

# THOROUGHBRED

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1994

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P R E V I E W

## GULFSTREAM PARK OPENS FOR 55TH SEASON

The 1994 meeting at Gulfstream Park opens today for a 62-day run, from January 4 through March 16. A total of 38 stakes will be offered, with stakes purses totalling \$4,575,000. Highlighting the season will be the GI \$500,000 Florida Derby at a mile and an eighth March 12, which is expected to draw Derby prospects **Holy Bull**(Great Above) and **Dehere** (Deputy Minister). The three-year-olds are scheduled to renew their rivalry in the \$75,000 Hutcheson Stakes January 30. The opening day feature is the \$50,000 Hallandale H., which has drawn seven-time winner **D.J. Cat** (Hurontario), who set a track record for five furlongs last time out at Calder, and last year's Gulfstream Park Sprint H. victor **Binalong**(Known Fact).

**PHONE CHATTER ON THE MEND** Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies champ **Phone Chatter** (Phone Trick) is making good progress following surgery to repair a fractured left hind cannon bone, according to trainer Richard Mandella. "She's doing very well," said Mandella. "Healing-wise, she's actually a little ahead of schedule. We're encouraged by her progress." Mandella hopes to have the filly, currently stabled at Hollywood Park, ready to race in time for the '94 Del Mar meeting.

**AQUEDUCT LEADERS** Robbie Davis led all jockeys and Gasper Moschera topped the trainers at the recently concluded Aqueduct Fall meet. Davis took 63 wins from 342 mounts to lead runner-up Mike Smith by 10; it was his first NYRA meet title since the 1988 Spring meet at Aqueduct. Moschera won with 29 of his 127 starters for a 23 percent win average.

## Saturday, Santa Anita

A field of eight or nine appears likely for the \$100,000a San Carlos H., a GI event at seven furlongs over the Santa Anita main track Saturday. Heading the field is **Cardmania** (Cox's Ridge), who will make his first start since taking the Breeders' Cup Sprint November 6. The eight-year-old will look to add to earnings of \$1,225,263. Also expected are former claimer **Davy Be Good** (Blue Eyed Davy), third in the Underwood last out; **Charts** (Mari's Book); **Exemplary Leader** (Vigors), winner of three of his last four at Santa Anita; **Music Merci** (Stop the Music), second in the Ancient Title and sixth in the Breeders' Cup Sprint in his last two starts; Bedside Promise S. winner **Scherando** (DiMaggio); Hollywood Turf Express winner **Wild Harmony** (Wild Again); and **Monde Bleu** (Last Tycoon), who worked six furlongs in 1:14 1/5 for new trainer D. Wayne Lukas Sunday.

## Sunday, Santa Anita

Fillies and mares will go a mile and a sixteenth over the Santa Anita turf Sunday in the GI \$100,000a San Gorgonio. Pointing for the race are Carmel H. victress **Dis Moi Tout** (Cariellor), a winner of three of her nine starts last year for trainer Bobby Frankel; **Miatuschka** (General Holme), fifth behind Fraise in the Hollywood Turf Cup last out; and **Market Booster** (Green Dancer), a Group I winner in Europe, but ninth in the Yellow Ribbon, her American debut.

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# W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

## RESPECTABLE RUSSELL BAZE

by: Alycia Borer

Russell Baze may be the most underrated jockey in American racing. In 1992, when Kent Desormeaux picked up his 3rd Eclipse Award after topping the standings in money won--\$14,193,006 from 361 victories-- it was Russell Baze who won more races than any other jockey in the country--433, for an incredible 26% winning percentage.

Baze had another great year in 1993. He became only the 23rd jockey to win 4,000 races when he rode Frank Musso to a 3 1/2-length victory at Golden Gate Fields March 4. He became only the third rider in history to win 400 or more races two years in a row when he guided Flying Spur to victory number 400 in the 8th race at Bay Meadows December 17. In 1993, for the second year in a row, Baze won more races than any jockey in America. Yet when candidates for the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Jockey are mentioned, his name is usually not among them.

Baze was born into the business of horse racing. "My dad rode for 20 years," said Baze. "As I was growing up, he started a training ranch in Yakima Valley, Washington. So I grew up taking care of horses and breaking colts." He is not the only one of the Baze children who caught the racing bug. "I've got a little brother who rides in Phoenix," said Baze. "I've got an older brother who works over in the starting gate at Bay Meadows, and a little sister that's married to a trainer."

Baze even met his wife of 14 years, Tami, the daughter of trainer Jack Arterburn, on the backstretch. "She was helping her dad at the racetrack and she caught my eye," said Baze. Baze is doubtful that any of their four children will become third generation jockeys. "Three of them are girls," said Baze. "My son is three years old. I don't know what he's interested in yet, but I think he wants to be a cowboy."

The Baze family lives on 1 1/2 acres in Woodside, California. "We've got some horses for the kids and some 4-H deer," said Baze. The northern California tracks, Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields, are 15 miles and 45 miles, respectively, from his home. Baze first ventured to California because the tracks where he initially began riding, Yakima Meadows and Longacres Park in his native Washington state, did not hold racing during the

winter months. After a while, the northern California circuit became a way of life for him. "I've had a lot of success here, and you want to stay where you're doing well," he said. In 1988, after taking eight consecutive racing titles at both Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields, Baze moved his tack to Santa Anita in an attempt to break into the southern California circuit. "I just didn't have the kind of success that I wanted to have down there, so I came back up here," said Baze.

However, it was at Santa Anita where Baze achieved his most rewarding career victory. "I would say winning the Oak Tree Invitational in world record time was my best win," said Baze. "That was in 1989. It was on a horse, Hawkster, that I had picked up that afternoon. The rider originally scheduled to ride him didn't show up, so I picked the horse up and he ran the best race of his life in world record time." Baze also lists Hawkster as one of the best, if not the best, horse he's ever ridden. It was Hawkster who took Baze on a trip to the Japan Cup. "He ended up fifth, and they set a new world record in that race also," said Baze. About the entire Japan Cup experience, Baze recalls, "That was a lot of fun. They take real good care of you over there. Racing is a big deal in Japan."

Two-year-olds are the future of any racing stable, and can provide hope for their jockeys as well. A couple of talented recently turned three-year-olds are doing just that for Baze. "Towards the end of the year Delineator was running very good for me," said Baze. "I went down and won a \$250,000 stake on him down south." That race, the Gill Generous Stake at Hollywood Park, marked the fourth career victory in five career starts for the son of Storm Cat. He has since finished third in the Gill California Juvenile Stakes at Bay Meadows New Year's Day. "He didn't really run up to expectations the other day, but we're still expecting big things from him." There is another three-year-old Baze has high hopes for in 1994. "I've got a filly named Work the Crowd who has won her last three stakes she's been in.

"I'll continue to ride as long as I feel good," says Baze, now 35. But as long as he remains in northern California, the chances for him to win the country's most prestigious races carrying the biggest purses will remain occasional, even as he continues to accumulate wins and riding titles at a rate equal to the nation's Eclipse Award-winning jockeys. "I think people recognize the achievements I've done, but I think the emphasis is on money and the bigger races, and I suppose maybe it should be," said Baze. Still, if there was an Eclipse Award for most underrated jockey, Russell Baze would get my vote.



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

## Allowance Results:

**8th-Pha, \$17,000 Alw.**, 4yo/up, 1m70y, 1:45 3/5, ft. **HARRY THE HAT** (h, 5, **Seattle Slew--Affirmatively, by Affirmed**), tallying his 1st ever Alw. score after a year without winning (his last being a Mdn. win in '92), won by 3 1/2 after a slow start, breaking next to last, then gaining quickly after going 3/4 of a mile to make a strong finish. Earnings rise to \$55,979 (21-2-4-4).

O-Carol Ann Farrell. B-Ringler & Wolfson (Ky.).  
T-Pam Shavelson.

**9th-Pha, \$16,500 Alw.**, 4yo/up, 8.5f, 1:45, ft. **FOREVER TANGO** (g, 5, **Gate Dancer--Forever Promise, by \*Vaguely Noble**) paid \$38 to win in his Alw. debut, moving from mid-field to striking position in the stretch for a 1 1/4 length advantage at the wire. Running in claiming ranks since breaking his Mdn., his stats improve to 34-5-2-6, income increases to \$58,487.

O-Andrew Bankuti. B-Echo Valley Horse Farm/Goodchance Farm. T-John Charalambous.

## Maiden Winners:

Unjin Son, c, 4, Big Burn--Linda's Bev, by Jontilla. Suf, 1-2, 6f, 1:14 1/5. B-David Hulber (Fl.).

Delight to Fly, f, 4, Flight Wing--Earthly Delight, by Double Warrant. Suf, 1-3, 6f, 1:15. B-Mrs. Bayard Tuckerman (Ma.).

## American-bred Winners in England:

IKHTIRAA, g, 4, Imperial Falcon (CAN)--True Native, by Raise A Native. Lima H., Lingfield, 1-1, 8f, 4,498 pounds

O-J. Morton. B-S. Ross. T-P. Mitchell

SPEEDY CLASSIC, g, 5, Storm Cat--Shadows Lengthen by Star Appeal. Alexandra Motors H., Southwell, 1-1, 6f, 3,054 pounds

O-M. Heaton-Ellis. B-Lagrange Chance Partnership & Overbrook Farm. T- M. Heaton-Ellis

VISHNU, c, 4, Storm Bird--Vacht by Crystal Palace. New Year H., Southwell, 1-1, 13f, 3,720 pounds.

O-N. C. White. B-Lord Howard de Walden. T-J.L. Eyre.

## FRESHMAN SIRE LIST BY CURRENT EARNINGS

Statistics through December 23, 1993

Sire	Strtrs	Wnrs	Prog.Earnings
1 SEEKING THE GOLD (At the Half, \$333,893)	18	10	\$938,792
2 CRYPTOCLEARANCE (Strategic Maneuver, \$398,340)	33	10	\$676,539
3 RAHY (Miss Ra He Ra, \$106,493)	23	13	\$544,054
4 DYNAFORMER (Blumin Affair, \$267,080)	25	10	\$454,514
5 REGAL CLASSIC (Parental Pressure, \$180,975)	20	7	\$443,179
6 WARNING (GB) (Prophecy, \$128,058)	27	10	\$316,625
7 CRUSADER SWORD (Notable Sword, \$46,649)	21	9	\$273,755
8 PRIVATE TERMS (Nicou Nicou, \$58,240)	24	13	\$253,911
9 SLEW CITY SLEW (Slew Kitty Slew, \$65,089)	24	11	\$248,716
10 NOTEBOOK (Hammermill, \$57,280)	21	13	\$220,437
11 IRISH OPEN (Clever Irish, \$32,895)	20	11	\$217,821
12 HAY HALO (Love To Be Loved, \$92,149)	15	4	\$182,040
13 NORTHERN SCORE (Glory Us, \$142,069)	9	4	\$177,224
14 BLUSHING JOHN (Uncharted Waters, \$33,185)	16	5	\$137,091
15 CLAIM (Southern Claim, \$29,460)	28	6	\$127,230
16 NORTHERN FLAGSHIP (Flagship Commander, \$72,600)	7	3	\$121,297
17 TRAPP MOUNTAIN (Dream Trapp, \$32,450)	23	8	\$117,507
18 POLITICAL AMBITION (Work the Crowd, \$97,250)	4	4	\$112,164
19 AVIES COPY (Avies Covergirl, \$69,705)	11	4	\$106,059
20 COUNT DANZIG (Background Artist, \$105,660)	2	1	\$105,860