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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 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

SOLIS HEADED TO JAPAN Southern California-based jockey Alex Solis, who last week shelved plans to ride **Johann Quatz (FR)** (Sadler's Wells) in Sunday's \$3.6 million Japan Cup, will travel to Tokyo to ride in the race after all, agent Harry Hacek said. "(Trainer) Ron McAnally emphasized to us how important this race is to the owner of Johann Quatz (Tadahiro Hotehama), and that maybe we should reconsider," said Hacek. Solis returned to his native Panama Sunday to get a visa and a passport for the trip to Japan, and he was scheduled to fly back to Los Angeles Tuesday. The jockey will ride at Hollywood Park Wednesday, and Thursday morning he's scheduled to depart for Tokyo. "That's a lot of travelling and we wouldn't do this for just anyone," said Hacek. "But Ron McAnally and Mr. Hotehama have been very good to us." Southern California-based trainers Richard Mandella (**Sandpit (BRAZ)** {Baynoun-IRE}), Bobby Frankel (**Raintrap (GB)** {Rainbow Quest}) and Jenine Sahadi (**Grand Flotilla** {Caro-IRE}) are all in Tokyo with their horses this week preparing for Sunday's event.

IRISH APPROACH CHASES BONUS Augustin Stables' **Irish Approach** (Irish River {FR}), trained by Jonathan Sheppard, will face only four rivals, including stablemate **T.V. Gold** (Java Gold), when attempting to land the third leg of "The Sport of Kings Challenge" in Cheltenham Race Course's £10,000 Bateman Catering Hurdle today. If the five-year-old, already successful in two U.S. legs of the international series, can win again, he will be one victory short of landing a million dollar bonus. The final leg of the series is the £15,000 Lonesome Glory Hurdle, to be run Saturday, December 10. He is eligible for a \$50,000 bonus if he wins only one of the Cheltenham races.

MATRIARCH NOTES **Exchange** (Explodent) drilled five furlongs in a quick :58 4/5 over Hollywood Park's main track Monday in preparation for Sunday's GI \$400,000 Matriarch S. The race, held at a distance of 1 1/8-miles on the turf, is open to fillies and mares, ages three-and-up. Another probable starter, **Wandesta (GB)** (Nashwan), covered six furlongs on the main track in 1:13 4/5, also Monday.

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Saturday, Aqueduct:

NYRA MILE-GI, \$250,000a, 3yo/up, 1m
The final GI event in New York this year is expected to draw a field of 10 to 12. **Bertrando** (Skywalker), **Devil His Due** (Devil's Bag), **American Chance** (Cure The Blues), **Brunswick** (Private Account), **Cigar** (Palace Music), **Harlan** (Storm Cat), **Itaka** (Jade Hunter), **Key Contender** (Fit to Fight), **Northern Trend** (Sunny North) and **Punch Line** (Two Punch) are all considered likely starters, while other possibilities include **Birdonthewire** (Proud Birdie) and **Dusty Screen** (Silent Screen). GI Vosburgh winner Harlan comes off a close fourth-place finish in the Breeders' Cup Sprint. According to Todd Pletcher, assistant to trainer D. Wayne Lukas, "We thought he ran a terrific race in the Breeders' Cup. He just got beat two lengths by Cherokee Run, a potential champion and maybe the best six furlong horse in the country. Harlan has never won at a mile, but the way he won the Vosburgh at seven furlongs, I think the mile will hit him just right." Jose Santos will ride. Devil His Due will try to make amends for his 11th-place showing in the Breeders' Cup Classic. "He seems to be fine," said trainer Allen Jerkens. "It's a GI stake and he's still in training. And he's won three stakes at Aqueduct." The five-year-old drilled five-eighths Sunday in 1:00 2/5 and, according to Jerkens, may blow out three furlongs before the race. "I don't think the race at Churchill was indicative of what kind of horse he is," Jerkens continued. "He's been in the money in every stake all year giving everyone weight." Jose Martin, the new trainer of MGSP Key Contender, has but one goal when it comes to the Flying Zee Stables runner. "We bought him for \$170,000 last Monday (at the Fasig-Tipton New York Horses of Racing Age Sale) to see if I can win a graded stake and make him a stud in New York," said Martin yesterday. "He worked five-eighths in 1:00 3/5 and is jumping out of his skin. It's late in the year, the others might be tired from fighting one another all year and we just might be in the right place at the right time."

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Yesterday's Results:

8th-AQU, \$46,000, Alw, 3yo/up, f/m, 1m (off the turf), 1:37 3/5, wf.

1--LOTTSA TALC, 115, f, 4, Talc--Antilassa, by Anticipating. O-K. Eggart, V. McGuire & C. Werner; B-KCV Stable (NY); T-Timothy D. Kelly. Lifetime Record: 30-8-5-5, \$294,645.

2--Blazing Kadie, 115, f, 4, Our Native--Majestic Mama, by His Majesty.

3--Dixie Luck, 113, f, 3, Dixieland Band--Lucky Ole Queen, by King's Bishop. Margins: 1 1/2, neck, 13 1/2. Odds: 1.30, 5.40, 0.80.

Lottsja Talc, entered for the "main track only", drew into the race when it was taken off the turf and posted a frontrunning, 1 1/2-length victory over her three rivals. A 4xSW herself, she is 1/2 to Appealing Guy (MSW, \$220,003, by Proud Appeal). 4-5 favorite Dixie Luck, winner of the GII Comely S. at Aqueduct in April and making her 2nd start back from a 2 1/2-month layoff, dueled with Lottsja Talc on the front end for six furlongs before tiring to finish 3rd.

7th-AQU, \$34,000, Alw, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11, wf. **MORE TO TELL (c, 3, Moro--Good Heaven's Girl, by Authenticity),** 2nd in the Albany H. for NY-Breds at Saratoga in August, rallied from last to first for 1/2-length victory over stablemate FIGHTING DADDY (Fight Over). Lifetime Record: 22-5-4-7, \$149,654. O-Barbara J. Davis. B-Albert Davis & Barbara J. Davis (NY). T-Gasper S. Moschera.

4th-AQU, \$32,000, Alw, 3yo/up, 1 1/8m (off the turf), 1:51 4/5, wf. **BEWARE THE QUEST (g, 3, Caveat--Danny's Quest, by *Grey Dawn II),** a SP runner whose last 7 starts had been on the turf, sat in mid-pack under a patient Mike Smith until the turn for home, where he accelerated to the lead then drew off in the stretch to come home 10 lengths in front at 7-1 odds. Lifetime Record: 21-2-3-5, \$80,340. O/B-Daniel M. Ryan (MD). T-David Donk.

5th-AQU, \$28,000, Msw, 2yo, f, 7f, 1:25 3/5, wf. **THUNDERLAKE (f, 2, Meadowlake--Darbyvail, by Roberto),** 4th after being bumped soundly then stumbling in her Oct. 2 debut at Belmont, vied for the early lead, sprinted a length clear after 1/2-mile, then finished strongly to win by 4 1/4. The 9-5 bettors' choice, Thunderlake was a \$130,000 Kee. Sept. yearling. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-0, \$18,480. O-Darby Dan Farm. B-Daniel M. Galbreath, John W. Galbreath II, et al. (KY). T-Thomas J. Skiffington.

3rd-AQU, \$28,000, Msw, 2yo, f, 7f, 1:27 1/5, gd. + **SEEKING THE BLUE (f, 2, Seeking the Gold--Rose Diamond {GSP, \$149,420}, by Diamond Shoal {GB}),** making her 1st trip to the post as the 2-1 second choice, went wire to wire for a neck victory over 26-1 longshot CHINN HOUSE (Pancho Villa). Seeking The Blue was a \$29,000 Kee. Sept. yearling. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$16,800. O-William S. Roebing. B-Paul Mellon (VA). T-William I. Mott.



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Yesterday's Result:

1st-CRC, \$16,500, Alw, 2yo, 1 1/16m, 1:45 4/5, ft. **GOLD MINER (c, 2, Gold Crest--Amber Gem, by Amber Pass),** 3rd in the Oct. 23 GII Breeders' Futurity at Keeneland last out and 2nd in the GIII Kentucky Cup Juvenile at Turfway the time before that, dropped down to face allowance company and went wire-to-wire to win by 2 1/2 as the 6-5 favorite. Lifetime Record: 7-3-1-2, \$68,740.

O-B.S. Dance. B-Pegasus Stud (KY). T-Michael Trivigno.

News Continued.

FAIR GROUNDS OPENS THURSDAY Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans, Louisiana commences its 123rd season Thanksgiving Day, November 24. The track's 1994-95 meet will encompass 88 days, Thursdays through Mondays, ending March 27. "We've already accumulated over \$5.8 million in our purse pool from off-season simulcasting," said Bryan Krantz, president and general manager of Fair Grounds. "And we're continuing to expand the out-of-state markets for our live product--Kentucky's tracks and OTB parlors, for example, will simulcast our entire cards for the first time. Our first permanent on-track facility, a 20,000 square-foot Clubhouse/OTB building, is scheduled to open December 22. And the foundation is down for our new grandstand, which we hope to have ready for Opening Day in 1995." General parking and grandstand admission will be free for the entirety of the 1994-95 meet. Sixty-two stakes have been scheduled for purses totaling nearly \$4 million. Overall purse distribution (including stakes and overnight races combined) is expected to exceed \$165,000 per day and total more than \$14.5 million--an all-time record figure--for the entirety of the meet. The season will be anchored by the \$741,000 Louisiana Champions Day card Saturday, December 3; the GIII \$200,000 New Orleans H. Sunday, March 12; the GIII \$125,000 Fair Grounds Oaks Saturday, March 18; and the GIII \$300,000 Louisiana Derby Sunday, March 19.



W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

SMALL TRACK, BIG PROBLEMS

By: **BILL FINLEY**

There are just a few days left to the 61-year-old life that is Charles Town Races, a terminally ill race-track nestled in the Shenendoah Valley in West Virginia. Its death will no doubt be passed off as a minor event in most racing circles, the principals too consumed with "major issues" to worry about the closing of a track on the leaky-roof circuit. After all, it's just little Charles Town.

If only it were that simple. A piece of racing history is about to go down the drain December 11 when the track is scheduled to run its last live race before shutting down due to financial problems. And its closing should frighten every racing executive in the country, particularly those at small tracks. This is not a Birmingham Turf Club or a Canterbury Downs or any other ill-conceived start-up project, but a race-track that had made it since 1933 only to be done in by the harsh realities that face the entire sport six decades years later.

"We have a large metropolitan area to draw from. We're only an hour and fifteen minutes from both Baltimore and Washington," said Charles Town General Manager Don Hudson, who has worked at the track for 20 years "I always thought there'd be a place for Charles Town. But thoroughbred racing is going to hell in a hand basket."

Charles Town has about every problem a race-track can have. There were 1,600 horses available in 1988 but just 700 this year as the horse shortage and declining purses (daily purse distribution is just \$28,000) dealt a double blow. During that time, attendance dropped 42 percent and live handle fell 51 percent. Out-of-state simulcasting, which came onto the scene in 1992, helped for a while, but within months the state of Maryland was going full tilt with OTB, including a shop in nearby Urbana, which ate into Charles Towns' simulcast business. Simulcast handle started to fall and, with racing and off-track betting about to become a reality in Virginia, the situation could have only gotten worse as the West Virginia track continued to get squeezed by the more populated surrounding states.

Seeking relief, track management campaigned for a law that would allow the track to install video lottery terminals. The measure passed in the three other counties that house pari-mutuel facilities (Mountaineer Park and two dog tracks) but was voted down in Charles Towns' Jefferson County. Without video lottery terminals and with business continuing to decline, track management saw no way out. Yearly losses of \$1.3 million were too

much; the plug is to be pulled in 19 days.

"We have concluded that it simply is not feasible to continue operations without the additional resources that would have been available through video lottery," said Charles Town President Keith Wagner, who is seeking a buyer, an unlikely scenario but the only possible eleventh-hour solution.

No one was perfectly happy with the thought of those insidious machines popping up at the track, but everyone realized that they meant a future for Charles Town.

"(The horsemen) didn't really want video lottery terminals, but we knew that we had to accept changes to stay alive," said owner-trainer Ann Hilton, whose father ran a horse on opening day in 1933. "In my opinion, video lottery wasn't the total answer. Hopefully, it would have been helpful and we might have gotten some new patrons out of it. But, with that, and if we could have gotten OTB, then, maybe, we would have been okay. This was just something to get us through until the next step.

Who's next? Hopefully, no one, but the Charles Town story is indicative of a troubled time. The problems mounted over the years as racing continued to bleed; after a while they were simply too much and the track ran out of band-aids. At Arlington Park, a major track, ownership is voicing many of the same concerns. New York Racing Association officials announced last week that without relief from state and local governments the organization can no longer afford to stay open.

Hudson still believes that most tracks can and will survive, but only if there are forms of revenue available other than live handle.

"Racetracks need to become entertainment centers," he said. "Whether it's video lottery, casinos or golf courses, there have to be additional amusement factors. In this day and age, horse racing is no longer enough."

Meanwhile, the one solution Hudson and Wagner felt could keep the track alive is no longer available. December 11 will be a sad day in racing, and for more than just little Charles Town.

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

STAKES RESULTS:

- PRIX LE FABULEUX**, \$39,981, Saint-Cloud, France, 11-22, 3yo, 10.5fT, 2:32.90, hy.
 1--**#NONONITO (FR)**, c, 3, **Nikos (GB)**--**Feuille d'Automne (FR)**, by **Crystal Palace (FR)**. O-P. Sebahg; B-Mme. Patrick Beck; T-J. Lesbordes; \$22,846.
 2--**Suave Tern**, c, 3, **Arctic Tern**--**Suavite**, by **Alleged**. O-Henri Chalhoub; \$9,139. (\$725,000 wnlg '91 KEENOV).
 3--**Rainbow Dancer (FR)**, c, 3, **Rainbow Quest**--**Ramanouche (FR)**, by **Riverman**. O-D. Tsui; \$4,569. Margins: short head, 1, 1 1/2.

- PRIX PREDICATEUR**, \$39,981, Saint-Cloud, France, 11-22, 4yo/up, 10.5fT, 2:29.70, hy.
 1--**#YOUNGUI (FR)**, c, 4, **Lightning (FR)**--**Crystala (FR)**, by **Crystal Palace (FR)**. O-J.L. Jardel; B-Jean Dolbeau; T-R. Catusse; \$22,846.
 2--**Le Conquet (FR)**, g, 6, **Nikos (GB)**--**Miss Kit (FR)**, by **Tourangeau (FR)**. O-F. Sarfati; \$9,139.
 3--**Sifacar (FR)**, g, 6, **Cariellor (FR)**--**Sifana (IRE)**, by **Double U Jay (GB)**. O-P. Bouchara; \$4,569. Margins: 1 1/2, 2 1/2, 1 1/2.

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-CDX, \$39,900, 3yo/up, f/m, 1 1/16m, 1:47, ft.
BEST OF MEMORIES (f, 3, Halo--All My Memories, by Little Current) Lifetime Record: 7-3-2-0, \$75,228. O-Darby Dan Farm. B-Galbreath/Phillips Racing Partnership (KY). T-Carl A. Nafzger. *1/2 to Memories (GII, \$92,540, by Hail the Pirates).

9th-CRC, \$22,500, 3yo/up, f/m, 5f, :58 1/5, ft.
DANCE CHIME (f, 3, Danzatore--Chime {SW, \$93,189}, by Bold Forbes) Lifetime Record: 13-4-3-2, \$69,585. O-J & R Stable. B-Martin Schmidt (FL). T-Edward Plesa Jr. *SP.

8th-CRC, \$17,000, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 3/5, ft.
ZEST EXPRESS (c, 3, Unreal Zeal--Short Shorts {SP}, by L'Amour Rullah) Lifetime Record: 9-2-4-0, \$32,250. O-Herb J. & Ione Elkins. B-Richard P. & Sheila P. Arnold (FL). T-William A. Kaplan.

9th-LRL, \$15,000, 3yo, 6f, 1:10 4/5, ft.
GAME QUOIT (c, 3, Waquoit--Boldest Game, by Bold Hour) Lifetime Record: 13-2-2-2, \$30,255. O-Marvin A. Champion. B-Glade Valley Farms, Inc. (MD). T-W. Robert Bailes. *1/2 to Merry Prankster (MSP, \$102,835, by Rollicking).

MAIDEN WINNERS:

- Thunderlake**, f, 2, **Meadowlake**--**Darbyvail**, by **Roberto**. AQU, 11-22, 7f, 1:25 3/5. B-Daniel M. Galbreath, John W. Galbreath II, Et Al (Ky). *\$130,000 yrl '93 KEESEP.
All in the Book, c, 2, **Notebook**--**All Considered (SW, \$99,660)**, by **Peace Corps**. CRC, 11-22, 1 1/16m, 1:47. B-Rustlewood Farm, Inc. (Fl).
 + **Seeking the Blue**, f, 2, **Seeking the Gold**--**Rose Diamond (GSP, \$149,420)**, by **Diamond Shoal (GB)**. AQU, 11-22, 7f, 1:27 1/5. B-Paul Mellon (Va). *\$29,000 yrl '93 KEESEP.
Admiralty, c, 2, **Strawberry Road (Aus)**--**Savannah Slew (MGIII, \$212,130)**, by **Seattle Slew**. CDX, 11-22, 7f, 1:25 3/5. B-Allen E. Paulson (Ky).
 + **Adorablesheis**, f, 2, **Thorn Dance**--**Atensheis**, by **Forceten**. CDX, 11-22, 6f, 1:13. B-Richard Rettis & Mereworth (Ky).
Oh Nonsense, f, 3, **Oh Say**--**Ba Bish**, by **King's Bishop**. LRL, 11-22, 1 1/16mT, 1:48. B-Jonathan E. Sheppard (Pa). *Full to Verbal Volley (MSW, \$152,245).
Burka, f, 3, **Palace Music**--**Dicken's Miss**, by ***Vaguely Noble**. AQU, 11-22, 7f, 1:28. B-Allen E. Paulson (Ky).
 + **Mystery of Faith**, f, 3, **Polish Navy**--**Lace Bandanna**, by **Holy Your Peace**. LRL, 11-22, 6f, 1:13 4/5. B-Berkshire Stud (NY). *\$15,000 yrl '92 FTMSEP; \$25,000 yrl '92 FTSAUG.
King of Slew's, g, 3, **Slew's Royalty**--**Drena's Dream**, by ***Tudor Grey**. CDX, 11-22, 6f, 1:11 2/5. B-Van Doren Family Trust #1 (Ca).
Sixfeetunder, g, 3, **Stacked Pack**--**Deeply**, by **Shecky Greene**. AQU, 11-22, 1m, 1:41 4/5. B-Julian Koenig (NY).

AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS IN FRANCE:

- Liver de Saron**, f, 2, **Mt. Livermore**--**Lyre de Saron (FR)**, by **Luthier**. Maisons-Laffitte, 11-21, Prix Loisir, 3yo, f, 10fT, \$13,327 to winner. O-Ecurie I.M. Fares; B-Fares Farm Inc.; T-Pascal Bary.
Dondook, g, 4, **Woodman**--**Astrea (FR)**, by **Bellypha (IRE)**. Maisons-Laffitte, 11-21, Prix Georges Baltazzi, 4yo/up, 12fT, \$9,519 to winner. O-A. Magnus; B-Love Co. Stables; T-E. Lellouche.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners and a + will denote winners who are first-time starters.