

The Thoroughbred Daily News is delivered to your fax each morning by 5 a.m. For subscription information, please call (732) 747-8060.

THOROUGHBRED™

D • A • I • L • Y N • E • W • S



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1998

\$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

W • R • I • T • E • R • S U P

SKIP AWAY UNLIKELY FOR BIG 'CAP Skip Away (Skip Trial) remains on target for the Feb. 28 GI Gulfstream Park H., trainer Sonny Hine said yesterday. Though not totally ruling out a start in the March 7 GI Santa Anita H., Hine said it was highly unlikely he would head west with his stable star after Santa Anita was unable to increase the purse of the \$1 million race. "Without any bonus there, it doesn't make sense to go," Hine said. "(The additional purse money) would have made a lot of difference. As it is now, I might as well stay home. If they were giving \$1 million to the winner, I'd have to go." Hine is also concerned that **Gentlemen (Arg)** (Robin des Bois) will pass the race for the Dubai World Cup, lessening the challenge a Big 'Cap start would pose. Santa Anita officials had hoped to increase the purse of the Big 'Cap to \$1.6 million to entice Skip Away, but the Thoroughbred Owners of California blocked the increase.

MR. PROSPECTOR COLT OUT OF FASIG-TIPTON CALDER SALE For the second time in two years, the only Mr. Prospector colt catalogued for the Fasig-Tipton Calder Selected Two-Year-Olds in Training Sale has been scratched from the auction with a minor veterinary condition. Hip number 185, a dark bay colt by Mr. Prospector--Seattle Drama (Seattle Slew) in the consignment of the William Harrigan Sales Agency, was scheduled to sell on February 24, in the second session of the upcoming two-day sale. "He would most likely have topped our sale and possibly the whole auction and it's a blow not to get to take him to the ring," said a disappointed Bill Harrigan. "He has a minor irritation behind and Dr. Mark Cheney advises we give him only light training for the next 30 days. We reached the decision to scratch him after discussing these circumstances with my client and with Fasig-Tipton." Just prior to last year's Fasig-Tipton Calder sale, a colt by Mr. Prospector--Fantastic Look also had to be scratched due to a minor injury.

"TRICKY" QUESTIONS

By Frank Carlson

Ten miles west of Interstate 95 sits Payson Park. The last eight miles of the journey are through scrub pines and scattered palms. At Payson, a dirt road, barely wide enough for two cars, splits the barns leading to the training track. Barn 3B, one of four trainer Bill Mott leases each winter, holds three champion horses. On one side is Favorite Trick, the 1997 Horse of the Year, a couple stalls down is Countess Diana, champion juvenile filly, on the other side is Ajina, champion three-year-old filly. Many of the other 21 stalls hold graded-stakes winners. Barn 3B is arguably the second most valuable piece of real estate in Palm Beach County, behind Donald Trump's home on the Atlantic Ocean.

On Friday the 13th, Mott sat with the *Thoroughbred Daily News* for his first lengthy interview since he got Favorite Trick, the first two-year-old Horse of the Year since Secretariat. Mott picked him up on January 7, a couple of days after trainer Pat Byrne took a private job with Canadian industrialist Frank Stronach.

TDN: How far along in his training is Favorite Trick?
Mott: He's coming up on his third breeze. He's coming along fairly quickly, with the amount of time he had off. Some horses seem to be difficult to get going. He seemed to fall right into the groove again. It hasn't taken long at all. Pat Byrne said I'd probably be surprised how quickly he'd come around, and I think he's right.

Cont. p. 3

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18:

2-28 \$500,000 *Gulfstream Park H.-GI, GP, 3yo/up, 10f (\$500)*

3-1 \$200,000 *Rampart H.-GII, GP, 3yo/up, f/m, 8.5f (\$250)*

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19:

2-28 \$150,000 *Buena Vista H.-GII, SA, 4yo/up, f/m, 8f (\$150)*

3-1 \$200,000 *San Rafael-GII, SA, 3yo, 8f (\$200)*



INSIDE	"TRICKY" QUESTIONS	1&3-4
	NEWS CONTINUED	2
	RACING REPORTS	2
	TOTAL PAGES	4



(News cont.)

NEW TRACK FOR HOLLYWOOD Hollywood Park has installed a new surface on its 1 1/8-mile main track for the 1998 spring/summer meeting, which opens Friday, April 24. The surface, similar to the one installed on the half-mile training track in March of 1997, is sandier than before and includes binding materials to complement a lower content of silt and clay. "While we believe we've had an excellent main track, we also feel we have a responsibility to seek future improvements," Hollywood Park General Manager Eual G. Wyatt, Jr. said. "Like everyone in the industry, we hold horses in high regard and we want the best conditions possible. The surface has received excellent reviews and we're excited about entering a new era at our 1998 meeting." Trainer Jack Van Berg gives the new surface his seal of approval. "It's the most comfortable track I've seen in a long time," the Hall of Fame conditioner said. "If horses could smile, they'd be grinning from ear to ear."

◆ FOREIGN ◆

Stakes Results:

KYOTO KINEN-G2-Jpn, \$959,969, Kyoto Racecourse, Japan, 2-15, 3yo/up, 11fT, 2:16.3, fm.

1--**MIDNIGHT BET**, 123, c, 4, **Housebuster--Catherine's Bet (GSW, \$247,512)**, by Grey Dawn II. (\$120,000 wnlg '94 KEENOV). O-Shadai Race Horse; B-John R. Williams & Manganaro Stables Ltd.; T-Hirokyu Nagahama; J-Olivier Peslier; \$505,312. * 1/2 to Blushing Katy (Blushing Groom {Fr}), Ch. 3yo Filly-Can, MSW, \$376,008. Lifetime Record: 12-7-1-1.

2--**Ishino Sunday (Jpn)**, 128, h, 5, Sunday Silence--Jefforee, by Alydar. O-Ishijima. \$204,455.

3--**Meiner Bridge (Jpn)**, 128, h, 6, Rousillon--Hashiko (Jpn), by Royal Ski. O-K. Thoroughbred Club Ruffian. \$125,592.

Margins: 1 1/2, NS, HD. Odds: 2.00, 13.50, 5.60.

Midnight Bet was looking for his fourth straight win and his second graded stakes victory in a row after scoring in the January 5 G3-Jpn Kyoto Kimpai in his last effort. Fifth of the 10 runners early, the bay colt began challenging for the lead at the top of the stretch, took over at midstretch and drew off to score confidently. "Considering the track condition, I didn't want to be on the rail," explained winning jockey Olivier Peslier. "The race unfolded much like I thought it would and he gave a gutsy performance to get to the front. I think he will be able to compete at longer distances."

AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS IN ENGLAND:

Dukhan, c, 4, **Silver Hawk--Azayim (Ire)** (GSP-Fr), by Be My Guest. Southwell, 2/16, Nevada Limited S., 4yo/up, 1 1/2m (all-weather track), \$3,394 to winner. O-Ms Jan Fletcher; B-Shadwell Farm Inc & Shadwell Estate Co Ltd; T-Eric Alston. * 1/2 to Watani (Riverman), SW-Eng, \$210,658.

Threadneedle, g, 5, **Danzig Connection--Sleeping Beauty (GB)**, by Mill Reef. Lingfield, 2/17, Awesome Power Claiming S., 4yo/up, 1 1/4m (all-weather track), \$4,609 to winner. O/B-Her Majesty The Queen; T-Lord Huntingdon.

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

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

9th-PHA, \$25,000, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:45 4/5, my. **MISSED CONFESSION (h, 5, Evening Kris--Sunday Shoes, by Warm Front)** Lifetime Record: 21-7-3-3, \$131,391. O-White Birch Farm. B-Marie Parisi (NJ). T-Faustino F Ramos.

7th-PHA, \$23,400, 4yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:04, my. **IRON IRON IRON (c, 4, Burts Star--Private Iron, by Iron Constitution)** Lifetime Record: 16-5-4-3, \$78,739. O/B-Our Farm Inc (PA). T-Ernest Cranfield.

8th-PHA, \$18,700, 4yo/up, 1 1/16m, 1:46 1/5, my. **CASUAL CONFLICT (c, 4, Fit to Fight--Casual Aside, by Relaunch)** Lifetime Record: 8-2-1-1, \$26,440. O-Lawrie Peter D & Richards Althea D. B-Johnson Althea Richards Mrs. (VA). T-Mark Perlswieg. * 1/2 to Reside (Broad Brush), SW, \$132,691.

MAIDEN WINNER:

Exuberant Slew, f, 3, **Tsunami Slew--Exuberant Girl**, by Exuberant. PHA, 2-17, a1m70yd, 1:47 2/5. B-Linne Janice (Fl). *\$3,500 2yo 1997 OBSJUN.

© Copyright Thoroughbred Daily News. This newspaper may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic mechanical, without prior written permission of the copyright owner, MediaVista. Information as to the races, race results and earnings was obtained from results charts published in Daily Racing Form and utilized herewith with the permission of the copyright owner, Daily Racing Form.

DOES "BREED SHAPER" SUNDAY SILENCE HAVE A SON
AT STUD OUTSIDE JAPAN?

FUJIKISEKI (Jpn)
(Sunday Silence - Millracer)

HIS UNDEFEATED CHAMPION 2YO STANDS AT ARROWFIELD IN 1998.



Australia's
ARROWFIELD STUD

John Messara

Phone: +61 2 9223 8277

Fax: +61 2 9223 5795

E-MAIL: agstaff@arrowfield.com.au

www.arrowfield.com.au



"Tricky" Questions cont. from p. 1

Q: Are you surprised at how people look at this horse...that he's starting too late, he's never going to get to the Derby? Is it because he's up here at Payson Park?

M: I think there was a point before I'd even seen him that I'd probably mentioned it myself, and this probably started the war of words with Pat Byrne. I'd said, "The horse had been off 60 days. It kind of puts him on a tight schedule." Well for most horses it probably would. I've had a lot of horses that you stop 60 days, or 48 days, and it's hard to really get them cranked up. This horse seems to do well, he didn't fall back--didn't back up that much. He's got all the experience it would ever take. He's got eight races, he's been two turns...he's a great horse...he started early last year...he went all year. He needs no more seasoning, he just needs conditioning to bring him up to racing fitness. The horse can get there, if he's sound and we are able to train along. He can be fit enough to run and he can make the Derby. Then it's a matter of if he can go a mile and a quarter.

Q: What route would you take to the Derby?

M: For now I'm going to say the Swale (Gill, March 14, seven furlongs at Gulfstream) and the Blue Grass (Gill, April 11, 1 1/8 miles at Keeneland). It gives me something to shoot for and gives everybody else something to look at. The Blue Grass is one you'd have to consider. He's won over the track a couple of times. Keeneland is somewhat speed oriented. I think horses carry their speed there very well. I think Keeneland would be a track well suited for him. If he's going to get a mile and an eighth, I'd think he'd be suited for a mile and an eighth at Keeneland.

Q: Are you going to stick with (Pat) Day?

M: Yes, he's got the mount as long as he wants it as far as I'm concerned, and if the owner is happy, I'm happy with that. I know Jerry (Bailey) has got some other obligations. Pat fits him very well and I don't see any reason to change right now.

TELL IT TO THE TDN...

Want to send a "Letter to the Editor" of the *Thoroughbred Daily News*? Our address is 811 River Rd., Fair Haven, NJ, 07704; or send a fax to: (732) 747-8955; or an e-mail to: Tbrednews@AOL.com.

Q: Can Favorite Trick get a mile and a quarter?

M: That's the question. It'll be the question until they pop the gate and they're running in the Derby. With most of the field, you'll look down (at your *Daily Racing Form*) and say, "This one is by Pine Bluff, well maybe he can." With another horse, "Well, he's rank." Another, "I don't know if he can rate." Another, "Is he really bred to go that far...will he settle enough?" There are those questions, it won't only be Favorite Trick, it'll be the same question for 90 percent of the field. And there will be horses in there that you know will just keep coming (at the end of the race.) Favorite Trick will be ready to go a mile and a quarter on Derby day, if that's what he wants to do. He's going to be fit enough to run. Now, whether he wants a mile and a quarter is another question. He probably doesn't. He doesn't have the scope of a mile-and-a-quarter horse. He looks more like a seven-furlong to a mile horse.

Q: If you think a mile and a quarter is not the right distance for a horse, would you still place him in a race at that distance if the owner wanted it?

M: I would if he ran well at a mile and an eighth, and it looked like there was a fighting chance. I would probably do it if that's what the owner's wishes were. I think if he shows us leading up to the Derby that it's not the right thing to do, if he shows at a mile and an eighth that he's really stretching, then I'd think we'd have to reconsider. If there's no question about it, Mr. Lacombe would like to go to the Derby and there's nothing wrong with that. I think he wants to do the right thing by the horse. He does have what I think is a lot of compassion for the horse, just in the things he's said to me. He wants to go to the Derby, but he wants to do the right thing by the horse. I think he's very realistic about that. I think if he performs well in his two races that we've got planned for him, and it looks like (the Derby field) is a group of horses he fits in with, we might as well take a shot...I'd like to approach it in a sensible manner. I don't think we have to be the 2-1 favorite to run in there, but we've got to believe we've got a chance to do well, make a good appearance. We don't want to be beaten 20 lengths.

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, a (C) will be used for maiden-claiming races and an (R) will be used for other restricted races.

Three-year-old **PROSPECTOR'S SONG**
 – TWO 1998 starts and TWO 1998 stakes wins –
 is from the **FIRST CROP** by

PROSPECTOR'S MUSIC



606•846•5214



Q: When you were called and asked to take this horse, did you spend a lot of time thinking about it? Did you say, "I'll take him," or did you say, "I'll get back to you in a day or so."

M: I thought about it before anybody ever called. You know they're looking for a trainer. It goes through your mind, "I wonder what I'd say if they called me?" I had no idea they'd call. But he did call. We met for a couple of hours and sat right here (in Mott's office at Payson Park) and we spoke. He had his list, he had questions about what my thoughts were. And I gave him answers as best I could. I didn't pump him up, you know, patting him on the rear end trying to get the horse. I told him when he left here I knew I was being considered because he was interviewing me, but I knew he had other people on his mind, too. I walked out to his car with him, and I said, "By the way, how important is the Derby to you? Do you want to run in the Derby?" I didn't know if he was coming back to me or not, then he called me that night.

Q: Aren't you in line for heavy criticism if Favorite Trick-and Countess Diana-- don't succeed?

M: With both horses, I know there's not a lot of up side for me. I knew that going in. I know I'm setting myself up for some criticism, and for possibly a very humbling experience. Naturally I want the horses to be able to perform as they performed for the last guy. I mean, I don't know how you could ever expect to do better than eight-for-eight...but they'll have to perform well for me. It's a big challenge just to get Favorite Trick back to the races and to get him to make a good showing. I don't think it's going to be possible to do better. Show improvement? There's nothing to improve, there's no possible way. It's just a matter of keeping them going. They're stepping up into a new age group, and different distances, so it's a challenge for me and the horses. When you said, "Did I think about it?," yeah, I thought about it and wondered, do I really want to do this?

Q: If Favorite Trick doesn't get to the Derby, for whatever reason, is there this perception that Bill Mott can't get a horse to the Derby?

M: Oh, believe me, that's the first thing I thought about. I'm taking a horse that's been a great horse--at that time he wasn't Horse of the Year, but I had all the respect in the world for him and I knew he was brilliant at what he did. But, I am also aware of his pedigree, that he has some distance limitations...as do all

horses. I chuckled to myself--I'm sitting here looking at this (situation) and I say to myself, "This is stupid." If I take him, crank him up, get him ready and if I don't run him in the Derby, that's the first thing that gets said (that Mott can't get a horse to the Derby). That's one of the other reasons I said, "Do I want to? Do I really want to do this?"

Q: What if the horse wins the Blue Grass, but he doesn't kill them, or he runs respectably, but doesn't win?

M: If, for example, the horse doesn't run well, or if we make the decision not to run, if he staggers a little going a mile and an eighth, I'd get more attention if I didn't run him. Yeah, that phone wouldn't stop ringing. I think if the Blue Grass were a win or a decent race then the owner would probably encourage me to run. I'd probably go ahead, if he was sound and healthy. I'd probably go along with it. I couldn't say, "Let's pass it."

Q: What happens when the pressure starts?

M: I'll love it. (The media pressure of the Derby) is probably more, for at least a couple of weeks, than with any of Cigar's races. I've actually looked down at the media crowd (at Churchill Downs) around Wayne's (Lukas) barn, its like wall-to-wall people.

Q: What would the problem be for you to win the Blue Grass, still undefeated, and say, "Let's wait till the Preakness?"

M: Nothing. Not if it's the right thing to do for the horse, and if you really think that a mile and a quarter is going to be beyond his boundary. I suppose I'll take a few hits.

Q: Is the owner the type of guy you can say, "Listen, he staggered in the Blue Grass, he's a Phone Trick, he's not going to go a mile and a quarter, why don't we just save him, don't knock him out, come back in the Preakness." Is he the type of guy to say to you, "Yeah, OK,"?

M: I think he is. I think he's that type of guy, now. But, I think when they really tighten the screws, like when he gets a hundred people calling him, it's going to put the pressure on him. I think that's a fact of life. Hey, maybe Bill Mott will change, too. When it gets a little closer, maybe he'll melt a little bit, I don't know. Right now there's no pressure, we're sitting here, on what? February 13. Friday the 13th...Oh.



THE JIM BEAM

\$600,000 Guaranteed – Grade II

Three-Year-Olds • One Mile & One Eighth • Runs March 28

HURRY!
Nominations Close
Saturday,
February 21
(Fee \$100)