

Justwhistledixie breezes for Oaks

By Jay Privman
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LEXINGTON, Ky. - Justwhistledixie, who has emerged as the likely second choice to Rachel Alexandra in the Kentucky Oaks, worked five furlongs in 1:00 with her Kiaran McLaughlin-trained stablemate Fitz Just Right on Friday morning at Keeneland.

Both 3-year-old fillies are owned by the West Point Thoroughbreds partnership.

Justwhistledixie is the more accomplished of the two. She most recently won the Bonnie Miss Stakes at Gulfstream Park for her fifth consecutive victory.

"She went an easy half-mile last week," Neal McLaughlin, the top assistant to his brother, said back at the barn following Friday's work. "This week, we wanted to do something a little more serious, so we had her breeze in company.

"I had to grab a hold of her coming down the hill, she was so happy."

The McLaughlin barn is in a small valley downhill from the racetrack.

McLaughlin said Justwhistledixie would remain at Keeneland until midway through next week, then go to Churchill Downs to begin final preparation for the Grade 1, \$500,000 Oaks on May 1.

"We'll get some nice Polytrack for a few more days, then breeze her at Churchill next week on Friday or Saturday," McLaughlin said.

In addition to Justwhistledixie and Rachel Alexandra, the Oaks field is expected to include Be Fair, Flying Spur, Gabby's Golden Gal, Hooh Why, Nan, Stardom Bound, and War Kill.

Fitz Just Right is a possibility for the Oaks, but likely will await the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes at Pimlico on May 15, according to Jeff Lifson of West Point Thoroughbreds.

"We talked to Kiaran and Neal and decided, for now, to keep our options open," Lifson said. "I know it's pabulum, but she seems to be blossoming here. She's put in two wonderful breezes here. But the last time I checked, the Oaks was a lot tougher race than the Black-Eyed Susan, and we'd like to get her a graded stakes win."

McLaughlin said that Apple Blossom winner Seventh Street, who could run in the Humana Distaff, will also head to Churchill Downs next week.

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Equestrian News Release

(MOUNT LAUREL, NJ) – Justwhistledixie, the West Point Thoroughbred-owned top contender for the May 1st running of the Kentucky Oaks has followed the lead of celebrities like John Mayer and Ashton Kutcher by logging on to Twitter to keep fans and followers updated on her progress, training regimen and any press she receives leading up to race day.

"Justwhilstledixie has become a bit of a celebrity in her own right and we decided what better way to communicate with fans and take part in the larger social conversation than to start a Twitter account in her name," said Terry Finley, founder and president of West Point Thoroughbreds. "Twitter is the perfect way for us to provide quick updates and links to relevant articles as we get closer to the Oaks."

Justwhistledixie has established herself as one of the top three-year-old fillies in the country, winning four straight stakes races including the G2 Bonnie Miss Stakes and the G2 Davona Dale. Her next race will be the Kentucky Oaks. Known as the “people’s champion,” because of her favoritism in the Kentucky Oaks future wager despite receiving little media attention, Justwhistledixie has routinely proved that she is a filly to contend with in the May 1st race.

Fans can follow Justwhistledixie through her twitter at <http://twitter.com/dixieintheoaks>. Users of twitter can start following her by searching for her user name, dixieintheoaks.