

Friday

PM SIMULCAST

BELMONT

CHURCHILL

CHARLES TOWN

MOUNTAINEER

PENN NATIONAL

LONE STAR

PRESQUE ISLE

MONMOUTH

HOLLYWOOD

Presque Isle Downs opens Friday for its second meet

Presque Isle Downs, the new racino near Erie, Pa., that opened with a short meet last September, begins its 100-day 2008 meet on Friday with the top-notch barns of Steve Asmussen, Graham Motion, and Niall O'Callaghan set to compete. **Page 3**

ALL IN THE FAMILY — Casino Drive, a half-brother of both Jazil and Rags to Riches, is in from Japan to run in Saturday's Peter Pan at Belmont Park. **Page 4**

TEXAS INVADERS — Limestone Edge and Leonides both run in Saturday's Lone Star Derby for trainers who know how to ship in and win. **Page 5**

IT'S ANOTHER DAY — Bahama Mama, disqualified from first place to fourth in the Las Cienegas at Santa Anita in her U.S. debut in April, returns Friday in the Lawndale at Hollywood Park. **Page 6**

PICK SIX SCORE — The pick six Wednesday at Churchill Downs paid \$1,127,774 to one winning bettor after a 49-1 shot won the ninth and last race of the day. **Page 8**

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CHURCHILL DOWNS/REED PALMER PHOTOGRAPHY

Big Brown, his back feet shoeless, bathes after a jog Wednesday at Churchill.

Dutrow has it all figured out

By **MARTY MCGEE**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Big Brown returned to training for the first time since his resounding victory in the 134th Kentucky Derby by doing little more than trotting once around the one-mile main track at Churchill Downs early Wednesday.

With trainer Rick Dutrow watching what he could from the backstretch — infield tote boards and tents obscure much of the view of the frontside — Big Brown, missing his back horseshoes, went through a slow, clockwise jog with Michelle Nevin aboard and alongside a stable pony ridden by Walter Blum Jr.

Afterward, Dutrow spent more time talking to about a dozen media members than the 15 minutes Big Brown spent away from the barn. With his usual candor, Dutrow addressed a variety of issues, including his training schedule for the colt and his outlook for the next leg of the Triple Crown, the 133rd Preakness, to be run May 17 at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Big Brown, owned by IEAH Stables and Paul Pompa Jr. and ridden by Kent Desormeaux, won the Derby by 4 3/4 lengths and will be a huge favorite in a Preakness field

expected to number perhaps 10 3-year-olds, give or take one or two.

Dutrow said that, starting Thursday, Big Brown would gallop every day at Churchill, including the morning of May 14, when the colt will be flown to Baltimore. A Tex Sutton charter flight has been scheduled for that afternoon.

Dutrow said he is contemplating a "very minor" blowout for Big Brown at Pimlico, either on May 15 or even the morning of the race.

"It won't be that Friday," he said, adding any such move would be less significant than the three-furlong work Big Brown went through on the Thursday before the Derby. "I'm still thinking about what I want to do about that. The main thing is, as long as he's come out of the race okay, we're fine. There's really not a lot of training to do. As long as he stays good, I'm happy. There's not a lot more to think about."

Dutrow, born and raised in Maryland but based for years in New York, is so focused on winning the

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*Preakness
Doings*

MONMOUTH

That Jersey Shore feel is back as meet opens

By **MIKE FARRELL**

OCEANPORT, N.J. — The temporary seats and bleachers are gone. The tents have been packed away. Monmouth Park is back to normal as it prepares to open Friday for the first card since hosting the Breeders' Cup in October.

Also missing is the palpable tension and anxiety that filtered through last season as Monmouth strained to finish a major overhaul of the grandstand, clubhouse, and backstretch in time for the Breeders' Cup.

"It's a relaxed atmosphere now," said trainer Greg Sacco. "Last year was tense, leading up to the Cup, in a

good way. Everybody was a little uptight. I knew I had to move out of my barn at some point, so I was upset from day one."

A more tranquil summer season on the Jersey Shore gets under way at 12:50 p.m. Friday with the first of 99 programs through Sept. 28.

Monmouth will race Fridays through Sundays for the first three weekends, as well as Memorial Day, May 26. The five-day race week — Wednesdays through Sundays — starts May 29.

Now, horsemen and fans will fully reap the benefits of the Breeders' Cup. In the Cup aftermath,

Monmouth has a new dirt track, a rebuilt turf course, renovated barns, a new Breeders' Cup Park for the public on what was once the jockeys' swimming pool, an upgraded cafeteria overlooking the main entrance, and an enlarged picnic area.

"It's a great time because of the residual of all the great things we did," said Monmouth's senior executive vice president of racing, Dennis Dowd. "All of the work that was done is now to be enjoyed. Last year, there was so much anticipation of the Breeders' Cup. This year, we just anticipate good, solid racing."

The new meet has purse money to

offer, \$330,000 a day, the same as last year, thanks to another three-year renewal of a \$90 million subsidy from the Atlantic City casinos in exchange for a continued ban on slot machines or video lottery terminals at the state's racetracks.

The continued purse support helped attract several new horsemen to Monmouth this summer, including Barclay Tagg and Anthony Dutrow, who will have divisions here, and Steve DiMauro, A. Ferris Allen, and Giuseppe Iadiseria.

One major missing element as the meet begins: simulcasts from

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