

Afleet Alex Impressive In Wednesday Breeze



BALTIMORE, 06-01-05---Preakness winner Afleet Alex breezed five-furlongs in 1:01.60 at Pimlico Wednesday morning in preparation for the June 11 Belmont Stakes. Regular rider Jeremy Rose was aboard for the 8:45 a.m. workout. Pimlico clocker Bryan Walls recorded fractions of 14 seconds (one-furlong), 26.40 (one quarter), 38 (three-furlongs) and 49.80 (half-mile). Afleet Alex galloped out in 1:14.2 for three quarters and 1:29 for seven-eighths of a mile.

"I think he did everything very well," said trainer Tim Ritchey. "Our plan was to start out easy and let him finish strong. He did it

very easily and came back very good out of it. It was a maintenance breeze to make sure everything's good with him. After watching that and how he came back, I think we are in good shape."

Afleet Alex and Rose overcame near disaster to win the second leg of the Triple Crown. The duo came flying around the far turn with dead aim on the leader, Scrapy T, when he was suddenly blocked. Scrapy T, racing in front of him entering the lane, suddenly bore out in response to left-handed whipping by jockey Ramon Dominguez. In a flash Afleet Alex stumbled, buckled to his knees and almost unseated Rose. The athletic colt and his 26-year-old pilot quickly recovered their balance, dove inside Scrapy T and charged to a widening 4-3/4 length victory.

"He'll live in history after that race and he deserves it," said Rose. "That race will be shown for two decades. I don't know how to explain it. There was an unbelievable amount of fear. Obviously we wanted to get come back on our feet and not get run over by anyone. He lost maybe a half-length on Scrapy T and that's it. It was one of those things that you had to be on his back to understand how scary it is."

Eleven days after his remarkable victory in the 130th Preakness Stakes®, the son of Northern Afleet is still at Old Hilltop. He was scheduled to leave the Pimlico stakes barn last Saturday and work at Belmont Park, but due to the suspected case of strangles at the Long Island track, Ritchey has elected to keep Afleet Alex at Pimlico until New York Racing Association officials have control of the situation.

"I didn't want to put his health at risk and would never do that," added Ritchey. "I would have liked to have been at Belmont to have him train over that racetrack. Just like I came here early (May 11) I would have liked to have gotten there early. That wasn't meant to be, so we'll work with what we have. Hopefully we can ship on Saturday."

Although the Belmont Stakes is 10 days away, the 1 ½-mile "Test of the Champion" is expected to serve as a rubber match between Afleet Alex and Kentucky Derby winner Giacomo. Another seven contenders are also considering the \$1 million classic.

"None of them really scare me," explained Rose. "All are very nice horses, very accomplished horses. They have to be to run in this race, but as long as Alex is under me, he does talking. He just does what he does and pretty much silences everybody, especially after the Preakness. Now

they are saying he can't go a mile and a half. Do you think it would have mattered in that race? If it were a mile and a half, how many more would we have won by?"

Ritchey said his star will walk the shedrow Thursday. The plan is to jog and gallop Friday. Prior to Saturday's likely ship Belmont, Afleet Alex will train lightly and hopefully leave Baltimore during the 11 o'clock hour.

Hamilton Smith Duo Heads Pearl Necklace Stakes



BALTIMORE, 06-02-05---Trainer Hamilton Smith will saddle the first and second choices in Saturday's \$50,000 Pearl Necklace Stakes at Pimlico Race Course.

The 1-1/16th mile test for three-year-old registered Maryland-bred fillies attracted a field of eight. Smith trains Sweetsoutherndessa (2-1) for Fred Greene Jr. and Frost Princess (5-2) for William Backer, so they will not run as an entry.

Trainer Smith said, "Both fillies are doing very well since their last races. I really don't know which of the two is better on the grass. I ran them together on the grass a few races back and Sweetsoutherndessa finished second and Frost Princess finished fourth. Sweetsoutherndessa will start whether the race is on the grass or on the main track. Frost Princess will only start on the grass."

Sweetsoutherndessa is a three-time winner at Pimlico and sports a 2-1-1-0 record running on the infield course. She enters the race off a fast closing victory on the main track here May 12. Steve Hamilton rode the filly to victory that day and retains the mount.

Frost Princess has also won a race at Pimlico and has two wins in three tries on the turf. She comes into the race off a grass victory here on May 5th under jockey Horacio Karamanos. Karamanos will ride the Waquoit offspring once again.

Lightly raced Cozy Gain is third choice at 3-1. The filly has strong turf bloodlines being a daughter of Cozzene and a Broad Brush mare. She won her maiden start, then finished a very wide fourth in her first try over the grass. Richard Small trains Cozy Gain and stable rider Jozbin Santana will be aboard.

Trainer Kevin Boniface will start 6-1 Kip Smile on Saturday. The Ops Smile filly is winless on the turf. She won her maiden race over the sloppy going at Belmont and then ran fifth in the Miss Grillo Stakes on the turf last year. In her only start this year, she finished third on the grass during the one-day meet at Atlantic City. Richard Monterrey rides her for the first time.

Outsiders in the Pearl Necklace, who are all winless on the grass, are Rudbeckia (10-1), Foufa's Hunter (12-1), Cape Cosmo (15-1) and Ursula Passion (15-1). Foufa's Hunter is a maiden, but she is out of the proven turf sire Jade Hunter and a Storm Bird mare.

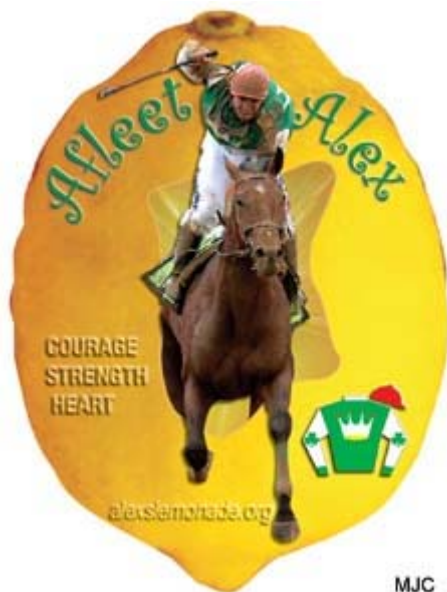
CAPUANO CLIMBS BACK INTO TOP SPOT

Dale Capuano, who has won or shared 13 of the last 14 training titles at Pimlico, moved back into the top spot with a two-win afternoon at Old Hilltop. The Maryland mainstay visited the winners' circle with Malibu Cat (\$3-first) and Saint Waki (\$15.40-third). The 42-year-old now has 12 wins at the Pimlico spring meeting, one more than King Leatherbury, with eight days remaining in the stand. Capuano has 27 training titles at the major Maryland tracks, 24 fewer than Leatherbury, the third winningest trainer in the history of the sport.

SCRAPPY T WORKS BULLET AT BOWIE

Preakness runner-up Scrapy T worked a bullet five-furlongs in 58.40 at the Bowie Training Center Thursday morning. Trainer Robbie Bailes told the national racing media in an NTRA "Pre-Belmont" teleconference that he has not decided whether his star will run in next Saturday's Belmont Stakes, Colonial Turf Cup Stakes at Colonial Downs on June 25 or the Dwyer Stakes at Belmont on July 4.

Both Afleet Alex and Pimlico Prepare For Belmont Day



BALTIMORE, 06-03-05---Afleet Alex spent his final full day at Pimlico with a mile and a half jog and a mile and a half gallop over the same surface on which he won the Preakness Stakes® nearly two weeks ago. The Tim Ritchey trainee is scheduled to ship to Long Island Saturday morning for next weekend's Belmont Stakes after another training session.

"No problems," said Ritchey of his 24-day stay at the historic Baltimore track. "We were very relaxed in the stakes barn and the track surface was terrific. We appreciate that track management let us stay here for the extended period. He is training well and were are in good shape heading into next Saturday's race."

Pimlico Race Course and thirty other racetracks around the country will have Alex's Lemonade Stands open on Belmont Stakes Day. There will be two stands at Old Hilltop, one in the first floor grandstand near the Hayward Avenue entrance and a second on the apron

near the bandstand, in conjunction with the Pony Pals Family Fun events that same afternoon.

Pimlico will also give away 2,500 Afleet Alex/Alex Lemonade buttons at the track next Saturday and is auctioning a large placard of the Preakness program page with the autographs of each participating jockey on eBay with the proceeds designated for Alex's Lemonade Stand.

Alexandra "Alex" Scott was the eight-year-old founder of Alex's Lemonade Stand For Pediatric Cancer Research. Two days before her first birthday she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, an aggressive childhood cancer. At the age of four, Alex decided to do something to make a cure more likely. She opened her first lemonade stand in July 2000 with the idea of donating the

proceeds to "her hospital." On August 1, 2004 Alex passed away peacefully, at home. The Pennsylvania-based charity has raised over \$1.8 million, including \$11,000 at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby day and \$18,000 at Pimlico on Preakness day.

The partners of Cash is King LLC have pledged a portion of Afleet Alex's winnings from each race to Alex's Lemonade Stand. All of the horse's merchandising material bears a lemon logo representing the charity.

Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. hosted Ritchey and the owners of Afleet Alex at the governor's mansion yesterday in Annapolis.

SANTANA AND JENKINS ENJOY FRIDAY SUCCESS

For the fifth time in his career jockey Jozbin Santana rode four winners on a card. The 26-year-old reached the Pimlico winners' circle Friday afternoon with Tommy's Palm (\$9.20-first), Gimme Fever (\$3.20-sixth), Amerifly (\$5-seventh) and Mysterious Ridge (\$7.80-ninth).

The first and last winners were saddled by trainer Rodney Jenkins, who has produced back-to-back two win days. Jenkins is now tied with Dale Capuano atop the trainer standings with 12 victories. King Leatherbury and Scott Lake are one back with seven days remaining in the spring meeting.

Alex Bids Adieu to Old Hilltop



Baltimore, 06-04-05 --- Afleet Alex, tenacious winner of the Preakness Stakes, made his final rounds of the Pimlico track on Saturday morning. Trainer, Tim Ritchey, who earned his first Triple Crown triumph in the Preakness, was not on hand for his stable star's departure. Assistant trainer, Roque Romero reported on the colt's final Pimlico exercise. "He galloped 1-1/2 miles. He doesn't need more work than that on a ship day. He'll gallop the other 1-1/2 miles on the 95 North [freeway]," Romero joked.

Reached via cell phone, Ritchey noted that the entire Triple Crown was in Afleet Alex's plans from the start. The sophomore won't be doing anything out of the ordinary as he prepares for the Belmont.

The colt boarded the truck without incident and exited the Pimlico backstretch at 12:15 pm.

BAILES SCRAPS BELMONT PLANS

Scrappy T, second to Afleet Alex in the Preakness Stakes, will not contest the Belmont Stakes on June 11th. Trainer Robbie Bailes told Blood-Horse magazine, "We decided that the Belmont is not for us. All we know now is that he'll be going to Colonial to train."

The 3-year-old gelding blazed through a 5 furlong work in :58-2/5 on Tuesday at Bowie. He is nominated to a pair of Colonial Downs stakes: the \$500,000 Colonial Turf Cup (June 25th) and the \$750,000 Virginia Derby (Grade III, July 16th).

The change in plans voids a rematch between Afleet Alex and Scrappy T in the final leg of the Triple Crown. Afleet Alex's most accomplished Belmont rival clearly remains Giacomo, upset winner of the Kentucky Derby (Grade I).

When asked what effect Scrappy T's withdrawal would have on the race, Tim Ritchey was quick to note, "None at all. He [Afleet Alex] still has to run his race."

Frost Princess Scores in Pearl Necklace Stakes



BALTIMORE, 6-4-05 ---Trainer Ham Smith wasn't sure which of the two fillies he started in today's \$50,000 Pearl Necklace Stakes was best, but he found out quickly enough when Frost Princess powered to an impressive, 1-1/4 length victory.

Frost Princess, with jockey Horacio Karamanos, raced along the rail in third place and tracked the leaders into the homestretch before charging down the middle of the course to capture the 1-1/16 mile grassy event in 1:47.95 over the soft going. Cozy Gain swept wide into the lane and finished a very game second. Smith's other entry, Sweetsoutherndessa, held on to

third.

The winner, a Maryland-bred daughter of Waquoit, paid \$6.20.

Karamanos said, "My horse was going to come from behind the speed and I knew the horses were going to come back to me. I tried to wait. When I had a chance I put her (in the) clear and asked her and she came flying the last part."

Trainer Smith said, "The grass really moves her up. She's a different animal over that surface. I don't think we've seen the best of her yet. Her next race will tell us what kind of filly she is. In her training, she's enjoying what she does.

"She takes to the turf a lot better than the main track. On the turf she doesn't get hit in the face with flying dirt. I'm told her mother was the same way. She just couldn't run on the dirt at all, but on the grass, she was a much better mare.

"Naturally, we want to point her for the Virginia Oaks. We won it last year with Art Fan." Art Fan, like Frost Princess, was owned and bred by William Backer.

Garcia Scores with Four Mounts at Pimlico



BALTIMORE, 06-05-05---Journeyman jockey Luis Garcia dominated the other riders at Pimlico on this muggy afternoon by riding four winners out of his eight mounts.

Garcia, a native of Puerto Rico, brought Carneros (\$5) home for a popular score in the third race, then came back with Blown Audit (\$8.40) in the fourth, Slew The Monster (\$15.20) in the sixth and Iwannabeacowboy (\$6.40) in the seventh.

Garcia, who ranks second in the rider standings at Pimlico, closed the gap on leading rider Steve Hamilton with his productive afternoon. They are six wins apart, 44-38, with five days to go in the spring stand.

Maryland Jockey Club Lifts Restrictions



BALTIMORE, 06-08-05---The Maryland Jockey Club announced today that it has lifted the restrictions on horses planning to ship to Pimlico Race Course, Laurel Park or the Bowie Training Center from Belmont Park, Aqueduct and Delaware Park. All trainers shipping into a MJC facility will be required to have a health certificate with the horse's temperature listed.

On May 28, the MJC decided to restrict the flow of horses to and from those facilities as a result of a confirmed case of strangles at Delaware Park and a suspected case of strangles at Belmont Park. No horses were permitted to come in from those locations and if they left to run at those tracks, they were not allowed to re-enter MJC grounds.

"Recently, concluded tests for strangles on quarantined horses have proven negative," said Lou Raffetto, Chief Operating Officer of the Maryland Jockey Club. "As a result, after consultation with our state vet, the Maryland Jockey Club is lifting the restrictions on equine travel to and from Delaware Park and NYRA racetracks, effective immediately."

DOWN THE STRETCH THEY COME

With four days remaining in the Pimlico spring meeting only owner Michael Gill has wrapped up a title. The familiar blue colors have visited the winners' circle 24 times during the stand.

Luis Garcia rode two winners Wednesday afternoon to move within five victories of Steve Hamilton for the top spot in the rider standings. Garcia, who won 11 races last week, now has 40 wins during the stand. Hamilton, who has scored at least once on 27 of the 35 days of the meet, took the finale.

The battle for the top trainer during the Pimlico spring meeting has been a see-saw affair as four conditioners have held the top spot during the last six days of racing. Scott Lake, Dale Capuano, Rodney Jenkins and King Leatherbury have all taken turns atop the standings. Lake has 13 first place finishes, one ahead of both Capuano and Jenkins. Leatherbury is two back. All have multiple runners competing on Thursday's card.

Three longshot winners during today's Pick 4 helped key a healthy payoff for Pimlico's signature wager. Be Better (\$57.20-fifth), Draiman (\$41.40-sixth) and Spanish Artist (\$51.80-seventh) reached the wire ahead of the favorites. Three out of four winners paid \$13,622.40. Odds-on favorite Mr. Cliveden (\$3.40) took the fourth race.

Tight Field Enters Deputed Testamony Stakes



BALTIMORE, 06-09-05 — Based on stakes experience, Monster Chaser and Legal Control are the one-two picks for Saturday's \$50,000 Deputed Testamony Stakes at Pimlico Race Course. Their four Maryland-bred rivals are pointing to upgrade their status in the 8-1/2 furlong test. Over 100 horses are entered on the 11-race card.

In between bad luck and injuries, Monster Chaser, the 3-2 morning line favorite, has made four starts this year against stakes company and finished with three third place finishes and a fifth place

finish in the Sir Barton Stakes on the Preakness undercard. Trainer Eddie Gaudet continues to hand the reins on the Meadow Monster gelding to rider Richard Monterrey.

Gaudet said, "He took a bad step [in the Sir Barton] and wrenched himself a bit when his hind end slipped out from under him. We're not sure if he'll race on Saturday – but we'll know his status by Friday. There's still a question whether he's better going long. So far, he's done everything I've asked him to. We've got all year."

Home court advantage goes to Legal Control (2-1), trainer Richard Small and jockey Jozbin Santana. The Thunder Gulch colt is based at Pimlico and is three-for-three at the distance and has three victories at Old Hilltop, including a victory over Monster Chaser in the Maryland Juvenile Championship on New Year's Eve. He has faced stakes company exclusively this year

as well, with a second in the Miracle Wood and tiring efforts in the Private Terms and Federico Tesio. All three races were won by Malibu Moonshine, who was eighth in last month's Preakness Stakes®.

Small said, "It's hard to find an excuse for his last two efforts. The horse has had some trouble with his feet. We patched up a quarter crack and now he's doing better. His recent workouts have been fast, but that's how he normally trains."

Allen's Kat (12-1) and It's Time To Smile (4-1) come into Saturday's race off victories. The former won a \$25,000 claimer at the end of last month and the latter scored in a non-winners of three lifetime allowance at Charles Town in the early part of May.

Serious Lightning (9-2) ran third behind It's Time To Smile last time out and No Bag For Bruno (15-1) broke his maiden for a \$40,000 tag here in early May.

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17-Year Old Apprentice Aces Her Debut



BALTIMORE, 06-09-05 — Anna Rosie Napravnik, age 17, had long dreamed of becoming a jockey. In Thursday's opening race, the former exercise rider made that dream a reality, scampering home first aboard Ringofdiamonds, her first official mount.

Poised above the 4-year-old filly, Napravnik gunned for the lead and slowly increased her advantage throughout the race. She peeked back at her competition several

times – as if to wonder, “Is this really happening?” – and set down her mount through the lane. The pair crossed the wire two lengths in front, stopping the clock in 1:47-2/5 for the 1-1/16 miles.

Ringofdiamonds, a bay daughter of Diamond, is trained by Richard Small. Napravnik, who has worked for Small since early 2004 was clearly excited after piloting her first winner in her first attempt.

“That was so much fun,” emoted Napravnik. “Since I was about 7 years old, I’ve dreamed of becoming a jockey. I started out riding a 12-hand pony in pony races. To be riding here today is pretty major.”

Considering the importance of this, her maiden voyage around Old Hilltop, she maintained her composure quite well. “I don’t get nervous,” Napravnik added. “I rode this horse every day in the morning. I’ve been working with Mr. Small for a year now. That’s when I started galloping horses on the track. This is what I came here for. My dreams are coming true.”

On her way back to the ladies’ jocks’ room she was greeted with the traditional surprise shower to honor a rider’s first win. It was delivered by Eric Camacho, who left the apprentice ranks last month.



DALE’S PROSPECT HELPS CAPUANO TIE FOR TOP SPOT

Dale’s Prospect, trained by Dale Capuano, upset a field of stakes winners in Thursday’s feature, a \$38,000 allowance sprint. Dale’s Prospect, a four-year old with Steve Hamilton up, stalked the solid pace set by Abbondanza and nipped the multiple stakes winner by a nose at the wire, stopping the clock in 1:09 2/5 for six-furlongs. He paid \$10.80.

It was the sixth win for the Maryland-bred who has been out of the money only twice in 13 career starts. Also competing in the race were added money winners: Weigelia, Mt. Carson, Running Tide and Deer Run.

“He has been training well,” said Capuano. “He was in the day before the Preakness but we scratched him because of the rain. We went up to Monmouth the next weekend (May 29), but he stumbled at the gate. This was all heart because Abbondanza didn’t quit.”

The win helped the conditioner move into a tie with Scott Lake for the top spot in the standings with three days remaining in the Pimlico spring meeting. Both have 13 victories, one more than Rodney Jenkins and King Leatherbury.

"We are not running away with this one," added Capuano, who has won 10 consecutive meet titles at Old Hilltop. "We have a couple good chances in the last three days. We'll give it our best shot."

Hamilton rode two winners on the card and now leads Luis Garcia 48-40 in the rider standings.

Sensibly Chic Favored In Skipat Stakes but Likely Bound For New York



BALTIMORE, 06-10-05---Lois Nervitt's Sensibly Chic has been established as prohibitive 4-5 favorite in Sunday's \$50,000 Skipat Stakes, the closing day feature at Pimlico. The Skipat will go six furlongs on the main track and is for fillies and mares.

Sensibly Chic won her only start at Pimlico, the Stefanita Stakes last November on the De Francis Dash undercard. She has won six more races including the What A Summer Stakes and placed in her most

recent starts, the Barbara Fritchie at Laurel Park, the Distaff Breeders' Cup at Aqueduct and the Genuine Risk at Belmont Park, all Grade II races.

"She's doing super," said trainer Tim Tullock. "I cross entered her in the Vagrancy Handicap (Grade II at Belmont Sunday). Barring any surprises, we'll be headed to New York. She's run some great races this year and we want to put her back in the winners' circle."

While it appears the favorite will ship from Laurel to Belmont, Todd Pletcher will ship the speedy Forestry filly Forestier, the 4-1 second choice, from Belmont to Pimlico. She met Sensibly Chic in the Genuine Risk and finished nine lengths behind after pressing the action. Forestier is four-for-eight at the distance and will carry New York-based rider Fernando Jara.

Pletcher said, "She's been training well. This looks like a good spot to get her a stakes win. She's a Maryland bred and the owner (Alan Kline) is local. Fernando Jara is a talented young rider. He asked to ride this filly when she went out of town, so we gave him that chance."

Michael Gill owns Spring Rush, third choice at 6-1. The Wild Rush mare was claimed for \$62,500 this winter at the Fair Grounds and won two races for her new connections. She shipped north in May to finish seventh in a stakes at Mountaineer.

"I received her three days before the race at Mountaineer," said trainer Mark Shuman. "The track was hard that day and she didn't like the surface. I've been pleased with her training since."

Spirited Game (10-1) won the Smart Halo Stakes at Old Hilltop a year ago. The four-year old daughter of Not For Love has finished in the money 10 times in 15 career starts. Jozbin Santana will ride for trainer Ron Cartwright.

Princess Pelona (10-1) comes into race off a win on the track, taking an allowance sprint on the Pimlico Special undercard three weeks ago. The Michael Trombetta trainee will be ridden by Eric Camacho.

Trainer Ferris Allen has entered two horses, multiple stakes winner Chrusciki (12-1) and Anyplace Anytime (20-1). The former has won four races at Pimlico.

Brite Diamond (20-1) and Experts Only (20-1) complete the field.

CAPUANO MOVES INTO TOP SPOT IN TRAINER STANDINGS

Dale Capuano, who has captured the last ten meetings at Pimlico, moved into the top spot in the trainer standings with two days remaining in the spring stand when Kayla's Smile (\$4.40) scored in Friday's fifth race.

The Maryland mainstay now has 14 first place finishes at Old Hilltop, one more than Scott Lake. King Leatherbury and Rodney Jenkins are two back.

Capuano has six horses entered this weekend, all with legitimate chances. Lake has two longshots on Sunday's card. Leatherbury will saddle three horses on each program. Jenkins has been eliminated from contention because he has only one starter all weekend.

CASTELLANO RETURNS FROM BACK INJURY

Jockey Abel Castellano Jr. returned today after missing more than two months from rehabilitation after breaking three bones in his back in a spill at Laurel Park on April 3. He rode Private Indeed to a sixth place finish in the finale.

"The doctor told me to take my time if I wanted to come back for good," said Castellano, who has been a top five rider in the state ever since arriving on the scene in the spring of 2003. "I got the go-ahead last Friday and started working horses last weekend. I am really glad to be back and make a name for myself again."

Castellano, who turned 22 four days ago, married his longtime girlfriend on May 10.

Legal Control Wins Decision in Deputed Testamony Stakes



BALTIMORE, 06-11-05---Rivals Legal Control and Monster Chaser were co-favorites at the start of the \$50,000 Deputed Testamony Stakes and only a head apart at the end of the 1-1/16 mile test for 3-year-old Maryland-breds.

Legal Control and jockey Luis Garcia led throughout. After racing a comfortable first mile, the outcome came down to a sprint to the wire. Garcia worked feverishly on his

colt, holding Monster Chaser in close on the rail while fending off It's Time To Smile on his outside. They finished the race in 1:45.80 and paid \$5.20.

Garcia said, "I knew no one was going to run with me in the first part, but they were going to run hard at the end. My horse likes to wait on horses. When he's asked, he runs again."

Garcia picked up the mount when regular rider Jozbin Santana took off his Saturday mounts because of an asthma attack.

Legal Control is trained by Richard Small. The Pimlico-based trainer said, "He had some real nice races and then he had a little trouble with his feet. The last time he ran (in the Federico Tesio Stakes), we put a patch on him and I thought he'd be OK. But the way he ran (sixth beaten 17 lengths), he really wasn't. He was sound, but he wasn't quite himself, kind of tentative. We let his foot grow out, then replaced the patch which has worked out much better."

Legal Control is now a perfect four-for-four at the distance and has won four races on his home track. On New Year's Eve, he defeated Monster Chaser in the Maryland Juvenile Championship.

Garcia will complete the best meeting of his young career when the Pimlico spring stand wraps up tomorrow afternoon. The 20-year-old ranks second in the standings with 43 victories, six fewer than Steve Hamilton. A successful Mid-Atlantic apprentice rider in 2003, Garcia rode last spring and summer at Suffolk Downs. He credits Pimlico-based trainer Frannie Campitelli and his agent Frank Douglas, the former rider with bringing him back to Maryland.

"Frannie called me last summer and asked me to come back," said Garcia, who graduated at the top of his class at the famed Eddie Belmonte riding school in Puerto Rico. "He put me on six horses right away, including Hear Us Roar (the pair captured the Maryland Million Lassie). I learned a lot in Boston and when I came back I was ready to compete at this level. Frankie works so hard to get us good mounts and I am so excited to finish second at this meet."

Deputed Testamony is the last Maryland-bred to win the Preakness Stakes®, taking the middle jewel by 2-3/4 lengths in 1983. Donnie Miller, who was aboard that day, turned 42 years old today. Bill Boniface, who trained Deputed Testamony, presented the trophy to Small.

ALEX'S LEMONADE STAND EARNS OVER \$2,500 AT PIMLICO

Pimlico was one of 39 racetracks in North America to participate in Saturday's Alex's Lemonade Stands promotion. The second oldest track in the nation raised \$2,512 for the Pennsylvania-based charity which has earned over \$1.8 million to fight childhood cancer. Old Hilltop had a pair of lemonade stands in operation today. Pimlico also sold Afleet Alex/Alex Lemonade buttons at the track and auctioned off three Preakness items on eBay. Pimlico raised \$18,000 on Preakness day three weeks ago. NBC Sports featured Pimlico's efforts during its Belmont Stakes broadcast.

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On August 1, 2004 Alex passed away peacefully, at home, with a goal to raise \$5 million in 2005. During the Triple Crown campaign lemonade stands at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby day and Pimlico on Preakness day raised \$29,000.

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TRAINING TITLE WILL COME DOWN TO FINAL DAY

Trainer Dale Capuano is one day away from his 11th consecutive title at Pimlico Race Course. The 42-year-old conditioner has 14 victories during the spring meeting, one more than Scott Lake and King Leatherbury, with one day remaining in the stand.

Capuano will saddle three runners on closing day. The Lake barn will send two longshot runners to the starting gate. Leatherbury, who saddled Beer Stein (\$12) to a victory in today's seventh race, also has three starters on Sunday's 10-race program. The King of Maryland racing has 51 career titles at Pimlico and Laurel Park during his legendary career, but none since winning the Laurel summer meeting in 1997.

Spring Rush Skips in Skipat Stakes



BALTIMORE 06-12-05---Michael Gill's Spring Rush rushed to the lead and held onto it for six furlongs to win the \$50,000 Skipat Stakes for older fillies and mares, the closing day feature at Pimlico.

Under leading rider Steve Hamilton, the daughter of Wild Rush outstepped 2-5 post time favorite Forestier, who chased the winner until overtaken by Princess Pelona in the shadow of the wire. Spring Rush won by 2-1/2 lengths. It was another neck back to the favorite.

The winner paid \$17.80. The exacta

returned \$111.40 and the triple \$229.20.

Hamilton said, "The horse on the outside (Forestier) looked like she had some gas. My filly pretty much outbroke the gate, made the lead pretty handily, relaxed nicely down the backside and when they came to us around the far side, she picked it up a notch and we had plenty left in the stretch drive."

Laurel Park-based trainer Tim Tullock cross-entered morning line favorite Sensibly Chic in the \$150,000 Vagrancy (Grade II) at Belmont Park and decided to run in New York, where she galloped to an impressive score.

"I was very happy to see that other horse (Sensibly Chic) scratch," said Mark Shuman, who conditions Spring Rush. "She went to the front and just kept going. She really trained well up to this race. She came out of her last race a little body sore and we did some acupuncture on her and she's turned into a bear in the morning, acting like she was going to run a big race."

Hamilton, Capuano and Gill Capture Spring Meet Titles



BALTIMORE 06-12-05---The eight-week spring meeting at historic Pimlico Race Course ended this afternoon with Steve Hamilton, Dale Capuano and Michael Gill winning individual titles. Live racing shifts to Colonial Downs near Richmond this Friday for an eight-week stand. Live racing returns to Pimlico on Friday, August 12.

Hamilton captured the marquee meet in Maryland for the second straight year, winning 50 races, five more than Luis Garcia. The 31-year-old won at least one race 30 times during the 39-day meet with 19 multiple win afternoons. He was the only

rider in the colony to earn more than \$1 million during the stand.

"Things couldn't have gone any better," said Hamilton. "Every day is a new day and you try to win one every day and somehow it seemed like we got a couple under our hat each day. I owe a lot to my agent, Ben Feliciano, Sr. and all the trainers who have stood behind us."

Hamilton was a top five rider in Maryland five times during the 1990's, but was out of racing in 2001, 2002 and 2003 while working on the oil fields in his native Oklahoma. He returned in January 2004 and less than 18 months later had a mount in the Preakness, riding local hopeful Malibu Moonshine.

"That was wild," added Hamilton. "We went into the gate and the crowd started screaming and it raised the hair on my arms. When you are younger you take some things for granted and not many people get a second chance, so you have to make the best of it. I am just going to keep working hard and hope things keep panning out."

Horacio Karamanos and Eric Camacho tied for third in the standings with 31 victories. Ryan Fogelsonger, who rode just 23 days, still finished fifth with 28 first place finishes.

Capuano captured his 11th straight meet at Pimlico, dating back to 2000, saddling 15 winners, two more than Scott Lake, King Leatherbury and Ferris Allen. The title is the 28th meet won by the 42-year old at the major Maryland tracks, including 14 of the last 15 at Old Hilltop.

The battle for the top trainer during the Pimlico spring meeting was a see-saw affair as four conditioners held the top spot during the last two weeks of the meet. Capuano, Lake, Leatherbury and Rodney Jenkins all took turns atop the standings.

"It is amazing that we have such a streak but we really didn't have a great meet," said Capuano, who has been Maryland's top conditioner in seven of the last eight years. "King had a fabulous meet (13-of-41) and deserved to win the title. My hat's off to him. We did to him what he used to do to us and that was beating him with numbers (Capuano saddled 74 starters)."

Gill reigned supreme in the owner standings for the 12th straight meet at the major Maryland tracks, finishing first 25 times. The familiar blue colors visited the winners' circle with four different

trainers: Tim Hooper (eight) Mark Shuman (eight), Kenny Cox (six) and Gamaliel Vazquez (three). Since arriving in Maryland in October 2001, he has won 489 races at Laurel and Pimlico.

Final handle numbers will be released later this week.

TOP 10 STANDINGS---April 20-June 12 (39 live days)

JOCKEYS	MOUNTS	1ST-2ND-3RD	EARNINGS
Steve Hamilton	248	50-35-36	\$1,074,298
Luis Garcia	234	45-25-31	\$794,342
Eric Camacho	210	31-40-37	\$718,328
Horacio Karamanos	172	31-28-21	\$674,170
Ryan Fogelsonger	127	28-29-18	\$607,142
Richard Monterrey	185	18-22-27	\$450,998
Jozbin Santana	147	18-22-16	\$428,880
Ramon Dominguez	64	15-19-9	\$594,930
Enrique Jurado	110	14-17-13	\$295,350
Chip Van Hassel	73	9-6-9	\$177,290

TRAINERS	STARTS	1ST-2ND-3RD	EARNINGS
Dale Capuano	74	15-13-8	\$280,090
Scott Lake	62	13-11-6	\$266,270
King Leatherbury	41	13-4-6	\$235,970
Ferris Allen	69	13-9-14	\$231,280
Rodney Jenkins	58	12-10-4	\$254,220
Benny Feliciano	35	12-5-4	\$151,730
Joe Delozier	29	10-2-5	\$128,792
Graham Motion	32	8-3-5	\$235,160
Chris Grove	48	8-5-6	\$231,718
Jimmy Murphy	39	8-10-4	\$191,672

MJC Concludes Pimlico Spring Meet

BALTIMORE, 06-14-05---Highlighted by a record-setting Preakness Stakes®, Pimlico Race Course concluded its spring meeting on Sunday. Consistent with the reporting protocol for prior meets, the Maryland Jockey Club ("MJC") reported that all-sources handle for the state totaled \$243.4 million for the 2005 spring meet, representing a seven percent increase over the \$227.4 million in handle generated during the 2004 spring meet.

Handle on Pimlico's live product was up slightly from \$21.4 million to \$21.9 million. Import handle increased 24% from \$56.8 million to \$70.7 million, which resulted in total in-state handle rising 18.3% from \$78.2 million to \$92.5 million.

Average daily total handle for 39 days of live racing and 17 days of simulcasts was \$5.5 million, a six percent increase from last year's daily average of \$5.2 million for comparable days.



A record crowd of 115,318 packed the historic track on May 21, the largest crowd to ever witness a sporting event in the state. Preakness day wagering finished at more than \$91 million, breaking the record of nearly \$88 million set a year ago. A pool of \$63.2 million was bet on the middle jewel of the Visa Triple Crown.

RACING COMMISSION APPROVES AUGUST DATES

August racing dates for Pimlico were approved at today's Racing Commission meeting. Two state-bred turf stakes, the Humphrey Finney and Mister Diz, highlight the summer meeting that will begin Friday, August 12 and conclude two weeks later. Live racing for the nine-day stand will be conducted August 12-13-14-18-19-20-21-25-26.

After racing the first 24 weeks of the year the Maryland racing circuit takes its annual break as live racing shifts to Colonial Downs, near Richmond, VA. Their eight-week meet begins Friday.

SOD DOWN ON LAUREL PARK TURF COURSE

The installation of sod for the Laurel Park turf course will be completed Thursday under the supervision of turf superintendent Robbie Mitten. The grass course has been expanded from 75 to 142 feet, allowing for six different courses to race on. Each course will be named after champion grass horses.

The Laurel fall stand is scheduled to take place from September 8 to December 31, immediately following the Timonium State Fair meet. Highlighting the 78-day stand will be the 20th running of the Maryland Million (October 8) and the Fall Festival Of Racing (November 19), headlined by the Grade I De Francis Dash.

Maryland Jockey Club Chief Operating Officer Lou Raffetto reports that he expects to card four turf races a day through November and hopes to be able to run on the grass in April at the conclusion of the 2006 winter meeting.