

Tasty Win for Frugal Gourmet

Takes Meadowlands Pace; Jate Lobell distant seventh

By Tony Sisti

Frugal Gourmet earned a lot of money and considerable stature with a game victory in last night's \$902,500 Meadowlands Pace Final for 3-year-olds. And it is reasonable to assume he will receive a lot more respect in the future.

Though he scored an upset win over Jate Lobell in his Meadowlands elimination a week ago, Frugal Gourmet, with driver Trevor Ritchie, was sent away at a liberal 6-1 in the final. Jate Lobell, meanwhile, was the 4-5 favorite last night. As it turned out, the bettors made the wrong horse the favorite.

Ritchie sent Frugal Gourmet up to take the lead just before the half, which was run in 55 4/5, and he never relinquished it. He was 2 1/2 lengths on top at the head of the stretch and the margin was disappearing in the drive to the wire. But Frugal Gourmet stubbornly held on to win by a neck over Laag, who was a head ahead of Run The Table in third.

Frugal Gourmet paced the mile in 1:52 and paid \$14.80, \$5.80 and \$5.00 in picking up the winner's share of \$451,250 to raise his lifetime earnings to \$862,399. He now has won his past three starts and has four victories in seven starts this year. He was purchased as a yearling for \$15,000.

Jate Lobell, last year's 2-year-old champ who had won 23 of 25 previous starts, was never a serious threat and finished seventh. "I'm a little disappointed with my colt's performance, but I don't have any excuses," said Mark O'Mara, Jate Lobell's driver. "He just didn't have his brush when he needed it."

Montrachet led at the quarter in 27 2/5 before Frugal Gourmet took control. Laag, at 3-1, rallied from eighth at the half while Run The Table, at 7-2, was sixth.

The 31-year-old Ritchie was elated after the biggest victory of this career. "I'll let you know how I feel when I come down from the clouds," he said. "I

just wanted to leave and see how things went and I was surprised that I got to the front so easily. I figured they would be after me, and I kept looking over my shoulder, but the real challenge didn't come until the very end. I was really concerned and looking for the wire at the finish because my colt's tank was on empty."

Bill O'Donnell said Laag had a good trip. "He's always flying at the end, but he's a little unhandy to drive and a little hard to hold behind horses," he said.

Frugal Gourmet left from the seven post, with Run The Table and Jate Lobell just to the outside of him. Laag had the rail, but he couldn't take advantage of it.

Frugal Gourmet dropped in third at the quarter and had the position that enabled him to take control of the pace and get the easy lead on the backstretch. That's where Ritchie really won the race.

ARENA

Did Irish Cover Up Agent Dealings?

Notre Dame wide receiver Alvin Miller, declared unable to play this year because of a knee injury, actually was ineligible because he signed with sports agent **Norby Walters**, according to a copyright story in today's editions of The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution.

Notre Dame athletic director Gene Corrigan admitted the injury story was a coverup. Corrigan said that Miller, who was not a starter, told Notre Dame officials he accepted cash and signed with **Walters** and associate **Lloyd Bloom**.

Corrigan said the school is investigating rumors that other players with eligibility are involved with the agents.

Golfer Shoots 61

Brad Fabel shot a 5-under 65 to take a two-stroke lead over Mark McCumber (67), Ray Barr Jr. (64), and Tom Purtzer (64) after two rounds of the \$500,000 Hardee's Golf Classic in Coal Valley, Ill. He shared the spotlight with hot-putting Mike Smith, who shot a tournament-record 61, the lowest round on the PGA tour this year. Smith (132) trails Fabel by three.

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Defending champion Bruce Crampton shot a 7-under-par 65 to take a one-stroke lead over Orville Moody after the opening round of the \$250,000 Syracuse Senior Pro Golf Classic . . . Jody Rosenthal, seeking back-to-back victories, fired a 6-under-par 66 to take a two-shot lead over Sally Quinlan, Betsy King and Becky Pearson after two rounds of the \$300,000 Boston Five Classic in Danvers, Mass. Rosenthal was at 9-under-par 135.

McCallum-Curry Set

Mike McCallum (31-0, 28 KOs) defends his WBA junior middleweight title tonight against Donald Curry (27-1, 20 KOs), who is a 2-1 favorite for the scheduled 15-rounder.

Dick Young 'Serious'

Veteran New York Post columnist Dick Young, 69, was listed in serious condition in the intensive care unit of Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. Reports that Young had suffered a heart attack were denied by Post executive sports editor Jerry Lisker.

Chiefs Sign Palmer

Heisman Trophy runnerup Paul Palmer of Temple signed a four-year, \$1.35 million contract with the Kansas City Chiefs, according to a report in today's editions of the Kansas City Star



UPI Photo

Kent Carlsson hits forehand en route to 7-6 (7-2), 6-1 quarterfinal win over Patrick Kuhn in the U.S. Clay Court championships.

. . . The Cleveland Browns released 15-year veteran outside linebacker Brad Van Pelt, who spent the first 11 years of his NFL career with the Giants . . . The San Francisco 49ers reached an contract agreement with running back Derrick **Harmon**, who played at Bayside.

Top Seed Ousted

Second-seeded David Fishbach of Port Washington will meet Scott Nichols of El Paso, Tex., today in the final of the Men's Grand Prix at Future Stars Tennis Center in Great Neck. Nichols upset top-seeded Gary Cuppernull of Huntington, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, and Fishbach defeated unseeded Valentin Stoiana of Manhattan, 6-2, 6-3.

Furthermore . . .

Three-time Olympic heavyweight boxing champion **Teofilo Stevenson** has been charged in connection with the death of a motorcycle driver in Cuba two months ago . . . The condition of hydroplane racer **Steve Reynolds**, who suffered a fractured skull this month, was upgraded from serious to fair, although Reynolds remains unconscious . . . Top-seeded Mats Wilander beat Richey Reneberg, 6-4, 6-4, to reach the semifinals of the U.S. Clay Court Tennis Championships in Indianapolis . . . **Jeff Gromos** scored 29 points to lead the Staten Island Stallions to a 157-155 USBL victory over the Long Island Knights despite **Mark Davis'** 48 points . . . The New York Tomahawks, a semi-pro football club in the Mid-Atlantic Football Conference, will hold tryouts tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Alley Pond Park.

Edited by Todd Schwartz

Catching Groovy Is Foolish Idea

By Paul Moran

The nation's leading sprinter has established track records in each of his two most recent races. But the narrow margin of Groovy's last stakes victory in what has been, so far, an unblemished (3-for-3) season, appears to have encouraged at least one of the half-dozen trainers who have entered horses in today's 7-furlong, \$100,000-added Tom Fool Handicap at Belmont Park.

When last they met, Love That Mac was no match for Groovy. In the Roseben Handicap's final furlong, he was unable to reclaim even a portion of the 4 1/4-length margin Groovy enjoyed at the stretch call. Trainer Wayne Widmer believes, however, that some of the starch may have been wrung from the nation's fastest horse.

Since returning to competition with a flashy victory in the Roseben on Belmont Day, a race which followed an injury-prolonged absence of more than six months, Groovy has established two track records for 6 furlongs. The first was on June 21 in the True North Handicap (1:07 4/5) at Belmont. Then on July 5 in a Breeders' Cup-sponsored stakes (1:09 2/5) at Finger Lakes, Groovy, ridden by Julio Pezua, barely held on to beat Purple Mountain by a half-length.

"We weren't very impressed with Groovy's race at Finger Lakes," Widmer said. "I wish now that we had gone to Finger Lakes, but after his 1:07 4/5 in the True North, Groovy looked like he couldn't be beaten." Widmer and the other five trainers are hoping, some of them faintly, that a 128-pound assignment combined with the 7-furlong distance will amplify the wear and tear of consecutive record-setting performances.

Groovy, nevertheless, has won his only two starts at 7 furlongs in the past 12 months, including the 1986 Tom Fool, and his trainer, Jose Martin, attributes the narrow margin of victory at Finger Lakes to the colt's distaste for the footing. "He didn't handle the track. He never got hold of it," Martin said. "But you shouldn't have to make excuses for a winner or for a horse who has set two track records in his last two starts."

Angel Cordero Jr. will ride Groovy, who will be coupled in the wagering with stablemate Cutlass Reality. Jose Santos will ride Love That Mac, who enjoys a five-pound break in the weights. Sun Master, Moment of Hope, Royal Pennant and Mr. Classic round out the field.

Velasquez Back at Belmont

Rider Jorge Velasquez informed New York Racing Association officials yesterday he will return from France July 24 and resume riding at Belmont Park July 26. He will not, however, rejoin his long-time agent, Vic Gelardi, who now handles Richard Migliore's book. Frank Pagano Sr. will book Velasquez' engagements. He recently was dismissed by Buckram Oak Farm.