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Louisiana Downs

Nicole's Dream should cruise

By MARY RAMPELLINI

BOSSIER CITY, La. - Trainer Larry Rivelli said on Friday that if there were a Breeders' Cup Championship race for Nicole's Dream later this month, she would be in it. So how good does that make Nicole's Dream, among the nation's best turf sprinters, look on Sunday, when she starts for a purse of \$40,000 in the Majorette Handicap at Louisiana Downs?

Nicole's Dream, who has won her last four starts, will be a strong favorite in the Majorette, a five-furlong turf race for fillies and mares. The timing of the stakes is perfect, said Rivelli, who has Nicole's Dream on a schedule of races designed to get her to the Grade 1, \$1.2 million Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Sprint on Dec. 4.

Nicole's Dream was invited to the Hong Kong Sprint, a five-furlong turf race against males. The Majorette and another five-furlong turf sprint in Maryland in early November are her final scheduled stops before she heads to Hong Kong.

Nicole's Dream was a 1 1/4-length winner over males in her last start, when she won the \$42,000 Taylor's Special at Arlington Park. She vanned into Louisiana Downs on Friday from her base in Chicago.

"For five-eighths-of-a-mile horses, it's tough to find a spot for them to run," said Rivelli.

Nicole's Dream, a 5-year-old mare, is in the midst of her best season of racing. She is 5 for 8 in 2005 and overall has won 20 of 40 races and \$558,146. Not bad for a horse who once started for a claiming price of \$7,500.

As a 3-year-old, Nicole's Dream ran for the tag and won at Tampa Bay Downs. She later started in a turf sprint stakes at Arlington and won at 23-1, and piqued the interest of Rivelli. His clients, Dare to Dream Stable, then purchased Nicole's Dream in 2003.

Nicole's Dream is a front-runner and figures to again be prominent in the Majorette.

"She's just so fast, she gets the lead so easy," said Rivelli, who has given the mount to E.T. Baird.

Others in the Majorette include Timeless Dreamer, winner of the \$40,000 Adena Springs Turf Sprint at Remington Park for trainer Chuck Turco, and Runs Naked, a recent allowance winner at Remington for trainer James King.

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Timeless Dreamer has raced once since the Adena, and finished second to males in a turf sprint allowance that went in course-record time at Remington. She will be ridden by Luis Quinonez.

Our Love pointing to Keeneland

Our Love, who won last year's Majorette, will not be defending her title this year. She has found success stretching out around two turns this meet and will wait until later this month to return to a turf sprint, in the \$100,000 Buffalo Trace Franklin County Stakes at 5 1/2 furlongs at Keeneland on Oct. 20.

"She's probably better with a month in between races," said Jeff Trosclair, who trains Our Love.

Our Love last raced Sept. 17 and won the \$100,000 Walmac International Matchmaker, a 1 1/16-mile race for Louisiana-bred fillies and mares. Before that race, she set a course record for 7 1/2 furlongs at Louisiana Downs, when she won the \$50,000 Sanguine on Aug. 14.

Our Love is a full sister to Leslie's Love, a top turf sprinter who earned \$642,484.

Another Meche makes debut

Cody Meche was to make his riding debut in the 12th race Saturday at Louisiana Downs, aboard first-time starter Action Shot. He also has a mount Sunday, in the fourth race with Clever Truth.

Meche is the younger brother of jockeys Lonnie Meche and Donnie Meche.



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