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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1998

\$2 Daily

N • E • W • S T O D A Y

FORMAL GOLD RETIRED Formal Gold (Black Tie Affair {Ire}) has been retired, it was announced yesterday by trainer Bill Perry. On the comeback trail following surgery to repair a condylar fracture to his right hind cannon bone, Formal Gold suffered a new injury while training at Hialeah. Perry discovered heat in the horse's right front ankle and x-rays revealed it was the beginning of erosion in the cartilage and joint. "We didn't want to do anything to hurt the horse or his form," Perry said. "It looked like he wasn't going to come back as strong as he was before the first injury, and that's not what we wanted for him." Perry said such an injury could also predispose a horse to a fracture. "I'm sick over it," Perry said. "We lost an opportunity last year to run in the Breeders' Cup and obviously we wanted to get him there this year. He's left a pretty big hole in my barn." Formal Gold won eight of 16 career starts and earned \$1,533,600. The highlights of his career were wins over Skip Away in last year's GI Donn H. and in the GI Woodward. Owner John D. Murphy Sr. has yet to finalize breeding plans. Murphy also announced the retirement of his five-year-old mare **Star de Lady Ann** (Star de Naskra). The winner of the 1996 GI Acorn S. raced only once in 1997, finishing sixth in the GIII First Lady H. at Gulfstream in January. After unsuccessful attempts to bring her back to the races, the mare retires with five wins in eight starts and earnings of \$196,830.

FAVORITE TRICK, LIL'S LAD WORK Horse of the Year **Favorite Trick** (Phone Trick) worked a half-mile yesterday at Oaklawn Park in :49 in preparation for Saturday's GII Arkansas Derby. During a *Thoroughbred Racing Communications* teleconference, trainer Bill Mott said he was happy with the colt's work. "I was able to get some company for him," explained Mott. "We were looking to get a half-mile work in :50, and he did half-mile in :49. Both horses went off easily and picked it up nicely through the stretch. He finished up the last quarter in :23 and change, the last eighth in :11." Another top Kentucky Derby contender worked yesterday, as **Lil's Lad** (Pine Bluff) went five furlongs at Keeneland in 1:00 3/5 in preparation for Saturday's GII Toyota Blue Grass. The colt set fractions of :24, :48 3/5 and galloped out in 1:13 3/5. "He's doing good," commented trainer Neil Howard after the move. "I think everything is going according to plan."

S • T • A • K • E • S P R E V I E W

Today, Keeneland:

LAFAYETTE S.-GIII, \$100,000, 3yo, 7f, post time: 4:26 EDT.

The field, in order of the draw, is as follows: **Swear by Dixie** (Dixieland Band), Albarado, 114; **Sophisticated Man** (Cure the Blues), Santos, 114; **Flashing Tammany** (Tammany), Sellers, 114; **Polished Brass** (Dixie Brass), Day, 116; **Dontletthebigonego** (Pentelicus), Martinez, 114; **Late Edition** (Cryptoclearance), Bailey, 114.

Today, Saint-Cloud, France:

PRIX EDMOND BLANC-G3, \$59,658, 4yo/up, 1mT

The field, in post position order, is as follows: **Marathon** (Diesis {GB}), O Doleuze, 128; **Kaldou Star** (GB) (Kaldoun {Fr}), T Thulliez, 128; **Night Player** (Ire) (Night Shift), D Boeuf, 123; **Jim And Tonic** (Fr) (Double Bed {Fr}), G Mosse, 128; **Shaka** (GB) (Exit To Nowhere), J R Dubosc, 130; **Kart Star** (Ire) (Soviet Star), T Jarnet, 120; **Keos** (Riverman), C Asmussen, 123; **Accento** (GB) (Midyan), P Van de Keere, 123.

Saturday, Aqueduct:

WOOD MEMORIAL S.-GII, \$500,000, 3yo, 9f

Tampa Bay Derby winner **Parade Ground** (Kingmambo) blazed five furlongs yesterday at Aqueduct in :58 4/5.

Overreactshawn (Cleone) breezed five furlongs in 1:00 2/5.

STAKES CLOSINGS

TODAY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8:

4-18 \$250,000 **Santa Barbara H.-GII, SA, 4yo/up, f/m, 10fT (\$250)**

4-18 \$125,000 **Beaumont-GII, Kee, 3yo, f, 7f 184ft (\$125)**

4-18 \$100,000 **San Simeon H.-GIII, SA, 4yo/up, 6.5fT (\$100)**

4-19 \$325,000 **Coolmore Lexington-GII, Kee, 3yo, 8.5f (\$325)**

4-19 \$250,000 **Texas Mile, LS, 3yo/up, 8f (\$0)**

4-19 \$250,000 **Lone Star Derby, LS, 3yo, 8.5f (\$0)**

4-19 \$100,000 **Las Cienegas H.-GIII, SA, 4yo/up, f/m, 6.5fT (\$100)**

5-1 \$150/100,000 **Louisville Breeders' Cup-GII, CD, 3yo/up, f/m, 8.5f (\$250)**

TOMORROW, THURSDAY, APRIL 9:

4-19 \$400,000 **San Juan Capistrano-GI, SA, 4yo/up, 13fT (INV)**





(News cont.)

COUNTESS DIANA BACK ON TRACK At a *Thoroughbred Racing Communications* teleconference yesterday, trainer Bill Mott announced that 1997 Champion Two-Year-Old Filly **Countess Diana** (Deerhound) had her first work since capturing last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies last November. The three-year-old went three furlongs "in :39 and change Monday at Payson Park," according to Mott. "We'll be looking to make a start with her at Belmont if everything goes OK." Countess Diana, trained during her championship season by Pat Byrne, underwent surgery to remove a chip from her left knee in early December.

◆ FOREIGN ◆

AMERICAN-BRED WINNERS IN ENGLAND:

Winsa, f, 3, **Riverman--Wasnah** (SP-Eng), by Nijinsky II. Folkestone, 4-7, Dartford Maiden S., 3yo/up, 1 1/2mT, \$6,442 to winner. O-Sheikh Hamdan al Maktoum; B-Shadwell Farm; T-J Dunlop. *Full to Bahri, Hwt. At 3-Eng, 7-9.5f, MG1SW-Eng, \$765,189; 1/2 to Bahhare (Woodman), GSW-Eng, \$178,892.

Green Bopper, g, 5, **Green Dancer--Wayage**, by Mr. Prospector. Wolverhampton, 4-7, Phoenix Limited S., 3yo/up, 8f 100yds (all-weather), \$3,918 to winner. O-Wetherby Racing Bureau 35; B-Lucy G Bassett; T-G Woodward. * 1/2 to Secrage (Secreto), Hwt. Filly at 2-lty, GSW-Fr, \$128,831 in Eng, Fr. **\$80,000 yrl '94 KEESEP.

Local News, England:

Following further heavy rain in Paris, the 1997 European juvenile champion **Xaar** (GB) (Zafonic) will not make his seasonal debut in Thursday's listed Prix Djebel at Maisons-Laffitte and has been re-routed to the April 16 G3 City Index Craven S. over a mile at Newmarket, scene of his seven-length win in the G1 Thoroughbred Corporation Dewhurst S. last October 18. Xaar's connections added that the colt will not be entered at today's \$13,498 supplementary stage for the Vodafone Derby at Epsom in June. They will have one final supplementary stage on May 30 at which the colt can be entered at a cost of \$126,540.

Sagitta Management, which has raised the value of the 2000 Guineas by 33 percent to \$506,158-added and which increased the value of the May 3 1000 Guineas by 23 percent to \$379,619-added and is also backing the G2 Jockey Club S. at Newmarket that weekend, has offered a novel bonus of \$126,540 to any trainer-jockey combination which wins one of its sponsored races and is placed in the other two.

Local News, South Africa:

The 20-1 outsider **Follow The Falcon** (SAf) (Foveros {GB}) caused a major upset in Saturday's \$100,583 G1 First National Bank "1600" at Turffontein in Johannesburg when, ridden by Anton Marcus, he beat the 6-10 favorite **Golden Hoard** (SAf) (All Fired Up) by a neck. Absent from the race was the David Ferraris-trained MG1W winner **Divine Force** (SAf) (Divine King {Ire}), who would have started a heavy favorite but broke down in training and had to be scratched.

◆ MIDWEST ◆

Local News, Keeneland:

Eclipse champion **Chief Bearhart** (Chief's Crown) worked five furlongs around the dogs over the Keeneland turf yesterday in :59 3/5 and is expected to start in Friday's Maker's Mark Mile...**Maxzene** (Cozzene) worked four furlongs over the turf Tuesday in :49 3/5 in preparation for the April 9 GIII Jenny Wiley S.

Local News, Churchill Downs:

Hail the Hero (Theatrical {Ire}), pointing for the May 2 G1 Early Times Turf Classic, breezed a half-mile in :48 2/5 for trainer Pat Byrne.

Authorities at Churchill Downs have made plans to simulcast the Sagitta 2000 Guineas from Newmarket on Saturday May 2, according to a report in Tuesday's *Times* newspaper in England. This will be the first time that an overseas race has been simulcast on Kentucky Derby day.

Ireland's champion trainer Aidan O'Brien, who may run both **King Of Kings** (Ire) (Sadler's Wells) and **Second Empire** (Ire) (Fairy King) in the 2000 Guineas, is reported to be giving serious consideration to running Michael Tabor's G1 Racing Post Trophy winner **Saratoga Springs** (El Gran Senor) in the Kentucky Derby. The colt has not raced since that Grade 1 win last October.

◆ So. CALIFORNIA ◆

Local News, California:

The Southern California Owner Resources, California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Thoroughbred Owners of California and California Thoroughbred Trainers are co-hosting a seminar entitled "Racing, Rehabilitation and Retirement: It's YOUR Responsibility" on Sunday, April 19 at the CTBA library in Arcadia. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the collaborative effort seeks to clarify the decisions that owners and trainers face and outline the options that horsemen have when their horses are no longer productive at the racetrack.

TAKING ON THE BEST!

3yo Gold Guru by **GEIGER COUNTER**, wins the Ranvet Stakes Gr 1 defeating Champion Older Stayer **MIGHT & POWER** and Champion Mare **DANE RIPPER**.

Geiger Counter is now the 3rd Leading General Sire of Australia and the 3rd Leading 2YO Sire.



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◆ EAST ◆

Yesterday's Results:

8th-HIA, \$18,000, 4yo/up, f/m, a1 1/16T, 1:42, fm.
APOGEE (f, 4, Star de Naskra--A Thrilling Moment {MSW, \$184,350}, by Lydian (Fr)) had not raced since taking an April 3 '97 Hialeah allowance. Sent off at 7-1 in her return to the races, the chestnut filly moved into contention turning for home and closed late to earn a nose win. Lifetime Record: 5-3-0-0, \$42,020. O-Phantom House Farm. B-Edward C. Connor (KY). T-John H Forbes.

9th-HIA, \$17,500, Msw, 3yo, 1 1/16m, 1:47 3/5, ft.
+ SILVER ALARM (c, 3, Darn That Alarm--Judy's Red Shoes {GSW, \$1,085,668}) was sent off the 5-1 third choice in his debut. The grey colt stalked the pacesetters, took a clear lead into the stretch and held on to score by 3/4 lengths over 6-1 shot GULLIVER (Lord Avie). Lifetime Record: 1-1-0-0, \$11,500. O-Cleo Hall. B-Hall Cleo & Vivian J (Fl). T-Ronald Spatz.

B • R • E • E • D • E • R • S EDITION

ALLOWANCE RESULTS:

8th-SPT, \$39,680, 3yo/up, 6f, 1:10 4/5, ft.
LOOKSGOODONPAPER (c, 4, Victorious--Black and Brown {SP}, by Rolfson) Lifetime Record: SP, 22-5-3-2, \$118,980. O-Tower Stable. B-Tom Pryor (IL). T-Murray W Johnson.

9th-SPT, \$31,000, (S), 3yo/up, 1m, 1:39 2/5, ft.
SUNNY MAC DAN (h, 5, Sunny's Halo--Honey Mac Dan {MSW, \$244,723}, by Dan Black) Lifetime Record: 43-3-2-4, \$74,445. O-R T M Racing Ltd. B-Stretch Runners, Inc. (IL). T-Francis P Derosa.

8th-PHA, \$23,400, 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 4/5, ft.
DUKE'S DESIGN (m, 5, Up With Your Dukes--Long Tip, by Tipit) Lifetime Record: 22-3-2-5, \$47,342. O-Tudox Farm. B-Rich W. Hoffa Jr. (PA). T-Brenda Wilson.

9th-PHA, \$23,000, 3yo/up, f/m, 6 1/2f, 1:17 1/5, ft.
SAM'S SUNNY HALO (m, 5, Prospector's Halo--Sam's Reality, by Sunny Clime) Lifetime Record: SP, 40-10-4-8, \$159,444. O-Ramos F F & Rare Breed Racing Sta. B-Blackwell Wayne Mr. & Mrs. (FL). T-Faustino F Ramos.

7th-PHA, \$22,100, 4yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11 4/5, ft.
SNAR BUNNY (f, 4, Snar--Gentle Susan, by Star de Naskra) Lifetime Record: 3-2-0-1, \$32,505. O-Mutnick Wendy & Nicholas Lizza. B-Agnes P. O'Brien (PA). T-Guadalupe Preciado.

10th-HIA, \$22,000, 4yo/up, f/m, a1 1/16T, 1:39 3/5, fm.

SMART SHOPPER (m, 7, Dynaformer--Sovereign Mistress, by Sovereign Dancer) Lifetime Record: 30-6-4-5, \$121,046. O-Dee-Pee Stable. B-Wafare Farm (KY). T-Lawrence Jennings Jr. *Full to Dynapopper, MSP, \$156,682.

12th-TDN, \$20,000, 4-6, (S), 3yo/up, 5 1/2f, 1:05.02, ft
JOHNNYCAKE RIDGE (h, 7, Son Ange--Rollin, by Angle Lihgt). Lifetime Record: SP, 39-12-9-3, \$128,745. O/B-John L. Kroh (Oh). T-Walter J. Durrett.

8th-TDN, \$16,000, 4-6, (S), 3yo/up, 6f, 1:11.18, ft.
ISBEN (c, 3, Honey Jay--Smart Steppin, by Ninjinsky II) Lifetime Record: 9-3-4-0, \$35,421. O-G E Zahler & R Kretch. B-Ohio Stallion Syndications, Inc (Oh). T-Tim Girten.

14th-TDN, \$16,000, 4-6, (S), 3yo/up, f/m, 6f, 1:11.82, ft.

JOY AND WONDER (f, 4, Keep It Down--Femininity, by Jet to Damascus). Lifetime Record: SP, 7-3-3-1, \$35,713. O/B-Darrell Sapp (Oh). T-Jerry S. Sparks.

MAIDEN WINNERS:

T W Goose, c, 2, Vermont--La Mama Mia (SP), by Lawmaker. HIA, 4-7, (C), 3f, :34 4/5. B-A W K Sprinkling & Spray Trust (Fl). *\$1,500 wing '96 OBSOCT; \$9,200 yrl '97 FTKOCT; \$6,500 yrl '97 OBSAUG.

Pale Fire, f, 3, Clear Course--Such a Star (MSW), by Rattle Dancer. DET, 4-7, (S), 5f, 1:00 1/5. B-Redbob Farms, Inc (Mi).

+ Silver Alarm, c, 3, Darn That Alarm--Judy's Red Shoes (GSW, \$1,085,668), by Hold Your Tricks. HIA, 4-7, 1 1/16m, 1:47 3/5. B-Hall Cleo & Vivian J (Fl).

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WEEKEND PEDIGREE PERSPECTIVES

by Alan Porter

INDIAN CHARLIE (c, 3, In Excess {Ire}--Soviet Sojourn, by Leo Castelli) The breeding community is forever keeping an eye out for viable outcrosses for the Mr. Prospector and Northern Dancer strains. A rising star from an unexpected quarter who may show himself perfectly equipped to fulfill that role is In Excess, whose son Indian Charlie recorded an impressive victory in the GI Santa Anita Derby Saturday.

In Excess, a son of the French 2,000 Guineas winner Siberian Express (by Caro), showed considerable promise in a handful of starts in England at two and three before coming to the U.S. halfway through the summer of his second season. Although he won two Grade III events on the turf at three, it wasn't until he switched to the dirt at four that In Excess showed his true worth. At that age he was one of the best in the country, capturing the Metropolitan, Suburban and Whitney Handicaps and the Woodward S.

Despite his obvious ability and his good looks, In Excess wasn't recognized as a particularly commercially attractive stallion prospect. His sire Siberian Express had generally been disappointing as a stallion and on the distaff side, In Excess came from a decidedly working-class English family, which at the time had produced only two black-type winners in three generations.

Thus, In Excess found himself standing in California for a fee of \$3,000. He has made the most of his opportunities though, as 10 of the first 11 runners from his first crop--four-year-olds of 1998--are winners, including graded stakes winner In Excessive Bull, stakes winner Fun In Excess, graded stakes placed Inexcessivelygood and stakes placed Inexcessivelylucky. Indian Charlie, along with stakes winners Ex Marks the Cop and Inexcessive Speed, are members of In Excess's second crop.

Indian Charlie is out of the Leo Castelli mare, Soviet Sojourn. A leading two-year-old filly of 1991, Soviet Sojourn won the GIII Junior Miss S. and GIII Sorrento S. at Del Mar, achievements which must rank her as one of the most talented mares to visit In Excess to date. It is also significant that Soviet Sojourn comes from the Northern Dancer line. In Excess carries two strains which we frequently see working well with Northern Dancer--Tudor Minstrel and Alibhai. Tudor Minstrel is by Owen Tudor, who is bred on a reverse Nearco/Hyperion cross to Northern Dancer's sire, Nearctic, and Alibhai is closely related to Nearctic's dam, Lady Angela. The

strain of Tudor Minstrel might also like the fact that Indian Charlie's third dam is inbred 3x4 to Heliopolis, a close relative to Tudor Minstrel (Tudor Minstrel is by a son of Hyperion out of a mare by a son of Swynford, and Heliopolis is by Hyperion out of a Swynford mare).

As well as having a Grade I winner out of a mare from the Northern Dancer male line, Indian Charlie has also sired a stakes winner and a stakes placed horse out of a mare by a son of Mr. Prospector. This is not particularly surprising since Manzana (third dam of In Excess's sire, Siberian Express) is a three-parts-sister to Sequence, the granddam of Mr. Prospector.

Further back in the pedigree of In Excess there are a number of subtle nuances which have the potential to act as balances for commonly found strains, but which of these, if any, are contributing to his success would be a matter of sheer speculation. What is clear is that In Excess is capable of transmitting a significant level of ability to a remarkably high percentage of his offspring.

PEDIGREE SHORTS

With a dominating performance in Saturday's GIII Flamingo S., **Chilito (c, 3, Strawberry Road {Aus}--Cosmic Tiger, by Tim the Tiger)** earned his place in the Kentucky Derby lineup. Chilito has two sets of three-quarters relatives working for him. Bull Page and Delta Queen appear 5x5 and Flower Bowl and Your Hostess are 4x6. In addition, the similarly bred Abernant and Fair Trial are 5x5. As well as working with a Flower Bowl/Your Hostess combination, Strawberry Road has also sired stakes winner Strawberry A. OK out of a mare carrying Your Host, and graded stakes winners Sky Blue Pink and Royal Chariot out of mares carrying a second strain of Flower Bowl. Three more of his stakes winners have Flower Bowl's genetic relative Swaps. Strawberry Road is now deceased, but the above could be worth remembering when planning matings for Strawberry Road mares.

We have always liked the combination of the three-quarters related Prince John and Milan Mill (dam of Mill Reef) and it appeared in the first and third home in Sunday's G2 Prix d'Harcourt. The winner **Astarabad (c, 4, Alleged--Anaza {Ire}, by Darshaan {GB})** has Prince John as the broodmare sire of Alleged and Mill Reef in the male line of the mare. The third, **Taipan (Ire) (h, 6, Last Tycoon {Ire}--Alidiva {Ire}, by Chief Singer {Ire})**, a Group 1 winner last year, has Mill Reef as the broodmare sire of Last Tycoon, with Alleged as sire of his second dam. Another variation on the theme can be achieved with the important broodmare Quill, a three-quarters relative to both Prince John and Milan Mill.



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