

Letters, Majestic Prince Head 8-Colt Preakness Field



MAJESTIC PRINCE

BALTIMORE (AP)—A field of eight 3-year-olds, headed by razor-sharp Arts and Letters and finely-tuned Majestic Prince was firming up Wednesday for the Preakness after trainer Henry Forrest decided against running Calumet Farm's Best Turn.

Forrest, who saddled Mike Ford' Kauai King to win the 1966 Preakness, said he might enter Best Turn in Saturday's 94th renewal after the colt finished a good second to 4-year-old Vitriolic in a one-mile race Tuesday at Aqueduct.

But the veteran conditioner then decided there was not enough time between races and said Best Turn would skip the 1 1/16-mile

Preakness.

ARTS AND Letters, who lost the Kentucky Derby by a neck to Majestic Prince after a stirring stretch duel, became the conversation piece Wednesday at Pimlico when he worked a sizzling six furlong in 1:11.

With exercise boy Norman Kerr up, the Rokeby Stable colt ripped off fractions of 23 1/5 for the quarter, 35 for the three eighths, 47 1/5 for the half and 59 for five eighths. Eased up, he went on seven furlongs in 1:24 4/5 and the mile in 1:41.

"I want to go about 1:13 or 1:14, but as long as he did it easy, I don't mind," said trainer

Elliott Burch. "He went on his own. He is a better colt than he was going into the Derby."

TRAINER Johnny Longden galloped Majestic Prince about 1 1/4 miles, and the former riding great had all he could do to hold in check Frank McMahon's big, unbeaten chestnut.

"He had me standing straight up," Logden said. "He wasn't that tough down in Louisiana. He's coming right up to the race and he figures to be sharp."

Others expected to be entered Thursday for the second leg of the Triple Crown are Top Knight, from the estate of Steven B. Wilson; Pelican Stable's Al Hat-tab; Claiborne Farm's Jay Ray,

the California Derby winner; Michael Phipps' Greengrass Greene; Elmendorf's Captain Action and G. M. Banker's and Nick Coluccio's Glad's Flame.

IF ALL eight start, the Preakness, richest of the Triple Crown races, will have a gross purse of \$182,000 with \$129,500 to the winner.

Post time is 5:40 p.m. EDT. CBS will televise the classic from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Missing from the Preakness will be Claiborne's Dixie, the show horse in the Derby. Trainer Lucien Laurin has decided to hold out Dike for the Triple Crown finale, the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes June 7, and make his bid

here with Jay Ray.

JAY RAY, who arrived at Pimlico Tuesday night, got his first look at the track, galloping 1 1/2 miles.

Top Knight, the Flamingo and Florida Derby winner who was a disappointing fifth in the Kentucky Derby, also galloped about 1 1/2 miles.

A FLEET ROYAL

DENVER (AP)—Outfielder Pat Kelly, who has been drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the American League, set a Denver record for stolen bases in Class AAA baseball by swiping 38 last season.



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