

Wednesday

PM SIMULCAST

BELMONT

CHURCHILL

EVANGELINE

PENN NATIONAL

CHARLES TOWN

IND. DOWNS

WOODBINE

HOLLYWOOD

Casino Drive awaits Big Brown in the Belmont

The connections of Casino Drive, the Japanese import who won Saturday's Peter Pan at Belmont, are rooting for Big Brown to win Saturday's Preakness Stakes at Pimlico to set the stage for a potential Triple Crown clash in the June 7 Belmont Stakes. **Page 4**

NEW LANDSCAPE — Golden Gate Fields starts a 30-day meet Wednesday on the doorstep of big changes in Northern California racing, if Bay Meadows closes as expected. **Page 3**

TIME TO RELAX — Sadler's Wells, the flagship stallion for Coolmore Stud for two decades and a highly influential sire in Europe and Britain, has been retired from stud duty at age 27. **Page 3**

PREAKNESS EVE — A solid field of nine older horses topped by A. P. Arrow has been entered for the 41st Pimlico Special, which will anchor a five-stakes Friday card at Pimlico in Baltimore. **Page 8**

TOUGH SEQUENCE — The Long Beach at Hollywood on Wednesday drew just six runners, but it is far from an easy race to handicap on a card that features a pick-six carryover of \$154,139. **Page 11**

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BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

Gayego, 17th of 20 in the Kentucky Derby, might return in the Preakness.

'Rocker' out, Gayego may go

By JAY PRIVMAN

When Citation won the Kentucky Derby in 1948, just five other horses, including stablemate Coaltown, could be rounded up to face him. Two weeks later, all five had disappeared. When Citation ran in the Preakness Stakes, just three rivals — all of whom bypassed the Derby — tried, futilely, to beat him.

A similar scenario appeared to be playing out this year. Until Monday, not one of the 19 horses who faced Big Brown in the Derby on May 3 was scheduled to try again this Saturday in the 133rd Preakness at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Md.

But Monday afternoon, Paulo Lobo, the trainer of Gayego, said he was seriously considering running Gayego in the Preakness. Gayego finished 17th after a wide trip in the Derby, but won the Arkansas Derby in his previous race.

Lobo said he had retained the services of jockey Mike Smith should Gayego run, and looked into flight arrangements on Wednesday for Gayego. Lobo, who has never been to Pimlico, asked a reporter what airport was best for him to fly into (the

answer: BWI). Add it up, and it seemed as though Gayego was going to run.

"He's doing very well," said Lobo, who is based at Hollywood Park. "I am going to see how he gallops [on Tuesday]. Then I will take a blood. If everything is good, there's a good chance he's going to go."



On Monday morning, it was announced that the undefeated Harlem Rocker, who likely would have been the second choice in the Preakness, would bypass the race. That occurred just two days after Recapturetheglor, who was fifth in the Derby, was taken out of consideration for the Preakness after running a high temperature.

If Gayego runs, he would be the only horse in the Preakness who chased Big Brown in the Derby. As of Monday, there were 11 new shooters signed up, only two of whom — Behindatthebar and Hey Byrn — have won a graded stakes race. That brings the potential Preakness field to 13. The Preakness field is capped

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BELMONT

Ready's Image begins comeback for Pletcher

By DAVID GRENING

ELMONT, N.Y. — Ready's Image, one of the early stars of the juvenile crop of 2007, is set to make his 3-year-old debut in Wednesday's \$75,000 Adjudicating Stakes for 3-year-olds at Belmont Park.

Ready's Image, trained by Todd Pletcher, won 3 of his first 4 starts, including the Grade 2 Sanford at Saratoga and the Tremont at Belmont, before finishing second in the Grade 1 Hopeful and getting injured while running last in the Grade 1 Champagne last October.

Pletcher said Ready's Image had a chip in the upper joint of his left knee that required surgery. Pletcher

said there was no chance of getting Ready's Image to the Triple Crown trail, so early in the year he targeted the Woody Stephens, a seven-furlong race at Belmont on June 7, as his first major objective. The Adjudicating, run at 6 1/2 furlongs, is a stepping-stone to that goal.

Ready's Image, a son of More Than Ready, began breezing in late February at Palm Beach Downs in Florida, and has 10 published workouts, including a bullet five-furlong move in 59.88 seconds over Belmont's training track.

"Physically, he's grown a bit," Pletcher said. "He's gotten a little taller, he's gotten a little wider, he's always trained well. He's done

enough in the mornings to be fit."

John Velazquez rides Ready's Image from post 2.

The Adjudicating came up pretty salty. Smoke n' Coal, a son of Smoke Glacken, won both of his starts at Belmont as a 2-year-old before finishing fourth in a Florida-bred stakes at Calder last November. He was transferred from Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stable to his Godolphin operation during the winter, and he finished third in a four-horse field going 6 1/2 furlongs over Keeneland's Polytrack last month.

"He was off the bridle midway around the turn and Garrett [Gomez] was niggling on him a little bit, so I don't think he cared for that sur-

face," said Rick Mettee, who oversees Godolphin's New York division. "I do think he's come on from the race, and I expect a good race from him."

True Quality, a son of Elusive Quality, has won two straight for Paraneck Stable, and could be the main speed from the rail under C.C. Lopez.

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens sends out Desert Key, who ran six furlongs in a quick 1:08.68 winning a maiden race by two lengths at Aqueduct on April 26.

"We're coming back kind of quick with him by today's standards, but you got to give your horse some experience," Jerkens said.

