



Weekly Horseplaying Report and Fun Stuff

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Thursday, March 10, 2016

By Ivan Bigg

They go round and round -- and love it!



Call it an amusement ride for horses--because they love it so much. It's the backstretch Equi-ciser that opened last week. Just like an amusement park ride, trainers buy tickets (\$6.50 to \$8 each based on quantity purchased) and horses are loaded into the eight "merry-go-round" compartments for an average of 16 minutes of going round, round, round at different speeds depending on the training level. Horses dance and prance and whinny and buck to their heart's content.

"With no equipment or rider, it gives a horse a break," says ASD CEO **Darren Dunn**. It opened 10 years ago at a cost that, said Dunn, was in the substantial six-figure range. One of the biggest users through the season is three-time leading trainer **Tom Gardipy, Jr.** whose barn is mere steps away from the Equi-ciser.

Bullet briefs . . .

- **Rainbow 6 nears \$3 million; mandatory payout day is March 26**
- **Happiness is seeing bonus cash in your HPI account Friday mornings**
- **11 more sets of Derby mugs to be given away; enter prep contest**
- **Who's gonna win the Tampa Bay Derby? the San Felipe Stakes?**
- **It's \$1 million Big 'Cap Day at Santa Saturday: great racing, fat pools**
- **Are players wrong in being dismissive of Shagaf's Gotham win?**
- **Special feature: "The Race" by Emily Lesy**
- **Oddity: Mohaymen surges in Equibase but Beyers don't budge**

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

ONE DOWN, 11 TO GO IN "COUNTDOWN TO THE DERBY"
CONTEST: Continue entering the *Countdown to the Kentucky Derby* contest this Saturday where you predict the winners of the San Felipe and Tampa Bay Derby prep races. Your **10 best scores** will count

toward winning a \$100 win/place wager on the Kentucky Derby. There are 11 prep races remaining (since the Sunland Derby has been cancelled).

WHO WERE THE LEADERS AFTER ROUND ONE?

DRAWN FOR MUGS: Entering the contest each week will also give you a **40 per cent chance of winning** a set of two handsome 14-oz derby coffee mugs. (Based on about 35 entrants entering 11 times and an entrant can win only once.) Since there are two prep races Saturday, two entries will be drawn after those races. Last week's winner was **John Urbanski**.



Win these after every prep race

SIZZLING SATURDAY

BIG 'CAP = BIG DAY

\$1 million Santa Anita Handicap headlines an 11-race card at Santa

It is the #1 race in North America early in the year for older horses, the \$1 million Santa Anita Handicap and it's this Saturday. Watch for **Effinex**, second to **American Pharoah** in the Breeders' Cup Classic, and **Hoppertunity**, a nose winner in the Grade 2 San Antonio Stakes at Santa last month.

In the Kentucky Derby prep race at Santa, the San Felipe, the horse to beat is likely to be **Flexibility**, winner of the Jerome Stakes at Aqueduct in early January.

Eleven races are on tap and wagering pools will inevitably be fattened by occasional race-goers who come out on big-event days. First post is 2 p.m. CST.



Seabiscuit wins \$100,000 Big 'Cap in 1940

BIG 'CAP TRIVIA TEASER: What horse won the most Santa Anita Handicaps?

- (a) **Game On Dude** (b) **Lava Man** (c) **Seabiscuit** (d) **Milwaukee Brew**
- (Answer at bottom of column)

MARCH 2016				
2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31				

Click for schedule

DO THE DOWNS



[Carryovers](#)
[Minimum wagers list](#)



Irish stew served on St. Patrick's Day

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6 Saratoga (H) 11:15 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Fonner 1:30 PM at 5 PM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	7 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 2:25 PM Woodbine (H) 6:30 PM at 9 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 at 9 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 REMINGTON BEGINS 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 8 PM -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -\$5 Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM
13 Pax 11:25 AM KENTUCKY DERBY FUTURE WAGER -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB	14 Mahoning 11:45 AM WILL ROGERS BEGINS 12:30 PM Fair Grounds 1:30 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM at 9 PM	15 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sunland 2:30 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM at 9 PM	16 Gulfstream 11:35 AM at 9 PM	17 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM St. Pat's Day enhanced prime rib at 9 PM	18 Freehold 11:30 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM Chicago at Jets 7 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -\$5 Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM	19 "I won big!" 10:30 AM Plaza Mahoning 11:15 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM DERBY PREPS: Rebel (OP) Santia, Margarieta (Gr.1) Santa Anita -\$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](#)

DO IRISH! Download this [\\$10 OFF coupon](#) for tonight's certified Angus prime rib buffet and, while you're at it, book next Thursday's St. Patrick's Day buffet with these Irish touches: Irish stew, braised cabbage, herbed mashed potatoes and mint chocolate pie. Reserve at 204-885-3330.



Official stations of horse racing.
Click to listen



ON THE DERBY TRAIL

Players pooh-pooh **Shagaf's** Gotham win. But it was **BETTER THAN IT LOOKED**

The first words I heard in the Race Book Saturday after **Shagaf** won the Gotham prep race was that **Shagaf** won't finish in the top 10 in the Kentucky Derby. Whoa! Hold your horses! On first blush, the time of 1:45.9 for the 1 1/16 mile race was rather pedestrian. But Shagaf did something that no other horse was able to do on the inner dirt track at Aqueduct on Saturday--dig in from off the pace to run down the leader. EIGHT OUT OF 10 RACES were won by horses going gate-to-wire. Nobody could close unless you could call a horse moving from second to first a closer--which happened in only one race.

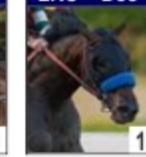
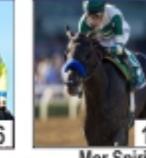
So does Shagaf's effort now seem better? And [note the Equibase speed of 110](#). Only **Mohaymen** has a higher number--115. Every other 3-year-old colt has a speed figure below 110. So don't rush to discount Shagaf. Maybe he's even worth a small futures play this week if you get decent odds.

Can anyone match or beat Mohaymen's 115 this Saturday in the two prep races marked with starbursts below?

NOTE CANCELLATION OF THE SUNLAND DERBY: Hit with a serious bout of equine herpes virus that resulted in the death of 12 horses, Sunland Park in New Mexico has announced the cancellation of the Sunland Derby and its filly counterpart, the Oaks, on Mar. 20. A quarantine at the track is expected to be lifted this week.

COUNTDOWN TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY

(Number next to winning horse denotes Equibase speed figure)

BC JUV Kee Oct 31  109 Nykquist	DELTA J. DeD Nov 21  103 Exaggerator	REMSEN Aqu Nov 28  105 Mohaymen	KY JOCK CLUB CD Nov 28  106 Airoforce	LOS AL FUT LRC Dec 19  106 Mor Spirit	JEROME Aqu Jan 2  104 Flexibility
SHAM SA Jan 9  95 Collected	LECOMTE FG Jan 16  99 Mo tom	SMARTY J. OP Jan 18  105 Discreetness	HOLY BULL GP Jan 30  106 Mohaymen	WITHERS Aqu Jan 30  106 Sunny Ridge	RB LEWIS SA Feb 6  108 Mor Spirit
EL CAMINO GG Feb 13  105 Frank Conversation	SOUTHWEST OP Feb 15  108 Suddenbreakingnews	RISEN STAR FG Feb 20  106 Gun Runner	FTN OF YOUTH GP Feb 27  115 Mohaymen	GOTHAM Aqu Mar 5  110 Shagaf	 Sat Mar 12
SAN FELIPE SA Mar 12  Sat Mar 12	REBEL OP Mar 19 Sat Mar 19	SUN DERBY Sun Mar 20 CANCELLED Sun Mar 20	UAE DERBY Mey Mar 26 Sat Mar 26	LA DERBY FG Mar 26 Mar 26	FLA DERBY GP Apr 2 Sat Apr 2
SPIRAL TP Apr 2 Sat Apr 2	WOOD MEM. Aqu Apr 9 Sat Apr 9	BLUE GRASS Kee Apr 9 Apr 9	SA DERBY SA Apr 9 Apr 9	ARK. DERBY OP Apr 16 Sat Apr 16	KENTUCKY DERBY  Saturday, May 7

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

YOU NAMED ME WHAT? Eddie Haskell. Those of a certain age remember Eddie as a devious character on the *Leave It to Beaver* TV series from 1957 to 1963. The fact his name has been used for a 3-year-old colt racing in California for **J. Paul Reddam** shows the enduring nature of the fictional character. TV Guide in 1999 put Eddie Haskell 20th on its "50 Greatest TV Characters of All Time" list. The horse's sire is **Square Eddie**, presumably because he's more reputable than his son.



Eddie Haskell

THE WEEK THAT WAS

CANADIAN THOROUGHBRED RACING MEETS: Hastings Park is the latest Canadian thoroughbred track to announce its spring/summer/fall schedule. Its 52-day meet begins Sunday, April 17 and racing continues primarily on Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday, Oct. 16. The track offers 15 per cent take-out on win, place, show, doubles and pick-3, pick-4 and pick-6 wagers. Its 20-cent Sea to Sky jackpot pick-6--similar to Gulfstream's Rainbow 6--continues. Here are the dates for Canadian thoroughbred meets:

- Woodbine: 130 days. Saturday, April 9 to Dec. 4
- Hastings: 52 days. Sunday, April 17 to Oct. 16
- Northlands: 55 days. Friday, May 6 to Aug. 27
- ASD: 50 days. Sunday, May 8 to Sept. 11. [Schedule.](#)

- Marquis Downs: **26 days**. Friday, May 27 to Sept. 3
- Fort Erie: **40 days**. Tuesday, May 31 to Oct. 18
- Century Downs (Alberta): September to November, days to be announced

"BIG" GROUP EYES RICH RAINBOW: Nothing spurs intensity among bettors more than a giant carryover so "I won big" group players are already counting down the days to a mandatory payout of the Rainbow 6 at Gulfstream that is closing in on \$3 million. That day is Saturday, Mar. 26--a huge day already because it's World Cup Day from Dubai (with a special 8 a.m. workshop), *Players' Choice* tournament day and the running of two Kentucky Derby prep races.



Must be dispersed on Mar. 26

But what if a group ticket won it before Mar. 26? We'll consider that possibility--cautiously--this Saturday along with the last five races at Tampa to make up for a spotty performance last week. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. on the plaza. Everyone welcome.

ASD'S ROB AND HIS DAD AT BIG 'CAP: ASD paddock host **Rob MacLennan** and his father, **Keith**, who won January's *Player's Choice* horseplayer tourney, will be attending this Saturday's Big 'Cap Day at Santa Anita as part of a one-week holiday in California. Consequently, Rob's "Where Are They Now?" segment in *The Insider* will not appear next Thursday.

WHAT'S GOING ON? DID MOHAYMEN IMPROVE OR NOT? There's a huge discrepancy between Equibase and Beyer figs for **Mohaymen**, the leading Kentucky Derby hopeful. His Equibase figure of 115 in the Fountain of Youth is nine points higher than his Holy Bull race. But Beyer figs show no difference from one race to another--both were 95. My experience gives the nod to Equibase.

GUARANTEED TEARS: When I heard about **Peyton Mannings'** press conference to announce his retirement, my most immediate thought was: "uh-oh, tears." And it happened. I can't recall any sports figure leaving a team, the game, etc., without choking up, the most memorable being **Wayne Gretzky** leaving the Oilers. It seems to go with sports, doesn't it?

PERFECT TIMING: The announcement of an outdoor Heritage Classic hockey game in Winnipeg in October--the Jets vs Oilers--couldn't have come at a better time for the Jets. It offers a distraction from the Jets' continuing losses. One year ago, *Hockey News* raised eyebrows (and hopes) by predicting a Jets' Stanley Cup victory in four years. That was the kiss of death. Or was it? Hope DOES spring eternal.

Did you know . . . that **Tomlinson** turf, mud and distance ratings in the *Daily Racing Form* were developed by a New Yorker by the name of **Art Kaufman** who died in 2008? (Lee Tomlinson was his nom de plume.) Another prominent Tomlinson, **Ray**, died this week. He was the inventor of email using the "@" symbol in 1971. Want a primer on how to use Tomlinson turf, mud and distance ratings (listed in the top right of each horse's past performances)? Go [here](#).

Readers write . . .

Is my piece worth publishing?

"Ivan: Hello, my name is **Emily Lesy** and I am a grade 10 student from Alameda, Saskatchewan. For my English class I wrote a paragraph about a race horse and part of the mark is getting it put in something. I was hoping you could read this and get back to me if you think it would good enough to put in *The Insider*."

Hi Emily: See below. It's an exciting read! You have obvious writing ability.

Special feature . . .

THE RACE

By Emily Lesy
Grade 10, Alameda, SK



The trumpet sounds as I am forced into the starting gates. Stomping and pawing at the ground while my ears flick back and forth. I can hear the noises of the

track. The sounds of people placing their bets, of my challengers snorting in anticipation, and my jockey, my partner who's sitting atop of my back. I can feel the hunger for the win surging through him, in the way he clutches the reins and the pressure of his knees close to my sides. I know what he is feeling, and I feel the same. My muscles are gathered tight, waiting for the command to let go. Here it is, the bell.

The gates part and I surge forward with everything I have got. There is no stopping me now as my hooves strike the gritty earth, and the breath rasps from my mouth in a vicious effort to take the lead. The sun is bright and hard on my eyes. The dirt stings as it's thrown at me with the force of a single stride, but there is no stopping me now. I am taking the lead and they had better watch out. The bite of the harsh wind and the warm odour of leather gives me the power to push harder. I hear the timer snap to a stop when I cross the finish line.

It takes a great deal of effort to slow to a stop. My legs feel unstable and frail, while my chest burns and sweat flows off me. My jockey pats my neck for a job well done. The soft touch of his hand is comforting. The cameras flash as we walk about the winner's circle and a blanket of flowers is draped over my back. Their scent is as sweet as my victory.

TRIVIA TEASER: What hockey player's horse won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, France's most prestigious race? *See answer at bottom of column.*
 (a) **Wayne Gretzky** (b) **Mario Lemieux** (c) **Ed Olczyk** (d) **Bobby Hull**

Where are they now?

by Rob MacLennan

Magic d' Oro likely to be heavily favoured Saturday

Probable Manitoba *Horse of the Year* **Magic d' Oro** is likely to be the prohibitive choice in a mile allowance race at Turf Paradise Sunday. His trainer, **Don Schnell**, also sends out 3-year-old **Heber**, winner of the Winnipeg Futurity, in the \$25,000 Tempe Handicap on the grass where he will be a longshot, and the aging veteran **I Am Awesome** in the second leg of the turf marathon series.

Eurico Martens starts his pair of 3-year-olds--**Zack Man** and **Ready Intaglio**--in the Tempe Handicap as well. **Jared Brown** also has a runner in the marathon: 8-year-old **Two Bucks to Win**.

At Fonner Park, **Jerry Gourneau** found the winner's circle with the 7-year-old **Added Sparkle** on Friday afternoon returning \$9. He defeated the 6-year-old **Zaccheus** trained by **Ardell Saylor**. I thought the most impressive winner of the weekend was Saylor's **Girl Boss** in race 7 Sunday. She was bumped out of the gate in the NW2L allowance field, trailed the field early before circling to win by a convincing nine lengths. The 4-year-old filly, purchased for \$11,000 at the Keeneland January sale, returned \$4 and **looks to have a bright future.**

MY DERBY PREP PICKS: The Tampa Bay Derby is the crown jewel of the Tampa winter meet, topping a very strong Saturday card. I like longshot **Tale of S'Vall** but won't hold it against you if you like **Destin**, winner of the Sam F. Davis, or **Brody's Cause**, runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

The San Felipe Stakes at Santa Anita is part of the Big 'Cap card. **Mor Spirit** has looked good in recent wins but faces his stiffest test yet with **Exaggerator**. My pick: the undefeated **Smokey Image**. Have a good Saturday! I'll be back here in two weeks with more updates.



"TIPS 'N' TRICKS"
with Marshall Posner



Q. Does HPIbet offer anything unique for players betting standardbred tracks?

A. Yes, there is one feature in the new HPI system that is only available for harness racing called **CompuBet**. To access, simply click on a standardbred track and select **CompuBet** from the main tabs (view image [here](#)). As the name suggests, **CompuBet** is essentially a computer algorithm that calculates five key handicapping factors including: Speed, Class, Form, Driver and Post and then generates a ranking of the most likely order of finish for any given race. You can adjust the weighting of any of these factors based on your own preferences by moving the slider for each one on a scale of 1 (least important) to 15 (most important) (view image [here](#)).



CompuBet predicts harness winners

Once you've done this, it will automatically re-generate a new listing based on your new preferences. You can choose to reset the default settings at any time by clicking the blue RESET button or for a detailed description of the various acronyms and terms used in **CompuBet**, check out the HELP section (view image [here](#)).

The success of **CompuBet** varies widely from track to track. See recent stats by clicking on the "RECENT BETTING SUCCESS" of your track [here](#). To access **CompuBet** analysis for the entire racing card, click on the yellow "ENTIRE CARD" button (view image [here](#)).

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 . . . that on July 19, 1963, a certain Armstrong rode **Fire n Desire** to a Manitoba Derby victory followed, the next day, by another Armstrong walking on the moon? Read "A Derby tale out of this world" [here](#).



ANSWER TO BIG 'CAP TEASER: (a) **Game On Dude** won the historic race three times. **Lava Man** and **Milwaukee Brew** won it twice, **Seabiscuit** once.

ANSWER TO TRIVIA TEASER: (a) **Wayne Gretzky**, in partnership with former L.A. Kings' owner **Bruce McNall**, owned **Saumarez** who won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 1990. The following year, their **Golden Pheasant** won the Arlington Million and Japan Cup. Gretzky was back in the news this week with the announcement that he will play with other former hockey greats in a Jets vs Oilers legends game at Investors Group Field in Winnipeg on Saturday, Oct. 22 followed the next day by a Jets/Oilers Heritage Classic league game.



Wayne Gretzky with Bruce McNall
 Their horses won Arc and Japan Cup

Will a 20-cent quick-pick ticket take down the \$2.7 million Rainbow? How's your luck?



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