VISIONAIRE: DECISION ON NEXT RACE TO BE MADE WEEKEND AFTER NEXT, KENTUCKY CHARTER FLIGHT SCHEDULED MARCH 30 TO KEENELAND TRACK

A decision on Visionaire's next start will be made after he has breezed next weekend. Michael Matz worked the colt a half-mile Friday and will breeze him five-eighths next weekend. The Team Valor International and Vision Racing LLC-owned colt flies from Fort Lauderdale to Lexington on March 30. "I want to see how the colt acts in those two breezes before recommending anything," Matz told Barry Irwin this week. "Right now, I would have to say I am leaning toward the Blue Grass. After I have seen how the colt acts after his next breeze and which horses are running in which races, I will make my recommendation on the next race.

"I want to see where the other horses are running, where the competition is running. I want to see how he breezes to determine whether we need 4 weeks between his next prep and the Kentucky Derby, or whether 3 is enough."

Team Valor's Barry Irwin said "I am very interested in learning what Michael recommends, because the decision about where to run this colt next could be one of the biggest or our lives. If I thought that Visionaire was a horse without a true chance for success in the Kentucky Derby, I would have asked Michael to run back in the Wood, or the Arkansas Derby, shooting for a win in a pre-Derby prep race.

"But because I think we have a real shot on the First Saturday May, I am more interesting in getting to the Derby in the best possible shape, so for me the Blue Grass is the race because of the Polytrack."

Visionaire was moved from number 12 to 10 by Triple Crownologist Steve Haskin in his weekly ranking of the nation's top Kentucky Derby-bound sophomores in the "Derby Dozen" published this week in *The Blood-Horse.*
 (http://tcm.bloodhorse.com/derby_dozen.asp)

Writes Haskin, "He's shown on several occasions now that his best style is laying back and making one run, and that one run is powerful. Remember, he did beat Elysium Fields handily last fall. The only question is pedigree, which is borderline."

This week saw the name of Visionaire included on more top 10 Kentucky Derby lists than not and he has penetrated the top half dozen of some of the nation's most respected writers and analysts, such as Jenny Rees of the *Louisville Courier Journal*, James Scully of *BRISnet's Bloodstock Journal* and esteemed, award-winning New York writer Paul Moran, who wrote for several years for *Newsday* and now is a free-lance writer with his own racing blog.

James Scully's TOP TEN

Top 10

1) PYRO -- He's on schedule for his next start in the April 12 Blue Grass (G1)

2) COLONEL JOHN -- Returned to the races with a game win in the Sham (G3)

3) EL GATO MALO -- No dirt experience but late runner is talented

4) COURT VISION -- Improvement expected in Wood off late-running third in Fountain of Youth (G2)

5) VISIONAIRE -- Michael Matz runner rallied boldly for Gotham (G3)

6) GEORGIE BOY -- Closed strongly to win going away when making two-turn debut in San Felipe

7) BIG BROWN -- Smashing allowance winner will make stakes bow in Florida Derby (G1)

8) COOL COAL MAN -- Fountain of Youth winner is headed to Blue Grass

9) ATONED -- Owns 2-year-old class and returned to the races with encouraging showing in Tampa

10) DENIS OF CORK -- Will use a light schedule to prepare for Kentucky Derby

KENTUCKY DERBY 134   MAY 3, 2008

PAUL MORAN AT THE RACES from the blogosphere

Paul Moran's Bakers' Dozen Derby Rankings

1--Pyro
2--Big Truck
3--Court Vision
4--War Pass
5--Cool Coal Man
6--Visionaire
7--Atoned
8--Dennis of Cork
9--Fierce Wind
10-Big Brown
11-Sierra Sunset
12-Colonel John
13-El Gato Malo

Horse/ Last Start/ Next Start

1. Pyro Won Louisiana Derby (G2)/Fair Grounds/Toyota Blue Grass S. (G1) on April 12 at Keeneland

2. Colonel John Won Sham S. (G3)/Santa Anita/Santa Anita Derby (G1) on April 5 at Santa Anita

3. Georgie Boy Won San Felipe S. (G2)/Santa Anita Santa Anita Derby (G1) on April 5 at Santa Anita

4. Cool Coal Man Won Fountain of Youth S. (G2)/Toyota Blue Grass S. (G1) on April 12/Keeneland

5. El Gato Malo Second in Sham S. (G3)/Santa Anita Santa Anita Derby (G1) on April 5/Santa Anita

6. Denis of Cork Won Southwest S. (G3)/Oaklawn Wood Memorial S. (G1) or Illinois Derby (G2)

7. Visionaire Won Gotham S. (G3)/Aqueduct/Toyota Blue Grass S. (G1) at Keeneland

8. War Pass Seventh Tampa Bay Derby (G3)/ Wood Memorial S. (G1) on April 5 at Aqueduct

9. Elysium Fields Second in Fountain of Youth S. (G2)/ Florida Derby (G1) on March 29 at Gulfstream

10. Court Vision Third Fountain of Youth S. (G2)/Possibly Florida Derby (G1) on March 29

11. Big Truck Won Tampa Bay Derby (G3) on March 15 at Tampa Bay Undetermined

12. Sierra Sunset Won Rebel S. (G2) at Oaklawn/Arkansas Derby (G2) on April 12 at Oaklawn

13. Fierce Wind Won Sam F. Davis S. at Tampa Bay Florida Derby (G1) on March 29 at Gulfstream

14. Gayego Second in San Felipe S. (G2) on March 15 at Santa Anita Undetermined

15. Into Mischief Second in San Vicente S. (G2) on Feb. 10 at Santa Anita/Unknown due to sore feet

16. Tale of Ekati Sixth Louisiana Derby (G2)/Fair Grounds/Wood Memorial S. (G1)/April 5/Aqueduct

17. Hey Byrn Won allowance race at Gulfstream Florida Derby (G1) on March 29 at Gulfstream

18. Yankee Bravo Third in Louisiana Derby (G2) Fair Grounds/ Santa Anita Derby (G1) on April 5

19. Big Brown Won allowance race on March 5 at Gulfstream/Florida Derby (G1) on March 29

20. Atoned Second in Tampa Bay Derby (G3) on March 15 at Tampa Bay Undetermined

A Google search of Visionaire yielded Vision Aire (above) and pop culture icon Madonna, a "visionaire" for her panache, outlandish style and chutzpah.

From *The Blood-Horse* comes the following:

Graded Earnings Leaders for Kentucky Derby

The field for the 134th running of the $2 million guaranteed Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (Grade I) on Saturday, May 3 at Churchill Downs is limited to 20 horses. If more than 20 are entered, preference will be given to entrants based on earnings in graded stakes races. Here is a look at earnings in those races for Kentucky Derby 134 nominees through March 16, 2008. Compiled by Ben Huffman, Churchill Downs Racing Secretary. The complete list follows:

Horse	Trainer	Owner	Graded Earnings
War Pass	Zito, N.	Robert LaPenta	$1,320,000
Pyro	Asmussen, S.	Winchell Thoroughbreds	$1,020,000
Z Humor	Mott, W.	Zayat Stable	$524,000
Kodiak Kowboy	Asmussen, S.	Vinery & Fox Hill Farm	$441,373
Georgie Boy	Walsh, K.	George Schwary	$390,000
Tale of Ekati	Tagg, B.	Charles Fipke	$288,000
Colonel John	Harty, E.	WinStar Farm, LLC	$270,000
Sierra Sunset	Bonde, J.	Philip Lebherz, et al	$259,000
Court Vision	Mott, W.	IEAH Stables & WinStar Farm	$256,872
Cool Coal Man	Zito, N.	Robert LaPenta	$212,767
Big Truck	Tagg, B.	Eric Fein	$194,500
Anak Nakal	Zito, N.	Four Roses Thoroughbreds	$189,716
Visionaire	Matz, M.	Vision Racing & Team Valor	$180,000
Majestic Warrior	Mott, W.	Kinsman,Smith,Tabor,Magnier	$164,000
Denis of Cork	Carroll, D.	Mr. & Mrs. William Warren	$150,000
El Gato Malo	Dollase, C.	West Point Thoroughbreds	$130,000
Blackberry Road	Carroll, D.	Dogwood Stable	$123,417
Z Fortune	Asmussen, S.	Zayat Stable	$120,000
Indian Sun	Hendricks, D.	Cecil Peacock	$104,000
Atoned	Pletcher, T.	Dogwood Stable	$100,000
Smooth Air	Stutts, B. Jr.	Mount Joy Stable, Inc.	$90,000
Shediak (FR)	O'Neill, D.	Triple B Farms	$78,576
Etched	bin Suroor, S.	Godolphin	$77,180
Elysium Fields	Tagg, B.	Robert Evans	$70,000
Yankee Bravo	Gallagher, P.	Harlequin Ranches, et al	$60,000
Kings Silver Son	Asmussen, S.	Mike McCarty	$60,000
Cowboy Cal	Pletcher, T.	Stonerside Stable	$57,660
Texas Wildcatter	Pletcher, T.	Stonerside Stable	$50,000
Gayego	Lobo, P.	Cubanacan Stable	$40,000
Nikki'sgoldensteed	Hess, R. Jr.	M. Lomas & G. Spencer	$30,000
Bob Black Jack	Kaparoff, J.	J. Harmon & T. Kasparoff	$30,000
Isabull	Hobby, S.	JoAnn & Alex Lieblong	$30,000
Stevil	Zito, N.	Robert LaPenta	$12,000
Big Brown	Dutrow, R.	IEAH Stables & Paul Pompa	$0
Fierce Wind	Zito, N.	Four Roses Thoroughbreds	$0