

But change is, in itself, no magic bullet. Our regulatory system is not perfect, but it is better than what would be established by a federal bill pockmarked with pitfalls. Let's work together to fix what we have.

Eric Hamelback is the CEO of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Agency

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RAMSEY DOESN'T INTEND TO GET BEATEN AGAIN IN BARBADOS

by Bill Finley

Ken Ramsey is the first to admit that running a Queen's Plate winner as well as a two-time graded stakes winner in Saturday's Barbados Gold Cup is, from a financial standpoint, sheer insanity. But Ramsey loves the race, its history and its pageantry. He also had to settle for second the last two years and has no intention of losing this time around. That's why **Sir Dudley Digges** (Gio Ponti) and **Shining Copper** (Aragorn {Ire}) will be among the starters Saturday at the Garrison Savannah racetrack competing for a purse of \$107,000 (USD) when both are capable of winning races in America worth three or four times that amount.

Both would have been perfect fits for the \$300,000 GI Gulfstream Park Turf H., which was won by Heart to Heart (English Channel), a horse Shining Copper beat in the GII Fort Lauderdale S. And all trainer Mike Maker would have had to do to run at Gulfstream is ship them down from their headquarters at Palm Meadows. It costs about \$20,000 round trip to ship a horse from the U.S. to Barbados.

"From a financial standpoint, this is a stupid move," Ramsey said. "But I have a big ego and I enjoy coming down here. It's very relaxing. The world is not all about money. Even if Shining Copper won a Grade I race in the U.S., he's not going to be a stallion prospect. So there you have it. Ken Ramsey just loves to win and I'd like to get a third Barbados World Cup."

Ramsey first entered the race in 2014, winning it with Major Marvel (Bernstein), a high-priced claimer. He won again in 2015, this time with Saylor's Creek (Bernstein), a horse he claimed for \$20,000. Ramsey brought horses with similar credentials for the 2016 and 2017 runnings, but each time ran into a local horse who happened to be on top of his game. Dorsett (Artie Schiller), though claimed for just \$35,000 at Gulfstream, blossomed under the care of Bajan trainer Robert Pierce and has won the last two runnings of this race over Ramsey horses. He will be back Saturday looking for a three-peat.

This year, Ramsey wasn't going to take any chances. **Cont. p10**



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