



Breeders' Cup World Championships Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4

**Classic Notes
Tuesday, October 31, 2017**

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Arrogate, Collected, Mubtaahij, West Coast – Bob Baffert's four runners – Arrogate, Collected, Mubtaahij and West Coast – all shipped from Santa Anita Park to Del Mar in the wee hours of Tuesday morning. The Classic horses were part of a group of 16 Baffert horses moved to Del Mar. Eleven of them are scheduled to compete in Breeders' Cup races.

Jimmy Barnes, Baffert's assistant since 1999, said the horses left Santa Anita at 2 a.m. and arrived shortly after 4 a.m. All of them walked the shedrow after making the trip. Many of them had their final timed works Sunday and Monday and were scheduled for their first trip to the Del Mar track Wednesday.

"We're here. We're set up. The horses are already comfortable in their stalls and have already eaten," Barnes said. "It's hard with the traffic. You want to get it done and out of the way."

Barnes has returned to work, though in a limited role, while recovering from serious injuries suffered in a freak accident Sept. 17 at Santa Anita. The stable pony he was riding lost his footing, unseated Barnes and then fell on the veteran horseman. Barnes fractured his pelvis and had internal bleeding. He stayed away from the track for about a month, but returned recently and gets around with crutches. He describes himself as "a dispatcher," at this point.

"Mainly I just sit in the office and talk on the radio and tell Bob who is coming out," Barnes said. Baffert was scheduled to arrive at Del Mar later Tuesday.

Churchill – Churchill arrived Monday night from Ireland and walked the shedrow. He is scheduled to clear quarantine Thursday and make his first appearance on the track.

Gunnevera – Margoth's Gunnevera galloped 1 ½ m with energy at Del Mar Tuesday morning, bolstering exercise rider Victor O'Farrel's confidence in the 3yo son of Dialed In's chances in Saturday's Classic.

"He's feeling good. He galloped strong," O'Farrel said. "He was feeling so good this morning, he jumped in the air. He likes the track; he likes the weather; he likes everything. I think he will run very big Saturday."

Owner Salomon del Valle, a Venezuelan businessman, was on hand at Del Mar to watch his colt's morning exercise.

The resilient Gunnevera is the only 2017 Triple Crown participant in the 11-horse Classic field. The Antonio Sano-trained colt finished seventh in the Kentucky Derby and fifth in the Preakness Stakes.

"I'm so proud of the condition of my horse right now. He's a different horse. He's stronger; his coat is better; he's gained weight. The horse is very happy," Sano said. "All my years as a trainer, I think you can't train a horse for just one race. You train them to run for a long time – two, three, four years."

Gunnevera was given a two-month break after the Preakness before returning to action to win the Tangelo Stakes at Gulfstream Park Aug. 6 and going on to finish second behind West Coast in the Aug. 28 Travers Stakes at Saratoga last time out.

“My horse is in 100-percent condition – very fresh,” Sano said. Gunnevera is scheduled to finish up his morning exercise Wednesday with an open gallop.

Gun Runner – Winchell Thoroughbreds and Three Chimneys Farm’s Gun Runner continues to thrive at Del Mar in advance of his run in the Breeders’ Cup Classic. The 9-5 morning-line favorite for the \$6 million event exited his final preparatory breeze — a 4f Monday drill in 49 2/5 — in solid order for trainer Steve Asmussen.

Assistant trainer Scott Blasi was pleased with the son of Candy Ride’s condition. According to Blasi, the winner of four Grade I races in the last year had a walk day, which is typical for Asmussen’s horses the day after a work.

“He just walked today,” Blasi said. “Everything’s good. He’s been perfect.”

Pavel – Following a full circle of the Del Mar main track, Leandro Moro, assistant trainer to Doug O’Neill, had this to say about the lightly raced 3yo colt, owned by Reddam Racing: "He's a really good warrior. He's been training well here at Del Mar just as he did this summer before going east to run in stakes races. He got a good post (10) even though a lot of people say you can't win from that far out at a mile and a quarter, but we know that's necessarily true. Just think of the Kentucky Derby."

Exercise rider Gabriel Planchard was up for the morning gallop, and Mario Gutierrez rides Saturday.

War Decree – War Decree arrived Monday night from Ireland and walked the shedrow. He is scheduled to clear quarantine Thursday and make his first appearance on the track.

War Story – The Brooklyn winner galloped 1 ½ m early this morning and continues to look like the best version of himself, according to Chad Summers, who is overseeing preparations for his friend Jorge Navarro while the trainer is out of town.

Summers, trainer of Sprint contender Mind Your Biscuits, has been learning from Navarro while also competing against him around the world, from California to Dubai.

“We both worked for Paraneck Stable a long time ago,” Summers said. “He was breaking the horses. And then we’ve seemed to travel the same circuit the last couple years, starting with Breeders’ Cup last year with Delta Bluesman (fifth in the Sprint for Navarro while Mind Your Biscuits was third).

“And then the Malibu (at Santa Anita on Opening Day, Dec. 26), because of Christmas, we had to ship out early and stay late so we were both there for a month together, Sharp Azteca and Biscuits, and we were one-two in that race. And then we were with each other for three weeks in Dubai.

“When he shipped to Saratoga he shipped into our barn and El Deal won the Vanderbilt out of our barn. He’s a good horseman who gets a bad rap for a lot of things but his horsemanship skills are on par with anyone I’ve been around.”

Navarro is in the process of moving his string from Monmouth Park to his winter base in Florida and will be back at Del Mar on Wednesday.

“Hopefully he has a big weekend,” Summers said. “Nobody will be rooting for him harder than me.”

Win the Space – The 5yo son of Pulpit walked for trainer George Papaprodromou Tuesday, a day after putting in his final timed work for Saturday’s running of the Breeders’ Cup Classic. The trainer said Win the Space, who will start from post three with Joe Talamo in the irons, came out of his workout in good shape.

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