

The Girls Continue to Rule the World, Right Fellas?

By Duane Plank

Did any of you watch the Breeders' Cup horse racing extravaganza last weekend? I tried to view as many of the championship races as possible, but necessary things like work and soccer seemed to get in the way. Anyway, I watched about three or four of the races "live" on the tube Saturday, including the Classic, where the chickie horse Zenyatta stepped up and challenged the best male horses in the world. And won.

Was watching the final race in the neighborhood of *RJ the Golfer*, who started to lose his mind when Zenyatta apparently wasn't perking up her ears, or something similar, in the first couple of furlongs, or whatever they are called. Girl didn't get out of the starting gate too well, I guess? Anyway, the superstar super-chick horse won the Classic. Good for her and her classy connections.

I lost my very small wager on the race cuz I selected some stupid European horse, because I had listened to somebody saying something that I thought made sense. Nag ran way up the synthetic track. The winner of the huge in-house pool was none other than the *Girl*, who selected Zenyatta with her bold pick in racing's biggest day's biggest race. She must know a shoot-load about the ponies. Or someone really smart touted her on the mare. Not sure which angle is true, maybe both. Okay, it was me. I was the tout. Self-congratulatory slap on the back.

Mentioned to someone that record mogul Jerry Moss was the owner of Zenyatta, and that Moss and Herb Alpert, Mexican music icon and all, were the guys behind the legendary A & M record company. Referenced Herb A., and suffice to say, the iconic *Music Man*, and others, including your intrepid columnist, started riffing some of the incredible Tijuana Brass tunes that ruled the airwaves in the 60s. Songs like "A Taste of Honey," "This Guys in Love with You," and "The Lonely Bull."

Going out in the garage tomorrow to find out just how many gems, like my *TJB albums*, that I still have in the LP box that I am readying for dumping/storage/giveaway.

Anywho, the persona who I queried did not recall the glory years of A & M. How could she cuz she is just 29? She innocently asked if the Alpert dude was the guy who "bit someone?" Maybe she was thinking of *Marv Albert*? In fact, I know that she was referencing the iconic sports announcer. Had a great laugh at that comment, but in reality, how was she to know? Don't think Herb Alpert chomped on anyone. Now if she had said Merv Griffin?

So how long do you think it took Dodger steroid-cheatin' outfielder Manny Ramirez, or more probably, his uber-agent Scott Boras, to figure out that Manny had better re-up with the Blue and take the \$20 or so million that they were proffering for next year? For all of you Doyer Blue fans, remember that Manny hemmed and hawed last offseason, waiting for a better offer than the one that the locals were forced to put on the table after the Red Sox quitter lucked into a great gig in El Lay. Mannywood, and all of that mania.

Want him back, fans? Let's see. If Manny drains \$20 mil or so out of the Dodger payroll, how the heck is the canned Jamie McCourt going to survive? Lady claims that she needs nearly 500k per month just to function. Hey gal, check out the recent unemployment numbers in our Great Bankrupt

State? Plus all of the perks she has become accustomed to. Like back massages from the limo jockey, I assume.

By the way folks, *Plank* had mentioned the Cougar thing with the lovely Ms. McCourt about a week prior to her alleged affair with the driver became public knowledge. I'm just saying... Trust my sources. And you should see some of the stuff that I don't write cuz I feel a responsibility to someone, somewhere.

The USC footballers just defeated the AZ State Sun Devils in an incredibly monotonous game Saturday night. It was 14-9 or something similar. Fight on, to all of you SC guys and gals who think that a college football game is a really big deal, a test of your man or womanhood. Puff it out, guys. Or even better, puff it out, ladies! Like to see you women sporting the Cardinal and Gold tight Ts. Personally, I get all fired up when the Cal State Dominguez Hills Toros win something, cuz that is my alma mater and this stuff is so darn important!

Shockingly, the football Bruins actually won a game! Criminy, that screws up my cheeky prediction made about five weeks ago that the Bruins-in-Ruins would lose out the rest of the season. Hate when I am wrong, but gotta take the bullet. And the Air Force Blues could actually win two in a row, because they travel up north to play the horrible Washington State somebodies this Saturday.

Just need to add that column favorite Rich "The Rat" Rodriguez and his Michigan kids dropped another game last weekend, turtling to the supposedly overmatched Purdue Boilermakers last Saturday in the "Big House." First home loss to the Rick Mounts in about 30 or so years. Nice loss, Coach Butthead. Started out 4-0, now you may end up 5-7. Congrats to your squad, Mr. Muraida. Even a blind squirrel finds the occasional acorn.

Stanley Cup alert. My Kings worked the Stanley Cup champs Penguins last week, beating the favored team of the lovely *LJ*, 5-2. But then the fellas came back to earth, losing to the Nashville Pre-Dators 3-1. What the heck is a Pre-Dator? Oh well, Kings are looking pretty darn good, and if they get the goaltending, they will be in the mix in the Western Conference. But you know that already, cuz you read my NHL preview a couple of weeks ago, right?

Games on tap for NFL week 10: Thursday night, the tanking Chicago Bears travel to San Francisco to clash with the tanking 49ers; the Indianapolis Colts play host to the New England Patriots on Sunday evening; the New Orleans Saints try to keep their undefeated season a-rolling as they invade St. Louis and clash with my Rams, who are giddy after their first victory of the season a couple of weeks ago against the putrid Detroit Lions; and the San Diego Chargers play host to the Philadelphia Eagles. I go 49ers, New England, New Orleans and San Diego.

And in other futbol news, the L.A. Galaxy moved on to the semifinals of the MLS playoffs. The Galaxy, and David "Ball Bender" Beckham won a riveting 1-0 victory over Chivas on Sunday evening. I was, in a word, overcome. It was recently announced that Beckham would again take his balls to Europe and play for AC Milan at the conclusion of the Galaxy postseason tour that ends in early December. How are we futbol fans going to survive that selfish act by the Galaxy star?

Mustangs' Win Sets up Bay League Title Game

By Gregg McMullin

When Mira Costa High School football coach Don Morrow reflected on how the game between his Mustangs and Leuzinger might play out, he had no idea that the outcome would be so lopsided. After all, the Mustangs were on the road facing a team that came into the game with a chip on its shoulder after suffering a defeat to Redondo the week before. They were also facing a team that was 6-2 and averaging 30 points a game this year while boasting the top quarterback in the area. Yet in the aftermath, Morrow managed all smiles after the Mustangs did what they wanted in their 45-6 win over the Olympians at Olympic Stadium.

Coach Morrow had to be pleased with the Mustangs' overall effort throughout the game. Mira Costa thoroughly dominated a team that had been as good as anyone in the South Bay in recent weeks, and the Mustangs did it on offense, defense and special teams. "We had a good week of practice and it showed tonight," Morrow said. "I just didn't think it would be this easy."

The game didn't start out the way Mira Costa wanted to, at least on offense. The Mustangs' first two possessions went without a score even though they moved the ball well against Leuzinger's stingy defense. The Mustangs' special teams have had plenty to do with the team's success this year and punt return specialist Kyle Nunn picked another great opportunity to show his athleticism. For the second straight week, the speedy senior returned a punt for a score. This time, Nunn received the ball near his own 45-yard line and ran back an exhilarating 55 yards for a touchdown. After receiving the ball, Nunn broke two tackles and made two others miss as he raced towards pay dirt. "Now that was fun," said Nunn of the punt return.

While the Mustangs continued to swarm the ball on defense, the offense did just enough to keep the ball away from the Olympians. The Mustangs got a three-yard scoring run from quarterback Kyle Demarco, and after the Mustangs' drive stalled later in the second quarter Alex Noroce connected on a 33-yard field goal.

Going into the locker room at halftime with Mira Costa leading 17-0 did nothing to ease Morrow's mind on how to approach Leuzinger. "They're a team very capable of putting up a lot of points and quickly," he said. "We just told everyone to stay focused and keep putting the pressure on them."

The Mustangs did put the pressure on their opponents by scoring 28 second half points. First Morgan Reece, who rushed for 98 yards on 15 carries, scored on a 20-yard yard to put the Mustangs up 24-0. Midway through the third quarter, Mira Costa brought out the trick play playbook. Demarco threw backwards to Jackson Morrow, who then threw to a wide open Nunn in stride for a

55-yard touchdown pass to make it 31-0. That score all but sealed the game for Mira Costa, but there was still more than a quarter of football left to play.

For Leuzinger the struggle to do anything on offense continued in the second half. An offense that was averaging 275 yards in the air was being limited by the Mustang secondary and the rush put on Olympian quarterback Te'Shon Burton. Also contributing to the Olympians' downfall against Mira Costa were bad snaps from center and a myriad of penalties that stalled drives.

The Mustangs' mindset was to keep putting the pressure on Leuzinger in the third and fourth quarters and to not pay any attention to the scoreboard. In the fourth quarter, Rico Wright added to his resume with a 39-yard touchdown run. Junior backup fullback Conner Vartanian made his first appearance in the backfield and ran for a 17-yard touchdown to increase the Mustangs' lead to 45-0.

With the game well in hand and a number of second string Mustangs in the game, Burton led the Olympians to their only score of the game. On their last possession of the game, Burton threw his 20th touchdown pass of the year; a 30-yard scoring strike to Jared Simmons.

With the victory Mira Costa, which is currently ranked second in the CIF Southern Section Western Division polls, is in position to capture its second consecutive Bay League title with a win over Redondo at home Friday night at 7 p.m. The Mustangs (7-2, 4-0) are riding a six-game winning streak and have given up just 35 points in the rugged Bay League this year. They'll face a Redondo (5-4, 3-1) team bent on ruining the Mustangs' season and sharing a piece of the title with a win.

Mustang News and Notes

The boys' water polo team ended its regular season behind Palos Verdes in the Bay League, but the Mustangs (20-7) will get the second seed in the CIF Division IV playoffs. The water polo team's success this year has been a continued work in progress. Mustang Coach Jon Reichardt's decision to take his team to Europe this past summer has really paid off so far. Playing top foreign amateur teams has made the Mustangs a much more experienced, if not a better, team and the Mustangs should see some success in the playoff starting this week.

The girls' volleyball team completed its undefeated run through the Bay League with a thrilling 23-25, 19-25, 25-21, 25-16, 15-13 win over rival Redondo. The Mustangs, who won their 26th league championship, will enter the CIF playoffs this week with plenty of momentum but won't be overlooking any of its opponents in their quest for a 16th CIF Southern Section title or an eighth State title. •

Modeling
Non-Violent
Behavior

WHEN YOU SCREAM AT A DRIVER, SHE LEARNS A LESSON.



Rings made larger

Rings made smaller

Ring shanks rebuilt

We fix platinum

The Jewelry Source
337 Main St. El Segundo. 310-322-7110
www.jewelrysourceUSA.com



