



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

Saturday - 6/09/2007

HOW DID "THE BELMONT STAKES" ORIGINATE?

The 137th Belmont Stakes, a 1.5 mile (2.4 km) thoroughbred horse race for three-year-old colts and geldings, will be held at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York, on the second Saturday in June.

Origin: The race is named after August Belmont, a New York financier and the first president of the American Jockey Club, who made quite a name and fortune for himself in politics and society. The Belmont Stakes was inaugurated on Thursday, June 19, 1867, at Jerome Park Race Course, an oddly shaped, English-style track.

The Belmont Stakes is the oldest of the three Triple Crown events and predates the Preakness (1873) by six years and the Kentucky Derby (1875) by eight years. Since 1905, it has been run at Belmont Park. American races are usually run counter-clockwise, but the Belmont was run clockwise, as in England, until 1921.

Alias: The Belmont Stakes is called the "Run for the Carnations" because of the blanket of white carnations that are draped over the winner's neck. It is also called the "Test of the Champion," because of its length (one lap around the enormous 1 ½ mile Belmont main track), and because it is the final race of the Triple Crown.

1973 – Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes by 31 lengths – Wow!

C W: Belmont Stakes = Third jewel in the coveted Triple Crown

M of Z: White Carnation or Belmont Breeze for your main squeeze