



140TH RUNNING OF THE \$1 MILLION BELMONT STAKES (G1)
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2008, BELMONT PARK

BIG BROWN VS CASINO DRIVE

Boundary-Mien, by Nureyev
(\$60,000 yrl '06 FTKOCT;
\$190,000 2yo '07KEEAPR)
O-IEAH Stables & P Pompa Jr
B-Monticule (KY)
T-Rick Dutrow Jr.
J-Kent Desormeaux
Lifetime Record: 5-5-0-0, \$2,714,500

Mineshaft-Better Than Honour,
by Deputy Minister
(\$950,000 yrl '06 KEESEP)
O-Hidetoshi Yamamoto
B-Shell Bloodstock (KY)
T-Kazuo Fujisawa
J-undecided
Lifetime Record: 2-2-0-0, \$185,282

IN THIS CORNER

Michael Sherack, IEAH Stables' vice president of investor relations, checked in with the TDN to discuss Big Brown's Triple Crown hopes. Mike joined IEAH upon its inception in 2003.

May 27, 2008

The Belmont Stakes and Big Brown's bid for immortality to become racing's first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978 are now less than two weeks away. Big Brown went back to training today following a few days of down time due to minor hoof woes that we now believe and hope are behind him. Having won the Derby and Preakness already this month, and clearly fit, the missed time shouldn't hurt and trainer Richard Dutrow Jr. has said if he can manage the colt the way he'd like to in the week before the Belmont Stakes, all should be fine.

Makes sense to us. Moving on...

The Derby and Preakness wins were incredible experiences for all involved, but to win the Triple Crown would be beyond belief. Of course, it has been well documented that IEAH Stables has New York roots. Co-presidents Michael Iavarone and Richard Schiavo are from New York and our office is in Garden City.

I was born in Queens, moved to Valley Stream as a child, and went on to graduate from Elmont Memorial High School and St. John's University--yep, never far from Belmont Park and Aqueduct Racetrack, and wouldn't have had it any other way.

Belmont Park is particularly near and dear to my heart, as my parents, uncles, grandparents, etc., brought me there as far back as baby carriage days. My dad still tells the story of my uncles forgetting me as a toddler at a Belmont Park backyard television monitor, returning to my dad, and his asking them, "Where's Michael?"



Of course, the "Oops," look was clear on their faces, and all returned to the television to find me watching the horses as I had been when they left. I guess I never stopped watching.

Fast forward to high school--several strolls from class through the Elmont backstreets landed me at Belmont--and college, and an internship/scholarship placed me in the New York Racing Association press office at Saratoga between my junior and senior years. By the Belmont fall meet, I had a full-time job and was far more interested there than at school. Hey, I did still graduate with honors.

I worked for NYRA for about five years, gained great experience, met many who I can still count as friends today, had plenty of fun, and walked away with incredible memories.

I remember working at the track in 1998 when Real Quiet's Triple Crown bid fell a nose short to Victory Gallop's charge. Everything about it was awesome--the photo, the crowd rocking as I watched in the clubhouse, Tom Durkin's call.

Of course, Kent Desormeaux, who will ride Big Brown, was aboard Real Quiet, so we'll quickly forget about that and move on.

For as long as I can remember, watching tapes of the many Affirmed vs. Alydar battles have been highlights for me. In particular, their race-long Belmont Stakes fight with Affirmed's Crown on the line has been my favorite race for as long as I can remember. Here's hoping that changes on Saturday, June 7. --M Sherack

Iavarone to Open Stock Exchange...

IEAH Co-President Michael Iavarone will ring The Opening Bell of the New York Stock Exchange this morning at 9:30 a.m. Iavarone will be joined by executives and guests from the New York Racing Association and other members of IEAH, owner of Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Big Brown.