

## Marias Golden Rose Scores In Pearl Necklace Stakes



Marias Golden Rose  
Photo Credit: Jim McCue/MJC

**BALTIMORE, 06-02-07**---Owner-trainer John Friedman's Marias Golden Rose has gotten a handle on turf racing at Pimlico Race Course as she emerged the best filly in the \$75,000 Pearl Necklace Stakes.

Now a two-time winner on the grass at Pimlico, Marias Golden Rose carried jockey Horacio Karamanos to his third win of the afternoon. The 33-year-old rider has 25 wins during the spring meeting with 13 coming on the lawn.

Karamanos kept the daughter of Eastern Echo outside of rivals and in the clear early. He guided her from fifth, mid-way down the backstretch, to first at the top of the lane in one sweeping move, then kept her busy the rest of the way to the finish line to win by 2-1/2 lengths.

Marias Golden Rose paid \$13.40 and she completed the mile and sixteenth over the firm course in 1:44.2. Post time favorite Ziggy finished second and 45-1 Gentlemen's Locket was third.

"She's a nice filly," Friedman said. "You just have to convince everybody else. She did it today. She trains like she ran today."

The Maryland-bred is now three-of-11 lifetime but a perfect two-for-two on the Pimlico turf.

"At the quarter pole I had too much horse," Karamanos said. "I thought my horse had a shot to win but not like this. She's a strong horse at the finish and has such a long stride I didn't want to wait too long. She responded as soon as I asked."

"I had so much horse to win the race," said Luis Garcia, who was aboard the runner-up. "She didn't break well like she usually does and we didn't get the best of trips. We had horses in front of us that were getting tired and I had to stay outside longer than I wanted. I was following Horacio and at the 3/8th's pole thought I was on the better horse but I didn't want to go inside and get caught in traffic. The winner just got the better trip."

Garcia, who leads the colony with 32 trips to the winners' circle, has 12 victories on the Pimlico turf during the meet, which began April 19 and will end a week from today.

### SHUMAN TIES LAKE FOR TOP SPOT IN TRAINER STANDINGS

Mark Shuman moved into a first place tie with Scott Lake in the Pimlico trainer standings when Smart Advise (\$3.60) won the fourth race in wire-to-wire fashion. With four days remaining in the spring stand both conditioners have 13 first place finishes. Shuman, who saddled Xchanger in the Preakness Stakes earlier in the meet, is winning at a 41 percent clip at the historic Baltimore track and his runners have finished in the money in 25 of 33 starts.

## Silmaril Headlines Saturday's Skipat Stakes



Silmaril  
Photo Credit: Jim McCue/MJC

**BALTIMORE, 06-07-07**---Pimlico Race Course wraps up its' spring session on Saturday with a twelve race card, highlighted by the \$95,000 Skipat Stakes for older fillies and mares. The afternoon will be capped off with a simulcast of the Belmont Stakes featuring Preakness® Stakes winner Curlin.

Silmaril, the 6-5 morning line favorite, is the most accomplished runner entered to start in the Skipat, a six furlong test on the main track. With a record of 2-2-0 in five starts this year, including two stakes victories and a second place finish in the Grade II Barbara Fritchie Handicap. The Chris Grove trainee, who was fourth in the Grade II Shuvee Handicap at Belmont Park three weeks ago, will carry high weight of 124 pounds, which includes regular rider Ryan Fogelsonger. A win would be the 10th added money score for the six-year-old

and push the daughter of Diamond over the \$800,000 mark in career earnings.

“The Shuvee didn’t take much out of her and she came back with a very fast work Sunday with Ryan (four furlongs in 47.60),” Grove said. “She has been sharp ever since and I am expecting her to run well. I have two long term goals for Silmaril, to join the million dollar club and win the Maryland Million for the third time.”

Only four horses: Safely Kept, Docent, Mz. Zill Bear and Countus In have reached the winners’ circle three times on Maryland Million Day. The 22nd running of the Million will be October 13th at Laurel Park.

As accomplished as she is, Silmaril will not find the Skipat to be a walk in the park. She has six serious rivals, including stakes winners La Chica Rica, My Girlie, Livermore Valley, My Sister Sue and the stakes-placed Homesteader.

La Chica Rica (6-1), a quick daughter of Disco Rico, has won six of eighteen starts including her last two at Pimlico. Her most recent win was a front-running score in the Whimsical Stakes. Jozbin Santana retains the mount for trainer Crystal Pickett.

My Girlie (8-1) is most adept at carrying her speed around two turns. She upset Silmaril in the 1-1/16 mile Northview Stallion Stakes at Pimlico for trainer Mark Shuman in April. Oliver Castillo, who has had a couple of tries on the daughter of Pioneering, regains the mount.

Livermore Valley (5-1) ships to Pimlico from Belmont Park and will carry jockey Julian Pimentel. The daughter of Mt. Livermore won three stakes in New Jersey last year and finished in-the-money in three others for trainer James Ryerson. The Skipat will be her first start at Pimlico.

My Sister Sue (6-1) won her first ever stakes at Laurel Park this spring, capturing the Primonetta Stakes under regular rider Katie Lee. My Sister Sue drilled a bullet workout here on June 2nd for trainer Flint Stites in anticipation of this start.

Homesteader (5-1) was a close second behind La Chica Rica in the Whimsical Stakes and runner-up to My Sister Sue in the Primonetta. The Gary Capuano trained daughter of Pioneering has finished first or second seven times at the distance. Luis Garcia will be the pilot.

Completing the field is My Misty’s Echo (15-1), who finished third in last year’s Twixt Stakes but who hasn’t started since last October.

### **LOUDEN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Ronnie Loudon will retire from his position at the Maryland Jockey Club on July 31st. The affable Director of Admissions and Parking began his career in Maryland racing thirty-four years ago as an assistant starter. He entered a management training program in 1977 during general manager Chick Lang’s regime and was later re-hired by Frank De Francis when he took control of the Maryland tracks in the mid-1980’s.

“I’m going to miss the people,” said Loudon. “I’ve really made a lot of friends.”

Loudon plans to play a lot of golf and to travel extensively once his wife joins him in retirement.

## **Silmaril Gets Up In Time To Win Skipat Stakes**



Silmaril and jockey Ryan Fogelsonger  
Photo Credit: Jim McCue/MJC

**BALTIMORE, 06-09-07**---It took every inch of the stretch for Quick & Feifarek’s Silmaril to reach the front and win the \$95,000 Skipat Stakes, the closing day feature at Pimlico. It was the 10th added money score for the six-year-old mare.

Sent to post as the 4-5 favorite, Silmaril and jockey Ryan Fogelsonger broke last and were still trailing as the field of five fillies and mares started for home in the six furlong test. Carried out by Homesteader as she mounted an effort to catch frontrunner My Sister Sue, Silmaril found that extra something in deep stretch and was up in time to win by a head in 1:10.89. Homesteader finished third.

Chris Grove trains the daughter of Diamond at the Bowie Training Center. He said, “This distance is little short for her, but she still has the heart and

determination. Ten stakes wins at five different distances puts her up there with some of the best fillies to have ever run here in Maryland. People were cheering for her on the apron. It is like being with a rock star.”

“She knows she is a rock star,” added Fogelsonger. “She is not my favorite horse because she wins. She just has the coolest personality and biggest heart. Today she couldn’t see the runner-up until she put away Homesteader but was able to go fast enough to get in front before the wire. She knows how to win.”

Silmaril, who upped her career earnings to \$818,653 with the victory, paid \$3.60.

## Garcia And Lake Capture Spring Meet Titles



Luis Garcia & Scott Lake  
Photo Credit: Jim McCue/MJC

**BALTIMORE, 06-09-07---**The eight-week Pimlico spring meeting ended this afternoon with Luis Garcia, Scott Lake and Circle Z Stables winning individual titles. Live racing will return to Maryland on August 10 for the Laurel Park summer meeting.

Garcia won his first career title in Maryland in consistent fashion winning 37 races, 10 more than Horacio Karamanos and Carlos Quinones. The 22-year-old, who topped the Colonial Downs standings last summer, had 12 multiple winning days during the meet and won at least one race 24 times.

“I would like to thank all the trainers for putting me on good horses,” said Garcia, a top 10 rider in the Maryland jockey colony since 2003. “I just try to get better every single race. I’ll listen to any rider-whether it is a Hall of Famer like Gary Stevens or a bug boy like my brother (Geovany). I don’t care who gives me guidance if it makes me better.”

Lake saddled 17 winners to outlast Mark Shuman (13-for-39) in a tight finish in the trainer standings. The nation’s leading conditioner based on victories has now won or shared 11 titles at the major Maryland tracks, including seven of the last eight meetings. The Lake barn had three multiple win afternoons during May and visited the winners’ circle twice on closing day.

“We got off to a slow start and had a bunch of seconds but I made the move to Dane Kobiskie as our regular rider and he did a nice job for us at the end of the meet,” Lake said. “My assistants Hugh McMahon (Laurel Park barn) and Pedro Badilla (Pimlico barn) deserve all the credit because they do a phenomenal job.”

Circle Z Stables (Domenico Zannino, Joseph Masone and Shuman) won five races from 16 starters during the meet with 11 in the money finishes, including a victory in the Tesio Stakes with promising three-year-old Xchanger.

The Maryland Jockey Club also honored the trainers with the highest starts per stall ratio with a \$500 bonus. The winners were Lake (36 or more stalls), Hamilton Smith (26-35), Peter Bazeos (16-25), Hassan Elamri (8-15) and Gedaliah Goodman (3-7).

Final handle numbers for the stand will be released next week.

# Maryland To Reduce Purses And Slash Stakes For Balance Of 2007 Racing Season



**BALTIMORE, 06-12-07**---After a meeting late last week, the Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (MTHA) have agreed to reduce purses and slash the stakes schedule for the balance of the 2007 racing campaign as the industry faces a \$3 million shortfall in the purse account by the end of the calendar year.

A total of 78 live days remain on the Maryland Jockey Club racing schedule. The annual eight-week break from live racing in the state began this week as racing moved to Colonial Downs in Virginia. Racing returns to the major Maryland tracks on August 10th for the 10-day Laurel Park summer meet. After the Timonium State Fair stand concludes on Labor day, the 17-week fall meeting will be conducted at Laurel beginning September 5th on a four-day a week schedule (Wednesday through Saturday, with Columbus holiday exception).

The specific changes are as followed:

- Reducing the purses at every level by \$2,000. Races that have come off the turf and shifted to the main track will only receive the dirt bonus if eight betting interests remain in the race.
- Number of races will be reduced during the fall meeting (exact details to be determined).
- Stakes schedule will be reduced by approximately \$1 million (announcement will be made after the July 17th Maryland Racing Commission meeting)

"We have been saying for a number of months that we were going to run into a problem with purses and we had to react to the situation at hand," said Lou Raffetto, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Maryland Jockey Club. "What was once a surplus has been depleted. There were four ways to handle it and we dealt with three of them. The fourth and final move that we avoided was to cut dates but that is something we will no doubt have to do come the first of the year unless the legislature holds a special session to deal with slots and a purse subsidy."

"The negotiating committee came up with the idea to reduce the purses," MTHA President Richard Hoffberger said. "Lou came up with the idea to reduce the stakes schedule. The combination of those two things allowed us to continue a year-round racing schedule without cutting days. Lou, on behalf of the MJC, was really accommodating."

## MJC ANNOUNCES FINAL SPRING MEET HANDLE FIGURES

The Maryland Jockey Club concluded its spring meeting last weekend, posting total wagering figures which were 7% lower than 2006. All-sources handle totaled \$236.9 million for 2007 compared to \$254.2 million for the same eight-week period a year ago.

The marquee event of the meet, the Preakness® Stakes, was a major success as a record crowd of 121,263 packed the historic Baltimore track on May 19, the largest crowd to witness a sporting event in the state. Attendance figures have now topped six-figures in eight of the last nine years, including seven straight. Preakness day wagering finished at more than \$87 million, the fourth largest in the 132-year history of the event, with over \$57 million bet on the middle jewel of the Triple Crown.