

Saturday

PM SIMULCAST

BELMONT

MONMOUTH

CHARLES TOWN

MOUNTAINEER

PENN NATIONAL

PRESQUE ISLE

CALDER

Indian Blessing uses Gallant Bloom as stepping-stone

Indian Blessing, who has been learning to relax early to conserve her speed, gets her final tune-up for the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint in Saturday's Gallant Bloom Handicap at Belmont Park. **Page 4**

CLASS ADVANTAGE — Macho Again has run well while keeping classy company, which makes him the logical choice against nine other 3-year-olds in the Super Derby, the headliner on a six-stakes program at Louisiana Downs. **Page 3**

LATE THREAT — Cavallo Pazzo, sharp after beating a good allowance field in fast time, will try to run down the speedy Real Estate in the James B. Moseley Sprint, one of three supporting stakes on the Mass Cap card at Suffolk Downs. **Page 6**

COUNT MAMBO IN — Mambo in Seattle, who came up a nose shy of winning the Travers, will challenge Curlin in the Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont. **Page 8**

SLOWLY HEALING — Midnight Lute, trying to recover from a hoof injury, will miss the Sept. 27 Ancient Title but trainer Bob Baffert is hopeful the horse will be ready for the Breeders' Cup Sprint on Oct. 25. **Page 14**

AMERICA'S TURF AUTHORITY SINCE 1894



DRF.com

VOL. CXIV NO. 264 (NY)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

PRICE: \$5.50

SUFFOLK

Commentator towers over foes

By DAVID GRENING

Perhaps because he's getting a little older himself, trainer Nick Zito has come to appreciate the virtues of having a top older horse in his barn. Perhaps the fact that he has two such animals still going strong at age 7 is another reason.

Zito will get to display one of those 7-year-olds in front of a new audience Saturday when he saddles the brilliantly quick New York-bred gelding Commentator in the \$500,000 Massachusetts Handicap at Suffolk Downs. Commentator is the only

graded stakes winner among the seven horses entered in the Mass Cap, whose winner earns an automatic berth into next month's \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita as part of the Win and You're In series.

Commentator already secured his berth in the Classic — if Zito and owner Tracy Farmer elect to run in that race — by winning the Grade 1 Whitney Handicap in July at Saratoga. It was the second Whitney triumph for Commentator, and Zito sounds as if he and Farmer covet a

third Whitney in 2009 more than this year's Classic.

"If you ask the Farmers, 'Would you like to win the Breeders' Cup Classic or would you like to win the Whitney,' I promise you they'd say the Whitney," Zito said.

There was a time when the only race Zito coveted was the Kentucky Derby. His two victories in that race — with Strike the Gold in 1991 and Go for Gin in 1994 — were essential for Zito earning Hall of Fame status in 2005.

But with Commentator and **Continued on page 6**

The field

■ Massachusetts Handicap
Purse: \$500,000; 1 1/8 miles

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	ODDS
1	Beck and Call	T. Piermarini	110	20-1
2	Commentator	J. Velazquez	122	3-5
3	Won Awesome Dude	C. Lambert	112	8-1
4	Cuba	P. Cotto Jr.	112	6-1
5	Volcanic Force	C. Dooley	110	20-1
6	Dr. Pleasure	C. Velasquez	112	7-2
7	Riversrunnylee	P. Gonzalez	112	15-1

☐ Track odds
☐ Television: TVG



Proud Spell in cozy spot

Proud Spell wins the Alabama over Music Note, her chief rival for the 3-year-old filly Eclipse Award. She faces easier competition Saturday in the \$750,000 Cotillion at Philadelphia Park. Article, page 4.

BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

