



Weekly Horseplaying Report and Fun Stuff

Vol. 11 No. 10 (Issue #528)

Thursday, March 24, 2016

By Ivan Bigg

Want to know place & show payouts before betting?

See HPI "Tips 'n' Tricks" by Marshall Posner below

Saturday is a horseplayer's dream!

Doors open at 7 a.m. for non-stop action all day including \$30 million in World Cup races from Dubai and mandatory Rainbow 6 payout of about \$12 million

YOUR CHECKLIST . . .

- (1) **7 a.m.:** **Doors open** with a free breakfast sandwich until 8 a.m.
- (2) **7:20 a.m.:** \$30 million in **World Cup races begin** from Meydan Race Course in Dubai. Includes 11 U.S. horses.
- (3) **8 a.m.:** **Group play** of Dubai races begins, led by ASD handicapper **Rob MacLennan** who will have watched about 60 replays of races from around the world. Everyone welcome!
- (4) **8:35 a.m.:** **UAE Derby**, a Kentucky Derby prep race, features spectacular unbeaten filly **Polar River**. Get a free \$5 wager!
- (5) **10:30 a.m.:** **"I won big" workshop** constructs tickets on the estimated \$12 million mandatory-payout **Rainbow 6** at Gulfstream
- (6) **Noon:** The **\$10 million World Cup**, the richest race in the world leaves the gate, featuring **California Chrome**
- (7) **Noon:** Month-end **Player's Choice horseplayer tournament** begins
- (8) **2:30 p.m. (approx.):** Horses go to post for **Gulfstream's Rainbow 6** with an expected pool of \$12 million that must be paid out
- (9) **4:12 p.m.:** \$1 million **Louisiana Derby** from Fair Grounds, the second Derby prep race of the day



Filly is predicted to be "tough to beat" in UAE Derby. Bet her free!

At **precisely** 8:35 a.m. Winnipeg time Saturday, gates will open at Dubai's Meydan Race Course for

the \$2 million UAE Derby--a Kentucky Derby prep race--with filly **Polar River** (above) "very tough to beat," predicts ASD handicapper **Rob MacLennan**. The Kentucky-bred won her four lifetime starts by a combined 32 1/2 lengths. **Get a free \$5 wager on this race** at the Downs! Will she be your Countdown to the Kentucky Derby contest pick? (NOTE: You may pre-enter at the track on Friday. Look for entries.)

WHAT'S **FREE** THIS WEEKEND?

- **FREE BREAKFAST SANDWICH** from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Saturday when the \$30 million World Cup of racing begins from Dubai (First race goes at 7:20 a.m.; group play begins 8 a.m.)
- **FREE \$5 WAGER ON THE UAE DERBY** from Dubai which goes to post 8:35 a.m. Saturday. Can anyone beat **Polar River**?
- **FREE \$5 ADDED TO GROUP SHARES** in the "I won big" workshop at 10:30 a.m. Group will play the mandatory-payout Rainbow 6 at Gulfstream that is expected to grow to **\$12-\$15 million**.
- **FREE ENTRY** into 5-Alive game Friday evening (thoroughbreds) and Saturday evening (harness)
- **FREE VLT PLAY** Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the *Unleash Your Luck* tournament. Get into the draw! Someone will win \$250 Saturday in the month-end finale in addition to money won with free spins.

DOWNLOAD DUBAI RACE PREVIEW [HERE](#)

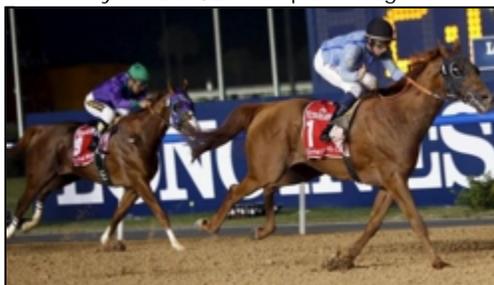
Watch for a special World Cup Insider tomorrow with analyses and picks.

Bullet briefs . . .

- **Almost \$6 million (Cdn) is at stake in today's Rainbow 6**
- **Good Friday includes [betting bonuses](#) added to HPI accounts**
- **VLTs open all day Good Friday and Easter Sunday 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.**
- **New contest: Predict number of U.S. shippers 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Dubai**
- **The thrill of the day tomorrow? Watch Zenyatta's son at Santa**
- **"I won big" group unlikely to ever forget Little John W**
- **Horse breakdowns plummet in 2015**
- **Watch for special World Cup Insider tomorrow**

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

NEW CONTEST: PREDICT U.S. SUCCESS IN DUBAI. WIN \$80 IN BETS! Of the 11 U.S. horses racing in the eight races on World Cup Day at Dubai Saturday, **how many will finish either first, second or third?** Predict the total in the subject line of your email to theinsider@ASDowns.com by midnight Friday. Correct entry wins a \$20 win/place wager on the Florida Derby the following Saturday, DOUBLED to \$40 win/place if the entrant has bet at least \$5 on the UAE Derby Saturday morning at 8:35 a.m. (The wager is free at the track--please save your ticket. If you bet the race on your HPI account, the wager will show up in your betting history.) **BREAKING A TIE:** A draw from correct entries will take place in the Race Book one hour before the Apr. 2 Florida Derby.



California Chrome finishes second to Prince Bishop in 2015 World Cup

Here are the U.S. horses shipping in: (1) Godolphin Mile--**Marking** (2) Dubai Gold Cup--none (3) UAE Derby--**Frank Conversation** (4) Al Quoz Sprint--**Lady Shipman** (5) Dubai Golden Shaheen--**Confrontation, XY Jet** (6) Dubai Turf--**Flamboyant** (7) Sheema Classic--none (8) Dubai World Cup--**California Chrome, Frosted, Mshawish, Hoppertunity, Keen Ice.**

"COUNTDOWN TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY" CONTEST CONTINUES: Be sure to predict the winner of both prep races this weekend: the UAE Derby Saturday morning (you may pre-enter on Friday) and the Louisiana Derby Saturday afternoon. The entrant with the most points in 10 out of 12 prep races wins \$100 win/place on the Kentucky Derby. See leaderboard [here](#). A draw for two sculpted Derby mugs takes place after each prep race. Congrats to last week's winner after the Rebel Stakes: **Paul Gray**.

Click for schedule

DO THE DOWNS



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



"At the post" breakfast special \$5

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 20 Gulfstream 11:35 AM Sunland Stakes at 2 PM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB | 21 Mahoning 11:45 AM Will Rogers 12:30 PM Louisiana 1 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM Woodbine (H) 6:30 PM | 22 Mahoning 11:45 AM Will Rogers 12:30 PM Louisiana 1 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM at 7 PM | 23 Gulfstream 11:35 AM | 24 Gulfstream 11:35 AM Prime rib buffet plus pasta bar at 7 PM | 25 GOOD FRIDAY World Cup Insider Special Gulfstream 11:35 AM VLTs OPEN 9 AM - 2 AM -\$10 RIB DINNER -5-Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM | 26 World Cup ASD opens 7 AM Dubai 7:28 AM Workshops 8 AM & 10:30 AM Tourney 12 PM DERBY PREPS: UAE Derby & LA Derby (FG) at 12 PM -\$10 MEATLOAF DINNER -5-Alive harness 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM |
| 27 VLTs OPEN 9 AM - 2 AM Easter Brunch 11 AM - 2 PM Saratoga 11:15 AM Gulfstream 11:35 AM -\$10 SHAVED PRIME RIB | 28 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sam Houston 1 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM Woodbine (H) 6:30 PM at 6 PM | 29 Mahoning 11:45 AM Sunland 1:30 PM Turf Paradise 3:25 PM | 30 Gulfstream 11:35 AM at 6:30 PM | 31 Aqueduct 11:20 AM Prime rib buffet plus pasta bar | 1 Happy April Fool Day Gulf 11:35 at 7 PM -\$10 RIB DINNER -5-Alive thoroughbred 7 PM -\$10 buy-in poker 7:30 PM -Free VLT tourney 8 PM | 2 I won big 10:30 AM Mahoning Valley 11:15 AM DERBY PREPS: Florida Derby (GP) Spiral (TP) -\$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 ENLARG](#)

"AT THE POST" BREAKFAST SPECIAL 'TIL 2 P.M. SATURDAY: Two eggs, hash browns, toast and your choice of bacon or sausage. Just \$5. Served from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

STILL SOME ROOM AT EASTER BRUNCH! [Menu](#). Reserve at 204-885-3330.



Official stations of horse racing.
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The curse of Little John W

Will the "I won big" group ever live it down?

Heading into the last leg of last Saturday's Rainbow 6 at Gulfstream, a turf race, the "I won big" group had six horses and were looking at a potential payday of tens of thousands of dollars. The group had gotten off to a great start with a 21/1 winner in the first leg so everyone knew this was going to be big.

Enter a retired bricklayer you've read about multiple times in this column. His name is **John Whitehill**. He was keen to point out that a horse named **Little John W** was racing in that race and this was going to be his hunch play. But the group wasn't looking for hunches, it was looking for solid plays and Little John W's new trainer was zero for 13 at the meet and the horse had a below-average turf rating.



John Whitehill
Hunch play kills group ticket

Well, you probably know where this story is heading: The racing gods sent Little John W to the lead and he wired the field at odds of 23/1, setting up a \$38,000 20-cent Rainbow payoff. He beat the group's 10/1 horse by 3/4 of a length. Whitehill cashed his win/place bets and an exactor that paid \$482 and he didn't have to say "I told you so" to group members who already were steeling themselves to a future in which Little John W would be flashing incessantly in their brains.

But there is something that can reverse the suffering: winning a sizeable share of the estimated \$12 million mandatory-payout pool this Saturday. Can the group do it? You're invited to the fray at 10:30 a.m. on the Clubhouse plaza where \$5 will be added to each of your \$20 shares.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

HEY! YOU WERE BETTER BETTORS AT MAJOR TRACKS! This usually doesn't happen but congratulations to ASD players who were net winners during February at Santa Anita, Oaklawn and Gulfstream (in that order)! You did very well at Miami Valley harness as well. Tampa, Aqueduct and Delta were at the other end of the scale.

HORSE BREAKDOWNS PLUMMET 14 PER CENT: It's very encouraging to see that horse breakdowns in the U.S. last year were the lowest since stats started being published in 2009. The average is now 1.62 per 1,000 starts compared to 2014's 1.89 per 1,000 starts. There were fewest breakdowns on synthetic (1.18) and turf courses (1.22). Synthetic is mainly regarded as a turf substitute. The highest rate of breakdowns occurs in short races.

ZENYATTA'S SON IN LIKELY THRILLER AT SANTA TOMORROW: Drop what you're doing Friday afternoon (unless you're already watching Santa Anita) and tune in to Santa's fourth race which will feature **Zenyatta's** son, **Ziconic**, who showed in his first lifetime start that he's a heart-stopping, come-from-the-clouds type of runner, just like his mom. He finished third in his first start at 7f after trailing far behind; he stretches out to 1 1/16 mile tomorrow. Could be your biggest rush of the day.



Zenyatta's son, Ziconic
Like mother, like son

COUNTDOWN TO LIVE RACING ON MOTHER'S DAY: Assistant director of racing **Derek Corbel** says there are now 194 horses on the grounds.

WHAT JETS FANS ARE SAYING: After each Winnipeg Jets loss, you can hear a cacophony of Jets fans saying: "Thank you! Thank you very much!" Bottom feeders in the NHL get the best picks in the June draft. Here are the current standings for the Bigg Cup (best team in western Canada): (1) Calgary—68 points (2) Vancouver tied with Jets—66 points (4) Edmonton—65 points

YOU NAMED ME WHAT? Peony's Envy, Isitingood and Hoof Hearted.

These horses have become legends because their suggestive names made it past the Jockey Club censors. Though they're no longer racing, fans still talk about them. **Peony's Envy** was a male horse who raced at New York tracks from 1999 to 2001. **Isitingood**, also a male horse, was a high percentage \$1.2 million winner from 24 starts at tracks throughout the U.S. from 1993-1997.

Hoof Hearted (say it out loud a few times) is a legendary B.C. mare who had a great heart that kept her racing 61 times at Exhibition Park (now Hastings Park) in Vancouver from 1983 to 1988. A quarter-horse of the same name (but spelled **Hoofhearted**) raced at Los Alamitos from 2009 to 2011.

Where are they now?

by Rob MacLennan

Saylor's Girl Boss is a must-watch at Fonner Saturday

Trainers **Jerry Gourneau** and **Ardell Saylor** continue to have a large number of runners at Fonner Park. Keep an eye on them. Gourneau had a recent winner with 3-year-old **Lift Me Up** (3-1) and a good second-place finish by 3-year-old filly **Witt's Henny Penny** at 26-1. Watch out Saturday for Saylor's 4-year-old filly, **Girl Boss**, in the Runza Stakes. She comes off an impressive debut win.

The **Jared Brown** barn in Phoenix won last week with **My Grandson** for **Tom Payne**. The 4-year-old gelding returned \$7.40. The barn runs the 8-year-old gelding **Two Bucks to Win** in the last leg of the Turf Distance Series this Saturday. He will face **Don Schnell's I Am Awesome** who enjoys a distance of ground. Schnell scored

recently with 7-year-old gelding **Congregationalist** (\$6.20).

ASD stakes winners, **Magic d' Oro**, racing at Turf Paradise and **Balooga Bull**, racing at Fonner Park, had inauspicious 2016 debuts but their connections will look forward to a return to form at their home surface at ASD



ON THE DERBY TRAIL: A better trip for **Mo Tom** should make him very tough in the Louisiana Derby at Fair Grounds Saturday. **Greenpointcrusader** is the deserving favourite since he's not facing **Mohaymen**.

Jared Brown and Don Schnell face off in Turf Paradise turf series

The early-morning UAE Derby, with seven likely entrants, heavily favours the unbeaten four-start filly **Polar River**. Other contenders who are nominated for the Triple Crown include **Frank Conversation** who is shipping over for the **Doug O'Neill** barn and **Lani**, a Japanese invader sired by **Tapit** who has a strong possibility of being shipped to the Kentucky Derby should he win. I'll have more analysis for you tomorrow in the World Cup *Insider Special*.



"TIPS 'N' TRICKS"

with Marshall Posner



Q. How can I see what my horse is paying to place or show?

A. Considering that it depends on which horses finish along with your horse in the win, place and show positions and depending on how much money has been wagered on each of them, it's impossible to say exactly how much your horse will pay to place or show. However, using the new **HPIbet** system, you can actually get an **up-to-date payoff range** when you're placing your bet. Once you've selected your bet in the betting window, look directly above the menus for type of bet and wager amount and you'll see the potential payoff range for your wager (view image [here](#)). Besides win, place and show bets this also works for exacta payoffs. Once you've selected your exacta wager, regardless of whether it's a box or wheel, you'll be shown the potential payoffs (view image [here](#)).

Note this only works when the race you're betting is the next race to go to post and the pools are therefore actively displayed for your race. It does not work if you're pre-betting a race and hoping to check potential payoffs. As we've discussed in previous **Insider Tips**, you can also check the potential exacta payoffs in the **Probables and Will Pays** section and you can always check the **Pool Totals** to see how much money has been wagered on each horse to win, place or show.

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 . . . Vernon Sayler, older brother of 12-time Downs' leading trainer, **Ardell Sayler**, won the leading apprentice jockey title in 1967 but died in a plane crash four years later? Track historian **Bob Gates** recounts the bittersweet saga in "Gone but not forgotten" [here](#).



Watch for a special World Cup Insider tomorrow!



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