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# THOROUGHBRED™

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1994

\$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

**PETESKI RETIRED TO STUD** Peteski (Affirmed), Canada's 1993 Horse of the Year, has been retired to stud, said owner Earle Mack. "He's done everything I asked of him, and he's done it with authority," said Mack. "He's Horse of the Year, champion and Triple Crown winner. I don't want to do anything that could diminish his great reputation. Also, the market is receiving stallions better this year." Peteski will stand the 1994 season at Darby Dan Farm in Lexington, Ky. Mack cited the similarities between Peteski and another new stallion of 1994. "He has the same cross as Kingmambo (Mr. Prospector-Miesque). Both are by Raise a Native line stallions out of Nureyev mares. Both were retired sound at three." Mack recalls the highlight of Peteski's racing career as, "Winning the Canadian Triple Crown. I was the first American owner to accomplish that. Also, the ease and the way he beat the field by five lengths in the Molson Million, defeating the greatest three-year-olds in training. I was most proud of him and thought he displayed the most courage in the Super Derby. He went from 30 degree weather to 90 degree heat and humidity after only 13 days rest, yet he came back to get beat only by a head." Peteski is now at Payson Park, where he wintered last year. "He's running in the paddock," said Mack. "He'll be moved to Darby Dan as soon as possible, in the next few days." Peteski will stand for \$7,500 live foal.

**BEST PAL BREEZES FOR SAN PASQUAL** Prepping for his 1994 debut, **Best Pal** (Habitony) worked a mile in 1:37 3/5 at Hollywood Monday. The six-year-old is pointing towards the GII \$150,000 San Pasqual H. at Santa Anita Jan. 22. Thoroughbred racing's leading active money earner (\$4,709,445) will ship to Santa Anita for his final pre-race breeze.

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**Sunday, Santa Anita**

Probable starters for Sunday's GII \$200,000 San Fernando S. at a mile and an eighth for four-year-olds include **Diazo** (Jade Hunter), **Bat Eclat** (Batonnier), **Del Mar Dennis**(Dixieland Band), **Goldigger's Dream** (Native Prospector), **Pleasant Tango** (Pleasant Colony), **River Special** (Riverman), **Zignew** (Danzig) and **Stuka** (Jade Hunter). Allen Paulson will have the entry of early favorite Diazo, who took the Malibu S. in his most recent try, and Stuka, a disappointing seventh in the Ack Ack H. last time out. Diazo, a GI winner of five-of-11 career starts, worked six furlongs Monday in 1:15 4/5. Bat Eclat, fourth in the Malibu, worked a bullet seven furlongs in 1:24 3/5 at Santa Anita Friday; said trainer Mel Stute, "He's training real good, and we'll take a shot and hope for a miracle. Once in a while, you get one." Pleasant Tango will make his first start since finishing fifth in the Breeders' Cup Classic; the colt worked seven-eighths in 1:25 3/5 Friday. Del Mar Dennis makes his fourth start and his stakes debut in the San Fernando; Kentucky-bred took a Santa Anita allowance at a mile last out. Jack Kent Cooke's Zignew is a three-time allowance winner, but has yet to finish on the board in two stakes outings. Cal-bred Goldigger's Dream captured the Gill Laz Barrera S. two starts back for his second career win after taking 11 tries to break his maiden. While still a maiden, the Ed Friendly homebred finished a good third to Best Pal in the Cal Cup Classic. River Special returned from an eight month layoff to finish third in the Bedside Promise S. in November, but was a tiring eighth in the seven-furlong Malibu his next start back.

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# W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

## LET IT SNOW

By Graham Rock

Purists hate it. If Admiral Rous, the father of English horse racing, got to hear about it, he would be wriggling in his grave. The simple fact is, though, that all-weather racing on artificial surfaces has become an integral part of the sport in England over the past five years.

It was introduced to produce money for the game. Racing in England is partly funded by revenue from turnover in the 9,000 betting shops up and down the country. During the closed season for flat racing on the turf--early November to late March--it had to rely on National Hunt racing to generate the profit.

Steeplechasing and hurdling have a rich history and are popular with bettors, but they are liable to cancellation because of inclement weather. Then the betting shops offer greyhound racing, which produces no revenue for the Sport of Kings.

When anticipating innovation, the English Jockey Club has the gestation period of a mature elephant and it took several years before the original proposals for all-weather flat racing were put into practice. In the late Fall of 1988 two courses, Lingfield and Southwell, began to stage meetings on artificial surfaces.

Not the same surface, though. Officials felt it would be helpful to have variety, and although they were criticised at the time, a choice has proved beneficial for trainers.

Racecourses were asked to bid for the opportunity. Lingfield Park, consistently referred to as "leafy Lingfield" because of its verdant setting, was chosen for the Southern site. A century old this year, Lingfield constructed a course 10 furlongs round, almost triangular, and relied on Equitrack, a surface familiar to American horseplayers.

The Northern racecourse selected was Southwell, owned by ex-property developer Ron Muddle. His track is a traditional American oval and uses Fibresand, a mixture of silica sand and rot-proof synthetic fibres, which is cheaper than Equitrack.

The surfaces ride differently; Equitrack is approximately equivalent to a fastish surface on turf, while Fibresand is deeper and slower. Both are used at various training centres, and on the racecourse some horses have demonstrated a distinct preference for one over the other.

The racing programmes at the two courses have been successful. Flat racing is the most common, but Lingfield stages hurdle race meetings, while Southwell sometimes runs both hurdles and steeplechases on the Fibresand track.

Ron Muddle and his son, Richard, decided to buy another course to develop as an all-weather racing centre and chose Wolverhampton, in the West Midlands. They also obtained a license to run meetings under lights, and these were put to the test December 27, the opening day at Wolverhampton, when British racegoers witnessed the spectacle for the first time.

All-weather racing is not for the glamour seekers. Lingfield is attractive enough, but Southwell is set on the bleak, flat Midlands and on a wintry day attracts only a few hundred dedicated horseplayers.

That was not true for the opening day at Wolverhampton, when almost 9,000 crowded into the racecourse, stretching facilities to breaking point. Jockeys walked the track before racing and declared it unsafe. Groundsmen had to remove lumps of frozen dirt from the Fibresand surface before the meeting could begin.

Tickets to the Club area were soon sold out and racegoers queued six deep to get a drink. There was no warm water to wash horses, and the afternoon had the feel of a dress rehearsal.

A \$23 million investment has been made at Wolverhampton which, like the Meadowlands in America, has a large, enclosed restaurant area with an uninterrupted view of the action. The first full night meeting was run January 8 and looks set to become a regular feature of the racing calendar. Trotting will also be staged occasionally, although experiments to introduce this elsewhere have met with failure.

It is accepted that all-weather racing caters to the equine underclass. The leading trainers and jockeys rarely appear, and Sheikh Mohammed made it clear to his managers from the first that he did not want his horses campaigned at these minor meetings, which are seen as an opportunity for the smaller stables to earn modest purses.

Southwell is popular with betting shop horseplayers. The results are respectably consistent, but the configuration of the course at Lingfield leads to traffic problems in big fields, and winners are often unpredictable.

The introduction of racing on artificial surfaces has been a success, almost too much, some believe. Before 1988 many three-year-olds were sold to go hurdling and there is some evidence that more horses are now being kept in training longer to race on the flat. Consequently there has been a slight reduction in the size of fields of hurdlers, bringing a potential fall in betting turnover on those races.

The expansion of racing on artificial surfaces may not be over. United Racecourses, which owns Ep-som, Kempton and Sandown, announced last year that its trio of racecourses was set up for sale. The prospectus produced for potential purchasers suggested that Kempton Park, close to London, would be an ideal venue for a fourth all-weather facility.



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

## ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

**8th-Pha, \$25,000 Alw., 4yo/up, 8.5f, 1:47 3/5, ft. MANDY'S LAD (g, 6, Time For a Change--Little Mandy, by Little Current), a '91 SP runner and 2xSP in '92, 2nd in his last out, led from 3/4 of a mile to score a 5 1/4 length victory over the 8-horse field. Earnings increase to \$147,136, record to 33-12-3-4. O-Frank Regalbuto. B-Landon Knight (Oh.). T-Rodrigo Madrigal, Sr.**

**7th-Pha, \$19,000 Alw., 4/up, f/m, 8.5f, 1:49 3/5, ft. LISSA CAN DO (f, 4, Liloy {Fr}--Catcando, by Al Hattab), running as the favorite, came from backfield to pressure the pace and took a 1 1/2 length victory. The 1/2 sister to PLATINUM PAWS (\$348,799, by Vice Regent) was claimed in Nov. and raises income to \$71,398, adding to new stats of 14-4-4-3. O-Larry McClain. B-Blue Spruce Farms (Can.). T-Mario Beneito.**

**9th-Suf, \$17,000 Alw., 4yo/up, f/m, 8f, 1:43 2/5, ft. SPEEDLAND (m, 5, Badgerland--Chaland, by Highland Blade), SP last year in the Red Holman S., stopped Kyle's Kreem (Dr. Blum) from notching her 3rd in a row, as she came from just off the pace to pull away and land a 6-length triumph, for new bank of \$118,499, 38-11-5-7. O-Yasou Stable. B-Larry McGinnis (Ky.). T-C. Assimakopoulos.**

## MAIDEN WINNERS:

Malingerer, f, 3, Exceller--Square Not, by Graustark. Suf, 1-10, 6f, 1:17 1/5. B-George Heney (N.H.). \*Paid \$118.60 to win.

Simoom, f, 3, Rahy--Given, by Masked Dancer. Lrl, 1-8, 6f, 1:14 2/5. B-Green Willow Farms (Md.). \*Won by 6.

Sovereign Lady, f, 3, Runaway Groom--Sovereign Command, by Sovereign Dancer. Tam, 1-9, 7f, 1:28 1/5. B-Fred Miller III (Fl.). \*Won by 7.

Silvery Lady, f, 3, Silver Ghost--Femininity, by Jet to Damascus. GP, 1-9, 6f, 1:12. B-Norman Petigrew (Ky.).

Singular Jimmy, g, 3, Singular--Eloquent Miss Rex, by Rexson. TP, 1-9, 6.5f, 1:17 3/5. B-Judie Kaplan (Fl.).

Hill Gallant, c, 3, Star Gallant--Hillhouse Honey, by Great Neck. Aqu, 1-9, 6f, 1:13 4/5. B-Richard Barrett (N.Y.).

+ Duke of Windsor, c, 3, Wavering Monarch--Mama Bee, by Drone. FG, 1-8, 8.5f, 1:48 2/5. B-N/A.

Saltgrass, c, 3, Woodman--Papochino, by Apalachee. SA, 1-9, 8.5f, 1:43 2/5. B-R. E. Hibbert (Ky.).

Slew Supreme, c, 4, Slew o' Gold--Supreme Queen, by Alydar. SA, 1-8, 8.5f, 1:42 4/5. B-H & Y Bloodstock (Ky.). \*1/2 to KILLER DILLER (G3, \$573,408).

## News Cont.

**KEENELAND AVERAGE DOWN FOR MONDAY SESSION** Keeneland's January Horses of All Ages Sale began yesterday with 284 horses sold for \$5,784,000. The average of \$20,366 for Monday's session was down 48 percent as compared to last year's sale, when 284 sold for \$11,094,000, an average of \$39,063. The five-year-old broodmare Written Word (Vice Regent--Classy Quillo by Outing Class) in foal to Canadian champion With Approval brought a top price of \$210,000 during the first session. Lavin Bloodstock bought the half-sister to No Class, the dam of Canadian champions Sky Classic, Regal Classic, Grey Classic and Classy 'N Smart. Anderson Farm consigned Written Word. Second high price of the day was \$175,000 paid by Will Farish for Summer Matinee, a seven-year-old in foal to Miswaki. Michael Byrne consigned the daughter of Summing.

## NEW STALLION FOR 1994

### ZAFONIC

#### BANSTEAD MANOR STUD

B 1990 Gone West-Zaifafon by The Minstrel  
1994 Stud Fee - 30,000 pounds Sterling, live foal  
Zafonic's stud career seems set to start off with a bang to match the thunderclap which accompanied his 2,000 Guineas victory. Last year's European star miler begins covering mares at his owner Khalid Abdullah's Banstead Manor in Newmarket next month; among the mares queuing up for Zafonic's services will be 1985 Irish 1,000 Guineas heroine Al Bahathri, 1980 French 1,000 Guineas winner Aryenne and 1985 Lowther Stakes winner Kingscote.  
Also booked are Bermuda Classic, Imperial Jade and Petillante, winner of the 1989 Norfolk Stakes.  
Banstead's general manager Philip Mitchell said, "The horse was heavily over-subscribed for 1994 and a complete list of mating plans is still not quite ready. But it is interesting to note that there has been an emphasis on mares with speed credentials."

Zafonic's racing career certainly suggested that pace was his major attribute. Unbeaten at two, he rounded off his first season with a devastating late burst to win Newmarket's Dewhurst Stakes by four lengths. The acceleration he showed winning the 2,000 Guineas, run in a blinding electric storm, impressed jockey Pat Eddery so that he said the colt would win races at any trip between one and eight furlongs.