

[Macho Again, Brass Hat out to make headlines again](#)

Posted by Alicia Wincze on March 10, 2009

Looking at the lineup of Kentucky Derby prep races this weekend can just about make ones head spin - in a good way - with all the quality that is set to go to post. But while Old Fashioned (Rebel Stakes), Friesan Fire (Louisiana Derby) and Pioneer of the Nile (San Felipe) will have the undivided attention of racing fans this weekend, a couple notable old friends will also attempt to prove they're not done with their time in the spotlight.

A year ago, West Point Thoroughbreds' Macho Again was one of those bright-eyed three-year-olds trying to make his way into the Derby. While he didn't get to the first Saturday of May, the son of Macho Uno did run second to champion Big Brown in the Preakness Stakes and went on to score his biggest triumph in the Grade II Jim Dandy Stakes last July.

Since that breakout win, things haven't gone so smooth for Macho Again as he has lost four straight, including a seventh-place finish in the Sunshine Millions Classic at Gulfstream on January 24. The refined gray colt is taking another stab at getting back on the winning side of things in the Grade II New Orleans Handicap at Fair Grounds on the undercard of the Louisiana Derby this Saturday.

"He's been a bit of puzzle," Terry Finley of West Point Thoroughbreds said of his talented but erratic colt on Tuesday. "He's kind of all or nothing. He either runs really good or doesn't seem to show up. He's a very neat horse, he's very, very talented. He's trained extremely well since (the Sunshine Millions) and we're excited about his chances in New Orleans."

After his win in the Jim Dandy, Finley said he did get a few calls inquiring about Macho Again as a stallion prospect. But with the overall slow down that has hit the breeding market and a wide-open handicap division thanks to the retirement of Curlin, Finley hopes Macho Again can pile up a few more graded stakes wins before going on to the breeding shed.

"Several people did come to take a look at him after the Jim Dandy but we wanted to run. We're a racing syndicate and that was a big part of it for us," Finley said. "Plus, he needed to be a Grade I winner to really get a lot of attention and hopefully we can get a Grade I win for him this year."

Another accomplished horse trying to regain his form on Saturday will be venerable fan favorite Brass Hat. The millionaire bay gelding, who has come back numerous times from injuries, is entered in the Grade II Mervin H. Muniz Jr. Memorial Handicap on the turf at Fair Grounds.

In his most start - his first outing in eight months - Brass Hat finished eighth in the one-mile Dust Commander Stakes at Turfway Park on February 14. The gelded son of Prized has made five career starts on the turf, but will be seeking his first win over that surface this Saturday.

Macho Again returns this weekend

By [Phil Janack](#) Courtesy of The Daily Gazette
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Macho Again, last year's Grade 2 Jim Dandy winner at Saratoga Race Course owned in part by Saratoga Springs residents Roger and Joyce Locks, is gearing up for his second start of 2009.

The gray 4-year-old son of Macho Uno drew post 11 for Saturday's Grade 2 \$500,000 New Orleans Handicap at Fair Grounds. The 1 1/8 mile race attracted 14 older horses, including 121-pound topweight Honest Man.

"He's going up against some good horses," Roger Locks said. "There are some big boys coming in to race him."

Macho Again is listed at 12-1 on the morning line. Honest Man, who won the Grade 3 Mineshaft at Fair Grounds

last time out is favored at 3-1. Co-second choices are It's a Bird, winner of the \$1 million Sunshine Millions Classic in January and Dry Martini, the SM Classic runner-up.

Trained by Dallas Stewart for the West Point Thoroughbreds syndicate, Macho Again ended 2008 running sixth in the \$60,000 Woodchopper Stakes on the Fair Grounds turf in December. At 3, he was second in the Preakness and Super Derby, and eighth in Saratoga's \$1 million Travers after a rough trip.

"His first race was in the Sunshine (Millions) was not what I wanted to see, but there's always another day and another race," Locks said. "I've got a lot of confidence in West Point and Dallas."

Macho Again Runs 'em Down in NO Handicap

By Jason Shandler
Updated: Sunday, March 15, 2009 6:27 PM
Courtesy of The BloodHorse.com

West Point Thoroughbreds' [Macho Again](#) notched his first win since taking the Jim Dandy (gr. II) ([VIDEO](#)) last summer, as he came roaring from off the pace to capture the \$500,000 [New Orleans Handicap](#) (gr. II) in the slop at Fair Grounds March 14. The victory made Macho Again a millionaire.

Sent off at odds of 10-1, Macho Again was in no hurry down the backstretch under Robby Albarado, content to race next-to-last in the field of 11. The 4-year-old Macho Uno colt was still ninth after three-quarters, but began his winning move on the final turn while being taken six-wide. Once he straightened away, Macho Again set his sights on longtime leader Secret Getaway and the gray/roan colt kept charging until streaking past him in deep stretch, eventually crossing the wire a length in front. It was Albarado's fourth victory of the afternoon. The final time for 1 1/8 miles in the slop was 1:50.21. [Secret Getaway](#) was runner-up, 2 1/4 lengths in front of [It's a Bird](#). [Dry Martini](#) was fourth.

Macho Again, bred in Florida by Milan Kosanovich, was making his second start of the season. He finished seventh in the Sunshine Millions Classic Jan. 24 at Gulfstream Park. The Dallas Stewart trainee had been winless since winning the Jim Dandy by a half-length at Saratoga last July. During his sophomore campaign, Macho Again was runner-up to Big Brown in the Preakness (gr. I) and fifth in the Belmont Stakes (gr. I). Macho Again, out of the Wild Again mare Go Donna Go, is now 5-4-0 from 16 starts with earnings of \$1,076,619. The winner paid \$23.60, \$10 and \$7. The exacta (11-3) returned \$238.20 with the trifecta (11-3-1) netting \$2,046.80.

Under Kent Desormeaux's handling, Secret Getaway took the field through fractions of :23.10, :46.16 and 1:11.30. It's a Bird and Julien Leparoux pressed the pace the whole way.

Fair Grounds | Posted 3/14/2009, 7:47 pm

Macho Again rewards Stewart with Handicap win

By Jay Privman
Courtesy of The Daily Racing Form

NEW ORLEANS - This Fair Grounds meet has been a long, hard slog for trainer Dallas Stewart. His barn was subject to a quarantine at the beginning of the meet, and winners have been hard to come by in subsequent months. He was just 3 for 60 going into Saturday's card. But the meet got a little brighter on a gloomy, rainy day on Saturday, when Macho Again stormed down the center of the track to capture the Grade 2, \$500,000 New Orleans Handicap.

Macho Again (\$23.60), ridden by Robby Albarado, needed nearly the full length of the long Fair Grounds stretch to reel in Secret Getaway, who had set the pace through lively fractions of 23.10 seconds for the opening quarter-mile, 46.76 seconds for a half-mile, and 1:11.35 for six furlongs over the sloppy track. Secret Getaway put away a challenge from It's a Bird in upper stretch, but Macho Again rallied from 10th in the 11-horse field to prevail in 1:50.21 for 1 1/8 miles.

Macho Again won by one length, with Secret Getaway 2 1/4 lengths in front of It's a Bird. Dry Martini finished fourth. Honest Man, sent off the 2-1 favorite following his win in last month's Mineshaft Handicap, threatened while four paths wide on the far turn, but then flattened out in the stretch and faded to eighth.

"He didn't feel well in the mud," said Gabriel Saez, who rode Honest Man. "He was slipping."

The victory for Macho Again, 4, was his fifth in 16 lifetime starts, and his first since last summer's Jim Dandy Stakes at Saratoga. He had finished seventh of 12 in the Mineshaft, but Stewart warned earlier in the week that Macho Again was coming up to a big effort.

"It would be great to win the big one," he said. "It'll give us some shipping money."

Macho Again is owned by a West Point Thoroughbreds partnership.

Macho Again captures New Orleans Handicap at the Fair Grounds

by Jennie Rees Dupuy, Contributing writer to The Times-Picayune
Saturday March 14, 2009, 11:11 PM

When Macho Again rallied from near-last to take Saturday's \$500,000 New Orleans Handicap by a length over Secret Getaway, the 4-year-old colt made the meet for trainer Dallas Stewart.

It's been a challenging winter for Stewart, a 49-year-old Abramson High School product who has been involved in racing at the Fair Grounds since his early teens. Stewart's horses, including Macho Again, spent most of January in quarantine after one tested positive for equine herpes. Although his other horses didn't miss many days training, they had a limited time frame to go to the track after normal training hours ended.

"It's been a long, difficult winter," acknowledged Stewart, who in gaining his fourth win at the meet captured his biggest Fair Grounds triumph since Kimberlite Pipe won the 1999 Louisiana Derby. "But that's a great race to win. Being from here, it's just a great race, and he beat a nice bunch of horses in the mud. So it's very special.

"He didn't miss much time (during the quarantine), but it was just off schedule. You do your best you can. You've only got an hour to train about 30 head. He got his training, but I'm sure there was some time you couldn't have taken with him that you normally would have."

It was Stewart's biggest win since the 2006 Kentucky Oaks with longshot Lemons Forever, and it was Macho Again's most important victory. A 4-year-old colt, who was second in last year's Preakness Stakes to Kentucky Derby winner Big Brown, ended a four-race losing streak since taking Saratoga's Grade II Jim Dandy last summer.

Macho Again was a well-beaten sixth in the Fair Grounds' Dec. 20 Woodchopper Stakes on turf, then faded to seventh in the \$1 million Sunshine Millions Classic at Gulfstream Park for Florida- and California-born horses.

Macho Again is 5-4-0 in 16 starts, earning \$1,076,619 after Saturday's \$300,000 payday for owner West Point Thoroughbreds.

"Just a total thrill to see a horse who has been really, really good to us get back on the right track," said Tom Bellhouse, who runs West Point's East Coast operation. "To have him come back today on his hometrack is just a testament to Dallas Stewart."

Macho Again paid \$23.60 to win as the seventh choice in the 11-horse field.

"He's a very nice horse, well-accomplished," Stewart said. "Today puts a big win for his 4-year-old campaign, and we still have a long ways to go with him, got a lot of nice races picked out with him. ... He's had bad luck, but he's shaken it off and come out of those races with an aggressive attitude as a racehorse needs to have."

Jockey Robby Albarado, gaining his fourth win on the day, got Macho Again to kick into gear around the second turn, powering six-wide to come swooping through the stretch while covering 1 1/8 miles in 1:50.21 in the slop.

"They were going fast up front, so I just bided my time," Albarado said. "His best race was on off-going at Saratoga, so I figured he'd get over the track. He worked well a couple of weeks ago, a lot of good signs going for the day. Dallas has done a great job."

Secret Getaway, stalked throughout by third-place finisher It's a Bird, the Sunshine Millions winner, appeared home free late before Macho Again came flying on the outside.

"I couldn't ask him to do anything more," Hall of Fame jockey Kent Desormeaux said of 9-1 choice Secret Getaway, who won the Fair Grounds' Tenacious Handicap in the slop. "He gave me a comfortable ride and put away It's a Bird, but couldn't hold off Macho Again."

The favorite, Mineshaft winner Honest Man, faded to eighth in the stretch. Jockey Gabriel Saez said Honest Man struggled over the wet surface.