



ALABAMA SLAMMA

This year's GI TVG Alabama S. at Saratoga features a stellar six-horse line-up. GI Acorn winner **It's Tricky** (Mineshaft) faces GI Kentucky Oaks victress **Plum Pretty** (Medaglia d'Oro) again after their thrilling battle in the GI CCA Oaks July 24, while **Inglorious** (Hennessy), the best 3-year-old in Canada of either sex, will attempt to transfer her outstanding Polytrack form



Royal Delta
Horsephotos

in a return to conventional dirt. There are no slouches in the supporting cast, either. ♣ **"TDN Rising Star" ♣ Royal Delta** (Empire Maker) confirmed her early promise with a sharp win in the GII Black-Eyed Susan S. at Pimlico in May, but missed an intended start in the GI Mother Goose S. the following month with a

foot bruise. She was a bit too fresh in the CCA Oaks and wound up third. "She didn't settle well, she didn't rate well," said trainer Bill Mott. "She was a little strong with the rider [Jose Lezcano] early on and I think it compromised her finish." Well-bred for today's 10-furlong distance, the dark bay will go on the block in November as part of the Prince Saud bin Khaled dispersal, and a Grade I victory would add just that little bit to an already strong catalogue page. "She's a very nice filly and whoever buys her is going to be very lucky," Mott said. "She's from a good family. I would think she's not only a good racing prospect, but a good broodmare prospect." **Cont. p5**

SHOWDOWN AT THE SHORE

An well-matched field will line up for today's GI Del Mar Oaks, with Team Valor International's **Summer Soiree** (War Front) getting the narrow nod on the morning line as she invades from the East. The Brereton and Bret Jones-bred bay took the GIII Bourbonette Oaks over Turfway's Polytrack Mar. 26 by 10 3/4 lengths for her breeders and Wahoo Partners, prompting Barry Irwin's outfit to purchase her privately and turn her over to Graham Motion. Summer Soiree was a well-beaten 10th in the May 6 GI Kentucky Oaks, but relished the sod in her first try on it, romping by 8 1/2 lengths in Monmouth's GIII Boiling Spring S. June 25. Show horse Hessonite (Freud) beat the boys in a New York-bred stake at the Spa Aug. 11, and fourth-place finisher Salary Drive (Mizzen Mast) looked good scoring in the Dauphin Miss S. at Penn National July 29. **Cont. p6**

STAR TURN

Having made waves when capturing the G1 July Cup on Dream Ahead (Diktat {GB}), Britain's flagship female jockey Hayley Turner followed up with a major sprint double in York's G1 Coolmore Nunthorpe S. on the 3-year-old filly **Margot Did (Ire)** (Exceed and Excel {Aus}) yesterday. Ignored at 20-1 after a latest fourth in the July 2 G3 Sandown Sprint, the bay was drawn on the right side as the stand's-rail runners dominated the closing stages of this renewal. Grabbing **Hamish McGonagall (GB)** (Namid {GB}) with a furlong remaining, she asserted to beat that rival by 3/4 of a length. Her rider was still reeling from the achievement afterwards. "I can't believe it--I'm overwhelmed by it all," she said. "People ask me if it was more difficult getting where I am being a girl, but I think it was more difficult for [trainer] Michael Bell to push the owners to put me on the horses. It's brilliant that I can pay him back." **Cont. p2-3**



Hayley Turner and Margot Did
Racing Post photo

Havre de Grace going to Woodward.....p9

2011 Leading Sires

#	STALLION	GSW'S	EARNINGS
1	GIANT'S CAUSEWAY	8	\$5,540,268
2	SMART STRIKE	7	\$5,436,454

Bloodhorse.com, 08/19/11

2011 Two-Year-Old Sires

#	STALLION	SW'S	EARNINGS
1	TALE OF THE CAT	2	\$449,547
2	DIXIE UNION	2	\$424,393

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Contact: Aisling Duignan, Dermot Ryan, Charlie O'Connor, Andre Lynch or Adrian Wallace.
 Tel: 859-873-7088. Fax: 859-879 5756. E-Mail: info@coolmore.com
www.coolmore.com

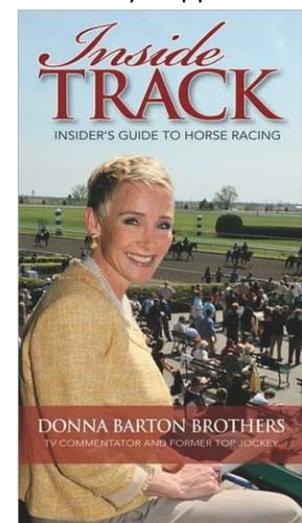


Inside Track: Insider's Guide to Horse Racing, by Donna Barton Brothers

Reviewed by Nicole Mattei-Lince

Lately there's been a lot of talk of the many "fix-its" the Thoroughbred industry has ahead of itself along with a laundry list of suggestions that may mend the sport. Mainly comprised of an older generation of fans and handicappers, racing is losing some 4% of fans each year and one reason cited is that the industry's marketing experts simply can't seem to find innovative ways to promote the sport or attract new fans. Our beloved sport of horse racing has been labeled as complicated and difficult for the newcomer to break-into. Enter Donna Barton Brothers.

Former jockey and current racing reporter for NBC Sports and select TVG racing events, Donna Barton Brothers brings us *Inside Track: Insider's Guide to Horse Racing* (Blood-Horse Publications, 111 pages, \$16.95). As a true racing insider, Brothers is well aware of the looming intimidation factor that those who are unfamiliar with horse racing are confronted with after passing through the racetrack turnstiles. Where do I go first? Who do I bet on? Wait, *how* do I bet? Or even the questions people have *before* arriving at the racetrack; am I really supposed to wear an imposing fancy hat?



For starters, no, there is no prerequisite to wear a large fancy hat for a day at the races, unless it's Derby Day, of course, to which Brothers devotes an entire chapter to conquering the prestigious event, mint juleps and all. Writing with a friendly no-nonsense attitude, Brothers gives the horse racing freshman a tour of the track and its diverse environment (from grandstand to Turf Club, and everywhere in between), a glimpse at the type of atmosphere you're likely to find (\$1 Sundays and Family Fun Days, anyone?), and enough

insider lingo to give the novice racetracker a more confident swagger.

While racetracks generally lack an information kiosk with free race information and guidance, aside from the daily program and past performances, Brothers's book provides readers with a hand-held primer of the essentials of the horse racing world.

Exactas, trifecta boxes, the \$.10 superfecta, Brothers covers the common betting terminology with simplicity and the accompanying disclaimer that "you can beat the race, but you can't beat the races" so bet accordingly. And which horse to bet? The former jockey points out key markers when judging horse flesh to help narrow your selection, then even provides you with a list of reasonable excuses to tell your friends when your carefully chosen horse turns in a disappointing effort ("Did you see how badly my horse got away from the gate?!")

Two insider tips that Brothers strongly advocates are quite simple and tremendously overlooked: 1) if you don't know, ask; and 2) you've got to see it/try it/hear it/bet it/etc. in person; nothing can beat the personal racing experience. While racetracks may currently lack the amusement park-like booths with self-guiding maps and "must see" attractions, making a phone call to the appropriate department at the track never hurts. If you were lucky enough to obtain a pair of tickets to the Kentucky Derby, but you are clueless if you're sitting indoors or out and thus are left unprepared to shop for that critical Derby outfit, why not call Churchill? A quick answer will end your Derby outfit doubts and will allow for a much more enjoyable racing experience. The horse racing industry is making efforts to be more transparent and is encouraging fans to reach out to them.

What may be a marketing team's most imposing challenge when promoting the racing product is that Thoroughbred horse racing is one of those events you have to experience first-hand; attempting to re-create the thrill of watching "your" horse thread its way through traffic en route to a victory by a nose is a hard-sell in writing. Even hearing the race call alone still lacks true color, by and large. For this, Brothers can't offer much more advice than "you just have to be there", the very crux of the sport. Nothing can beat the first-hand horse racing experience and Donna Barton Brothers helps acclimate new racetrackers to the thrill. So get out there. As they say, "Go baby, go!"

UPCOMING MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN STAKES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Track</u>
Aug. 21	GII Lake Placid S.	SAR
	GII Sky Classic S.	WO
	GIII Rancho Bernardo H.	DMR
	GIII Longacres Mile	EMD
Aug. 26	GII Bernard Baruch H.	SAR
Aug. 27	GI Travers S.	SAR
	GI Ballerine S.	SAR
	GI King's Bishop S.	SAR
	GII Ballston Spa H.	SAR
	GII Del Mar Mile	DMR
	GIII Victory Ride S.	SAR
	GIII Ontario Colleen S.	WO