

IN BRIEF**Trainer opens Arapahoe with two five-win days**

Trainer Jon Arnett equaled the Arapahoe Park record for wins on a program – twice – during the track's opening three-day weekend. He won five races at the Aurora, Colo., track on its opening program Saturday, and another five on Monday.

The feat tied the mark set by Quarter Horse trainer John Hammes last June.

Arnett went 5 for 6 on Monday, and won a total of 13 races over the first three days of racing at Arapahoe.

"I gave my horses a three-week break from the rigors of racing

and shipped them to Arapahoe Park early," he said in a release issued by the racetrack. "I was concerned the break would be an issue for them. I am glad I was wrong. The layoff seemed to be just what they needed."

Arnett spends part of his year racing in New Mexico. He has about 60 horses under his care and ran multiple horses in a number of races over Arapahoe's opening weekend, when field size was on the small side. Arnett won the training title last year at Arapahoe.

– *Mary Rampellini*

NYRA names new executive

The New York Racing Association has hired Gavin Landry, the former president of the Saratoga Convention and Tourism Bureau, as its senior vice president of sales and market development, NYRA announced on Tuesday.

Landry, 42, will be responsible for NYRA's sales and customer service programs in his new position, along with corporate sponsorship and licensing agreements. Landry had previously been with Saratoga's tourism bureau for 12 years.

Earlier this year, Bill Nader, a NYRA senior vice president, left the association to take a job with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Several of Nader's duties include those being taken over by Landry.

In a statement, Landry said he would seek to implement strategies that would increase NYRA's wagering revenue as well as ontrack attendance, a number that has been declining for over a decade at two of NYRA's tracks, Aqueduct and Belmont. NYRA also operates Saratoga Racecourse in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Landry lives in Malta, not far from Saratoga, and owns Thoroughbred horses.

– *Matt Hegarty*

Hosang gets Gomez Award

George Hosang, who was a prominent rider in Ontario from 1976 through 1986, has been named this year's recipient of the Avelino Gomez Memorial Award, the Woodbine Entertainment Group announced Tuesday.

The Gomez Memorial Award is given to a jockey who was born or raised in Canada or competed in the country for more than five years and made significant contributions to horse racing.

The annual award is presented on Woodbine Oaks Day in memory of jockey Avelino Gomez, who died following a spill in the 1980 Oaks. This year's Woodbine Oaks will be run on June 10.

Hosang, 53, was born in

Jamaica and was the dominant rider at Caymanas Park there before emigrating to Canada in 1976.

Hosang was Ontario's leading rider in 1979 with 159 wins and in 1981 with 151. He also finished second in Ontario in 1977 with 195 victories and in 1978 with 135 wins.

His 11 stakes wins included the 1979 Prince of Wales at Fort Erie with Mass Rally and the 1981 Breeders' with Social Wizard.

Hosang returned to Jamaica in 1986 but resumed his North American career in Florida in 1992. He retired following an accident in 1998 and lives in the Miami area.

– *Bill Tallon*

Charity adds five board members

Thoroughbred Charities of America, an affiliate of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, has appointed five new members to its board of directors. They are Antony Beck of Gainesway Farm, Jimmy Bell of Darley at Jonabell, Gary Biszantz of Cobra Farm, Nadia Sanan Briggs of Padua Stables, and Jack Wolf of Starlight Stables. Thoroughbred Charities of America has distributed grants totaling more than \$12 million to approximately 200 nonprofit organizations in support of the organization's mission of supporting Thoroughbred retirement, rescue, and research as well as aid for people in the industry.

– *Glenye Cain Oakford*

Corinthian's Met Mile has owners soaring

By **DAVID GRENING**

ELMONT, N.Y. – Though he probably could have floated home, Don Little Jr., the president of Centennial Farms, was behind the wheel of a single-engine airplane Monday night that took him and his father back to their Massachusetts home just hours after the Centennial-owned Corinthian won the \$600,000 Metropolitan Handicap at Belmont Park.

The 75-minute flight must have seemed like a blur as the Littles relived Corinthian's three-quarter-length victory in the Met Mile, one of the most prestigious races in the country.

According to Little – whose father founded Centennial in 1982 – it was Centennial's first Grade 1 victory since Colonial Affair won the Jockey Club Gold Cup in 1994.

"It's been a long time coming," Little said from his office Tuesday morning. "It's been a lot of devotion and hard work. Our team has been together for 25 years, haven't strayed off the path. It was really rewarding."

Corinthian's victory not only gave Centennial a top-flight stallion prospect, it gave them a horse who figures to compete at the highest level the remainder of the year. Little mentioned five races that Corinthian could compete in, beginning with the Grade 1, \$400,000 Suburban Handicap on June 30 and a potential matchup with the defending Horse of the Year, Invasor.

"I would say as of today our next race would be the Suburban," Little said. "It's probably a good opportunity to try to do something."

Little said he had spoken to Centennial's manager of racing operations, Dr. Stephen Carr, "and he said there was nothing in the colt's feed tub this morning. We couldn't have asked him to come out of it any better."

Corinthian has been a project for Centennial and their trainer Jimmy Jerkens. As a 3-year-old, Corinthian was scratched out of the Aventura Stakes at Gulfstream because of pre-race antics at the gate. Later that winter, he was disqualified from first place and placed third for interference in the Grade 2 Fountain of Youth. A hind leg injury knocked him off the Triple Crown trail and, after a bad third in a Saratoga allowance race, Corinthian came down with a skin disease that forced him to miss the final five months of 2006.

Corinthian began making up for lost time in Florida when he won an allowance race over Belmont Stakes winner Jazil and then the Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Handicap. Sent off as the 4-5 favorite in the Excelsior Breeders' Cup Handicap at Aqueduct, Corinthian leapt in the air at the start, giving the rest of the field a several-length head start. He ended up fifth.

Suburban vs. Invasor may be next

Monday's pace-pressing victory in the Met Mile – for which Corinthian earned a 107 Beyer Speed Figure – erased all the bad memories.

"Jimmy's done a fantastic job with this horse, credit to him," Little said. "It's been tough on him, but all the patience and hard work has paid off. We have a top horse and a top stallion prospect."

Wait a While pointed to Just a Game

Champion 3-year-old filly Wait a While, coming off a disappointing fifth-place finish in the Jenny Wiley Handicap on Keeneland's Polytrack, is being pointed to the Grade 2, \$300,000 Just a Game Breeders' Cup Handicap here on June 9, trainer Todd Pletcher said.

Pletcher had considered shipping Wait a While to California for Monday's Gamely at Hollywood Park, but noted that his next major objective with Wait a While is the \$1 million CashCall Mile Invitational at Hollywood on July 6 and he did not want to ship too often.

"I figure rather than ship to California, run in the Gamely, ship back, and then ship back to California for the CashCall, I could get a mile race into her and then ship only one time," Pletcher said.

Wait a While, who began her 4-year-old season with a win in the Grade 3 Honey Fox Handicap at Gulfstream Park, has worked three times since the Jenny Wiley – a race transferred from the turf to the Polytrack – including a half-mile move in 50.01 over the Belmont turf course on Sunday.

"She's training fantastic," Pletcher said.

Honey Ryder could face males again

Pletcher said he would attempt to separate Honey Ryder and Safari Queen, the one-two finishers from Saturday's Sheepshead Bay Handicap, for future races. Pletcher said one would most likely be pointed to the \$300,000 Robert G. Dick Memorial at Delaware on July 16, a race Honey Ryder won last year.

Pletcher said he could point Safari Queen to that race and run Honey Ryder against males in the \$750,000 United Nations Handicap at Monmouth Park on July 7. Honey Ryder was beaten a neck when second to Jambalaya in the Gulfstream Park BC Turf Handicap against males in February.

"We've tried Honey Ryder with the colts, and she almost pulled it off," Pletcher said. "I'd say something like the United Nations would be possible for her."

Honey Ryder earned a Beyer Speed Figure of 101 for her

Sheepshead Bay victory.

Shakespeare back, in new barn

The Grade 1 winner Shakespeare, unraced since finishing 12th of 13 in the 2005 Breeders' Cup Turf at Belmont Park, is on the comeback trail. Previously trained by Bill Mott, Shakespeare is now with Kiaran McLaughlin.

Last Saturday, Shakespeare worked three furlongs in 37.64 seconds over Belmont's main track. It was his first recorded workout since Feb. 1, 2006.

Shakespeare won the first five races of his career – including the Turf Classic Invitational in 2005 – before his bad race in the Breeders' Cup Turf. He worked twice in January of 2006, but Mott wasn't happy with the way the colt was training and eventually sent him back to owner Frank Justice's Dell Ridge Farm.

"We got him April 15, but he had quite a good bottom under him," McLaughlin said. "He's doing real well. We made the work tab with him, and he'll work weekly till he's ready."

McLaughlin has also taken over the training of Praying for Cash, who won the Grade 3 Long Branch Stakes last year and who finished second in the Grade 1 Haskell Invitational. Praying for Cash has not run since finishing fifth in the Perryville last Oct. 13 at Keeneland.

High Finance sizzles in allowance

High Finance relished his return to Belmont Park and a drop to allowance competition on Sunday, rolling to an eight-length victory while running a mile in 1:33.54. He earned a whopping 114 Beyer Speed Figure.

"He probably needs a vacation," trainer Rick Violette quipped.

Naturally, Violette was quite pleased with the performance, though he obviously wishes it had come in one of the three graded stakes in which High Finance had run earlier this year. Violette believes High Finance should have won the Grade 3 Mr. Prospector, where he was in tight along the rail for the early part of the race.

"It took a little bit of the courage out of him," Violette said.

Violette said he wasn't sure where High Finance would run next. The Salvator Mile at Monmouth Park on June 23 is possible, though Flashy Bull – owned by the same West Pont Stable syndicate that owns High Finance – is being pointed to that race as well.

□ Eddie Martin Jr. began a 10-day suspension on Tuesday related to a carefree-riding incident on March 25 at Aqueduct. That race also resulted in Eibar Coa receiving a 10-day suspension, which he has already served.