

HOLLYWOOD *Casino*[®]

AT CHARLES TOWN RACES

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By John Scheinman

RISE UP LOOKS TO GET BACK ON TRACK IN HILTON

Charles Town, WV (April 17, 2014) – After winning the Grade 3, \$1 million Delta Jackpot last November in stakes record time, the sky appeared to be the limit for front-running 3-year-old **Rise Up**.

Trainer **Tom Amoss** took the son of Rockport Harbor to the Fair Grounds this winter to get on the Triple Crown trail and, unfortunately, nothing went right. First, Rise Up ran rank, close to the pace in the Grade 2 Risen Star before weakening to a distant seventh. In his next start, the Grade 2 Louisiana Derby, the colt barely came out of the gate, rushed up five wide into the first turn and finished last, 22 lengths behind winner Vicar in Trouble.

Amoss, however, knows he has a talented horse in Rise Up, and he hopes to prove it Saturday night in the \$100,000 Robert Hilton Memorial presented by Budweiser, a seven-furlong stakes for 3-year-olds, at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.

The race is carded as the second leg in a \$100,000-guaranteed All Stakes Pick 4, which climaxes with the sixth running of the Grade 2, \$1.5 million Charles Town Classic. Post time for the Hilton is 9:15 p.m. EDT.

The 2-1 morning-line favorite, Rise Up has been a bit of a puzzle for Amoss because of his tardy starts at the Fair Grounds.

“His last two races he’s had a lot of difficulty coming out of the gate correctly,” Amoss said. “I don’t know what goes on with a horse that’s never had a problem with that. He’s perfect in the gate in the morning. Last time, we tried blinkers; we’ve tried pads in the gate. We’ve tried different tricks with him that haven’t worked, but here [for the Hilton] we’re going to keep his blinkers on.”

A winner of four of eight starts and \$814,633, Rise Up will break from post 3 in his first start under jockey **Leandro Goncalves**.

Local trainer **Sandra Dono** will try to upset the Hilton with **Open the Bank**, a son of Fairbanks coming off two solid second-place finishes. Like Rise Up, Open the Bank, 10-1 on the morning line, has plenty of speed and will be cutting back from 1 1/16 miles.

The gelding has finished first and second in two starts at the track.

“We worked him one time with Lucy’s Bob Boy [Dono’s barn star, who is running in the Classic], and he stuck with him [for three furlongs in 34 and change. We ran him at Mountaineer [March 5] and he was second at five furlongs, which was too short. At seven furlongs [for the Hilton], I kind of like it. We ran that mile and a sixteenth last time and now shorten him up. He likes the track. He’s a big, big boy. He’s like 17.2 hands.”

Germaniac (4-1), like Rise Up, will try to get back on track after back-to-back sixth-place finishes in stakes races for Maryland-based trainer **Tim Tullock**.

On Jan. 4, the son of Henny Hughes scorched a solid field by 6 1/2 lengths over seven furlongs in the Frank Whitely Stakes at Laurel Park, but had tough trips in his two subsequent starts at Laurel and Aqueduct. He prepared for the Hilton working a sharp three furlongs in 36 seconds on April 16 at Laurel. J.D. Acosta, who rode him in the stakes win, has the call.

Trainer **Kellyn Gorder** will run one of the few if not the only horse bred in Azerbaijan in **Black Fighter**, who is coming off victories at Turfway Park and Mountaineer.

Black Fighter’s owner, **Mammad Mirza Huseynov**, stands the colt’s sire, Big Surf at his Royal Pegasus Farm in Lexington, Ky. The stallion, by Storm Cat out of the champion Surfside, stood in Azerbaijan from 2010-12.

“This is Big Surf’s first winner here in the states,” Gorder said. “He broke his maiden nicely at Turfway and I switched him back to dirt at Mountaineer, and he ran really well [winning by 7 ¼ lengths]. I thought this would be a good place to step up a little bit.”

Elevated, a stakes winner at PARX Racing in February; **Pure Habit**, a two-time winner over the Charles Town racing strip; Laurel invader **Cutty Shark**; and stakes winner **Interchange** complete the field.

\$100,000 ROBERT HILTON MEMORIAL presented by Budweiser

April 19, 2014

Race 10 – Post time 9:15pm EST

3YO, 7 Furlongs

PP. Horse, Jockey, Weight, Trainer

1. Only I Know, Andre R. Ramgeet, 118, Debra E. Rombis
2. Elevated, Sheldon Russell, 123, Phil Schoenthal
3. Rise Up, Leandro R. Goncalves, 123, Thomas M. Amoss
4. Black Fighter, Albin Jimenez, 118, Kellyn Gorder
5. Pure Habit, Oscar Flores, 118, Russell E. Davis
6. Cutty Shark, Jose Montano, 118, Donald H. Barr
7. Open the Bank, Luis A. Batista, 118, Sandra A. Dono
8. Germaniac, J.D. Acosta, 123, Timothy J. Tullock, Jr.
9. Interchange, Victor R. Carrasco, 118, Thomas A. Clark

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About Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races

A Penn National gaming property, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races is a world-class resort destination, offering visitors a truly Las Vegas-style gaming experience that includes 3,200 slot machines, 98 table games, a 26-table poker room, and both live and simulcast horse racing year round. A wide range of quality restaurants and bars are offered, including classic fare with incomparable views overlooking the racetrack in Skyline Terrace, authentic Hong Kong cuisine and sushi at 9 Dragons, and Final Cut Steakhouse – proud recipient of the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence. The casino also offers an exciting nightlife experience including free concerts and entertainment at the H Lounge. Conveniently located about a one-hour drive from the Baltimore and DC beltways, Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races is one of the region’s fastest growing gaming and entertainment destinations with more than four million visitors each year.