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Colt 45 MALT LIQUOR

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SPORTS

- High School Sports 3B
- O's Reading Program 4B
- Showtime 6B

SAM LACY

Preaknews

There's good news and bad news for the Preakness people and Baltimore followers of the bangtails . . . . Eight of the 17 horses that competed in the Kentucky Derby are committed to the 113th running of the May 21st event.

They are the Derby champ Winning Colors, runner-up Forty-Niner, Risen Star, Regal Class, Brian's Time, Cefis, Private Terms and Din's Dancer.

* * *

Like the Derby at Churchill Downs, the Preakness carries with it the misconception that the race always has been a Saturday contest . . . . Like the Derby also, the Preakness has been run on every day of the week except Sunday: 14 times on Tuesday, 13 times on Friday, 6 times on Monday, 5 times on Wednesday, and 4 times on Thursday.

Tradition, etc.

One of the oldest traditions at Pimlico centers around the weathervane atop the cupola and ceremonial stand in the Preakness winner's circle . . . . Since 1909 it has been the custom to paint the horse-figured weathervane with the colors of the Preakness winner. Immediately after the Preakness is run, a workman may be seen, bucket and brush in hand, ready to immortalize another outstanding thoroughbred.

Tommy Ennis, a Charles Town, W. Va. semi-retired sign painter, has the honor of painting the five-foot-wide, aluminum scale model of a horse and rider on the replica of the old clubhouse iron weathervane . . . . Ennis has been doing the job since 1960 . . . . It usually takes him about four minutes to complete the painting, with no time to look around to observe the triumph of the winning contingent below him in the ceremonial stand.

The Lord helped?

It could fit in the weekly space captioned "Notable Quotable" but it is here since it pertains to the Preakness. Calumet Farms trainer Ben Jones (who saddled seven Pimlico winners) offered a colorful answer to the often-asked question: how come (1941 Preakness champ) Whirlaway had such an outlandishly long tail?

"I don't know, but since the Lord hung it there, He must have had a purpose" . . . . Maybe the chestnut-colored tail which flailed out behind him, discouraged other horses from trying to catch Whirlaway.

* * *

Although Isaac Murphy was the first jockey to ride three winners in the Kentucky Derby and is enshrined in the Jockeys' Hall of Fame at Pimlico, he never rode in the Preakness . . . . Two blacks, however, were astride winners in the past — Willie Anderson, aboard Montgue in 1889 and Willie Sims with Sly Fox in 1898.

* * *

Racing inflation? When Seattle Slew was a yearling in 1975, his purchase price was a mere $17,500 . . . . Two years later, he won the Triple Crown beating Iron Constitution in the Preakness and following with victory in the Belmont three weeks later . . . . For the $17,500 outlay in Oct. 1975, the Seattle Slew owners in Feb. 1978, sold *half interest* in the colt for $6 million.

The flip side

That's the good news . . . . Now for the bad news . . . . Despite the glorification of the weekend's Pimlico Special (won by Alysheba over a field of talented challengers) . . . . Despite the national focus on so-called "Charm City" with the Preakness as centerpiece . . . . And despite the widely heralded modernization of Maryland racing, there remains a disgraceful imbalance in the hiring practices of the thoroughbred operation.

Admittedly, there has been a moderate increase in service jobs under the new ownership . . . . But fans are urged to look around them during their next visits to Old Hilltop . . . . and count.

Notable quotable

Female jockey Mary Bacon, recalling a race that was run six days before she became a mother:

"My mount that day was a mare in foal. I couldn't help but think about those fans betting on a pregnant horse ridden by a pregnant jockey. The four of us finished last."

SPORTS on deck

Brian VERSUS BOB: Is freshman athlete important enough to dictate a coach's methods? (1st sport).

* * *

STARS LOOK TO STARS: If nation is run to whim of astrology, why shouldn't baseball players try it? (1st sports).

* * *

MANNING AND THE NBA: Top collegiate cager has eyes on two kinds of gold(2nd sports).

* * *

KOREAN CAUTION: South Korean government officials signal wariness in preparing for Olympics (2nd sport).



AFRO Photo by Paris Gray

TEACHING TENNIS — Arthur Ashe and Pam Shriver, two prominent names in world tennis, were in Baltimore last week to talk and teach tennis to youngsters enrolled in the National Junior Tennis League program. Following a press luncheon during which both urged support of NJTL, Arthur and Pam donned tennis gear and conducted clinics for pre-teen prospects.

'Colors' to repeat

The Preakness comes up Saturday at Pimlico.

Winning Colors was the AFRO choice to win the May 7 Kentucky Derby.

Winning Colors is the AFRO choice to add the Preakness prize in her quest for horse racing's coveted Triple Crown.

To achieve that kind of gruelling sweep is a lot to ask of a filly (a female horse). Only 11 male horses (colts) have succeeded in doing it.

Winning Colors is regarded as something special at the AFRO sports desk. She has speed, heart and seems to possess an uncanny sense of timing.

* * *

In winning the Derby, she held off a charging colt, Forty-Niner. Many blamed a poor post, and poor rider judgment for Forty-Niner's defeat.

In a 17-horse field, it doesn't seem likely that the No. 14 post (Winning Colors) and No. 17 (Forty-Niner) makes that much difference.

* * *

And in riding, there are no better than Pat Day-on Niner-in the Derby and on Saturday.

When he took back off the hat pace of colors, Day felt the filly couldn't keep up her front-running style. She did.

She will at Pimlico, where the distance of the race is shorter and the stretch turns are sharper...LACY.

Elder, Botts, Owens cash

Lee Elder and two compatriots — Rafe Botts and Charles Owens — collected pieces of the purse Sunday in the United Hospitals Senior Golf Classic. The winner was Bruce Crampton.

Elder, playing his best tournament since returning from a January heart attack, fired a 209 for the 54-hole event at Malvern, Pa. It was enough to finish fourth and pocket $13,250.

Botts, an off-and-on player on the tour, proved consistent with 73-74-75 cards. His effort netted 222 strokes, and a check for $950.

Owens, also an occasional dropout because of physical problems, was on hand for the event. He won $500 for 225.

A test for Wade

By Sam Lacy

The sports-conscious among us, whether we live in New York, Texas, Florida or Oregon, must know by now that Brian Williams, a 19-year-old basketball player, has brought the University of Maryland virtually to its knees.

Early last week, Williams went public with an announcement that he will transfer at the end of his freshman year to another school.

Since his home is in California, the speculation is that he will enroll at UCLA, although Brian has indicated that he is uncertain about where he will choose to continue his college career.

Pressed for an explanation for his sudden defection from the Maryland basketball team of which he was a vital part in 1987, Williams asserted that there were "philosophical differences" between himself and coach Bob Wade.

A student rally which drew several hundred in the rain outside his dormitory reportedly drew a Williams' response—"gone for a haircut."

Signs bearing pleas, "Please stay, Brian," and "We Love You," along with a petition bearing 260 student signatures, received a "MAYBE I'll reconsider" from the young man. But no assurances.

What it amounts to, in the eyes

(Cont'd on 2nd Sports)

Should baseball stars look to the stars?

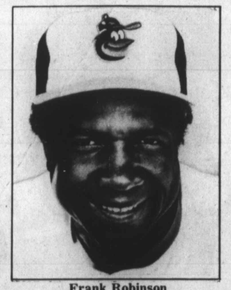
NEW YORK (UPI) — Astrology could remove some mystery from baseball.

After all, if the White House can plan according to the stars, a major-leaguer could, too. Should he sign for one year or for three? Should he give permission for a trade? Will he play in the AL West or the California League North?

Horoscopes could help in making predictions as well. For years we've said anything can happen in baseball. With some help from the stars, we could be a whole lot more specific. For example, here are some horoscopes that might have come in handy before this season:

RON ROBINSON, Aries — Fame barely eludes your grasp. Remember no one is perfect, though it never hurts to try. Don't be upset if someone ruins everything at the last moment.

BILLY MARTIN, Taurus — Weekends make a fine time to stay home and read. Stay alert and travel in groups. Old habits bring you into dangerous spots. People will think the worst, even if you're innocent.



Frank Robinson
smile but avoid bridges

KIRK GIBSON, Gemini — New friends enjoy a good prank. Be a good sport and take it in fun. But stay alert for practical jokes. You fit in well after a rough start.

FRANK TANANA, Cancer — New wealth hasn't spoiled you a bit. Your style remains a mystery to your foes. You're better than ever. You show leadership and aptitude for the No. 1 job.

LEON DURHAM, Leo — Superiors begin to notice the passage of time. Young people around you change your situation. The role of wood changes. You're not swinging it anymore. You're sitting on it.

FRANK ROBINSON, Virgo — A switch in jobs brings extra challenge. Victory is yours if you persevere and smile. In the meantime, avoid bridges and sharp objects.

DAVE PALLONE, Libra — Indecision may create tricky situations. Hold your temper and avoid arguments. Keep your hands at your side. An outburst in April could affect your status later on.

DWIGHT GOODEN, Scorpio — Bad memories are leaving. Slight adjustments make a big difference. Work becomes fun again. A celebration may be coming, and this time you make the parade.



Billy Martin
watch out for weekends

BO JACKSON, Sagittarius — Another year brings more success in athletic endeavor. A stadium fills with cheering people. Fans watch on television. You're in the World Series. Or is it the Super Bowl?

ZANE SMITH, Capricorn — You suddenly are in great demand. Health is the key to everything. People come from great distances to judge you. Your bosses must make a decision. Things may get worse before they get better.

DAN QUISENBERRY, Aquarius — The good old days of success seem far away. You remain a key for those around you, but the old tricks don't seem to work anymore. Jobs that used to be yours go to someone else.

DAVE STEWART, Pisces — people start to recognize your talents. You hold the potential for an unusual achievement. An award that eluded you last year may be forthcoming.

Finally, any self-respecting horoscope would include this warning to pitchers; no matter what their birth date: hesitate before you act or all could be lost.