

# The New York Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008

## *Big Brown Vs. Curlin? Track May Offer \$5 Million*

By JOE DRAPE

If Big Brown wins the Triple Crown and he and the 2007 Breeders' Cup Classic winner, Curlin, remain unbeaten in 2008, Suffolk Downs in East Boston will offer a \$5 million purse for them to face each other in this year's Massachusetts Handicap.

Each would receive a \$1 million bonus for running in the 66th MassCap on Sept. 20, which currently carries a purse of \$500,000. The additional purse money would be funded by Coastal Development, LLC, a company controlled by Richard T. Fields, Suffolk Downs's largest shareholder.

"Big Brown and Curlin are regarded as the two best thoroughbreds in the world, and racing fans would like nothing more than to see them go head to

head," Fields said. "If they are to square off, we feel that a \$5 million purse is a great incentive."

If one of them was beaten before the MassCap, the purse would be \$3 million, and the participation fee \$500,000.

The MassCap, first held in 1935 when the track opened, has a rich history. Its list of winners includes the Hall of Famers Seabiscuit, Whirlaway, Riva Ridge, Cigar and Skip Away. The jockeys George Woolf, Eddie Arcaro, Chris McCarron and Jerry Bailey have all ridden MassCap winners.

**WAR EMBLEM FEELING HIS OATS**  
War Emblem, the 2002 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner, has seen some improvement in the breeding shed after undergoing therapy.

In nearly five and a half years of contact with hundreds of mares, War Emblem, now 9, had managed to mate with only 70 of them, half the yearly output of most stallions. He had not produced a live foal since 2005.

"With intensive therapy by our international team, in recent weeks the stallion has begun breeding well and is showing promise of full recovery," Dr. Sue McDonnell, a specialist in stallion behavior and breeding management at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, told The Associated Press.

As part of his therapy, War Emblem has his own private barn and is surrounded by a harem of quality mares in order to build confidence. In addition, he receives hormone therapy to raise his testosterone.

Since mid-May, War Emblem has bred with one or more mares a day, The A.P. said.

McDonnell said, "War Emblem appears to be quite enthused about his new direction."

**KENTUCKY DENIES PETA REQUEST**  
Prosecutors in Kentucky say they cannot investigate the death of Eight Belles despite a request from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. A spokesman for the commonwealth's attorney in Jefferson County said the actions requested by PETA were not within the duties of the office. PETA had urged prosecutors to bring animal cruelty charges against Eight Belles's trainer, Larry Jones. Eight Belles was euthanized after breaking her front ankles in the Kentucky Derby on May 3. (AP)