

THOROUGHBREDTM

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1996 \$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

S • T • A • K • E • S P R E V I E W

TEXAS RACING COMMISSION RULING

FAVORS THOROUGHBREDS According to a story in yesterday's *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the Texas Racing Commission decided Monday that for the 1996-1997 racing season, there will be an 80-20 split of the proceeds from simulcasting in the state between the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse industries, respectively. The split will come after one percent of simulcasting revenue is set aside for specialty breeds--Arabians, Paints and Appaloosas. Simulcasting provides almost 95 percent of the income at Texas tracks, and a portion of simulcast revenues are set aside by Texas law to supplement purses at the tracks. The Texas Thoroughbred Breeders Association had asked the commission for an 85-15 percent split, but that was amended after Texas Quarter Horse Association Vice President Jerry Windham denounced it, saying it would "basically destroy the Quarter Horse industry in the state of Texas." Separate arrangements were approved for both Fort Worth-area tracks. At Trinity Meadows, which holds mostly Quarter Horse racing, the ruling dictates that 49 percent of the simulcast revenue will go to the Quarter Horse faction, 46 percent to Thoroughbreds and five percent to specialty breeds. At Lone Star Park, currently under construction, the commission applied the 80-20 split but said the ratio could be adjusted by up to 10 percent either way, depending on how much interest racing fans show in Quarter Horses.

POTRIDEE RETIRED Mrs. Leslie R. Grimm's **Potridee (Arg)** (Potrillazo {Arg}), the Champion Two-Year-Old Filly in Argentina in 1992, has been retired. A Grade I winner in both Argentina and North America, Potridee was based in Southern California from 1993 to 1995, where she won the GI Vanity H. on dirt in 1994 under the tutelage of trainer Ron McAnally. She also ran third that year, beaten a length by champions Hatoof and Flawlessly, in the GI Beverly D over Arlington's turf course. She won or placed in eight of 13 North American starts (on turf and dirt) for earnings of \$379,000. Potridee was the second highweighted mare on turf in North America in 1994. The seven-year-old mare will be retired to Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Kentucky, and is scheduled to be bred in 1996 to Storm Cat. Plans are for Potridee to be entered in the Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale.

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Today, Gulfstream Park:

PP HORSE	TRAINER	JOCKEY	ODDS
1 Mia's Hope	Rose	K. Chapman	30-1
2 Investalot	J. Hennig	Sellers	5-1
3 Full And Fancy	Kimmel	Smith	12-1
4 Goldarama	Kaplan	S. Madrid	10-1
5 Niner's Home	Nafzger	Davis	15-1
6 Escabiosa (Arg)	Clerc	Krone	8-1
7 Lady Reiko (Ire)	Gleaves	Santos	5-2
8 Lindsay Frolic	Wolfson	Day	4-1
9 Queen Tutta	M. Hennig	Bailey	7-2

Lady Reiko (Ire) (Sadler's Wells), winner of four straight turf events last summer, including the \$150,000 Calder Budweiser Breeders' Cup H., returned from a two-month layoff to take an off-the-turf allowance at Gulfstream in her last start Jan. 4. The five-year-old mare tries the main track again today.

Escabiosa (Arg) (Payant), a Group 1 winner on both turf and dirt in Argentina last year, will be making her North American debut. The four-year-old filly has not started since finishing third in the 1 1/4-mile (main track) G1 Gran Premio Seleccion last Oct. 16.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31:

2-10 \$300,000g **Donn H-GI, GP, 3yo/up, 9f** (\$300)

2-11 \$200,000a **La Canada S.-GII, SA, 4yo, f/m, 9f** (\$100)

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1:

2-17 \$200,000g **Barbara Fritchie H.-GII, Lrl, 3yo/up, f/m, 7f** (\$200)

2-19 \$200,000g **General George H-GII, Lrl, 3yo/up, 7f** (\$200)



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News Continued.

AUTOTOTE RENEGOTIATES SENIOR CREDIT FACILITY Autotote Corporation announced Tuesday it has renegotiated its \$135 million senior credit facility with its banks. The Company noted that the new agreement limits debt amortization to \$8 million in 1996, and allows the Company to spend up to \$20 million per year for capital and contract expenditures. Prepayments are required in the event of certain asset sales and debt or equity offerings.

◆ FLORIDA ◆

Local News, Gulfstream:

Frank A. Passero Jr., who shared Gulfstream's training title last year with Bill Mott, will attempt today to become only the third trainer in history to saddle nine consecutive winners. Passero will send out **Night Moves** (Nasty and Bold) in today's second race, a six-furlong event for \$8,000 claimers. If the five-year-old gelding should win, he would be Passero's ninth straight winner--a record Passero would share with two other trainers.

Jockey Pat Valenzuela is scheduled to appear before the board of stewards at Gulfstream today and submit to another urine test in anticipation of being cleared to ride again later this week, according to a story in today's *Daily Racing Form*. The veteran rider has not accepted any mounts since calling in sick Jan. 15 and had been suspended from accepting any further mounts after results of his most recent urine test were declared inconclusive by state steward Walter Blum.

◆ FOREIGN ◆

American-Bred Winner in England:

Dahiyah, g, 5, **Ogygian**--Sticky Prospect, by Mr. Prospector. Lingfield, 1-30, Phaeton H., 4yo/up, 6f (all-weather), \$3,841 to winner. O-Bryan Pennick; B-Foxfield; T-Gary Moore. *\$100,000 yrlg '92 FTSAUG.

◆ MIDWEST ◆

Local News, Fair Grounds:

Horsemen are reminded that nominations for the \$100,000 Fair Grounds Breeders' Cup H. are due today. The nine-furlong grass race for three-year-olds and up will be run Saturday, February 10.

Local News, Hoosier Park:

Hoosier Park in Indiana will be bringing in "All Night At The Races" Friday evening, February 2. In addition to the regular simulcasting schedule that night, three additional signals will continue on through the early morning hours in order to bring fans a look at Thoroughbred racing in Hong Kong. Beginning at 9:45 p.m., Bay Meadows will kick off the event followed by Windsor Raceway's harness signal from Canada slated for 12 a.m. These signals will lead into the simulcast from Hong Kong's Sha Tin Racecourse, which begins at approximately 12:15 a.m. Final post-time for the Hong Kong signal will be approximately 4:30 a.m.

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

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-PHA, \$20,511, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:45 4/5, ft. APURADO (g, 5, Pirate's Bounty--Bold Scamp, by Bold Hitter) Lifetime Record: 35-4-5-3, \$60,459. O-Plumstead Stables. B-Rancho Jonata (CA). T-Robert Seeger. *1/2 to Lightfoot Lil (MSW, \$135,190, by Muscovite).

7th-PHA, \$17,092, 4yo/up, f/m, 5 1/2f, 1:05 2/5, ft. ALIEN STRIKE (f, 4, Strike the Anvil--Disco Native, by Native Charger) Lifetime Record: 16-2-1-5, \$30,963. O-Dietmar Nagel. B-Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Pilcher (FL). T-Alfredo Velazquez. *Won by 10. **1/2 to Cruisin Not Losing (25 wins, \$130,137, by Stutz Blackhawk).

8th-PHA, \$16,000, 4yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:04 1/5, ft. NASTY AS U WANNABE (c, 4, Raised Socially--Anna's Bambi {MSP, \$157,998}, by Hurry Up Blue) Lifetime Record: 10-3-0-1, \$25,505. O/B-Hidden Lane Farms Inc. (KY). T-Guadalupe Preciado.

FOALING NEWS:

VALID CARNAUBA, 7, Valid Appeal--Carnauba (*Noholme 2nd)

Foal born 1-16-96, a colt by Meadowlake.

Will be bred back to Unbridled.

Owned by Sam & Jo Pollock.

Boarded at Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Ky.

Accomplishments: SW of \$109,860; first foal.

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SMILE RECLAIMED

By: Frank Carlson

The "Inquiry" sign was blinking beside the winning number "1" on Gulfstream's tote board. Barbada, a six-year-old gelding, was going to be disqualified after racing 1 1/2 miles with Eduardo Nunez up. As trainer Phil Marino walked back towards the jock's room beside Nunez, speculation was Marino would be upset. Barbada would have been Marino's second win at the very tough Gulfstream meeting. But he wasn't. Marino just smiled and said, "That's racing."

For a long time Phil Marino didn't smile. At least not a "Happy-to-be-alive" smile. When he smiled it was more of a clown smile...kind of a "Hiding-behind-the-mask" smile. For six years, from 1978 to 1984, Marino worked on a \$2,400 a week cocaine-barbiturate-alcohol habit. "I'd do coke, spend the rest of the day finishing off a fifth of vodka then take uppers to get going the next morning."

Marino quit drugs and alcohol cold turkey one day in 1984. He remembers exactly what day that was, like it was yesterday. "I went cold turkey the day they retired John Henry," Marino said. "I was doing drugs all day with a jockey. I heard the announcement on T.V., and the next day I woke up and quit -- cold." John Henry was retired in October 1984, after he won the Ballantine's Scotch Classic at the Meadowlands and while he was being prepared for the Breeders' Cup Classic.

Marino remembers the day he went cold turkey because six years earlier he had been John Henry's trainer. The depression that followed Marino's losing the horse stalked the trainer for six years. The day John Henry was retired by owner Sam Rubin, Marino felt a tremendous weight lifted from his shoulders.

Phil Marino goes on to explain how he lost John Henry. "There was a lot of rain that winter (1977-78) and the Fair Grounds' track was real cuppy. John Henry was having trouble getting hold of the track. I told the owners (Colleen Madere and Dortha Lingo) I wanted to take the horse to Hot Springs (Oaklawn) to get him away from the Fair Grounds. I told them that if I couldn't win there they could find a new trainer. I had an 18-wheeler ready at 5 the next day. I got a call from Mrs. Lingo telling me not to take the horse

to Arkansas. She had her own reasons for keeping the horse in Louisiana." A couple of weeks later, Marino took John Henry to Keeneland and sold him for \$20,000. As the saying goes, the rest is history. John Henry went on to win two Horse of the Year Awards and over \$6 million, without Marino.

To keep his drug and alcohol habit afloat, Marino continued training horses in Louisiana. "At Evangeline Downs, I'd be walking through the grandstands and some one would get on the PA and say, 'Phil Marino call John Henry,' or they would say, 'If Marino couldn't win with John Henry, why would anyone give him a horse?' They thought they were being funny, but they weren't. There was all sorts of talk, and lot of times they thought I didn't hear, but I heard." Marino sunk deeper and deeper into his depression. "I'd look down my shedrow in those days and wonder why I even came in."

It took Marino, 47, ten years to get his life back together. He was a saddlesmith for a while, then he took an assistant-trainer's job in Chicago. In the beginning of 1994, George and Sandi Kleemann were looking for a full-time trainer to take over their stable. Marino got the job and 90 horses. "It was culture shock," Marino said. "One day I'm helping with 36 head and the next I've got 90 horses myself." The third-generation horseman stepped into the new assignment with enthusiasm. "I took over in April, but it didn't hit me right away. About the middle of May, I realized what an opportunity the Kleemann's gave me. I haven't looked back since then."

Marino hasn't forgotten his past life. When he stays in one place long enough, he donates his time to drug awareness programs "Just Say No To Drugs," and D.A.R.E. "I like talking to kids in the classroom, to see them realize how drugs can destroy a person's life," Marino says with a smile. The same kind of gapped-tooth smile he showed when his number was taken down.

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