

# Pimlico Summer Meet Opens Friday



**BALTIMORE, 08-10-05**---After an eight-week break, live racing returns to Maryland on Friday at Pimlico Race Course with a nine-race card, including four on the turf course. First post is 1:10 p.m.

The nine-day summer meet features two state-bred turf stakes races: the Humphrey Finney (August 13) and Mister Diz (August 20). The meeting ends Friday, August 26 when racing shifts to Timonium for the state fair stand.

While many of the top conditioners in the state moved their stables to central Virginia for the Colonial Downs meet, Dale Capuano decided to stay at Laurel Park and rest the majority of his 75 horses, saddling only 64 starters since the Pimlico summer meet ended June 12.

"I can't wait until Friday," said Capuano, who has been Maryland's top trainer for seven of the last eight years. "We haven't run many horses, so they are fresh and ready to roll if we can get them in the right spots."

Capuano, who has won 11 consecutive training titles at Pimlico, will send out two morning line favorites on opening day. Private Slip is the 2-1 choice in the fifth, a starter allowance on the grass. The 11-year old has 17 lifetime victories on the turf and earnings over \$600,000. Salary Cap, 9-5 in the sixth, has won two straight for the Capuano barn this summer since being claimed at Old Hilltop in late May.

Horacio Karamanos won the riding title at the recently completed Colonial Downs meet for the second time, winning 66 races in 40 days. Ferris Allen edged Hamilton Smith 24-22 for the training title.

Top riders Ryan Fogelsonger (injured back) and Steve Hamilton (vacation) will not ride often during the mini-meet. Both will return on a full-time basis when the fall meeting begins at Laurel Park on Wednesday, September 7.

Starting Friday, the Maryland signal will also be available on "Premier", the largest pay-per-view channel in Germany. Pimlico is the fourth United States track to have its races telecast to European customers, joining Thistledown, Calder and Arlington Park. Wagering will be done through MagnaBet, the European arm of Magna Entertainment Corp.

Beginning this Saturday, the Maryland Jockey Club will serve as the North American wagering hub for live racing and wagering from Maronas National Race Track in Uruguay. Immediately after Pimlico's last race, the action will zoom 5,265 miles away to South America. Win, place, show, trifecta and superfecta wagering will be offered. This feature is expected to continue for the remainder of the calendar year.

# Finney Stakes Tops Saturday Card

**BALTIMORE, 8-11-05**---Four races on the turf, topped by the \$50,000 Humphrey S. Finney Stakes for 3-year-old Maryland-bred colts and geldings, highlight the first Saturday of racing during Pimlico's nine-day summer stand. First post for the 11-race card is 1:10 p.m. Also starting this weekend, the Maryland Jockey Club will serve as the wagering hub for simulcasting from Maronas Race Track in Uruguay.



The Finney Stakes has attracted a field of seven who will race nine furlongs over the turf. Learning, a grey-roan son of Lear Fan, has been established as the 2-1 favorite. The colt has started three times on the turf, with maiden and allowance victories and a seventh place finish in Delaware Park's Kent Stakes. Horacio Karamanos, who topped all riders at the just concluded Colonial Downs meeting, has the mount.

Kevin Boniface trains Learning. He said, "He came out of his last race pretty good. I may have fed him to the wolves (in the Grade III Kent). We've been pointing him for this race ever since. My father trained his dam (Northern Flair) for the owner. Learning was her first foal. We also have his half-brother, a 2-year-old colt by Mojave Moon. The owner (Richard Granville) breeds his own stock and has been devoted to the game for some time."

Easy Red, a gelded son of Charismatic, is second choice on the morning line at 5-2. He has not started on the turf, but has posted two wins in five starts on the main track. James Murphy trains Easy Red and Steve Hamilton will ride.

Murphy said, "I trained his half brother who won on the grass a couple weeks ago. He's bred for it and has those big turf feet. If he takes to it like his brother, we'll have a lot more options."

Next up is Seize at 3-1. The colt has raced in five stakes during his eight race career without a victory, but he did post three wins in his other three starts. Erick Rodriguez will ride for trainer Michael Pino.

Pino said, "He's doing very good. I've wanted to try him on the grass for a while – but there weren't many opportunities. He has a solid turf pedigree with Runaway Groom on top and Caveat on the dam's side. I'm OK with the 1-1/8 mile distance. We'll probably try to take him back and make one run."

Completing the lineup are Sherbrook Rye (6-1), Fin Addict (8-1), Quiet Cover (12-1) and Yin Yang (12-1).

The simulcasted races from Maronas will be presented at the end of both Saturday and Sunday's race cards. Three races will be imported on Saturday and four on Sunday with win, place, show, exacta, triple and superfecta wagering

# Pimlico Opens for Summer Stand

**BALTIMORE, Md. 8-12-05**---Things took an interesting turn, maybe a harbinger of curious things to come, when Xcape caught Godsend in the final jump to tie for the win the opening race of Pimlico's nine day summer meeting.



Not only did two horses tie for the win in the opener, but the winning riders were both named Eric. Eric Camacho rode Xcape and Eric Rodriguez piloted Godsend. Both horses, 5-year-old geldings, paid \$2.60 to win.

Pimlico played host to live racing for the first time since early June and 5,061 fans spent the afternoon under hazy summer skies, as

temperatures hovered above 95 degrees. Today's Pimlico card included nine races, four of which were contested over the turf.

Rodriguez moved into first place in the rider standings when he won the fourth race atop Freeze Alert and the finale aboard Prince Artax. No other rider had more than one winner today.

# Jockey Rosenthal Retires

**BALTIMORE, Md. 8-13-05**---Journeyman jockey Mark Rosenthal announced that his third place finish aboard Devil On The Moon in today's ninth race would be the final ride of his career. Rosenthal has decided to trade in his tack for a condition book and start a new career as a jockey's agent.



He will represent seven-pound bug rider Chris Russell, who recently made the move from California to Maryland.

"I'm ready. I had a lot of fun. Riding was something I always wanted to do. But your body tells you when it's time to stop. I have a wife and three kids at home. This will give me a chance to spend more time with them. I was fortunate to have a good career and ride for some good people. A lot of folks helped me out along the way. I look forward to working with them as a jockey's agent."

Rosenthal rode 828 winners from 8,226 mounts. He plied his trade almost exclusively in Maryland and West Virginia. Highlights of his career include victories aboard Coolmars in the West Virginia Breeders' Classic and a milestone score atop Cherokee Sunrise, which marked trainer King T. Leatherbury's 6,000th lifetime win.

# Learning Romps in Humphrey S. Finney Stakes

**BALTIMORE, Md. 8-13-05**---Richard Granville's Learning took control of the pace right from the start and led the rest of the way to register a handy three-length score in today's feature, the \$50,000 Humphrey S. Finney Stakes for 3-year-old Maryland-breds at Old Hilltop.

Learning, a grey-roan son of Lear Fan, completed the nine furlong distance in 1:56.66 over the yielding turf course and paid \$4.80. Jockey Horacio Karamanos, who displayed such a hot hand while riding over the turf during the recently concluded Colonial Downs meeting, piloted the winner for trainer Kevin Boniface.

Easy Red rallied outside to take the place and Seize came up the rail to edge out Sherbrook Rye for third. The exacta returned \$19 and the triple \$65.



Karamanos said, "I thought that he hadn't run too many races and he might find it difficult to relax. When I tried to pull him a little bit he fought with me, so I said 'go' and he relaxed very well. When we got into the stretch he started to look around, getting in a little bit and getting out, but I got him straightened out. He's a nice horse."

Trainer Boniface said, "I was concerned with what I read in the Sun (Baltimore Sun) about the 1:59 time yesterday but I walked (out on the turf course) and it seemed to tighten up a little bit. They sure are cutting it up out there.

"I don't know how this owner figured out to name him so well but this horse is still learning. He's regally bred. He's going to go places. He's out of a full sister to Ops Smile, who won the Manhattan for us. His mother was a nice filly. She was second in a stakes but injured herself behind and never was able to show her true potential.

"The owner is old-school. He breeds to race. I really like that about him. It's a shame he couldn't be here today. He's vacationing in Montana, as he does every year. He takes great pleasure and honor in winning top races."

# Full Field Awaits Grassy Mister Diz Stakes

**BALTIMORE, Md. 8-18-05** ---The 1-2-3 finishers from last year's \$50,000 Mister Diz Stakes will meet again on Saturday, but others figure to get more play.

Yankee Wildcat, Nortouch and Quest of Fate are among twelve entered in the five furlong test on the inner track, but the 3-1 morning line favorite is crack sprinter Dale's Prospect. The race is restricted to Maryland-breds, 3-year-old and up.

Dale's Prospect sports a record of 6-5-1 in fourteen tries, posted a Beyer speed figure of 106 two races back and finished



a good second to sprinting sensation Forest Park in his last start, the Mo Bay Stakes at Delaware Park. Erick Rodriguez, the leading rider at the meeting, has the call for trainer Dale Capuano. Capuano said, "He's doing great, but we're only going to be there if the race comes off the turf. I'll be doing a rain dance this weekend." Dale's Prospect is owned by the trainer's father. Asked if the horse was named after him, Capuano said, "I never wanted a horse named after me – but my dad snuck that one in there."

Second choice on the morning line is Procreate, a three-time winner on the grass. He's already won two stakes this year, the Yankee Affair on the grass at Gulfstream Park and the Rapid Transit Claiming Crown on the main track at Canterbury Downs. Trainer John Zimmerman has yet to name a rider.

Yankee Wildcat was a commanding, 3-1/2 length winner in this race last year, but has not won since. He finished 3rd and 2nd in turf races at Pimlico this spring and traveled to Calder in July to finish 5th in the Calder Turf Sprint Handicap. Enrique Jurado, who was aboard for the Mister Diz victory last year, regains the mount. Tim Tullock trains the Forest Wildcat gelding.

Tullock said, "He came back from Miami great. He just had a nice work at Laurel. The course wasn't a factor in his loss. Tactically, we should have sent him with the leader. The frontrunners never came back to us.

"He loves Pimlico. He won this race last year."

Nortouch, last year's runner-up, held the Pimlico track record at this distance for a short period last year. He won again after his record setting run, but has been winless since. Jann Anderson trains Nortouch and Joe Rocco Jr. will make his first start aboard the Norquestor 6-year-old.

Quest of Fate, third last year, has been unable to crack the winners' circle since July 2004. The Ben Feliciano Jr. trainee has finished 3rd in three of his last eight starts. Luis Garcia will try to reverse the fortunes of this Norquestor horse.

Trainer Feliciano also named Crossing Point to the Mister Diz. The speedy gelding is winless on the turf and may be entered in case the race comes off the grass. No rider is named.

Saay Mi Mine was sharp in victory in his last start, the Chesapeake Stakes at Colonial Downs. That day he carried Chris VanHassel to the win on Colonial's main track. VanHassel retrains the mount for trainer Wayne Bailey.

Completing the field are Spring Kitten (no rider), Jane's Luck (no rider), Hands On (Jozbin Santana), Overhandright (Jesus Bracho) and Mr. Mutter (Richard Monterrey).

## Yankee Wildcat Repeats In Mister Diz Stakes

**BALTIMORE, 08-20-05** --- Mrs. Frank Wright's Yankee Wildcat, without a win since taking the Mister Diz Stakes last year, defended his title with a resounding victory over seven other Maryland-breds on the firm turf at Pimlico.

Reunited with jockey Enrique Jurado, Yankee Wildcat pressed front running favorite Procreate right out of the gate and kept after the leader until wearing him down a furlong from the finish. The seven-year-old took over the lead



inside the furlong marker and held Procreate at bay the rest of the way to win by 1-1/4 lengths. Spring Kitten outbobbed Hands On to be third.

The Tim Tullock trainee completed the five furlong distance in 56.87 and paid \$11. The exacta returned \$42 and the triple \$419.80.

Tullock said, "He likes this course. It was a big effort. Enrique rode him great."

Procreate, who set a world record at the distance at Gulfstream Park in April, set fractions of 21.33 for the first quarter and 44.29 for a half-mile.

"I think he ran well", said Erick Rodriguez, who rode the favorite. "I had to use up my horse to get out of the gate and it hurt us. That other horse is tough."

"He was really sending his horse to the lead," said Jurado. "I was taking advantage of a good break and tried to keep him close and clear. All I had to do was just follow the instructions, just let the speed go. I was very confident in my horse."

Yankee Wildcat is five-for-10 on the Pimlico grass with nine in the money finishes. Last year the son of Forest Wildcat set the course record, covering the five-furlongs in 55.89 but was winless in his last four starts.

"He had run up against some heavy hitters," added Tullock.

This was the fourth victory for Wright in the Mister Diz. In addition to last year's win, the Baltimore County native also won the race with North Carroll (1992) and Tyaskin (1998).

## Laurel Park

# Laurel Turf Course Opens to Rave Reviews



**LAUREL, MD. 08-24-05**---Officials of the Maryland Jockey Club hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house today to celebrate the opening of the highly anticipated new turf course at Laurel Park. Twenty-one horses galloped and worked over the lush greenery for the first time this morning. Both riders and horsemen were quick to lavish praise on the new surface.

Turf course superintendent Robbie Mitten was given the honor of cutting a yellow ribbon which was draped across the entrance to the turf course, officially opening the new surface to awaiting exercise riders and horses at 9:05 a.m.

Jockey Steve Hamilton was aboard Lukipela, the first horse to work out over the track. Hamilton finished the work, jogged his horse to the gap and announced, "It's got some cushion. It's got some bounce. Overall it's very even and in great shape."

Jockey Horacio Karamanos worked several horses for trainers Ann Merryman and Carlos Garcia and said, "It's perfect. Excellent. I like it." He looked at track supervisor Mitten and joked, "You made this turf course for me!"

Trainer Garcia said, "So far it's very good. I worked a filly Toogie Too Shoes at Colonial the last time out on the turf, the same horse on which Karamanos broke the record for number of wins. He's going to work her right now to see if he finds any difference to this turf." Karmanos worked the horse, circled back and reported his impressions to Garcia in Spanish. The trainer translated, "He called the grass really good. Much better than Colonial."

Jockey Chip Van Hassel worked Jakes Lil Sister and said, "It's consistent all the way around. My horse seemed to grab it pretty good. We'll see when it gets wet. That's really the test of a surface. It's nice. The grass is thick. I liked it."

Apprentice rider Anna Napravnik, jogging back aboard Private Whisper shouted over her shoulder, "It's better than Colonial. It's lovely."

Turf supervisor Mitten said, "You really couldn't judge it until you saw some horses on it, but now I think it's great. It was a lot of work, a total team effort."

MJC Chief Operating Officer Lou Raffetto said, "Obviously I'm ecstatic with the way the course seems to be and the riders' reactions to it. They know better than we do. We had over 20 horses working and it looked great. When guys like Karamanos and Hamilton come back and say the course is great, we're happy with that. We couldn't be happier right now."

The completion of the turf course was the second leg of a multi-million dollar project to completely replace both the main track and turf course at Laurel Park. Work commenced in June 2004. Both courses were bulldozed and the drainage systems, bases and surfaces were rebuilt. The main track was widened from 75 feet to 95 feet. A new apron, winners' circle and fencing were constructed along the home stretch.

Weather delays led to a halt in the construction of the turf course last fall. Construction resumed this past spring. The new, sweeping turf course has been widened from 75 feet to 142 feet. It will accommodate six track configurations which have been named All Along, Bowl Game, Kelso, Dahlia, Exceller and Ft. Marcy, in honor of some of the great horses which have competed on the grass at Laurel Park.

"The wider track is going to give us some options to move the rail quite a few times during the course of the meet," added Hamilton. "I don't think they could have done a better job."

Raffetto expects to card four turf races a day through November. The Laurel Park fall meeting will open September 7 with live racing on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the month. Sunday racing will be added beginning the first week of October.

Racing secretary Georganne Hale said, "I think it's beautiful. You know I'm going to like it. It makes my life easier."

## Pimlico

# Rodriguez, Lake and Gill Capture Summer Meet Titles



**BALTIMORE, 08-26-05**---The nine-day Pimlico summer meeting ended this afternoon with Erick Rodriguez, Scott Lake and Michael Gill capturing individual titles. Live racing shifts to Timonium tomorrow for the eight-day state fair meet. The Laurel Park fall stand begins on Wednesday, September 7.

Rodriguez, who missed the entire Pimlico spring meet after fracturing four vertebrae in the T-spine section in his back from a spill at Laurel Park on April 14, rode 12 winners during the

brief stand, one more than Eric Camacho. Horacio Karamanos finished in third place with 10 first place finishes.

a "I have to thank the trainers for putting on good horses," said Rodriguez, who shared the Pimlico summer title in 2004. "I just tried to do my job. I ride pretty good horses. I tried to keep things nice and quiet."

Lake saddled six winners, two more than Dale Capuano and Ben Feliciano. Lake, who ranks second nationally in victories, had three winners on the August 18 card. The title is the fifth at the major Maryland tracks for the 40-year old who has also won three titles at Laurel Park and shared the 2001 summer title with Capuano.

Michael Gill took the owner title for the 13th straight meet at Pimlico or Laurel Park, winning three races. The familiar blue colors, which lead the nation in wins and earnings, have 70 victories in Maryland this year.

### **JOSUE BELTRAN BREAKS MAIDEN**

In the final race of the meet, apprentice Josue Beltran earned the first win of his career when he guided Mighty Molly (\$9.60) to an easy score. The 21-year old is represented by former jockey Frank Douglas. Beltran's old brother, Miguel, finished fourth in the race aboard Bobos Lobo.