

Sunday's Grade II \$150,000 San Vicente at Santa Anita is the weekend's top attraction, even though it attracted a field of five.

Georgie Boy and **Into Mischief** will make their 2008 debuts in the seven furlong San Vicente after closing their freshman campaigns with Grade I triumphs. A George Schwary homebred, Georgie Boy is a son of Tribal Rule who rallied from 12th in a 13-horse field to win the Sept. 5th Del Mar Futurity. The victory was his second in five career outings. Rafael Bejarano rides in the San Vicente. Into Mischief won the Dec. 22nd CashCall Futurity at Hollywood Park in his final start of 2007. He's won twice in just three career starts.

Other weekend preps . . .

FAIR GROUNDS --- A very competitive field of 12 has been entered for Saturday's Grade III \$300,000 Risen Star at 1 1/16 miles. Favoritism could go to the unbeaten **Z Fortune**, winner of the Jan. 12th Grade III Lecomte at the New Orleans track, or perhaps to **Pyro**, runner-up in both the Grade I Breeders' Cup Juvenile and Grade I Champagne Stakes, but idle for more than three months. Others who will attract pari-mutuel fire include **Check It Twice**, winner of the Dec. 22nd Hat a Pleasure at Calder, **Blackberry Road**, runner-up in the Lecomte, and **Prince Cortez**, unbeaten winner of the Triple Sec Stakes at Delta Downs on Jan. 18th.

TURF PARADISE --- Eight sophomores will face the starter in Saturday's \$100,000 Turf Paradise Derby at 1 1/16 miles. **Meer Kat**, shipping over from Hollywood Park where he finished third in the Grade III Generous on the grass at the Los Angeles track on Nov. 23rd, is the probable favorite. Another who could get the most public support is **Ez Dreamer**, winner of the Jan. 20th Rattlesnake at the Phoenix track.

OCALA BREEDERS SALES CO. --- **Dynhocracy**, fourth, beaten less than three lengths in the Grade III Tropical Park Derby, heads a field of 11 that will run in Monday's \$150,000 Darley Ocala Breeders' Sale Championship. **Halo Najib**, third as the betting favorite in the Jan. 5th Swale, is another of the top contenders. A field of nine has been drawn for the \$75,000 Darley Ocala Breeders' Sale Sprint, which will be run earlier on the card. **Surrealdeal**, second in the Swale, looks the top runner.

In Triple Crown/Ohio Derby Countdown action last weekend . . .

SANTA ANITA --- **Crown of Thorns**, sent through an opening along the rail, drew off to a 2 1/2-length victory in Saturday's Grade II \$200,000 Robert Lewis Memorial. The triumph came in just the third career start for the son of Repent that is trained by Richard Mandella and was ridden in the Lewis by Victor Espinoza.

"(It) was pretty convincing," said Mandella. "But he was pretty convincing in his maiden race the other day (Jan. 1).

After running the Lewis' 1 1/16 miles in a lively 1:40 3/5, Espinoza said, "This horse is getting better with every race and he can do anything. He does everything right."

Crown of Thorns didn't fool many horseplayers. Favored at odds of 17-10, the son of Repent, a \$300,000 auction ring purchase, paid \$5.40 for a \$2 wager. Coast Guard finished second in the Lewis, followed by Reflect Times. Mandella said Crown of Thorns will probably return in the Grade

II \$200,000 Sham at 1 1/8 miles at Santa Anita on March 1st, his final prep for the \$750,000 Santa Anita Derby on April 5th.

GULFSTREAM PARK --- Eaton's Gift, leading every jump of the way, scored an easy 3 1/2 length victory in Saturday's Grade II \$150,000 Swale Stakes. Ridden by Kent Desormeaux, Eaton's Gift is trained by Dale Romans, who two years saddled Sharp Humor to win the Swale before the colt finished second to Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro in the Florida Derby.

"He's a fast horse and from the two post we pretty much had to go (lead). We didn't want to get him covered up," said Romans. "I'm not sure what's next. When you have a fast 3-year-old at this time of the year, you always think about stretching them out. We'll talk to (owner) Mr. (Ahmad) Zayat and then come up with a plan." Eaton's Gift ran the Swale's 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:15 3/5.

AQUEDUCT --- Barrier Reef, who ran poorly in the Jan. 5th Count Fleet at the Big A, rebounded with a game performance to capture Saturday's \$109,000 Whirlaway by a half-length over Roman Emperor. Cave's Valley, the 2-1 betting favorite, beat just one rival in the field of seven. Ridden by Alan Garcia, Barrier Reef rallied three-wide in the stretch turn to triumph. He ran 1 1/16 miles over a track listed as good in 1:44 2/5 in winning for the second time in four career starts.

"After his last race, he came back blowing more than you have expected him to," said trainer Tom Albertrani. "Maybe he got a lot more out of that race, stepping up against a better group of horses. He trained a lot better going into this race."

In other weekend stakes action . . . Amazing Results rallied to score by a length in the \$60,000 Black Gold Stakes on the turf at the Fair Grounds, running 5 1/2 furlongs over a turf course listed as good in 1:06 . . . **Doble Quebrado** (\$19.20) upset the \$125,000 Premier Night Championship Prince Stakes at Delta Downs.