

Sports

Derby may not be 2-horse race

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Private Terms, an unbeaten colt, and Winning Colors, a filly who has embarrassed the boys, are the Kentucky Derby favorites. But Hall of Fame trainer Charlie Whittingham thinks it's anything but a two-horse race.

"A half-dozen can win," said Whittingham, who will saddle Lively One, the runner-up to Winning Colors in the Santa Anita Derby.

"Maybe a dozen. It just depends who has the luck."

A field of 17 was entered Thursday for the 1 1/4-mile Derby at Churchill Downs. Post time is 5:33 p.m. EDT Saturday.

"The horses you've got to respect are the horses who have been tested and who have been consistent — Private Terms and Winning Colors," said D. Wayne Lukas, who trains Winning Colors.

"I think Charlie Hadry's horse (Private Terms) is the most consistent," said trainer Jack Van Berg, who won the Derby last year with Alysbea and who will send out longshot Din's Dancer Saturday.

"Then there's the filly, and Woody's horse (Forty Niner trained by Woody Stephens) is awful good right now, and Charlie Whittingham ain't sitting here for his health."

Private Terms, unbeaten in seven starts, including the Wood Memorial, is the 5-2 early favorite. Winning Colors is next at 3-1, followed by the Stephens entry of Forty Niner, the 1987 2-year-old champion, and Cefis, the Tampa Bay Derby winner, at 5-1.

A fear of rival trainers is that Winning Colors will get free on the lead as she did in the 1 1/4-mile Santa Anita Derby when she led all the way in

beating Lively Time by 7 1/2 lengths.

"If she runs back to that race," she'll be tough," said Pat Day, who will ride Forty Niner.

Forty Niner, Seeking The Gold, Din's Dancer and Purdue King are expected to go with the filly. Proper Reality, who won the Arkansas Derby, also could join the hunt early.

Whittingham was hoping the filly would draw an outside post.

"If the filly draws 18 or 19," he said, before he knew how many would be entered, "they've got really run her to get into position. This race is a mad scramble into the first turn."

Winning Colors, who will be ridden by Gary Stevens, drew post 11. Lukas said, "That's fine. She'll have a straight shot for the first quarter of mile."

"It's a most overrated thing," Lukas said of the importance of post position.

Stephens agreed after Claiborne Farm's Forty Niner drew the No. 17 post.

"I'd just as soon have what I have," Stephens said, "because I've got the filly on the inside of me. I'm going to put the heat on her, you know that."

The stretch running Cefis, ridden by Eddie Maple and owned by James P. Ryan and Robert Kirkland, drew the No. 2 post.

One trainer unhappy about his post position was Hadry, who, after Private Terms drew No. 16, said, "I don't like it, but there's nothing I can do about it."

Private Terms, who likes to race fairly close to the pace, will be ridden by Chris Antley in his first Derby.

Derby Day memories: Alydar vs. Affirmed

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Trainer John Veitch, sizing up Brian's Times' Kentucky Derby chances, said, "I don't have to beat Affirmed this year."

Ten years ago Friday, Veitch saddled the Derby favorite — a Calumet Farm colt called Alydar. The second choice was Louis Wolfson's Affirmed.

Today, the two horses are neighbors in the stud barn at Ca-

lumet Farm in Lexington, but in 1978, they became the talk of the racing world.

"I went over to the racing museum and I watched the race over and over," said Charlie Rose, who was Veitch's assistant.

"Our matchup was the greatest thing to happen to racing in the last two decades," said Jorge Ve-

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Aguirre, Mavs end Rockets' season

HOUSTON (AP) — Mark Aguirre scored 38 points, a club-record 27 in the third quarter, as the Dallas Mavericks eliminated Houston from the NBA playoffs 107-97 Thursday night.

The Mavericks, who won the best-of-five series 3-1, had to overcome a 40-point, 15-rebound performance by the Rockets' Akeem Olajuwon to advance to the Western Conference semifinals. Dallas will play the winner of the Seattle-Denver series.

Olajuwon's 150 points in the four-game series set an NBA playoff record.

Dallas edged ahead 46-44 at the half, aided by five Houston turnovers in the final 1:47 of the second quarter.

But Aguirre took control in the third quarter, hitting nine of 10 shots and six of six from the free throw line.

The previous Dallas one-quarter scoring record was 21 points by Aguirre in 1986 against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Olajuwon hit six of eight shots

in the third quarter but couldn't keep pace with Aguirre.

Aguirre had averaged 25.1 points in the regular season but only 15 points in the first three playoff games.

He scored Dallas' first 12 points of the quarter and helped the Mavericks take an 83-76 lead going into the final quarter.

The Rockets outscored Dallas 23-14 in the first quarter, holding the Mavericks to a playoff low for a quarter.

The Mavericks took advantage of Houston's turnovers in the second quarter after hitting only seven of 24 shots in the first quarter.

Sam Perkins capped the Mavericks' second-period comeback by stealing an in-bounds pass by Sleepy Floyd and stuffing in the go-ahead points.

Perkins also had tied the game 44-44 with 29 seconds left in the half, completing a 34-19 charge.

Houston's guards hit only 10 of 35 field goals.

Sherrill is right for scheduling Kickoff Classic

The 1988 Aggie football season starts at Giants' Stadium in the Meadowlands, N.J., against the Cornhuskers of Nebraska. I must compliment Head Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill for taking that challenge, considering the rest of the tough pre-season schedule.



Jeff Miller
Sports viewpoint

The Aggies will be one of the top-ranked teams in the nation going into the season, so why shouldn't

he have accepted the invitation to college football's opening game of the year? He has the talent to make this year's squad one of the best to ever play at A&M.

Many fans around the nation worry about the pre-season schedule, which includes powerhouses Alabama and LSU and traveling to play another tough game against Oklahoma State. Now another test has been added, and Jackie Sherrill's crew will be focusing on the 'Huskies.

The Nebraska Cornhuskers will boast Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback Steve Taylor, quarterback, and one of the best coaches to ever be around college football in Tom Osborne.

Sherrill was the decision-maker in this one. He could have passed the opportunity and given it to the University of Texas, but

perhaps he chose to play because should the Aggies win, it could be the first step toward the national title.

There should have been no question as to whether or not to play the game. The Aggies have won three straight conference championships and two of the last three Cotton Bowls.

The Aggies' 1988 Cotton Bowl performance should be an indication of the strength of this year's team. There should be no reason why the team that stopped Notre Dame's Tim Brown can't stop another Heisman candidate.

When I first heard the news of the invitation by Kickoff Classic officials, I automatically figured there was no way, considering the rest of the schedule, Sherrill would accept a game with one of the toughest pro-

grams in the nation.

But through the day I kept wondering about the advantages it could give A&M in national recognition and the help it could give the Aggies when the race to the national championship starts to heat up.

Normally, the Aggies don't play well in season openers. To win this game, they will have to play exceptionally well against a team that has a reputation for contending for the Big 8 Conference championship, not to mention that final No. 1 ranking.

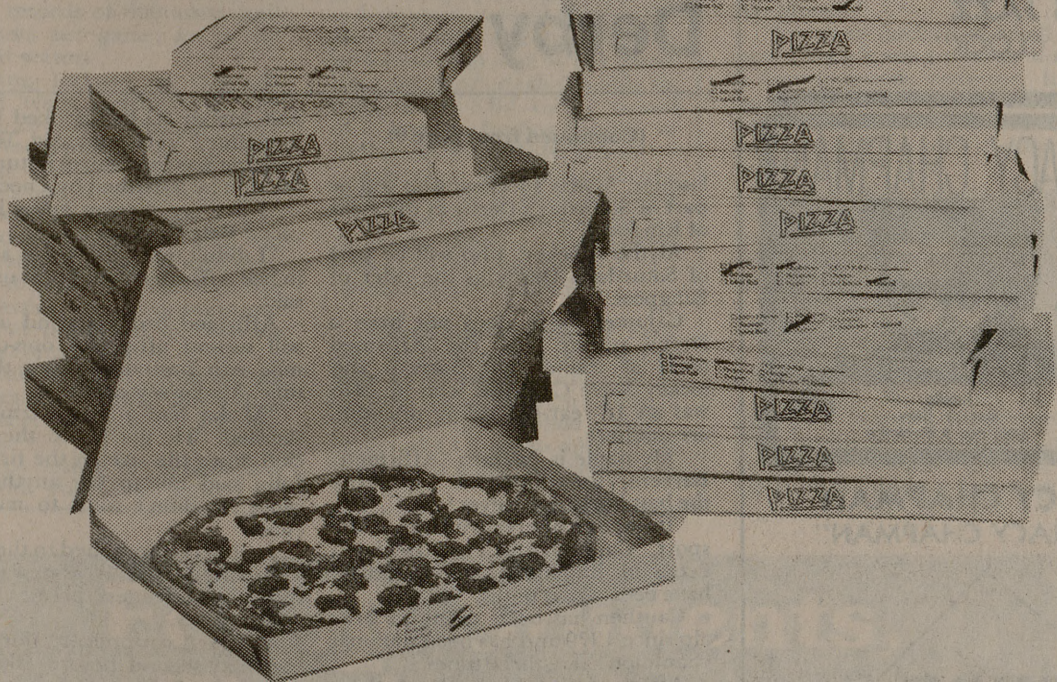
Jackie Sherrill's first big challenge came when he chose to have non-scholarship students try out for the nationally-recognized 12th Man Kick-off Team. That one's success has meant a big payoff for A&M in popularity terms; however, this one would be a boost to more than just Aggies.

A victory in the Kickoff Classic over Nebraska would also make more college football fans around the nation realize that the Southwest Conference is not as weak as many people make it out to be — not to mention the good publicity it would give the penalty-plagued conference.

After last year's bowl performances by the SWC, including Texas' victory over the favored Pittsburgh Panthers and the Aggies' rout of Notre Dame, a victory in New Jersey by the Aggies could possibly bring the Southwest Conference out of the "slump" it has been in the past few years.

By accepting the invitation to the 1988 Classic, Sherrill might not only have only done Texas A&M football a great favor, but also done one for the conference as a whole in the process.

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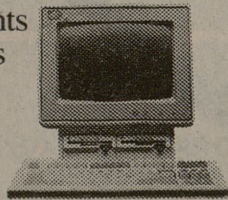
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