



**Macho Again sticks his tongue out to his Belmont rivals** (Joseph DiOrio/Horsephotos.com)

Derby Trial S. winner MACHO AGAIN (Macho Uno) made his first trip to the Belmont track after arriving from Churchill Downs on Wednesday. The Preakness runner-up schooled in the paddock before going to the track and jogging 1 1/4 miles on the main track.

Terry Finley, the managing partner of West Point Thoroughbreds, was on hand with trainer Dallas Stewart to oversee the gray colt's preparations.

"This is a very prestigious race and the whole racing world, and a great part of the overall sports world will be focused on the outcome of this race," Finley said.

"When you do what we do for a living, you could not pick a greater spot to be a contender," he continued. "Sometimes, horses don't turn out to achieve what everyone thinks they will do. Our role on Saturday is to provide the highest level of competition and try to achieve success by winning this race. I am pleased for all 16 of our partners for Macho Again. On Saturday, 15 of those owners will be here. The only exception is an elderly gentlemen in Florida that was not able to make the trip."

## Belmont Notes: June 5

Updated: June 6, 2008

West Point Thoroughbreds' [Macho Again](#) made his first trip to the Belmont track after arriving from his Churchill Downs base in Kentucky June 4. The runner up of the Preakness Stakes schooled in the paddock before going to the track and jogging a mile and a quarter on the main track.

Terry Finley, the managing partner of West Point Thoroughbreds, was on hand with trainer Dallas Stewart to oversee the Florida-bred son of [Macho Uno](#)'s preparations.

“This is a very prestigious race and the whole racing world, and a great part of the overall sports world will be focused on the outcome of this race,” said Finley.

“When you do what we do for a living, you could not pick a greater spot to be a contender. Sometimes, horses don't turn out to achieve what everyone thinks they will do. Our role on Saturday is to provide the highest level of competition and try to achieve success by winning this race. I am pleased for all 16 of our partners for Macho Again. On Saturday, 15 of those owners will be here. The only exception is an elderly gentlemen in Florida that was not able to make the trip.”

It is the second Belmont attempt for both West Point Thoroughbreds (2006, High Finance, 10th) and Dallas Stewart (2001, Dollar Bill, 4<sup>th</sup>).

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Thoroughbred Times

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### **Macho Again takes first spin around Belmont Park**



MACHO AGAIN

Photo by Z

by [Tom Law](#)

West Point Thoroughbreds' Preakness Stakes (G1) runner-up Macho Again got his first look at Belmont Park on Thursday morning with a light jog over the muddy main track.

Macho Again, who finished 5 1/4 lengths behind Big Brown in the Preakness and will attempt to turn the tables on that rival in Saturday's Belmont Stakes (G1), flew from Louisville to New York on a late afternoon flight on Wednesday. Terry Finley, president and founder of West Point Thoroughbreds, said the trip was uneventful and that the Macho Uno colt's light morning exercise was by design.

"That's a long trip and it's a long day traveling from Louisville," Finley said on Thursday morning outside Kiaran McLaughlin's barn, where trainer Dallas Stewart has the Derby Trial Stakes winner stabled for his Belmont preparations. "But he's really good, and the trip went well. He's traveled around some, so we expected him to handle it well."

Purchased for \$150,000 at the 2007 Ocala Breeders' Sales Co.'s February two-year-olds in training sale in Ocala, Macho Again is the most experienced member of the ten-horse Belmont field with nine career starts. He has won three times and finished second three times.

Macho Again was sent off at 39.90-to-1 in the Preakness and overcame a somewhat troubled trip around the far turn to finish full of run for second.

"I wasn't that surprised," Finley said of Macho Again's runner-up effort. "I felt really, really good about his chances all Preakness day. I felt that if the big horse [Big Brown] ran like he did, we couldn't beat him, we could be second because it was an evenly matched group after him. And that's how it turned out."

Macho Again is 20-to-1 in the morning line and figures to be a long price again in the 1 1/2-mile Belmont despite picking up the services of 2007 Eclipse Award-winning jockey Garrett Gomez.

*Tom Law is managing editor of Thoroughbred Times*

## Gomez to Ride Macho Again in Belmont

by -

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**Garrett Gomez has been named to ride Macho Again in the Belmont Stakes.**



Photo: Anne M. Eberhardt

*(From Churchill Downs)*

Garrett Gomez, the Eclipse Award winner as America's top jockey in 2007, has been named to replace Julien Leparoux aboard Macho Again in the 1 1/2-mile final jewel of the Triple Crown.

Trainer Dallas Stewart said the decision by West Point Thoroughbreds to give the mount to Gomez should not reflect negatively on Leparoux, who had ridden Macho Again in four of his last five races and had won two of those.

"Julien has done a great job with him," said Stewart. "But after talking with (West Point Thoroughbreds' managing partner) Terry Finley and the owners, it was decision based more on a 'home court advantage' for the rider. Gomez is a New York rider and he knows that mile-and-a-half track. That's not taking anything away from Julien or anything, but Gomez rides there every day and he's going to ride a bunch on the card.

"We're going up there trying to win it, not that we think we couldn't win it with Julien," Stewart said. "Terry just felt that it would give us a little bit of an edge to have someone that rides there every day."

Gomez leads the nation's riders with more than \$7.4 million in earnings on the year. Macho Again will enter the Belmont Stakes (gr. I) with a career record of 3-3-0 in nine races and earnings of \$343,761.

## Finley: Macho Again to Try Belmont

by Deirdre B. Biles

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**Preakness (gr. I)  
runner-up Macho Again  
will try the Belmont (gr.  
I) on June 7.**

Photo: Reed Palmer

West Point Thoroughbreds' Macho Again, winner of the Derby Trial and second to Big Brown in the Preakness (gr. I), will be pointed for the Belmont Stakes (gr. I), according to West Point founder and president Terry Finley.

"It (the Belmont) looks like kind of the same deal as the Preakness," said Finley May 19 while attending the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic preferred sale of 2-year-olds in training in Maryland. "It's a decent group of horses, but nobody really stands out except Big Brown. I know Casino Drive ran well in the Peter Pan (gr. II), but I think we ran pretty well in the Derby Trial and we ran OK in the Preakness. It (the Belmont purse) is a million dollars, so we're going to roll the dice again."

A son of Macho Uno, Macho Again has captured three of his nine career races and has finished second three times while being trained by Dallas Stewart. The gray or roan colt has earned \$343,761.

"We can't beat Big Brown without something going wrong -- his feet or he has terrible racing luck," Finley said. "We're going there with the intention of running well and hitting the board. Some people would say, 'Why would you run in a race where you don't have shot?' But things can happen."