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TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 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

BRUCE'S MILL ON TRACK FOR QUEEN'S

PLATE Trainer Mark Frostad said yesterday that **Bruce's Mill** (Steady Growth) came out of Sunday's victory in the GIIC Plate Trial S. in good order and will now prepare for the 135th running of the Queen's Plate July 10. "He did everything right (Sunday); he's definitely very talented, but he hasn't yet hit his peak race," said jockey David Penna, who took over for the gelding's regular rider, Craig Perret, in the Plate Trial. Also expected for the Queen's Plate: **Tall in the Saddle** (Silver Deputy), third in the Trial; **Alybro** (Danzig Connection), fourth in the Trial; **Parental Pressure** (Regal Classic); **Comet Shine** (Fappiano); **Dynamite Stuff** (Dynaformer); and **Barron Road** (Afleet). **Testalino** (Sunshine Forever), who will start in this Sunday's Victoria Park S. at Woodbine, and **Basqueian** (Bounding Basque), runner-up in the Trial, are possible for the race.

NEW SPONSOR FOR CAL CUP The California Cup, which will be held for fifth time October 29 at Santa Anita, will add the Southern California Chrysler-Plymouth Dealers Association to its list of sponsors for 1994. "We believe that the California Cup provides us with an opportunity to share in the success of what, in just a few years, has become a major event in Thoroughbred racing," said David Ellis, president of the company.

GOLDEN GATE FOUNDATION SHARES THE WEALTH The California Horse Racing Board has approved the distribution by the Golden Gate Fields Foundation of \$222,750 in charity-day proceeds to 69 beneficiaries. Among the recipients are the Boys' and Girls' Club of Oakland, MPI Chemical Dependency Treatment Services, Planned Parenthood, St. Anthony's Dining Room and the Salvation Army, which each collect \$9,000.

Saturday, Sandown, England

GI \$379,996 Coral-Eclipse S., 3yo/up, 10fT

Epsom Derby winner **Erhaab** (Chief's Crown) could face 12 rivals in Saturday's Group I event. Also listed for the race are **Bin Ajwaad** (Rainbow Quest), **Bob's Return** (Bob Back), **Environment Friend** (Cozzene), **Ezzoud** (Last Tycoon), **Karinga Bay** (Ardross), **Lattam** (Lyphard), **Muhtarram** (Alleged), **Needle Gun** (Sure Blade), **Perfect Imposter** (Persian Bold), **Prince of Andros** (Al Nasr), **Revelation** (Thatching) and **Turtle Island** (Fairy King). **Bob's Return** and **Muhtarram** are more likely to run in Sunday's Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud, however, and **Turtle Island's** participation depends on a rapid change in the currently firm course condition.

Saturday, Hollywood Park

GI \$750,000 Hollywood Gold Cup, 3yo/up, 10f

A small field is expected to go to the post, headed by top handicap horse **The Wicked North** (Far North). The millionaire will have jockey Kent Desormeaux in the saddle as he looks for his ninth win in his 17th career start. The five-year-old is enjoying the best year of his career, with three wins from five starts; it would have been four-for-five if he had not been disqualified from first in the GI Santa Anita H., but he does have two Grade I's to his credit this year—the Californian S. and the Oaklawn H. Breeders' Cup Classic winner **Arcangues** (Sagace {Fr}) has won two of three in NA and has been working well for this race. Hollywood's head clocker, Gary Nelson, said of his six-furlong move in 1:10 4/5 June 19, "That was about the most awesome work I've ever seen." The six-year-old will go over the \$2 million mark in earnings with a one-two-three finish Saturday. Also definite for the race are **Slew Of Damascus** (Slewacide), a 9xSW who was third in the Californian S., and **Del Mar Dennis** (Dixieland Band), who has two Grade II victories this year. Possibles are turf specialist **Fanmore** (Lear Fan), and **Kingdom Found** (The Bart), who is more likely to ship to New York for the GI Suburban H. July 4. "The only way we'll stay here and run in the Gold Cup is if I can't secure what I consider smooth airline connections for him," said trainer Gary Jones. The four-year-old, who was second in the Californian S., is looking for his first stakes win.

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Weekend Results:

C.B.C. SHO-GIII-Jpn, \$1,188,505, Chukyo RC, Japan, 6-26, 3yo/up, 6fT, 1:07 9/10, fm.

1--#**@NIHONPILLOW PRINCE**, h, 5, **Nihonpillow Winner--Nihon Pillow Clear**, by **Bravest Roman**. O-Hyakutaro Kobayashi; B-Matsui Hashizume (Jpn); T-Tetsuya Meno.

2--**Yuki Top Run**, h, 6, **Pluralisme--Fuse Pit**, by **Floribunda**.

3--**Gold Mountain**, h, 5, **Fotitieng--Empery's Gold**, by **Empery**.

Margins: 1/2, nose, 5.

PREMIO BEREGUARDO, \$50,641, Milan, Italy, 6-26, 4yo/up, 8fT, 1:39 3/5, gd.

1--**VISTO SI STAMPI**, c, 4, **Ahonoora (GB)--Jardiniere (IRE)**, by **Nijinsky II**. O-Gerecon Italia; B-Samac Ltd.; T-J. Dunlop; \$28,134.

2--**Art Sebal**, h, 6, **Arctic Tern--Par Three**, by **Alleged**. O-R. Fopp; \$12,379.

3--**Golden Mintage**, h, 6, **The Minstrel--Golden Bowl**, by ***Vaguely Noble**. O-Scuderia Brinatea; \$6,752.

Margins: 1 3/4, 1 3/4, 3.

PREMIO D'ESTATE, \$50,641, Milan, Italy, 6-26, 3yo, 8fT, 1:36 1/5, gd.

1--#**RAVIER (ITY)**, c, 3, **Highest Honor (FR)--Rivarola (ITY)**, by **Marracci (GB)**. O-Razza Dormello Olgiata; T-E. Borromeo; \$28,134.

2--**Lake Storm (IRE)**, c, 3, **Maelstrom Lake (IRE)--Our Duck**, by **The Go Between**. O-Scuderia Dei Cherubini; \$12,379.

3--**Morigi (GB)**, c, 3, **Rousillon--Ibtidaar**, by **Danzig**. O-Razza Giallorossa; \$6,752.

Margins: 3/4, 3 3/4, 2.

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

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY STAKES:

SIR IVOR S., \$35,000, LRL, 6-26, 3yo/up, 1 1/2mT, 2:31 1/5, fm.

1--#**MATCHLESS DANCER**, 126, c, 4, **Nijinsky II--Matching (10xSW, \$532,263)**, by **What Luck**. O-Prestonwood Farm Inc; B-Prestonwood Farm (KY); T-Michael W Dickinson; J-M G Pino; \$21,000. Lifetime Record: 10-5-2-0, \$102,690.

2--**Heavy Rain**, 118, h, 6, **Wild Again--Rain Chaser**, by **Ben Adhem**.

3--**Dinner in Rio**, 123, h, 5, **State Dinner--Rio By Night**, by **Pleasant Colony**.

Margins: HF, 3/4, NK. Odds: 2.80, 9.50, 7.20.

SWEEPIDA H., \$31,700, STK, 6-26, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:08 2/5, ft.

1--#**MONEY ON ICE**, 117, c, 4, **Ice Age--We Got the Money**, by **Delta Oil**. O-Wipiti Cheryl; B-Running Luck Inc (CA); T-R L Martin; J-C P Schvaneveldt; \$18,200. Lifetime Record: 11-4-5-0, \$65,450.

2--**Canongate**, 115, c, 4, **Northern Jove--Fantasy Princess**, by **Prince Dantan**.

3--**Lee's Tanthem**, 118, h, 7, **Tanthem--Happy Hollie**, by **Hickory**.

Margins: 1, 3, 1. Odds: 3.70, 14.40, 5.20.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

6th-APX, \$22,500, 3yo/up, a1 1/16T, 1:46 4/5, fm.

FT. BENT (c, 4, **Lord Avie--Cox's Maid**, by **Cox's Ridge**) Lifetime Record: GSP, 21-5-2-3, \$95,746.

O-V Palazzolo. B-H Inman & M Seldin (KY). T-C Vinci.

4th-APX, \$21,450, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:12 2/5, ft.

INFINITIE SUPREME (c, 4, **Slew the Coup--Dream On Dolly**, by **Plugged Nickle**) Lifetime Record: 37-3-7-4, \$64,719. O-D Richey. B-M Loeber (IL). T-B Sauer.

5th-APX, \$19,500, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:38, ft.

SPEND A BUCK ON ME (f, 3, **Spend a Buck--Blue Brocade**, by **Nasty and Bold**) Lifetime Record: 7-2-2-2, \$30,735. O-Mount Joy Stables Inc. B-Woodrow D. Marriott (KY). T-Gene A Cilio.

8th-APX, \$19,500, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10 4/5, ft.

CLEVER BIT (f, 4, **Clever Trick--Mama Dearly**, by ***Forli**) Lifetime Record: 12-3-2-3, \$48,033. O-Charles Heider. B-William H. Tite III (KY). T-D Von Hemel.

4th-CRC, \$18,300, 3yo/up, f/m, a8.5fT, 1:46 1/5, yl.

ENDLESS HOPE (f, 4, **Rexson's Hope--Trickston**, by **Hold Your Tricks**) Lifetime Record: 14-4-3-5, \$61,775. O-B Delany & J Joseph. B-Kirchhoff Patrick Mr. & Mrs. (FL). T-Judy Joseph.

9th-LAD, \$18,000, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11, ft.

BINGO G (c, 4, **Fappiano--Sarawilha**, by **Sir Ivor**)

Lifetime Record: 9-5-1-2, \$51,356. O-Dwight Jones. B-E. J. Hudson Jr. & Sr. (KY). T-James A Sebastien.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ **My Friend Nana**, f, 2, **Hilal (Ire)--Dawandeh**, by **My Gallant**. RKM, 6-27, 5f, :59. B-Bertolino Frank (FL).

Auggie My Dad, g, 3, **Broad Brush--A Sunny Society**, by **Son Ange**. APX, 6-27, a1 1/16T, 1:48 2/5.

B-Muckler Dan C (IL).

Italian Prince, g, 3, **Erins Isle--Italian Princess**, by **Bold Bidder**. CRC, 6-27, a1 1/8mT, 1:53 2/5. B-A.

Appleton (FL). *Won on DQ. **1/2 to **Hustle Your Bustle** (The Minstrel), SW, \$203,615.

Tale's of Ocala, c, 3, **Gallapiat--Hampton Honey**, by **Pocket Park**. LAD, 6-27, 1 1/16m, 1:46 3/5.

B-Harrison Dale (FL).

Jacsonzac, c, 4, **Overskate--Our Beloved Jack**, by **Jackknife**. BEL, 6-26, 1 1/16mT, 1:42 4/5.

B-Langsam Steven H (Ny).



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CHALLENGING TRADITION

by Bill Finley

In 1985, a brash outsider named Robert Brennan posed the strongest threat ever to the Triple Crown, luring away the Kentucky Derby winner with the promise of his millions. Spend A Buck and owner Dennis Diaz turned their backs on the Preakness and Belmont and instead won the Jersey Derby, the Garden State Stakes and a \$2 million bonus, sending the Triple Crown series reeling.

But the racing industry reacted, put together a bonus package of its own and brought the three tracks and the three races together in a partnership. The Garden State threat was soon squashed.

It was something all too rare in racing--decisive action and cooperation. They did it once. It's time to do it again.

The Triple Crown remains special and, for the most part, healthy, but the 1994 series was not without its flaws and its problems. There is no sense sitting around and letting anything get worse. React.

Widely recognized as one of the best crops in years, the three-year-olds in 1993 could have put on one of the best shows ever, but the absentees were sometimes more notable than the participants. Holy Bull skipped out after performing poorly in the Derby and Brocco and Strodes Creek both passed up the Preakness, their trainers saying the races came up too close.

Those absences and other factors contributed to a climate of disinterest. The Belmont attendance this year was the second lowest in modern times and the t.v. ratings continued to tumble. The ratings for the 1989 Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont were 11.6, 7.3 and 8.9. In 1994, they fell to 7.5, 4.4, and 3.9 respectively. It has become apparent that the Breeders' Cup, while perhaps not as momentous as the Kentucky Derby, has eclipsed the Preakness and Belmont. Is that the way it should be?

There are a number of simple changes that can be made that would put the series back on the right track, starting with the spacing between the races. I expect that some readers right about now are evoking the 't' word--tradition--and murmuring that the Triple Crown must stay the way it is. But the actual tradition of the Triple Crown is one of change.

The current setup, which has two weeks between the Kentucky Derby and Preakness and three weeks between the Preakness and Belmont, goes

back only to 1962. After decades of various formats, the two weeks-three weeks schedule was first used in 1950, but then reverted to other formulas before finally settling on the modern schedule in 1962.

Of the 11 Triple Crown winners, only the last three--Secretariat, Seattle Slew and Affirmed--competed in a Triple Crown series with a two weeks-three weeks makeup. Omaha (1935), Whirlaway (1941), Count Fleet (1943) and Citation (1948) all had four weeks off between the Preakness and Belmont, though some raced elsewhere in between.

Randy Winick, the trainer of Brocco, admitted that he would have run in the Preakness had it been three weeks after the Derby and suggested there should be a change. Heed his advice. There is no reason not to change it to a three week-three week format, which would give the series more well-rested horses who are more likely to run back in the Preakness.

The second issue is money. The Triple Crown races have gotten away with paying purses that are modest in this era because the tracks knew that horsemen would be lured into the Triple Crown by other factors--the prestige, the exposure, the glamour. That doesn't cut it anymore.

The three races are worth \$500,000, with added money thrown in. Including the seven Breeders' Cup races, there are 18 races with larger base purses than the Derby, Preakness and Belmont. The \$600,000 Jim Beam, a prep for the Kentucky Derby, has a larger base purse than the Derby itself.

If the Triple Crown races are the best races in the country, they should have the best purses. Perhaps the tracks are not ready or able to match the \$3 million purse of the Breeders' Cup Classic, but every Triple Crown race should have a base purse of at least \$1 million. Churchill Downs has to make that in mint julep sales alone.

Some believe the distances should be changed, making the Derby and the Belmont, the last major race run in this country at a mile and a half, shorter. It's something to consider, but the other steps are more important and would not cause the Triple Crown to become any easier to win.

That is one tradition that should remain--sweeping the Triple Crown should always be the most difficult task in racing--but the Triple Crown should be the greatest and most prosperous event in the sport. Raise the purses and put an extra week in between the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, and the Triple Crown will be just fine.

Bill Finley is the racing columnist for the New York Daily News.