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THOROUGHBRED™ D·A·I·L·Y N·E·W·S



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1994

\$2 Daily

N·E·W·S
TODAY

W·E·E·K·E·N·D
PREVIEW

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARY

RAFFERTY A memorial service for Mary Rafferty was held yesterday on the first floor of the clubhouse at Gulfstream Park. Rafferty, an exercise rider for trainer Allen Jerkens who was injured when her mount broke down during morning training hours last Mon. at Gulfstream, died Sat. at Memorial Hospital in Hollywood. She was 41.

AVERAGE UP AT FASIG-TIPTON FLORIDA

The Fasig-Tipton Florida selected two-year-olds in training sale at Calder opened Mon. with a gross of \$9,008,000 from 125 hips sold, for an average of \$72,054. This figure represented a 13 percent increase over last year's opening session average of \$63,778. The session topper was a colt by Gulch-Raja's Delight (GII, \$203,651), by Raja Baba. Consigned by Niall Brennan, agent for Foxfield Farm, the colt sold for \$390,000 to Michelle Mullins, agent. Other standouts in the first session were a full brother to multiple graded stakes-winner Jacody, by Lost Code-Jacolina (Smiling Jack), who sold for \$270,000, and a daughter of Criminal Type-Stick to Beauty (Illustrious), who sold for \$220,000 to Mike Ryan, agent. The Criminal Type filly is a half-sister to 1982 Sprint Champion Gold Beauty, MSW Majestic Venture and GII winner The Prime Minister.

AMERICAN JOCKEYS TO COMPETE IN

DUBAI The second annual running of the International Jockeys Challenge, to be held March 25 at Nad Al Sheba Racecourse in Dubai, has attracted American jockeys Mike Smith and Chris McCarron. The American team of Gary Stevens and Kent Desormeaux won the trophy for top team performance in last year's inaugural challenge, with Stevens also taking the individual prize. This year's event will feature jockeys from the United Arab Emirates, Australia, Europe and Japan, as well as the United States.

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Sunday, Gulfstream

GULFSTREAM PARK H.-GI, \$500,000, 3&up, 10f Lion Crest Stables' **Devil His Due** (Devil's Bag), winner of last year's Gulfstream Park H., has been assigned highweight of 120 pounds. Four-year-olds **Strolling Along** (Danzig) and **Wallenda** (Gulch) were listed next at 117 pounds each, followed by Donn H. winner **Pistols and Roses** (Darn That Alarm) and California shipper **Stuka** (Jade Hunter) at 115. In all, 19 horses were nominated. Jockey Mike Smith indicated that there might be a change of strategy for his mount, Devil His Due, who finished seventh as the favorite in the Donn H. last out. "He used to have a lot of early speed when he was younger, and I think it's still there if we want to use it," said Smith. "Maybe we'll try to sit a little closer this time. He's a very versatile horse and he's really easy to ride."

Saturday, Gulfstream

BONNIE MISS S.-GII, \$200,000, 3yo, f, 8.5f Ogden Mills Phipps' **Inside Information** (Private Account), undefeated in two starts at Gulfstream this season, worked a half mile in :53 Sunday and will be ridden by Mike Smith. "She is training very well," said her conditioner, Shug McGaughey. "I think she got a little tired in the last part of her last race, but that should have helped her. She should run as far as I want her to. Running against **Strategic Maneuver** (Cryptoclearance) is certainly a big step forward for her." McGaughey won the Bonnie Miss last year with **Dispute** (Danzig), who defeated **Sky Beauty** (Blushing Groom {FR}) by 3/4-length.

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F • L • O • R • I • D • A R E P O R T

Yesterday's Results:

9th-GP, \$42,000 Alw., f/m, 4yo/up, a9fT, 1:51 3/5, fm.

1-GAINZER (m, 5, Turkoman--Shall Return, by Fair Ruler) O-Jayeff B Stable. B-Mr. & Mrs. C. Thornton & C. Roberts. T-A. Goldberg.

2-Rosalie's Charm (Stately Don--Supper Show)

3-Ratings (Caveat--T. V. Ad)

Dropping from Stk. company in last 2 outings, GAINZER, 3rd last May in the G3-Vineland Hcp. (GS), came from 5th place to overcome frontrunning Rosalie's Charm and tally a 1 1/2-length triumph. Second-choice Ratings, G2-wnr of over \$443,000, sat just behind the pace throughout.

7th-GP, \$36,000 Alw., f/m, 4yo/up, a8.5fT, 1:45, fm.

TRACK GOSSIP (f, 4, Shahrastani--Water Crystals {4xSW of \$244,947}, by Crystal Water) returned from a 4 1/2-length Alw. win last try to come out of the gate 4th, holding her position through 4 panels before moving into the lead mid-stretch for a 1/2-length score. Sent off as the favorite, the '93 wnr of the Bal Harbour S. (Hia) expands race stats to 11-5-3-0 and bankroll to \$95,410. O/B-M. Robinson (Ky.). T-F. Gomez.

8th-GP, \$28,000 Alw., f, 3yo, 7f, 1:24, ft.

LOTTA DANCING (f, 3, Alydar--Lotka {G1-\$721,804}, by Danzig), returning from scoring her Mdn. by 3 1/2 in 1st attempt, notches her 2nd in a row by 3/4 after fighting for a position and striding to the lead down the stretch. The bettors' favorite gains perfect record of 2-for-2; income rises to \$30,600.

O-H. Doubleday. B-Kennelot Stable (Ky.). T-Shug McGaughey.

4th-GP, \$30,200 Clm. (\$62,500-57,500), f/m, 4yo/up, a8.5fT, 1:44 4/5, fm.

GOOD MORNING SMILE (m, 6, Morning Bob--Charming Smile, by Mac Diarmida) returns from 2 Alw. wins and a 12th in the G3-Suwanee River Hcp. last out, gaining from mid-field through to the stretch where she took the lead and pulled away by 2 1/2 for the victory. The SP-runner's wages increase to \$164,828; stats expand to 54-12-6-5.

O-H. Rose & S. Schemer. B-Diarmida Bloodstock (Fl.). T-H. Rose.

Today's Preview: Ten 3-year-olds are scheduled to start in today's \$50,000 Lord Avie S. at 9 furlongs on the Gulfstream turf. They are: **Fabulous Frolic**, Santos; **Warm Wayne**, Bailey; **Thrilla In Manila**, Smith; **Silver Music**, Ramos; **Personal Prince**, Bravo; **Running Rock**, Hanley; **Theater of War**, Ferrer; **Orestes**, McCauley; **Bay Street Star**, Samyn; **Beware the Quest**, Perret.



N • E • W • Y • O • R • K R E P O R T

Yesterday's Results:

6th-Aqu, \$28,000 Alw., f/m, 4yo/up, 9.5f, 1:48, ft.
GULCH'S RAVINE (f, 4, Gulch--Spectacular Bev, by Spectacular Bid) broke last and gained the entire way to pull in front at the wire by 1 1/4, chalking up her 1st Alw. score in '94 debut. Favorite Bronze Willow (Same Direction), wnr of over \$106,000 returning from a win in Clm. ranks, had a brief lead before retiring to 2nd. Winner's earnings increase to \$51,360; record moves to 12-2-2-2.

O-H. Doubleday. B-H. Doubleday Racing Stable. T-Shug McGaughey.

5th-Aqu, \$26,000 Alw., 3yo, 6f, 1:11, ft.

MEMORIES OF LINDA (g, 3, D'Accord--Sugar Gold, by Mr. Prospector) pressed the pace through 1/2 mile before taking control at the top of the stretch to score by 4 for his 1st Alw. victory. A \$41,000 yearling, he is a 1/2 brother to KECHI (13xSW of \$533,370, by Pappa Riccio) and PROSPECTOR'S FLAG (G3-\$254,982, by Personal Flag). Stats expand to 7-2-1-2 with new income of \$44,380.

O-J. Kintz. B-J. Hettinger (N.Y.). T-R. Klesaris.

7th-Aqu, Mdn., 3yo, 6f, 1:13 4/5, ft.

HARRY SHERMAN (c, 3, Arctic Tern--Gata de Oro, by *Cougar II) came from far off the pace and strided into contention in the stretch to win by a neck in his 5th try. T-A. Goldberg.

O-Gator Alley Stable. B-N. Silverman (N.Y.).

2nd-Aqu, Mdn., f, 3yo, 1m70yds, 1:46, ft.

STEFANI'S HOPE (f, 3, Java Gold--Cohutta Princess, by Groton) charged right to the front and stayed there throughout, expanding her lead and galloping across the wire 13-lengths in front.

O-J. Kintz. B-S. Johnston Jr. (N.Y.). T-R. Klesaris.

4th-Aqu, Mdn., f/m, 4yo/up, 6f, 1:12 1/5, ft.

+ SHINER (f, 4, Two Punch--Mari Her, by Maribeau), 1/2 to MARI'S BOOK (SP wnr of \$48,326, by Northern Dancer), sent off as the favorite in her career opener, took the lead at the head of the stretch and won by 5 1/2. T-A. Jerkens.

O-Bohemia Stable. B-Mrs. R. DuPont (Md.).



W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

TURNING HORSES INTO NUMBERS

by: John Hughes

I am at Gulfstream Park, early for a Sunday, because I want to be a Player. I want to use "cash" as a verb. I want to be able to say things like, "I told Eddie, I said this one out-looked the filly. I had the 2, but I bet the 1 and the 6. But, eh, whatthehell, I cashed."

When someone says "How's it going?" near the end of this day, I want to be able to say things like:

"I'm alive in the double with the 10."

But, at this moment, I know nothing.

I like gray horses, and those that have "Tiger" in their names, and those that relieve themselves in the paddock.

So Len Friedman has his work cut out.

Friedman is at Gulfstream to talk about "The Sheets," a system of betting that might have resulted from splicing "Revenge of the Nerds" with the Marx Brothers' "A Day at the Races."

In fact, The Sheets is the creation of Len Ragozin, a New York Player/Recluse alleged to have said he never wants to even see horses, because they only confuse his methodology.

Ragozin's system is daily manna for thousands of Players throughout the country who pay \$35 a day for his Sheets.

He is such a factor among horse players that the snooty New Yorker magazine devoted 13 pages to a profile of Ragozin, in which he said this about betting horses:

"I love to bring order to all this messy input and come down to something that has purity of line, that shows you the physical animal underlying all these variables. You have all these random factors that are very hard to understand. You comb them out and weigh them properly, and the end product has an amazing, beautiful simplicity. The speed figure is my $E=MC^2$ (E equals MC squared), my Picasso sketch."

Whatever.

Friedman, a Sheets representative, is here to teach the system, to turn the handicapped into handicappers. If the process is art to its creator, it is Greek to dilettantes, of which, it is soon learned, I am one.

There are a million stories at the racetrack. This one is about numbers.

For example:

"This horse is sort of a horse around the 23 range," Friedman explains on a tape made available through the seminar. "It runs some numbers as slow as 27. It occasionally ran a number as good as a 20. It'll run a lot of races in the area of around a 23 to 25, maybe 22 to 24.

"If this horse is in a race where a 23 figures to win,

and you're getting any price 3 to 1 and up on this horse, this horse is a good play. The 31 doesn't make it a bad play. What the 31-minus may be doing for you, though, is giving you good enough odds to play this horse."

No mention of color, no discussion of name. Just numbers.

The Ragozin method is not a tipsheet, Friedman quickly points out. It is, rather, "a tool."

And it is a tool so successfully used throughout the country that even its detractors begrudgingly acknowledge its efficacy.

Andrew Beyer, "Washington Post" horse writer and very big Player, has his own methods of betting which he's sold through books such as "Picking Winners." Beyer is his own biggest fan, but even he has felt the impact of The Sheets.

"The Ragozin people rule the tote board," Beyer told The New Yorker. "They're so influential that you almost have to play against them, to look for holes in their approach."

For two hours this Sunday, Friedman teaches The Sheets. Twenty-six people have paid to listen; only four are Sheets rookies, those whose first investment should be a racing lexicon.

I know, for example, that I want to have a "cool hand at the window," but feel that I "got off poorly" and could use a strong shot of Lasix or something to make me "a comer." Maybe in that big race of life I "quit in the sprint," and now there's no way I can "close strong as a router."

Maybe I suffer from "track bias." Maybe I quit too soon, unlike recent Gulfstream entry Go for Gin, which "Racing Form" writer Joe Hirsch said "stayed like a mother-in-law."

Maybe I should try the dogs first.

Anyway.

Here, in the world's smallest nutshell, is how The Sheets works:

The Sheets gives each horse a number, carefully calculated from many factors, none of which includes whether it peed in the paddock.

Horses are evaluated on factors as obvious as bloodline and as subtle as whether it snowed the day of their last race. A number is assigned based on those many factors. The lower the number, the better the performance.

Or, as horse writer/Player Frank Carlson says, "Zero is perfect."

There's something comforting about that.

And, by the way, it's called The Sheets because that's what's in the package, 5x7 pages of horsey details, one Sheet for every horse at every track where The Sheets are sold.

"The Sheets," Friedman said, "are a sophisticated detailing of all the efforts that all the horses in each race have done. We're not trying to pick the winner of each race. All you're dealing with in horse races is probability."

Turning Horses Into Numbers Continued, p. 4



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

Allowance Result:

7th-Lrl, \$19,700, 4yo/up, 8.5f, 1:45 1/5, ft.
BAD BOY WILLY (g, 4, Contare--Knight's Gold, by Gold and Myrrh) gets his 1st score in Alw. company after setting the early pace, fighting for it in the stretch and prevailing by 3/4 of a length. New race stats show 26-2-14-1; earnings improve to \$73,005. O-W. Collins. B-C. Collins (Md.). T-R. Bailes.

Maiden Winners:

Harry Sherman, c, 3, Arctic Tern--Gata del Oro, by *Cougar II. Aqu, 3-1, 6f, 1:13 4/5. B-N. Silverman (N.Y.).

Blushing Maggie, f, 3, Dynaformer--Quick Blush (1/2 to Sire UNREAL ZEAL, by Mr. Prospector), by Blushing Groom {FR}. GP, 3-1, 8.5f, 1:45. B-Mrs. L. O'Donnell. (Ky.) *1/2 to NASR ALLAH (G2-SW in Ger, by Mogambo).

Chisholm Trail, c, 3, Gone West--Screenland (4xSW of \$217,182), by Silent Screen. Lrl, 3-1, 6f, 1:11 3/5. B-C. Green (Md.). *1/2 to NASERS PRIDE (SW-\$213,775, by Al Nasr {Fr}).

Iron Polly, f, 3, Iron--C. C. Polly, by *Zografos. Pha, 3-1, 6f, 1:14 1/5. B-R. Mucklow & Mrs. C. Lyman. *Led wire-to-wire, won by 6 3/4.

Stefani's Hope, f, 3, Java Gold--Cohutta Princess, by Groton. Aqu, 3-1, 1m70yds, 1:46. B-S. Johnston Jr. (N.Y.). *Led wire-to-wire, won by 13.

Gifted Son, g, 3, Raxon's Hope--Hot Times Ahead, by Cutlass. GP, 3-1, 7f, 1:23. B-J. & J. Yeoman (Fl.). + Shiner, f, 4, Two Punch--Mari Her, by Maribeau. Aqu, 3-1, 6f, 1:12 1/5. B-Mrs. R. DuPont (Md.). *1/2 to Sire MARI'S BOOK, by Northern Dancer.

TURNING HORSES INTO NUMBERS

(Continued from p.3)

And since none of us has time to analyze probability, the good people in Ragozin's employ have done that for us. But figure this, too:

You've got to clear at least \$35 to break even on your day at the races, using The Sheets. That may not be a big deal for Players, but if your idea of a "short" horse is one of small stature, then maybe there's a simpler place to start.

It is time for the ninth race. I have spent much of the previous eight races analyzing The Sheets. I go to the window with these instructions, which I've carefully rehearsed:

"I want a one-dollar tri-part wheel. Five with 2 and 8 with 2, 4, 8, 9."

That's what I say to the teller. Then I say this to horseman Carlson: "Hey, Frank, who's got to win this race in order for me to make money?"

The answer, like the result, is not good.

This day I do not use "cash" as a verb. Nearby, a woman who bets names and occasional long-shots has cashed six races.

She, however, never got to say "tri-part wheel." (And, although I am not certain of this, I think once I might have "keyed the three.")

Knowledge, at any price, is worthwhile. And I got this for free, standing next to semi-legendary Player Jack Will:

"In this game you better be able to roll," Jack said, "'cause you will get hit."

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News Continued.

KRONE WINS ESPY Jockey Julie Krone, who won last year's Belmont Stakes before suffering a year-ending injury, received an ESPY Award as Best Female Athlete of 1993. The ESPY's, a national sports-awards program, was televised Mon. night on ESPN.

STALL SPACE ALLOTTED AT SAM

HOUSTON Randy Soth, Sam Houston Race Park's Racing Secretary, has finished assigning stall space for the track's inaugural season, set to open April 29. "We have about 1,200 stalls available on the backstretch and really could have filled our barn area four times," said Soth. "We had over 4,000 requests for stalls, so I would say that the horsemen showed a great interest in coming here." The list of trainers assigned stalls includes seven from Remington Park, 13 from Louisiana, four from Oaklawn Park, and one each from New York, Northern California and Kentucky.

TATTERSALLS CHANGES SALES FORMAT

Tattersalls, based in Newmarket, England, announced yesterday that the 1994 Houghton Sales will take place over two days Sept. 27 and 28. Edmond Mahony, Chairman of Tattersalls, said, "We are very grateful to Newmarket and Newcastle Racecourses who have agreed to exchange fixtures. Racing will now take place Tues., Sept. 27 at Newmarket and Wed., Sept. 28 at Newcastle. Included in the Newmarket card on the 27th will be the Tattersalls Houghton Sales S., the richest two-year-old race in Europe for graduates of the 1993 Houghton Sale. The Houghton Sales will commence after racing that day and will continue all day on the 27th. This revised format reflects the needs of today's purchasers and vendors."