



May 16, 2015

PREAKNESS STAKES QUOTES

Winning trainer Bob Baffert (American Pharoah): “What a day for Baltimore. They really needed this after all they’ve been through. I’m really happy for them. I just love coming here.”

“He’s just an amazing horse. Everyone talks about the greatness and it’s just starting to show now. To me, they have to prove it. Today the way he did it, he just ran so fast. It was like poetry in motion.”

Winning jockey Victor Espinoza (American Pharoah): “I was freezing. I was just so wet. It worked out well. I had to bounce out of the gate to take the lead with all the rain.

(On race strategy): “All changed with the rain, but it worked out well.

“I took a chance and sent him as quick as I can. Sometimes you have to make decisions. That’s my job. Today, I made the right decision.

(On his third attempt at sweeping the Triple Crown): “I hope the third one is the charm.”

Trainer Dallas Stewart (Tale of Verve, 2nd): “What a horse. I had no idea where he was in the race. He’s a tremendous horse. He’s getting better all the time. Congratulations to the winner. We will see him at Belmont. I think this validated what he is. He’s an improving horse. It was a wonderful run.”

Jockey Joel Rosario (Tale of Verve, 2nd): “I had a good trip, perfect trip. The further we went he kept picking it up. It was a great race for him. He ran a very big race.”

Trainer Arnaud Delacour (Divining Rod, 3rd): “We are very happy with that, being third in a Grade 1 in the Preakness. He was right there with a great trip, and thanks for (Javier) Castellano for that, because he gave him a great ride.”

Jockey Javier Castellano (Divining Rod, 3rd): “It was quite a bit tougher for us today under these conditions than it should have been.”

Trainer Bob Baffert (Dortmund, 4th): “I was hoping he’d show a little more. I was afraid about the mud with him and his big feet.”

Jockey Martin Garcia (Dortmund, 4th): “He didn’t like the sloppy track. He didn’t come out good from the gate and he didn’t like the mud in his face. Not his best effort today.”

Trainer D. Wayne Lukas (Mr. Z, 5th): “The adverse conditions likely affected seven of eight horses. It obviously didn’t bother the winner. My horse ran very well. He was well-placed and I thought he actually might finish second. I’ve said it since March, [American Pharoah] is special, and this might be the year.”

Jockey Corey Nakatani (Mr. Z, 5th): “He ran dynamite today and did everything he could to take on the winner under the circumstances. He was in it and really ran great. That winner is a really nice horse. It was very wet, sloppy and water was everywhere. The track was in good condition, considering the water. We did everything we could against the winner, but he is a very nice horse. I had a great trip other than I felt like I should have been on a shark or a dolphin.”

Trainer Mark Casse (Danzig Moon, 6th): “I never saw him. It was pretty bad. He hasn’t stopped coughing since he came back. That happens when they eat all that stuff. God decided he wanted to rain on it, so what do you want to do? It’s just frustrating. You work and work and work to get him ready, and you just want to have a shot at a fair race. If they beat you, they beat you. Look, American Pharoah is a good horse, and I think he has a shot at the Triple Crown.”

Jockey Julien Leparoux (Danzig Moon, 6th): “It was OK, not what we needed. The horse kind of struggled out there a little bit and flattened out at the end a little bit. I don’t think the track was to his liking but other than that it was OK.”

Trainer Simon Callaghan (Firing Line, 7th): “His second jump out he stumbled badly. That took his momentum and then he never really got hold of the track. Nothing went right, what with all that rain coming. I don’t know about the Belmont.”

Jockey Gary Stevens (Firing Line, 7th): “We stumbled out of the gate and that was our race today.”

Owner/trainer Jose Corrales (Bodhisattva, 8th): “He didn’t try. One morning in training, behind other horses in the rain I ran him and he didn’t even try. Same today. I was praying he wouldn’t be behind, but he was behind from the start. It wasn’t the race we were expecting. The race was like nothing, but life goes on. We tried and I hope we are in this position again, but at the front end next time.”

Jockey Trevor McCarthy (Bodhisattva, 8th): “He just spun his wheels out there today. He never could get a hold of it. He was really crazy out there at first. In the middle of the race the weather actually started to settle down. Today just wasn’t his day. On a normal day, he would have been closer. He was just hard to handle.”

About Pimlico Race Course

Historic Pimlico Race Course, home of the Preakness® Stakes, the middle jewel in horse racing's famed Triple Crown, first opened its doors on October 25, 1870, and is the second oldest racetrack in the United States. Pimlico has played host to racing icons and Baltimoreans have seen the likes of legendary horses such as Man o’ War, Seabiscuit, Secretariat, Affirmed and Cigar thunder down the stretch in thrilling and memorable competition. For more information on Pimlico, visit www.pimlico.com.

Pimlico Race Course is a Stronach Group company, North America's leading Thoroughbred racetrack owner/operator. The Stronach Group racetracks include Santa Anita Park, Gulfstream Park & Casino, Golden Gate Fields, Portland Meadows, Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course, home of the world-famous Preakness. The company owns and operates the Palm Meadows Training Center in Florida and is one of North America's top race horse breeders through its award-winning Adena Springs operation. The Stronach Group is one of the world's largest suppliers of pari-mutuel wagering systems, technologies and services. Its companies include AmTote, a global leader in wagering technology; Xpressbet, an Internet and telephone account wagering service; and Monarch Content Management, which acts as a simulcast purchase and sales agent of horseracing content for numerous North American racetracks and wagering outlets. The Stronach Group is also a leading producer of social media content for the horseracing industry. For more information contact David Joseph at david.joseph@marylandracing.com or call 954.457.6451.