

1991 Preakness Stakes Preview

Experts' Selections

Table with columns TRACKMAN, HANDICAP, ANALYST, HERMIS, SWEEP, CONSENSUS. Lists selections for Strike the Gold, Olympio, Best Pal.

Preakness Analysis

By DAVE LITFIN

- 1—Best Pal
2—Olympio
3—Strike the Gold

If the Preakness is to be lost and won around Pimlico's hairpin turns, as is often the case, then Best Pal has the edge. The nimble gelding "corners" exceptionally well, and if anything, his traction is enhanced when there's moisture on the track—forecast as a 50-50 possibility for the Baltimore-area Saturday.

BEST PAL turns in his best efforts when he can stalk the pace from close range and drive for command on the final bend—the type of race he had no chance to run when he drew post no. 15 in the auxiliary gate for the Kentucky Derby. In the Derby, Gary Stevens had little choice but to take Best Pal well off the early pace, in order to avoid getting strung wide on the clubhouse turn. The footnote reveals that Best Pal... "was looking for room behind the leaders approaching the far turn..." He finally found a hole and slipped through along the inside in upper stretch, but while he was clearly second best, Strike the Gold had more momentum with clear sailing six wide, and outfinished him despite drifting out noticeably.

Best Pal figures to get good position just off pacesetters Olympio and Corporate Report, and he, not Strike the Gold, may well be the one who has crucial momentum into the lane this time around.

OLYMPIO took up sharply in upper stretch against Best Pal the only time he's started in a Grade I race, but was coming on again at the finish of the Hollywood Futurity. This game, come-again trait was again evident in the Arkansas Derby, when Olympio opened a length and a half-lead after the first quarter, dropped back down the backstretch and lacked room briefly, then rallied once more with a final furlong in :12 flat to win going away.

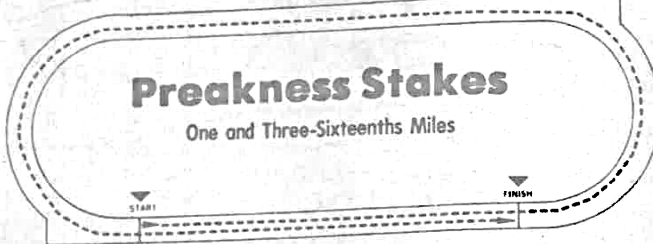
Among those in his wake was Richman, who returned to dominate the \$582,000 Illinois Derby last Saturday.

Olympio, the only horse able to beat Dimard out West, used a good mile workout to prepare for the Arkansas Derby, and repeats that pattern for the Preakness.

The colt in speedy, sat out the Derby in

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Preakness Stakes
One and Three-Sixteenths Miles



Pimlico

1 1/4 MILES. (1527) 11th Running THE PREAKNESS STAKES (Grade I). \$500,000 Added. 3-year-olds. Scale Weight. 3-year-olds with an entry fee of \$5,000 to pass the entry box, starters to pay \$5,000 additional. All eligibility, entrance and starting fees to the winner with \$50,000 added of which 65% of all monies to the winner, 20% to second, 10% to third and 5% to fourth. Weights, 126 lbs. (Fillies allowed five pounds.) Starters to be named through the entry box on Thursday, May 16, two days before the race by the usual time of closing. The Preakness field will be limited to fourteen (14) entries and shall be determined on the Thursday immediately preceding the day of the race. In the event that more than fourteen horses are properly nominated and pass through the entry box by the above conditions notwithstanding, an horse which earns purse money in the Kentucky Derby shall be denied the opportunity to enter and start in the Preakness Stakes. If the rules described in this paragraph result in the exclusion of any horse, the \$5,000 entry fee previously paid will be refunded to the owner of said horse. A replica of the Woodlawn Vase will be presented to the winning owner to remain his or her personal property. Nominations to each and all of the Triple Crown races, The Kentucky Derby, The Preakness and The Belmont (the "Races") may be made only by payment of a single subscription fee to Triple Crown Productions, Inc., as agent for Churchill Downs Incorporated, The Maryland Jockey Club and the New York Racing Association Inc. (the "Associations"). The subscription fee for 268 nominations received by January 16, 1991, is \$600 and for 8 nominations received by April 8, 1991, is \$4,500. (These fees are to be apportioned equally among the three Associations to be part of the total purse for each of the three races.) After April 8, at any time prior to Closing for the Kentucky Derby, additional nominations to all three races will be accepted and the nominee will be eligible for the Chrysler Triple Crown Challenge bonus, upon payment of a supplementary fee of \$150,000 to Churchill Downs Incorporated. Following the running of The Kentucky Derby, but at

any time prior to Closing for the Preakness Stakes, horses may be nominated in the remaining Races but will not be eligible for the Chrysler Triple Crown Challenge bonus, upon payment of a supplementary fee of \$100,000 to The Maryland Jockey Club of Baltimore City, Inc. At any time prior to the Closing for the Belmont Stakes, horses may be nominated to The Belmont Stakes upon payment of a supplementary fee of \$25,000 to the New York Racing Association Inc. All supplemental fees will be included in the distribution of the respective Races for which paid. Horses nominated by payment of supplementary fee ("supplemental nominees") will not be allowed to enter any Race in which the maximum number of starters has otherwise been reached prior to the time of Closing. If the number of supplemental nominees exceed the number of available starting positions at Closing, the conditions of each respective Race shall be applied to determine which supplemental nominees will be allowed to start in such Race. All supplemental and supplementary fees will be requested to pay entry and starting fees for the Races or Races to which they have been nominated. Triple Crown Productions, Inc. is guaranteed total earnings of \$5,000,000 to the owner of any horse which wins all of the 1991 Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes races (the "Races") and is offering a \$1,000,000 bonus to the owner of a horse with the best, most consistent finishes in the Races. The "Triple Crown Challenge" monies will be paid to the owner of a horse which meets these criteria: 1. Finishes in all three Triple Crown Races as listed above; 2. Earns points by finishing first, second, third or fourth in at least one of the Triple Crown Races; and 3. Earns the highest number of points over the course of the Triple Crown Races. Points are assigned for each race: Win-10, Place-3, Fourth-1. In the event of a tie, the \$1 million bonus will be distributed equally among the top point-getters. In the event of a dead-heat, equal points will be awarded in full. For example, 10 points for each horse in a dead-heat to win. Triple Crown Productions, Inc. will pay to the owner of a horse winning all of the Races that amount necessary to bring total earnings for the Triple Crown winner to \$5,000,000. The total will include the winner's purse distributed by each racing association; the \$1 million point bonus described above; and a further bonus guaranteed by Triple Crown Productions to reach the \$5 million total. Triple Crown Productions will present the Triple Crown Trophy to the owner of a horse that sweeps the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes.

LASIX—Manc Minister, Hansel, Best Pal, Olympio, Whadjathink.

Corporate Report

Table with columns DAY P, Own, Br., Tr., Race, Lifetime, 1991, 1990. Lists race results for Corporate Report.

Manc Minister

Table with columns Own, Br., Tr., Race, Lifetime, 1991, 1990. Lists race results for Manc Minister.

Strike the Gold

Table with columns Own, Br., Tr., Race, Lifetime, 1991, 1990. Lists race results for Strike the Gold.

Continued on Facing Page

1991 PRAEKNESS STAKES PREVIEW

Hansel

Table listing race results for Hansel, including track, distance, date, and time.

Br. c. 3(Mar), by Woodman—Count On Bonnie, by Dancing Count. Br.—Little Marvin Jr (Va) Tr.—Brothers Frank L.

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Table listing race results for Hansel, including track, distance, date, and time.

Best Pal

Table listing race results for Best Pal, including track, distance, date, and time.

B. g. 3(Feb), by Habington—Ubethshedid, by King Pellinore. Br.—Mabee Mr—Mrs John C (Cal) Tr.—Joy Ian P D.

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Table listing race results for Best Pal, including track, distance, date, and time.

Honor Grades

Table listing race results for Honor Grades, including track, distance, date, and time.

B. c. 3(Mar), by Danzig—Weekend Surprise, by Secretariat. Br.—Farih W S & Kilroy W S (Ky) Tr.—Rash Rodney

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Table listing race results for Honor Grades, including track, distance, date, and time.

Olympio

Table listing race results for Olympio, including track, distance, date, and time.

Ch. c. 3(Apr), by Naska—Carols Christmas, by Whitesburg. Br.—Winchell Verne H (Ky) Tr.—McAnally Ronald

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Table listing race results for Olympio, including track, distance, date, and time.

Whadjathink

Table listing race results for Whadjathink, including track, distance, date, and time.

Dk. b. or br. c. 3(Apr), by Seattle Song—Katerina the Great, by Great Nephew. Br.—Hill M Dale Farm (Ill) Tr.—Whittingham Michael

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Table listing race results for Whadjathink, including track, distance, date, and time.

TOP CONTENDERS AT A GLANCE

SPEED & FITNESS

Fastest Speed Last Race This Distance NONE Most Consistent Early Speed CORPORATE REPORT Most Consistent Closer STRIKE THE GOLD

RECENT FORM

Trouble Last Race OLYMPIO WHADJATHINK Best Recent Workouts CORPORATE REPORT STRIKE THE GOLD HONOR GRADES OLYMPIO 1st Race After Layoff (30 or more days) NONE

FACTORS FOR TODAY

Dropping Down In Class NONE Moving Up In Class HONOR GRADES OLYMPIO WHADJATHINK Beaten Favorite Last Race HANSEL Off Track Ability HANSEL WHADJATHINK

Speed Index Choices Last Race HONOR GRADES OLYMPIO WHADJATHINK 3 or Fewer Race Average WHADJATHINK HONOR GRADES OLYMPIO 4 or More Race Average OLYMPIO STRIKE THE GOLD BEST PAL Overall Avg. OLYMPIO BEST PAL HONOR GRADES

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The ● symbol is right on target in Past Performance workout lines. The ● bullet indicates the workout was the best of the day at the track for the day. The ● makes it easy to spot and is another valuable feature in Daily Racing Form.