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Dutrow keeping Big Brown happy

By MARTY McGEE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Two weeks. For trainer Rick Dutrow, two weeks after a horse's last race normally means there are still three weeks or more before the next one. But ever since the May 3 Kentucky Derby, two weeks has been the central issue for Big Brown and his trainer as they prepare for the 133rd Preakness on Saturday at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

As training philosophies have changed over the years, so, too, have Dutrow's. In

his teenage years, he watched closely as his late father, trainer Dick Dutrow, won races by the hundreds in Maryland and thought nothing of running back horses on only a few days of rest. Now, the younger Dutrow believes in giving horses plenty of time to recuperate from racing – especially top-class horses and especially after monster efforts.

Big Brown's victory in the Derby by 4 3/4 lengths qualifies on both counts.

"I know he's going to react," said Dutrow, 48, employing commonly used speed-figure terminology for regressing, or

bouncing, after peak races. "It just becomes a matter of what we can get by with to win again Saturday."

To Dutrow, the training routines he has been using with Big Brown for the last week or so at rainy Churchill Downs are of little consequence in the big picture. For those keeping score, Big Brown was given three days off after the Derby and the tally from May 7 through Tuesday was: days jogged, 5; days galloped, 2 (this past Saturday and Tuesday). All that has mattered to Dutrow is for Big Brown to keep

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Top sire Storm Cat pensioned from stud duty

The great American sire Storm Cat, 25, has been pensioned from stud duty at Overbrook Farm in Kentucky because of declining fertility this year. Storm Cat covered more than 30 mares in 2008 at a fee of \$300,000; he has three mares in foal. **Page 3**

ENTRY LEADS WAY — Headed by the entry of Malibu Moonshine and Successful Affair, seven older males clash in the Fit to Fight on Thursday at Belmont. **Page 3**

FAST MAIDEN — Cosmic Queen will be among the favorites when she makes her career debut off a series of fast works on Thursday at Hollywood Park. **Page 3**

INJURED AGAIN — Brother Derek has developed a quarter crack and is back on the sidelines. **Page 4**

NEW HORIZONS — El Gato Malo, a proven force on synthetic surfaces, opened new doors for himself by winning the Lone Star Derby on dirt. **Page 4**

BIG DROP — Clever Strike, whose last start was in the Grade 1 Apple Blossom at Oaklawn Park on April 5, takes the plunge into an allowance race at Arlington Park on Thursday. **Page 7**

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Shaken, young star retains his focus

By DAVID GRENING

STANTON, Del. – The same calm demeanor that 20-year-old Gabriel Saez displays on horseback has served him well during the 10 days since he rode the ill-fated Eight Belles to a second-place finish in the Kentucky Derby.

Saez became embroiled in a firestorm of controversy after Eight Belles broke both of her front ankles while galloping out after the finish of the May 3 Kentucky Derby. The People for Ethical Treatment of Animals called for an investigation of Saez – claiming he overused his whip – and wanted him suspended. Most, if not all, people in the racing industry, however, have absolved Saez of any wrongdoing and that includes Larry Jones, the trainer of Eight Belles.

"I don't really pay too much attention to it," Saez said between races Tuesday at Delaware Park, where he won two races. "Those kind of people don't know much about racing. I'm doing my job."

"Gabriel did not make any mistakes," said Jones, who noted that while other jockeys in the Derby galloped out their horses over previously made hoof prints, "Gabriel gets her out in a perfectly manicured part of the track. This kid did everything he's supposed to do."

On May 2, Saez won the Kentucky Oaks aboard the Jones-trained Proud Spell. The next day, in the Derby, he said he never felt Eight Belles take a

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