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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1997

\$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

W • E • E • K • E • N • D P R E V I E W

HOLLYWOOD PARK CLOSSES '97 MEET WITH RECORD HANDLE Hollywood Park closed its 37-day autumn meeting Monday with record daily average handle of \$11,123,200, an increase of 28.4 percent from 1996. Boosted by the highly successful Breeders' Cup Championship and the return of Hollywood Park's signal to Nevada racebooks, wagering at the meet totaled an autumn record of \$412,358,383. Total on-track handle was \$72,919,410.60 and on-track attendance totaled 726,967. The 1997 on-track daily average handle of \$1,970,795 was up 5.5 percent. The average on-track attendance fell 2.6 percent to 8,610. "We're thrilled with results of the Breeders' Cup," track chairman R. D. Hubbard said. "I've had nothing but positive feedback from the fans on their experience. There were no problems entering the track and they were treated to a world-class show." Kent Desormeaux earned his fourth jockey's title with 38 wins. Richard Mandella took leading trainer honors with 14 wins, his third Hollywood title.

Friday, Santa Anita:

MALIBU S.-GI, \$200,000, 3yo, 7f

PP	HORSE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	WT.
1	Swiss Yodeler	Harrington	Solis	115
2	Carnavale (Ire)	Walsh	Blanc	115
3a	Trafalger	Lukas	Desormeaux	117
4	Latin Dancer	Bradshaw	Black	117
5	Crypto Star	Catalano	Nakatani	123
6	Lord Grillo (Arg)	Puype	Delahoussaye	119
7a	Silver Charm	Baffert	Stevens	123
8	Apalachee Ridge	Peterson	Gomez	115
9	Flaming West	Frankel	Pincay	115
10	Mud Route	McAnally	McCarron	115
11	Emailit	Sise	Flores	115

Sires of Runners: **Swiss Yodeler** (Eastern Echo), **Carnavale (Ire)** (Cricket Ball), **Trafalger** (Storm Bird), **Latin Dancer** (Citidancer), **Crypto Star** (Cryptoclearance), **Lord Grillo (Arg)** (Engrillado {Arg}), **Silver Charm** (Silver Buck), **Apalachee Ridge** (Apalachee), **Flaming West** (Gone West), **Mud Route** (Strawberry Road {Aus}), **Emailit** (Timeless Native).

Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner **Silver Charm** makes his first start since narrowly missing the Triple Crown with a second-place finish in the June 7 Belmont S. Silver Charm worked four furlongs in :47 3/5 Tuesday morning at Santa Anita. "He's fit enough to win the race," trainer Bob Baffert said after the move. "He's tight enough to be able to handle the seven-furlong distance without hurting himself. I think he will run very well on Friday, but he is not going to be at his best right off the bat." Also making his first start since the Belmont, Gil Arkansas Derby winner **Crypto Star** looks to improve on his fourth-place finish in the 1 1/2-mile classic. **Apalachee Ridge** set a track record for six furlongs at Hollywood Park in a five-length Dec. 12 optional claimer victory in his last start. The lightly raced grey colt, a winner of three of eight starts, will be making his stakes debut in this spot. **Lord Grillo**, a Group 1 winner in Argentina earlier in the year, makes his second start in the U.S. off of a second-place effort behind **Flaming West** in a Nov. 22 optional claimer.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24:
1-3 \$100,000 *Monrovia H.-GIII, SA, 4yo/up, f/m, 6.5fT (\$100)*



ATTENTION TDN SUBSCRIBERS!

The TDN office will be closed for the holidays Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25.

THE THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26!

All news and race results from these days will appear in the Saturday, December 27 issue.

Happy Holidays!



◆ FOREIGN ◆

Local News, England:

Godolphin has purchased 1998 2,000 Guineas and Epsom Derby hopeful **Central Park (Ire)** (In The Wings {GB}) from Prince Fahd Salman. The juvenile colt was trained by Paul Cole to win three times from five starts this year, his most notable wins coming in the Chesham S. at Royal Ascot June 19 and the G3 Lanson Champagne Vintage S. at Goodwood July 30. He ended his season with a below-par effort, finishing last of seven in the G1 Thoroughbred Corporation Dewhurst S. at Newmarket October 18. Godolphin racing manager Simon Crisford said: "Central Park arrived at Al Quoz, the Godolphin base, last week."

◆ NEW YORK ◆

Yesterday's Results:

8th-AQU, \$40,000, Alw, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11 2/5, my.
1--RESIN, 117, g, 3, Pentelicus--Quadrifem, by On to Glory. O-Green Leonard C; B-Standridge Kathleen D (FL); T-Joseph Orseno. Lifetime Record: 11-5-1-1, \$105,128.
2--Arromanches, 115, c, 4, Relaunch--Perfect Roux, by Sauce Boat.
3--Manticore, 113, c, 3, Allen's Prospect--Happy April, by Better Arbitor.
 Margins: 1HF, 2HF, 2. Odds: 7.60, 2.50, 25.00.

Resin returned from a six-length Oct. 1 allowance win to finish fifth in his last start Oct. 16. Making his first start at Aqueduct, the bay gelding trailed the field of seven early before making up ground steadily and taking the lead in midstretch to win going away.

7th-AQU, \$31,000, Alw, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11 4/5, my.
SUNK AT SEA (c, 3, Jade Hunter--Aurania {SP}, by Judger), a half brother to Agotaras (Saratoga Six, MSW, \$124,150), Russian Bride (Saratoga Six, SW, \$162,851) and Risen Raven (Risen Star, Hwt. Older Mare-Ger, 7-9½f, MGSW-Ger, \$303,722), won an Oct. 29 \$30,000 claimer before two second-place outings in Nov. 16 and Nov. 29 Aqueduct allowance events. The 2-1 second choice raced just behind the early leaders, rallied to take control turning for home and scored by three lengths. Lifetime Record: 12-3-4-1, \$66,858.
 O-Kleemann Sandi L. B-Lee Eaton (KY). T-Phil Marino.

◆ EAST ◆

Yesterday's Results:

8th-CRC, \$20,500, Msw, 3/4yo, f/m, 1 1/8mT, 1:50 2/5, fm.
+BOSHA (f, 3, Blushing John--Eastland {GSW-US, Fr, \$212,879}, by Exceller) was sent off the 4-5 favorite in her debut. The bay filly was bumped at the start, went after the leader leaving the backstretch and drew clear entering the stretch to finish 7½ lengths in front under a hand ride. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$10,500.
 O/B-Allen Paulson (Ky). T-William Mott.

6th-PHA, \$14,000, Msw, 2yo, 6f, 1:10 4/5, my.
MY BLUES (g, 2, Belong to Me--Double Time Blues, by Nodouble) ran third in his debut Nov. 17 before being eased in the Dec. 6 Pennsylvania Futurity in his last start. The \$33,000 FTMMAY two-year-old was sent off at 6-1 and led from start to finish to win by 4 1/4 lengths. My Blues became the 16th winner for his freshman sire Belong to Me (by Danzig). Lifetime Record: 3-1-0-1, \$14,175.
 O-Timber Creek Farm. B-Lambholm Farm (Pa). T-Reese Cynthia.

Local News, Calder:

Jockey Hiroki Goto, one of the leading jockeys in Japan, will be riding at Calder for the next five days for a good cause. The 23-year-old rider has pledged his earnings for the week to the Buoniconti Fund and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, the Thoroughbred Racing Association's national charity for 1997. Goto got off to a good start, winning yesterday's first race at Calder. He will return to Japan to ride at Nakayama when the Japanese track opens on January 5.

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ANOTHER SOUTH AFRICAN STAR?

1997 CHAMPION 2YO of SOUTH AFRICA—Arrowfield-bred **RAROTONGA TREATY (by Geiger Counter)**

Arrowfield-bred 2-year-old **DANELEN (Danehill--Miss Tawpie {Miswaki})** won his first start by 4 1/2 lengths – **breaking the long standing course record at Turffontein.** Could he be the 1998 Champion?



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◆ MIDWEST ◆

Local News, Churchill Downs:

Churchill Downs Vice President and Track Superintendent Raymond "Butch" Lehr, Jr. will travel to Dubai on January 1 to consult with officials on the care of the racing surface at Nad Al Sheba Racecourse, site of the \$4 million Dubai World Cup. "I'm very flattered by the invitation to visit Dubai and I'm anxious to take a look at their track and the methods they use to care for it," said Lehr. "Dubai is really a new horizon for the racing industry and the visit will be a learning experience for me, as well." The 1997 edition of the World Cup was postponed for several days after heavy rain soaked the track in the days preceding the race.

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

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-HAW, \$22,000, (S), 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:46 2/5, my.

STACKER OF WHEAT (c, 4, Royal Roberto--Miss Courier {MSP}, by Young Bob) Lifetime Record: SP, 43-4-6-6, \$90,394. O-Mcgrath Jerry & Walters Ed. B-G. D. McGrath & Scott Verdung (IL). T-Jerry D McGrath.

7th-PHA, \$21,680, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f, 1:23 3/5, my. SOLITARY SAGA (f, 3, Waquoit--Lonely Balladier {MSW, \$188,877}, by Northern Fling) Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-0, \$55,789. O-William L Pape. B-William L. Pape & Jonathan E. Sheppard (PA). T-Jonathan E Sheppard.

11th-CRC, \$21,600, 3yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:47 1/5, ft. HAGLER (c, 3, Jeblar--Penny Run, by Linkage) Lifetime Record: 22-3-6-2, \$67,540. O-Starship Stables. B-Farnsworth Farms (FL). T-Ralph Ziadie.

9th-PHA, \$19,500, 2yo, 6f, 1:10, my. POWER BY FAR (c, 2, Power of Mind--Farrah Foxet, by T. V. Commercial) Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$30,300. O/B-Barbara Geraghty (PA). T-Anthony Correnti.

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, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Apalachee Special, c, 2, Apalachee--Special Portion, by Czaravich. HAW, 12-23, a1m70yd, 1:45 1/5. B-Inman Barr (Ky). * 1/2 to Sassy Pants (Saratoga Six), MSW, \$239,262.

My Blues, g, 2, Belong to Me--Double Time Blues, by Nodouble. PHA, 12-23, 6f, 1:10 4/5. B-Lambholm Farm (Pa). *\$33,000 2yo 1997 FTMMAY. **16th winner for freshman sire (by Danzig).

Crown's Splendor, c, 2, Chief's Crown--King's Kristine, by Kris S.. CRC, 12-23, 7 1/2fT, 1:30 4/5. B-Starstruck Farms (Ky). *\$30,000 2yo 1997 OBSMAR.

+ Impatient, f, 2, Kyle's Our Man--Patient Saint, by Darby Creek Road. HOL, (C), 12-22, 6f, 1:10 2/5. B-Gutheil Paul R Dr (Oh). *\$10,000 wlng '95 KEENOV; \$3,000 yrl '96 KEESEP.

I Do, f, 2, Runaway Groom--Gottagetitdone (GSP, \$402,593), by Kohoutek. CRC, 12-23, (C), 6f, 1:13 3/5. B-Robert E Courtney & Frank Alexander (Ky).

Ruby Rubles, f, 2, Scarlet Ibis--Granite Island, by Say I'm Smart. AQU, 12-23, (S), a1m70yd, 1:45 1/5. B-Flying Zee Stables (NY).

Stratus, g, 2, Sky Classic--Top Credit, by Private Account. CRC, 12-23, 7 1/2fT, 1:30 4/5. B-Martha F Gerry & W S Farish (Ky).

+ Bosh, f, 3, Blushing John--Eastland (GSW-US, Fr, \$212,879), by Exceller. CRC, 12-23, 1 1/8mT, 1:50 2/5. B-Paulson Allen E (Ky).

Space Gear (Ire), c, 3, Salt Dome--Webbiana (Ire), by African Sky (GB). CRC, 12-22, 1 1/8mT, 1:50 3/5. B-Mrs A Whitehead (Ire).

Mr. Buzzard, c, 3, Solar City--Roll Up the Rug, by Stop the Music. HAW, 12-23, (S), a1m70yd, 1:45 3/5. B-Christine Janks & Barry Janes (Ill).

Burn Your Bridges, g, 3, Thirty Six Red--Brenda's Bridges (SW), by Hagley. AQU, 12-23, 6f, 1:12 3/5. B-J W Backer, Art Baumohl (Ky). *\$22,000 yrl '95 KEESEP.

Major Asset, c, 4, Cancun--Glorious Jennifer, by Captain My Captain. HAW, 12-23, 6 1/2f, 1:18 1/5. B-Gary E Gulick & Martha J Gulick (Mo).

Chancy Punter, c, 4, Puntivo--Fancy Miss (MSW, \$188,389), by Don B. PHA, 12-22, 1 1/16m, 1:45 2/5. B-Harriet C Heubeck & Elmer Heubeck Jr (Fl). *1/2 to Chas' Whim (Chas Conerly), MGSW, \$359,741.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Mr. and Mrs. Ben P. Walden, Jr.'s VINERY



WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

PANAMA CITY (c, 3, El Gran Senor--Obeah {Ire}, by Cure the Blues)

Look out for Cure the Blues and Buckpasser! That was the pedigree message sent by the victory of Panama City in the GII W.L. McKnight H. at Calder Saturday. Panama City, who was making only his third start in North America, is a full-brother to Morgana, a multiple graded stakes winner of over \$300,000. A look at his pedigree reminded us that combining Buckpasser--the broodmare sire of El Gran Senor--with Cure the Blues could be a shrewd move.

Cure the Blues spent a considerable part of his stud career in Europe, which restricted his opportunities to meet with Buckpasser mares, but he has sired stakes winners Come On Get Happy, Incredible Blues and Ft. Stockton out of mares carrying Buckpasser. As a broodmare sire, in addition to Panama City and Morgana, Cure the Blues is also responsible for French Group 3 winner Lunafairy (Fr), whose sire, Always Fair (a recent arrival to Kentucky), is by Danzig out of a Buckpasser mare. This means that Buckpasser is in three of the first eight group/graded stakes winners out of Cure the Blues mares.

Why should Cure the Blues like Buckpasser? Cure the Blues is by Stop the Music (dam by Tom Fool) out of a mare by Dr. Fager (dam by Better Self). Buckpasser is a son of Tom Fool, and his dam Busanda is by War Admiral out of a daughter of La Troienne, whereas Better Self is by a son of La Troienne out of a War Admiral mare. Cure the Blues is still at stud, and there are plenty of sires and dams out there with Buckpasser, so there is still considerable opportunity to utilize the combination. Incidentally, with Better Self right in the middle of the pedigree, Cure the Blues is going to like any other strains of War Admiral combined with La Troienne, and one of his daughters has already produced a stakes winner by Ogygian, who carries the War Admiral/La Troienne combination through Blue Eyed Momo.

PEDIGREE SHORTS:

The victory of Refinado Tom (Arg) (c, 4, Shy Tom--Ma Raffine {Arg}, by Mountdrago {Arg}) in Sunday's GIII Native Diver H. at Hollywood Park is notable for at least a couple of reasons. First, the Argentine Triple Crown winner is by Shy Tom, who is a Blushing Groom half-brother to the highly thought of young sire Hennessy. Secondly, he has one of the most outcrossed pedigrees we can recall seeing in a high-class runner--probably the most outcrossed since the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine Urban Sea; the only ancestor to appear in both halves of his six cross pedigree is Pharos, who is 6x6. Further back there are some accumulations of brothers and sisters and other genetic relatives, including Pharos/Fairway, Bull Dog/Sir Gallahad III, Mumtaz Begum/Mahmoud/Badrudin and Sweet Lavender/Rose Red, and with his genetic strengths so far back in the pedigree he should run as far as he is ever likely to be asked in North America.



WRITERS UP

A CHARMED LIFE

by Richard E. Glover, Jr.

When it comes to trophies and honors, jockey Gary Stevens has earned more than his share. Three Kentucky Derbies, four Breeders' Cup races, a Preakness, a Belmont, three Santa Anita Handicaps...he has won countless major stakes in a career that has spanned 20 years. The 34-year-old Stevens, who got his start riding Quarter Horses at age 14, received the George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award in 1996, was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame earlier this year and is currently serving a two-year term as president of the Jockeys' Guild.

With over 4,000 victories and in excess of \$150 million in career purse earnings, there are few accomplishments that Gary Stevens has not achieved. One is an Eclipse Award as the nation's outstanding jockey, but this could be his year to add that honor as well.

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It has been a banner season. Through December 14, Stevens ranks second in the national jockey standings in terms of money won with \$15,431,701; he has won 188 races from 913 starts, including 47 stakes wins.

Stevens started 1997 on a roll, taking the GII San Gabriel H. aboard Rainbow Blues (Ire) on New Year's Day, and he has continued to roll through the campaign. The Caldwell, Idaho native and father of four has amassed 10 Grade I victories, 11 other graded stakes wins and a Group 2 victory in England during a brief riding stint at Royal Ascot in June.

Racing's newest Hall of Famer rode three possible champions in 1997--Gentlemen (Arg), Marlin and Silver Charm. Gentlemen was arguably the best older male of the season, and Marlin was a standout with a title shot in the male turf division. Stevens believes both deserve Eclipse Awards.

Steven also believes that Gentlemen should receive the Horse of the Year title, explaining, "He had an outstanding campaign. If you look at the entire year instead of just the Breeders' Cup, Gentlemen achieved a lot. He beat Skip Away giving him weight, and shipped to do it. I think that was Skip Away's best race. It will be a very close battle."

But it was the three-year-old Silver Charm who provided Stevens with his greatest experiences of 1997. Aboard the colt, Steven won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness and finished a close second to Touch Gold--a horse Stevens had ridden to victory in the GII Lexington S. earlier in the year--in the Belmont S., just missing a sweep of the Triple Crown.

According to Stevens, "I have never experienced anything as exciting as the Triple Crown with Silver Charm, and a lot of that was because of Bob (Baffert) and the Lewises. They never put any added pressure on me, and they just seemed to savor each victory instead of worrying about the next one. In the past, when I had been lucky enough to win Triple Crown races, I had never had the chance to stop and enjoy the victories because I was already answering questions about the Preakness or the Belmont. It was a tremendous experience."

Along with the Triple Crown success, Stevens was faced with a degree of media scrutiny unlike any he had experienced before. Stevens welcomed it, saying, "I feel pressure before any race. I thrive on pressure. It was the kind of pressure that a lot of people dream

about, and either you handle it or you don't. I've been lucky enough to have success and have had to deal with pressure for several years, but it was more intense than I'd ever been through before."

Stevens is excited about renewing the Silver Charm experience in the December 26 Malibu S., expecting more good things to come from the colt. According to Stevens, "I can't wait. He is working tremendously. He looks unbelievable. He's really matured."

Just weeks after the Triple Crown excitement subsided, Stevens added another feather to his 1997 cap when he competed against 11 of the best jockeys in the country and won the inaugural National All-Star Jockey Championship at Lone Star Park.

Stevens was quick to downplay his win, saying, "Even though they did everything they could to make it even, luck plays a factor. The riders were so closely matched that if you did it once a month for seven months, you'd get seven different winners, so I can't take 100-percent credit for winning. However, I think the event is tremendous for the sport, and it was one of the most exciting and fun days of racing in my career."

Three days after winning the All-Star Jockey Championship, Stevens went to the sidelines to undergo arthroscopic knee surgery. He was not out of action long, however, returning to the saddle on July 16 to win aboard all three of his mounts at Hollywood Park.

Stevens' phenomenal success has continued through the fall, with major stakes wins continuing to come regularly. Among his major successes were victories in the GI Moet Champagne S. and GI Futurity S. on Grand Slam, the GII Norfolk S. on Souvenir Copy, and the GII Del Mar Derby on Anet.

According to Stevens, winning an Eclipse Award is a goal and he is hoping this is the year he meets it. He commented, "I am real excited about the possibility of winning it, but there are no slam dunks in racing. I thought I might win it a couple of other times and didn't, and that was tough to swallow. It would be a tremendous honor."

For Stevens, though, the main goal is to stay healthy. He explained, "I want to ride as long as I can. I try to stay consistent and give my best every day, and I just want to be able to lay my head on the pillow every night and know that I gave 100 percent. Thanks to racing, I've gotten to see places that I would have never seen otherwise, and I want to give back anything I can to this sport."

ROAR

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 (606) 873-7300 FAX: (606) 873-3746
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