

**NTRA**

**NTRA Communications Road To the Triple Crown 2018**

**Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## CONFERENCE CALL PARTICIPANTS

### Jockeys

**Ron Turcotte**, Secretariat (1973)

**Steve Cauthen**, Affirmed (1978)

**Victor Espinoza**, American Pharoah (2015)

### Trainer

**Billy Turner**, Seattle Slew (1977)

### Owners

**Karen & Mickey Taylor** (co-owners w/ Sally & Dr. Jim Hill), Seattle Slew (1977)

**Ahmed Zayat**, American Pharoah (2015)

## PRESENTATION

### **Operator:**

Good day, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the NTRA Road to the Triple Crown 2018 Conference Call. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. Following the presentation, we will conduct a question-and-answer session. At that time, participants are asked to press star one to register for a question. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. It is now my pleasure to introduce your host, Mr Jim Mulvihill. Please go ahead.

### **Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright. Thanks so much Leanne and thanks everybody for joining us today. It is a very special week of course as we await Justify's attempt at becoming perhaps racings 13<sup>th</sup> Triple Crown winner. Most of you probably saw by now, Justify put in his Final Pre-Belmont Work this morning, officially timed as 5/8ths and 101 in 2. And then as the rest of the week goes on, tomorrow night, we have got the Belmont post draw at CitiField before the Mets-Orioles game and then Wednesday, Justify will ship to New York with the other Churchill Downs based horses. Thursday kicks off live racing at Belmont with three stakes that day, two of those are graded and then five stakes on Friday, including three grade 2s and then of course the blockbuster Belmont Day card, which annually is probably the best racing program in the US outside the Breeder's Cup with ten stakes, nine of them graded, six of those grade 1s. And all of those 18 stakes races over those three days make up what we now know as the Belmont Stakes Racing Festival.

But we are here of course to talk about the main event. Any time we have got a Triple Crown on the line, it is nice to remember the past winners, not only for their great stories, but also to see if we can glean any information that might help us to decide for ourselves if Justify is up to the test of the champion. Every Triple Crown try has its own saga, but the continuity of the series and the conditions also makes it fun to compare and remember what came before. So, today we are delighted to welcome some of the connections of each of the past four Triple Crown winners and as a way of keeping it organized, we are going to go with jockeys first and then Billy Turner, who is the one living Triple Crown winning trainer, not named Bob Baffert and then we will talk to the owners. So, hopefully you saw in the media alert not everyone we reached out was able to join us today. However, The Hills, who co-owns Seattle Slew and Patrice Wilson who bred and owned the firm with her late husband, Louis, they both will be at the Belmont

on Saturday and asked me to pass along that they welcomed any interviews, so if any of you want to get in touch with those folks, just let me know and I can pass along their info.

But now, we are going to welcome in two of the four living Triple Crown jockeys. We are unable to reach John Krige[?] and then we are going to try and reach Steve Cauthen shortly. He is playing in a charity golf tournament today, so we are going to try and catch him just for a few minutes after we talk to these two guys. But we have got two hall-of-famers hopefully to kick it off. Ron Turcotte, who won each of the Triple Crown races twice and of course swept the series in 1973 aboard Secretariat breaking a 25-year Triple Crown drought. Ron Turcotte, thanks for joining us.

**Ron Turcotte:**

Yeah, thank you very much. My pleasure.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

We are so happy to have you here and we have also got Victor Espinoza, who won the Triple Crown on his third attempt three years ago with American Pharaoh breaking a 37-year drought. Victor, thanks for being on.

**Victor Espinoza:**

Hi, thank you for having me.

**Ron Turcotte:**

How are you doing Victor?

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Oh absolutely, it is so nice – it is so nice to have both of you guys on and just relive, you know, some really incredible races and amazing times. Ron, I would like to start with you. Maybe before we talk about the Belmont and the Triple Crown, can you just fill us in on where you are at and how are you doing these days?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Okay. I live in New Brunswick, Canada, right across the border from Maine.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Excellent, excellent. And have you been watching the Triple Crown races and do you have any opinions on Justify and his chances in the Belmont?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Yes, I think he is a very good horse and he is undefeated [inaudible]. So, but he has got all the makings of a good horse; he is a well-built horse, he is a long horse, well, quite a big horse, quite tall and he has got nice long strides, very fitting to go far.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Absolutely and –

**Ron Turcotte:**

Really lowest chances, I mean -

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Excellent, well, I am glad to hear that. We would love to see him win on Saturday. Victor, of course, has seen Justify plenty, both over the winter and fighting against him. Victor, you rode Pharaoh for the same barn. Do you think Justify and Mike Smith can get it done on Saturday?

**Victor Espinoza:**

It looks like, I mean we all know is, you know, Belmont is a really demanding[?] track, you know, for any horse to go for the Triple Crown, but I mean, Justify, he is undefeated, he is winning every race and doesn't matter how easy or how close the race you don't win, but a win is a win. And when the horses have that confidence, that he always, you know, would be the best in the race, it's hard for a horse to, you know, to get beat. The only thing is like I said, that Belmont is quite demanding track for every Triple Crown horse.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Yeah, so it is a demanding surface and also the distance of the race. You know, having been in this position three times and riding in the race other times, what can you tell us about riding a mile-and-a-half at Belmont? It is not a distance you ride very often and, like you said, it is a demanding track, what have you learned about that race and the way that the pace unfolds?

**Victor Espinoza:**

I learned that I had to ride that race like if any other distance, you know. Sometimes, you know, that can be a little confusing to think about as a mile-and-a-half, but you know, my best rides I just ride like it was just a mile-and-an-eighth. And the horses, they would run exactly the same as it was, you know, run a mile-and-an-eighth instead of a mile-and-a-half. It really, I think is more like, you know, you think it in the back of your mind that, you know, I have to go slow, I cannot wait too long or I have to like, you know, go easy with him out of the gate, but that is why it gets a little bit confusing and for me.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Yeah.

**Victor Espinoza:**

When I ride those mile-and-a-half, I just, you know, ride the same like it was just a mile and eighth.

**Ron Turcotte:**

Excuse me for interfering.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Ron.

**Ron Turcotte:**

Excuse me for interfering, but –

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Yes, no please.

**Ron Turcotte:**

I disagree with Victor about being a tough race it is. In my opinion, and I rode in New York when we had a lot of mile-and-a-half race and I think that the Belmont is the easiest one of the three [crosstalk]

**Jim Mulvihill:**

And can you elaborate on that, why is that?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Why is that? Because there are many chances to overcome different things. You might get squeezed, you might get shut off, you might stumble at the start. Anything can happen and then trying to recover without rushing your horse, to make it up real quick. There are so many ways for the horses [inaudible] ride, I think I really believe that I have won two of them back to back and I got beat on one, which was tall and rough and that was my fault that I moved a little too soon or whatever. So –

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well –

**Ron Turcotte:**

I really believe that – see, we won the Belmont, I mean the Derby pretty easier with River Ridge. We came back and the horse didn't like mud in the Preakness, but we came back and the race was real hard on him at the Preakness, but we came back and got the horse ready and decided to run a mile-and-a-half after that hard race and we were trying pretty hard there in between and we still won gallop race, we won by seven runs and -

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well -

**Ron Turcotte:**

And [inaudible].

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Ron, all these horses that we are talking about today, both the Triple Crown winners and Riva Ridge, they all dominated the race essentially being on the lead by the first turn and just widening. What are your thoughts on the way that the Belmont tends to be run both pace wise and what sort of position a horse like Justify should be in to maximize his chances in this race?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Well, I think he is a very versatile horse. Just looking on the television, just watching him run and this is on the screen, I mean I have never seen him live, but he seems to be a very quiet horse, a very calm horse, going to the [inaudible] and he seems to be very manageable horse that you can play just about

anywhere you want to, so I can't see no problem with him. I don't see where he should have any problem like he can take the lead and control the race or he can lay back and have somebody else [inaudible] each other and pick him up.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Yeah, yeah. Well, if you guys can hang on for a second, I am going to see if the media on the call have questions for you, so Leanne, the operator can see who is in the queue.

**Operator:**

And we will go ahead and take our first question from Childs Walker with the Baltimore Sun.

**Childs Walker:**

Yeah, this is a question for both of you. I guess which qualities do you most admire about Mike Smith as a rider and what do you make of the fact that he is able to ride so successfully at age 52?

**Ron Turcotte:**

What is the problem –

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Ron, do you want to – do you want to take that first?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Okay.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

He was asking what do you admire about Mike Smith?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Well, I admire the way he keeps himself fit and every individual is different. I mean some people can, you know, do a lot of work in the morning and they keep themselves real fit that way and others might not get on as many horses in the morning, which is good. But regardless, he is really – real fit and I have seen John Longden run at 60 years old and [inaudible] rode at 60 years old and they were really fit and they were good. So, I guess if you keep yourself -

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, Victor -

**Ron Turcotte:**

If you keep yourself in shape, you would go a long way unless you have an accident.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Of course. Victor, how about you? Thoughts on Mike Smith?

**Victor Espinoza:**

Well, I admire him because in his age and he is still, you know, he is still riding pretty good, but I am a better jockey than him or beyond. But, anyway, I wish I could ride in his age, come on, it is like wow, I admire him that at his age, he is still, you know, can ride as good as he has been riding, I mean, he is – listen, when you have good horses like Justify, you know, they make you feel – they make you look good too.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, that's for sure.

**Victor Espinoza:**

But, you know, it requires to ride an incredible horse like, you know, like any Triple Crown race or horse like Justify too. It will help too, but you know, like I say, yeah and I wish I would stay on – someday I can ride, you know, when I get to that age. You know, I am more admiring towards all this, you know, like, you know, Mike Smith in his, you know, in his career and like I said, his age he is still riding right now is impressing.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Absolutely. Leanne.

**Operator:**

And as a reminder, it is star one if you would like to ask a question. We will take our next question from Pat Forde with Yahoo Sports.

**Pat Forde:**

Hi guys. For both jockeys, I was going to actually ask the exact same question that Childs asked, but I will ask this. What was it like dealing with the pressure leading up to the race of riding for a Triple Crown?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Go ahead, Victor, I was first last time.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Victor, you want to go first talking about the pressure?

**Victor Espinoza:**

Sure, why not. I mean it is quite an experience. It is, yes, it is a lot of pressure to go – run through the Triple Crown, I mean at least for me, because you know, it would not happen for so long, for so many years and, you know, everyone asks the same question, is if it would have – it ever is going to happen again and in some times that I can tell you that I had less sleep [inaudible] nice before I got to the Triple Crown, but it just – I just, you know, wanted to get it done. Honestly, like those last two days, it takes forever to get there. You know, you count the days, you count the hours and then you count the minutes, then it is just not easy, but you know it is always in my mind there, like I am just so thankful and happy just to be in that position and knowing – you know to have all that pressures, is all to go to Triple Crown, it is just, it is – and the ways that I think back it is just an amazing feeling.

**Pat Forde:**

Thank you.

**Operator:**

And we will take our next question from Louisa Barton with Fox Sports Ocala.

**Louisa Barton:**

Yes, thank you. Question for Steve is how much does a jockey worry or get concerned about letting down a great horse, like Justify, for example, making a mistake and it costing the horse the race?

**Ron Turcotte:**

I don't know if Steve is on –

**Louisa Barton:**

Are you there Steve?

**Jim Mulvihill:**

No, no, Steve is not on yet.

**Louisa Barton:**

Oh, okay, I am sorry, I can direct this to one of the others then, maybe to Ron. How much a jockey is concerned or worried about letting, you know, a great horse down, you know, when it comes to the race and whether they make a mistake they feel maybe cost the horse the race?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Well, in my case, I knew the horse like a book, I was in every one of his workouts and he was going up to the race and I will go back to the first question that that was asked about that, but how nervous you are for the race and that, I wasn't all very nervous because I kept myself busy, I rode every race – pretty well every race that day and I didn't have time to worry. The other thing is that I knew my horse was real fit, it was ready to go the distance and I could place him wherever I wanted to because I had started schooling him over a year before that.

**Louisa Barton:**

So, very confident.

**Ron Turcotte:**

Yes.

**Louisa Barton:**

And then I have to ask Victor this question. Victor, I got to ask you about your last statement. What makes you say you are a better jockey than Mike Smith and what do you think makes a better jockey?

**Victor Espinoza:**



Hey, I had to think that, right? As long as I am riding, I have to think I am better than him. I am better than all the jockeys, right. No, I mean it is always fun to, you know, to go up there and complete all this, you know, guys in there and you know and trying to beat them in any race as possible and have that confidence to, you know, know and to think that I am better than all of them. You know, yeah, I have to because you know I want – I want to beat him, I want to win too, and –

**Ron Turcotte:**

Well, that's a – that's one thing that really we all have in common, that every time we go out there, we have to think that we are as good as any jockey and better than most.

**Victor Espinoza:**

That's right. And like I said, I am sure that Ron when he was there, when he was riding, I am sure that you will think the same that you are better than all the jockeys and you will be best and you are going to beat them in every race, right?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Yes, that like I just said –

**Victor Espinoza:**

Yeah.

**Ron Turcotte:**

You have to think that you are as good as anybody and better than most.

**Louisa Barton:**

Right, with horses like with American Pharaoh and Secretariat, it's pretty easy to feel that way, I am sure. Thank you both, appreciate it.

**Ron Turcotte:**

You are welcome.

**Louisa Barton:**

Thank you, guys, for having me in your show.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

I think we got a few more if you have time, Victor.

**Victor Espinoza:**

Yeah.

**Ron Turcotte:**

Oh, okay.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright. Leanne.

**Operator:**

And as a reminder, it is star one if you would like to ask a question. Our next question comes from Jon White with Santa Anita

**Jon White:**

Thank you. This is for Ron Turcotte. Ron, this morning, Justify had his final workout for the Belmont Stakes five furlongs. Secretariat's final workout before the Belmont Stakes was a mile at Belmont Park of 134 unchanged, 134 and 4/5ths. You were on it for that workout, what do you remember about that mile workout for Secretariat before you won the Belmont by 31 lengths?

**Ron Turcotte:**

He was working – he worked very good mile that morning and I let him gallop out in about 150, excuse me, 148, and he has done it so easy and that reinforced my confidence in him. Carrying back and he ate[?] good and that evening he ate good [inaudible].

**Jon White:**

And Riva Ridge, in the Preakness, I always wonder what would have happened if the track had not been wet that day. What did he feel like under you in the Preakness before he bounced back and won the Belmont so impressively?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Oh, it felt great coming into the race. It is just that the sky opened up and the evening started at night – Saturday night – Friday night and then ran on all night and all day and – but the horse physically he was very good, he was right up to the race, but he just could not stand up in the mud, he could not run in the mud or the slump or the grass.

**Jon White:**

So, when you left, I mean how quickly after you left the gate, how did you – when did you know that you were in trouble?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Well, I felt I was in trouble when I saw that rain because he wasn't very good in the mud. He was kind of, I would say tall, maybe, like he was big on top and narrower in the front compared to Secretariat, who was very broad in front and wide like a wide track and that would give him much more balance, but –

**Jon White:**

One final question, Ron. How did you feel when Secretariat finally after so many years got the credit he deserved for the time that he actually ran in the Preakness Stakes?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Well, I would say that that was very satisfying. I mean that, you know, when you have the track and a track record anyway and you are [inaudible] and it is just that Chick Lang was managing the race track for his people [inaudible] into getting the [inaudible] company to put their – I don't know really, I am not going to say that he was – that he took any money for it, but I mean he stuck with them and they would not let us have the records, but they knew we had the records.

**Jon White:**

Well, thank you Ron and thank you for the memories that you and Secretariat provided us, especially through that Triple Crown, but throughout Secretariat's career. Thank you.

**Ron Turcotte:**

You are welcome, thank you.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

And everyone, if I could just jump in for a minute, I would like to introduce Steve Cauthen, he has joined us now from a charity golf tournament, our third hall-of-fame jockey joining us on this call. Steve was only 18 when he won the 1978 Triple Crown on Affirmed. Steve, thanks for jumping on with us.

**Steve Cauthen:**

[inaudible].

**Jim Mulvihill:**

How was your golf game?

**Steve Cauthen:**

Well, unluckily we got a couple of really good golfers with us, So, I am taking the toll. But yeah, it is reasonable I guess. That's all I could say.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Very good. Well, we will try to be quick since you are busy, but just to catch you up we are talking with Victor and Ron Turcotte, about Triple Crown's past. And I would love if you could just try to put in the context for us what winning a Triple Crown meant for you, your career and now looking back on it 40 years later.

**Steve Cauthen:**

You know, obviously, it was just the greatest thing to be a part of, and you know the whole thing from really riding Affirmed as a two-year-old against Alydar, you know, we had a great rivalry. You know, there was great characters involved. Obviously, Laz was you know, the ultimate character in racing and yeah, obviously, a wonderful trainer. But you know just – he just seemed to all during the Triple Crown capture everybody's, you know, imagination just with all the stories and you know, the way, you know, in his Latin flair and –

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Sure.

**Steve Cauthen:**

– The Wilsons obviously were, you know – they were a great part of it, I was just – it was so wonderful to be a part of it and then to finish, you know, the Triple Crown off and with a race like the Belmont was, that year was, you know, just – probably you know my proudest moment in racing.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, we were talking a few minutes ago about the pressure of riding in a Belmont and I would just like to ask you the same, what was it like and did being so young perhaps help you in a way dealing with it?

**Steve Cauthen:**

Well, I didn't really feel a lot of pressure going into the Derby, I was just glad to be there and obviously, we, you know, have to win in that. I really, you know, didn't feel a great deal of pressure, you know, more – you know, it wasn't so bad going into the Preakness, but after the Preakness, for me, I think it was, you know, probably the longest three weeks in my riding career because, you know, having won the – you know, the first two, you have a chance to do something, you know, unique and I just – I didn't want to, you know, make a mistake and I didn't want to, you know, let everybody down. So, it was I think, you know, probably some, quite a bit of self-inflicted pressure, but it did start, you know, aggravating a little bit, I was trying to do my best to just keep focusing. Then, you know, finally when we got through it, you know, on Belmont Day, it wasn't so bad. I was just focused on, you know, trying to, you know, get the horse through the gate and get order[?] and you know, do what I had to do. But the three weeks in between were kind of seemed like longer.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, Steve, we don't want to impose, but do you have time for a couple of quick questions from the media?

**Steve Cauthen:**

Sure, yeah, –

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright, if we could bring the other guys along – there we go. If we can bring the other riders back in if anyone has questions for any three of these gentlemen, Ron and Victor are both still on the line too, Leanne.

**Ron Turcotte:**

I am staying.

**Operator:**

And as a reminder, that it is star one if you would like to ask a question. Our next question comes from Childs Walker with the Baltimore Sun.

**Childs Walker:**

Yeah, hey, this is specifically for Steve. Obviously, this year with Justify, you and Mike Smith will be trying to win the Triple Crown and it has only been three years since the last one and you were in that position where Seattle Slew who had won the year before and Secretariat had won four years earlier. Did

you feel in fact that there had been recent Triple Crown winners change the experience for you at all, I mean did it take any pressure off or make the achievements any less weighty or what did you – what did you kind of make of it on that context?

**Steve Cauthen:**

No, it didn't change anything, it didn't, you know, I didn't get any credit for winning the Triple Crown or Seattle Slew or Secretariat. So only when I had the chance to do it was Affirmed so that was all I was focused on and, yeah, the fact that it happened, you know, recently didn't mean anything to me. But after I won it, I remember how everybody was saying, how easy it was to do, they better make it easier, or make it harder. And that was after about 37 years that it started to get funny.

**Childs Walker:**

Thanks, Steve.

**Steve Cauthen:**

Yeah, no problem.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

You know, I think maybe a good place to wrap up with all three of you, if you don't mind, is we haven't really dug into the stretch round of the Belmonts that you won and what it felt like, so Steve since you have got to go, maybe we will start with you, but what stands out in your memory; can you just talk about, you know, the stretch duel that you were engaged in and even getting headed a little bit in the stretch what do you remember about your Belmont lane?

**Steve Cauthen:**

Well, I just remember going into the race. Obviously, you know, our race was really a three-horse race. You know, there was Darby Creek Road was the only horse that kind of had shown any proven form. The other two were kind of, you know, hoping you know just hopeful, that maybe at the border or run third or fourth. But as the race obviously developed, we got to the head of the stretch and I, you know, I could feel a little bit of [inaudible] under me and I could tell that he was struggling and Alydar was breathing right down our neck and it was, you know, about the 3-16<sup>th</sup> pole when I switched decks and heading left-handed for the first time, not because of you know what – you know, a great decision I think other than I knew, I had to de-slump him, you know. And you know, when I did it, he did respond immediately almost and kind of got back, you know got his nose back in the front. And you know, from that point on, it was just him, you know, willing himself to the wire, you know, willing to beat the horse. I knew, you know, at that point, that I felt like I was really going to get bang at that point.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Fantastic. Steve, we really appreciate your time. We will let you get back to your match, but I appreciate you taking the time to jump on with us real quick.

**Steve Cauthen:**

My pleasure. Have a great day.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

And Ron, now, I will come to you with the same question, I am sure you have been asked it a million times in your life, but we still want to hear it from you now once again. Just take us through, you know, the last half mile of the Belmont and you were pretty much in another zip code already, but what do you remember when you relive it in your mind?

**Ron Turcotte:**

But he was running like about the same way you would – you had been working for the race and when you rode a horse, and you always try to finish a little faster. In my case, I didn't have to run faster the last part, but he was running as easy on the backside and he had been – as he had been working. So, I was very, very confident.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

And then can you take us through the rest of it?

**Ron Turcotte:**

Well, as we turned for home, about a quarter pole, I turned around and you know I kept calling [inaudible] front and well, I had to turn around and [inaudible] that he get the best of me, I had to turn around and take a look, what it looks like as far for him, I had to look across the turn in order for us to ride.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Got you. And what did you see?

**Ron Turcotte:**

I saw that they were riding a long way behind and they were driving and they were making up no grounds. [inaudible] and confident.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Oh man, well Ron, thank you so much for the memories today. Victor, now, I want to hear from you of just your memories of, you know, the last eighth of a mile or so after you put Frosted away. What was going through your mind as you were coming to the wire in the Belmont?

**Victor Espinoza:**

Oh, those memories I will never forget, you know, it is just one thing that, you know, I always think about it, that, you know, coming down the stretch, you know, I have no competition to the American Pharaoh, he was just, you know, much the best and he was just, you know, stretching his body like so far that the wire seems like he was coming, you know, he was coming pretty quick and those moments that you know that you will win the Triple Crown, you know, that you never forget.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Were you aware of the crowd and the eruption that was unfolding there as you – as you came to the wire?

**Victor Espinoza:**

Absolutely. I could hear it, obviously, I don't even like, it just like hear like an echo in there. I remember it a little bit before I crossed the wire. I just hear like an echo, so many people there with, you know,

voting[?] for him and I was screaming there, I was pretty much at the win end with – the Triple Crown with American Pharaoh.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

that is so cool. Well, Victor, thanks for – thanks for joining us today and reliving these memories and we hope to see you on another great three-year-old soon enough.

**Victor Espinoza:**

Hopefully. Have a good day guys.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright. Victor Espinoza, Ron Turcotte, thanks again for joining us. We will hope to talk to you all again very soon.

**Ron Turcotte:**

Okay, you are welcome. Thank you.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright. And now, we are happy to check in with Billy Turner, who is the trainer of Seattle Slew, who like Justify was undefeated coming into the Belmont and not only that, he had won all eight of his starts without any serious challenge. Billy, thanks for joining us.

**Billy Turner:**

Hi, hello, how are you?

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, we are so glad to have you on. Maybe a good place to start is just – I know you watch the races pretty carefully. What are your impressions of Justify?

**Billy Turner:**

Well, he has done everything right. You can't fight him, he is a big horse, I haven't seen the horse personally, but I understand he is a big horse and maybe one of the reasons that he was a little later getting started in his career, but he just seems to improve with every race. So he is a formidable horse.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

And we were talking with the jockeys about being under the microscope leading up to the Belmont – I mean Seattle Slew was so popular, it is almost hard to fathom it now, but like what was that – what was the pressure and the media attention like for you and how did you handle all that?

**Billy Turner:**

Well, the thing is Slew [inaudible] from Secretariat bringing back the Triple Crown is a major sporting event and so Secretariat was the king outstanding and then here, four years later, here along comes Seattle Slew and he wins the – he has an undefeated two-year-old career and but all the three starts, but he runs the fastest mile that a two-year-old would ever run in his country and when he won the

champagne and so that, that set him – sorry, showed that he had speed [inaudible] to burn and he could go a distance on ground and so forth, so he was a threat to Secretariat as being the king and that created a fan base that you wouldn't believe because you had defenders of Secretariat and you had the fans of Seattle Slew and they were average fans and of course, there were more newspapers covering – more newspapers covered that Triple Crown than any time in history and so you had reporters from everywhere and not only that, but you had the media was in a big time and so it was a crush from the early in – what I would say, the end of January and – when he was at entirely until after the Belmont, well, after the Saratoga, this three-year-old here, it was unbelievable with the amount of – oh there were photographers, there were reporters from the littlest newspaper in the country and things like that and magazines and so it was exciting. It was very tiresome for me because I had to – well, I had to have answered questions and so forth and so it was something.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

I mean do you think it has any effect on the horse, I mean as the winds pile up and more and more people are coming around the barn and want to take his photo and are there to see him all the time, I mean is there anything that instead affects the horse?

**Billy Turner:**

In Slew's case, it did because he fed off the crowds. He was sensitive to the energy of the crowd and it just turned [inaudible] it is sort of like battle fatigue, you cannot be turned on so much for so long and then your adrenals spurn out and you crash. So, but so at the end of the third of the Triple Crown races, Slew was mentally tired but physically he was in very good shape. Very good shape. He was sound and in every way and so forth and he wanted to train and all that kind of stuff, but you know, you are – as I say, you are battle fatigued, that's all, that's why –

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Yes, yes, that's [inaudible], yeah.

**Billy Turner:**

That's why it turned customarily – that's why customarily, the old timers after the Belmont, they give their horse some time and wouldn't run back before the Travers in Saratoga or something like that.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

But you did?

**Billy Turner:**

Well, the put on a new race in California called the Slapstick and that was something that I never heard of or even thought about, but it was put on by a large [inaudible] to the bring horse out there and, well, she got the job done.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

For sure. Well, Billy, hang on and I am going to check with the media. I think we have a question here for you. Leanne?

**Operator:**



As a reminder, that is star one to ask a question. Our next question comes from Childs Walker with the Baltimore Sun.

**Billy Turner:**

Oh, hi, how are you?

**Childs Walker:**

I am doing well, Billy. How are you?

**Billy Turner:**

Just fine.

**Childs Walker:**

Good, good. I was just interested based on what you just said about Seattle Slew and Secretariat. If Justify to win on Saturday, do you think that his Triple Crown would be any less momentous because American Pharaoh did it three years ago or do you think he would be able to sort of build on what Pharaoh did much like you have said Slew did with Secretariat?

**Billy Turner:**

I don't think we are dealing with quite the same situation as far as – Well, first of all the media and press coverage isn't quite the same today that it was then and so you don't get the rural crowd in it, the way it was back in Slew's day and Secretariat's day. We need you guys in the press room.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Billy, before we let you go, I know you retired from training a couple of years ago, can you just bring us up to speed on how you are doing and what you are up to?

**Billy Turner:**

Well, I am a farmer down here at the Ocala Jockey Club in just north of Ocala and I have retired after 50 years on the New York, Miami, Saratoga circuit.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Sounds pretty good. Alright, well, Billy thank you so much for joining us today. We appreciate the memories and hopefully we will talk to you often in the next few years, and it would be great if this keeps happening.

**Billy Turner:**

Okay, well, thank you very much.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright, thanks so much Billy Turner, trainer of Seattle Slew and with that, we get to move onto our owners now and we are delighted –

**Karen Taylor:**

Can I say hello to Billy?

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Oh, no, I think he is already disconnected, let me check real quick.

**Karen Taylor:**

Oh, I was just here to say hello to him and wish him happy memories.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Oh, I think Billy is still on, Billy, are you there?

**Billy Turner:**

Oh, I am still here.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright, Ms Karen wanted to say hi.

**Billy Turner:**

I appreciate that.

**Karen Taylor:**

I just wanted to wish you every happiness and all the wonderful memories we had together.

**Billy Turner:**

Oh, gosh, well, I am glad that you spoke up because I miss you dearly.

**Karen Taylor:**

Miss, you too.

**Male Speaker:**

She never is going to have a problem with speaking up.

**Karen Taylor:**

We love you, Billy.

**Billy Turner:**

Take care.

**Karen Taylor:**

God bless you.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Oh, that was a very nice moment there between Karen Taylor and Billy Turner. Karen is online now with her husband, Mickey, and we appreciate your coming on with us.

**Karen Taylor:**

Well, thank you very much. It is a very special week in New York.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

It is indeed and I would also like to welcome the owner of American Pharaoh, Ahmed Zayat. Mr Zayat, thanks for coming on.

**Ahmed Zayat:**

My pleasure.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, this has been such a treat talking to the Jockeys and to Billy Turner and now to share more memories with you all. You know, Karen and Mickey, if either one of you would like to speak first. I would just like to ask you if you can kind of remind everybody what a sensation Seattle Slew was; we talked to a Billy about it a little bit and the attention that he got, but as dominant as he was going into the Triple Crown, what was it like for you all, that whole experience?

**Mickey Taylor:**

Well, one thing, you know, he raced three times as a two-year-old in New York and he ran the fastest miles, to this day that was ever ran by a two-year-old. So, he was a New Yorker, all of his races were in New York and through the Triple Crown, you know, everything went according to plan, basically until about the night before the Belmont when it started to rain and that changed, you know, we thought we are going to have a fast track and we ended up having a quagmire, but anyhow that is what I remember of it.

**Karen Taylor:**

I remember that he was home at Barn 54 and he loved to run at Belmont Park and he was so powerful on the racetrack there and even just galloping the morning with my candidate and he just had so much fun training there, and when it came up muddy, we knew we had the horse, but he knew that you had to have a lot of racing luck and everything had to go right. But Danny was late to the paddock and we didn't have cell phones then and that got to be a little bit of a worry, we wondered where he was, but Slew kind of always did everything his way, you know, he was very dominant and he had a determination to do things however he wanted to do them and so who knew how we wanted to get there, but he knew he was going to get there eventually and he when he did, he got in that paddock and did his war dance that he always did and he kind of put the fear in other horse, I mean, he was like Mohammed Ali, he would kind of dance around and not have two feet on the ground and he just was looking at all his fans and being the New Yorker that he was and he definitely was a New Yorker and he just had a wonderful experience always there and he was – as I said, we just – we were hoping for good racetrack and a good racing luck.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

It sounds like you had plenty of reasons to be confident though?

**Mickey Taylor:**

Yeah, well, until – with the mud, it made a completely different situation. Crugen[?], Karen and I went out on the clubhouse [inaudible]. So, it was only then, they only run two races a year going a mile-and-a-half and all the tractors were thrown off the racetrack in the first turn, we went out there and I wore cowboy boots, and halfway pertinent to the top of my cowboy boots, except for one little pass, it was put in a knee deep in mud because that first turn was horrible, about – Crugen found it before anyone [inaudible] pass off the rail, it was kind of a – it was probably about six or seven feet wide where the tractors packed it down, where it was not so deep and inside from that hump to the rail was nothing but slough, but then on the outside, it was knee deep mud, and that concerned us.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

That is pretty fascinating stuff. I do want to welcome in Mr Zayat who has actually been listening to this entire call, I just want to let everybody know that he has to listen to the entire thing for his own enjoyment and pleasure, so I think that is pretty cool, Mr Zayat, thanks for coming on.

**Ahmed Zayat:**

My pleasure, you have no idea how much I enjoy listening to these wonderful athletes and this incredible memory and then you start appreciating even more, you know, it has been three years since American Pharaoh won the Triple Crown and you keep pinching yourself did it really happen? Have we bred a Triple Crown winner and listening to the memoirs and how special and the group of twelve elite athletes that have given a lot of pleasure to all of us as horse owners and fans of the sport, just makes you sit with tremendous gratitude and just pleasure. I can listen for hours for people who have done something really special.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, the story there are endless. I could listen for hours as well. I would like to hear from you, what do you remember specifically about this week three years ago leading up to the Belmont, the height, the last work at work Churchill Downs and then shipping up and then everything that you dealt with that week?

**Ahmed Zayat:**

It was an incredible week that will live forever in my memory and my kids and my family or friends, so I think the entire racing community just because it has been such a long time for 37 years between the last Triple Crown winner to American Pharaoh and it kind of made us doubt ourselves, is it really ever going to be happening? Have the horses become too fragile that they cannot sustain such a campaign? People have been questioning 'do we need to change the regimen, the timing, the spacing between the racing? Are we making them that strong? We kind of lost hope and here it comes, the moment that we have been waiting for 37 years and having horse with the persona assured me the American Pharaoh, I mean, we can hear about Seattle Slew and Secretariat, all great, unbelievable athletes. For me what made American Pharaoh special to me is his persona, his personality. He was able to relate to any person or anyone around him. He was incredibly intelligent animal, incredibly powerful, sheer beauty. His motion, the way he moved, the way he breathed was breath-taking, he literally floated over the ground, but what made him really, really is his sweetness. I can lay in this [inaudible] 1,200-pound animal, not even worried [inaudible] people all over me, you can put a toddler in front of him, a two-year-old kid or somebody who has a special need, and he will be very cognizant and know his environment. It is just he was an incredible athlete that did not act with arrogance, but had tremendous grace, if I talk to him like a person, but he had a huge heart and incredible athleticism.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Got it, it was such an amazing time and it is really fun to listen to you act poetic about him. To shift topic a little bit though, I am curious what all of you on the calls think of Justify and I will start with the Taylors watching from afar, what are your impressions of this horse going for a Belmont win?

**Mickey Taylor:**

Well, if he wins, Slew would end up being the first undefeated Triple Crown winner. One thing it would be nice for him to win and there are six other horses that they have Seattle Slew blood in them like, his great-great grand – on his dam side, his great-great grandsire is Slew and you know it is AP, Indian and Slew, so you know that would be nice, you would have another Triple Crown winner that has Slew blood in it and also Hubberb[?] – seven of the runners have got Slew blood in them, but Hubberb has Slew blood on the top and on the sire side and the dam side, which make him an inbred to AP Indian, Slew four times four or five times five. So, any of those seven, it would be kind of nice to have Slew blood and if Justify can get it done, you know, it is a tall order to come from – to run around Big Sandy, you know, like American Pharaoh came from Arkansas to the Derby and to the Preakness and Justify came from California, he has never been in Belmont Park and once around Big Sandy, you know, it is a low ways, he hasn't been that far, but none of them have been that far but it will be interesting and if it rains, then everything changes and you end up not with – it won't be a sloppy track, if you get any water in Belmont at all, it turns into mud, that should be the first turn and the first turn, you know, then that will change the race, but hopefully he can get it done or one of the other six Slews get it done, thank you.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Mr Zayat, you have seen Justify plenty and raced against him, your impressions?

**Ahmed Zayat:**

He is an absolutely special athlete. He is an incredible, gorgeous, unbelievable looking horse, he is just majestic. He is over 1200, I think 70-something pounds, you wouldn't know it seeing the way he moved. He is incredibly athletic. I believe that he is incredibly talented. I think that he has done things that wowed the hell out of me, going the Derby, the way he won it, going on his force start, for a horse going a mile and a quarter for the first time, being [inaudible] pushed in the mud at 45 and keep digging and finding the hard, I think he is an incredible athlete. We have seen what have happened to him in the Preakness. I do believe and hope and pray that he will be the 13<sup>th</sup> Triple Crown winner. I think the sports need it, we all need to continue having star, sport without a star is not a sport. I believe in his trainer, I believe in his connection. He is doing everything right. He looks incredibly healthy and keeping his weight, I think the most important thing that I have learnt going through the Triple Crown from Bob Baffert was – weight condition, he is possessed and pretty about that – about his condition and he carried his [inaudible] So, I do believe that he has the ability, speed, stamina, it looks to me on paper, at least, he's a lone[?] steed, he can go wire to wire, he is not a horse that needs to be at the lead, he can fit, he is very versatile, so I do actually think that he will be the 13<sup>th</sup> Triple Crown winner, we have seen a period in history where in the 70s, we had three and only ten-year-period, I think we can definitely, God willing, on Saturday will see that.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

You are more qualified than anybody to speak on the talents of Bob Baffert, can you elaborate a little bit on that and his ability to get these horses to run back in two weeks and then three weeks and maintain their condition?

**Ahmed Zayat:**

Okay, you know, I am very transparent and straightforward guy. There are two Bob Bafferts, the pre-heart attack Bob Baffert and the Bob Baffert of now, and why do I think that is an absolute turning point in

his career not only as a person, but as a trainer, because it addresses the issue of being the vulnerability of a human being, how vulnerable you are and I think he took that and actually dealt with it in a way that he looked at his own kids, meaning his own athletes, his own stars, the American Pharaoh, the Justify, the others as the same way. What is the vulnerability, how these horses could be vulnerable and he addressed that to his clients right now. He has it to an art where as a condition, not only he micromanages every single detail of their life, Bob is – he trains every day differently from his gut. He looks at the animal and asks him to do every day different from the day before based on what he is seeing, and he is able to adapt and at the sport has adapted, as the weight has adapted, as the distance has adapted, as well as the different demanding stripping from one track to another, he had adapted very well. So he got it down to an incredible art as a trainer, but he is so much in tune to understanding what could be the weakness and how could I address it, so I think he got it now down to a [inaudible] program where his horses are geared kind of a when to peak or not to peak – of course, you've got to get – you have to have the right horse, not every horse can do what Justify has been doing, but I think of anybody right now is the magician of getting that done is Bob Baffert.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Indeed. And if I could circle back real quick, Karen, I forgot to get your impressions of Justify, if you have any thoughts on his chances on Saturday?

**Karen Taylor:**

Well, I think Big Sandy is a different track and it will be so much fun for him. He is a big horse, a powerful horse and he has got the weight and I think that he has got the team and I wish WinStar the very best and our industry the very best because it would be good for everyone involved.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Indeed, well, I am going to –

**Ahmed Zayat:**

I want to say something about Belmont as a track.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Okay, go for it.

**Ahmed Zayat:**

I have learned a lot of what the Taylors just said about Belmont and I think that people always say that yes, it steep, yes, it is Big Sandy, yes Belmont is the test of champion because of stamina, but I also do believe that speed helps you and it is not necessarily a track that – speed is your friend here, you don't have to close into it, if you are able to relax and able to go the way you need to go, it will carry your own way. I remember Painter, who was only his force start, a very, very a lightly raced horse also. He almost went wire to wire until at the wire he got [inaudible] but I do believe that you know everything – the only one who can be justified that day is probably Justify.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

I know what you mean. Sure, go ahead.

**Mickey Taylor:**

This is Mickey, I agree on that. That it is his race to win, but it is also his race to lose, I don't think any of the other horses are within three or four lengths of him, and if that comes up – a good racetrack hopefully everything will get done and the stars will be in the right order.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Let us go to the media and see what questions they have got, Leanne?

**Operator:**

And as a remainder, that is star one if you would like to ask a question. We will take our next question from Paul Bowman with GoldMark Farm.

**Paul Bowman:**

Hello, can you hear me?

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Yes, we can. We hear you Paul.

**Paul Bowman:**

Okay, Justify has had fewer starts than any of the Triple Crown winners. If he wins, so he has an asterisk next to his name? That's for anyone.

**Mickey Taylor:**

He probably should, but probably the asterisk next to his name should be is audible, they are not going to run, the same owners own him, and they are not run inaudible, that's where it is going to be.

**Ahmed Zayat:**

This is Ahmed Zayat, I don't understand the question, what do you mean by asterisk, what does that mean?

**Paul Bowman:**

When I look at the race awards of all twelve triple crown winners, I am struck by the fact that World Away and citation, each one, 32 racers, which is more wins than starts of the last four winners. Justify has had so many fewer starts than any Triple Crown winners and I am really reflecting perhaps on the fragility of the horses that are running now as opposed to World Away, for example, who ran 60 times in his race career.

**Ahmed Zayat:**

Noted and I think that it is for me as I don't think I am a historian enough regarding the history of the Triple Crown to go that far back to be able to make applicable comparison between one year to another and all I can tell you is that the field sizes were completely different, at some point it was limited to 12 and even less, these horses are running against 20 horses, one can argue it is even harder to win it than before it was much easier, granted that they have ran more races than before. You know what, for me I am really not qualified to answer this question, so I don't want to say something that is not either smart, but all I can say that I enjoy every single race, I enjoy every single class and athletes and it is wonderful to celebrate them, but it is very, very hard to compare between your best kids, they are all special.

**Paul Bowman:**

Thank you.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Alright, thanks, Paul.

**Operator:**

And we will take our next question from Louisa Barton with FOX Sports, Ocala.

**Louisa Barton:**

Yes, and this question is for Mr Zayat. Mr Zayat I just want to tell you how much I admire you in what you did with the American Pharaoh first and just keeping him racing away, you did so good for the sports and we certainly hope that Justify has a Triple Crown win as well. My question for you is other than him crossing the finish line and winning the Triple Crown, what would one really memorable moment that you would share with us be through American Pharaoh's career?

**Ahmed Zayat:**

First of all, thank you very much for your kind word. I honestly felt humbled and blessed by why us, we have been very short time in the special sport and we were able to breed and race a Triple Crown and I felt that he really belongs to the people who has been waiting for 37 years and I genuinely wanted to open our door and Bob Baffert and his crew did an unbelievable job from not turning anyone away to come and see him and take a picture and pat him and play with him, so it is something that I felt is an appropriate thing for us to do for the industry and the fans. In terms of racing him, I also promised myself as long as he is healthy and he is sound, why deprive the sport of stars, saying that we all retire our horses very early because of the money and I had to retire him at three and I honestly felt very kind of guilty about it, maybe I should give him another year, but already I have made my stallion deal or breeding rights deals with Coolmore and I had to honor my agreement, but it is something that I felt that if it is in my decision and in my hands, I want to keep racing him.

As to answer your question directly regarding the fondest memory, he was so special every time we are next to him, it made us happy and he had this effect on making us all better people. I know it sounds corny and weird, but all of us were nicer people, from Bob to me to Joel, to Joanne, my wife, to my own kids, I mean it is –but perhaps the most incredible memory I had was actually in his defeat when he was beaten in Saratoga, I know Saratoga [inaudible] and the crowd was so much [inaudible] to have him race at Travers, and I know that – I did know have I squeezed the limit too much, did I do right thing by him, and I was so protective and I was very like shocked that he lost. And that moment for me where I looked at my wife and I actually cried, I have to admit and she did, and we looked and I wasn't sure what am I to do; am I going to retire him, should I keep him going? And I had the memory of the highs, meaning all his unbelievable wins, but that's the time that I questioned myself and my judgment, am I doing right by the horse, he always has to come first. And that is the memory that will always kind of haunt me about his career.

**Louisa Barton:**

Wow, we are all very thankful that you carried on the way that you did and I think the low of Travers will just make the movie all that much better when they make it. Thank you, Mr Zayat.

**Ahmed Zayat:**



My pleasure. We had a huge sigh of relief when he won the Breeders' Cup Classic and went out on a high note, as a champion, he deserves.

**Louisa Barton:**

Absolutely.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Looks like we have got one more question.

**Operator:**

And we will take our next question from Mark Hansel with Northern Kentucky Tribune.

**Mark Hansel:**

Yeah, so this message is for the Taylors. Can you generally describe the week before the Belmont is held week I guess because the expectations were so high and this had been so long since we had a Triple Crown Winner, can you recall what that week was like for you? You guys really seemed to just embrace the experience.

**Mickey Taylor:**

Yeah, it was a tough week, especially being undefeated, everything just has to go right, when we came back from Florida and we ran in a wood at AquaDuck – we were uptight, I mean, everybody comparing you to Secretariat and you know all the thing about it is Slew is still the only Triple Crown winner that was bought at public auction for \$17,500 and that was probably the biggest topic around is how can a horse – he is not a homebred and [inaudible] farm or whatever, so you know, we had to go through that and that question you had to answer 50 times every morning. But for Slew, everything went according to plan, Billy was happy with him, he came out of the Preakness in good shape and everything, fell into place, but the closer we got, you don't know if they can run a mile-and-a-half until they ran a mile-and-a-half. Thank you.

**Mark Hansel:**

Thank you.

**Karen Taylor:**

Oh, I think that that week was so exciting for me because I just knew that he loved his track and he loved New York and he had so many fans that were so happy with him, and he had such courage in heart and determination and he loved to run. So, I knew – and he didn't want anything in front of him ever, so I did know that if everything would go right and the racing Gods are with you and you could have racing luck, that he was a great horse and that he would do anything asked of him.

**Mark Hansel:**

Great. Thank you very much.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, I will jump in here, I think that's all for the questions from the media, but you know, as long we are talking about all the things that can happen the week of the Belmont, Mr Zayat, I would be remiss if I didn't ask you about your beef with Jim Gaffigan yesterday, that was a serious topic, but still somewhat amusing to see you guys going back and forth on Tweeter, what about what he said on CBC Sunday Morning that got your goat?

**Ahmed Zayat:**

[inaudible] did he talk about that?

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Please.

**Ahmed Zayat:**

First of all, I did not go back and forth on Tweeter with him because I would not, he has 3.1 million followers and all of them came to attack him, I think, I received something around 1800 Tweets, no I felt absolutely a person who I needed to speak for my horses, my jockeys, my fellow owners, my trainers. I think that this a serious week for all of us. We are all dreaming and hoping for a Triple Crown and sometimes, even if you are comedian, there are certain jokes that need to be tasteful and off-collar.

And a program like CBS, Jane Pauley, I have tremendous respect for her and her colleagues and I felt that to literally taint the entire sport by making fun of everything from the athletes and the jockey that they risks their lives all day to calling people that they are – I don't know – wearing their hats, when they live in a trailer and kind of things that you are abusing the animals by whipping them, and all the things that I and you can take apart any sport was totally off collar, done in a very mean spirited way and I felt 'Hey, I'm an individual, I personally have my own rights and I happen to think that this person – I don't care popular or not popular he is and how many people are going to come and crucify me, I am going to speak my mind,' that is not what our sport is about, it is not about gambling, it is not about this kind of stereotyping people and almost being wicked minded about it, I can say a lot of a things, I don't even want to go on a tangent on it because people are apologetic sometime in our sports, and don't stand for their right and 'Hey, if somebody in the mainstream media speaks bad about us, we would let it go, and it doesn't matter because that's the kind of people are entitled to their opinion, of course they are and it is America and it's – we all have our opinion, but opinions are opinions, it could be wrong and right and people need to be educated and as such we are member of our sport, we should educate people about it, it is as simple as that.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, your passion for the sport and for your horses is evident and it always has been and I think a lot of people did get educated yesterday, thanks to you rising to the defense and encouraging others to do so, so before we end though, maybe on a lighter note or a more positive note, I guess my last question is where will each of you watch the race on Saturday and what will you be doing during this Belmont? Mr Zayat, do you want to go first?

**Ahmed Zayat:**

First of all I would like to pay complement to the Taylors. I have never had the privilege of meeting them or speaking to them. I can see the passion and the love to their horses and they still remember all the details being a long ago and it is something that makes me feel wonderful about our sport and I want to pay them the complement that they deserve and thank you very much for believing in Seattle Slew and the fun that brought us. I will be watching with my family, all of us, regrettably are going to be overseas for a family wedding that has been decided around eight months ago, I didn't plan that day, we will be

watching from overseas, we all going to be there. And I will be rooting for Bob, for WinStar, for all my friends for another Triple Crown.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Karen and Mickey.

**Karen Taylor:**

I thank you for the complement and it goes both ways. You have been very, very good for your sport and so is American Pharaoh and we are very proud of all of you – your whole family and I will tell you that I think the most important thing about the Belmont is for WinStar and the Baffert team, all of them to have the best day and to enjoy it and to make history and to have just a wonderful, wonderful experience because it only comes once in a lifetime, well, maybe not for Bob--

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Terrific, and where will you all be on Saturday?

**Karen Taylor:**

We're going to be in Sun Valley and we will be watching and I have big painting of Slew and we have a little routine that we do and so, we will be very happy and have friends in.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Terrific, Karen and Mickey –

**Karen Taylor:**

We will all be [inaudible] for the business and for the Triple Crown.

**Jim Mulvihill:**

Well, isn't that for sure, Karen and Mickey, thank you so much for your time. Mr Zayat, you as well. This has been an amazing hour and twenty minutes and it has really been a great reminder for me and hopefully for others of how special these weeks are and how you never know how long it is going to be until the next one. So, hopefully everybody enjoys it and thanks again to all our guests for coming on and sharing their memories. And if anyone has any questions on how we can help with their coverage, feel free to contact me. Thanks, everyone, for participating and I will send it back to the operator, Leanne.

**Karen Taylor:**

Thank you.

**Operator:**

And that concludes today's conference. Thank you for your participation. You may now disconnect.