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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 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

NIARCHOS DEAD Stavros Niarchos, owner of dual Breeders' Cup Mile heroine Miesque and a host of other top class horses, died Monday at the age of 86. Niarchos, Greek born but based in Switzerland for many years, made his fortune in shipping. In 1979, he bought a French stud farm, the Haras du Fresnay Le Bouffard, and branched out into big-time racehorse ownership. Apart from Miesque, the Breeders' Cup Mile heroine in both 1987 and 1988, his many equine stars included Seattle Song (hero of the Washington International in 1984) and Hector Protector (winner of Poule d'Essai des Poulains in 1991). Henry Cecil, who trained for Niarchos for more than a decade, said, "It is terribly sad news. He was a very good and loyal owner. I hope his daughter Maria will be able to keep things going." Cash Asmussen, who partnered so many of the Niarchos string trained by the late Francois Boutin, said, "We had a very special relationship and I just want to reflect quietly on this sad occasion."

EL AMANTE PROBABLE FOR KENTUCKY

DERBY The newest addition to the list of probables for the May 4 Kentucky Derby is El Amante (Wild Again), winner of the GIII Flamingo S. at Hialeah April 6. The three-year-old left Payson Park in Florida Tuesday morning en route to Kentucky. "We thought the horse progressed a long way from (finishing second in) the Tampa Bay Derby to winning the Flamingo S.," said co-owner Jack Smith III. "We watched the races this weekend and weren't all that impressed. The horse that won the Blue Grass (Skip Away) ran a big race and Unbridled's Song is obviously the real thing, but the Arkansas Derby wasn't outstanding and it seems to me that aside from one or two horses who won those races, everybody else is going backwards. El Amante is going forward. We have had a lot of offers to buy him since he won the Flamingo and at this point we can either sell him and make a lot of money or race him. We all agreed to race him. If he doesn't continue to improve in Kentucky, then we'll go on to Illinois (\$500,000 Illinois Derby May 11). But if he is doing well, and he is, we'll put up the \$20,000 (\$10,000 to enter; \$10,000 to start) and join the big show. I'd say we are 70 percent sure he will run in the Kentucky Derby. Running El Amante in the Kentucky Derby will probably be the most exciting thing I'll ever do."

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Sunday, Santa Anita:

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO H.-GI, \$400,000, 4yo/up, abt14fT

Last year's Arlington Million hero **Awad** (Caveat) and **Malmo** (Jade Hunter), winner of a main track allowance at Aqueduct in his last start, have both arrived at Santa Anita for Sunday's event. **Beau Temps (GB)** (Mtoto {GB}) and **Magic Feeling (Ire)** (Magical Wonder) received provisional invitations to the race, and Beau Temps will run with apprentice Brice Blanc in the saddle. Eddie Delahoussaye has elected to ride the filly **Windsharp** (Lear Fan), who has already beaten the boys twice at the current Santa Anita meeting in the GI San Luis Rey S. and GI San Luis Obispo H. Windsharp worked seven furlongs Sunday at Hollywood Park in 1:27 3/5. Working for the San Juan Capistrano Monday at Hollywood were last year's runner-up **Special Price** (Bering {GB}), who went seven furlongs in 1:27 1/5, and **Raintrap (GB)** (Rainbow Quest), who covered the same distance in 1:27 4/5. Also probable for the race is **Awesome Thought** (Flying Paster), with **Color Me Speed** (Master Derby) listed as a possible starter.

Today, Newmarket, England:

CRAVEN S.-G3, 3yo, 1mT

The Craven runners are, in post position order: **Pommard (Ire)** (Darshaan {GB}), L. Dettori; **Beauchamp King (GB)** (Nishapour {Fr}), J. Reid; **Rio Duvida (GB)** (Salse), R. Hughes; **Alhaarth (Ire)** (Unfuwain), W. Carson; **Polaris Flight** (Northern Flagship), Pat Eddery.

Alhaarth (Ire), hot favorite for the British 2000 Guineas, will face only four opponents in today's event. Owner Sheikh Hamdan al Maktoum and trainer Dick Hern thought long and hard in making a decision as to which Classic trial their unbeaten colt should make his 1996 reappearance. But, after assessing the weather forecast, they have chosen the Craven instead of the Greenham S. at Newbury Saturday. Angus Gold, racing manager to Alhaarth's owner, said, "Dick is concerned over the prospect of a serious change in the weather. It is not that he is worried about how the horse will act on soft ground, but more that he does not want to get him in a slogging match before the Guineas."

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Stakes Preview Continued.

Saturday, Middleburg, Virginia:

THE TEMPLE GWATHMEY H.-GII, \$75,000, 2 1/2m
(over National Fences)

The field of five, from the rail out, is as follows: **To Ridley** (Steady Growth), 148 pounds; **Rowdy Irishman** (Erins Isle {Ire}), 152; **Mistico (Chi)** (Balconaje {Arg}), 152; **Irish Approach** (Irish River {Fr}), 154; **Leandro** (Laguardia), 138.

Augustin Stable's Irish Approach, who defeated Mistico (Chi) by a neck in the GI Atlanta Cup April 6, will try to take his second step on the way to the inaugural Steeplechase Triple Crown in Saturday's Temple Gwathmey. The seven-year-old gelding can earn a \$100,000 bonus if he adds the GII Gwathmey and the GI Iroquois (May 11) in Nashville, Tenn. to his Atlanta victory.

Last year's Gwathmey was won by eventual Eclipse Award winner **Lonesome Glory** (Transworld). Lonesome Glory earned a rest after extending his season into England late last year and is pointing for the weight-for-age Iroquois.

T • R • I • P • L • E T H R E A T S

Sunday, Keeneland:

LEXINGTON S.-GII, \$175,000a, 3yo, 1 1/16m

Lexington hopeful **Commanders Palace** (Pleasant Colony), trained by Tom Amoss, breezed a half-mile in :50 2/5 Wednesday morning at Churchill Downs. Amoss liked the way the colt came home in slightly under 12 seconds for the final eighth of a mile. "He's getting me excited," Amoss said. The trainer acknowledged that the GIII Louisiana Derby third-place finisher would have to win the Lexington and then bounce back strongly in order to win a place in the Kentucky Derby gate. Tracy Hebert was in the irons for the workout, but Jerry Bailey will ride Commanders Palace in Sunday's race.

KENTUCKY DERBY NOTES:

Unbridled's Song (Unbridled), the 122nd Kentucky Derby's leading contender, is scheduled to arrive at Churchill Downs today at 1 p.m. The Florida Derby and Wood Memorial winner will be flown into Lexington for an 11 a.m. arrival, and will then be vanned to Louisville. Also expected at Churchill Downs today is **Built for Pleasure** (Homebuilder), who will be vanned from Florida.

Alyrob (Alysheba), hoping for a berth in the May 4 Kentucky Derby, breezed a half-mile in :49 1/5 Wednesday at Hollywood Park.

"If Chris doesn't ride **Louis Quatorze** (Sovereign Dancer), another Chris will," trainer Nick Zito said Wednesday. Chris McCarron rode the three-year-old to a second-place finish in the Toyota Blue Grass S. last Saturday. The previous Saturday, he rode **Cavonnier** (Batonnier) to victory in the Santa Anita Derby. If McCarron chooses to ride Cavonnier in the Kentucky Derby, then the mount on Louis Quatorze will go to Chris Antley. "It's up to McCarron," Zito said. "It's his mount until he takes off. If he does, the other Chris will ride him." Antley rode Strike the Gold to victory for Zito in the 1991 Kentucky Derby. McCarron rode Zito's other Derby winner--Go For Gin--in 1994.

News Continued.**TOYOTA BLUE GRASS PRODUCES RECORD KEENELAND WAGERING**

Keeneland Race Course enjoyed a banner day for the Toyota Blue Grass S. last Saturday. The on-track handle of \$2,426,442 was the fifth largest in Keeneland's history. Moreover, ITW and OTB at Kentucky sites totaled \$1,275,193, and out-of-state wagering that was commingled amounted to \$4,943,483, making for a total of \$8,645,118 wagered on the Keeneland card, an all-time high. In addition, \$2,072,312 was wagered in separate pools out of state. Wagering records (from all sources) were set on the Blue Grass in the following categories: single race pool (\$1,067,669), exacta pool (\$726,679) and trifecta pool (\$475,681).

NO BLAME ON CHELTENHAM DEATH TOLL

An exhaustive investigation by Britain's Jockey Club has failed to apportion blame for the deaths of ten horses in 20 races at last month's National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham. Many factors, including large fields, the ground, fluorescent clothing worn by fence attendants and an airship used to provide high-altitude TV pictures, came under the official microscope. But no single agency was found to have caused the fatalities and the course itself was cleared of any faults. Cheltenham staff, as well as jockeys, trainers and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, made contributions to the inquiry and even the relatively modern trend of transferring former flat-race horses to jumps was looked into. However, although several factors--including the airship--are expected to be monitored in the future, no explanation for the death toll is defined in the lengthy report published by the Club Wednesday.

News Continued, p. 3.

FIT TO FIGHT

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News Continued.

PERTEMPS TO SPONSOR NEWMARKET

GUINEAS FESTIVAL Pertemps, the leading independent staff recruitment company in the United Kingdom, has agreed to sponsor next month's two Classics at Newmarket, the 2000 Guineas (May 4th) and 1000 Guineas (May 5th), in a hastily arranged package. These are the third English Classics to be sponsored by Pertemps. Last August they stepped in to secure the future of the Doncaster St. Leger. Pertemps's name will also be added to another Group race at the Guineas Festival, the Jockey Club Stakes, run Friday, May 3. The Guineas sponsorship is only for this year initially, but ongoing discussions are already taking place for Pertemps to take up an option to sponsor the Festival for another two years.

◆ **E A S T** ◆

Local News, Hialeah Park:

Two contenders for Saturday's GIII Hialeah Turf Cup at 9 1/2-furlongs worked yesterday. **Diplomatic Jet** (Roman Diplomat), third in the GIII Bougainvillea H. March 31, drilled a half-mile on the Hialeah turf in :46 3/5 around the dogs. GIII Widener H. winner **Mecke** (Maudlin), breezing at Calder, went the same distance in :49.

Two Hialeah jockeys emerged unharmed following separate mishaps in Wednesday's fifth race at 1 1/16-miles on the turf. Pedro Monterey, aboard **Promising Trial** (Skip Trial), was forced to bail out when his mount bolted going into the first turn and headed for the fence. Monterey, who walked to the First Aid Room under his own power, sustained several bumps on the head and a sore neck. Rosemary Homeister Jr., who was riding **Teachme ToDance** (Gate Dancer), went down when her mount clipped the heels of another horse in the final turn and fell. Homeister, who was favoring her right foot, needed assistance to get to the First Aid Room. She sustained a bruised instep on her right foot. The track physician sent her to Hialeah Hospital for precautionary X-rays. Both horses were unharmed.

Local News, Rockingham Park:

Horsemen are reminded that stall applications for the upcoming 100-day meet at Rockingham Park's 90th anniversary season are due by Tuesday, April 23. Rockingham will run from June 9 through October 16. For more information call 800-639-4704.

◆ **FOREIGN** ◆

Yesterday's Results:

EARL OF SEFTON S.-G3, \$46,820, Newmarket, England, 4-17, 4yo/up, 9fT, 1:47.96, gd/fm.

1--**LUSO (GB)**, 130, c, 4, Salse--**Lucayan Princess (Ire)** (SW-Eng), by **High Line (GB)**. O/B-Saaed Manana; T-Clive Brittain; J-M J Kinane; \$28,928. *Hwt at 3 in lty 11-14f. **1/2 to **Needle Gun (Ire)** (G3-Ire, MGSP-Eng & lty, GSP-Ger, SP-HK, \$188,875, by **Sure Blade**).

2--**Smart Alec (GB)**, 122, c, 4, Diesis (GB)--**Ahead (GB)**, by **Shirley Heights (GB)**. O-Gerald Leigh; \$10,692.

3--**First Island (Ire)**, 122, c, 4, Dominion (GB)--**Caymana (Fr)**, by **Bellypha (Ire)**. O-Mollers Racing; \$5,120.

Margins: head, 1 1/2, 3/4.

Also Ran: **Gabr (GB)** (\$2,081), **Restructure (Ire)**, **Desert Shot (GB)**; **Sacrament (GB)**, **Beauchamp Jazz (GB)**, **Lear White**.

Luso, winner of the 1995 Derby Italiano, was always in contention in this race, the pace initially being set by **BEAUCHAMP JAZZ (GB)** (Nishapour {Fr}). Allowing that rival to set the tempo, Luso tucked in behind and seemed content to wait, with **GABR (GB)** (Green Desert) in third place. **Beauchamp Jazz** was not able to hold on to his lead after the halfway mark, and Luso (who acted as pacemaker for **Lammtarra** in the **Arc de Triomphe** last October) was beautifully placed to snatch victory from the late run of **Smart Alec**, and the game but disappointing performance of **First Island**, who appeared to have been left with far too much to do. **Smart Alec** lost nothing in defeat, as he had not seen a racecourse for 550 days, but had been working extremely impressively at home. **Smart Alec**, having won his only two previous starts, definitely seems a horse to watch.

PRIX SERVANNE, \$47,164, Evry, France, 4-17, 3yo/up, 5.5fT, 1:04:80, gd.

1--**ANABAA**, 133, c, 4, **Danzig--Balbonella (Fr)** (GIII-N.A., G1-Fr, \$443,874), by **Gay Mecene**. O-Mme A Head; B-Gainsborough Farm Inc; T-Mme Criquelette Head; J-F. Head; \$27,285. *1/2 to **Key of Luck** (G3-Fr, SW-UAE, by **Chief's Crown**).

2--**Sepoy (Ire)**, 120, c, 3, **Common Grounds (GB)--Song Of The Glens (GB)**, by **Horage (Ire)**. O-Mme Malingue; \$9,355.

3--**Eastern Prophets (GB)**, 120, c, 3, **Emarati--Four Love (GB)**, by **Pas de Seul (GB)**. O-Hever Racing Club; \$5,847.

Margins: 4, short neck, 1/2.

Foreign Report Continued, p. 4.

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Foreign Report Continued.

NGK SPARK PLUGS EUROPEAN FREE H., \$40,736, Newmarket, England, 4-17, 3yo, 7fT, 1:22:98, gd/fm.

1--**CAYMAN KAI (IRE)**, 133, c, 3, **Imperial Frontier--Safiya**, by Riverman. O-I A N Wight; B-T. Burns; T-Richard Hannon; J-Pat Eddery; \$25,253. *GSW-Eng.

2--**Projection**, 124, c, 3, **Topsider--Image of Reality**, by In Reality. O-K. Abdullah; \$9,242.

3--**World Premier (GB)**, 132, c, 3, **Shareef Dancer--Abuzz (GB)**, by Absalom (GB). O-Mrs C E Brittain; \$4,432.

Margins: 1 3/4, neck, 1.

World Premier nearly died last year as a result of two serious bouts of colic, and ran on well here to be third.

◆ MIDWEST ◆

Yesterday's Results:

8th-KEE, \$41,820, Alw, 4yo/up, 6 1/2f, 1:15 (ETR), ft.

1--**AIR CRAFT**, 115, g, 6, **Crafty Prospector--We Believe in You (MSP)**, by *Vent Du Nord. O-S. Bush & M & M Stables & J. Walters; B-Preferred Stock Stables Corp (KY); T-Billy G. Ashabraner. Lifetime Record: MSW, 35-11-6-2, \$243,295.

2--**Commanche Trail**, 121, g, 5, **Copelan--Outstanding Jade**, by Distinctive.

3--**Fit 'n Pepi**, 115, g, 7, **Fit to Fight--Pepi Wiley**, by Hagley.

Margins: 4, HD, 1HF. Odds: 3.30, 0.90, 10.90.

Air Craft had won three straight, including the Mar. 2 Dust Commander S., before finishing second in the Pioneer S. in his last start Mar. 23. He returned to the winner's circle with a track record equaling performance. The chestnut gelding pressed the early pace, took the lead a furlong from the wire and drew off easily.

6th-KEE, \$41,580, Alw, 3yo, 7f, 1:22, ft.

1--**BASIC**, 115, c, 3, **Storm Bird--Siala (Fr)**, by Sharpman. O/B-Overbrook Farm (KY); T-D. Wayne Lukas. Lifetime Record: 9-4-1-0, \$89,796. * 1/2 to Accomodating (Akarad {Fr}), SW-Fr.

2--**Solo Practitioner**, 114, c, 3, **Doc's Leader--Orange Ice**, by Ginistrelli.

3--**Imperial Pass**, 112, c, 3, **Imperial Falcon--Coldallthetime**, by It's Freezing.

Margins: 5, 2HF, 2. Odds: 3.90, 17.10, 48.50.

Basic had scored back to back triumphs coming into this race and had three straight bullet works at Churchill Downs since his last race at Turfway Mar. 14. The colt dueled for the early lead and opened up daylight entering the stretch enroute to an easy win.

7th-KEE, \$37,840, Alw, 4yo/up, 1 1/8mT, 1:47 2/5, fm.

TIME STAR (h, 5, Manila--Valdemosa {Arg} {MGSW-Arg}, by Ringaro), winner of the G1 Derby Italiano two years ago, hadn't raced since finishing eighth in the G2 Princess of Wales S. last July 11 at Newmarket. Sent off at 3-2, the bay rated down the backstretch, circled rivals six wide entering the stretch to take the lead and finished 2 1/2 lengths in front under a hand ride. Lifetime Record: GSW-lty, 11-3-1-4, \$331,935. O-Newgate Stud. B-Marshall & Valerie Naify (KY). T-Neil Drysdale.

5th-KEE, \$35,670, Alw, 3yo, 1 1/8m, 1:50 1/5, ft.

DAMIEN'S FANTASY (g, 3, Darn That Alarm--Sterling Fantasy, by Silver Buck) took a Gulfstream \$25,000 claiming race two starts back before tiring to be third in a Turfway allowance Mar. 30. The Keeneland bettors didn't give him much respect here, sending the gray gelding off at 42-1. He and fellow longshot DIGNIFY (Capote) proved the bettors wrong, as they dueled for the lead, with Damien's Fantasy eeking out a length victory over the 38-1 shot. Lifetime Record: 11-3-0-3, \$45,931.

O-Frank Moreno. B-Walter Burke (FL). T-Emanuel Tortora.

4th-KEE, \$35,000, Msw, 3yo, 7f, 1:23 4/5, ft.

WILD DREAM (c, 3, Wild Again--Cara's Axe, by Lucy's Axe), a \$35,000 yearling acquisition at the 1994 KEESEP sales, was third in his debut Mar. 16 at Gulfstream. The colt, sent off the 7-5 favorite, vied for the early lead, swung to the outside for the drive and wore down the pacesetter for a 3/4-length win. Lifetime Record: 2-1-0-1, \$24,610.

O-A. Loeb & B. Ray & J.S. Sullivan. B-Benny Smith & Jurgen Arnemann (KY). T-W. Elliott Walden.

2nd-KEE, \$30,450, Msw, 4yo/up, 7f, 1:24 2/5, ft.

EDITORIAL SLAM (c, 4, With Approval--Hat Brim, by In Reality) had the best finish of his career last time out when he finished third last Nov. 15. Lightly regarded at 19-1, the colt rallied five wide entering the stretch and outfinished KEEP THE PEACE (Deputy Minister) for a 3/4 length win. Editorial Slam, a \$90,000 yearling purchase at the OBSAUG sales of 1993, is a half brother to Foundation Plan (Nodouble), MSW, \$192,402 and Speakerphone (Fappiano), MGSW, \$234,355. Lifetime Record: 5-1-0-0, \$18,080.

O-James R. Jundt. B-Harry T. Mangurian Jr. (FL). T-Lisa L. Lewis.

Midwest Report Continued, p. 5.

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**Local News, Keeneland:**

Mackie (Summer Squall), 6½-length winner of the GIII Busher S. at Aqueduct two starts back, breezed a half-mile in :48 3/5 over Keeneland's fast main track Wednesday. "Went perfect, the last three-eighths in :35," said her trainer Elliott Walden. Mackie is pointing to Saturday's GI \$500,000a Ashland S. for three-year-old fillies at 1 1/16-miles. "It's going to be a good race, a really good race," Walden said. "Hope we fit into the picture."

◆ NEW YORK ◆

Yesterday's Result:

8th-AQU, \$35,000, Alw, 3yo/up, 1 1/8m, 1:48 3/5, ft. STATE PRIZE (c, 3, Houston--Your Serve, by Conquistador Cielo), wire-to-wire winner of an allowance at this distance April 6, tried it again here 11 days later with the same results. Ridden once again by Jean Luc Samyn, the bay colt took the lead at the start and drew off under only mild encouragement to cross the wire 9 1/2-lengths the best as the 3-2 favorite. He was an \$85,000 Kee. Nov. weanling and a \$165,000 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga August yearling. Lifetime Record: 8-3-0-0, \$59,600. O-Georgia E. Hofmann. B-Wilmoth Interests Inc. (KY). T-H. Allen Jerkens.

◆ WEST ◆

Local News, Golden Gate Fields:

It was lights, cameras and (racing) action yesterday at Golden Gate, which is serving as a location site for the upcoming major motion picture "Metro." "Metro," an action/suspense thriller starring Eddie Murphy, will be released in early 1997 by Caravan Pictures. Murphy plays an inspector for the San Francisco Police Department who specializes in hostage negotiations. The movie crew will be back at Golden Gate Friday to wrap up the racetrack scenes.

Golden Gate will race Monday, April 22, closing day of the 1995-96 Santa Anita meeting. Post time is 12:30 p.m. at Santa Anita and 12:45 p.m. at Golden Gate.

◆ So. CALIFORNIA ◆

Yesterday's Results:

8th-SAX, \$50,000, Alw, 4yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:36 2/5, ft.
1--LADY SOROLLA, 116, f, 4, Pancho Villa--Princess Alydar, by Alydar. O-Mary Louise Sloan; B-Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Green (KY); T-Jenine Sahadi. Lifetime Record: 13-3-5-1, \$131,400. *1/2 to November Snow (MGI), \$554,628, by Storm Cat).
2--Molly Girl, 118, f, 4, Seattle Slew--Alydar's Promise, by Alydar.
3--Rhythninjava, 116, f, 4, Java Gold--Rambling Rhythm, by Delta Oil.
 Margins: 4HF, 2, HF. Odds: 2.00, 2.30, 2.50.

Lady Sorolla, third in a similar allowance in her last start March 14, improved off that effort with an off-the-pace, 4 1/2-length tally as the 2-1 favorite in this six-horse field.

7th-SAX, \$46,000, Alw, 3yo, 1m, 1:37 2/5, ft.

1--HESABULL, 117, c, 3, Dispersal--Proud Clarioness (MSW, \$229,111), by Tri Jet. O-Three Sisters Stable; B-Lou-Roe Farms (FL); T-Mike Chambers. Lifetime Record: 5-2-2-0, \$64,475.

2--Jamboree John, 115, c, 3, Blushing John--Alabama Nana (Ire), by Thatching.

3--Liberty Road, 115, c, 3, Fortunate Prospect--Setting Trick, by Tom Rolfe.

Margins: HF, 5, 1. Odds: 3.10, 2.20, 9.40.

Hesabull, who broke his maiden by four lengths at this distance in his last outing March 31, made it two in a row here with a gate-to-wire, 1/2-length tally under regular rider Eddie Delahoussaye. 9-5 favorite GREAT TREASURE (Naevus) forced the pace outside the eventual winner to the second turn, then weakened to be 6th and last. The first and third-place finishers are both Triple Crown nominated.

1st-SAX, \$37,000, Msw, 2yo, f, 2f, :21 4/5, ft.

+ULTIMATE HONOR (f, 2, Norquestor--Beyond the Fringe, by Dewan), a \$9,000 weanling at the 1994 FTMDEC sales and \$10,000 yearling at the '95 FTMSEP sales, was sent off the 8-5 favorite in her debut. The filly went right for the lead and held it throughout. She had 3/4 lengths on QUIET CALLER (Caller I.D.) at the wire. Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$20,350. O/T-Summer Mayberry. B-Peganna Stable (Md).

Local News, Santa Anita/Hollywood Park:

Santa Anita H. winner **Mr Purple** (Deputy Minister) drilled a half-mile in :47 3/5 Monday at Santa Anita.

Eclipse Award winner **Northern Spur (Ire)** (Sadler's Wells), unraced since fourth in the Feb. 19 GII San Luis Obispo H., worked seven furlongs in 1:27 3/5 at Santa Anita Monday in a prep for the \$200,000 San Francisco Mile (GII) April 28 at Golden Gate Fields.

FOALING NEWS:

FORLADIESONLY, 10, Sovereign Dancer--Cricket Club (Dr. Fager)

Foal born 3-28-96, a colt by Woodman.

Will be bred back to Kingmambo.

Owned by Philip Ireland and Dave Penna.

Boarded at Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Ky.

Accomplishments: MSW of \$431,324.

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W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

FILLIES TAKE CENTER STAGE

By: Bill Leggett

This Saturday there will be a contemplative pause on the boulevard leading to the May 4 Kentucky Derby as the richest race ever run exclusively for three-year-old fillies, the \$500,000-added Ashland, comes up at Keeneland.

That purse record will nearly be matched a mere 12 days later when the \$500,000-guaranteed Kentucky Oaks is contested at Churchill Downs. This year, not only does the Oaks get televised by ESPN, but it will also serve as the first part of a new wager, the "Derby Double," that will ask players to pick the Oaks winner and the following day's Derby hero. Churchill hopes to have all the tracks that commingle with the Downs join in. Not mentioned, of course, is the number of live tickets that will be lost in Louisville saloons Friday and Saturday before the Derby is run.

Last year we really didn't have a true three-year-old filly year. We had a Serena's Song Year. She towered over her division by winning the Jim Beam at Turfway in addition to the Haskell at Monmouth Park versus colts, and seven major events against fillies. On her way to the Derby she skipped over the Ashland and Oaks, races that were worth \$300,000 each a year ago.

"I was amazed," says Shug McGaughey, the trainer of Ogden Phipps' **My Flag** (Easy Goer), "when I saw that both these races had been upped to \$500,000. To me, that meant pointing My Flag to both of them was a 'no brainer.' It's a good thing to bring attention to the three-year-old filly division."

Because the three-year-old colts and geldings usurp the spring spotlight, a lot of people have probably paid little or no attention whatsoever to the fillies. But they are very, very good and far more versatile than they have been in recent years. With **Unbridled's Song** (Unbridled) winning last week's Wood Memorial, **Skip Away** (Skip Trial) taking the Blue Grass and **Zarb's Magic** (Zarbyev) picking up the Arkansas Derby, the stunning effort by **Pike Place Dancer** (Seattle Dancer) in the \$200,000 California Derby at Golden Gate Fields went virtually unnoticed outside of Northern California.

She not only defeated 10 male rivals, but went off as the favorite and became the first filly to win a "Cal Derby" since Calumet Farm's Miz Clementine 42 years previously. Pike Place Dancer has now won five of six lifetime starts and is perfect on grass at three for three. Part owner and trainer Jerry Hollendorfer is now contemplating sending her to the Oaks, a race he won in 1991 with Lite Light.

My Flag's last start was a 1 1/2 length win in the

\$200,000 Bonnie Miss March 14, the third time McGaughey has won that race in the last four years. In '93 Dispute came out of it to win the Kentucky Oaks and in '94 he used it for Inside Information on her way to victory in the Ashland.

"My Flag," McGaughey says, "had a wonderful winter at Payson Park. She is less flighty than she was last year and she has been training very well. You would probably want more than 12 days between the two races, but that is the way the cards fall and we intend to run her in both." The horse that the daughter of Easy Goer--Personal Ensign defeated at Gulfstream, Allen Paulson's **Escena** (Strawberry Road {Aus}), bounced right back to wallop **Antespend** (Spend a Buck) by seven in the \$250,000 Fantasy at Oaklawn. Antespend had previously won seven of eight, but she came out of the gate poorly at Oaklawn and had some trouble grabbing the track. But Escena, a Bill Mott trainee, is no empty bucket. She has won four of six with a second and a third. Both Antespend and Escena are Oaks bound.

"What's rather strange," says W. Elliot Walden, at 33 one of racing's rising training stars, "is that you tend to think of the Ashland as a prep for the Oaks in the same way you consider the Blue Grass a prep for the Derby. But how often do you see a \$500,000 prep race for a \$500,000 race?"

Walden has three excellent stakes winning fillies in his barn and do they ever have range. **Mackie** (Summer Squall), who will start in the Ashland, was a \$550,000 weanling buy; Oaks-bound **Birr** (Farma Way) ran for a \$50,000 tag at Belmont last year and **Clamorosa** (Seattle Dancer), who recently won the \$108,750 Bourbonette at Turfway, was a \$25,000 claim. Mackie, by the way, is a half-sister to Derby winner Sea Hero.

"I'm going to start Mackie in the Ashland and Birr in the Oaks because I think it works out best for them that way," Walden says. "I would like more time between the two races, but things are as they are."

Golden Attraction (Mr. Prospector), last year's Eclipse Award winning two-year-old filly, is still away from the races after having suffered a stress fracture of a hind cannon bone. Obviously, some new faces have popped up to make the division highly entertaining. On the day that Escena won the Fantasy, Nick Zito sent out Dogwood's **Golden Gale** (Summer Squall), a \$60,000 yearling that turned into a \$150,000 two-year-old, to defeat Birr by 2 1/2 lengths in the \$136,125 Beaumont. Golden Gale, bound for the Ashland, will now try the 1 1/16 miles of the Ashland after running up four consecutive victories, all oddly at seven furlongs.

Dyna Whirl (Dynaformer), who broke her maiden by 21 lengths last Sept. 29, made her first '96 start in the \$71,240 Appalachian for trainer Burk Kessinger and won by a nose. She also will be an Ashland starter as the three-year-old fillies go after some mammoth jackpots, and isn't it about time?



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

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

6th-SAX, \$42,000, 4yo/up, f/m, a6 1/2fT, 1:16 1/5, fm.

RACE ROSA (NZ) (m, 7, Conquistarose--Miss Renee {NZ}, by Sharivari) Lifetime Record: SP-NZ, 34-4-5-4, \$46,343. O-Lieber & Miller & Sommers. B-R. Hanford (NZ). T-Russell B. Livermore.

7th-AQU, \$31,000, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 2/5, ft.
FOREVER TRUE (f, 3, Forever Silver--Answer True, by Dr. Blum) Lifetime Record: 4-2-1-0, \$42,000. O-Gracie Hill Stable. B-Juliana Garofalo (NY). T-Michael Gallo.

4th-SPT, \$29,000, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:09 2/5, ft.
PANTSY (c, 4, Proud Irish--Miss Naevus, by Naevus) Lifetime Record: SP, 17-5-3-4, \$95,750. O-Jean & Ted Barlas. B-Jose Silva (CA). T-Michele Boyce.

9th-SPT, \$26,000, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 1m, 1:39 4/5, ft.
MEDIA BLITZ (f, 4, Media Starguest {Ire}--Lamonto Miss {SP}, by Laomedonte) Lifetime Record: MSP, 26-3-8-4, \$103,206. O-Robert Kessler. B-Sky Wood Farm & Robert Kessler (IL). T-Richard P. Hazelton.

8th-DEL, \$24,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:12 1/5, ft.
FLIGHT OF JOY (f, 4, Nepal--Oblivious Star {MSP}, by Star de Naskra) Lifetime Record: SP, 17-4-6-3, \$70,581. O/T-Charles W. Baddeley. B-Don Tesouro (PA).

9th-HIA, \$16,000, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:10 4/5, ft.
CASCADE CANYON (f, 4, Unreal Zeal--Grope, by T.V. Commercial) Lifetime Record: 16-4-2-1, \$46,255. O-Cobble View Stable. B-Elser Farm Corp. (NY). T-Luis Olivares.

10th-HIA, \$15,000, 3yo, f, a1 1/8mT, 1:48, fm.
SLEEPLESSNSeattle (f, 3, Seattle Dancer--Paradise Coffee {GB}, by Sharpo {GB}) Lifetime Record: 4-2-0-0, \$15,160. O-Wendy Jennings. B-David E. Hager II (KY). T-Lawrence Jennings Jr.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

+ Ultimate Honor, f, 2, Norquestor--Beyond the Fringe, by Dewan. SAX, 4-17, 2f, :21 4/5. B-Peganna Stable (Md). *\$9,000 wlng '94 FTMDEC; \$10,000 yrl '95 FTMSEP.

Seashelley, f, 3, Cox's Ridge--Able Maid (SW), by Good Behaving. AQU, 4-17, 1m, 1:39 2/5. B-Walter & Faith Donnelly (Ky). *1/2 to Able Money (Distinctive), MGSW, \$169,370.

Finally Kissed, f, 3, Festive--Neverbenkissed, by Never Bend. DEL, 4-17, 6f, 1:14. B-Paul & Wilma Paulisin, Et Al (Fl).

In the Rain, c, 3, Fortunate Prospect--Raininsky, by Nijinsky II. AQU, 4-17, 6 1/2f, 1:16 3/5. B-Hobeau Farm, Ltd (Fl).

Unsold (GB), c, 3, Green Desert--Shoot Clear (GSW-Eng), by Bay Express. HIA, 4-17, a1 1/16mT, 1:42 2/5. B-R H Cowell (GB).

Superetta, f, 3, Saratoga Six--Best Number (GSP, \$123,794), by Soy Numero Uno. AQU, 4-17, 1m, 1:40. B-Larry & Hubert Moore, Et Al (Ky). *\$26,000 yrl '94 KEESEP.

Fickle Flirt, f, 3, Sure to Fire--Darling Darling, by Vested Power. SAX, 4-17, (S), 5 1/2f, 1:05. B-Carole Shannon Bohm (Ca).

Wild Dream, c, 3, Wild Again--Cara's Axe, by Lucy's Axe. KEE, 4-17, 7f, 1:23 4/5. B-Benny Smith & Jurgen Arnemann (Ky). *\$35,000 yrl '94 KEESEP.

Benevolence, c, 4, Cutlass Reality--Altruism, by Al Nasr (Fr). SAX, 4-17, 6 1/2f, 1:16 2/5. B-Harris Farms, Inc (Ca).

Boiserie, g, 4, Irish River (Fr)--Danzig in the Park, by Danzig. SAX, 4-17, 1 1/8mT, 1:50. B-Austin Taylor (Can).

Editorial Slam, c, 4, With Approval--Hat Brim, by In Reality. KEE, 4-17, 7f, 1:24 2/5. B-Harry T. Mangurian Jr (Fl). *\$90,000 yrl '93 OBSAUG. **1/2 to Foundation Plan (Nodouble), MSW, \$192,402; Speakerphone (Fappiano), MGSW, \$234,355.

A # will distinguish first-time stakes-winners, a @ will indicate first-time graded stakes-winners, a + will denote winners who are first-time starters, an (S) will be used for state-bred races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.

FOALING NEWS:

DIXIE FINE, 6, L'Emigrant--Luv Luvin' (Raise a Native) Foal born 3-29-96, a filly by Quiet American.

Will be bred back to Tabasco Cat.

Owned by Farrel Lundy.

Boarded at Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Ky.

Accomplishments: MSW of \$74,424; first foal.

TRACK ABBREVIATIONS:

AQU	Aqueduct	CTX	Charles Town
DEL	Delaware Park	DET	Ladbroke DRC
FLX	Finger Lakes	GGX	Golden Gate
GSX	Garden State Park	HIA	Hialeah Park
HOU	Sam Houston	HST	Hastings Park
KEE	Keeneland	PEN	Penn National
PHA	Philadelphia Park	PIM	Pimlico
RPX	Remington Park	SAX	Santa Anita
SPT	Sportsman's Park	SUF	Suffolk Downs
TAM	Tampa Bay Downs	TDN	Thistledown
TUP	Turf Paradise	YMX	Yakima Mdws