

Friday

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DELTA DOWNS

# Jackpot's best talent pool yet



BARBARA D. LIVINGSTON

Terrain, fourth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, will add blinkers for Friday night's Delta Jackpot.

## Some could make Ky. Derby in 2009

By Mary Rampellini

This could be the breakthrough year for the Delta Jackpot.

In its third running as a graded race, it has perhaps its best chance ever to produce starters for the Kentucky Derby. So far, just three Jackpot graduates have made it to the Derby in the five-year history of the race. But Friday night's field for the Grade 3, \$750,000 Delta Jackpot is deep and battle-tested. Terrain and West Side Bernie, who exit the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, and Skipadate, who ran in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, are among the 10 horses set to start in the richest race of the Delta meet. Then there's Big Drama, who swept the Florida Stallion Stakes series at Calder. He is seeking his fifth straight win, as is Kick On, who captured the local Jackpot prep, the \$150,000 Jean Lafitte. Also dangerous is the speedy Trinity Magic, an undefeated colt who has won back to back New York-bred stakes at Belmont Park.

"It's an interesting race," said David Fawkes, who trains Big Drama.

The winner will take home \$450,000 in graded earnings, enough to secure a spot in the Kentucky Derby starting gate five months from now. The Jackpot's best Derby representative has

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#### Track reports

Azeri, three-time champion mare and 2002's Horse of the Year, will sell in foal to 2004 Horse of the Year Ghostzapper at Keeneland's January all-ages auction. **Page 6**

The 5-year-old mare Black Mamba has indicated she wants more distance, so trainer John Sadler has found a solution - Saturday's Grade 1 Hollywood Turf Cup at 1 1/2 miles against males. **Page 5**

While Tale of Ekati and Harlem Rocker grabbed the headlines, Now a Victor returned from a year layoff to win an Aqueduct allowance with a 102 Beyer. **Page 7**

Wagering on U.S. races in November of this year plunged 9.7 percent compared to the same month last year even though race days were up 5.7 percent. **Page 8**

Illinois-based trainer Chris Block usually sends horses to other trainers in New Orleans, but this year he will keep hold of the reins on Giant Oak when he runs at the Fair Grounds meeting. **Page 8**

#### Races of the day

When Lord Snowdon returns from a five-month layoff Friday on Aqueduct's inner track, it will be his first two-turn start since August 2006. **Page 3**

It's been a long time since Turf War dead-heated for the win in last December's Delta Jackpot at Louisiana Downs. He lands in a third-level optional claimer at Fair Grounds on Friday. **Page 3**



### The field

#### Delta Jackpot

Purse: \$750,000; 1 1/16 miles; Grade 3

PP	HORSE	JOCKEY	WT.	ODDS
1	Kick On	K. Tohill	119	12-1
2	Terrain	J. Theriot II	122	5-2
3	Trinity Magic	C. Borel	119	8-1
4	Three Part Harmony	R. Albarado	117	20-1
5	Retap	S. Bridgmohan	117	6-1
6	West Side Bernie	E. Trujillo	122	3-1
7	Big Drama	E. Coa	119	5-1
8	Skipadate	G. Melancon	117	10-1
9	Stimulus Plan	K. Desormeaux	117	10-1
10	Valid Message	C. Bourque	119	20-1

Track odds: Blinkers on: Terrain; Blinkers off: Skipadate; Television: HRTV, TVG

Big purse in Princess lures top fillies, page 4

Past performances for Delta's \$100,000 pick 4 follow editorial