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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994 \$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

T • R • I • P • L • E T H R E A T S

SPILL MARS OPENING DAY AT SPORTSMAN'S PARK

A spill in yesterday's fifth race at Sportsman's Park in Cicero, Illinois marred the opening day program and caused the remainder of the card to be cancelled. Over a slick track labelled good, three horses--Linho, Khafji and Getahunchbetabunch--fell and a fourth, Offtoseethewizard, was pulled up. All of the jockeys involved were uninjured, but the remaining four races were called off.

FAIR GROUNDS INCREASES PURSES

Effective Friday, Feb. 18, the Fair Grounds will institute a major purse increase, with the value of 13 stakes races being raised, and across-the-board augmentation of overnight purses as well. "If there's a silver lining to our 1993-94 season, it has been our purse distribution--which has provided our fans with the best New Orleans racing in many years," said Fair Grounds President Bryan G. Krantz. The GIII Fair Ground Oaks, set for March 20, will have a purse of \$125,000-added; 12 additional stakes will enjoy purse raises of \$5,000 to \$15,000 each. All overnight purses will increase \$500 to \$3,000. To date, daily purse distribution at the New Orleans track has averaged \$139,357, a record in itself. Fields have averaged 10.6 horses per race. Fair Grounds increased its overnight purses earlier this season on Dec. 15; two days later, the track's grandstand and most of its clubhouse were razed by a seven-alarm fire. Live racing resumed Jan. 5.

GARDEN STATE TO RE-OPEN WEDNESDAY

Garden State Park, which was unable to conduct any of its four scheduled live cards last week, is set to resume action Wed. night. "If we don't have any more precipitation, the track should be in excellent shape," said track superintendent Gary Wolff. News cont. p4

LAST WEEK ON THE TRIPLE CROWN TRAIL

Polar Expedition (Kodiack) picked up where he left off last year, adding the \$55,750 Mountain Valley S. at Oaklawn to his resume. The James Cody homebred has won six of seven career starts, at distances from five furlongs to a mile and a sixteenth. He is scheduled to start next in the Rebel S. April 2.

The lightly-raced **Fly'n J. Bryan** (Ogygian) made his second start and his stakes debut in the GIII San Vicente Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita, going wire-to-wire to win by two. Runner-up **Gracious Ghost** (Relaunch) has been second in three '94 stakes: GIII California Juvenile, Santa Catalina and San Vicente.

Florida-bred **Fly Cry** (On to Glory) is now two-for-two in '94 with his popular win in Sunday's Lecomte H. at the Fair Grounds.

THIS WEEK'S TRIPLE CROWN PREPS

- Feb. 16 -
\$75,000 **Bradbury S., 9f, Santa Anita**
- Feb. 19 -
GII \$200,000 **Fountain of Youth S., 8.5f, Gulfstream**
\$40,000 **Presidents S., 6.5f, Turfway**
- Feb. 20 -
\$50,000 **Fred Capossela S., 6f, Aqueduct**
\$35,000 **Horatius S., 6f, Laurel**
\$25,000a **Turf Paradise Derby, 8.5f**

The highlight of the week is the showdown between champion **Dehere** (Deputy Minister) and the undefeated **Holy Bull** (Great Above) in the Fountain of Youth. The two met once before, with Holy Bull taking the GI Futurity at Belmont by a half-length over favored Dehere. Also in the race is the accomplished **Go for Gin** (Cormorant), a half-brother to Pleasant Tap who has won three straight stakes.

INSIDE

TRIPLE THREATS	p1
CALIFORNIA'S 3-YEAR-OLDS	p2
NEWS CONT.	p4

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W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

CALIFORNIA'S VINTAGE CROP

By Jay Privman

Last fall, just a few weeks before the Breeders' Cup, Shepherd's Field won the Norfolk Stakes, California's major prep for the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. The race has been won by the likes of Snow Chief, Best Pal and River Special in recent years; it is a barometer for the top prospects of the next year's Derby crop.

It is now four months since the Norfolk, and Shepherd's Field is no better than fifth on anyone's depth chart of California-based Derby contenders. And that's no knock on Shepherd's Field.

This winter, California is blessed by having one of its strongest Derby crops in recent years. Every weekend there is at least an allowance race matching top prospects, and with Sunday's San Vicente and tomorrow's Bradbury, the serious stakes action has commenced.

When you factor in the number of promising runners tuning up in Florida, there is every reason to believe that this country has its deepest pool of three-year-olds in years.

California's Four Horses of the Apocalypse are Brocco, Valiant Nature, Tabasco Cat and Wekiva Springs.

Brocco was the winner of last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile, but then was upset by Valiant Nature in the Hollywood Futurity. Brocco didn't regress; Valiant Nature improved dramatically in only his third career start. Students of time gave Brocco a better number for his losing race in the Futurity than for his win in the Breeders' Cup.

Neither Brocco nor Valiant Nature has raced yet this year. Both were being pointed for the one-mile San Rafael Stakes at Santa Anita March 6, but Brocco has had some minor setbacks in his training and probably won't be seen until the San Felipe March 20.

Valiant Nature, meanwhile, has been dazzling clockers in the morning with his recent works.

"We're just marking time. We're ahead of schedule," said Ron McAnally, who trains the full brother to grass champion Tight Spot. "We're teaching him to rate."

Both Tabasco Cat and Wekiva Springs are expected to meet Valiant Nature in the San Rafael. Tabasco Cat, winner of the El Camino Real Derby at Bay Meadows, is a late-developing colt who

first showed flashes of ability with a troubled third-place finish behind Brocco in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Wekiva Springs, a long-striding son of Runaway Groom, was an easy winner of the Santa Catalina Stakes at Santa Anita earlier in the meet; it was his third straight win. He has come to hand quickly for trainer Bob Hess Jr., and has been working like a terror in recent weeks.

"That's the horse who scares me," McAnally said.

The San Rafael is also expected to attract Shepherd's Field and Blumin Affair, which makes the San Rafael almost as important as the Santa Anita Derby one month later.

Shepherd's Field has not raced since finishing sixth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, but he has been coming along nicely. Blumin Affair is also unraced this year; he ended his '93 campaign with a second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and a fourth in the Hollywood Futurity.

There are several others worth following. McAnally has a European import, Fumo di Londra, who has been working with Valiant Nature and will probably run in the San Rafael, too.

"I want to keep them apart, but I don't know if I'll find another race (for Fumo di Londra)."

Stretch-running Flying Sensation, a fast-finishing second to Tabasco Cat in the El Camino Real Derby, will head back to the Bay Area for the Golden Bear Stakes at Golden Gate Fields February 21, then could meet Brocco in the San Felipe.

In Sunday's San Vicente, Fly'n J. Bryan remained unbeaten with a two-length victory over Gracious Ghost. He has led from wire-to-wire in both his races, and if he can stretch his speed around two turns he will be one of the favorites for the Santa Anita Derby.

A new star could emerge from Wednesday's Bradbury. Numerous, the \$1.7 million yearling trained by Charlie Whittingham, will face Brocco's stablemate Duca.

Others bubbling just below the surface are Argolid and Strodes Creek, who ran 1-2 in an allowance race Saturday, and the unfortunately-named Polish Navy colt, Pollock's Luck. Strodes Creek, in particular, is worth following. The son of Halo closed well Saturday in only his second lifetime start and figures to move forward under Whittingham's planning.

In recent years, A.P. Indy, Sunday Silence, Winning Colors, Ferdinand and Snow Chief have come from California and gone on to win the North American classic races, the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. This year, there's more gold in them than thar hills.



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



F • O • R • E • I • G • N R E P O R T

KYOTO KINEN-G2, Hanshin, Japan, 2-13, \$1,125,450, 4yo/up, 11fT, 2:16 4/5, gd.
 1--**BIWA HAYAHIDE**, c, 4, Sharrood (Mombetsu Stallion Station-Jpn) --Pacificus, by Northern Dancer. O-Biwa Limited Responsibility Co.; B-Hayata Bokujo Niikappu Shijo; T-Mitsumasa Hamada.
 2--**Roubles Act**, h, 6, Russian Roubles--Hidaka Act, by Faberge.
 3--**Nihonpillow Gnarly**, c, 4, Tap On Wood--Miss Del Monto, by Gay Lussac.
 Margins: 7, 1 1/4, 1/2.

KYODO NEWS SERVICE HAI YONSAI S.-G3, Tokyo, Japan, 2-14, \$744,625, 3yo, 9fT, 1:47 2/5, fm.
 1--**NARITA BRIAN**, c, 3, Brian's Time (C.B. Stud-Jpn) --Pacificus, by Northern Dancer. O-Hidenori Yamaji; B-Hayata Bokujo Niikappu Shijo; T-Masaaki Okubo. *1/2 to BIWA HAYAHIDE (3xG1-Jpn, by Sharrood).
 2--**Ines Souther**, c, 3, Baillamont--Multitude, by Lyphard.
 3--**Hayate Brahman**, c, 3, In Extremis--Toun, by Swift Swallow.
 Margins: 4, 1/2, neck.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

5th-Spt, \$22,600 Alw., 4yo/up, 6f, 1:11 3/5, gd.
TIDAL WAVE (c, 4, Irish Tower--Baton Twirler, by Reverse), scoring his 1st win since a Clm. victory last Sept., took an early lead and held it throughout to win by 3 3/4. A spill marred the race as 3 fell and 1 pulled up, allowing only 5 to finish. Winner receives new record of 18-4-5-3, increasing earnings to \$68,599. Balance of the day's program was cancelled.
 O-Cobb Stable. B-Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clinkinbeard. T-Richard Hazelton.

7th-FG, \$22,500, 4yo/up, state-bred, 5.5f, 1:03 3/5, ft.

WORLD CLASS APPEAL (g, 6, Proud Appeal--Tony's Jig, by Jig Time), four-time SP in '91, took a wire-to-wire victory by a nose, holding off Noztrem (Mertzon), a SW of over \$150,000 who made a late play for the lead but settled for runner-up. Frank's Crossing (Port Eads), a 6xSW of over \$190,000 and NTR-setter at 5f, sat just off the pace and finished third. Winner gets new money of \$134,620; stats of 33-8-7-7. Favorite Glasspro (Aspro), an 8xSW of over \$350,000, coming off an Alw. win, never got into contention.

O-Clear Creek Stud. B-Clear Creek & Miracle Stable (La.). T-J.L. Cuccia

3rd-Spt, \$22,000, 3yo/up, state-bred, 6f, 1:10 4/5, gd.

SON OF FERDINAND (c, 3, Ferdinand--Native Nova {SW-\$216,645}, by Apalachee) returned from a 52 1/4 length defeat in the \$100,000 Illinois Breeders' Futurity to set all the fractions and score his 1st Alw. victory by 3 1/2. New earnings now total \$23,529 with race record improving to 5-2-0-0.

O-G. & O. Dixon. B-Hill 'n Dale Farm (Ill.). T-R. Houghton.

9th-FG, \$22,000, 4yo/up, 1m40yds, 1:36 3/5, ft.

COOL QUAKER (h, 5, It's Freezing--Quake Lake, by Quack) settled in just behind the leaders through 3 panels before moving into striking position and taking the win by a neck. Following a 2-start '93 season where he won and placed in each, his 2nd start of '94 moves him to 20-5-6-2 with new earnings of \$84,590.

O/T-Louie J. Roussel III. B-Barbara Hutner (Ky.).

9th-Pha, \$20,000, 4yo/up, 1m70yds, 1:41 3/5, ft.

SLICK HORN (g, 4, Red Ryder--Pleasant Ring, by Pleasant Colony), claimed in Dec., chalks up his 2nd in a row, leading from gate-to-wire and tallying the win by 2 1/4 over highly favored Mandy's Lad (Time for a Change--Little Mandy {1/2 to WRITIN' MAMA, 6xSW-\$317,116}), a SW of over \$150,000. New stats tally at 17-8-1-1; bankroll at \$72,708.

O-R. Donaldson. B-R. Evans (Fl.). T-J. Servis.



5th-Pha, \$17,545, 3yo, 7f, 1:25 3/5, ft.
DANCING LOBO (c, 3, Masked Dancer--Larry's Girl, by Larry's Reward) scored his first alw. triumph by a neck after following the pacesetters through a 1/2 mile and taking control in the stretch. Bank now holds \$27,530, stats at 6-2-1-3.

O-L. Friedman. B-T. Wolf (Pa.). T-S. Rowan.

9th-Suf, \$16,660, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:13 1/5, ft.
TWINKLE A LITTLE (g, 5, Hurlingame--Twinkle Little Star, by Beau Gar) continues a winning streak with his 3rd in a row, steadily gaining on the lead and scoring by 4 1/2 over SP runner Betchum (Chisos). With earnings now totalling \$79,869, he holds record of 21-9-3-3.
 O/T-J. Assimakopoulos. B-Hobeau Farm, Ltd. (Fl.).

MAIDEN WINNERS:

Johnny Kongapod, c, 3, Blushing John--*Entente, by *Val de Loir. FG, 2-14, 8.5f, 1:46. B-Betz & Needham Partneship. *1/2 to HOSTAGE (G1-\$209,096, by Nijinsky II).

My Baroness, f, 3, Track Barron--My Banner, by Native Charger. Suf, 2-14, 6f, 1:16 4/5.
 B-Sondra & Howard Bender (Md.).

News cont.

JIM TAFEL, TOBA OWNER OF THE MONTH

The first Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association Owner of the Month for 1994, sponsored by Gainsborough Farm, has been given to Jim Tafel. During the month of January, Tafel's **Binalong** (Known Fact) captured both the Hallandale H. and the Olympic H. at Gulfstream Park. A retired publisher, Tafel resides in Barrington, Illinois; he has been in racing for 12 years and has raced 12 stakes winners.

NEW OWNERS SEMINAR SET FOR

GULFSTREAM The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association has announced the final details for a New/Prospective Owners Seminar to take place at Gulfstream Park the evening of Feb. 25 and continuing Saturday, Feb. 26. Among the speakers are owners Irving Cowan and Scott Savin; Peter Van Andel, Esq.; Gulfstream Park Director of Racing Robert Umphrey; trainer Stanley Reiser; jockey Mike Smith; Dr. Tom Brokken, DVM; Ocala Breeders Sales representative Bob Gulick; Richard Hancock, executive director of the FTBA; and bloodstock adviser Francis Vanlangendonck. For more information, contact Ann Stiliz of the TOBA, at (606) 276-2291.

HAWKIN'S SPECIAL PENSIONED Leading Oklahoma sire **Hawkin's Special** (Great Sun), a GIISW and track-record setter at Santa Anita (six furlongs in 1:07 4/5), has been pensioned. The 19-year-old stood at the Lazy E Ranch in Guthrie, Oklahoma from 1985 to 1992, and stood his final season last year in Illinois. To date, the stallion has 205 winners and 15 stakes winners in excess of \$6 million, including millionaire **Taylor's Special**, GI winner of 21 races.

FOALING NEWS:

DARING BIDDER, 12, Bold Bidder--Daring Step, by Prince Dare.

Foal born 1-30-94, a filly by Mr. Prospector. She will be bred back to Mt. Livermore. Boarded at Brookside Farm, Versailles, Kentucky. Accomplishments: Dam of Dinard, GI winner of \$590,250, and Eliza, champion two-year-old filly in 1992 and GI winner of \$1,078,540.

TANWI (IRE), 7, Vision--Shine the Light (IRE) (Home Guard)

Foal born 2-4-94, a filly by Elmaamul. Boarded at Shadwell Farm, Lexington, Kentucky. Accomplishments: Group 3 winner in Ireland.

LAZER SHOW, 11, Apalachee--La Discotheque (Bold Bidder)

Foal born 2-5-94, a filly by Nureyev. Will be bred back to Seeking the Gold. Boarded at Denali Stud, Paris, Kentucky. Accomplishments: Grade 2 winner of \$849,446. Dam of Marked Tree (MSW of \$387,870 to 1994, by Forty Niner).

ROSEFINCH, 5, Blushing Groom (FR)--Oh So Sharp (IRE) (Kris {GB})

Foal born 2-9-94, a filly by Sadler's Wells. Boarded at Kildangan Stud, Ireland. Accomplishments: Winner of the G1 Prix Saint-Alary in France.

VIDOR, 15, *Vaguely Noble--Prestissimo (Bold Rea soning)

Foal born 2-10-94, a filly by Shadeed. Will be bred back to Sheikh Albadou. Boarded at Le Haras in Ocala, Florida. Accomplishments: Winner of G2 E.P. Taylor S. in N. America and G3 Prix du Royaumeont in France. Dam of Jo Knows (MSP in France, by The Minstrel).