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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1996 \$2 Daily

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SERENA'S SONG DEFINITE FOR BIG 'CAP

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas confirmed Tuesday morning that last year's Champion Three-Year-Old Filly **Serena's Song** (Rahy) will start in Saturday's \$1 million Santa Anita H. "It's a go," Lukas said. "I'm always game and we're not afraid to step out a little bit from tradition. We're looking at an exceptional filly and if you're going to try it, that's got to be the bottom line." The decision to run followed an hour-long discussion Monday evening between Lukas and Bob Lewis, who owns **Serena's Song** along with his wife, Beverly. No filly or mare has won the Big 'Cap in 36 tries, but **Serena's Song** is undefeated in six starts at Santa Anita, including victories in the GI Santa Monica H. and GI Santa Maria H. in her last two starts. "Personally, I think we have a very strong shot to win the race," Lukas said. "I would say that if you asked the connections of the rest of the horses if they wanted her in or out, they're all gonna say, 'Out.' I think she can run this mile-and-a-quarter and come right back out of it and it won't have any bearing on the rest of her season. So maybe it's time to try it. Besides, there aren't any million-dollar races for fillies until the Breeders' Cup." Regular jockey Gary Stevens, who won last year's Big 'Cap aboard **Urgent Request**, once again has the mount. **Serena's Song** has tried the 1 1/4-mile distance only twice before, finishing 16th against the boys in last year's Kentucky Derby and second to **Golden Bri** in last year's GI Coaching Club American Oaks.

WOODMAN COLT BRINGS \$875,000 AT FASIG-TIPTON

A gray or roan colt by **Woodman--Gray Tab** (Zulu Tom) brought a sales-topping \$875,000 at yesterday's second and final session of the Fasig-Tipton Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale at Calder. Named **Woodroan**, the colt, previously bought for \$190,000 at last year's Keeneland July Yearling Sale by **Becky Thomas Montgomery**, worked a quarter-mile in :22 flat during the sale's under tack show. It was among the five fastest works at the distance. After a hotly contested bidding war between two potential buyers, both from Japan, the colt went to the Japanese group **Heatherway Inc.** "We were obviously pleased with the overall results," said **Montgomery**, whose **Sequel Bloodstock Inc.** consigned **Woodroan**. "We felt this was our top colt and there was a ton of interest in him all week." **Sequel Bloodstock** also consigned the second highest-priced juvenile of the auction at \$575,000, a chestnut colt from the first crop of 1992 Preakness winner **Pine Bluff**. Tuesday's second session saw 160 horses sold for a gross of \$18,054,000 and an average of \$112,838, up 13 percent from last year's second session average of \$99,789. There were 63 juveniles reported as not sold yesterday, as compared to 88 during 1995's second session. During the two-day auction, 219 two-year-olds brought \$22,765,000 for an average of \$103,950, up 10.8 percent from last year's \$93,808.

TOP FIVE TWO-YEAR-OLDS - TUESDAY

Hip#	Sex	Sire	Dam	Price
207	c	Woodman	Gray Tab	\$875,000
			(\$190,000 yrlg '95 KEEJUL)	
			Consigned by Sequel Bloodstock Inc., agent.	
			Purchased by Heatherway Inc., agent.	
354	c	Pine Bluff	Rub Al Khali	\$575,000
			(\$165,000 yrlg '95 KEESEP)	
			Consigned by Sequel Bloodstock Inc., agent.	
			Purchased by John C. Oxley.	
108	c	Storm Cat	Bank Key	\$525,000
			(\$250,000 yrlg '95 KEESEP)	
			Consigned by Hartley-Derenzo.	
			Purchased by Clover Club Co. Ltd.	
115	c	Forty Niner	Big Dreams	\$500,000
			Consigned by Graves Stable, agent.	
			Purchased by Heatherway Inc., agent.	
210	c	Star de Naskra	Green Boundary	\$460,000
			(\$90,000 yrlg '95 FTSAUG)	
			Consigned by Jerry Bailey Sales Agency,	
			agent for Bailey-Ellenberg.	
			Purchased by Joe Salah, agent for B.E. Stable.	



STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28:

3-9 \$300,000g **Pan American H.-GII, GP, 3yo/up, 12fT (\$300)**

3-10 \$200,000g **Orchid H.-GII, GP, 12fT, 3yo/up, f/m (\$250)**

3-10 \$200,000a **Santa Anita Oaks-GI, SA, 8.5f, 3yo, f (\$100)**

3-16 \$500,000g **Florida Derby-GI, GP, 3yo, 9f (\$1,000)**

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29:

3-10 \$300,000a **Santa Margarita-GI, SA, 4yo/up, f/m, 9f (INV)**

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News Continued.

KEENELAND CHANGES JULY, NOVEMBER

SALES DATES Keeneland has changed the dates for its 1996 July and November sales, officials announced yesterday. The July Selected Yearling Sale now will be held July 15 and 16, one week earlier than previously announced. The November Breeding Stock Sale is set for November 10-19, one week later than originally scheduled. "Administratively, Keeneland and The Jockey Club need additional time between sales to process the large number of entries and complete the cataloguing process for September and November," explained Director of Sales Rogers Beasley. "Hotel space is available in Lexington for the new dates, so we're confident our buyers and consignors won't be inconvenienced by the changes."

The September Yearling Sale dates remain the same as scheduled, September 9-18. Also scheduled this year are the April Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale April 16 and the Churchill Downs/Keeneland Horses in Training Sale at the Sports Spectrum May 1. Closing dates are March 1 for the July Selected Yearling and Churchill Downs/Keeneland Horses in Training sales; May 15 for the September Yearling Sale; and August 1 for the November Breeding Stock Sale.

STRONACH BUYS INTO HELMSMAN GROUP

Canadian owner/breeder Frank Stronach has purchased a 50 percent interest in **Helmsman** (El Gran Senor) from the colt's 13 owners for an undisclosed sum. The starting highweight for this Saturday's \$1 million Santa Anita H., Helmsman won the GI Strub S. in his most recent effort. Agent Pete Bradley, who brokered the transaction and assisted Curragh Bloodstock's Johnny McKeever in bringing Helmsman to the U.S. last August, said that current plans call for the four-year-old to complete his five-year-old season on the racetrack before entering stud in 1998 at Stronach's Adena Springs Farm in Midway, Kentucky.

TIFFANY TAM DEAD

Sam-Son Farm's **Tiffany Tam** (Tentam), dam of 1988 Canadian Champion Three-Year-Old Colt and Queens Plate winner **Regal Intention** (Vice Regent) and 1990 Canadian Oaks winner **Tiffany's Secret** (Secretariat), died Sunday. The 17-year-old mare died at Quelp University in Canada due to complications from foaling two weeks earlier. Her 1996 foal, a filly by Sky Classic, also did not survive. Tiffany Tam, herself a stakes-winner of \$134,270, will be buried at Sam-Son Farm in Ontario, Canada.

JUDDMONTE DROPS YORK SPONSORSHIP

Prince Khalid Abdullah's Juddmonte Farms will not renew its sponsorship of York's G1 International S. Juddmonte Farms, which has sponsored the \$300,000 race for the past seven years, agreed to extend its support of the race one more year when York struggled to come up with a new sponsor for the race. Eleven of Britain's 25 Group 1 events -- including the 1000 and 2000 Guineas -- are without sponsors for the upcoming turf season, putting the British Horseracing Board's marketing strategy under attack again. David Sullivan, millionaire publisher and once a major racehorse and stud owner, is steadily decreasing his own team of horses. He said, "Racing finds it hard to get sponsors for its prestigious races because they represent very bad value for money."

FIRST FOAL FOR THE WICKED NORTH

The first foal by 1994 Champion Older Horse **The Wicked North** (Far North) was born at David and Marylyn Randal's Fallbrook Farm in Versailles, Kentucky Monday night. Out of the graded stakes-placed mare Phil's Illusion (Bates Motel), the newborn chestnut filly is owned by Phil Hirsch, who also owns **The Wicked North**. The seven-year-old stallion, winner of five graded stakes and \$1,180,750, stands at Fallbrook Farm for a 1996 fee of \$7,500 live foal.

◆ MIDWEST ◆

Local News, Kentucky:

Harbor View Farm's **Flawlessly** (Affirmed), the Champion Turf Mare in both 1992 and 1993, produced her first foal, a bay filly by Storm Cat, Monday at Ballindaggin Farm in Lexington, Kentucky. The eight-year-old mare is scheduled to be bred back to Storm Cat.

Local News, Texas:

Trinity Meadows Raceway, which has been operating under a conditional Class 1 license, was scheduled to revert to Class 2 status February 24. Trinity Meadows lost the opportunity to secure a Class 1 license when it failed to enlarge its existing six-furlong oval to a one-mile surface as part of an agreement with the Texas Racing Commission and Lone Star Jockey Club.

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◆ FOREIGN ◆

AMERICAN BRED WINNERS IN ENGLAND:

Zahid, g, 5, **Storm Cat--Time An' Care**, by Twin Time. Lingfield Park, 2-27, Cook Limited S., 10f (all-weather), 4yo/up, £2,684 to winner. O-Keith W.R. Booth; B-Dr. Murray West, Nicholas Lotz & Overbrook Farm; T-K.R. Burke. *\$125,000 yrlg '92 KEESEP.

One Off The Rail, h, 6, **Rampage--Catty Queen**, by Tom Cat. Lingfield Park, 2-27, Marco Polo Apprentices H., 1 1/2m (all-weather), 4yo/up, £2,459 to winner. O-K. Higson; B-Parrish Hill Farm; T-A. Moore. *1/2 to Tale of the Yukon (SP, \$120,543, by Yukon). **\$6,500 yrlg '91 KEEJAN; \$11,500 yrlg '91 FTKSEP.

Our Shadee, g, 6, **Shadeed--Nuppence** (GB), by Reform (GB). Lingfield Park, 2-27, Walter Raleigh H., 6f (all-weather), 3yo/up, £2,818 to winner. O/T-K.T. Ivory; B-Overbury Stud. *1/2 to Posada (GB) (G3-Eng, \$100,916, by Homing {GB}).

Masnun, g, 11, **Nureyev--Careless Kitten**, by Caro (Ire). Lingfield Park, 2-27, Colombus Claiming S., 7f (all-weather), 4yo/up, £2,540 to winner. O-I.W. Page; B-Glencrest Farm; T-R.J. O'Sullivan. *1/2 to Lorenzoni (GSP, \$109,035, by Clever Trick) and Adversarial (SW, \$157,517, by Fit to Fight). **\$525,000 yrlg '86 KEEJUL.

Local News, Dubai World Cup:

Moonshell (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) is unlikely to run in the Dubai World Cup March 27 after her disappointing finish Sunday at Nad Al Sheba Racecourse. The filly, winner of last year's Epsom Oaks, managed only a third-place finish in the four-horse field. Her Godolphin connections were disappointed by the effort, in spite of the fact that Moonshell was running on sand for the first time and after a long layoff. Simon Crisford, Godolphin racing manager, said, "Plans to run in the World Cup are on hold. She should have been sharp enough to cope with those horses."

Pennekamp (Bering {GB}), winner of six of seven career starts including the 1995 British 2000 Guineas, will most likely start in the Dubai World Cup without a prep race. The four-year-old colt, who has not raced since suffering a hairline fracture in last season's Epsom Derby, has been hampered in his preparations for the \$4 million race by a splint problem. Anthony Stroud, owner Sheikh Mohammed's racing manager, admitted, "It is unlikely there will be time for a prep race."

Local News, Japan:

Hirotoshi Nakamura's **Golden Colors** (Mr. Prospector), the third foal out of 1988 Kentucky Derby winner Winning Colors, recently fractured her leg while training in Japan and is expected to be out of action for a full year. The three-year-old filly, bred by Gainesway Thoroughbreds Ltd. & Peter M. Brant, topped the 1994 Keeneland July Yearling Sale with a final bid of \$1,050,000. In her most recent outing Jan. 28 at Tokyo Racecourse, she finished second, a half-length behind **Ibuki Perceive (Jpn)** (Caerleon), in the Daily Hai Queen Cup (G3-Jpn) at one-mile on the turf.

◆ So. CALIFORNIA ◆

Local News, Hollywood Park:

Luke Kruytbosch, a 34-year-old native of Moscow, Idaho who has been calling races at Turf Paradise for the last three years, has been hired as the track announcer for Hollywood Park's 1996 spring/summer meet that begins April 26.

Local News, Santa Anita:

Cavonnier (Batonnier), winner of the GIII El Camino Real Derby at Bay Meadows Jan. 20, breezed five furlongs in 1:00 4/5 Tuesday morning at Santa Anita. The three-year-old colt is slated to run in Saturday's GII San Rafael S. at a mile.

Jockey Goncalino Almeida, who broke both legs in a Jan. 20 spill at Santa Anita, had the cast from his left leg removed Monday and is "progressing just fine," according to Santa Anita Clerk of Scales Charlie McCaul. The cast on his right leg is due to come off in two to three weeks.

Antespend (Spend a Buck) and **Cara Rafaela** (Quiet American), one-two finishers in the GI Las Virgenes S. Feb. 18, each worked a half-mile yesterday in preparation for the March 10 Santa Anita Oaks. Antespend covered the ground in :48 1/5, while Cara Rafaela went the distance in :48 2/5.

Three hopefuls for the GI Santa Margarita Invitational for fillies and mares, to be held March 10 at 1 1/8-miles on the main track, worked yesterday. **Twice the Vice** (Vice Regent) breezed five furlongs in 1:02 3/5 at Santa Anita, while at Hollywood Park **Jewel Princess** (Key to the Mint) went five furlongs in 1:01 3/5 and **Urbane** (Citidancer) drilled six panels in a bullet 1:10 3/5.

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ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-PHA, \$17,092, 3yo, f, 1m, 1:41 2/5, ft.
SEATTLE SUZZY (f, 3, Metfield--Starlet O'Hara, by Silent Screen) Lifetime Record: 9-2-0-1, \$22,692. O-J & B Stables. B-Richard Horn & Vinery (KY). T-Dennis Desmarais. *1/2 to Beldale Bid (SW-Bel, by Raise a Bid) and Twice the Star (MSP, \$301,933, by Nodouble).

9th-PHA, \$16,000, 4yo/up, 1m, 1:37 4/5, ft.
POINT OF ATTACK (c, 4, Rock Point--Pauline Runyan, by Ack Ack) Lifetime Record: 4-3-1-0, \$25,320. O-Thomas L. Teal. B-Martin Community College Foundation (NC). T-Richard A. Wasserman.

MAIDEN WINNER:

Away in Dixie, g, 4, Dixieland Band--La Mimosa (SW, \$174,675), by Bold Forbes. PHA, 2-27, 6f, 1:11 1/5. B-Sun Mar Stables, Inc (Ny). *\$52,000 yrl '93
 KEESEP; \$7,400 HRA 1995 SARHRA.

W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

PASSERO -- POST-STREAK

by: Perry Lefko

Soon it will be time for Frank Passero to come home.

Despite his love for Florida, and Gulfstream Park in particular, the trainer's home is Ontario and his home track is Woodbine, which reopens for its live meet March 23. "My base is at Woodbine. My heart is at Woodbine, although I do love Gulfstream," Passero says. "You might say I'm the man with two hats."

Passero is in a chase for first place among wins in the current Gulfstream meet with Bill Mott, with whom he tied for first last year. And, it could go down to the wire again. Regardless of what happens in the head-to-head battle, Passero has made a name for himself more than ever this year following his consecutive 14-race win streak at Gulfstream from Jan. 24 through Feb. 3. It established a North American record that will be hard to eclipse. Passero earned fame and recognition through articles of his accomplishments in major North American newspapers and magazines. He appeared on radio and TV shows. Fans asked him for his autograph. He earned various awards. He has even been approached about writing a book about his life.

Although the streak is long over, the memory is still fresh and likely won't be forgotten for some time. "I was glad the streak was over," he says. "It just goes on and on and on and it was far enough. That was enough of a number. If somebody else can do it, go get it, baby."

Passero credited various equine treatments, such as acupuncture and magnetic therapy, as sources of his success. But, even he could not have predicted such a streak. Everything fell into place and he was lucky, too.

There were never mishaps, fallen jockeys or the myriad of other small things that could have stopped the streak regardless of how good or well-meant the horses.

The 62-year-old native of Fort Erie, Ontario came under attack for his horses' performances, but in typical Passero fashion he shot back. He told the media he had no Cigar, but a lot of cigarettes. Passero has been a claiming trainer most of his life. "You do good, you're doing something wrong, you do bad, you're a bum," he says. "Where's the mediator here? There isn't any."

The way Passero sees it, he's like a bottle of wine and it's improving with age. For the past seven years, he has been making steady strides, both in Florida and at home. In 1989, he trained Andre Allon's three-year-old Halrose to win in the Bahamas and Spectacular Bid Stakes down south. In 1992, he led all trainers with a track record 84 wins at Woodbine.

That period was followed by a personal tragedy in his life. His brother was murdered in the Miami area early the following year for no apparent reason. Ironically, Passero was in a Toronto-area hospital at the time, recovering from surgery for prostate cancer that made him face his own mortality. Passero was busy training and claiming horses at Gulfstream by communicating by phone with his son.

In 1994, Passero rebounded from a subpar season the previous year. He won the Gulfstream Park Sprint H. and Deputy Minister Handicap S. with John Burness's I Can't Believe. After tying Mott last year at Gulfstream, Passero returned home and led all trainers again at Woodbine, eclipsing his old mark with 92 wins.

"After 32 or 33 years, isn't something supposed to happen?" he asks. "Are you supposed to get worse or are you supposed to get better? Fighters are finished when they're 40, but trainers aren't. The older you get, I think, the better you get. You know how many times I've been knocked down? Give me six \$500,000 horses. Let me put them in my first six stalls. I'll dance with the best of them. There's nothing to training good horses. They train themselves. Trainers are overrated with good horses. You give a trainer 20 claiming horses from \$10,000 to \$40,000 to \$50,000 and bring them across the wire winners. Go to work on those. You'll find out what it's all about."

Passero is looking for the opportunity to show people he can be successful with quality stock.

"Will it happen and will it matter to me if it doesn't?" he asks. "I'd be a fool if I said it wouldn't matter. Of course it matters. Good horses are what it's all about and I'm looking forward to having better stock. What happens, happens. I've had several opportunities to do things, but my roots are at Woodbine and I'm not looking at doing anything else. My goal is to win 100 races at Woodbine and hopefully the right 100."

For all his accomplishments in Canada, Passero has yet to gain respect. In 1992, he finished as a finalist in the voting for trainer of the year, but lost to a higher-profile trainer with better stock. Last year, he didn't even make it as a finalist despite his record-breaking season.

What happened this year at Gulfstream may have more than made up for it.