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THOROUGHBREDTM

D • A • I • L • Y N • E • W • S



TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1997

\$2 Daily

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T O D A Y

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AUSTRALIAN TRAINER SADDLES SEVEN

WINNERS Trainer John Morrissey, who bought the sales topper on the first day of the New Zealand National Yearling Sales at Karaka last week, Sunday created his own slice of history when saddling the first seven winners on the nine-race program at his local Canberra racetrack in Australia. Morrissey nearly made it a straight eight in the eighth, but had to settle for second spot. For the leading trainer in Canberra, it was a personal best and he said: "It's one of my biggest thrills in racing. I thought we would have a big day, but this was terrific." His winners were Loose Lady, White Opera, Kulog, Skimaway, Semil Ah Moo, La Soprano and Benglide. The accumulated odds for the seven came to more than 16,000 to one. The last recorded occasion on which a trainer in Australia sent out seven winners on the same day at the same track was in 1961 when Queensland country trainer Cocky Eaton went through the card at the country track of Cunnamulla, having first achieved the feat at Eulo in 1956.

WALTER SWINBURN ARRESTED According to yesterday's *Sporting Life*, jockey Walter Swinburn, who recently completed a 200-mile walk for charity, was arrested last Friday night at the Il Piccolo Monde restaurant in Newmarket, England after a dispute over the bill turned into a brawl. The *Sporting Life* reported the three-time Epsom Derby winner was charged with "criminal damage and assault occasioning actual bodily harm" after refusing to pay the bill and then allegedly hitting a waiter during a party to celebrate the success of his charity walk, which raised more than \$85,000. Swinburn, 34, who came back from a near-fatal spill in Hong Kong last February to win the GI Breeders' Cup Turf aboard Pilsudki (Ire), was held overnight; he is scheduled to appear in court February 27.
News cont. p2

STAKES CLOSINGS

TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29:

2-8 \$300,000 **Donn H.-GI, GP, 3yo/up, 9f**
(\$300)

2-9 \$200,000 **La Canada-GII, SA, 4yo, f,**
9f (\$100)

2-9 \$100,000 **Davona Dale-GIII, GP, 3yo, f, 1m70y**
(\$100)



PINCAY STRUGGLES TO KEEP HIS PLACE IN A YOUNG MAN'S GAME

By Larry Bortstein, The Orange County Register

ARCADIA, Calif....He was en route to victory in one of the country's most important races. He still won't say when or where or who the horse was. But Laffit Pincay felt sick and frightened.

"I was afraid I was gonna pass out before we got to the wire," Pincay was recalling a few days ago. "My muscles felt weak and I didn't think I could control the horse. I don't know how I was able to walk back to the jockeys' room."

It was no isolated incident.

During the years Pincay was acknowledged as physically the strongest jockey in North America--a man who could muscle a flighty, 1,200-pound Thoroughbred to the wire--he often rode weak and depressed from arduous dieting.

A week after his 50th birthday and three days after becoming the second jockey in history to ride 8,500 winners, Pincay was honored at Santa Anita.

The oldest rider campaigning on a daily basis on any of the country's major Thoroughbred racing circuits said he is in the best shape of his life.

"I haven't taken a diet pill in 10 years," he said, licking salt off a potato chip in the jockeys' room at Santa Anita.

"I learned more about nutrition than any doctor from reading and trying different things. I was bulimic for 10 years, but I was one of those people who actually put on weight after throwing up all the time.

"I take 700 calories a day. But I run mostly every day--sometimes a mile around the Rose Bowl--and I know what I need to do to stay 117 pounds and feel good without hurting myself. I wish I'd felt this good 25 years ago."

And there's the irony.

As many have before him, Pincay is finding that for an athlete there is no honor in aging.

He once had his choice of the best mounts. But his workdays now mostly consist of climbing aboard 30-1 longshots and cheap claimers.

His latest major victory came 15 months ago, in the 1995 Oak Tree Invitational at Santa Anita with Typically Irish. In 1996, he had fewer than 1,000 mounts--980--and rode fewer winners--129--than in any year since he came to the United States from Panama in 1966.

Pincay cont. p3



News cont.

WOODBINE MILLION NO MORE? The *Toronto Sun* reports that the GI Woodbine Million, known as the Molson Export Million until that company pulled its sponsorship for the 1996 edition, will need yet another name in 1997, as the purse is expected to be cut at least \$250,000, from \$1,000,000 to \$750,000 (Canadian). The story in the *Sun* also said that the purse for the GI Canadian Million, sponsored by Rothmans International until last year, would remain unchanged.

TRIPLE DEAD-HEAT AT GULFSTREAM The ninth race at Gulfstream Park Monday produced the first triple dead-heat in the track's history. **Templado (Ven)** (Mazag), 15-1; **Excelerate (Crusader Sword)**, 10-1; and **Sonic Signal (Topsider)**, 7-2; came to the wire together as they vied for third place in the six-furlong allowance test; the outcome resulted in three trifecta payoffs--with Templado, it paid \$1,080.40; with Excelerate, \$812.80; and with Sonic Signal, \$434.20. There had not been a triple dead-heat recorded for any position since Gulfstream opened in 1939; while records are not kept for second and third-place finishes, there have been 17 triple dead-heats for the win in America since 1940.

◆ FLORIDA ◆

Yesterday's Results:

9th-GPX, \$42,000, Alw, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:10, ft.

1--FORTUNATE REVIEW, 115, c, 4, Fortunate Prospect --Super Fantastic, by Super Concorde. O-S G Stable; B-Robins Gerald (FL); T-Manuel J Azpurua. Lifetime Record: MSW, 30-8-3-4, \$243,005. *Full to Super Fortunate, MSW, \$230,697.

2--Sea Emperor, 119, h, 5, Naked Sky--Royal Tasha, by Northern Prospect.

(DH)-3--Templado (Ven), 115, c, 4, Mazag--Lady Avie, by Lord Avie.

(DH)-3--Excelerate, 117, g, 5, Crusader Sword--Fly Miss Fly, by Night Invader.

(DH)-3--Sonic Signal, 122, h, 5, Topsider--Hedonic, by Fappiano.

Margins: NO, 1, NK. Odds: 16.60, 10.50, 15.60, 10.10, 3.80.

Fortunate Review put up back-to-back Calder claiming wins to end the 1996 season and started this year with a fifth in the Jan. 3 Hallandale H. and a fourth in a Jan. 12 Gulfstream allowance. Always close to the lead, the dark bay began challenging for control at midstretch and then got up to edge Sea Emperor for the narrowest of wins. Templado, Excelerate and Sonic Signal all closed late to finish in a dead heat for the show spot.

8th-GPX, \$34,000, Alw, 4yo/up, a1 1/16mT, 1:43 2/5, gd.

DIXIE DYNASTY (h, 5, Dynaformer--Dixie Darlin {MSW, \$187,083}, by Judger), off the board in his last three starts of '96, had finished second and third in two prior starts over the Gulfstream turf and returned to good form with a return to the course. Off at 14-1, the bay staged a strong late rally to steal the victory from 2-1 second choice PALM FREEZER (Baldski), getting a nose in front just at the wire. Lifetime Record: GSW, 30-4-7-3, \$184,595.

O/B-W Harley Stepp Jr. (FL). T-J Bert Sonnier.

1st-GPX, \$30,000, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:45 4/5, ft.

RADIANT MEGAN (f, 4, Commadore C.--Radiant Flower, by Sir Jinsky) returned from a two-month break to finish fourth after a rough trip on the turf January 19. Making her second start back off eight days rest, the bay settled near the back of the pack for a half on the main track here but finished fast to take the lead midstretch and stride away to a 3 1/2-length score at 5-1. Lifetime Record: 12-3-0-1, \$50,920.

O-Hobeau Farm. B-Arthur Kenneth Ringfield (FL). T-H Allen Jerkens.

Local News: Florida

Flying Pigeon (Upper Case), who stood the 1996 season in New York, will move to Franks Farm in Ocala, Florida for 1997. The 16-year-old, who won or placed in 18 graded stakes while bankrolling \$1,131,175, has sired the earners of more than \$2 million, including stakes winners Flying American, Air Mike, Pigeon's Promise and Flying To Maketime. He will stand for a fee of \$1,000, live foal.

◆ MIDWEST ◆

Yesterday's Results:

9th-FGX, \$32,600, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11, ft.

FRESA (m, 5, Strawberry Road (Aus)--Confident Writer {SP}, by Staff Writer), on the board in her last five starts, including a second in the Louisiana Champion Day Ladies S. and a second in a January 20 Fair Grounds allowance last out, was the 5-2 second choice here. The mare took the lead at the sixteenth pole and drew clear to a 2 1/2-length win. Lifetime Record: MSW, 32-9-9-5, \$246,147.

O/B-Tom Ball (LA). T-William Stice.

Midwest Report cont. p3

GAINESWAY

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3-YEAR-OLD TRAMPLE IS A NEW GRADED STAKES HORSE FOR

TREMPOLO

1996 YEARLINGS: AVG. \$86,327, MEDIAN \$80,606. \$15,000 LF

**Midwest Report cont.**

8th-FGX, \$22,000, Msw, 3yo, c, abt. 8.5fT, 1:49 2/5, gd.

+ **FIRM TALK (c, 3, Affirmed--Talk About Home {SW}, by Elocutionist)**, making his debut as an 18-1 outsider, showed good speed right from the gate but had company on the front end all the way, battling fellow first-time starter ANGEL OF NO MERCY (Regal Classic), off at 30-1, to the wire to take the decision by a head. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$13,200.

O-D & K Connell & D & R Kilbride. B-Wafare Farm & Roger Kilbride (Ky). T-W M Bindner.

◆ SO. CALIFORNIA ◆

Local News: Del Mar

Mercedes-Benz Dealers of San Diego County and Del Mar Thoroughbred Club have announced a three-year agreement to extend the auto company's sponsorship of the track's musical series "Jazz at Del Mar," which will be conducted for its seventh season this summer. Mercedes-Benz first signed on to sponsor the Wednesday-evening events last year.

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

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

7th-FGX, \$24,200, 4yo/up, a1mT, 1:41 4/5, gd.

AERODUST (h, 5, Bailjumper--Dusty's Word, by Ray's Word) Lifetime Record: SP, 24-2-1-3, \$43,088. O/B-Carl C. Dykema (IL). T-Albert M Stall Jr.

9th-PHA, \$20,900, 4yo/up, 7f, 1:21 3/5, ft.

SHORT MAN (h, 6, Oh Say--Toes Knows {MGSW, \$311,892}, by Cormorant) Lifetime Record: MSP, 41-11-6-7, \$121,344. O-Plumstead Stables. B-J. Simpson, III, J. Migliaccio, et al. (MD). T-Robert J Seeger.

8th-PHA, \$19,500, 3yo, 1 1/16m, 1:46 1/5, ft.

TRIMAN (c, 3, Triocala--Manhattan Lights, by T. V. Alliance) Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-1, \$33,870. O-Plumstead Stables. B/T-Robert J Seeger (PA).

7th-PHA, \$15,000, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:39, ft.

ROYAL FORM (f, 3, Dynaformer--Royal Troupe {SP}, by Akureyri) Lifetime Record: 7-2-0-1, \$26,520. O-Edmund B Ross. B-William A. Purdey (NJ). T-Cynthia G Reese.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ **Firm Talk, c, 3, Affirmed--Talk About Home (SW), by Elocutionist.** FGX, 1-27, a1 1/16mT, 1:49 2/5. B-Wafare Farm & Roger Kilbride (Ky).

Lil's Golden Halo, f, 3, Jolie's Halo--Klassy Gem, by Klassy Flight. GPX, 1-27, 6f, 1:11 3/5. B-Cataldo John H (Fl).

Tarongroom, c, 3, Runaway Groom--R. B.'s Spicy, by Private Account. GPX, 1-27, 6f, 1:11 2/5. B-Sabine Stable (Fl).

Scrubette, f, 4, List--Ritstone, by Stonewalk. FGX, (S), 1-27, 6f, 1:12 3/5. B-J T & R J Segura (La). *Full to Pre Op Scrub, MSW, \$193,694.

Eye Catch Her, c, 4, Sawbones--Ritzie Appeal, by Valid Appeal. SUF, 1-27, 6f, 1:14 4/5. B-Elmer Heubeck, Jr & Harriet Heubeck (Fl).

Pincay, cont.

"People don't tell me they think I'm too old, but you know they're thinking that," Pincay said.

Eddie Delahoussaye, at 45, is the second-oldest member of Southern California's colony of Thoroughbred jockeys.

"I don't think I could accept being in Laffit's situation," Delahoussaye said. "But obviously this is what he loves to do."

Trainer Bill Spawr, who runs a successful claiming stable, uses Pincay to ride many of his horses.

"I use him because he wins races," Spawr said. "But I have to admit that some of my owners don't want me to use him. They pay the bills so I have to listen."

D. Wayne Lukas, whose purse earnings perennially lead all Thoroughbred trainers, teamed with Pincay to win the 1986 and 1988 runnings of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

"I don't remember the last time I rode a horse for Wayne," Pincay said.

Said Lukas: "If I had multiple entries in a big race I wouldn't hesitate to use Laffit. He's like Johnny Unitas. On a given day, he can still give a great horse a great ride."

Pincay was known for his hot temper as a young rider--another effect, he said, of his constant battle with weight.

"I never knew how rough he used to be until I went to Louisiana with him for a race and he went in to get his (racing) license," said Jeanine, Pincay's wife of four years. "They ran his name through the computer and all these sheets of paper came out--with lists of his suspensions for rough riding, fighting with other jockeys, arguing with stewards. I couldn't believe it."

There is not a hint of anger in Pincay's voice when he speaks of the present--and the future.



KEENELAND

APRIL TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING SALE

April 15 - 16

**Pincay, cont.**

He would like to break Willie Shoemaker's record of 8,833 riding victories, set between 1949-1990, and once thought beyond challenge.

One of the major reasons for Shoemaker's longevity as a jockey was the fact that he weighed barely 100 pounds and didn't have to diet to make weight.

Pincay said he will have to edge toward Shoemaker's record, not take giant steps.

"I would like to keep going through the end of 1998 and see where I stand," he said. "There's no point in complaining about which trainers use me and which don't. If I think I need only a few more months to get the record by the end of next year, I'll keep going. If I'm way behind, I'll probably just retire."

There was a one-week delay in Pincay's record quest. The Santa Anita stewards suspended him for five days, from January 8-12, for a riding infraction December 31.

Jeanine Pincay, 25 years her husband's junior, was delighted. She planned a week at the couple's summer home in Del Mar with Jean Laffit, their 3-year-old son.

"I wish he would just retire now so we could move down there full-time," she said.

Pincay has two older children by his first wife, Linda, who committed suicide 12 years ago.

"My kids had to go to therapy for about two years before they could deal with it," he recalled.

Less than two years after Linda's death, Pincay found his financial manager had falsely represented the status of the jockey's holdings.

"Later on I found out that \$4 million was missing," Pincay said. "I'll never be broke, but there were a few times I thought I could have retired if I had that money. After all these years the case is still in court, but I don't know if I'll ever see any of the money."

For years, Angel Cordero was Pincay's New York counterpart, a swashbuckling competitor who rode into middle age. He rode 7,057 winners--the third-highest total ever--before retiring at 50 to become a trainer in 1992.

Cordero saw his old rival at Aqueduct in New York on November 30, where Pincay rode little-known Pacific Fleet to an upset victory over Unbridled's Song, the 1995 Breeders' Cup Juvenile hero.

"I told him if he wanted to get Shoemaker's record, he should come here and I'd make sure he got a lot of good mounts," Cordero said by phone from his New York home.

"I know he doesn't like cold weather, but if he came in the spring and stayed till the fall he'd win all kinds of races. The trainers here know him and the fans would love him."

Thanks, Pincay said, but no thanks.

"I'll stay here and do the best I can," he said:

Bob Meldahl is Pincay's agent and also books mounts for Corey Nakatani, who at 25 is considered a riding superstar whose powerful handling of horses often draws comparisons to Pincay.

Said Meldahl: "Laffit has the class to understand that Corey is my No. 1 rider. But a lot of horsemen still want to ride him because they know he'll get everything out of a horse the horse can give."

Richard Mandella, who sent out Dare And Go to upset Cigar in Del Mar's Pacific Classic in August, is one of the biggest names among trainers who regularly employs Pincay--though admittedly not on his top stakes runners.

"When I started my stable 20 years ago, it was impossible to get Pincay," Mandella, 46, said. "Everyone wanted him. It was an honor that he would even consider riding a horse for a no-name trainer like I was then. But he rode the first good horse I had, Bad N Big (who won several stakes in 1977), and I never forgot that. It's still an honor to have him."

In the 1993 Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita, Pincay and Mandella combined to win the Juvenile Fillies with Phone Chatter, the most recent of Pincay's 13 victories in races worth \$1 million or more.

The day after Christmas, on opening day of Santa Anita's 1996-97 meet, Sea Crest scored a rollicking 7-length victory in a 1 1/16-mile maiden race for two-year-olds. It's still early, but the colt trained by Mandella won with the authority of an animal who could have a Kentucky Derby in his future.

"I've won all the big races, but I wouldn't mind going to the Kentucky Derby again with a horse that had a chance to win," Pincay said.

Said Mandella: "Wouldn't that be something?"
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