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April 13, 2015

PREMIER SERVICE TURF SEASON

NEWMARKET CRAVEN MEETING

NEWBURY GREENHAM MEETING

JOHN GOSDEN'S BIG GUNS

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Top Contenders in focus



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PREMIER SERVICE FIXTURES APRIL – MAY - JUNE

APRIL

Newmarket 15 & 16 - Newbury 17 & 18 - Epsom 22 - Sandown Park 24

MAY

2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16 (Lockine day) 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

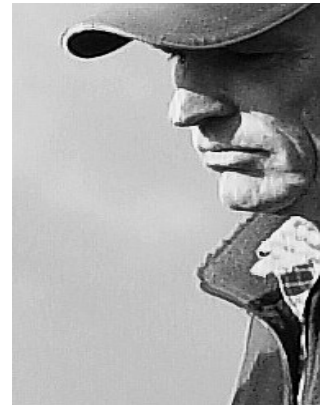
JUNE

1, 5 (Oaks day) 6 (Derby day) 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16 - 20 (Royal Ascot), 25, 26, 27, 29

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GOSDEN MEANS BUSINESS HIGH PROFILE TRIAL ENTRIES

Top Newmarket trainer John Gosden will be taking the wraps off of some of his most interesting young horses this week, most notably 2,000 Guineas contenders **Faydhan** and **Richard Pankhurst**, and the once-raced 1,000 Guineas entry **Lady Correspondent**.



FAYDHAN 3yo colt by War Front

His juvenile 'campaign' was restricted to 74 seconds and change, as a setback meant Faydhan could not be given the chance to follow up on his impressive win at Haydock last summer. A win that made him one of the early, early favourites for this year's 2,000 Guineas. Faydhan slammed another smart newcomer, Dutch Connection, by 6 lengths, and the latter subsequently proved more than useful; winning a nice maiden at Goodwood before capturing the Acomb Stakes (G2) at York (from Toocoolforschool) and running third to the high class Gleneagles in the National Stakes (G1). These formlines suggest that Faydhan is potentially a top notch performer. By Vanderbilt Handicap (G2) winner War Front out of a daughter of Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) winner Speightstown, it is unlikely that he will possess stamina taking him much further than a mile. He is the second foal produced by the unraced Agreeable Miss, who is a daughter of Hollywood Oaks (G2) runner-up Sweet and Ready (El Prado) and comes from a family that has yet to produce a top level winner. Judged on his taking debut, Faydhan, a \$500,000 Keeneland graduate, may be the one to put that record right.

Faydhan has been entered for the Free Handicap (LR) at Newmarket on Wednesday.

LADY CORRESPONDENT 3yo filly by War Front

Another War Front offspring, this well-bred filly is also one to note. Lady Correspondent was heavily backed when making her only start at two, in a 7-furlong maiden at Newmarket on September 27. Her price was sharply cut from around 3-1 to 7-4 before the off, and she did not disappoint her supporters. This gamble was landed in spite of some negative signs in the preliminaries; she was not at all amongst the fittest in the ring, she was a touch immature and attended by two handlers, and she was pulling a bit going down to the start. She is probably top class and looks Group One filly in the making. Lady Correspondent came from off the pace at Newmarket, working her way up to grab the lead inside the final furlong, to beat another good looking debutant, Alfajer, by half a length. She appeared to be value for a bit more than the bare margin. She should have no problems staying a mile plus.

Lady Correspondent is a half-sister to dual 12-furlong winner Tetbury (Giant's Causeway). His dam, Fanzine (Cozzene), is an unraced sister to Mizzen Mast - winner of the 7-furlong Malibu Stakes (G1) and 9-furlong Strub Stakes (G2) over the dirt track at Santa Anita, having previously been runner-up in G1 company over 10 furlongs on turf in France.

This filly has been entered for the Nell Gwyn (G3), Newmarket on Wednesday. >>>

GOSDEN MEANS BUSINESS...**RICHARD PANKHURST 3yo colt by Raven's Pass**

Named after the famous women's right supporter, Richard Pankhurst made his debut at Newmarket in May last year. High on the lists in the betting ring, he was anything but for those who saw him in the pre-parade ring. Sure, he was a really nice colt, but he ticked all the wrong boxes on his first day at school. He was all over the place. Thus it was a pleasant surprise to see him finish fourth, beaten under three lengths behind the Richard Hannon trained Peacock. Three weeks later, Richard Pankhurst was ready for his second run, and it was not in another maiden event. He was stepped right up in class to contest the 7-furlong Chesham Stakes (LR) at Royal Ascot. Much better behaved, and markedly fitter too, he found plenty of improvement to win the contest. William Buick rode a confident race on the chestnut colt, holding him up and delivering him with a powerful finish approaching the final furlong. Richard Pankhurst swept to the front and drew off for a facile 3 3/4-length win over the strong Irish trained duo Toscanini and Dick Whittington. Impressive stuff indeed, but we were not to see him again in 2014. The son of Raven's Pass was sold to Hamdan Al Maktoum in August, and has since been transferred to Godolphin. He remains with Gosden, and seems likely to get William Buick on board again in 2015.

Richard Pankhurst is the first foal out of Mainstay (Elmaamul), a mile winning filly who is a sister to Prix Daphnes (G3) winner Lateen Sails, who stayed 10 furlongs. This colt should also get 10 furlongs, but he certainly has the speed to make his mark over a mile. He is set to make his seasonal debut in the Craven Stakes (G3) at Newmarket on Thursday.



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US TRIPLE CROWN GEIR STABELL'S TOP 5



American Pharoah winning the FrontRunner at Santa Anita last year .

Photo: Benoit & Associates

1 AMERICAN PHAROAH

Bob Baffert

His Arkansas Derby win was most impressive, and if he can run to that level of form over 10 furlongs at Churchill Downs he will be hard to beat. My first reaction was that he outclassed a bunch of rivals that many of the other Kentucky Derby contenders could have treated in the same way, but a closer examination of the form – not least a comparison of his time and Race Day's time in the Oaklawn Handicap - convinced me; American Pharoah is a top class colt, and he has trained on at three after a set back that ruled him out of last year's Breeders' Cup, which was a strong edition and won by Texas Red, who American Pharoah had beaten so easily a few weeks prior. Back to the Arkansas Derby; he won comfortably at Oaklawn, and must have had at least a couple of lengths in hand passing the winning post. >>>

>>> Formwise, the race is not absolutely rock solid though, it does have one weak point, namely the fact that all but two of the runners were well below G1 standard. All but these two were slowing down badly through the last three furlongs. Far Right stayed on past them to take second, 8 lengths behind American Pharoah. Interestingly, Far Right was 8 lengths behind the winner also after the the first six furlongs. He ran the last three furlongs as fast as American Pharoah did, and Far Right did it the hard way. I am not saying Far Right is a potential Kentucky Derby winner but these are still interesting observations.

American Pharoah enjoyed a dream trip at Oaklawn. Mr Z, who is in the same ownership, took a pull and handed him the rail on the first turn. That was very nice of Mr. Z's rider, particularly on a day when rail runners had done well. He assisted the winner once more as they were halfway through the home bend, when Mr. Z was sent up to American Pharoah's outside, without putting any pressure on the 1-10 favorite, This way, any horse coming from the back would have to fan three to four wide to mount a challenge. Now, nothing did emerge from the back at this stage, so it did not matter much, but how Mr. Z's rider waited until coming into the lane to ask his horse is still a factor. It was hardly the best way to try and beat a possible non-stayer. How far will American Pharoah stay? He ran on strongly here, and the way he won suggested another furlong would be within his compass.

He is quite speedy, however, and he is a half-brother to the sharp filly Misty Rosette (Stormin Fever), who won the 6.5-furlong Old Hat Stakes (G2) at Gulfstream Park and ran third in the 7-furlong Test Stakes (G1) at Saratoga as a 3yo. Her brother Storm Wolf won the Barrera Memorial (G2) over 7 furlongs at Hollywood Park at three. >>>

>>> Their sire, the Storm Cat son Stormin Fever, did well in Graded stakes over 8 and 9 furlongs but he was better in sprints and twice runner-up in the Vosburgh (G1). He has not been a very successful stallion, and his best runners have been effective at up to a mile. American Pharoah's sire, Pioneerof the Nile, is a far better influence for both class and stamina. He is a son of Belmont winner Empire Maker. Himself a winner of the Santa Anita Derby (G1), Pioneerof the Nile was runner-up in the Kentucky Derby (G1). Now, that did not happen in a vintage year of course, as Mine that Bird won the Kentucky Derby and Chocolate Candy was Pioneerof the Nile's main rival at Santa Anita.

2015 seems to be a vintage year though, with a very talented group of five to six horses heading the Kentucky Derby field. Therefore, the Run for The Roses is unlikely to be won by a horse who does not have all the right attributes for the race.

American Pharoah needs the class (yes he's got it), the required stamina (looks likely, but not yet confirmed) and the toughness (this might be his weak point, as he has never been in a real fight) to win again on the first Saturday in May.

As of today, the best odds about him is 11-4 and that looks short enough to me. We will probably get about the same on raceday, when we know the exact field, the track conditions, and the post positions.

2 MATERIALITY*Todd Pletcher*

This is my future bet horse and probably the main reason I have been looking for weak points in American Pharoah. I fear the Baffert horse of course, as I'm sure everybody with an interest in the race do, but I still like Materiality. Yes, he was unraced at two and he had had just three runs, but his Florida Derby (G1) win was impressive (underrated by many in my opinion) and a race giving a strong indication that he will stay the 10 furlongs at Churchill Downs. He produced top class form to beat Upstart by 1 ½ lengths, with Ami's Flatter beaten 14 lengths into third and Fountain of Youth (G2) winner Itsaknockout 7 lengths further back in fourth. The latter had been awarded 'FOY' after taking a minor bump from Upstart, who had outclassed subsequent Wood Memorial (G1) winner Frosted in the Holy Bull Stakes (G2) four weeks earlier.

Ami's Flatter's position also gives the Florida Derby form a boost. He was coming off a second in the Tampa Bay Derby, 5 lengths behind Carpe Diem and well ahead of Divining Rod and Danzig Moon. Carpe Diem went on to an easy win in the Blue Grass Stakes (G1), where he beat Danzig Moon by 3 lengths, and Divining Rod was a comfortable winner of the Lexington Stakes (G3) on his next outing (hard held 3 lengths in front of the favorite Donworth). If these are not solid formlines, well, then what is? But for the 'Apollo jinx', Materiality would be half the price he is (14-1), and it will be interesting to see how he figures in the betting at Churchill.

*Don't forget, this is one of the
two unbeaten colts in the mix.*

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3 DORTMUND*Bob Baffert*

Baffert is loaded. Dortmund, who has won all of his six races, is no mean back-up to American Pharoah. And he is quite a different horse to look at, very big, massive, and seemingly a runner with plenty of scope for improvement. Horses of his size seldom blossom in the first half of their 3yo season. All the more reason to be impressed with what he has achieved to date. He won the Santa Anita Derby (G1) without much fuss, beating his barnmate One Lucky Dane by over four lengths. The runner-up had been sixth in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1), passing the post 9 ½ lengths behind Texas Red, and won his seasonal debut in a canter.

So far so good, but a closer examination of the Santa Anita Derby makes the form look hard to assess. Bolo (third) simply failed to stay and Prospect Park (fourth), who was second to Dortmund in the San Felipe (G2), was found to be ill. Are any of these a future Grade One winner? Probably not. But, the old saying "no horse can do more than win" certainly applied when we talk about Dortmund. He is a serious contender.

PREMIER SERVICE MARCH - APRIL RESULTS

STARTING BANK £2,000 / PAYOUTS £6,300
£4,300 NET PROFIT / ROI: +215%

8 RACEDAYS COVERED. 10 BETS. 4 WINNERS:

6-1 **NORAB** / Chelmsford (recommended w/out fav.)
 9-1 **winner**, beat the favourite (Exacta paid 28-1)
 4-1 **FRESLES** / Lingfield
 7-2 **FANCIFUL ANGEL** / Lingfield
 5-4 **BARYE** / Chelmsford

On-course bets are graded: £250, £500, £1,000 and £2,000

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4 CARPE DIEM*Todd Pletcher*

Carpe Diem stayed on really well when runner-up in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) last November, and he ran like a colt who will appreciate a step up in distance also when landing the Blue Grass Stakes (G1) at Keeneland this spring. The BC Juvenile is Carpe Diem's only defeat in five starts. He beat Ami's Flatter (see Materiality) by 5 lengths in the Tampa Bay Derby (G2), when subsequent Lexington Stakes (G3) winner Divining Rod was third, and he broke little sweat when following up in the Blue Grass, a race he won by 3 lengths from Danzig Moon (who was fourth in the Tampa Bay Derby). Delta Downs Jackpot (G3) winner Ocho Ocho Ocho, who failed to stay the 9-furlong trip, finished third. Carpe Diem will be facing much tougher rivals at Churchill Downs, but we knew already last year that he was up to that, and he holds a good chance.

5 UPSTART*Richard Violette Jr*

He was way too good for Frosted in the Holy Bull (G2), then robbed of another nice win when clearly the best in the Fountain of Youth (G2) and ran a game race in defeat against Materiality in the Florida Derby (G1). Upstart, third behind Texas Red and Carpe Diem in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile (G1) last fall, is a solid performer. Though how will he handle the stamina test at Churchill Downs? Carpe Diem came past him late on at Santa Anita and Materiality outstayed him at Gulfstream Park. Both races indicated that 9 furlongs is as far as Upstart wants to go. A moderate pace would be most welcome for his connections.



FROM LAST YEAR'S 50 TO FOLLOW

ALMERZEM - WON 13-2 (3 runs)
 ARAB DAWN - 3 WINS, 11-2, 3-1 and 9-4
 CHATEZ - 2 WINS, 10-1 and 7-2
 CANNOCK CHASE - 3-for-3; 3-1, 7-4, 6-4
 KARAKONTIE - 30-1 Breeders' Cup winner
 KINGSTON HILL - St Leger winner 10-1 a/post
 MANGE ALL - WON 10-1, Ascot handicap
 MISS FRANCE - 1,000 Guineas winner 10-1
 REEDCUTTER - 2 WINS, 7-1 and 9-2
 SUDDEN WONDER - 2 WINS, 8-1 and 7-1
 TERCEL - WON 9-2 first time out
 VENT DE FORCE - 3 WINS, 16-1, 4-1 and 2-1
 VOLUME - WON 4-1, 2nd Oaks 40-1 a/post
 WAHGAH - 2 WINS, 8-1 and 6-1
 plus several other winners through the season

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Breeders' Cup Mile: Globeform's Notebook horse Karakontie wins at 30-1 Photo: Breeders' Cup Inc.

	WIN	PLACE	SHOW
14 KARAKONTIE (JPN)	\$62.00	\$33.00	\$19.40
9 ANODIN (IRE)		\$12.60	\$7.20
8 TRADE STORM (GB)			\$12.80

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