

Sunday

# PM SIMULCAST

**BELMONT**

**MONMOUTH**

**MOUNTAINEER**

**CHARLES TOWN**

**PRESQUE ISLE**

**CHURCHILL**

**HOLLYWOOD**

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## INSIDE

### Races of the day

Trainer Ben Perkins Jr., who won the first Jersey Shore Stakes in 1992, is back for this year's edition at Monmouth Park on Sunday with Wildcat Brief. **Page 3**

In a race packed with speed, Closeout looks like the most capable closer in the Locust Grove Handicap on closing day at Churchill Downs. **Page 3**

WOODBINE  
TURBO CHARGED  
**PICK**  
**6**

**\$150,000**

**Every Sunday**

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## HOLLYWOOD



BENOIT & ASSOCIATES

Well Monied, Joel Rosario riding, wins the Honeymoon Handicap, coming from off the pace.

# Well Monied facing serious shippers

By Steve Andersen

INGLEWOOD, Calif. – The first time that Joel Rosario rode the 3-year-old filly Well Monied, to a win in a maiden race at Santa Anita in March, trainer Howard Zucker noticed how well they got along.

The pairing convinced Zucker that Well Monied could develop into a stakes-caliber filly by late summer. She has done a lot more sooner.

Well Monied won her next two starts, including the Grade 2 Honeymoon Handicap at Hollywood Park on May 31, and will start as a leading contender in Sunday's \$700,000 American Oaks.

Once again, she will be partnered with Rosario, and once again, she will be a threat from off the pace.

"He drives her like a car," Zucker said of Rosario. "He turns her on and off."

Rosario will need to draw on that experience to win the Grade 1 American Oaks, which has drawn a field of 14 that includes eight stakes winners. The other six fillies have placed in stakes. There are two fillies on the also-eligible list who have yet to place in a stakes.

The American Oaks is the eighth race on an 11-race program that begins at 1 p.m. Pacific. The card features one

Continued on page 5

## BELMONT

# Favorite fast but no lock

By David Grening

ELMONT, N.Y. – Despite his impressive record that includes 11 stakes wins and more than \$11 million in earnings, Fabulous Strike could be vulnerable in Sunday's Grade 2, \$200,000 Tom Fool Handicap at Belmont Park.

As the 123-pound heavyweight, Fabulous Strike is conceding eight to 11 pounds to serious contenders Driven by Success and Munnings. Fabulous Strike is racing at seven furlongs, a distance at which he is 0 for 3. In Driven by Success, Fabulous Strike faces a strong pace rival while Munnings looms a serious stretch threat.

All those would seem like good reasons to play against Fabulous Strike save one thing: He's just so darn talented.

And, to hear his trainer, Todd Beattie, tell it, Fabulous Strike is doing extremely well entering the race. That is why Beattie chose to run Fabulous Strike back just four weeks after his stakes record-equaling performance (six furlongs in 1:07.85) winning the Grade 2 True North here June 6.

"I'm always a little bit worried running back as quick as I do, but he's doing so darn good I didn't feel comfortable passing and waiting five more weeks," said Beattie, referring to the time from now to the Alfred G. Vanderbilt at Saratoga on Aug. 9.

The last time Fabulous Strike raced seven furlongs was in the Grade 1 Carter at Aqueduct, a race in which he dueled with Driven by Success only to be run down by Kodiak Kowboy, losing by a head. While Fabulous Strike hasn't run poorly at the distance, Beattie said he would prefer to run at six furlongs.

Though drawn nicely in post 5, Driven by Success – third in the Carter and Met Mile – might have to do the dirty work and keep Fabulous Strike honest on the front end.

"I can't let him go," trainer Bruce Levine said.

A pace battle could set things up for Munnings, who seeks to become the fourth 3-year-old to win the Tom Fool in the 35-year history of the race. He comes off a smashing 5 1/4-length victory in the Woody Stephens, and is being pointed to the Grade 1 King's Bishop at Saratoga by trainer Todd Pletcher.

"We have obvious concerns about running against older horses this early in the year," said Pletcher, who won this race in 2000 with the 3-year-old Trippi.

## The field

American Oaks Invitational  
Purse: \$700,000; 1 1/4 miles (turf); Grade 1

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	ODDS
1	Gossip Girl	K. Desormeaux	121	7-2
2	Magical Affair	J. Lejaroux	121	6-1
3	Third Dawn	G. Gomez	121	12-1
4	Apple Charlotte	M. Smith	121	8-1
5	Rare Ransom	P. Smullen	121	15-1
6	Puttanesca	G. Boss	125	12-1
7	Acting Lady	R. Bejarano	121	8-1
8	Pretty Unusual	T. Baze	121	30-1
9	Nan	C. Nakatani	121	30-1
10	Afternoon Stroll	J. Talamo	121	20-1
11	The Best Day Ever	C. Lanerie	121	10-1
12	Lexlenos	A. Solis	121	30-1
13	Well Monied	J. Rosario	121	8-1
14	Mrs Kipling	D. Flores	121	4-1
AE	Daylumney	V. Espinoza	121	20-1
AE	Wake Me Now	D. Sorenson	121	10-1

► Odds by Kenny Peck  
► Television: TVG