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Whatsthescript heading straight to Breeders' Cup

Whatsthescript, who has emerged as the leading turf miler in California in recent months, will make his next start in the Breeders' Cup Mile at Santa Anita on Oct. 25, by passing the Oak Tree Mile. **Page 4**

JUMP TO IT — In the hunt for a repeat Eclipse Award as champion steeplechaser, Good Night Shirt is coming off a four-month layoff to defend his title in the Lonesome Glory on Sunday at Belmont. **Page 3**

A STEP BACK — Ambitiously spotted in a pair of graded stakes after she first arrived in the United States, Zaskar is in the more realistic Statuette Stakes on Sunday at Belmont. **Page 6**

WHO'S ON TOP — Although more familiar names are clustered high up in the jockey standings at Turfway Park, so far it is Otto Thorwath in the top spot. **Page 7**

HOME AT LAST — Cigar Man, a highly promising 2-year-old at Calder last fall but off to a rough start on the road this year, came back home, notched an allowance win, and is headed back to stakes company. **Page 7**

SHOWDOWN — Columnist Frank Mitchell analyzes how a race between Big Brown and Curlin could benefit many aspects of the sport. Breeding and sales reports. **Pages 10-12**

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MONMOUTH



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

If Evening Attire wins Sunday, his connections could decide to send him to the BC Marathon.

Evening Attire seeks two in a row on road

By MIKE FARRELL

OCEANPORT, N.J. — Even though Evening Attire has already punched his ticket to the first running of Breeders' Cup Marathon, trainer Pat Kelly is still not sold on taking the gray 10-year-old star of his barn all the way to California.

"I don't think any of us are fired up about it, because it's so far away," Kelly said. "We've got plenty of time to think about it."

The Breeders' Cup will come more clearly into focus Sunday when Evening Attire makes his first career appearance at Monmouth Park in the \$100,000 Point Given Stakes at 1 1/2 miles.

The career winner of \$2.9 million will be the one to beat at this rarely run distance at Monmouth.

Evening Attire secured a berth in the \$500,000 Breeders' Cup Marathon, a 1 1/2-mile race at Santa Anita on Oct. 25, with a victory last time out in the Greenwood Cup at Philadelphia Park on July 19. The Greenwood was a Breeders' Cup Challenge Win and You're In stakes, with the winner automatically securing a berth in the Marathon.

The Greenwood win also was notable as Evening Attire's first victory outside New York in 11 tries. Should the gelding post a second straight road win Sunday, the lure of the

Breeders' Cup might prove irresistible.

Evening Attire's last Breeders' Cup appearance was in 2003 at Santa Anita, a seventh-place finish in the Classic. A return to the Breeders' Cup five years later would be a remarkable feat.

Evening Attire, chronically slow from the gate throughout his 69-race career, has settled into a nice groove in 1 1/2-mile races, with a win and 2 seconds in his last 3 outings.

"He's doing fine," Kelly said. "He's ready to go. He needs to run. At this point, the mile and a half is helping us."

Switching to 1 1/2 miles on dirt also helped Phil the Power. Trainer Joe Orseno had a hunch that the 4-year-old, having spent most of his career on the turf, would love a three-turn race on the main track.

In two tries at the distance, Phil the Power was a distant second in the Greenwood, finishing 8 1/4 lengths behind Evening Attire, before scoring a pacesetter win in the Kelso Stakes at Delaware Park.

"This should be an interesting race," Orseno said. "Monmouth is a little different racetrack than Philly Park. I am going to take my best shot again at beating Evening Attire."

Completing the field are Angliana, Critical Acclaim, Delosvientos, and Sam P.

— additional reporting by David Grening

BELMONT

Trinity Magic one to beat off debut win

By DAVID GRENING

ELMONT, N.Y. — New York-bred juveniles take center stage Sunday at Belmont Park with the Bertram F. Bongard for colts and geldings and the Joseph A. Gimma for juvenile fillies. Both races are carded at seven furlongs and carry a \$100,000 purse.

With top statebred maiden winners such as Cribnote and Heir to the Stone not running, the Bongard offers the next tier of New York-breds a chance to win a stakes. With only six runners, the Bongard is carded as race 4.

Trinity Magic, trained by Steve Asmussen, looms the horse to beat coming off a three-quarter-length debut victory at Saratoga on Aug. 15. In that race, Trinity Magic stalked the speedy Fiddlers Afloat before taking over from that one at the eighth pole and going on to win. Two horses from that race, including runner-up Fiddlers Afloat, have come back to win.

"He was training that good, he had a nice work from the gate about 12 days prior — we thought he'd run well," said Scott Blasi, assistant to Asmussen. "He's trained well since his race. I think he'll run big."

Rereadthefootnotes won his debut at Saratoga by 2 1/4 lengths, then came back to run third in the Grade 3 Sapling Stakes at Monmouth.

"He ran very well at Monmouth," trainer Kiaran McLaughlin said. "I'm very happy to be back with New York-breds."

Uncle T Seven was beaten a nose in the off-the-turf Continental Mile at Monmouth Park in August, then ran a decent fourth in the With Anticipation. He returns to dirt here as well as to the track over which he won a maiden race in June.

The Gimma, race 9, drew a field of 11, including Lady Finger Stakes winner Mother Russia. Mother Russia, the 122-pound high-weight, will try to carry her speed an additional furlong from post 2 under Mike Luzzi.

The Gimma marks the return of Seek On, who made up a ton of ground in the final furlong to win by a nose at five furlongs in May.

"You usually don't see 2-year-olds do that," said trainer Bill Badgett. "She showed a little something that day."

Badgett said Seek On got sick twice after that race, but "seems to be doing like she was doing" before her debut.

Akilina, Fabulous Florence, Ouchy Night, and Gem for a Hook also deserve a long look in the Gimma.

