



Weekly Horseplaying Report and Fun Stuff

Vol. 11 No. 7 (Issue #525)

Thursday, March 3, 2016

By Ivan Bigg



Back to work -- with a frosty demeanor

A double-digit chill didn't keep 2006 Winnipeg futurity winner **First Cavalry**, who now does outrider duty, from watching over horses on opening day of the training track Tuesday. See who's on him and what he's watching in [THE WEEK THAT WAS](#) below. (Ivan Bigg photo)

Bullet briefs . . .

- **\$2.18 million at stake in today's Rainbow 6. Will this be YOUR day?**
- **[Bonus weekly cash](#) continues to reward players. Getting your share?**
- **Play new "Countdown to the Derby" on prep races to win wager, mugs**
- **Mohaymen does it! Becomes first colt to race faster than Songbird**
- **Songbird returns Saturday. What makes her mad? See Quote of Week**
- **Here's your March checklist in the countdown to the World Cup**
- **Player's playful scratch amuses Race Book**

***** **FUN & GAMES** *****

WIN \$200 WAGER ON THE DERBY BY PREDICTING PREP WINNERS: Enter the weekly contest in the Race Book to predict the winner of the prep races. (See chart of remaining prepraces below.) You will receive points for your horse's finish (5,3,1 for first, second, third). There are 13 major derby preps before the Kentucky Derby starting with the Gotham this Saturday and concluding with the Arkansas Derby on April 16.

Your TEN HIGHEST POINT ENTRIES will be used to determine who will win a \$100 win/place wager on the Kentucky Derby on May 7. That means you can miss entering three times and still be in the hunt.

Prize draw after each prep race: An entry will be drawn after each prep race has been run and the winner will receive a set of two **beautifully-sculpted 14-oz black and green derby souvenir coffee mugs.** (Winners limited to one set of coffee mugs during the contest period). Your first challenge is to pick the winner of the Gotham Stakes at Aqueduct this Saturday. Enter your pick in the Race Book Saturday afternoon.



Win this set of two after every prep race

YOUR MARCH CHECKLIST



March 13



March 17 buffet



March 20



March 27



World Cup March 26

RACING TO THE WORLD CUP

Seven prep races, clocks forward, St. Pat's Day, it's spring!

Book [Easter Brunch](#) and *St. Patrick's Day-enhanced prime rib buffet (Mar. 17)* at 204-885-3330.

THIS SATURDAY: **GOTHAM** Derby prep at Aqueduct. Enter contest.
 --Songbird races in the Santa Ysabel at Santa Anita

NEXT SATURDAY: **TAMPA BAY DERBY, SAN FELIPE** (Santa Anita) Derby preps. Enter contest.
NEXT FRIDAY TO SATURDAY: Kentucky Derby future wager

SUNDAY, MAR. 13: **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**
 Thursday, Mar. 17: **St. Patrick's Day enhanced** prime rib buffet. Reserve at 204-885-3330.
 Friday, Mar. 18: Andrew Ladd and the Chicago Blackhawks visit the Jets
 Saturday: **REBEL STAKES** at Oaklawn. Enter contest.

SUNDAY MAR. 20: **SPRING BEGINS -- SUNLAND DERBY.** Enter contest.
 Friday, Mar. 25: Good Friday. *Insider* World Cup Special.
 Saturday, Mar. 26: **\$10 million WORLD CUP** likely featuring **California Chrome.**
 --Special "I won big" workshop at 8 a.m.
 --**LOUISIANA DERBY, UAE DERBY.** Enter contest.
 --Player's Choice horseplayer tourney

SUNDAY, MAR. 27: **EASTER BRUNCH** Reserve at 204-885-3330
 Thursday, Mar. 31: *Horse Player World Series* begins in Las Vegas with ASD players shooting for \$600,000 first prize.

FEBRUARY 2016			
3	4	5	6
12:00 PM	12:00 PM	12:00 PM	12:00 PM
1:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	1:00 PM
2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM
3:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	3:00 PM
4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	4:00 PM
5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM	5:00 PM
6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM
7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM
8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM
9:00 PM	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	9:00 PM
10:00 PM	10:00 PM	10:00 PM	10:00 PM
11:00 PM	11:00 PM	11:00 PM	11:00 PM

Click for schedule

DO THE DOWNS

Carryovers



Love those ribs!
Every Friday \$10

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Parx 11:25 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Fonner 1:30 PM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	29 Parx 11:25 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 1:40 PM Woodbine (H) 6:30 PM	1 Parx 11:25 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 1:40 PM Sunland 2:30 PM	2 Gulfstream 11:35 AM Delta 5:40 PM	3 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Prime rib buffet with pasta bar at 7:30 PM	4 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Aqueduct 12:20 PM Fonner 2 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5 Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM	5 "I won big" 10:30 AM Plaza Gulfstream 11 AM DERBY PREP: Gotham (Agu) \$500,000 GP Handicap at 6 PM -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -\$5 Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM
6 Saratoga (H) 11:15 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Fonner 1:30 PM at 6 PM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	7 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 2:25 PM Woodbine (H) 6:30 PM	8 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 2:25 PM Sunland 2:30 PM at 7 PM	9 Gulfstream 11:35 AM Delta 5:40 PM	10 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Prime rib buffet with pasta bar at 6:30 PM	11 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM KENTUCKY DERBY FUTURE WAGER at 6 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5 Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM	12 "I won big" 10:30 AM Plaza DERBY PREPS: Tampa Bay Derby San Felipe (SA) \$1M Big Cap (SA) FUTURE WAGER at 6 PM -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -\$5 Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM

8 PM - MIDNIGHT: \$6 OFF Peller Estates wine • \$3 OFF nachos, wings • \$2 OFF chicken fingers, skins • \$1 OFF beer, shots

CLICK HERE TO ENLARGE

\$10 OFF tonight's certified Angus prime rib buffet for two with [this coupon](#). Where else can you find **all-you-can-eat** CERTIFIED Angus prime rib? Nowhere that I can find. It's not easy to earn "certified" status. The beef must meet 10 strict criteria. Only eight per cent of beef measures up. Reserve at 204-885-3330.

BUFFETS ARE GLUTEN-FRIENDLY! ASD's award-winning **Chef Michael** has this reminder about Thursday buffets: *"Let's not forget our buffet menus are Gluten Friendly! On average over 80 per cent of the items--with all gluten-free items labeled for identification. Gluten free dessert items are also available. A chef is always available to discuss any dietary concerns!"*



Official stations of horse racing.
Click to listen



DERBY COUNTDOWN

MOHAYMEN BREAKS THROUGH

115

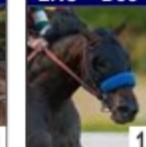
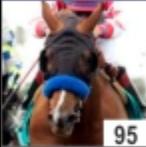
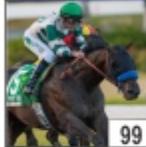
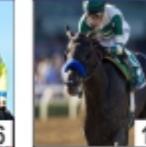
His Fountain of Youth win cracks Songbird's 112

Up to last Saturday's Fountain of Youth Stakes for 3-year-olds at Gulfstream, it appeared **Songbird's 112** as a 2-year-old filly would continue to tower over colts who are jousting for a starting position in the Kentucky Derby. But **Mohaymen** changed that. His 115 Equibase speed in the Fountain is three more than Songbird achieved in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies and six more than the best colt, **Nyquist**, who posted 109 in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile. This is now the standard that other colts will shoot for as prep races continue this Saturday with the Gotham at Aqueduct.

Be ready to predict the winners of these remaining prep races in a Race Book contest. Best predictor wins a \$100 win/place wager on the Kentucky Derby. All entries are eligible each contest day to win a handsome set of sculpted 14-oz. coffee mugs.

COUNTDOWN TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY

(Number next to winning horse denotes Equibase speed figure)

BC JUV Kee Oct 31	DELTA J. DeD Nov 21	REMSEN Aqu Nov 28	KY JOCK CLUB CD Nov 28	LOS AL FUT LRC Dec 19	JEROME Aqu Jan 2
 Nyquist 109	 Exaggerator 103	 Mohaymen 105	 Airoforce 106	 Mor Spirit 106	 Flexibility 104
SHAM SA Jan 9	LECOMTE FG Jan 16	SMARTY J. OP Jan 18	HOLY BULL GP Jan 30	WITHERS Aqu Jan 30	RB LEWIS SA Feb 6
 Collected 95	 Mo tom 99	 Discreetness 105	 Mohaymen 106	 Sunny Ridge 106	 Mor Spirit 108
EL CAMINO GG Feb 13	SOUTHWEST OP Feb 15	RISEN STAR FG Feb 20	FTN OF YOUTH GP Feb 27	GOTHAM Aqu Mar 5	TB DERBY Tam Mar 12
 Frank Conversation 105	 Suddenbreakingnews 108	 Gun Runner 106	 Mohaymen 115	Sat Mar 5	Sat Mar 12
SAN FELIPE SA Mar 12	REBEL OP Mar 19	SUN DERBY Sun Mar 20	UAE DERBY Mey Mar 26	LA DERBY FG Mar 26	FLA DERBY GP Apr 2
Mar 12	Sat Mar 19	Sun Mar 20	Sat Mar 26	Mar 26	Sat Apr 2
SPIRAL TP Apr 2	WOOD MEM. Aqu Apr 9	BLUE GRASS Kee Apr 9	SA DERBY SA Apr 9	ARK. DERBY OP Apr 16	KENTUCKY DERBY
Sat Apr 2	Sat Apr 9	Apr 9	Apr 9	Sat Apr 16	 Saturday, May 7

Qualifying points for Kentucky Derby: ■ 10 points ■ 20 points ■ 50 points ■ 100 points

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "She wants to stay on the track. She'd stand there all morning if you'd let her. She likes her job. She gets mad when you make her go off." -- Jockey **Mike Smith** talking about the continent's top 3-year-old filly, **Songbird**, whose next start is this Saturday's Grade 3 Santa Ysabel Stakes for 3-year-old fillies at Santa Anita.

HANDICAPPING

Whalen ekes out victory in Player's Choice tourney

Facing 37 rivals in the second Player's Choice tournament of the year Saturday, retired civil engineer **Chuck Whalen**, 66 (middle) squeaked out a victory over **Trevor Tilston-Jones** (left) by a mere \$1.60. Whalen's bankroll of \$65.60 earned him \$500 and an engraved mug. Tilston-Jones with \$64 picked up \$250. Not far behind was third-place **Steve Holborn** (right) with



\$61.90, just 50-cents ahead of **Bob Pistawka**. Holborn's prize was \$100.

How did Whalen do it? Read his personal account [here](#). He has a unique handicapping method that is a **MUST READ!**

[Full results](#). *Handicapper of the Year* [leaderboard](#).

YOU NAMED ME WHAT? I Am Jane Dough. Five-year-old Texas-bred mare racing at Sam Houston. The namers must have been pretty proud of themselves with this one.



Off to a quick (and chilly) start

While trainer **Marvin Buffalo** gallops the unbeaten 4-year-old Manitoba-bred **Sheza Force** (2-2-0-0) on opening day of the Downs' training track Tuesday, outrider **Laura McIvor** watches over the action with retired race horse **First Cavalry** who gives the impression he'd love to be in training himself. Cavalry had raced in stakes races at Monmouth and Gulfstream and made his last start in August, 2010, at the Downs a winning one. The enclosed Equi-cizer also opened Tuesday, with trainer **Shelley Brown** putting five of her new arrivals through their merry-go-round paces. (*Ivan Bigg photos*)

THE WEEK THAT WAS

NAYSAYER HOLDS HIS TONGUE; "BIG" GROUP MISSES LEG: With no one assailing their ability (like [last week](#)) the "I won big" group Saturday just missed the Rainbow 6 at Gulfstream and Tampa Bay bets. In the pick-6 leg it missed, the group's horse finished second. What could (should?) help this Saturday's play is the return to the group of two-time *Handicapper of the Year* **Ron Phelps** who had been vacationing in Palm Springs.

"UP AND DOWN" RULE WORKS FOR GROUP--AND FOR YOU? Two weeks ago, you read right here about the "up and down" handicapping rule. Saturday's "I won big" group capitalized on that rule in race 10 at Tampa: **#4 Snake Plisskin** had raced for \$8,000 two races back, finishing third, then **moved up to \$16,000**, finishing sixth, then **moved back to \$8,000** Saturday and won at 5/1. Up and down then pops! Have you added that rule to YOUR handicapping arsenal?

KIDS BENEFIT FROM DAD'S TOURNNEY WIN: *"I'll be taking my five kids to the park tomorrow,"* said **Rick Boucher** after winning the \$250 monthly finale Saturday night in the *Unleash Your Luck* VLT tournament--his second monthly championship score since last June. He helps special needs kids in school,



itches in a fastball league, coaches girl's softball and has an obvious "in" with **Lady Luck**.

Rick Boucher receives \$250 from VLT hostess Roseanne

SCRATCH WHAT? It was inevitable, I guess. When the 4-year-old filly, **Harass**, was set to race Saturday in race 9 at Tampa Bay, someone in the Race Book exclaimed: "*Scratch Harass.*" Even though the filly wasn't scratched. And if I have to explain to you why he said it, say those two words out loud yourself. Ohhhhh!

THE POWER OF SUGGESTION: I can't help it. When I see "Beer" in the racing form, I need a beer. And, with **Mike Beer** as the New York handicapper for the form, I see it regularly. So, having just read this heading: "*Beer: Aqueduct horses to watch*" on DRF online, I'm heading to the fridge. Mike should be collecting royalties from the brewing companies. Maybe **Ivan Bigg** should change his name to **Ivant Primerib**.

Readers write . . .

Naysayer should "come on down," reader says

"Ivan: Referring to [last week's criticism](#) of the 'I won big' group: It is very hard to come to an agreement when you have 20 different opinions. We just have to make our best judgment and go with group consensus. Yes, there are many times I don't agree with what was taken but that can be said for every person sitting there. If the critic has that much time on his hands to criticize what we are doing (which I must say is fun and cheap entertainment) then he should come on down and show us how it is done and then we can see." -- Trevor Phelps, "I won big" group participant

"Ivan: Having visited Century Downs (near Calgary) last fall I would be surprised if the facility could handle thoroughbred racing (after Northlands closes Aug. 27) but time will tell. -- Jim Roberts

Hi Jim: Century apparently has plans to upgrade its facilities to add a third-level grandstand and, of course, is committed to running a September to November meet this fall.

Where are they now?

by Rob MacLennan

Ardell Saylor makes his 2016 debut a successful one

Ardell Saylor is back in the winner's circle! The 12-time leading trainer at the Downs scored his first win of 2016 at Fonner Park in Nebraska. Of three starters, he won Sunday with 4-year-old Kentucky-bred filly **Yamakenmecrazy** (\$13.40).

Jerry Gourneau continues to run horses across the mid-west with starters at Delta Downs, Sam Houston and Fonner Park--and has had three recent wins: 4-year-old gelding **Cowboy Curlin** at Fonner (\$5.40), the 3-year-old filly **Witt's Go Go** in a Maiden Special at Sam Houston (\$4.40) and the 4-year-old **Witt's Lizard** in an allowance race at Sam Houston (\$5.40). Watch for his horses at Sam Houston and Fonner Park this weekend.

At Sam Houston, **Charlie Smith** won with 6-year-old gelding **Royal Mocha** (\$10.20) who was claimed from him for \$4,000. The star of his barn, the 3-year-old filly **Pecos**, winner of the Debutante and Graduation Stakes at ASD last summer, is working toward her 2016 debut and a successful campaign.

Meanwhile, **Jared Brown's** 3-year-old filly, **Moonlight Music**, returned \$8.60 with a late charging effort at Turf Paradise. She is entered right back this Saturday with her stable mate **Kathy's Lil Secret**. His **Hotaling Heart** drops into a \$3,000 claimer in the 7th on Monday. She should have a good shot as she comes out of a very tough race.

ON THE DERBY TRAIL: I'm thinking every conversation should now start with **Mohaymen**. If he wins the Florida Derby, he will attempt to become the eighth undefeated Kentucky Derby winner and the first since **Big Brown** in 2008. Whoever wins the Gotham prep race at Aqueduct this Saturday will have a steep uphill climb: not since **Secretariat** in 1973 has a horse who won the Gotham gone on to win the Kentucky Derby. My pick is **Shagaf** who is unbeaten and recently won an allowance race at Gulfstream.



Charlie Smith
His Pecos works toward debut



"TIPS 'N' TRICKS"

with Marshall Posner



Q. How do I watch a race replay without seeing the results first?

A. This is a great question that was submitted by **Jeff B.** Many horseplayers pre-bet the races and then go online to check the results later in the day. Unfortunately, the new HPI system does not let you watch the race replays without first seeing the results, at least in a limited fashion. To avoid this pitfall, rather than select the track you've wagered on and then go to the **Results and Replays** section (view image [here](#)), go to the specific race you're looking for and click on **Video Replay** button for the longest shot in the race (view image [here](#)).

This will take you to a new screen where you can choose to watch the last race replay for this horse (view image [here](#)). You'll be able to see where this horse finished in that race but won't see the full results until after you've watched the entire race.

RECEIVING CASH BONUSES ON FRIDAYS? The new HPIBet system does not reflect manual deposits that have been made to your betting account. As a result, [the weekly BONUS payments](#) that are made every Friday to ASD horseplayers accounts are not reflected in the HPI reporting system. So, to calculate your Friday bonus, check your account balance on Thursday night and again Friday morning and the difference in the balance will indicate your bonus.

Got a question for Marshall? Email theinsider@ASDowns.com
Review previous questions and answers [here](#).

HISTORY ON THE HOOF: The best of Bob

Did you know . . . in the summer of 1976 jockey **Jim Sorenson** hit the winners' circle a record-setting seven times on a nine-race card--and only one of his mounts was a favourite? Read "*Remembering Jim Sorenson, record-setting mystery man*" [here](#).



**Don't forget to enter the new contest Saturday to win
Kentucky Derby wager and sculpted souvenir mugs**



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