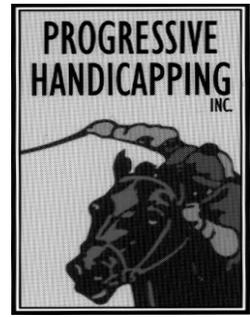


Del Mar
Breeders' Cup XXXXI
November 2, 2024



Crushing Zone

PLUS 2024

Saturday Races

Epilog

FM Sprint (1st leg of a Pick 5)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Society ue1	PANDORA'S GIFT SCRATCHED	Frost At Dawn
Vahva	Scylla ue2	One Magic Philly
Ways and Means	Zeitlos ue1	Pleasant ue2
Soul of an Angel		
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS . DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .		

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	9	Ways and Means (5-2)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	4	Vahva (4-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	5	Pandora's Gift (30-1) scratched
	8	Soul of an Angel (12-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	
4	Vahva (4-1)	1	Frost at Dawn (30-1)	2	3 7
5	Pandora's Gift (30-1) scratched	6	Society (3-1)		
9	Ways and Means (5-2)	8	Soul of an Angel (12-1)		
		10	Scylla (10-1)		

The Result:

I was very excited about this race. For the past 10 days, I had been waiting for PANDORA'S GIFT, a Euro invader that had shipped over early and run a bang-up 2nd in the PID Masters, a sprint prep that has produced something like 6 FM Sprint winners. But she scratched on Friday and that left me with SOUL OF ANGEL as the only logical to play.

But here's how things can go wrong on my end on BC day. I had put together an ALL TURF P4 with As and Bs and had to punch in 15 tickets. I found a glitch in my spreadsheet and the ticket amounts seemed all wrong. I scrambled to get it fixed and but lost track of the post time. My play would've been SOUL OF ANGEL to win, DD with ALL in the BC Turf Sprint and exactas top and bottom. You know the end of this short movie! A horror film as SOUL OF AN ANGEL gets up late to score at 20-1. I left close to \$5k on the table. But I got the spreadsheet fixed! Oh boy.

Turf Sprint

(1st Leg of the BC All Turf Pick 4)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
BELIEVING <i>scratched</i>	Big Evs	Ag Bullet	HOWARD WOLOWITZ
Bradsell	Isivunguvungu	Arzak	Starlust
Cogburn	Motorious	BIG INVASION	
Star of Mystery			
		Nothing Better ae1	Charcoal ae2
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	9	Cogburn (7-5)
<i>VALUE PLAYERS</i>	2 6	Motorious (8-1) Star of Mystery (10-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	1 10	Believing (12-1) scratched Isivunguvungu (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>				
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#				
2	Motorious (8-1)	1	Believing (12-1) scratched	3	4	5	7	8
6	Star of Mystery (10-1)	11	Big Evs (12-1)					
9	Cogburn (7-5)	12	Bradsell (7-2)					
10	Isivunguvungu (20-1)							

The Result:

One of the keys to success on BC day is trying to spot vulnerable faves and then capitalizing IF they get beat. While COGBURN was a legit fave, he had evolved into a one-dimensional front runner that no domestic competitor had been able to keep up with. But now we had two Euros—BRADSELL and BIG EVS—to run with him early. Plus he hadn't raced at 5f in '24.

Our analysis led us to BELIEVING a Euro filly that had run 2nd and 3rd three times behind BRADSELL and once to BIG EVS. She had drawn the hedge post, Ryan Moore and new set of blinkers. She figured to get a great trip inside and then pounce. But I also liked the South African flash, ISIVUNGU, a Graham Motion runner firing bullets at Fair Hill and sitting at 37-1. So I doubled my wagers keying both of them with usual suspects.

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Turf Sprint *CONTINUED*

This race kicked off the ALL TURF PICK 4. On my own. I had put in an As and Bs team play with 15+ tickets. That's the play that had cost me a score in the FM Sprint.

I was also partners with my longtime friend Tom Ringe, as we had cashed this bet last year at Santa Anita. In addition to my two, Ringe liked Euros STARLUST and BIG EVS. We threw in local MOTORIOUS and STAR OF MYSTERY for our 3-horse "A" AND "B" TEAMS. The whole idea was to beat COGBURN and leave him off the ticket.

I felt snake bit when BELIEVING scratched at the gate. Poof went half my win, exacta and trifecta tickets. But it also didn't allow me any time to change my Pick 4 tickets. With BELIEVING out, STARLUST would've moved up to my "B" TEAM.

COGBURN was "antsy" in the gate" but blazed away and left BRADSELL and BIG EVS gasping for breath. ISIVUNGUVUNGU tried to close the gap but he ran out of gas too. And then the closers came roaring down the stretch at Del Mar. AG BULLET stuck his head in front but was quickly gobbled up by STARLUST (33-1) and MOTORIOUS (12-1).

On my ALL TURF PICK 4, STARLUST was on the "C" TEAM. That meant I would need three winners from my "A" TEAMS to win the bet.

But with Ringe, STARLUST was on the "B" TEAM and that left us alive with other "B" TEAMERS in the sequence.

Note that in the *Crushing Zone* we had promoted BELIEVING in the final update. STARLUST was in the PRETENDER group. Again, if the scratch had happened the day before, STARLUST would've made it into the GRAY ZONE. Just bad racing luck.

Distaff

(1st Leg of ALL DIRT Pick 4 ending in Dirt Mile)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Raging Sea	Awesome Result scratched	Alice Verite	Che Evasora
Thorpedo Anna	Sugar Fish	Candied	Honor D Lady
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	2	Thorpedo Anna (4-5)
<i>VALUE PLAYER</i>	6	Raging Sea (7-2)
	9	Awesome Result (4-1) scratched
<i>BOMBER</i>	1	Candied (15-1)
	4	Alice Verite (30-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>
2	Thorpedo Anna (4-5)	1	Candied (15-1)
6	Raging Sea (7-2)	4	Alice Verite (30-1)
9	Awesome Result (4-1) scratched	"C" Team	
		5 7 10	

The Result:

I lost all interest in this race when main rival **AWESOME RESULT** scratched late. But I did think that **THORPEDO ANNA** looked a bit vulnerable based on her "all out" effort in the Cotillion after a big big effort in the Travers. Plus she was facing older for the first time.

But I couldn't find anyone to beat her at a price, so I took a powder and watched this one from the sidelines.

THORPEDO ANNA proved to be the real deal and blazed home an easy winner. Thus the Travers race got flattered and bolstered the status of **FIERCENESS** and **SIERRA LEONE**.

The Turf

(1st Leg of the BC Pick 6)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Rebel's Romance	EMILY UPJOHN	Cabo Spirit	Rousham Park
Far Bridge	Jayarebe	El Encinal	Shahryar
	Luxembourg ue1	Gold Phoenix	There Goes Harvard
		Grand Sonata	Wingspan ue1
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	11	Rebel's Romance (5-2)
<i>VALUE PLAYERS</i>	5	Jayarebe (4-1)
	6	Far Bridge (6-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	3	Shahryar (10-1)
	10	Wingspan (15-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>
5	Jayarebe (4-1)	2	Emily Upjohn (5-1)
6	Far Bridge (6-1)	3	Shahryar (10-1)
11	Rebel's Romance (5-2)	10	Wingspan (15-1)
		<i>"C" Team</i>	
		1	4 7 8 9 12 13

The Result:

I must admit to being really nervous with this race. My sizable Pick 6 ticket was starting off with a "single" on REBEL'S ROMANCE, a 6-year-old Godolphin ROAD WARRIOR that had won this race two years ago. This was one of the biggest condundrums for me on BC weekend. REBEL'S ROMANCE was a distance specialist. He was in great form. His speed figs towered over the competition. But. But. But he was fighting history as no previous 6-year-old had been successful in this race and many had tried.

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The Turf *continued*

The bottom line: I simply couldn't find any other entrant that had the qualifications to beat him. So I held my nose and went all in. But I had a backup ticket with all the other logicals in this race but that ticket had CINDERELLA DREAM singled in the FM Turf, the third leg.

Plus my ALL TURF PICK 4 and my ticket with Ringe all had other coverage on the ticket. Ringe was high on Japanese invader ROUSHAM PARK and had him on our "A" TEAM. I thought he was a PRETENDER and left him on the "C" TEAM.

My wagering was muted. I had enough riding on this 9-5 shot. But I did put REBEL'S ROMANCE on top of SHAHYAR, last year's show finisher, and split them in the trifecta.

REBEL'S ROMANCE broke nicely and settled off the early pace. But as they went through the stretch the first time, he got a bit rank and made a move to get the lead. Rider William Buick was masterful in settling this guy down and getting him to relax.

Buick waited patiently and then pounced on the pacesetter and drew clear by about 4 lengths. He looked home free. But then ROUSHAM PARK got in gear and began gobbling up ground. He almost caught the fave but came up a neck short. Yikes. I needed a chill pill.

I had mixed feelings on the Turf finish. Ringe was right on with ROUSHAM PARK. Although my sizable Pick 6 ticket would move forward, we could only imagine what the will pays would be if the Ringe ticket got past the FM Turf. We were talking 33-1 and 22-1.

BTW SHAHYAR ran 3rd again and thus secured a nice trifecta cash that I didn't even realize until later in the next race.

The Classic

(1st Leg of the Final Pick 5)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
City of Troy	Arthur's Ride	Derma Sotogake	Senor Buscador
Fierceness ue1	Mixto	Newgate	Tapit Trice ue1
Forever Young	Next	Pyrenees	Ushba Tesoro
Highland Falls	Sierra Leone		
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	9	Fierceness (3-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER</i>	1	Forever Young (6-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	2	Highland Falls (20-1)
	11	Sierra Leone (12-1)
	13	Newgate (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	
1	Forever Young (6-1)	2	Highland Falls (20-1)	4	5 6 7
3	City of Troy (5-2)	12	Arthur's Ride (15-1)	8	10
9	Fierceness (3-1)	13	New Gate (20-1)	ae 15	
11	Sierra Leone (12-1)	14	Next (8-1)		

The Result:

What a wide open Classic! Loved it. A great mix of domestic and international sophomores doing battle with a couple of Japanese old timers and marathoner NEXT, a great competitor that didn't fit the race distance.

I was bearish on CITY OF TROY mainly because of the lack of dirt experience and the fact that we hadn't seen a Euro winner in this race since Arcangue upset in 1993. I did like FIERCENESS and FOREVER YOUNG and thought that SIERRA LEONE could be sitting on a big race. I didn't have a strong opinion to make a sizable win wager so I focused mainly on a slew of *Twilight Zone* exactas and trifectas.

And there it was. SIERRA LEONE reversing the results of the Jim Dandy and Belmont. He had finally woke up and caught a race with enough speedsters to set up his late run. I cashed a \$30 exacta but was happier that the "A" TEAM had produced the exacta and trifecta and that my Pick 6 was alive.

F&M Turf (1st Leg of the Final P4)

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Beautiful Love ue1	Moira ue3	Anisette	Didia
FULL COUNT FELICIA ue3	Soprano	Beach Bomb	Hang the Moon
Cinderella's Dream ue1	Sunset Glory	Content ue2	Ylang Ylang ue2
War Like Goddess			
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS . DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	3	Cinderella's Dream (4-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	10	Moira (8-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	2	Full Count Felicia (12-1)
	1	Beautiful Love (20-1)
	12	Soprano (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#	
1	Beautiful Love (20-1)	8	Hang The Moon (10-1)	5	6 7
2	Full Count Felicia (12-1)	12	Soprano (20-1)	9	11
3	Cinderella's Dream (4-1)	13	Sunset Glory (30-1)		
4	War Like Goddess (5-2)				
10	Moira (8-1)				

The Result:

This was another favorite race of mine on this day mainly because of the 1 3/8 mile race distance. That distance was totally unfamiliar to the Europeans. As a result only three runners in the field had a win at that distance and all of them were domestics: 7-year-old **WAR LIKE GODDESS**, 3-year-old **BEAUTIFUL LOVE**, the longer part of a Charlie Appleby entry with favored **CINDERELLA'S DREAM**, and local **SUNSET GLORY**, a total **PRETENDER**.

During the week leading up to the BC, I became obsessed with another uncoupled entry in the race: two Canadian invaders trained by Kevine Attard: **FULL COUNT FELICIA** and **MOIRA**.

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F&M Turf *Continued*

These two had run 1-2 in the EP Taylor at Woodbine with FULL COUNT FELICIA blazing to the front and then holding off her stablemate. MOIRA was making her third FM Turf appearance and had run a troubled 3rd in the '23 edition. But her overall 10-2-4-2 turf record didn't inspire me from a win perspective. At 12-1 ML I was more interested in the speedster FELICIA even though I knew that history was not kind to WIRE SPEED in this race.

And, when I saw turf route speed fail on the Friday card and in the Turf, I backed off of FELICIA especially when she opened up at 9-2. Woof.

Instead, I went all in on the Appleby duo. I knew BEAUTIFUL LOVE was a bit slow on the Beyers and speed figs but, at 29-1, she was huge value. I had them keyed top and bottom and split in the trifecta.

I felt confident on my Pick 6 ticket. I had 7 runners covered. One can do that when there is a single on the ticket. With Ringe we had the two Appleby fillies and WAR LIKE GODDESS on the "A" TEAM and MOIRA and longshot Euro fuzzy SOPRANO on the "B" TEAM.

FULL COUNT FELICIA did her job. She set the pace but it wasn't sizzling. BEAUTIFUL LOVE sat in a nice stalking position with CINDERELLA'S DREAM just behind her. MOIRA and WAR LIKE GODDESS were in the back.

MOIRA made a big move and got first run on CINDERELLA'S DREAM. She had the lead turning for home with the fave closing in on her. Meanwhile BEAUTIFUL LOVE was hanging around for 3rd. This would be a great trifecta cash out! But DIDIA edged past BEAUTIFUL LOVE at the wire to deny me the score.

Still, all tickets were alive. And third time around was the charm for MOIRA with the "no brainer" uncoupled entry angle coming through again.

Sprint

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Bentornato	Remake	Don Frankie	Nakatomi
Federal Judge ue2	Straight No Chaser	<i>GUN PILOT ue1</i>	Raging Torrent
Mullikin ue2		Meta Max	<i>SKELLY ue1</i>
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	3	Federal Judge (3-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYER</i>	9 10	Remake (8-1) Mullikin (7-2)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	6	Bentornato (30-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>				
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#				
3	Federal Judge (3-1)	1	Raging Torrent (10-1)	2	4	5	7	11
6	Bentornato (30-1)	8	Straight No Chaser (5-1)					
9	Remake (8-1)							
10	Mullikin (7-2)							

The Result:

The Sprint was loaded with front-end speed. So what else is new? I have learned to avoid the pace melt down theory and stick with the historical winning profiles. Of course we try to blend the "A" TEAM with a mix of speed and closers. And that was the group above. My Pick 6 took that "A" TEAM and added Japanese invader DON FRANKIE and the fastest horse on paper, STRAIGHT NO CHASER.

The problem with this latter runner were the many gaps in his training. He had just won the SA Sprint Championship and was wheeling back in just 34 days. But there was an interesting sidelight to this colt: Steve Laymon, one of my wagering partners and owner of BC winners Dayatthespa and Goodnight Olive, was the co-breeder of this colt. He told me the colt was always hard on himself but that trainer Dan Blacker appeared to be doing a masterful job preparing him for the BC Sprint.

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Sprint *continued*

On Friday, I received a call from another friend and wagering partner, John Rapp. The Rappster owns horses with Hal Handal and Carlos David and uses a reputable bloodstock agent. That agent happens to be friends with Blacker and calls Rappster to tell him he's off to Del Mar to see his friend's horse win the Sprint.

Of course, as a veteran of many handicapping wars, I discount this sort of information. More important to me was the fact that STRAIGHT NO CHASER was fastest on the speed figs. If he ran back to his last race (and that was a big IF) he would probably win.

But my wagering was centered around him and other logicals—FEDERAL JUDGE and MULLIKIN. I would use them over REMAKE. I also took out Daily Doubles and made a win wager on my BOMBER, BERTORNATO sitting at 28-1. Normally I backwheel my win wager in the exacta and go take extra units with the logicals on top and bottom. But, I again lost track of time and was shut out while putting in my exacta plays. It was that sort of day.

BERTORNATO stalked FEDERAL JUDGE with STRAIGHT NO CHASER right behind him. When FEDERAL JUDGE ran out of gas, BERTORNATO found himself on the lead. But STRAIGHT NO CHASER ran next to him and they dueled to the wire with the latter getting up in the closing strides in a thrilling finish.

MULLIKIN closed late to be a clear 3rd. REMAKE didn't lift a hoof. BERTORNATO hanging on really would've lit up the tote and spiced up the Pick 6 if I was to make it to the last leg. I was pissed to miss out on a \$160 exacta that I know I would've had 25 times.

Fifteen minutes after the result, I logged on to my Twin Spires account to get ready for the Mile. I noted a \$5k increase. What the heck was that? I dug in and realized that I had played a \$5 trifecta wheel splitting the logicals with ALL in the middle. BERTORNATO at 28-1 had spiced up that trifecta to the tune of \$433 and I had it 10 times. I took another chill pill and moved on to the Mile.

The Mile

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Carl Spackler ue1	More Than Looks	Chili Flag ue1	Goliad
Johannes	Porta Fortuna	Diego Velazquez	Ramatuelle
Notable Speech	Win for the Money	Geoglyph	Ten Happy Rose
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS. DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	12	Carl Spackler (6-1)
<i>VALUE PLAYERS</i>	6	Notable Speech (7-2)
	9	Johannes (9-2)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	8	More Than Looks (20-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>	
#	<i>Horse</i>	#	<i>Horse</i>	#	
6	Notable Speech (7-2)	1	Ramatuelle (5-1) scratched	2	3 5 11
8	More Than Looks (20-1)	4	Diego Velazquez (8-1) scratched		
9	Johannes (9-2)	7	Porta Fortuna (4-1)		
12	Carl Spackler (6-1)	10	Win for the Money (30-1)		

The Result:

Prior to MOIRA winning the FM Turf, the Euros had captured every non-juvenile BC turf route race since 2019. Although I didn't like the '24 Euro contingent, their chances got slim when both DIEGO VELAZQUEZ and RAMATUELLE were vet scratches.

That left 3-year-old filly PORTA FORTUNA (4-1) as the Euros best hope. Although a G1 winner and 5-3-2-0 at the distance, PORTA FORTUNA had never faced the boys. And our Mile Winner's Profile points out that almost all successful filly and mare winners of this race had not only raced against the boys but were SUCCESSFUL against the boys. I had put her on my Pick 6 ticket and we had her in the TURF PICK 4 but I was looking elsewhere for the winner.

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The Mile *continued*

Besides PORTA FORTUNA, my Pick 6 ticket included four domestic runners—distance specialist CARL SPACKLER, local mile specialist JOHANNES, Charlie Appleby's NOTABLE SPEECH, and MORE THAN LOOKS, a colt with just two starts in '24.

The latter had run second to CARL SPACKLER in both of his '24 starts but had a penchant for poor starts and getting into traffic trouble. But MORE THAN LOOKS had something that no one else in the field had: *he had run in a previous BC Mile*. We call it the REPEATER ANGLE and it has produced a bunch of Mile winner including 65-1 COURT VISION in 2011. The angle had been dormant for a few years, as this race has been dominated by Appleby and Godolphin for three years running.

I had doubles going into this race singling MORE THAN LOOKS and double wheels into the DIRT MILE. But when he opened up 6-1 off a 20-1 ML, I got a bit gun shy on making a sizable win wager. After all, Ringe and I had four "A" TEAMERS alive for \$1.50 with will pays ranging from \$6k to \$11k. Ditto for my own ALL TURF PICK 4 but only for \$1.

My big wager was simply CARL SPACKLER on top of MORE THAN LOOKS and reversed. I also played around with Chad Brown who had CHILI FLAG entered with CARL SPACKLER.

Local speedster GOLIAD set the pace as expected. CARL SPACKLER was wide from his 10 post and stalked in 4th. MORE THAN LOOKS had broken cleanly and was in the back. GOLIAD set torrid fractions and that cooked poor CARL SPACKLER. Both JOHANNES and NOTABLE SPEECH made big moves and it looked like those two in the exacta. But MORE THAN LOOKS was also in gear and ran past that pair. Yowza! The REPEATER ANGLE was back! And I was alive with six runners to finish the Pick 6

Dirt Mile

<i>Crushing Zone</i>	<i>Gray Zone</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>	<i>Pretenders</i>
Domestic Product	Saudi Crown	Cagliostro	Pipeline
Post Time	Seize the Grey	Full Serrano	Senor Buscador
SKIPPYLONGSTOCKING		Katonah	Three Technique
		Mufasa	Tumbarumba
		Muth	
PROMOTIONS are in BOLD CAPS . DEMOTIONS are in <i>ITALIC CAPS</i> .			

<i>MOST LIKELY TO WIN</i>	9	Domestic Product (7-2)
<i>VALUE PLAYS</i>	1	Saudi Crown (5-1)
	14	Skippylongstocking (4-1)
<i>BOMBERS</i>	3	Full Serrano (15-1)
	12	Mufasa (12-1)

<i>"A" Team</i>		<i>"B" Team</i>		<i>"C" Team</i>			
<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Horse</i>	<i>#</i>			
1	Saudi Crown (5-1)	3	Full Serrano (15-1)	2	4	5	6
9	Domestic Product (7-2)	8	Post Time (12-1)	7	10	11	13
14	Skippylongstocking (4-1)	12	Mufasa (12-1)				

The Result:

So there it was. I had just split \$11k with my friend Ringe and the table was set on my Pick 6 ticket with six bullets ranging from favorites SAUDI CROWN and DOMESTIC PRODUCT (\$50k) to FULL SERRANO (\$205K) and three others in which 5 of 6 paid about \$15k. But those 5 of 6 runners would pay off royally because I had 29 possible consolations for \$435k total. Yikes.

I was exposed on four runners: two longshots—CAGLIOSTRO and TUMBARUMBA. I could cover them with sizable win wagers to hedge. But two others-MUTH and Preakness winner SEIZE THE GREY—were being bet, especially SIEZE THE GREY. Owned by My Racehorse, he opened at 2-1 even though his P6 will pay was \$1.2 million. The reason was that My Racehorse owned STRAIGHT NO CHASER and the hundreds of owners were flush and betting SEIZE THE GREY like he was Secretariat.

Dirt Mile *continued*

MUTH was trained by Bob Baffert and had talent but didn't fit the Dirt Mile Winner's Profile and was thus a PRETENDER in my book. The best I could do was to take large exactas with those two over my six bullets and hope they didn't run 1-2 or over the two uncovered longshots. After a while, there is only so much one can do to hedge.

On paper, this race had a ton of early speedsters. But in a handicapping session Steve Laymon pointed out that FULL SERRANO looked to be the speed of the speed. The DIRT MILE key angle in my book was the ability to post a 100+ Beyer in one of an entrant's last two preps. FULL SERRANO and MUFASA had run 99. It cost me a bunch of extra money but singling REBEL'S ROMANCE allowed me to add these guys to the ticket.

Interestingly enough, FULL SERRANO was a Blue Chip Trainer Angle play at the summer Del Mar meet. But I almost missed him. I was with friends (including Ringe) and my son Andrew at dinner after the races that day at Saratoga. Friend Brad Morgan usually alerted me about the day's DMR Blue Chips but missed this one. Near post time he texted me at the restaurant about the omission. The entire dinner party got down on FULL SERRANO. A nice group cash out! Thank you Brad for the heads up, albeit during the salad course. After that effort, FULL SERRANO almost upset the Pacific Classic leading almost the entire race.

When the gates opened Japanese invader T O SAINT DENNIS burst to the front as expected with FULL SERRANO on his flank. MUTH and SEIZE THE GREY were midpack with the rest of my bullets near the back. But the pace was fast and soon T O SAINT DENNIS ran out of gas. FULL SERRANO got first run and opened up by two lengths. Two other bullets—DOMESTIC PRODUCT and POST TIME—were revving up from the rear. But they didn't catch FULL SERRANO and the Pick 6 was in the bag.

I was stunned and speechless (which is quite unusual for me) as I waited for the race to become official. And then waited and waited to make sure the payoff hit my wagering account.

Hitting a Pick 6 is what we horseplayers all aspire achieve. Hitting it for six figures on Breeders Cup day is all that one can hope for.

Dirt Mile *continued*

And all it took was some guts to play a single and then hope that nothing random took place in five subsequent races allowing the material in *THE CRUSHING ZONE* to play out. It doesn't always work, as evidenced by my totally wrong bet-against on Lake Victoria in the BC Juvenile Fillies Turf. Every BC there are a few winners that buck the historical profiles. But, overall, history repeats!

On this day, the REPEATER angle got me home in the Mile. The sophomores dominated the Classic. The distance specialist won the Turf. The uncoupled entry rule scored in the FM Turf. A solid profile fit won the Sprint and the Dirt Mile.

From the emails received thus far, it appears like many in the PH Nation enjoyed a CRUSH. And that is gratifying to me and my co-author Peter Mallett. Pete's in his late 80s and sharp as a tack. Thanks to handicapping buddies, Sean Donovan, Tom Ringe, Danny and Peter Katz and the three STEVES: Steve Duncker, Steve Laymon, and Steve Ziegler for their input and insight and cheerleading during the process. Above all to Brad Morgan who unselfishly edits all the Zones, Selections etc. and makes me look good!

I hope you enjoyed your BC weekend and the recap. We'll pick it back up next spring for the TC races. Stay well. Stay healthy. And best of racing luck at the winter meets.

All the best,

Jim Mazur