



Derby/Oaks Update

Monday, April 28, 2014

KENTUCKY DERBY UPDATE

CALIFORNIA CHROME (No. 1) – As the rains pelted, the lightning flashed and the thunder roared at Churchill Downs Monday morning, likely Kentucky Derby favorite **California Chrome** and a dozen of his West Coast buddies went airborne from Ontario Airport near Los Angeles on a Tex Sutton charter shortly after 5 a.m. (Pacific Time). The flight landed in Louisville just after 11:30 a.m. local time and the horses arrived at the track at 12:45 p.m.

California Chrome will take up residence in Barn 20 on the Churchill backside, sharing space with the horses of trainer **Tom Proctor**. The chestnut colt's trainer, **Art Sherman**, and his wife **Faye**, had a flight of their own out of L.A. at 8 a.m. Monday.

Sherman had indicated that his millionaire charge would get his first feel for the Churchill strip Tuesday morning with a likely jog over what is eligible to be a wet surface.

VICAR'S IN TROUBLE (No. 2)/GENERAL A ROD (No. 14)/HARRY'S HOLIDAY (No. 19) – Each of trainer **Mike Maker's** Kentucky Derby contenders – **Ken** and **Sarah Ramsey's** **Vicar's in Trouble**, **Skychai Racing**, **Terry Raymond** and **Jana Wagner's** **Harry's Holiday** and **General a Rod**, now owned by **Starlight Racing** and **Skychai Racing** – jogged on a sloppy Churchill Downs track Monday morning.

Exercise rider **Joel Barrientos** was aboard each colt.

Of the three, Vicar's in Trouble is the only one to race on an off track, and none of them has raced on a sloppy or muddy surface. Vicar's in Trouble broke his maiden with a 13-length romp against 2-year-old Louisiana-bred company in a six-furlong race on a "good" track Dec. 14 at the Fair Grounds.

"If the situation called for it, they've trained well over it, but as a whole, I don't work my horses over an off track," Maker said. "They haven't run on it. There's only one way to find out."

DANCE WITH FATE (No. 3) – **Sharon Alesia, Bran Jam Stable** and **Ciaglia Racing's** **Dance With Fate** left Ontario International Airport in Southern California at 5:08 a.m. (Pacific Time) en route to Louisville and a start in Kentucky Derby 140.

The plane arrived at Louisville International Airport at 11:32 local time. Dance With Fate arrived at Churchill Downs at 12:45 and was offloaded by Barn 42.

Winner of the Blue Grass Stakes (GI) at Keeneland in his most recent start, Dance With Fate is trained by **Peter Eurton** and will be ridden on Saturday by **Corey Nakatani**.

WICKED STRONG (No. 4) – **Centennial Farms' Wicked Strong** made his first trip to the track at Churchill Downs Monday morning and galloped approximately 1 1/4 miles over the sloppy surface under exercise rider **Kelvin Pahal**.

Wicked Strong shipped from New York to Louisville by redeye van Saturday night and did not go to the track Sunday.

Trainer **Jimmy Jerkens** sent the colt out to the track at 8:30 a.m. during the time reserved for Derby and Oaks runners.

"He galloped pretty much like he always does, starts out real slow looking around and once he gets warmed up he starts stretching out," Jerkens said. "He didn't pull like he does back home, only because of the combination of the mud and he's never seen the place before. I thought he looked good and comfortable and switched his leads nice."

"The pony was with him, which is good because he can get a little tough on the way home. He got loose a couple of times on us early in his career coming home from the track. We like to have at least somebody there with a shank or a pony or both."

Jerkens said he was happy when the worst of the intense electrical storm moved away from Churchill Downs and he was able to get Wicked Strong out to the track.

"It definitely was important. I wanted to get him out there and stretch his legs a little bit. He walked the day after he worked and spent the whole night cramped up in a van. I really wanted to get him out there and stretch his muscles a little bit."

Jerkens said the colt appears to have made a smooth transition to Churchill Downs. He is stabled in trainer **Eddie Kenneally's** barn.

"He doesn't seem to be bothered," Jerkens said. "He's close to the track and there has been a lot of activity so far. **Bill (Mott)** and Eddie jog their horses up and down here to examine them before they go out and it hasn't bothered him at all. I'm really happy about that. He hasn't given a care about anything. So far, so good."

Wicked Strong will be Jerkens' first Derby starter and his third career starter at Churchill Downs. He won the 2002 Humana Distaff with **Celtic Melody**. In 1992, he was working for his father, Hall of Fame trainer **H. Allen Jerkens**, and part of the team that brought **Devil His Due** to the Derby. Devil His Due finished 12th in the race won by **Lil E. Tee**.

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY LEADERBOARD PRESENTED BY TWINSPIRES.COM

#	Horse	Points	Trainer	NRSE
1.	California Chrome	150	Art Sherman	\$782,250
2.	Vicar's in Trouble	120	Mike Maker	\$760,000
3.	Dance With Fate	108	Peter Eurton	\$600,000
4.	Wicked Strong	102	Jimmy Jerkens	\$630,000
	Toast of New York	100	Jamie Osborne	\$1,200,000
5.	Samraat	100	Rick Violette Jr.	\$640,000
6.	Danza	100	Todd Pletcher	\$620,000
	Constitution	100	Todd Pletcher	\$600,000
7.	Hoppertunity	95	Bob Baffert	\$576,000
8.	Intense Holiday	93	Todd Pletcher	\$527,500
9.	Wildcat Red	90	Jose Garoffalo	\$610,000
10.	We Miss Artie	60	Todd Pletcher	\$544,000
11.	Ride On Curlin	55	Billy Gowan	\$354,387
12.	Chitu	54	Bob Baffert	\$440,000
13.	Tapiture	52	Steve Asmussen	\$470,738
	Midnight Hawk	52	Bob Baffert	\$420,000
	Ring Weekend	50	Graham Motion	\$260,000
	+ Asmar-IRE	40	Fawzi Abdulla Nass	\$557,500
14.	General a Rod	40	Mike Maker	\$240,000
15.	Medal Count	40	Dale Romans	\$226,500
	Albano	34	Larry Jones	\$190,000
16.	Candy Boy	30	John Sadler	\$380,000
	Cairo Prince	24	Kiaran McLaughlin	\$520,000
17.	Uncle Sigh	24	Gary Contessa	\$180,000
	+ Emirates Flyer-GB	20	Saeed bin Suroor	\$381,691
18.	Vinceremos	20	Todd Pletcher	\$191,666
19.	Harry's Holiday	20	Mike Maker	\$152,622
20.	Commanding Curve	20	Dallas Stewart	\$104,000
21.	Pablo Del Monte	20	Wesley Ward	\$102,000
	Bayern	20	Bob Baffert	\$100,000
22.	Social Inclusion	20	Manny Azpurua	\$90,000
	Havana	14	Todd Pletcher	\$660,000
	Honor Code	14	Shug McGaughey III	\$340,000
23.	Big Bazinga	14	Katerina Vassilieva	\$92,149

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SAMRAAT (No. 5) – Trainer **Rick Violette** said **My Meadowview Farm's Samraat** “just hacked around the barn” at Aqueduct racetrack Monday morning before being flown to Louisville.

Violette said the charter was expected to leave the New York area at approximately 3:30 p.m.

“This is his light day,” Violette said. “We rode him around the barn to take the edge off him, but he hadn’t had a day off since his breeze (one mile in 1:45.91 on Friday at Aqueduct) and I figured his travel day could be that.”

Samraat, runner-up to Wicked Strong in the Wood Memorial (GI), is Violette’s second Derby horse. His debut in America’s biggest race was with **Read the Footnotes**, who finished seventh in 2004. He is looking forward to another trip to the Derby.

“It’s pretty cool,” Violette said. “I’m obviously excited; my whole family is going to be there. I’ve got a brother flying in from L.A. and another brother flying in from London. My sister and my parents are coming up from Florida. It’s pretty cool and they are very excited. This is something you really should enjoy, whether you go once or 100 times. There is no question that you need to slow down sometimes and smell the roses and this is certainly one of those times. No pun intended.”

Violette, 61, said he enjoyed being at the Derby with **Read the Footnotes** (in 2004), but that hasn’t lessened his enthusiasm.

“I’m 10 years older, and probably not wiser, but as you get older you realize that these things don’t have to happen ever again, or 10 years from now. So do your job, cross all the t’s and dot all the i’s, but leave yourself some time to sit back and enjoy it, too.”

DANZA (No. 6)/INTENSE HOLIDAY (No. 8)/WE MISS ARTIE (No. 10)/VINCEREMOS (No. 18) – The **Todd Pletcher** Derby quartet got in one-mile jogs Monday morning despite the wild and wet conditions at Churchill Downs that had the morning training period shut down for approximately half an hour because of lightning strikes in the area.

“We got lucky and found a seam (in the weather) to jog the colts,” Pletcher said.

The foursome had put in their final Kentucky Derby works the previous morning, each going a half mile. **Intense Holiday** (:48.60) and **We Miss Artie** (:49.20) had worked in company, as did **Danza** (:48.80) and **Vinceremos** (:49).

Pletcher said the weatherman would be the key to his next move with his 3-year-olds.

“We’ll have to see how it goes with the weather tonight and tomorrow,” he said at Barn 34. “We might go back to galloping with them tomorrow, but the weather will be a big part of making the call.”

The trainer was asked if any of his Derby four had given him any indications that they might like or dislike a surface akin to the “sloppy” one they navigated with easy jogs Monday morning.

“I really don’t have a line on any of them at this point as to how they might do on ‘off’ tracks,” he said. “We just haven’t seen it so far. I don’t have any reason to believe any of them would be hindered by it, but we’d be into experimentation if we had to do it.”

After his colts had worked Sunday morning, Pletcher indicated he was happy with three of them, but had reservations about running **We Miss Artie** in the race. He was not especially pleased with his work and wasn’t sure the Canadian-bred was at his best on a dirt surface. He had indicated that he was going to talk to his owner – **Ken Ramsey** – and see if he could convince him to consider other options.

Ramsey, who has a well-earned reputation as an enthusiastic, successful and – not least of all – adamant owner, overrode his trainer on this one and **We Miss Artie** will start in Derby 140 nonetheless.

Asked about that conversation with Ramsey, Pletcher just smiled.

KENTUCKY DERBY JOCKEYS

Horse	Jockey	Derby Record
Big Bazinga	TBA	
California Chrome	Victor Espinoza	5-1-0-1
Candy Boy	Gary Stevens	19-3-2-1
Chitu	Martin Garcia	2-0-0-0
Commanding Curve	Shaun Bridgmohan	5-0-0-0
Danza	Joe Bravo	2-0-0-0
Dance With Fate	Corey Nakatani	16-0-1-0
General a Rod	Joel Rosario	4-1-0-0
Harry’s Holiday	Corey Lanerie	0-0-0-0
Hoppertunity	Mike Smith	20-1-4-1
Intense Holiday	John Velazquez	15-1-1-0
Medal Count	Robby Albarado	13-0-1-2
Pablo Del Monte	Jeffrey Sanchez	0-0-0-0
Ride On Curlin	Calvin Borel	11-3-0-2
Samraat	Jose Ortiz	0-0-0-0
Social Inclusion	Luis Contreras	0-0-0-0
Tapiture	Ricardo Santana Jr.	0-0-0-0
Uncle Sigh	Irad Ortiz Jr.	0-0-0-0
Vicar’s In Trouble	Rosie Napravnik	2-0-0-0
Vinceremos	Joe Rocco Jr.	
We Miss Artie	Javier Castellano	7-0-0-0
Wicked Strong	Rajiv Maragh	3-0-0-1
Wildcat Red	Luis Saez	1-0-0-0

HOPPERUNITY (No. 7)/CHITU (No. 12) – **Karl Watson, Mike Pegram and Paul Weitman’s Hoppertunity** breezed a half-mile in :48 Monday during an early morning rain storm.

Under jockey **Martin Garcia** and working in company with stakes-winning stablemate **Drill**, Hoppertunity covered the first furlong in 12 seconds and was timed in :24.20 for a quarter mile. He galloped out six furlongs in 1:13.40 and seven furlongs in 1:27.40. Hoppertunity started out two lengths behind Drill and finished on even terms.

Strong storms punctuated by thunder and lightning passed through Louisville before 7 a.m. The track was closed for more than 30 minutes because of the lightning. The dirt surface was renovated and then floated to keep it from being damaged by the downpour and track officials announced that it would not be renovated again prior to the special training time for Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks horses at 8:30.

Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert** decided he would try to take advantage of what might be the best conditions of the morning and train the horses right away. He had Garcia breeze Kentucky Oaks candidate **Ria Antonia** and then Hoppertunity.

“I sent him out because I was worried about these storms coming in,” Baffert said. “Then they said they were going to float the track and they said there was going to be one renovation then and none later. So I was in a little bit of a panic mode and called the audible to go with the filly first if it was good and safe.

“Then I brought him out and he worked really well with Drill. Usually Drill wouldn’t work well on this and today he did. He’s a really good work horse. We gave him a little bit of a head start this time -- the last time Drill went to the eighth pole and didn’t want to work, but today he stayed with him. They work together all the time and what they did today was a normal work.

“It was a good work. I’m glad I got the work in. He (Hoppertunity) looked great. He was reaching out well. Got it in and got it out of the way. I can relax now, sit around and go buy my tickets.”

Baffert said that **Tamma Corporation’s Chitu** was fine Monday, the morning after working six furlongs from the gate in 1:13.20.

Hall of Famer **Mike Smith** with ride Hoppertunity in the Derby and Garcia will be aboard Chitu.

WILDCAT RED (No. 9) – Honors Stable Corp.’s Wildcat Red walked under the shedrow Monday morning, a day after breezing five furlongs in 1:04.40 under jockey **Luis Saez** at Churchill Downs.

Trainer **Jose Garoffalo** reported that the Fountain of Youth (GII) winner was bright and came out of his first breeze over the Churchill surface in good order.

“He’s perfect. He had a very easy workout and is saving everything for Saturday,” the South Florida-based trainer said. “There are people who are skeptical about the workout, but he did it so easily and Saez felt the horse did well.”

No worse than second in seven career starts, all at Gulfstream Park, Wildcat Red particularly pleased his trainer upon the completion of his gallop out.

“He did something that I really liked. After he pulled up, a horse went by on his outside and he grabbed onto the bit and wanted to go with him. Saez took a hold of him, or he would have breezed again. That’s what people didn’t notice.”

Garoffalo remarked about the Florida-bred colt’s competitive nature.

“He needs the company, but we don’t need the company during the workout,” he said. “He’ll have a lot of company in the race. He’ll have 19 horse for company.”

RIDE ON CURLIN (No. 11) – Trainer Billy Gowan walked **Daniel Dougherty’s Ride On Curlin** in the shedrow Monday morning, a day after he worked seven furlongs in 1:29.

Gowan said the colt was a handful. “He was feeling his oats, because he ate every one of them last night,” Gowan said. “And his legs were cold and tight. I love the way he looks this morning, because you always hold your breath after a work. We came in this morning, and it was perfect.”

With rain coming down, the timing for Ride on Curlin’s walk day turned out fortunate. “We had it all planned out,” Gowan said.

Ride On Curlin has raced twice on off tracks, finishing third, a length behind winner **Hoppertunity**, in the Rebel (GIII) on a “wet fast” Oaklawn Park track, and winning an allowance race sprint by 2 1/2 lengths at Oaklawn on a “good” track. Ride On Curlin’s sire, **Curlin**, won the Breeders’ Cup Classic (GI) in 2007 on a sloppy track at Monmouth Park.

TAPITURE (No. 13) – “It felt like the priest’s round of golf in *Caddyshack*,” trainer **Steve Asmussen** said of **Tapiture’s** half-mile work through an epic early morning storm. “Only, thank goodness, we didn’t get struck by lightning at the end of it.”

The **Winchell Thoroughbreds** colorbearer and exercise rider **Abel Flores** hit the track at 6:15 a.m. and headed the wrong way (clockwise in racing parlance) in preparation for their final pre-Derby workout. Within three minutes, as they walked in tandem with Asmussen and his pony to their outside, the sky opened up and pounded Churchill Downs with what a few local horsemen said was the worst weather they could remember seeing horses train in.

The Asmussen barn, though, preaches the importance of routine above all else, so Tapiture and his handlers proceeded as if it were any normal morning under the Twin Spires.

“You just do what you do,” Asmussen said. “It’s very comfortable to be here at Churchill. This racetrack handles water amazingly. It gives you a lot of confidence having had several horses run a lot in the afternoons here over the last 15 years or so.”

Sheets of rain blew sideways and a deafening crack of lightning, which may have been the one that knocked out a bank of lights on the far turn, marked the start of the work as the Tapit colt broke off from the half-mile pole. Unfazed by the weather and seemingly relishing the sloppy surface, Tapiture stayed well off the rail, rolled through an opening quarter in :24.60 and finished the four-

furlong move in :50. Clockers caught the five-furlong gallop-out in 1:04.80.

The work unfolded at 6:30 a.m. and by 6:45 Churchill official suspended training temporarily because of the dangerous circumstances.

Back at Barn 38, as the storm picked up yet again, Asmussen welcomed soaking reporters under the dry cover of his shedrow.

“I’m very happy to get it in,” Asmussen said. “I loved how he moved over it. I can’t say enough about Abel, under those conditions, being able to do what we wanted. He hit 50 right on and that’s what we were aiming for with the horse.”

Asmussen typically does not ask much of his workers in their final work before an important stakes engagement.

“He’s got a beautiful stride to him,” the trainer said. “He’s an extremely efficient mover. I’m definitely happy to get it in before they announced the track’s closed.”

MEDAL COUNT (No. 15) – Spendthrift Farm’s Medal Count enjoyed a light two-mile jog over the sloppy Churchill Downs surface, hitting the track at 9 a.m. with exercise rider **Faustino Aguilar** aboard during a period of meteorological calm.

“He’s fine,” trainer **Dale Romans** said. “Energy level’s high.”

The Blue Grass Stakes (GI) runner-up jogged the wrong way, sticking to the outside rail. Afterward he stood calmly by the half-mile gap and took in what little activity there was to see toward the end of training hours on a wet morning when many horses on the backside never left their barns.

“He’ll gallop easy all week,” Romans said. “Probably Wednesday he’ll stand and school in the gate. Probably school in the paddock Thursday and if he’s fine we might not do it again; if he needs to we’ll go back Friday.”

This was Medal Count’s first day back on the track since Saturday’s five-furlong move in 1:00.20. Romans said his stout **Dynaformer** colt came out of the work “perfect” and added that “it didn’t take anything out of him.”

CANDY BOY (No. 16) – Trainer John Sadler – a Southern California guy – isn’t one who has to dance around the weather too often. But confronted with serious rain, lightning and thunder Monday morning at Churchill Downs, he decided to trot earlier rather than late when it came to his Kentucky Derby colt **Candy Boy**.

Sadler sent Candy Boy and exercise rider **Jelani Grant** to the track with his first set prior to 6 a.m. and had them jog once around the “sloppy” strip.

“He (Candy Boy) likes it soft,” the trainer said later at Barn 43. “If it were to come up wet on Saturday, I wouldn’t mind it. He liked it here last Friday when he galloped and the track was wet. If it does work out that way, I’d think some others wouldn’t care for it and we’d be OK.”

Sadler has been to Churchill twice before with Derby horses, most recently with **Sidney’s Candy** and **Line of David** in 2010. He was asked if he had made any adjustments for the trip this time.

“You’re always learning and adjusting,” he said. “This time when I came I was fortunate enough to have an owner (**Lee and Susan Searing** of the **C R K Stable**) who had a horse (**Monument**) they let me bring as a workmate for Candy Boy. He (Monument) keeps him (Candy Boy) sharp and competitive and that works well for him.

“I also brought my own stable pony this time. We vanned him from California in three days in order to save some money. But he’s here and it just makes things easier for my horses.”

Sadler has brought four other horses on this trip, including Saturday's American Turf (GII) runner **Quotient**, who is aboard the Tex Sutton flight bringing 13 horses in from California Monday, including likely Derby favorite **California Chrome**.

Saturday, Sadler will give Hall of Fame rider **Gary Stevens** a leg up on Candy Boy. And they'll go running for the roses – rain, wet, dry, fast or whatever the gods of weather or racing have to offer.

UNCLE SIGH (No. 17) – Wounded Warrior Stables and **Anthony Robertson's Uncle Sigh** galloped 1 ½ miles under exercise rider **Benito Alvarado** Monday morning in preparation for a start in Saturday's Kentucky Derby.

Earlier in the morning, trainer **Gary Contessa** recalled the day last fall when he predicted that the son of Indian Charlie would run in this year's Derby.

"When he got to my barn and I worked him his first half-mile, I called the owner and I said, 'We're going to run this horse in the Kentucky Derby.' He has a stable manager and she called me and said, 'Are you kidding me? You're going to tell an owner six months before the Derby that he's going to win the Derby?' When I hung up, I said, 'That is kind of wrong, giving the owner that kind of pump that far in advance.' But that's how I felt when I worked him a half-mile at Belmont Park."

Uncle Sigh first caught Contessa's attention while breezing for the Fasig-Tipton Florida Sale for 2-year-olds in training at Palm Meadows Training Center in March 2013. Although the New York-bred colt didn't meet his reserve at the sale, Contessa persisted and purchased him privately for his owners.

"I expected him from the day I bought him to be a great horse. He was the horse I had to have at the 2-year-old sale," Contessa said. "Every year I go to every 2-year-old sale and I watch hundreds of horses run past me."

Contessa, who spotted something in Uncle Sigh, explained that he has "plagiarized" Hall of Fame trainer **Wayne Lukas'** explanation of how he is able to spot great potential in a particular horse, likening it to being able to detect the cat hidden in a picture in a children's book.

"I plagiarized it. I made it mine. Because when I see a great 2-year-old run past me, I feel like I've seen the cat. I understand exactly what Wayne meant when he said that," Contessa said. "When I saw this horse run past us, I saw the cat."

COMMANDING CURVE (No. 20) – West Point Thoroughbreds' Commanding Curve galloped Monday morning under exercise rider **Emerson Chavez**.

Commanding Curve handled the wet conditions well, trainer **Dallas Stewart** said. Commanding Curve raced once on an off track, finishing sixth in his debut, 23 1/4 lengths behind the winner, in a seven-furlong maiden race Aug. 31 at Saratoga.

"You know, he ran bad in the mud at Saratoga, but that was like soup," Stewart said. "But he's galloped – I've never worked him in the mud – but he gallops terrific in it. It's always a great unknown."

Commanding Curve on Sunday moved into the 20-horse body of the potential Derby field when West Point's **Ring Weekend** was withdrawn because of a fever. Stewart said he feels badly for **Graham Motion**, who trains Ring Weekend, and also for the West Point partnership that owns him.

But Stewart and his friends and family are thrilled that he'll be in the Derby with Commanding Curve.

"People were calling and texting and stuff," Stewart said. "Like I said, we've been training like we're running all the way around. That's the way we've got to go."

PABLO DEL MONTE (No. 21) – Susan Magnier, Derrick Smith, Michael Tabor and trainer **Wesley Ward's Pablo Del Monte** galloped 1 ½ miles on a stormy Monday morning at Keeneland.

"He's been breathing fire all weekend, and even all the rain couldn't put the fire out," Ward quipped.

Pablo Del Monte, who needs one horse to defect from Kentucky Derby field in order to make the Run for the Roses on Saturday.

"If not, he's ready for the Preakness," Ward said.

BIG BAZINGA (No. 23) – Derby Dreamers Racing Stable's Big Bazinga walked the shedrow Monday morning.

"We don't train in the rain," said **Amber Mayers**, assistant to trainer **Katerina Vassilieva**.

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE

UNTAPABLE (No. 1) – Winchell Thoroughbreds' Untapable came out of Sunday's work in "excellent" shape, trainer **Steve Asmussen** said.

The Kentucky Oaks favorite, unbeaten and essentially unchallenged in two starts this year, breezed a half-mile in :48.60 yesterday, five days out from America's premier race for 3-year-old fillies.

Untapable started her career with two wins over the Churchill Downs main track, including the Pocahontas Stakes (GII) going two turns for the first time in September. Having managed that ambitious task, Untapable moved on to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI), where she went off as the third choice at 9-2 odds. **Rosie Napravnik** placed the Tapit filly in a stalking position behind the early leaders, including two who cleared them from the outside. By the time they reached the far turn, Untapable was already being hard-ridden. A breakdown ahead of them forced Napravnik to check sharply, which led to Untapable being eased once she was out of touch with the field, but the filly was already in retreat by then and clearly wasn't on her way to earning a check.

"It was a big learning experience for us," Asmussen said. "We had in our minds where we wanted to put her, and I think we have learned to let her do things as opposed to make her do things. She is not the same filly physically as she was then, but we definitely thought we had a great chance going in that day. You are analyzing the race and where you want to be and how the track is playing, and we learned a lesson. You have to let it come to her as opposed to make her go to it."

SUGAR SHOCK (No. 2) – On Cloud Nine LLC's Sugar Shock galloped 1 ½ miles over a sloppy Churchill Downs racing surface with exercise rider **Seth VanDyke** up.

Heavy rain and lightning forced a temporary suspension of training Monday morning and trainer **Doug Anderson** took Sugar Shock to the track immediately after it reopened after being floated.

"I figured it would be best right after they reopened it rather than wait," Anderson said of the morning activity for the winner of the Fantasy (GIII).

Sugar Shock, who will be partnered in the Kentucky Oaks by **Calvin Borel**, never has raced on a wet track, but Anderson was not worried about such a possibility on Friday.

"I am not concerned at all about that," Anderson said.

The forecast for Friday calls for a 10 percent chance of rain with temperatures in the 60s.

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY OAKS LEADERBOARD

#	Horse	Points	Trainer	NRSE
1.	Untapable	160	Steve Asmussen	\$521,125
2.	Sugar Shock	120	Doug Anderson	\$270,000
3.	Fashion Plate	110	Simon Callaghan	\$420,000
	Awesome Baby	110	Bob Baffert	\$309,250
	In Tune	100	Todd Pletcher	\$180,000
4.	My Miss Sophia	100	Todd Pletcher	\$180,000
5.	Rosalind	78	Kenny McPeek	\$536,311
	Euphrosyne	74	Steve Asmussen	\$150,000
	Room Service	70	Wayne Catalano	\$270,000
6.	Got Lucky	64	Todd Pletcher	\$180,000
7.	Aurelia's Belle	64	Wayne Catalano	\$142,850
	Only for you	60	Todd Pletcher	\$240,000
	House Rules	60	Allen Jerkens	\$100,000
8.	Ria Antonia	55	Bob Baffert	\$1,211,791
9.	Kiss Moon	50	Dave Vance	\$95,400
	+ Initial IRE	40	Saeed bin Suroor	\$448,298
	Fiftyshadesofgold	40	Bret Calhoun	\$166,090
10.	Unbridled Forever	30	Dallas Stewart	\$115,000
	Sweet Reason	25	Leah Gyarmati	\$430,000
	Stopechargingmaria	22	Todd Pletcher	\$526,000
11.	Thank You Marylou	20	Mike Maker	\$178,200
12.	Empress of Midway	15	Doug O'Neill	\$32,000

FASHION PLATE (No. 3) – Arnold Zetcher and Michael Tabor's Fashion Plate left Ontario International Airport in Southern California at 5:08 a.m. (Pacific Time) en route to Louisville and a start in Kentucky Oaks 140.

The plane landed at Louisville International Airport at 11:32 local time and the filly arrived at Churchill Downs at 12:45 and headed to Barn 41.

Winner of the Las Virgenes (GI) and Santa Anita Oaks (GI) in her past two starts, Fashion Plate is trained by **Simon Callaghan** and will be ridden on Friday by **Gary Stevens**.

MY MISS SOPHIA (No. 4)/GOT LUCKY (No. 6) – Trainer Todd Pletcher's Oaks duo stayed out of the rain Monday morning in Louisville and merely walked the shedrow at Barn 34. The fillies had worked two days previously (in company in :49.40) and then just gone for a once-around jog of the big Churchill strip on Sunday.

Pletcher indicated that weather conditions would be key for determining the next moves for the fillies come Tuesday morning.

My Miss Sophia is scheduled to be ridden by **Javier Castellano** in Friday's \$1 million Kentucky Oaks (GI), while Got Lucky will have the saddle services of **John Velazquez**.

ROSALIND (No. 5) – Landaluce Educe Stables' Rosalind jogged one mile and galloped about 1 ¼ miles over the sloppy track at about 8:45 a.m. with exercise rider **Danny Ramsey** aboard.

"She's handling it fine," trainer **Kenny McPeek** said. "She's doing really well. She's steady as she goes."

The **Broken Vow** filly impressed this month against a field of 13 in Keeneland's Ashland Stakes (G1), streaking past most of her competition around the far turn and keeping on to the wire for a dead-heat win she shared with **Room Service** over the all-weather surface.

Rosalind broke her maiden at first asking on turf at Ellis Park and never has won on a dirt surface. That's not to say she doesn't like the dirt, though, as last fall she was flying from last and came up but a half-length short in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI). It is generally accepted that the Santa Anita track favored speed that day, especially early in the card (the Juvenile Fillies was Race 4, the first Breeders' Cup race of the afternoon).

In February, Rosalind was third despite being steadied on the first turn in her 3-year-old debut, an entry-level allowance on dirt at Gulfstream Park. And last fall, in her initial try on dirt in the

Pocahontas (GII) here at Churchill Downs, she was stepping up into stakes company and finished a solid third behind eventual Oaks favorite **Untapable**.

"I think in the long run she's probably going to prefer turf or Poly but she's run well on the dirt," McPeek said. "I think she needs it to set up for her on the dirt, with some pace in the race, so they come back to her a little bit."

Considering six of the fillies probable for the Oaks controlled or contested the early pace in their most recent prep, the pace McPeek is looking for could materialize and set things up right for the deep closer. You don't have to go back far to find the blueprint – last year the favorites in a field touted as one of the most talented in Oaks history pressed a :22.84 opening quarter and a :46.79 half-mile, opening the door for overlooked **Princess of Sylmar** to charge home down the center of the track at 38-1.

RIA ANTONIA (No. 8) – Christopher Dunn and Loooch Racing Stable's Ria Antonia breezed a half-mile in :47.40 Monday morning immediately after the track reopened following a violent thunderstorm.

Jockey **Martin Garcia** guided the filly through early fractions of :11.60 and :23.20. She galloped out five furlongs in 1:00 and was timed in 1:13.60 for six furlongs.

"She worked really well. I loved her work," Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert** said. "Martin has been working her and he just loved the way she went over the track. She's going into the race stronger than she ever has. I was very happy with the move."

KISS MOON (No. 9) – Trainer David Vance reported all was well with **Carl Pollard's Kiss Moon**, the morning after she worked five furlongs in 1:01 at Churchill Downs.

"She's fine this morning. We walked her for 45 minutes and gave her an early bath," Vance said.

Kiss Moon broke her maiden in her second start, winning by 9 ½ lengths going a mile on a track labeled as "good" at Oaklawn Park.

"It would not bother me at all if it was a little wet," Vance said. "And I don't think it will bother (**Bob**) **Baffert's** filly (**Ria Antonia**). I saw her work today (a half-mile in :47.40) and she was very impressive.

"I think her and (**Steve**) **Asmussen's** filly (**Untapable**) are my main competition. They have run against better competition and they both ran in the Breeders' Cup (Juvenile Fillies)."

Kiss Moon is coming off a runner-up effort to **Sugar Shock** in the Fantasy (GIII) in which she donned blinkers for the first time.

"I worked her twice in blinkers before the Fantasy and she got bullets each time," Vance said. "I did not want to do that here. I wanted to save some for Friday."

Victor Espinoza will ride Kiss Moon in the Oaks.

FIFTYSHADESOFGOLD – The Estate of Clarence Scharbauer's Fiftyshadesofgold was withdrawn from Kentucky Oaks consideration after training hours Monday when **Dennis "Peaches" Geier**, assistant to trainer **Bret Calhoun**, notified the Churchill Downs Racing Office that the filly would run in the \$175,000-added Eight Belles (GIII) on Friday.

"She will go in the Eight Belles and **Mike Smith** will ride her," Calhoun said. "The ownership is a little bit on the conservative side and they felt the Eight Belles gave them the best shot to win."

UNBRIDLED FOREVER (No. 10) – Charles Fipke's Unbridled Forever galloped Monday under exercise rider **Pedro Velez**.

Trainer **Dallas Stewart** said Unbridled Forever, who hasn't raced on an off track, trains well on wet surfaces. But Stewart didn't offer a guess on how she might handle mud in a race.

"Hopefully, we don't have to worry about that," he said. "Let's not worry about that right now."

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THANK YOU MARYLOU (No. 11) – With exercise rider **Joel Barrientos** aboard, **Ken** and **Sarah Ramsey's Thank You Marylou** jogged Monday.

Thank You Marylou hasn't raced on an "off" track. She's coming off a third-place finish in the Ashland (GI) on the Polytrack at Keeneland. Her consistency, regardless of surface, gives trainer **Mike Maker** confidence about whether she would handle wet dirt in a race.

"She handles everything," he said. "She's run on grass, dirt, Poly. She's run well on everything. Sprinting. Long. Last time, first time two turns in Grade I company on a different (surface), I thought that showed a lot of quality about her."

EMPRESS OF MIDWAY (No. 12) – Trainer **Doug O'Neill** confirmed Monday morning that two-time winning Kentucky Oaks rider **Corey Nakatani** would ride **Empress of Midway** in this Friday's Kentucky Oaks (GI).

Nakatani, who won the 1991 running on **Lite Light** and the 1996 renewal on **Pike Place Dancer**, never has ridden **Empress of Midway**.

Owned by **Daniel Kramer** and **Rick Pitino**, **Empress of Midway** galloped an easy 1 1/2 miles under **Humberto Gomez** at 8:30.

Empress of Midway broke her maiden in her second start by 2 1/4 lengths over a sealed "wet-fast" track at Santa Anita.

"We have trained in worse weather than this," said **Jack Sistrerson**, assistant to O'Neill. "I would kind of like to see it rain (Friday). She broke her maiden and was very professional in it. **Mike Smith** got off her and said she could run on anything."

O'Neill is scheduled to be in Louisville Thursday afternoon.

KENTUCKY OAKS JOCKEYS

Horse	Jockey
Aurelia's Belle	Channing Hill
Empress of Midway	Corey Nakatani
Fashion Plate	Gary Stevens
Got Lucky	John Velazquez
Kiss Moon	Victor Espinoza
My Miss Sophia	Javier Castellano
Ria Antonia	Mike Smith
Rosalind	Joel Rosario
Sugar Shock	Calvin Borel
Thank You Marylou	Julien Lejaroux
Unbridled Forever	Shaun Bridgmohan
Untapable	Rosie Napravnik

BARN LIST – KENTUCKY DERBY

Horse	Trainer	Date	Barn
Big Bazinga	Katerina Vassilieva		35
California Chrome	Art Sherman		20
Candy Boy	John Sadler		43
Chitu	Bob Baffert		33
Commanding Curve	Dallas Stewart		48
Danza	Todd Pletcher		34
Dance With Fate	Peter Eurton		42
General a Rod	Mike Maker		27
Harry's Holiday	Mike Maker		27
Hoppertunity	Bob Baffert		33
Intense Holiday	Todd Pletcher		34
Medal Count	Dale Romans		4
Pablo Del Monte	Wesley Ward	Wed. April 30	9
Ride On Curlin	Billy Gowan		47
Samraat	Rick Violette Jr.		28
Social Inclusion	Manny Azpurua	TBA	TBA
Tapiture	Steve Asmussen		38
Uncle Sigh	Gary Contessa		41
Vicar's in Trouble	Mike Maker		27
Vinceremos	Todd Pletcher		34
We Miss Artie	Todd Pletcher		34
Wicked Strong	Jimmy Jerkens		31
Wildcat Red	Jose Garoffalo		21

BARN LIST – KENTUCKY OAKS

Horse	Trainer	Date	Barn
Aurelia's Belle	Wayne Catalano		30
Empress of Midway	Doug O'Neill		45
Fashion Plate	Simon Callaghan		41
Got Lucky	Todd Pletcher		34
Kiss Moon	Dave Vance		32
My Miss Sophia	Todd Pletcher		34
Ria Antonia	Bob Baffert		33
Rosalind	Kenny McPeck		6
Sugar Shock	Doug Anderson		27
Thank You Marylou	Mike Maker		27
Unbridled Forever	Dallas Stewart		48
Untapable	Steve Asmussen		38

STAKES POSSIBLES

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS (GI)

Friday, May 2, \$1 million, 3yo, 1 1/8 M, 140th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Untapable	Steve Asmussen	Confirmed
Sugar Shock	Doug Anderson	Confirmed
Fashion Plate	Simon Callaghan	Confirmed
My Miss Sophia	Todd Pletcher	Confirmed
Rosalind	Kenny McPeck	Confirmed
Got Lucky	Todd Pletcher	Confirmed
Aurelia's Belle	Wayne Catalano	Confirmed
Ria Antonia	Bob Baffert	Confirmed
Kiss Moon	Dave Vance	Confirmed
Unbridled Forever	Dallas Stewart	Confirmed
Thank You Marylou	Mike Maker	Confirmed
Empress of Midway	Doug O'Neill	Confirmed

LA TROIENNE (GI)

Friday, May 2, \$300,000-added, f & m, 4 & up, 1 1/16 M, 29th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Devil's Cave	Marty Wolfson	Likely
Don't Tell Sophia	Phil Sims	Likely
Magic Union	John Sadler	Likely
Ondine	Bob Baffert	Likely
On Fire Baby	Gary Hartlage	Likely
Unlimited Budget	Todd Pletcher	Likely

ALYSHEBA PRESENTED BY BESILU STABLES (GII)

Friday, May 2, \$300,000-added, 4 & up, 1 1/16 M, 11th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Appealing Tale	Peter Miller	Likely
Bradester	Eddie Kenneally	Likely
Dynamic Sky	Mark Casse	Likely
Golden Ticket	Kenny McPeck	Likely
Moonshine Mullin	Randy Morse	Likely
Normandy Invasion	Chad Brown	Likely
Will Take Charge	D. Wayne Lukas	Likely

TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT (GIII)

Friday, May 2, \$150,000-added, 4 & up, 5 F (T), 20th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Ancil	Joan Scott	Likely
Googledo (ARG)	Randy Morse	Likely
Marchman	Bret Calhoun	Likely
Positive Side	Grant Forster	Likely
Stormofthecentury	Louis Ruberto Jr.	Likely
Sum of the Parts	Tom Amoss	Likely

-more-

EIGHT BELLES (GIII)

Friday, May 2, \$175,000-added, 3yo f, 7 F, 59th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Bajan	Simon Callaghan	Likely
Cash Control	Steve Margolis	Likely
Designer Legs	Dallas Stewart	Likely
Fiftyshadsofgold	Bret Calhoun	Likely
Hot and Dangerous	Jacques Higgins	Likely
Lady Paradime	Kelly Breen	Likely
Milam	Eddie Kenneally	Likely
Our Amazing Rose	Todd Pletcher	Likely
She's a Tiger	Jeff Bonde	Likely
Silk Purse	Brad Cox	Likely
Whomping Willow	Dale Romans	Likely

EDGEWOOD PRESENTED BY FORCHT BANK

Friday, May 2, \$150,000-added, 3yo f, 1 1/16 M (T), 29th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
A Little Bit Sassy	Michael Matz	Likely
Annulment	Victoria Oliver	Likely
Fonepferesh (IRE)	Eric Reed	Likely
Istanford	Michael Stidham	Likely
Little Journey (FR)	Chad Brown	Likely
Miss Machiavelli	Keith Desormeaux	Likely
Resistivity	Mark Casse	Likely
V V Goodnight	Tom Proctor	Likely

KENTUCKY DERBY PRESENTED BY YUM BRANDS (GI)

Saturday, May 3, \$2 Million-added, 3yo, 1 1/4 M, 140th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
California Chrome	Art Sherman	Confirmed
Vicar's In Trouble	Mike Maker	Confirmed
Dance With Fate	Peter Eurton	Confirmed
Wicked Strong	Jimmy Jerkins	Confirmed
Samraat	Rick Violette, Jr.	Confirmed
Danza	Todd Pletcher	Confirmed
Hoppertunity	Bob Baffert	Confirmed
Intense Holiday	Todd Pletcher	Confirmed
Wildcat Red	Jose Garoffalo	Confirmed
We Miss Artie	Todd Pletcher	Confirmed
Ride On Curlin	Billy Gowan	Confirmed
Chitu	Bob Baffert	Confirmed
Tapiture	Steve Asmussen	Confirmed
General a Rod	Mike Maker	Confirmed
Medal Count	Dale Romans	Confirmed
Candy Boy	John Sadler	Confirmed
Uncle Sigh	Gary Contessa	Confirmed
Vinceremos	Todd Pletcher	Confirmed
Harry's Holiday	Mike Maker	Confirmed
Commanding Curve	Dallas Stewart	Confirmed
Pablo Del Monte	Wesley Ward	Possible
Social Inclusion	Manny Azpura	Possible
Big Bazinga	Katerina Vassilieva	Possible

WOODFORD RESERVE TURF CLASSIC (GI)

Saturday, May 3, \$500,000-added, 4 & up, 1 1/8 M (T), 28th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Admiral Kitten	Mike Maker	Likely
Bright Thought	Jorge Gutierrez	Likely
Guys Reward	Dale Romans	Likely
Little Mike	Carlo Vaccarezza	Likely
Seek Again	Bill Mott	Likely
Skyring	D. Wayne Lukas	Likely
Wise Dan	Charlie LoPresti	Likely

HUMANA DISTAFF (GI)

Saturday, May 3, \$300,000-added, f & m, 4 & up, 7 F, 28th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Funny Proposition	Mark Casse	Likely
Heart Stealer	Marty Wolfson	Likely
Iotapa	John Sadler	Likely
Scherzinger	Jerry Hollendorfer	Likely
Speedinthrucity	Steve Asmussen	Likely

Street Girl	Eddie Kenneally	Likely
Warm Breeze	Grant Forster	Likely

CHURCHILL DOWNS (GII)

Saturday, May 3, \$400,000-added, 4 & up, 7 F, 80th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Broadway Empire	Robertino Diodoro	Likely
Capo Bastone	Todd Pletcher	Likely
Clearly Now	Brian Lynch	Likely
Countercyclical	Gary Scherer	Likely
Delaunay	Tom Amoss	Likely
Falling Sky	George Weaver	Likely
Laugh Track	Mark Casse	Likely
Risk Factor	Angel Rodriguez	Likely
Sahara Sky	Jerry Hollendorfer	Likely
Sensational Slam	Patrick Quick	Likely

CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE PRESENTED BY LONGINES (GII)

Saturday, May 3, \$300,000-added, f & m, 4 & up, 1 M (T), 28th running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Centre Court	Rusty Arnold	Likely
Coffee Clique	Brian Lynch	Likely
Effie Trinkett	Richard Violette, Jr.	Likely
English Class	Brian Lynch	Likely
Every Way	Michael Stidham	Likely
I'malreadysxy	Wayne Catalano	Likely
Miz Ida	Steve Margolis	Likely
Ready Signal	Amy Tarrant	Likely
Tapicat	Bill Mott	Likely

AMERICAN TURF PRESENTED BY RAM TRUCKS (GII)

Saturday, May 3, \$250,000-added, 3yo, 1 1/16 M (T), 23rd running

Horse	Trainer	Status
Chief Barker (IRE)	Larry Rivelli	Likely
Craftsman (IRE)	Simon Callaghan	Likely
General Jack	Mike Maker	Likely
Global View	Tom Proctor	Likely
Long On Value	Donnie Von Hemel	Likely
Picozza	Todd Pletcher	Likely
Pleuven (FR)	Chad Brown	Likely
Quotient	John Sadler	Likely
Storming Inti	Chad Brown	Likely
Woodfield Springs	Rusty Arnold	Likely

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