

# BADEN-BADEN'S BIG YEAR

## INCIDENTS OF A RACE IN WHICH SOME GREAT COLTS WERE BEATEN.

### Leonard, Vera Cruz, McWhirter and Lisbon Among the Celebrities Vanquished by Australian's Son.

Baden-Baden was not in the same class as a two-year-old with the remarkable filly Belle of the Meade, still he won the Kentucky Derby of 1877. Had that daughter of Bonnie Scotland lived to have been a three-year-old it is more than probable the race would have been won by a filly and then the winner last year, Regret, would have been robbed of the high honor of being the first of her sex to capture the blue ribbon of the Kentucky turf.

It was a brilliant field that went to the post in the Derby of 1877. The race was witnessed by an attendance which included in the vast throng such distinguished citizens as senators J. C. S. Blackburn and James B. Beck; governor L. P. Blackburn, the afterwards governor J. Proctor Knott and Gen. William Preston. The Derby of 1877 was run on Tuesday, May 22, and the meeting at the Downs that spring was of seven racing days. There were forty-one entries in the Derby that year and a field of eleven three-year-olds, one filly and ten colts, went to the post.

In the auction pools Leonard sold the favorite, bringing \$150 to \$100 for Vera Cruz; \$50 for McWhirter; \$50 for Swigert's entry, Baden-Baden and Lisbon coupled, and \$45 for the others as the field. As a two-year-old Leonard had been the leading money-winner of his age, the Nursery Stakes and other rich two-year-old events of 1876 falling to him. He was the first of the get of the mighty Longfellow to show high form and the fact that he was in the stable of H. P. McGrath, the owner of the first Kentucky Derby winner, Aristides, and ridden by R. Swim, the noted rider who had won the event the year previous on Vagrant, explains how he came to be so strongly fancied for the race.

Leonard ran a good race in the Derby, but was not equal to the task of leading Baden-Baden home, the latter coming with a whirlwind burst of speed at the finish and capturing the event with a comfortable margin to spare. Baden-Baden was a dark chestnut colt, with a star in his forehead and stood 16 hands high. His dam was a half-sister to the great four-mile and cup horse Helmbold, while he was a half-brother to another noted racer in Blue Eyes.

Major Viley acted as starter in the Derby that year and had good luck with the field, each horse beginning to a fair start. After the race Baden-Baden changed hands, being sold to William Astor for \$12,500, in whose colors the year previous Vagrant had won the Derby.

The Derby of 1877 was worth \$3,300 net to the winner, being an increase in value both over the year previous, as well as in the inaugural year. The summary of the race of 1877 in full follows, the distance being one mile and a half.

D. Swigert's ch. c, Baden-Baden, by Australian—Lavender, by Wagner, 100 (W. Walker)...	1
H. P. McGrath's br. c, Leonard, by Longfellow—Colleen Bawn, 100 (Swim) .....	2
Smallwood & Co.'s br. c, King William, by Foster—dam by Albion, 100 (Bailey).....	3
Williams & Owings' b. c, Vera Cruz, by Virgil—Regan, 100 (Murphy) .....	4
Gen. A. Buford's ch. c, McWhirter, by Enquirer—Ontario, 100 (Moore) .....	5
D. Swigert's b. c, Lisbon, by Phaeton—Lady Love, 100 (Douglas) .....	6
F. B. Harper's gr. f, Early Light, by Longfellow—Fanny Wells, 97 (James) .....	7
J. J. Merrell's b. c, Oddfellow, by Longfellow—Magnolia, 100 (Williams) .....	8
L. B. Field's b. c, Headlight, by Bayonet—Olivia, 100 (Shehan) .....	9
Johnson & Mills' b. c, Dan K., by Bonnie Scotland—Jennie June, 100 (McGrath) .....	10
G. H. Rice's br. c, Lewis, by Melbourne Jr.—Magnetta, 100 (Jones) .....	11

Time, 2:38.

During the meeting of 1877 William Walker, who rode Baden-Baden in the Derby, was given a purse by the Louisville Jockey Club for being the best behaved rider on that track. This is the horseman who in late years developed the filly Round the World and in one season selected for two different owners a pair of wonderful racers, Old Rosebud and Little Nephew.

The season of 1877 was memorable at Louisville as in that year Ten Broeck made three of his then wonderful time records. His two miles in 3:27 1-2 and three miles in 5:26 1-2, are still track records at the Downs.

Baden-Baden was trained by R. Brown (Brown Dick), who afterwards developed Ben Brush, the winner of the Kentucky Derby of 1896. During civil war times "Brown Dick" rode many horses for the late R. A. Alexander and when he took to training, became one of the most successful trainers of his color of all time. Before he died, now a few years back, he said: "Baden-Baden was a great three-year-old and when he left my care was showing every sign of improving with age. Had he not broken down so early I believe he would have been a great cup horse as a four-year-old."

Baden-Baden started in the Clark Stakes in Mr. Astor's colors, but ran unplaced, McWhirter winning, with Vera Cruz second, both of which had finished behind him in the Derby. The distance of that race was two miles and it was run in 3:30 1-2, which was most phenomenal time in those days. The son of Australian was then taken east and won the Travers Stakes at Saratoga, beating in that event the filly Brademante, famous in later years as the dam of the mighty race horse, The Bard.

Three at least of the colts beaten by Baden-Baden in the Kentucky Derby will always rank high as brilliant racers in turf annals. These were Vera Cruz, McWhirter and Lisbon. Vera Cruz won the Louisville St. Leger and other important stakes, while McWhirter, after winning the Clark Stakes, met death in a race at St. Louis, in which, after being crippled, he ran on under three legs and finished the race, so badly broken down he had to be destroyed. It was this colt's gallant struggle and tragic death that caused the late Gen. A. Buford to write his famous tale of a great horse, in which he advanced the idea that a race horse has a soul and goes to heaven when he dies. Lisbon is better known to racegoers of today as a sire than as a turf performer. During a brilliant stud career he sired many stake winners and rounded out his stud life by giving the turf Troubadour, one of the greatest racers of the American turf. He did not come to his best early, but after winning the Suburban Handicap, became well-nigh invincible and in his older turf days defeated such remarkable racers as Miss Woodford and The Bard.

Dan K., which ran only tenth in the Derby of 1877, became a superior selling plater, winning in his racing career a total of forty-nine races.