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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1997

\$2 Daily

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VISA SPONSORS TRAVERS At a press conference Tuesday in Albany, New York Racing Association President Terry Meyocks announced that Visa, sponsor of the Triple Crown Challenge, will sponsor the GI Travers S. at Saratoga for the next four years, according to a story in the *Thoroughbred Times On-Line*. "We've been working on it for the last several months," said Meyocks, who described the agreement's financial terms as "confidential." Meyocks added that NYRA will not increase the \$750,000 Travers purse in 1997. This year's Travers will be run Saturday, August 23 and will be televised live on ESPN.

LAUREL OPENS TODAY Maryland racing shifts to Laurel Park today after a three-month stint at Pimlico. The Laurel summer meet stakes schedule is highlighted by the GII Frank J De Francis Memorial Dash for three-year-olds and up going six furlongs. The \$300,000 race will be run July 19. Also on the stakes schedule, the GIII Baltimore Breeders' Cup will be run July 5. Worth \$200,000, the nine-furlong race is for three-year-olds and up. The Laurel meet is scheduled to run through August 17.

KENTUCKY CUP DATE MOVED The fourth running of the \$1,150,000 Kentucky Cup Day of Champions, originally scheduled for September 20, 1997, has been pushed up a week to Saturday, September 13 in order to be a part of ESPN'S "Racing to the Breeders' Cup" series. The \$250,000 GII Turfway Breeders' Cup and the \$500,000 GIII Kentucky Cup Classic will be presented live during the telecast with other Kentucky Cup races shown on a tape-delayed basis. The one-hour special will air from 5-6 p.m. EDT on ESPN. "The saying goes that if you are not on T.V., you don't exist in today's marketplace," said Damon Thayer, Turfway's director of communications. "With the Kentucky Cup joining the Jim Beam S. on national television, I think it is apparent that Turfway Park is the home of major league horse racing in Greater Cincinnati."

Sunday, Hollywood Park:
HOLLYWOOD GOLD CUP-GI, \$1,000,000, 3yo/up, 1 1/4m

Marlin (Sword Dance {Ire}) worked five furlongs in 1:00 2/5 Monday morning at Santa Anita. "It was just a maintenance work," trainer D. Wayne Lukas said. "I actually got him in 1:02 2/5--a nice, easy drill. He's fit and ready to go." The four-year-old colt, winner of the GII San Luis Rey S. and GI San Juan Capistrano on turf in March and April, has started only once on dirt this year, finishing fourth in the March 2 Santa Anita H.

River Keen (Ire) (Keen {GB}), a perfect one-for-one in the U.S. after winning the GII Californian S. at Hollywood June 1, breezed five-eighths Sunday in 1:01 2/5. "We just went really easy with him," trainer Bob Hess, Jr. said. "He came out of it well and we're all set for Sunday." River Keen has been supplemented to the Gold Cup at a cost of \$25,000.

The probable field for the second leg of the MGM Grand Classic Crown, following the March 2 Santa Anita H., also includes Big 'Cap first, second and third-place finishers **Siphon (Brz)** (Itajara {Brz}), **Sandpit (Brz)** (Baynoun {Ire}) and **Gentlemen (Arg)** (Robin des Bois), as well as **Talloires** (Tremolino). All four are trained by Richard Mandella. H. James Bond-trainee **Will's Way** (Easy Goer) is considered possible for the race. If Siphon, the only horse still eligible for the series sweep, should prevail Sunday and again in the Aug. 9 Pacific Classic at Del Mar, he would generate a \$4.8 million payoff, comprised of the \$1.8 million in total purses and the MGM Grand bonus of \$3 million.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25:

- 7-4 \$125/75,000 **Stars and Stripes Breeders' Cup Turf-GIII, AP, 3yo/up, 12fT (\$125)**
- 7-4 \$150,000 **American H.-GII, Hol, 3yo/up, 9fT (\$100)**
- 7-5 \$150,000 **USA S., LS, 3yo, 8.5fT (\$0)**
- 7-6 \$200,000 **Hollywood Oaks-GII, Hol, 3yo, f, 9f (\$200)**
- 7-6 \$125,000 **Pucker Up-GII, AP, 3yo, f, 9fT (\$125)**
- 7-13 \$75,000 **Dance Smartly-GIC, Wo, 3yo/up, f/m, 9fT (\$75)**



TOMORROW, THURSDAY, JUNE 26:

- 6-28 \$125,000 **Arlington Classic-GII, AP, 3yo, 9fT (\$8000s)**

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Weekend Preview Continued.

Sunday, The Curragh, Ireland:

BUDWEISER IRISH DERBY-G1, \$1,100,000 (est.), 3yo, c & f, 1 1/2mT

Epsom Derby runner-up **Silver Patriarch (Ire)** (Saddlers' Hall {Ire}) is one of three overseas runners among the 12 entries for Sunday's Budweiser Irish Derby, the other two being the Andre Fabre-trained **Loup Sauvage** (Riverman) and the Barry Hills-trained **The Fly (GB)** (Pharly {Fr}). Heading the home entries are Aidan O'Brien's trio of **Desert King (Ire)** (Danehill), winner of the Lexus Irish 2000 Guineas May 25; **Strawberry Roan (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells), runner-up in the Airlie/Coolmore Irish 1000 Guineas May 24; and **Johan Cruyff (GB)** (Danehill), winner of the G2 Gallinule S. June 6. The other six entrants are: **Buddy Marvel (Ire)** (Law Society), **Casey Tibbs (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells), **Dr Johnson** (Woodman), **Olympic Majesty (Fr)** (Law Society), **Verglas (Ire)** (Highest Honor {Fr}) and **Token Gesture (Ire)** (Alzao).

Sunday, Woodbine:

QUEEN'S PLATE-GIC, \$400,000, (S), 3yo, 1 1/4m

Annihilate (Salt Lake) worked yesterday morning over Woodbine's sloppy main track, breezing five furlongs in 1:02 2/5...**C.C. On Ice** (Hansel) went the same distance in 1:01 2/5...**Cowboy Cop** (Silver Deputy) breezed three-quarters of a mile in 1:17 4/5...**Sovereign Storm** (Bates Motel) worked five furlongs in 1:00 3/5...**Bowmore** (Tejabo) zipped a bullet five furlongs in :59...**Sloane Ranger** (Shotiche) drilled a half-mile in :49.

◆ EAST ◆

Yesterday's Results:

7th-DEL, \$28,000, Opt. Clm. (\$32,000), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10, ft.

OLD TASCOSA (g, 5, **Gone West--Chicken Delight**, by **Cornish Prince**), winner of the 1994 GII Cowdin, won his latest, a \$25,000 claiming race at Monmouth June 7, via disqualification. The 3-1 second choice pressed the early pace, stuck his head in front at the top of the stretch and drew clear to score by 1 3/4 lengths. The winner is a half brother to Mr. Sea Sanders (GSW, \$112,318, by Joanie's Chief) and Delightful Bet (GSP, \$101,321, by Bet Twice). Lifetime Record: GSW, 44-13-6-6, \$367,380.

O-Noreen Carpenito. B-Marvin Little Jr (KY). T-James Ryerson.

9th-PHA, \$26,000, Alw, 3yo/up, 7f, 1:23, ft.

BRISTLING (g, 5, **Broad Brush--Carrie's Dream** {MSW, \$240,811}, by **Stop the Music**), who closed out the '96 season with a pair of stakes wins at Philadelphia Park, was most recently third in a one-mile allowance at Delaware June 9. Shortening up in distance here, the bay gelding was sent off the 3-5 favorite and came from just off-the-pace for a 1 1/2-length tally. He is a half-brother to **Encaustic** (SP, \$181,107, by **Tank's Prospect**) & a full to **Jan Kees** (SW, \$182,990). Lifetime Record: MSW, 17-8-4-3, \$213,369.

O/T-Eugene E. Weymouth. B-Mrs. Eugene E. Weymouth (PA).

7th-PHA, \$14,000, Msw, 3/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:51 4/5, fm.

+ **DOS ARTUROS** (g, 3, **Gold Alert--Regal Sherry**, by **Vice Regent**), a half-brother to **Belfast Becky** (GSW, \$190,920, by **Overskate**) and **Overcharger** (MSW, \$242,686, by **Overskate**), was sent off the 4-1 third choice in his debut. The bay gelding trailed the field early before running down rivals in the stretch to just get up for a nose victory over **VIVE LE PETIT** (World Appeal). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$8,400.

O/B-Stafford Gordon (FL). T-Rodriguez Arturo.

Local News, Atlantic City Race Course:

Sam-Son Farm's **Always a Classic** (Deputy Minister), the expected starting highweight for Saturday's GI Caesars International at Atlantic City, will not go postward in the race, trainer Mark Frostad said yesterday. "He did not work as well as I expected last Sunday and had a little bleeding episode," Frostad said. "He is definitely out for the Caesars." Winner of the GI Early Times Turf Classic at Churchill Downs two starts back, **Always a Classic** most recently finished third as the 2-1 favorite in the GI Manhattan H. at Belmont June 7.

◆ MIDWEST ◆

Monday's Late Result:

2nd-PRM, \$13,000, Msw, 6-23, 2yo, 5f, :59 2/5, ft.

+ **PAULINSKI'S BOY** (c, 2, **Lost Code--Miss Mistletoe** {SP, \$128,796}, by **Masked Dancer**), making his career debut as the 2-1 second choice in the nine-horse field, settled off the pace early, went after frontrunner and 8-5 favorite **MASTERFUL JOB** (Masterful Advocate) in the drive and just caught him at the wire to win by a nose. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$7,800.

O-Jack E. Jackson. B-Dan White (KY). T-Tim M. Gleason.

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◆ FOREIGN ◆

AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS IN ENGLAND:

Absolute Liberty, g, 3, **Gold Alert--Mutterfly**, by Muttering. Lingfield, 6-24, Schatunovski Brooks Apprentices' H., 3yo/up, 1 1/4mT, \$3,950 to winner. O-Sean Woods; B-Charles Westen; T-Sean Woods.

Guestimation, g, 8, **Known Fact--Best Guess**, by Apalachee. Warwick, 6-24, Gaveston Selling S., 3yo/up, 10f 169ydsT, \$3,251 to winner. O-The Exclusive Two Partnership; B-Oak Crest Farm; T-J Pease. *\$48,000 wnlq '89 KEENOV.

Local News, Saint-Cloud, France:

Texan Cash Asmussen has been chosen by Spanish owner Enrique Sarasola to replace French champion jockey Olivier Peslier on his four-year-old colt **Helisso (Fr)** (Fairy King) in Sunday's G1 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud and in his subsequent races. After discussions with trainer Elie Lellouche, Sarasola made this decision following the announcement by owner-breeder Daniel Wildenstein that he is exercising his claim on Peslier to ride his three-year-old colt **Loup Sauvage** (Riverman), runner up in the French 2000 Guineas at Longchamp May 11, in the Budweiser Irish Derby at The Curragh on the same day.

BREEDERS EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-DEL, \$24,800, 3yo/up, a1 1/16mT, 1:43 1/5, fm. **BLUE BLUFFER** (c, 3, **Pine Bluff--Pozzi {SP}**), by Arctic Tern) Lifetime Record: 8-2-2-0, \$37,360. O/B-Bluestem Farm Inc. (NE). T-James L McGreevy.

6th-DEL, \$23,000, Opt. Clm. (\$25,000), 3yo/up, 1m70yds, 1:42, ft.

MAYBE JACK (g, 4, **Classic Account--Hester Lou**, by **Summing**) Lifetime Record: 21-7-1-6, \$70,920. O-John F. Buckley Jr. B-David Brooks & David Hall (GA). T-Allen Borosh.

1st-PRM, \$22,984, 6-23, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 1/5, ft.

CALAMITY CLAIM (f, 4, **Claim--Little Mo Gold**, by **Golden Act**) Lifetime Record: 11-3-3-1, \$36,536. O-R P M Thoroughbreds. B-Ray Shattuck & Peggy Shattuck (IA). T-Kelly Von Hemel.

8th-PRM, \$22,000, 6-23, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11, ft. **FORGOTTEN SECRET** (f, 4, **Secret Slew--Won't Forget Me**, by **With Caution**) Lifetime Record: 22-5-2-0, \$45,092. O-Adams Robert A & Rognon Charles T. B-Craig D. Upham (TX). T-George Northrop.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ **Paulinski's Boy**, c, 2, **Lost Code--Miss Mistletoe** (SP, \$128,796), by Masked Dancer. PRM, 6-23, 5f, :59 2/5. B-Dan White (Ky).

Alarming Double, f, 3, **Darn That Alarm--Nodouble's Queen**, by Nodouble. DET, 6-24, 6f, 1:12 2/5. B-Vinda & Lvstra Ramsingh (Fl).

+ **Dos Arturos**, g, 3, **Gold Alert--Regal Sherry**, by Vice Regent. PHA, 6-24, 1 1/8mT, 1:51 4/5. B-Gordon B. Stafford (Fl). *1/2 to Belfast Becky (Overskate), GSW, \$190,920; Overcharger (Overskate), MSW, \$242,686.

Drop the Gavel, c, 3, **Here We Come--Sum Femme**, by Summing. PRM, 6-23, 5 1/2f, 1:04 4/5. B-Bill Tackett (Ok).

+ **Forceful Fella**, c, 4, **Forceful Intent--Chronic Smoker**, by Northern Best. PRM, 6-23, (S), 6f, 1:12 2/5. B-Roger Cook (Ia).

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 a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races.

◆ SO. CALIFORNIA ◆

Local News, Hollywood Park:

G1 Malibu S. winner **King of the Heap** (Allen's Prospect) covered five furlongs in 1:01 4/5 Monday morning in his final scheduled work before Sunday's GIII Triple Bend Breeders' Cup H. Also working for the Triple Bend, GSWs **Latin Dancer** (Citidancer) and **Score Quick** (Northern Score) both breezed four furlongs Tuesday, going in :47 1/5 and :48 respectively.

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WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

AJINA (f, 3, Strawberry Road {Aus}--Winglet, by Alydar)

Ajina looked a filly of immense potential when she won the GII Demoiselle S. last year at Aqueduct. Fulfillment of that potential had been slow in coming this season, but it was finally realized in the GI Mother Goose S. at Belmont on Saturday.

Ajina is a daughter of the deceased Strawberry Road, a sire who did well despite having several potential strikes against him. Horse of the Year in Australia, Strawberry Road also campaigned with distinction in Europe and North America, his Northern Hemisphere victories including the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud, Grosser Preis Von Baden-Baden and Arcadia H. In addition to being a turf router who campaigned to the age of eight, Strawberry Road was by Whiskey Road, a modestly performed son of Nijinsky II and from an Australian family.

Despite this, Strawberry Road turned out to be a rather useful stallion--one of the best North American Nijinsky II line sires--with at least 22 stakes winners in seven crops. In addition to Ajina, they include Fraise, Dinard, Royal Chariot and Fowda (all Grade I winners) and other graded scorers Blue Marlin, Escena, Admiralty, Strawberry Wine and Strawberry Reason.

Ajina's dam Winglet is a Grade II winning daughter of Alydar and Champion Irish Two-Year-Old Filly Highest Trump. Her pedigree is interesting on two counts. Firstly, her fourth dam Durazna is a three-parts sister to Miss Dogwood, the third dam of Mr. Prospector (like Alydar, a son of Raise a Native). Secondly, both Durazna and Real Delight, the third dam of Alydar, are by Bull Lea out of Blue Larkspur mares, giving Winglet the three-quarters relatives 4x4 in her pedigree. This fact takes on increased importance when we recall that Strawberry Road is a male line descendent of Nijinsky II. Nijinsky II's dam Flaming Page is by Bull Page, a son of Bull Lea and a Blue Larkspur mare. Thus, Ajina has three-quarters relatives Bull Page, Real Delight and Durazna 5x5x5. Others bred on a Nijinsky II/Alydar cross include graded stakes winners Destiny Dance, Green Darlin and Miss Huff N' Puff.

Nijinsky II himself is sire of Winglet's half-sister Wasnah, who has Bull Page and Durazna 3x4. Stakes placed in England, Wasnah is dam of Champion Miler Bahri and of Bahhare (by Mr. Prospector's son Woodman), an unbeaten juvenile group winner in England last year. This all suggests that Bahri will be well suited by Mr. Prospector and Alydar mares and that Strawberry Road mares will be well suited by stallions carrying strains of Mr. Prospector or Alydar.

PEDIGREE SHORTS

In winning the GII Prioress S., Pearl City (f, 3, Carson City--Island Kitty, by Hawaii) became the fourth stakes winner for her dam. Interestingly the quartet, which is completed by Hennessy, Shy Tom and Island Kitty, are not only by different sires, but all from different male lines. In the case of Pearl City, the defining feature might be that the three-quarters related Spring Run (dam of Red God) and Tom Fool are 5x4 in the pedigree with another Menow/Bull Dog combination through Flaming Page also appearing in the fifth generation. We might have the beginnings of a trend here, as once Menow/Bull Dog variations drop further back into pedigrees we are going to need to look for multiples rather than just crosses. For the meantime, however it looks as if "two'll do."

The famous Florida connection--double Rough 'n Tumble--struck in Texas Sunday when Came Unwound (f, 2, Cryptoclearance--Sez Forty, by Sezyou) won the \$239,475 TTBA Sales Futurity at Lone Star Park. It has always surprised me that, since Cryptoclearance was by Fappiano (dam by Dr. Fager), we haven't seen him more often with In Reality. This pairing gives a double of Rough 'n Tumble 4x3. Came Unwound has Dr. Fager 4x4 and Rough 'n Tumble 5x6x5.

Royal Ascot has more concentrated quality action than any four-day meeting on earth and a quick look through the winners revealed some noteworthy patterns. Last Friday's G2 Hardwicke S. was won by Predappio (GB) (c, 4, Polish Precedent--Khalafiya {GB}, by Darshaan {GB}), who, along with Irish Oaks heroine Pure Grain and classic placed Her Ladyship, comprises a talented trio of runners by Polish Precedent out of Mill Reef line mares. The success of the combination should come as no surprise when one discovers that Polish Precedent's granddam Bold Example and Mill Reef both have a Nasrullah/Princequillo cross and Bimelech close up in their pedigrees.

International breeding is getting to be a small world. Kingfisher Mill (c, 3, Riverman--Charming Life {NZ}, by Sir Tristram), who waltzed away with Friday's G2 King Edward VII S., is by a U.S.-based sire out of a New Zealand-bred mare. However, he is very closely related to French-foaled Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner Detroit, and she is by Riverman out of Derna, also the fourth dam of Kingfisher Mill.

Wednesday's G1 Coronation S. winner Rebecca Sharp (f, 3, Machiavellian--Nuryana, by Nureyev) is the 10th of Machiavellian's 13 stakes winners to have Northern Dancer in the pedigree, a strike rate approaching 80 percent. Since Machiavellian is Northern Dancer free and his granddam is a half-sister to Northern Dancer, the success of this cross was eminently predictable, but by any standard the degree of success is remarkable.