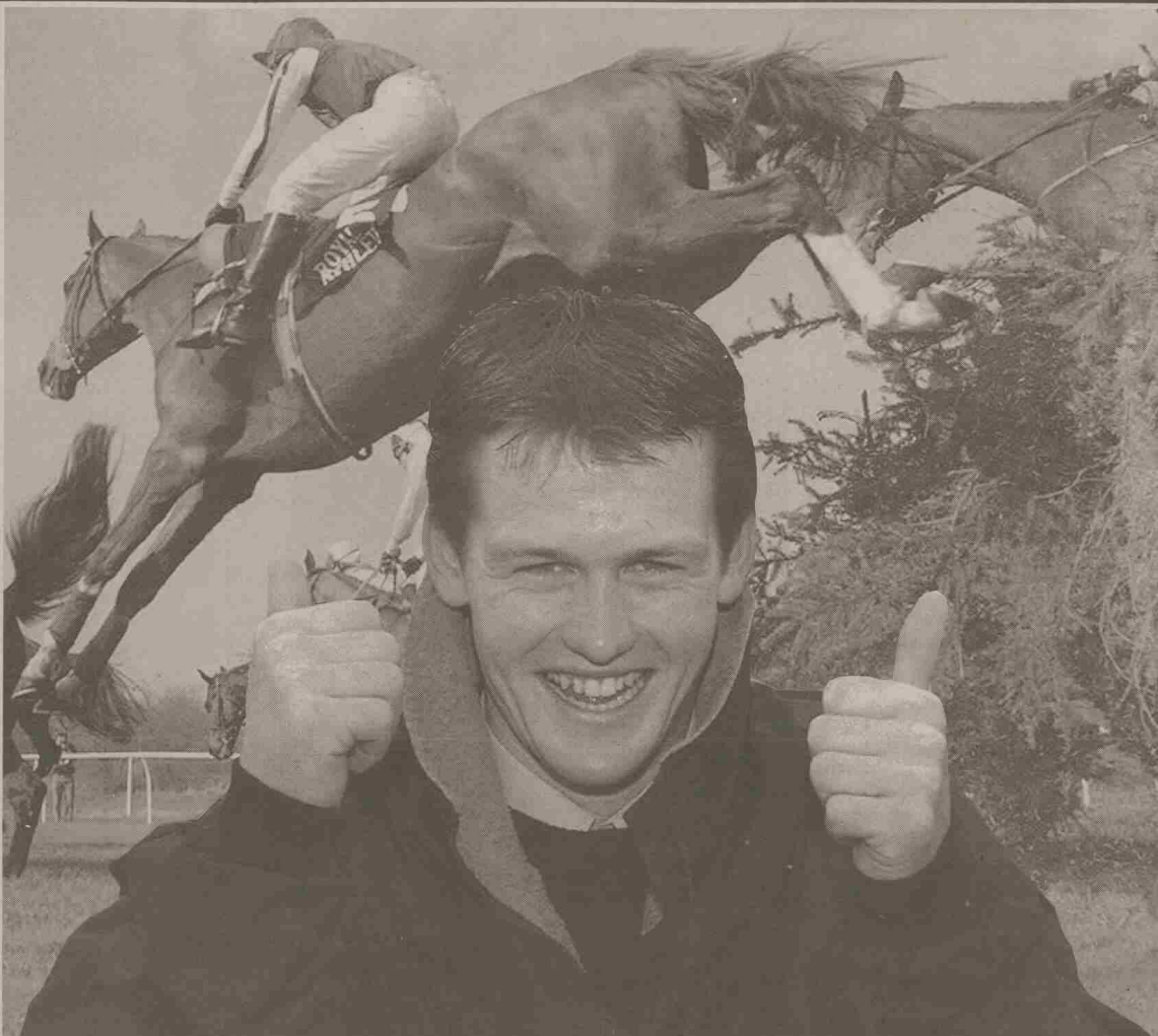


SATURDAY APRIL 10, 1999

GRAND National '99 Mirror



RARING TO GO: Teenage sensation Joe Tizzard is fit and fancied for the ride on hot Grand National favourite Double Thriller in the Aintree spectacular at 3.45 today

SMOKIN' JOE

Bookies will be roasted if whizz-kid Tizz does the biz

TEENAGE jockey Joe Tizzard carries millions of pounds on his back in today's Martell Grand National, but this 19-year-old is well capable of coping with being just as famous as Michael Owen – for an hour.

Big bookies Hills alone stand to

By CHARLES FAWCUS

lose £5million if Joe's horse, Double Thriller, is in front at the end of today's four and a half mile race, but Tizzard is letting nothing divert his attentions.

"My job is to go out there and ride — the betting has nothing to do with me," he declared.

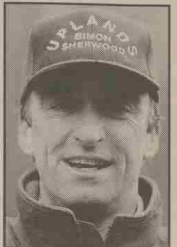
Joe has already been an Aintree winner this week and, despite his youth, he has already taken part in two Grand Nationals.

"Sadly my first horse Straight Talk fell after one circuit and broke his leg and had to be destroyed. Last year I was on General Crack who just could not handle the heavy ground, so I

pulled him up, but it was all good experience."

Double Thriller shot to the head of the Grand National betting by finishing fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, a run that would have earned him a lot more than the 10st 8lb he carries today if it had come before the weights

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SHERWOOD: Sunny outlook

Third time lucky for Sunny Bay

By CHARLES FAWCUS

THE force can be with brave Sunny Bay, who makes his third appearance on the great Martell Grand National stage today.

Only Lord Gyllene and Earth Summit have proved too strong for the flying grey who, at the beginning of the season, was rated as the best steeplechaser around when he slammed horses like Escartefigue and Gold Cup winner See More Business.

Although **SUNY BAY** (3.45) has not run up to that form in his races since but, like trainer Simon Sherwood, I believe that he

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GRAHAM BRADLEY

marks your National card

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JENNY PITMAN

on her emotional last hurrah at Aintree

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PAUL NICHOLLS

on the favourite, Double Thriller

PAGES 2&3

will be motivated once again by the big occasion.

Jockey Graham Bradley got the last minute go-ahead to ride yesterday but Mark Bradburne, who got a similar injury when Rough Quest fell here on Thursday was not so lucky, so in steps Lorcan Wyer to partner the pride of Scotland, Blue Charm.

Rubstic was a Scottish-trained winner and Blue Charm looked just the right type for this race when running second to prolific winner In The Blood in his latest race at Cheltenham.

Double Thriller has been the hot favourite since finishing fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and he has an ice-cool jockey in Joe Tizzard.

Endupe has a touch of **TURN TO PAGE 8**