelming 4-5 chalk, the bay filly settled off the pace early, made a run along the rail to take the lead in midstretch and drew clear under a hand ride for her first graded stakes victory. "The rail was open all the way, so I took it," said winning jockey Jerry Bailey. "She certainly was much the best once I called on her." When asked what's next for Rare Blend, her trainer Shug McGaughey replied, "I'm not too sure. I may run her in the Rampart (at 1 1/16-miles over Gulfstream's main track Feb. 23). On paper, she looks a little better on the dirt."

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News Continued.

TURFWAY CANCELS AGAIN Turfway Park in Florence, Kentucky cancelled its live racing card Wednesday night due to a winter storm watch in Northern Kentucky. It was the fourth straight live racing card cancelled at Turfway Park due to inclement weather. Racing is scheduled to resume this evening at 7 p.m.

MONMOUTH SETS NEW DARK DAYS FOR 1997 MEET

Live Thoroughbred racing at Monmouth Park will be conducted on consecutive days, Wednesdays through Sundays, for the 1997 race meet which begins May 24 and runs through Sept. 1. Monmouth's dark days will be Mondays and Tuesdays, instead of the Mondays and Thursdays which have been utilized in the past. "This advent of full-card simulcasting has changed the dynamics of a successful live racing day at Monmouth Park," said Hal Handel, executive vice president and chief operating officer of racing at the Oceanport, New Jersey track. "I believe the opportunity to show the Belmont Park signal on a five-days-a-week basis to our guests coupled with the ability to offer the Monmouth Park signal similarly at Belmont Park will be positive for all concerned."

EMERALD DOWNS SUSPENDS FRIDAY RACING

Emerald Downs in Auburn, Washington will offer racing exclusively on weekends for the remainder of its winter meeting, which concludes March 2. The track's revised winter schedule includes racing each Saturday and Sunday as well as special holiday cards this Monday, Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Monday, Feb. 17, Presidents' Day. The move to eliminate Friday racing came after several Friday cards were cancelled due to insufficient entries.

◆ EAST ◆

Local News, Ontario, Canada:

The Ontario Jockey Club's television department is adding a new and familiar name to its cast of announcers. Jim Bannon, The OJC's handicapper on its Thoroughbred race programs, is joining the TV department effective Feb. 25 as handicapper/analyst. Bannon will be working with host/commentator Stephen Millar on The OJC's race broadcasts, which are seen not only at OJC tracks and teletheatres, but at approximately 150 other sites across North America on a regular basis.

◆ FLORIDA ◆

Yesterday's Results:

6th-GPX, \$35,000, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:23 3/5, sy.

STEADY CAT (f, 4, Storm Cat--Hopespringsforever, by Mr. Prospector) had been a steady performer through her first eight career starts, finishing first or second each time. In her last two outings, however, the bay filly had fallen off her form, finishing sixth in the Holiday Inaugural S. at Turfway Park Dec. 1 and fourth in the Gill Virginia H. at Calder Dec. 28. Dropping in against allowance company here, the 1/2-sister to Union City (MGSP, \$183,265, by Private Account) vied for the early lead, eased back off the pace leaving the backstretch, made a run four wide to gain command at the top of the stretch then held off a late challenge from SPECIAL REQUEST (Sovereign Dancer) to win by a nose. Lifetime Record: GSP, 11-5-4-0, \$165,510. O/B-Overbrook Farm (KY). T-D. Wayne Lukas.

10th-GPX, \$30,000, Alw, 3yo, 1 1/8m (off turf), 1:53 2/5, sy.

PLENTY OF PIE (g, 3, Two's a Plenty--Irish Sweetie Pie, by Surreal), a distant second, beaten 17 1/2-lengths, in the Gill What a Pleasure S. at Calder two starts back, was seventh in his most recent effort, a one-mile allowance at Calder Dec. 26. Trying an off track for the first time here, the gelding pressed the pace early, put a head in front in midstretch and drew off for a 1 3/4-length score at odds of nearly 6-1. **JUST A GIGOLO** (Black Tie Affair {Ire}) rallied late to be second. Lifetime Record: GSP, 6-2-1-0, \$47,800. O-Gerald Lesnik & Albert Michelson. B-Lewis Bronfman (FL). T-Daniel C Hurtak.

8th-GPX, \$30,000, Alw, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:45 1/5, sy.

RUE (c, 4, Cahill Road--Real Doll Dode, by In Reality), sixth in a one-mile allowance at Aqueduct in his last start Nov. 16, was rested for two months following that effort. Stretching out in distance here as the 3-1 second choice, the chestnut colt tracked the pacesetters early, took the lead entering the stretch then drew off for a 14 1/2-length romp under regular rider Jose Santos. Lifetime Record: 7-2-1-0, \$44,130. O-Centennial Farms & F S Schulhofer. B-Betty Glazer (FL). T-Flint S Schulhofer.

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◆ MIDWEST ◆

Local News, Churchill Downs:

John Asher, a five-time Eclipse Award winning newscaster, will join the Churchill Downs Corporate Communications Department as a full-time employee in early February. Asher, 41, earned three Eclipse Awards while working for WHAS and two with WAVG radio. His responsibilities at Churchill will include on-air race analysis with Mike Battaglia, printed race analysis for the Downs program, barn notes editor, Internet web site news editor and staff writer. He will also oversee the development of Churchill radio programming as well as other publicity and communications activities.

Local News, Lone Star Park, Texas:

Officials from Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie announced yesterday that the first condition book and stall applications for the 1997 inaugural Thoroughbred meeting will be available to horsemen this Friday, Jan. 17. Texas's newest Class I racetrack, which opens for its first season of racing April 17, will offer a daily average purse structure of \$165,000. A total of 27 stakes worth \$2.725 million in purse money will be featured during the 73-day Thoroughbred meeting, which will conclude July 27. To receive condition books and stall applications by mail, please contact racing official Bart Lang at (972) 237-1130.

◆ NEW YORK ◆

Yesterday's Results:

8th-AQU, \$41,000, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:44 3/5, ft.

1--FULL AND FANCY, 115, m, 5, Marfa--Full Twirl, by Full Out. O-Red Oak Stables; B-Gerri Kennedy (KY); T-John C Kimmel. Lifetime Record: GSP, 18-5-4-3, \$151,260.

2--Punkin Pie, 113, m, 7, Our Liberty--Slapstick, by Slap Jack.

3--Flirty Frosty, 120, m, 6, Pleasant Colony--Frosty Skater, by Diplomat Way.

Margins: 3, NK, 3. Odds: 1.70, 18.70, 9.80.

Full And Fancy was sent off the 8-5 favorite in this eight horse field despite the fact that her last victory came in a Belmont allowance October 2, 1995. The roan mare returned from a seven-month layoff to finish second in an Aqueduct allowance in her last outing Dec. 19. Making her second start back off that hiatus, she closed from mid-pack to win under jockey Jorge Chavez.

7th-AQU, \$37,000, Alw, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:10, ft.
ANGLE OF PURSUIT (g, 5, Northern Prospect--Fast Angle, by Fast Consent), claimed for \$25,000 from a winning effort at Belmont May 31, 1996, did not visit the winner's circle in eight starts afterwards, but finally won in his most recent outing at Aqueduct Dec. 29. Sent off at 5-1 odds here, the bay gelding made it two in a row with an off-the-pace, 1 1/4-length tally over 2-1 favorite CHURKA (Allen's Prospect). Lifetime Record: SW, 21-6-2-2, \$148,483.
O-Ferriola & Festa & Saks. B-Hilmer C. Schmidt (FL). T-Peter Ferriola.

6th-AQU, \$31,000, Msw, 3yo, f, 6f, 1:12 3/5, ft.
PHILA STREET (f, 3, Cozzene--Phydilla {Fr} {MG3-Fr, \$133,819}, by Lyphard), second and third in her first two career starts, both sprinting, tried a distance of ground in her most recent effort at Aqueduct Dec. 26 and finished a well-beaten eighth. Shortened up to six furlongs again here, the dark bay filly stalked the pace early, surged to the front at the top of the stretch and was all out to hold off SILVER CHILL (Silver Ghost) in the final strides to win by a neck. The winner was a \$27,000 Kee. Sept. yearling and a \$115,000 OBS Feb. 2yo. Lifetime Record: 4-1-1-1, \$28,210.
O-Barry Simon. B-Lance Robinson & Bloodstock Leasing Inc. (KY). T-Linda Rice.

◆ So. CALIFORNIA ◆

Yesterday's Results:

7th-SAX, \$57,000, Alw, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:42 4/5, wf.

1--ROYAL COMANDO (ARG), 116, h, 5, Armada (GB)--Royal Native (Arg), by Exactly Native. O-J D Thoroughbreds Inc; B-Crotto Eduardo Enrique Carlso (ARG); T-Edwin Gregson. Lifetime Record: MG3-Arg, 18-4-5-5, \$108,409.

2--Canyon Crest, 118, g, 5, Crystal Water--Corvetin, by Don B.

3--Windy's Halo, 116, g, 5, Present Value--Windy Tate, by Agitate.

Margins: 1, 4HF, 2. Odds: 8.70, 2.20, 13.50.

Royal Comando, a MGSW in his native Argentina, was unplaced in his first two North American starts at Del Mar last August, then resurfaced at Hollywood Park in December to finish third in an \$80,000 claimer. Sent off at 8-1 odds in this short five-horse field, the dark bay pushed his earnings over the \$100,000 mark with a frontrunning, one-length tally under new jockey Alex Solis.



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Southern California Report Continued.

1st-SAX, \$39,000, Msw, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/8m (off turf), 1:51 1/5, wf.

MY IMAGINATION (f, 4, Easy Goer--Imagining, by Northfields), a half-sister to the great Serena's Song (Ch. 3yo Filly, MGI, \$3,283,388, by Rahy) and to Vivid Imagination (Gill, \$194,237, by Raise a Man), missed by a nose when second in her last outing over the Saratoga turf Aug. 24. Returning from a 4 1/2-month layoff here as the 5-2 second choice, the chestnut filly stalked the pace early, took command in midstretch and drew clear for a four length triumph. Pacesetter **SISTER RUTH** (Battle Play) held on for second, while the 4-5 favorite **INNOCENCE** (Cox's Ridge) had to settle for third. Lifetime Record: 11-1-3-1, \$59,980. O/B-Dr. Howard J. Baker (KY). T-Lewis A Cenicola.

Local News, Santa Anita:

Buckaroo Zoo (Buckaroo) breezed six furlongs in 1:19 3/5 over Santa Anita's muddy training track Wednesday. "The work was pretty good considering the downpour," trainer John Sadler said. "She does seem to like a wet track." The four-year-old filly, winner of a pair of listed stakes in 1996, is scheduled to start in Monday's GII El Encino S.

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

2nd-SAX, \$46,000, (S), 4yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:37, wf. **PARADE OF HATS** (f, 4, General Meeting--Private Hatter, by Private Account) Lifetime Record: 11-2-4-1, \$62,000. O-Karlik & Team Valor. B-Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mabee (CA). T-Jenine Sahadi. *1/2 to Old Top Hat (SW, \$103,408, by Beau's Eagle).

8th-LRL, \$18,240, 3yo, 6 1/2f, 1:17 1/5, ft. **FEARLESS PLAY** (c, 3, Defensive Play--Fearless Dame {SW}, by Fearless Knight) Lifetime Record: 8-3-0-2, \$38,007. O-Arnold A Heft. B-Courtney and Congleton (KY). T-John J Robb.

7th-LRL, \$18,240, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:47 3/5, ft. **FOWEY LIGHT** (f, 4, Gulch--Sis Pleasure Fager {MSP, \$115,022}, by What a Pleasure) Lifetime Record: 6-2-1-0, \$25,573. O/B-Dumbarton Farm (MD). T-James W Murphy.

**Tuzia (3yo filly by BLUSHING JOHN)
posts front-running allowance
win at Aqueduct Jan. 10th.**

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Brilliant Banker, c, 3, **Beau Genius**--Hometown Banker, by Native Charger. SAX, 1-15, 1 1/16m, 1:45 1/5. B-A L Luedtke & Jo Ann Luedtke (Ky). *\$52,000 yrl '95 KEESEP.

Phila Street, f, 3, **Cozzene**--Phydilla (Fr) (MG3-Fr, \$133,819), by Lyphard. AQU, 1-15, 6f, 1:12 3/5. B-Lance Robinson & Bloodstock Leasing Inc (Ky). *\$27,000 yrl '95 KEESEP; \$115,000 2yo 1996 OBSFEB.

+ **Double Plus**, g, 3, **Double Negative**--Lisa Jeanette, by Great Sun. AQU, 1-15, (S), 6f, 1:13. B-J I Racing, Inc (Ny).

Sweet Kylee, f, 3, **Kyle's Our Man**--Coco Is Good, by Quadratic. SAX, 1-15, 6f, 1:12. B-Dan Mallory (Ky). *\$7,000 wlng '94 KEENOV.

Miss Virginia, f, 3, **Magic Prospect**--Angel Again, by Nodouble. GPX, 1-15, 7f, 1:25 3/5. B-Dr. & Mrs. R. Reynolds Cowles Jr (Va). *\$4,200 yrl '95 KEESEP; \$16,500 2yo 1996 OBSJUN. **1/2 to Remember the Roar (MSP, \$222,218, by Vigors).

Linebacker Lennon, c, 3, **Prospector's Halo**--Angel Love, by Foreign Power. AQU, 1-15, 6f, 1:12 4/5. B-Carol Moran (Fl). *\$3,200 wlng '94 OBSOCT; \$29,000 2yo 1996 OBSAPR.

Pat On the Back, f, 3, **Unreal Zeal**--Raspberry Beret, by Blood Royal. GPX, 1-15, 7f, 1:26. B-Oakwood Farm, Inc & Hart Farm (Fl). *\$2,000 wlng '94 OBSOCT; \$11,000 yrl '95 OBSAUG.

My Imagination, f, 4, **Easy Goer**--Imagining, by Northfields. SAX, 1-15, 1 1/8m (off turf), 1:51 1/5. B-Dr. Howard Baker (Ky). *1/2 to Vivid Imagination (Gill, \$194,237, by Raise a Man) and Serena's Song (Ch. 3yo Filly, MGI, \$3,283,388, by Rahy).

Raggaas Leaf, g, 4, **El Raggaas**--Cut Leaf, by *Forli. LRL, 1-15, 1 1/16m, 1:47 1/5. B-Jonathan T Ginn (Md).

African Sundance, c, 4, **Sundance Ridge**--African Mystery, by Great Mystery. SUF, 1-15, 1m, 1:42 3/5. B-Timothy Kirby (Ma). *SP.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a + will denote winners who are first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.



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WRITERS UP

ON A WING AND A PRAYER

by: Clark Spencer

Maybe it was due to divine intervention that Pulpit (A.P. Indy) won his first race the way he did at Gulfstream Park, in a charismatic blur that vaulted the three-year-old's name into the thick of the Triple Crown chase.

A Catholic priest, don't you know, was in the winner's circle to present the trophy for Saturday's fourth race. Father John Muscat even bet the first foal out of Preach on name alone.

Pulpit didn't let the clergyman down.

The colt not only won by 7 1/2 widening lengths, but did so in 1:21 4/5. His jockey, Shane Sellers, wrapped up on Pulpit with three furlongs to go in the seven-furlong event.

"He's scary," said trainer Sonny Hine. "Talk about a freight train passing a hobo. I don't ever want Skip Away to run against him going seven furlongs."

Said trainer Carl Nafzger, "He could be as good a horse as we've seen in a long time. If he's a freak, and he may very well be, he can do anything. If he comes back in his next race and does the same thing, believe me, I'll bet on him for the Kentucky Derby."

The performance had handicappers checking and rechecking their speed figures. Chuck Streva, who sets the morning line for Gulfstream and calculates his own set of figures, said Pulpit received the best number he's ever given a young horse. "If he progresses, he'll be a better horse than Cigar," Streva said. "The typical Florida Derby winner, a good one, usually gets a four or five on my figures. This colt got a minus two."

In Streva's book, the lower the figure the better.

And to think, nobody had ever heard of the horse before Saturday.

Unraced as a two-year-old, Pulpit was led out of the closet for the first time by trainer Frank Brothers and buried a field of fellow maidens. It wasn't so much the margin of his victory or winning time that had folks buzzing. It was the graceful manner in which he did it.

"I think he could have broken the track record (1:20 3/5) had he let him run through the stretch," Hine said.

Said Sellers, "There's nothing I can say that nobody didn't see. A blind man could see that he has a lot of talent. It was a feeling like I've never had before."

Brothers is naturally cautious about his horse, who is a son of A.P. Indy. The quiet Brothers, who trained 1991 Preakness and Belmont winner Hansel, had an upstart horse in 1994 by the name of Canaveral. Like Pulpit, Canaveral was an unraced two-year-old who smoked at three.

But an injury prevented Canaveral from reaching the Kentucky Derby, just as an injury kept Cahill Road--another late bloomer who emerged in 1991--from making it to Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May.

It is difficult enough for any horse to make it to the Derby, but more so for horses who aren't race-seasoned as two-year-olds. Only one past Derby winner won the roses without a race at two. The horse: Apollo. The year: 1882.

"It is a lot easier if you've done something with them at two," Brother said. "But I believe one day you'll see a horse win the Derby who didn't run at two. I think if the horse has enough ability, he can do it."

There is little question that Pulpit, a Claiborne Farm product, has plenty of that. The question is whether he can catch up in racing experience to the rest of the three-year-olds which, this year, is absent a true stand-out.

"He's the most impressive I've seen," Hine said. "There's not enough money to buy him now."

Said former jockey Don Brumfield, who rode many a good horse in his career, "I haven't seen a horse run that easy and impressively in a long, long time."

Did Pulpit remind him of anything?

"Yes," Brumfield replied. "It reminded me of how much I'd like to ride a horse like that again."

Gulfstream is fielding a lot of calls from racing folks throughout the country who want to know if Pulpit is for real.

"It's just spread like wildfire," said Mike Tanner, assistant director of communications at Gulfstream.

"Everybody's calling to find out about him. I can't ever remember another horse drawing this much interest off a debut. I've re-watched the race four times and it's the most impressive debut that racing has seen in years."

Pulpit has them bowing at his feet.

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