

# PIMLICO

## More Smoke Smokes 'Em In Dancing Count Stakes



**BALTIMORE, 01-01-05**---More Smoke started the new year the way he ended the last one with an electrifying victory, this time against newly turned 3-year-olds in today's \$50,000 Dancing Count Stakes at Pimlico.

At Mountaineer Park in his previous start, More Smoke was in total control, winning off by thirteen lengths and earning the following comment in the Equibase chart: "in charge, much best".

Now three for four lifetime, the grey-roan son of Smoke Glacken left the rail post in a hurry, raced ahead of Primal Storm into the stretch, then re-broke and pulled away to a 3-3/4 length triumph. Timely Impulse rallied to take the second spot. Primal Storm narrowly held onto third over Seeyoubychance.

Under journeyman jockey Mario Pino, the John Zimmerman trainee covered the six furlongs in 1:11.81 and paid \$3.80.

Pino said, "On paper, he looked like a fast horse. He had the rail and when you're in that position you have to go, especially if they break sharp. Horses with that kind of talent, you don't want to get trapped down behind horses. I knew at the top of the lane, if nobody had passed us, it wasn't likely they were going to. He switched to his right lead in the stretch and gave me a little extra gear. He ran with some pretty nice horses today and it looks like he could go on and be nice."

Seeyoubychance, who had won two straight at the distance including the H. Steward Mitchell Stakes on December 4, finished fourth as the 5-2 second choice in the wagering.

"I thought we were in a good spot though I did hope they would have gone a little faster," said Ryan Fogelsonger, who rode the Dale Capuano trainee. "I think he ran his race, but this was a tougher field than he has faced. This horse has to be on the outside and because of that it cost us third, but we were not going to be better than that today."

Morning line favorite Monster Chaser scratched, opting to run in yesterday's Maryland Juvenile Championship where he finished second.

### **FRIEL'S FOR REAL FOR REAL IN RETURN**

Friel's For Real, who won five of six starts a year ago, made a triumphant return after a seven and a half month layoff, scoring a popular score (\$2.40) in the sixth race. Trained by Ned Allard, the five-year old won a pair of added money races in Maryland in 2004, including the Pimlico Distaff (Grade III) on the Preakness undercard. This afternoon she was confidentially ridden by Abel Castellano defeating a determined Anyplace Anytime by a measured half-length. She completed the mile and sixteenth test in 1:46.11. Friel's For Real is now nine of 16 lifetime with 14 in the money finishes.

## LEATHERBURY KICKS OFF NEW YEAR WITH TWO WINNERS

King Leatherbury kicked off the new year in fine fashion, saddling a pair of winners on the January 1 card. The 71-year old conditioner scored with Fancy Tango (\$7-second) and Aho Acre (\$8-fourth) and now has 6,054 career victories, which puts him third on the all-time win list.

## Dale's Prospect Is Up In Time In Pimlico Feature

**BALTIMORE, 01-02-05**---Dale's Prospect chased Curb every step of the way, then pushed his nose to the fore just three jumps from the finish line to win today's feature, a \$30,000 Optional Allowance for older horses at Pimlico.

Curb left the starting gate as the 9-5 favorite and Dale's Prospect was next at 2- From start to finish, the six furlong test came down to these two. At the wire, Dale's Prospect had won by a neck and had stopped the timer in 1:11.39.



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Erick Rodriguez rode the 4-year-old chestnut colt for trainer Dale Capuano, the leading trainer on the Maryland circuit in 2004. The victory was the fourth in eight starts for Dale's Prospect.

Dale's Prospect paid \$6.40 and topped a \$20.80 exacta.

## MJC Announces Final 2004 Handle Figures



**BALTIMORE, 01-04-05**---Racing eleven fewer days than the previous year, the Maryland Jockey Club announced its total handle declined four percent in 2004. All sources handle totaled \$868.1 million as compared to \$905.7 million from the same period in 2003. The daily average handle from all sources decreased two percent from \$3.48 million to \$3.41 million. For the fourth consecutive year, the daily average handle on the export signal increased, this time by four percent.

The major Maryland tracks raced 197 days in 2004, but only 62 at Laurel Park, which has been closed since mid-June as Magna Entertainment

Corp. began a multi-million dollar renovation. Live racing is scheduled to return to Laurel Park on January 22 after a 10-month hiatus.

The marquee event of the year, the Preakness Stakes®, was a major success as a crowd of 112,668 packed historic Pimlico Race Course, the largest crowd to witness a sporting event in the state. Attendance figures have now topped six-figures in five of the last six years, including four straight. All sources handle for racing on Preakness day wagering finished at \$87.9 million, smashing the record of \$71.4 million set in 2002. A pool of \$59.4 million was bet on the state's signature event.

The two headline events of the fall calendar also produced productive days. The \$4.6 million bet on the October 9 Pimlico card was a record for Maryland Million races, while a total of \$3.8 million passed through the pari-mutuel windows on the 10-race Fall Festival Of Racing card at Old Hilltop on November 20, a day featuring six added money races, headlined by the Grade I De Francis Dash.

"This has been an up and down year," said Jim Gagliano, Executive Vice President of Maryland Racing Operations. "The high was clearly the Preakness, which saw a record crowd and handle. However, as we have seen throughout the years, the steady decline of handle has continued, which has forced us to continually search for more efficiencies. We look forward to many successful years of memorable racing on the new Laurel Park surfaces. The good news is that the amount of wagering on our signal outside of Maryland continues to rise, indicating that the popularity of our live racing product continues to grow in other parts of the country."

## My Kind Of Town Captures Wednesday Feature

**BALTIMORE, 01-05-05**---My Kind Of Town confirmed that Pimlico is his kind of track by winning today's \$32,000 allowance feature for older horses. The grey-roan gelding has now won five of 11 starts at Old Hilltop and finished in the money nine times.

Claimed out of his last race by leading owner Michael Gill, the seven-year old stalked the pace set by Torch the Halls and gained command midway on the far turn in the mile and a sixteenth test and steadily drew off under pressure by jockey Jeremy Beasley to win by three lengths.



"It couldn't have set up any better," said Beasley, who rides first call for Team Gill. "The five-horse (Torch the Halls) was stretching out after sprinting so he showed a little speed. I had heard this horse was peaking and he showed the back-class today."

The Kenny Cox trainee stopped the clock at 1:45.59 on the muddy track and paid \$4.60 as the favorite. The win was the 15th in 57 career starts for the son of Mr. Greeley. The victory pushed My Kind Of Town's earnings above \$400,000 to \$401,990.

### FULL FIELDS FOR TOMORROW'S URUGUAY RACES

Full fields of 14 horses each were drawn for both Uruguayan races to be simulcast to the United States on January 6, the Group 1 Gran Premio J.P. Ramirez and the Group 1 Gran Premio Pedro Piñeyrua from Maroñas National Racetrack. The imported races will follow Pimlico's final live race and

will be carded as Races 9 and 10. Post time for The Ramirez is 4:20 p.m. ET. The Piñeyrua will be run at 5:10 p.m. ET.

There will be separate North American wagering pools, featuring win, place, show, exacta, trifecta and superfecta wagering. The takeout rate for win, place and show bets is 18%; the rate for exactas is 21%; and the rate for trifectas and superfectas is 25.75%.

This will be the 110th running of The Ramirez, Uruguay's premier race and traditionally one of South America's most important classics. Named after Jose Pedro Ramirez, one of the founders of Maroñas National Racetrack, The Ramirez will be run at its traditional distance of 2400 meters (about 1 ½ miles). In a race which boasts several legitimate contenders, the probable favorite is the three-year-old Ad Better (horses foaled in the southern hemisphere do not add a year to their ages until July 1).

The son of sprint sire Hearty will be stepping back 100 meters for The Ramirez, having captured Uruguay's three-year-old championship after victories in the final two legs of this country's Triple Crown, the Group 1 Jockey Club (2000 meters) and the Group 1 National (2500 meters). Ad Better is the property of Maua Stable and is trained by Sarandi Juanico.

Champion Argentine jockey Pablo Falero, a native Uruguayan, will be in to ride Davide, who finished only a length and a quarter behind Ad Better in the National. Falero just missed with Davide in his first mount and the son of Much Better will receive heavy support from the betting public.

Local distance champion and 2400 meter track record holder Robin Fir had his string of three straight victories cut short on December 5 when surprised by improving three-year-old Aguasfiestas in the Comparison Stakes. Despite that defeat, Robin Fir will have plenty of support when he goes postward on Thursday.

Virgen del Lujan Stable's Don Simon is riding a three-race winning streak, the last of those coming at 1800 meters on November 21. The Ruben Gonzalez trainee won at 6 furlongs and five and one-half furlongs earlier in the season.

Five Argentine-based runners invade for The Ramirez. El Idolo Stable's Holocausto (Halo Sunshine) comes off a victory in a Group 3 stakes in Argentina on December 19 and appears ready for a top effort. He is trained by Roberto Pellegata, who will be hoping to emulate last year's Ramirez victory by his trainee Bat Ruizero.

La Pomme Stable's Retrato (Brown Arc) finished second in a Group 1 before finishing just three lengths behind Badajo at 2400 meters on November 19. The quality of that race was underscored when Badajo lost an exciting finish in this year's Gran Premio Pellegrini, Argentina's most important race. Retrato is trained by Julio Penna and will be ridden by Miguel Abregu.

Jorge Ricardo, currently leading in a battle with Pat Day for the title of world's winningest active jockey, will be at Maroñas to ride Equipado, an Argentine-bred son of Candy Stripes. Equipado disappointed as the favorite on Dec. 26 when he failed to get up in time going 2000 meters, finishing third.

The entire field, in post position order, is as follows:

- 1—Robin Fir (Uru), Jorge W. Garcia, 132 lbs.
- 2—Ad Better (Uru), Ronoel Damacena 121 lbs.
- 3—Don Simon (Uru), Gustavo Duarte 134 lbs.
- 4—Aguasfiestas (Uru), Roni Von Souza 121 lbs.
- 5—Equipado (Arg), Jorge Ricardo 134 lbs.

- 6—Demonio Fitz (Arg), Irineo Tijera 134 lbs.
- 7—The Best (Uru), Carlos Bueno 121 lbs.
- 8—Potro Card (Arg), Jesus Medina 132 lbs.
- 9—Retrato (Arg), Miguel Abregu 132 lbs.
- 10—Holocausto (Arg), Julio Mendez 134 lbs.
- 11—Rich Li (Arg), Pablo Garcia 134 lbs.
- 12—Davide (Uru), Pablo Falero 121 lbs.
- 13—Nice Road (Arg), Fernando Olivera 121 lbs.
- 14—Hero's Son (Brz), Guido Bonacci 134 lbs.

The Group 1 Pedro Piñeyrua promises to be one of the best-matched fields of milers to be assembled here in years. Probable favorite for the race is Mistongo, the local star who has distinguished himself outside Uruguay by winning the Group 3 Brazil Stakes in Argentina in his most recent out at the Piñeyrua distance of 1600 meters. Mistongo also finished a troubled fourth in the Group 1 Gran Premio Latinoamericano in Chile back in April.

Argentine-based Emergente, a son of Salt Lake, is a very accomplished horse whose victories include a win in Las Estrellas, the Argentine equivalent of the Breeders Cup. Emergente will have the services of riding legend Pablo Falero and is trained by Argentine stalwart Juan Maldotti.

La Camorra Stable's Psycho won in Argentina in September before moving to Uruguay and capturing his first and only start so far at Maroñas. Psycho trounced that field by eight and one quarter lengths. Trainer Mario Gonzalez has named Jorge Washington Garcia to ride Psycho.

Brazilian-breds John Bravo and One Champion both merit respect in the Piñeyrua. John Bravo had won three in a row at a mile or seven and a half furlongs before finishing a close third in a try at nine furlongs. Returning to his most effective distance, John Bravo will have champion rider Jorge Ricardo in the irons. One Champion has been a model of consistency at the distance and jockey Nuber Mieres will likely utilize One Champion's closing style to take advantage of what is surely to be a hot pace.

Here is the field in post position order with riders:

- 1—Halcon Kid (Brz) Roni Von Souza 132 lbs.
- 2—One Champion (Brz) Nuber Mieres 132 lbs.
- 3—Hustle Guapo (Uru), Heber Egui 121 lbs.
- 4—Psycho (Arg), Jorge Garcia 132 lbs.
- 5—Mistongo (Uru), Carlos Bueno 130 lbs.
- 6—Forty Reside (Arg), Richard Eraria 121 lbs.
- 7—Emergente (Arg), Pablo Falero 130 lbs.
- 8—Palatino (Arg), Fernando Olivera 121 lbs.
- 9—John Bravo (Brz), Jorge Ricardo 132 lbs.

10—El Audaz (Uru), Ernesto Martinez 132 lbs.

11—El Dos mil (Uru), Esteban Lazo 130 lbs.

12—Filippo (Uru) 130 lbs.

13—Pecoso West (Arg), Jesús Medina 132 lbs.

14—El Cencerro (Uru), Mario Gonzalez 121 lbs.

The rare opportunity to simulcast South American racing into the U.S. was made possible by a working relationship between the Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) and Maroñas National Racetrack.

Located in Uruguay's coastal capital city Montevideo, Maroñas had been one of South America's premier racing centers for more than 100 years, but fell into decline in the 1980s and closed in 1997. After a 5 ½-year hiatus, the historic racetrack reopened in 2003 as South America's first "racino" and has rapidly resumed its place among the region's most important racing venues.

Lone Star Park, Pimlico and Laurel Park's sister track, was hired to assist in the reopening and oversee Maroñas' racing operations.

The races are being run Jan. 6 because it is a national holiday in Uruguay.

## Flashy Three Heads The Field In Saturday's Marshua Stakes

**BALTIMORE, 01-06-05**---Flashy Three, an extremely hard luck second in her last start, seeks to set things right in Saturday's \$50,000 Marshua Stakes for 3-year-old fillies. Maryland Jockey Club handicapper Frank Carulli has made the Rodney Jenkins trainee the 9-5 morning line favorite.

In the Toddler Stakes, Flashy Three stumbled at the start, leaving the door open for Golden Malibu to skip off an easy lead and an easy score. Ryan Fogelsonger rode the filly that day and had this to say after the race, "She didn't have anything go her way today. She came over here a little antsy, was washed out in the post parade, had to walk around when the horse got loose, stumbled out of the gate, got nailed in the face by the whip at the quarter pole, didn't want to switch leads and she still finished second." On the bright side he added, "I think you are going to see a great deal from this filly."



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Fogelsonger will not be back aboard to test his theory. Ramon Dominguez is named to ride Flashy Three for the first time. The daughter of Pulpit has posted two solid workouts at Pimlico since the Toddler.

Fogelsonger will be aboard Patty Girl (7-2) instead. This New Jersey-bred won her debut at Monmouth and ran a good third in the New Jersey Futurity after an awkward start. Owner Alan Goldberg trains Patty Girl.

Maysville, who is two for two for trainer Michael Pino, is the 2-1 second choice on the morning line. The gray-roan Notebook filly trains at Philadelphia Park and will have regular rider Luis Diaz aboard.

Rush To Glory (4-1) starts from the outside post on Saturday. With Taylor Hole in the irons, the daughter of Wild Rush won handily at Charles Town in her last try. She has won at Pimlico and brings a 3-2-1 record in seven starts to the mix. Hole retains the mount.

Completing the line-up are Promenade Girl (10-1) and Be Ambitious (15-1).

### **MJC TO HONOR STARS OF 2004 THIS SATURDAY**

The Maryland Jockey Club will honor four local stars for who shined during 2004 in a ceremony on Saturday at Pimlico Race Course. Festivities will include presentations to jockeys, trainers and owners in the winners' circle.

Michael Gill, who dominated the owner standings by winning 153 races at Pimlico and Laurel Park, will make a rare appearance in Maryland for the ceremony. The New Hampshire native also topped the national standings with 487 wins, seven fewer than the record set by Dan Lasater in 1974 and is a finalist for the Eclipse Award.

"I want to thank say thank you to Maryland who gave me stalls when all the other tracks wouldn't," said Gill, who since arriving on the state scene in late 2001 has recorded 422 victories at the major Maryland tracks. "I am going to support Maryland with or without slots. I am breeding in the state at Bonita Farm with the Boniface family, so I am with Maryland for the long-haul."

Ryan Fogelsonger (most wins) and Ramon Dominguez (top winning percentage) will be rewarded for winning local riding titles, while Dale Capuano captured both training titles in the state for the year with 94 wins and a 24% winning percentage and will accept checks for \$2,500.

## **Maryland Jockey Club Announces Races To Be Televised On HRTV Via Comcast**

**BALTIMORE, 01-07-05**---Beginning next week the Maryland Jockey Club signal will appear on Comcast systems as part of a digital sports package involving HorseRacing TV (HRTV). HRTV will launch in Baltimore County on January 14 and the next day will be available in Baltimore City, Montgomery County and the Dover (DE)/lower Eastern Shore area. On January 22, HRTV will be available in Prince George's County.

HRTV features television coverage of 14 racetracks owned, operated, or managed by Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC), including Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park. The network also telecasts live coverage from more than 60 other racetracks in North America.

"We're pleased that Comcast has recognized the value our product brings to its programming lineup," said Jim Gagliano, Executive Vice President of Maryland Racing Operations. "In addition we



are delighted that racing fans from major metropolitan areas like Baltimore and Washington will be able to enjoy some of the most prestigious names in horse racing including Santa Anita and Gulfstream Park, which are currently conducting the nation's best racing."

Wagering, where not expressly prohibited by law, may be conducted via the phone or Internet through XpressBet™ ([www.xpressbet.com](http://www.xpressbet.com)), MEC's national account wagering system.

"The wider distribution of any of our signals is good for all of us," said Richard Hoffberger, President of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association which represents owners and trainers. "Getting on cable is just the next step to making people who enjoy watching our product happy. Right now most of the time we are racing I am working so I have to watch the races on Xpress Bet™, which works very well, but cable will bring a wider distribution and that is a plus."

"This is part of the big picture," added Gagliano. "HRTV compliments our live racing experience and is designed to develop new fans."

### **LAUREL PARK OPEN FOR TRAINING SUNDAY**

Laurel Park will be open for training Sunday, January 9 after the crew topped the final layer of cushion earlier this week. Training hours will be the normal 6:00 to 10:00, with a harrow break at 8:00.

The backstretch and racing surfaces at Laurel Park have been closed since mid-June as Magna Entertainment Corp. began a multi-million dollar renovation, which includes the widening of both racing surfaces. The dirt course has been increased from 75 to 95 feet, while the turf course will be expanded from 75 to 142 feet.

Live racing will continue at Pimlico through Monday, January 17 and is expected to return to Laurel Park on Saturday, January 22.

### **KARAMANOS TO RETURN IN TWO WEEKS**

Jockey Horacio Karamanos, who was sixth in the 2004 standings at the major Maryland tracks, is expected to return to riding on the opening day of the Laurel Park portion of the winter meeting. The 31-year old injured his right knee in a starting gate mishap at Pimlico last month and during his absence he served a 10-day suspension for a riding infraction. Karamanos was on the Pimlico backside this morning, working horses.

## **Rush To Glory Captures Marshua Stakes Via Disqualification**



**BALTIMORE, 01-08-05**---Rush To Glory won today's \$50,000 Marshua Stakes at Pimlico Race Course by way of disqualification. In the six furlong test for 3-year-olds fillies contested over a sloppy racing surface, the Wild Rush filly caught front runner Maysville in deep stretch, battled with that one in close quarters to the finish line, finished second by a neck but after a claim of foul by rider Taylor Hole, was elevated to first.

The Maryland judges were unanimous in their decision. Steward John Burke said, "They made

contact, he (jockey Luis Diaz) carried her out, jostled her and took away any chance of her winning.”

The corrected order of finish then became Rush To Glory (\$14.20), followed by Maysville (2nd) and Promenade Girl (3rd). The final time was 1:12.53.

Dale Capuano trains Rush To Glory. He said, “It was a close call and you never know how it’s going to go, but that horse definitely slowed us down. It looked like at the eighth pole we were going to get by her but we couldn’t and that was probably why we didn’t. She’s been very versatile for us. She’s been a little more seasoned than these fillies are and that’s a bit of an edge.”

Maysville was a wire-to-wire winner in her first two starts for trainer Michael Pino. The daughter of Notebook led at every pole in the Marshua as well.

“The race set up perfectly,” said Diaz. “What happened in the stretch was that she was just running hard. She is very tough and tries hard. She was just trying to get there.”

“I think what happened was the horse on the lead had never had anyone run with her,” said Hole. “She saw me coming and started to labor. Luis hit her left-handed and she was laying out on top of my horse.”

The win was the first added money score in Maryland for Hole, a 12-year veteran of the Suffolk Downs colony. The 33-year old is no stranger to Pimlico, having galloped horses for Billy Christmas and Mikey Smithwick at Old Hilltop after dropping out of high school in the late 1980’s.

“This is where it all started,” added Hole.

### **MJC HONORS TOP 2004 PERFORMERS**

The Maryland Jockey Club honored four local stars who shined during 2004 in ceremonies at Pimlico on Saturday.

Michael Gill, who dominated the owner standings by winning 153 races at Pimlico and Laurel Park, made a rare appearance in Maryland for the festivities. The New Hampshire native also topped the national standings with 487 wins, seven fewer than the record set by Dan Lasater in 1974 and is a finalist for the Eclipse Award.

“Out of all the places, no matter how big I get, no matter how many horses I get, Maryland will be my home,” said Gill, who since arriving on the state scene in late 2001 has recorded 424 victories at Pimlico and Laurel Park. “When I struggled at different places throughout the country, Maryland was my friend. Whether Maryland gets slot machines or not, I’m here as long as Maryland is here”.

Dale Capuano won the training title for the seventh time in the last eight years by visiting the winners’ circle 94 times at the major Maryland tracks, easily defeating Jerry Robb (53) and Mark Shuman (52). The 42-year old won three of the four meets in 2004, including all three at Pimlico. Capuano has now captured 10 straight meets at Old Hilltop, dating back to 2000. He also finished the year with the best winning percentage in Maryland, based on at least 150 starts, saddling winners at a 23.7% clip (94-of-396).

“It never gets old winning,” said Capuano. “It’s very difficult to win here in Maryland. I guess by the year’s end they add up. I have to thank my clients. My help is excellent. I have a good group of grooms, hot walkers and exercise riders. They deserve a lot of the credit as well.”

After finishing second in the rider standings in his first two years as a rider, Ryan Fogelsonger earned top honors in 2004 with 160 first place finishes, 11 more than Ramon Dominguez. The 2002 Eclipse Award winning apprentice, who spent six months on the Southern California circuit (late 2003 to early 2004), won the ninth meet of his young career by winning 83 races during the fall stand, including a career-best six on September 18.

“Going out to Southern California made me a better rider. You don’t have to talk to the other riders out there to learn something. You just watch what they do and pick up little things and you’re bound to learn something,” said Fogelsonger. “I’ve come back with confidence. I feel I’m a better rider and getting stronger and getting smarter. That’s what it takes to be one of the top riders.”

Dominguez topped the jockey standings in winning percentage, winning races in Maryland at a 27.4% clip (149-of-543). Overall the 28-year old finished the year second nationally with 383 victories and ranked ninth in money earned with a career-best \$11.5 million.

“I feel so fortunate,” Dominguez, who won the national riding title in 2001 and 2003. “It seems every year is better than the last. It’s kind of hard for me to believe. It doesn’t feel as if it can get any better than this.”

### DEER RUN REGAINS WINNING FORM

Deer Run, a multiple stakes winner who had not reached the wire first since winning the Maryland Million Sprint in September 2002, ran down Ameri Brilliance in the stretch for an impressive score in today’s sixth race, a \$34,000 allowance test.

Ridden by Abel Castellano, the eight-year old finished the six-furlongs in 1:11.43 and paid \$12.40. The son of Deerhound is now five for 12 at Old Hilltop and the victory pushed his career earnings above \$370,000.

Trainer Chris Grove saddled two winners on the card and tops the conditioner standings with five wins from just 10 starters, with nine in the money finishes.

## New Laurel Park Main Track Opens To Rave Reviews



**LAUREL, MD. 01-09-05**---You only get one chance to make a first impression and the new Laurel Park dirt surface didn’t disappoint this morning when the track opened for training after a seven-month project.

At 6:00 a.m. trainer Lisa Jimenez and her gelding Bring Him Gold were the first to test the track and she was in awe.

“It is spectacular,” said Jimenez. “It looks like Belmont Park, it is so wide. There were so many naysayers but they hung in there and got it done right.”

Laurel Park track superintendent Glen Kozak indicated about 140 horses were on the dirt course this morning with 22 official works recorded by clocker Kevin Geraghty. Hamilton Smith worked eight of the 19 horses he has stabled at Laurel, while John Rigattieri worked the first horse he sent to the track.

It is beautiful,” said Carlos Garcia, who had all 25 of his horses on the new surface this morning. “I just saw a horse work and there was no kick-back. It is a good bouncy track and it is wet this



morning. Previously it wouldn't have been this good. My horses were eager to go and my exercise riders said the horses liked it."

The backstretch and racing surfaces at Laurel Park have been closed since mid-June when Magna Entertainment Corp. began a multi-million dollar renovation, which included the widening of both racing surfaces. The dirt course has been increased from 75 to 95 feet, while the turf course will be expanded from 75 to 142 feet when it is completed this spring.

"It was a very expensive project and at the end of the day it is going to be first-class," said Ferris Allen, who conditions 60 horses.

Workers moved 500,000 cubic yards of dirt, trucked in 15,000 tons of limestone, 20,000 tons of topsoil, 25,000 tons of sand and 71,000 tons of stone mixed with crushed stone. They brought in 15,000 linear feet of fiber-optic cable and 15 miles of electrical wiring.

"You heard it from the trainers, it was worth the wait to get it right," said Jim Gagliano, Executive Vice President of Maryland Racing Operations. "We look forward to a rebirth of racing at Laurel Park. All of us at Magna Entertainment and the Maryland Jockey Club would like to thank the Maryland racing community for their patience."

Live racing will continue at Pimlico Race Course through Monday, January 17 and is scheduled to return to Laurel Park on Saturday, January 22.

## Irish Colony Stands Out In Native Dancer Stakes

**BALTIMORE, 01-13-05**---Irish Colony and jockey Steve Hamilton are favored to win the 8-1/2 furlong Native Dancer Stakes at Old Hilltop on Saturday. Six older horses are entered, including two who competed in the Preakness Stakes®.

They're two for four at Pimlico during this waning meeting, including a win in the Charles Hadry Stakes, a strong second in the Jennings Handicap and a third place finish in the Maryland Million Classic. The Ron Cartwright trainee has delivered his patented, rallying bid in each of his previous three starts. He opens at 7-5 on the morning line and is 10-for-19 at the distance.



Last Intention (3-1) ran third to Irish Colony in the Hadry Stakes. He finished a solid if not spectacular 2004, with a 1-1-4 record in seven starts, which included five stakes. Ramon Dominguez has accepted the assignment from trainer Mark Shuman.

Jim Thirds Bolero (4-1) has made a slow march through allowance conditions for trainer Annette Eubanks and gets the services of Ryan Fogelsonger. The six-year old has never finished out of the money in eight races at the distance or six efforts at Pimlico.

Foufa's Warrior (9-2) won the Find Stakes here in August and was good enough to run in the 2003 Preakness, so back class is always a factor with this son of Jade Hunter.

Tidal Wave (8-1), who appears to be the lone speed in the race, started New Year's day with a 12-1 score at Charles Town. Travis Dunkelberger retains the mount.

Little Matth Man (12-1) ended the year with a next-to-last finish in a New York-bred stakes at Aqueduct, but was impressive in a win at Pimlico four weeks ago. The Marty Ciresa trainee also ran at Old Hilltop in last year's middle jewel of the Visa Triple Crown.

"This is not an easy spot," said Hamilton. "I don't like the fact that there isn't much speed in here and we are on the outside. We were a victim of that in the Jennings. He doesn't have any early lick to get over and clear anybody, so you have to take him back and save ground. We are going to have to run to win this race. It will be interesting to see how slow Travis can get Tidal Wave to go because he is the one to catch. I'd like to be as close as we can with out using him, let him run his race and hope for the best."

## A Night For Noah Set For February 13



(Noah Grove is standing, wearing grey sweatshirt)

**BALTIMORE, 01-14-05**---Noah Grove comes from a race track family. His grandfather, Phil, won 3,991 races as a jockey and currently is a steward for the Maryland Racing Commission. His father Chris is a Bowie-based conditioner who tops the current Pimlico standings.

Noah, like his grandfather and father, is a true horse lover. However, there is one big difference; the five-year old was diagnosed with Osteo Sarcoma, a form of bone cancer nearly a year ago. He received thirteen chemotherapy treatments and to save his life, the cancerous tumor had to be removed. Last June he underwent a through-the-knee amputation and

went through a second round of intensive chemo last fall. With the remarkable advances made in recent years, an artificial limb will allow Noah Grove to resume a nearly normal childhood. Though doctors have warned that as he grows into maturity, he may need numerous prosthetics per year until he turns eighteen.

Because of this a committee spearheaded by former Pimlico general manager Chick Lang and Fran Raffetto, wife of Maryland Jockey Club Chief Operating Officer Lou Raffetto, are planning a fundraiser. "A Night For Noah" will take place in Laurel Park's Carriage Room following the last race on Sunday, February 13. There will be auctions (silent & live), food and entertainment.

"We are pleased with the strong support that we have gotten from everyone in the industry," said Lang. "When someone in the racing world needs help to make their journey through life a little easier, we rally around the cause. The Groves are one of the super families in the business and it feels like you are doing something for people who have put some much into this industry."

Already donations have exceeded \$25,000, including one from Michael Gill, the leading owner in the country, who has agreed to pay for the second prosthesis. Insurance is covering the first one.

"It is amazing how everyone has pulled together like a family," said Chris Grove. "I had to take a step back because of all of the support. I don't think that happens in other businesses. Chick and Fran have done a tremendous job and because of them it will be a great event for a great cause."

Auction items include the bit Smarty Jones used to win last year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes® and the shoes worn by Birdstone when he upset Smarty Jones in the Belmont Stakes. Other donations of interest include signed items from Baltimore icons Cal Ripken and Michael Phelps.

The \$5 tickets for "A Night For Noah" can be purchased in the Maryland Jockey Club racing office.

## Jim Thirds Bolero Wins Thrilling Finish In Native Dancer Stakes

**BALTIMORE, 01-15-05**---The last two horses entering the backstretch were the first two horses under the finish line as Jim Thirds Bolero held off Little Matth Man to win today's feature race at Pimlico, the \$50,000 Native Dancer Stakes for older horses.

Under jockey Ryan Fogelsonger, Jim Thirds Bolero lagged early, moved up doggedly around the far turn and emerged with the lead a furlong from home. Little Matth Man, with Todd Glasser, came flying down the middle of the homestretch in a desperate attempt to catch the leader but missed by the narrowest of margins, a nose. Tidal Wave, who led early, held on to finish third.



The winner paid \$18.80 and was timed in 1:44.48 for the eight and a half furlongs over a fast main track.

Annette Eubanks trains Jim Thirds Bolero. She said, "This is the second stakes winner of my career, which started in 1987. I won my first in 1989 at Delaware Park (with Evil Angel) so it's been a long time in between. Ryan did an excellent job and made his move at the right time. I was a little more nervous as this was a stake but this horse always tries hard."

Jim Thirds Bolero has never finished out of the money at Pimlico or at the distance but he was facing a field that included four stakes winners, including a pair who were good enough as three-year olds to compete in the Preakness Stakes®. The son of Rhythm had competed in just one other added money race in his career, a third place finish in the 2003 Charles Hardy Stakes.

"He beat a pretty decent field in the last allowance race (on December 18)," said Fogelsonger. "That was my second time on him and Annette told me to just take him back. I think we were 10 lengths out and won it, so the strategy was the same. I had intended to go when Foufa's Warrior and Irish Colony went and going into the first turn we were sitting right behind them. Ramon (Dominguez) started asking Last Intention at the three-eighths pole and I was waiting as long as possible. I saw Little Matth Man coming on the outside and I whispered in Jims ear 'hold 'em off, buddy, hold 'em off' and he did it!".

"Great race," said Marty Ciresa, who conditions the runner-up. "The inside post actually hurt us because we couldn't get out until the three-eighths pole. He ran a great race and did everything right, we just ran into a little bad racing luck."

Ciresa indicated the son of Matty G will run next in the \$125,000 John B. Campbell Stakes at Laurel Park on February 19.

There are just two live days remaining in the Pimlico portion of the winter meeting. After the special Monday card, racing shifts to Laurel Park, beginning next Saturday, January 22 after a 10-month hiatus as Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) began a multi-million dollar renovation in mid-June that included the widening of both racing surfaces. The dirt surface opened January 9 to rave reviews. Opening day will feature free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance. First post is 12:35 p.m.

## Live Racing Shifts to Laurel Park This Saturday



**BALTIMORE, 01-17-05**---When Honor Student won Monday's finale, Maryland racing fans said goodbye to Pimlico Race Course until the spring and will get ready to say hello to Laurel Park Saturday afternoon. Opening day at Laurel Park will feature free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance. First post for the nine-race card is 12:35 p.m. with the \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes topping the program.

In addition, on behalf of each person who attends the January 22 opener at Laurel or Pimlico, a donation of \$1 will be made by the Maryland Jockey Club to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to support relief efforts for the catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami relief that struck South Asia.

Live racing returns to Laurel Park after a 10-month hiatus as Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) began a multi-million dollar renovation in mid-June that included the widening of both racing surfaces. The dirt surface opened January 9 to rave reviews.

"The track is great," said Mario Pino, Maryland's winningest rider, "It is big and has a good bounce to it. It reminds me of Colonial Downs because of the sweeping turns. It is a beautiful race track and it is going to be exciting to get back there because we haven't been there in so long."

The new main course, which has been raised and increased in width from 75 to 95 feet, will now feature one-turn mile races. The track's composition of 89 percent sand and 11 percent silt and clay is identical to the old Laurel dirt surface.

But the Laurel improvements are not limited to the track. Saturday will be the debut of a refurbished dining room, a new color infield tote and video board and the Horse Wizard™, a state of the art room featuring nearly 40 "slots-like" wagering devices designed to introduce even the least experienced racing guests to the fun and excitement of pari-mutuel wagering.

"We are taking more of a guest service approach to make visits to the track more pleasurable and entertaining," said Jim Gagliano, Executive Vice President of Maryland Racing Operations. "With its ideal location and now improved racing facilities we look forward to a rebirth at Laurel Park. When Frank De Francis owned the tracks in the 1980's he used the advertising theme 'The best is yet to come,' which I think really fits the program right now."

Racing returns to Pimlico on April 20 for the spring meeting. Headlining the eight-week stand is the 130th Preakness Stakes® on May 21.

# LAUREL PARK

## Laurel Park Debuts Horse Wizard™ At VIP Party



**LAUREL, MD. 01-20-05**---With the inauguration of President Bush happening less than 25 miles away, the Maryland Jockey Club officially unveiled the Horse Wizard™ at a VIP party this afternoon at Laurel Park.

Scheduled to debut when live racing returns to the central Maryland track this Saturday, the Horse Wizard™ resembles a slot machine and was designed to provide a slots-like experience while betting on horse races. Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC), which spent \$15 million to \$20 million developing the Horse Wizard™, expects it will appeal to enough people so as to inject new life into the horse

racing experience. The state of the art room features nearly 40 wagering devices. Horse Wizard™ machines are also installed at Santa Anita Park, Lone Star Park and Golden Gate Fields.

“The idea of inaugural is a great thesis for today because today is the rebirth of Laurel Park with our brand new track and brand new Horse Wizard lounge,” said Jim Gagliano, Executive Vice President of Maryland Racing Operations in his introductory remarks at the gathering. “Racing has many facets and the opportunity to attract new guests to our business is always a challenge. The Horse Wizard is a pari-mutuel device designed to attract people who aren’t as sophisticated with wagering.”

The machines allow you to do two things: bet a horse to show (finish third or better) or bet a horse across the board (finish first, second or third). Selected races pop up on the screen every three to five minutes. Betting is done by depositing money into an account at a track kiosk. When you bet, horses spin on your screen and when you win you hear the sound of coins dropping (for effect).

Opening day at Laurel Park will feature free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance. First post for the nine-race card is 12:35 p.m. with the \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes topping the program.



In addition, on behalf of each person who attends the January 22 opener at Laurel or Pimlico, a donation of \$1 will be made by the Maryland Jockey Club to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to support relief efforts for the catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami that struck South Asia.

Live racing returns to Laurel Park after a 10-month hiatus as MEC began a multi-million dollar renovation in mid-June that included the widening of both racing surfaces. The dirt surface opened January 9 to rave reviews.

"The track is great," said Mario Pino, Maryland's all-time winningest rider, "It is big and has a good bounce to it. It reminds me of Colonial Downs because of the sweeping turns. It is a beautiful race track and it is going to be exciting to get back there because we haven't been there in so long."

The new main course, which has been raised and increased in width from 75 to 95 feet, will now feature one-turn mile races. The track's composition of 89 percent sand and 11 percent silt and clay is identical to the old Laurel dirt surface.

## Nine Set to Go In Laurel's Opening Day Feature



**LAUREL, MD. 01-21-05**---Sensibly Chic is one of several stakes experienced fillies and mares entered to start in Saturday's opening day feature at Laurel Park, the six-furlong, \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes. Five of the nine starters have added money victories on their resumes.

Sensibly Chic is the lukewarm, 5-2 favorite. She made seven of her eight starts in New York last year, winning two times including the Broadway Handicap. In her only start in Maryland, Sensibly Chic won Pimlico's Stefanita Stakes. Ramon Dominguez will get a leg up from local trainer Tim Tullock on the Distorted Humor mare.

"I like the way she can stalk the pace and has speed if no-one else wants the lead. You can do whatever you want with her," said Tullock. "She'll run on a fast track or a sloppy surface, she is very versatile. When she won the stake at Pimlico it was really a drop in class for her because she had been competing against tougher. I expect the same type of performance tomorrow."

Traci Girl (3-1) ships to Laurel from New York on Saturday. The six-year-old mare is a consistent sort, posting a record of 3-1-3 in fourteen starts last year, mostly against claiming company. Trainer Bruce Levine will name a rider on race day.

Wallop (4-1) finished second at 24-1 to Sensibly Chic in the Stefanita and followed that with a mild upset in the New Year Eve Stakes at Mountaineer Park. Nik Goodwin has been the regular pilot for Wallop and will go at it again for trainer Donald Barr.

Hall of Fame trainer Bud Delp will saddle Bronze Abe (6-1), an added money winner for four consecutive years. Last year, she kicked off her five-year old campaign by winning the What A Summer Stakes. The ultra consistent daughter of Two Punch, who failed as favorite in the Stefanita, will have jockey Mario Pino back in the saddle.

Lovethatlegend (6-1) will ship down from Belmont Park for trainer Lisa Lewis, a Baltimore native. The four-year old is stakes tested having competed on that level five times in eight career starts. Horacio Karamanos has the mount.

High Peaks (8-1) is another New York shipper who finished in the money seven times in nine starts in 2004. Jozbin Santana will ride for conditioner Thomas Bush.

Search For A Cure (12-1) is a multiple stakes winner against state-breds and has six wins at Laurel Park in her career. The Dale Capuano trainee has not raced since mid-May and will have the services of Ryan Fogelsonger.

Experts Only (20-1) has finished third or fourth in four added money tries for trainer Frannie Campitelli. The granddaughter of Broad Brush has six victories in 18 career starts and had a bullet work at Pimlico last week. Luis Garcia has the assignment.

This will be the first added money test for Jane's Secret (20-1), who broke her maiden at Laurel last March. Steve Hamilton rides for trainer Edith Howland.

"The field is pretty nice," added Tullock. "Wallop ran well against us in the Stefanita and Search For a Cure is a nice horse. You have to respect the New York horses and Bronze Abe can step up at any moment."

Opening day at Laurel Park will feature free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance. First post for the nine-race card is 12:35 p.m.

In addition, on behalf of each person who attends the opener at Laurel or Pimlico, a donation of \$1 will be made by the Maryland Jockey Club to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to support relief efforts for the catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami that struck South Asia.

Live racing returns to the central Maryland track after a 10-month hiatus as Magna Entertainment Corp. began a multi-million dollar renovation in mid-June that included the widening of both racing surfaces. The dirt surface opened for training on January 9 to rave reviews.

The new main course, which has been raised and increased in width from 75 to 95 feet, will now feature one-turn mile races. The track's composition of 89 percent sand and 11 percent silt and clay is identical to the old Laurel dirt surface.

## Storm Causes Laurel Park to Cancel Opener



**LAUREL, MD. 01-22-05---**A snowstorm that hit the Baltimore-Washington region Saturday morning forced Maryland Jockey Club officials to cancel live racing at Laurel Park and simulcasting at Laurel and its sister track Pimlico Race Course.

The National Weather Service expects the snow to continue into the afternoon hours, becoming heavy at times between 1 and 5 p.m. Post time was scheduled for 12:35 p.m. During the mid to late afternoon hours, snowfall rates could approach up to two inches per hour. The forecast for Sunday calls for winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour with gusts up to 40 mph.

Laurel Park was scheduled to reopen this afternoon for live racing for the first time in 10 months after a multi-million dollar renovation that included the widening of both racing surfaces. The new main course, which has been raised and increased in width from 75 to 95 feet, opened for training 13 days ago.

"We are extremely disappointed because we have been looking forward to the grand reopening for quite some time," said Maryland Jockey Club Chief Operating Officer Lou Raffetto. "We are going to protect the track from the storm, so that it remains in great shape."

The opening day promotions of free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance will now happen next Saturday, January 29. In addition, on behalf of each person who attends that afternoon, a donation of \$1 will be made by the Maryland Jockey Club to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to support relief efforts for the catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami relief that struck South Asia. Today's feature, the \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes will be run that day as well.

"Even though we'll be racing Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week we wanted to bring back today's events on Saturday, our biggest day of the week," said Jim Gagliano, Executive Vice President of Maryland Racing Operations. "The new track opened to rave reviews and we are looking forward to a rebirth of racing at Laurel Park."

The Laurel improvements are not limited to the track. A refurbished dining room, a new color infield tote and video board and the Horse Wizard™, a state of the art room featuring nearly 40 "slots-like" wagering devices designed to introduce even the least experienced racing guests to the fun and excitement of pari-mutuel wagering, will also be introduced.

## Laurel Park Cancels Sunday's Card



**LAUREL, MD. 01-23-05---**The winter storm that hit the Baltimore and Washington D.C. areas caused the Maryland Jockey Club to cancel live racing at Laurel Park for the second straight day. However there will be simulcasting this afternoon at Laurel and its sister track Pimlico Race Course.

A total of five inches of powdery snow hit the central Maryland track Saturday and today's forecast calls for temperatures in the low 20's with winds of 25 to 35 miles per hour, gusting up to 45 mph.

"The combination of the drifting snow and the gusty winds makes it impossible for us to run," said Lou Raffetto, Chief Operating Officer of the Maryland Jockey Club.

Laurel Park was scheduled to reopen Saturday afternoon for live racing for the first time in 10 months after a multi-million dollar renovation that included the widening of both racing surfaces. The new main course, which has been raised and increased in width from 75 to 95 feet, opened for training two weeks ago.

The Laurel portion of the winter meeting is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 26 with an eight-race card. First post is 12:35 p.m. The first 13 days of the stand took place at Pimlico, wrapping up last Monday.

Meanwhile, the opening day promotions of free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance will now happen Saturday, January 29. In addition, on behalf of each person who attends that afternoon, a donation of \$1 will be made by the Maryland Jockey Club to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to support relief efforts for the catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami relief that struck South Asia. The 10-race card will feature a pair of stakes races for fillies and mares, the \$75,000 Nellie Morse and the \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes

## Laurel Park Opens to Rave Reviews



**LAUREL, MD. 01-26-05**---The third time proved to be the charm as Laurel Park reopened with a crowd of 5,036 welcoming live racing back to the central Maryland track after a 10-month hiatus. A winter storm that hit the Baltimore and Washington D.C. areas had caused the Maryland Jockey Club to cancel live racing at Laurel Park Saturday and Sunday.

“It’s been a long time waiting, but it looks great,” said Steve Hamilton, who guided Conduct (\$20.80) to an upset victory in the first race. “The track is real good. The horses are all handling things real well. They are bouncing right along, you can hardly hear

them hit the ground.”

The multi-million dollar renovation included the widening of both racing surfaces. The new main course, which has been raised and increased in width from 75 to 95 feet, opened for training on January 9.

Trainer Scott Lake and jockey Eric Camacho teamed up for a pair of victories Wednesday, scoring with Sun Sapphire (\$3.40-second) and Formal Event (\$7.80-fourth).

“I like it,” said Camacho. “The horses just really good underneath you. Both of my winners came from off the pace. I liked the feeling in the three-path. It felt really nice out there.”

The average payout for the winners of eight-race card was \$18.33, including a 27-1 by Golden Goddess in the third, while the 4 paid a healthy \$5,177.60.



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The opening day promotions of free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance will now take place on Saturday, January 29. In addition, on behalf of each person who attends that afternoon, a donation of \$1 will be made by the Maryland

Jockey Club to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to support relief efforts for the catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami relief that struck South Asia. The 10-race card will feature a pair of stakes races for fillies and mares, the \$75,000 Nellie Morse and the \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes.

### **MAGNA 5™ & SUNSHINE MILLIONS™ RETURN THIS SATURDAY**

Saturday is a blockbuster day for Laurel's parent company Magna Entertainment Corp.

The third annual Sunshine Millions™, a \$3.6-million program which includes eight stakes for California-breds and Florida-breds, is scheduled for Gulfstream Park and Santa Anita Park with each track hosting four races. The eight stakes drew a total of 92 entries.

Horses familiar to Maryland racing fans which are entered include My Cousin Matt (2003 General George winner), Shake You Down (2003 De Francis Dash runner-up), Midas Eyes (2004 De Francis Dash runner-up), Bear Fan (2004 Barbara Fritchie winner), Yearly Report (2004 Black-Eyed Susan winner) and Friel's For Real (2004 Pimlico Distaff winner).

Local jockeys Ramon Dominguez and Abel Castellano have mounts at Gulfstream. Sunshine Millions™ will be televised live nationally on NBC Sports beginning at 4:00 pm EST.

Saturday is also the return of the popular Magna 5™, a \$2 pick five wager linking races from four racetracks. In the span of a little over an hour, horseplayers will be treated to exciting major league racing action from premier tracks such as Santa Anita Park, Gulfstream Park, Laurel Park and Golden Gate Fields with a guaranteed \$500,000 pool every Saturday afternoon. Last year during a 12 week period, the pick-five wager drew an average pool of \$545,275, with 1,091 winning tickets paying a total of \$427,227.40. This year's Magna 5™ begins with the Nellie Morse Stakes from Laurel Park at 4:55 p.m.

## **Laurel Park to Host Two Stakes On Saturday**



**LAUREL, MD. 01-27-05---**Laurel Park will feature two stakes as part of Saturday's ten race card. The six-furlong \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes, which was postponed when racing was cancelled last weekend, and the one mile \$75,000 Nellie Morse Stakes, will see older fillies and mares racing at two different distances on the new main track.

Saturday will be celebrated as the grand re-opening of Laurel Park and promotions include free admission, a complimentary live racing program and keychain to the first 5,000 people in attendance. In addition, on behalf of each person who attends, a donation of \$1 will be

made by the Maryland Jockey Club to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to support relief efforts for the catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami relief that struck South Asia. There will be a pair of live Jazz quartets on the grounds.

The day is a blockbuster one for Laurel's parent company Magna Entertainment Corp. The third annual Sunshine Millions™, a \$3.6-million program which includes eight stakes for California-breds and Florida-breds, is scheduled for Gulfstream Park and Santa Anita Park with each track hosting four

racers. Laurel Park will host a special Sunshine Millions™ Treasure Chest that will contain a trip for two to either the Florida Derby or Santa Anita Derby, two sets of tickets in a new Preakness Stakes® seating area, an ipod and \$100 dining or shopping gift certificates.

The Nellie Morse Stakes is the first leg of the Magna 5™, a \$2 pick five wager linking races from four racetracks. In the span of a little over an hour, horseplayers will be treated to exciting major league racing action from premier tracks such as Laurel Park, Gulfstream Park Santa Anita Park and Golden Gate Fields with a guaranteed \$500,000 pool every Saturday afternoon. Last year during a 12 week period, the pick-five wager drew an average pool of \$545,275, with 1,091 winning tickets paying a total of \$427,227.40.

Twelve fillies and mares, including an entry, are expected in the Nellie Morse headlined by Roar Emotion, the 7-5 morning line favorite.

The five-year-old daughter of Roar filled her dance card in stakes races last year, winning the Sabin Handicap at Gulfstream Park and placing twice. She won the Black-Eyed Susan (Grade II) at Pimlico in 2003. Trainer Kieran McLaughlin will ship Roar Emotion to Laurel from his Belmont Park base and has named apprentice Eric Camacho to ride the mare.

Second choice at 3-1 goes to ultra-consistent Silmaril, a winner of five of seven starts in 2004, including the Jameela, Maryland Million Oaks and Geisha, all for trainer Chris Grove. Ryan Fogelsonger will ride Silmaril for the first time because regular rider Abel Castellano will be at Gulfstream Park for the Sunshine Millions™.

“Roar Emotion is the one to beat, but cutting back to a mile should help us,” said Grove, the leading conditioner at the current winter meeting. “She is very versatile and consistent. Our goal is the Barbara Fritchie (Grade II seven-furlong sprint on February 19), so we hope to cut back even more after this one.”

Richetta, a hard-knocking four-year-old daughter of Polish Numbers, is listed next at 6-1. Mario Pino has the assignment for trainer Robin Graham. Richetta won only once last year but hit the board in five other added-money tests.

Seven of the nine fillies and mares who entered last week’s What A Summer are back. Sensibly Chic, one of several stakes-experienced fillies and mares, is the 5-2 favorite. She made seven of her eight starts in New York last year, winning two times including the Broadway Handicap. In her only start in Maryland, Sensibly Chic won Pimlico’s Stefanita Stakes. Steve Hamilton will get a leg up from local trainer Tim Tullock replacing Ramon Dominguez, who will also be at Gulfstream Park for the Sunshine Millions™.

“I like the way she can stalk the pace and has speed if no-one else wants the lead. You can do whatever you want with her,” said Tullock. “She’ll run on a fast track or a sloppy surface, she is very versatile. When she won the stake at Pimlico it was really a drop in class for her because she had been competing against tougher. I expect the same type of performance.”

Traci Girl (3-1) ships to Laurel from New York on Saturday. The six-year-old mare appears to be rapidly improving after posting a record of 3-1-3 in fourteen starts last year, mostly against claiming company. Trainer Bruce Levine will name a rider on race day.

Wallop (4-1) finished second at 24-1 to Sensibly Chic in the Stefanita and followed that with a mild upset in the New Year Eve Stakes at Mountaineer Park. Nik Goodwin has been the regular pilot for Wallop and will go at it again for trainer Donald Barr.

Hall of Fame trainer Bud Delp will saddle Bronze Abe (5-1), an added money winner for four consecutive years. Last year, she kicked off her five-year old campaign by winning the What A Summer Stakes. The daughter of Two Punch, who failed as favorite in the Stefanita, will have jockey Mario Pino back in the saddle.

Other stakes winners in the eight horse field include Love You Madly (6-1) and Search For A Cure (12-1).

"The field is pretty nice," added Tullock. "Wallop ran well against us in the Stefanita and Search For a Cure is a nice horse. You have to respect New York horses and Bronze Abe can step up at any moment."

## Richierichierich Pounces in Laurel's Friday Feature



**LAUREL, MD. 01-28-05**---Four of the five runners in today's feature reached the wire in a blanket finish. After the dust had cleared, Richierichierich was declared the winner by a nose in the \$35,000 Optional Allowance test for older horses.

Today's feature had been carded as a weekday prep for next month's seven furlong, Grade II General George Handicap. High profile runners A Huevo, Ameri Brilliance and Deer Run topped the lineup, but A Huevo scratched out of the race by trainer Michael Dickinson. The nine-year old, who won the 2003 De Francis Dash (Grade I), is expected out until spring.

Ameri Brilliance and jockey Ramon Dominguez wrested command around the far turn, led to the final jump but finished second. Sure You Can was another neck behind and beat Excellent Band by a head. Post time favorite Deer Run came extremely wide into the stretch but did not fire and was last.

Richierichierich, a consistent allowance runner with a record of 8-5-6 in twenty-nine starts, completed the six-furlongs over the main track in 1:10.84 and paid \$12.60. Horacio Karamanos rode the winner for trainer Kimberly Swentkowski.

"Ramon told me I won but I couldn't tell," said Karamanos. "This was a tough race but this horse has a lot of heart. He won last time out coming from behind but we wanted to be a little closer today because Ameri Brilliance and Sure You Can had so much speed."

The win was the second of the day for Karamanos, who missed six weeks with a right knee injury he suffered in a gate incident at Pimlico in early December.

# Magna 5™ Begins Second Year With \$400,000 Payout



**LAUREL, MD. 01-29-05---**The Magna 5™, a \$2 pick five wager linking races from four racetracks in an hour, kicked off its second year by paying \$406,985.80 to one winner Saturday. The winning ticket was purchased at Hollywood Park. A total of \$521,776.80 was in the pool.

In the span of a little over an hour, horseplayers are treated to exciting major league racing action from premier tracks such as Gulfstream Park, Santa Anita Park, Laurel Park and Golden Gate Fields with a guaranteed \$500,000 pool every Saturday afternoon. Last year during a 12 week period, the pick-five wager drew an average pool of \$545,275, with 1,091 winning tickets paying a total of \$427,227.40.

Silmaril (\$3.60) was the popular winner of the Nellie Morse Stakes at Laurel Park, Valentine Dancer (\$19) proved to be a heart-breaker in taking Sunshine Millions™ Filly and Mare Turf from Gulfstream Park, Sweet Lips (\$27.60) rallied up the rail to win the Sunshine Millions™ Distaff at Santa Anita, Time To Be On Top (\$9.80) wired the field in a maiden sprint at Golden Gate Fields and Musique Toujours (\$142.20) shocked the racing world in the \$1 million Sunshine Millions™ Classic at Gulfstream Park.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT WAGERED</u>	<u>WINNING TICKETS</u>	<u>PAYOUT</u>
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Jan 29	\$521,776.80	1	\$406,985.80
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## Sensibly Chic Gallops in What A Summer Stakes



**LAUREL, MD. 01-29-05---**It wasn't until the final flash that the fans at Laurel decided Sensibly Chic deserved to be favorite and they were quickly proven right when the 5-year old chestnut mare put away second choice Traci Girl and galloped to victory in today's \$50,000 What A Summer Stakes.

Sensibly Chic, under Steve Hamilton, and Traci Girl, under Horacio Karamanos, were fastest from the gate and quickly separated themselves from the others in this six panel test. Entering the far turn Sensibly Chic quickened her step and through the lane opened up on the others to win by 6-1/2 lengths. Wallop rallied

down the center of the track to be second and the roan mare Bronze Abe outnodded Traci Girl to take third.

Sensibly Chic covered the distance over the fast main track in 1:09.84 and paid \$5.60.

Jockey Hamilton said, "She stood in the gate really well and broke running. I never got after her and she put me right in that spot. The mare outside of us laid on us a little bit, but she acted like she wasn't even there. She did her thing. She never paid that other mare any mind at all and she was very relaxed underneath me and when I called on her she said, 'right now'."

Trainer Tim Tullock said, "It looked like Traci Girl would show some speed. I knew we would be close and it worked out pretty well. I didn't think that other filly could keep going. It was a step up for her, a different class. I think the top three showed it was a step up for the other filly and that's the way it goes. I had a lot of confidence but I didn't think she'd win that big."

Tullock indicated his charge would be pointed to the \$200,000 Barbara Fritchie Handicap (Grade II) at her home track on February 19.

## Silmaril Proves Up To The Task In Nellie Morse Stakes



**LAUREL, MD. 01-29-05---**Jockey Ryan Fogelsonger knew he had the horse, but had to wait until there was room to go. Three-sixteenths of a mile from the wire, Fogelsonger drove Silmaril through a narrow opening and on to victory in today's co-feature at Laurel Park, the \$75,000 Nellie Morse Stakes for older fillies and mares.

Free admission, a complimentary key chain and live racing at the track for the first Saturday in 10 months attracted 7,448 fans to Laurel Park this afternoon. Another 3,245 watched the 10-race card from Pimlico Race Course meaning Maryland Jockey Club will donate \$10,693 to the

Red Cross tsunami relief fund. The handle on the Laurel card was \$3.5 million.

"Tremendous day," said Jim Gagliano, Executive Vice President of Maryland Racing Operations. "It shows what we can do when we work together and horse racing does have a future here in Maryland. The track has held up beautifully the first four days in the face of all kinds of weather and has been fair and true to horses of all caliber."

Sent to post as the odds on favorite, Silmaril and Fogelsonger hugged the rail and tracked the leaders to the head of the stretch. At that point four horses were evenly spread across the track and the outcome appeared far from certain. In three or four jumps Silmaril had pierced the wall of horses and was driving to victory. She finished a neck the better than a very game Richetta and jockey Mario Pino. Points West rallied to be third, another half-length behind.

Silmaril paid \$3.60 and completed the one-mile distance in 1:39.51.

Trainer Chris Grove said, "The last thing I said to the owners when she was loading in the gate was get out your Roloids because this is going to be a stretch duel. There are so many stalkers in the race that it was going to be a four or five horse photo. That's how it looked to me. She showed her heart and she did it."

Fogelsonger said, "Chris said to kind of watch Richetta and try to stay three or four lengths behind her. My horse was nice and relaxed down the backstretch. She was dragging me to the front and she really shot through there. She does what she needs to do to. All you need to do is steer her in the right direction and she gets the job done."

Grove will point his star pupil to the \$200,000 Barbara Fritchie Handicap (Grade II) here at Laurel Park on February 19. The 35-year old conditioner is leading all trainers at the winter meet with 11 victories from just 24 starters with 21 in the money finishes.

## Laurel Park Cancels Sunday's Card



**LAUREL, MD. 01-30-05**---A mixture of snow, sleet and freezing rain in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. metropolitan areas caused Maryland Jockey Club officials to cancel Sunday's nine-race card at Laurel Park. There will be simulcasting this afternoon at Laurel and its sister track Pimlico Race Course.

Laurel Park will resume live racing on Wednesday, February 2. First post is 12:35 p.m.