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ST LEGER.

13/9/54.

St Leger crowds were lucky on the day of the last classic of the 1954 flat season. Other sporting engagements were ~~flashed~~ by wind and rain, but here at Doncaster it was wind and sunshine. Outstanding question was whether the Derby winner could bring off the double --- and in the paddock the big colt was looking confident of success --- Never Say Die.

m Riding Blue Sail once again was the American champion jockey, Johnny Longden. On the parade Never Say Die looked one of the best of the bunch; in the absence of Derby-winning-jockey, Lester Piggott, Charlie Smirke had the ride on the favourite.

It was a big field --- and they came up to a good start.

And they all got away nicely. Early leaders were By Thunder, Double Bore and Blue Prince II, with Elopement and Blue Sail among the middle numbers. Charlie Smirke was content to let Never Say Die stride along easily in the back bunch, with Umberto and Estremadur for company.

Coming round the bend towards the finishing straight, you'll now see the white blaze on the head of Never Say Die beginning to move up strongly. From this point there was only one horse in it --- nothing else seemed to have the power of the Derby winner.

And so it proved. Never Say Die hardly ~~was~~ bothered to go all out --- yet he finished a comfortable twelve lengths in front.

Elopement second and Estremadur third. An easy win for a great colt --- and the fourth winning St Leger for ~~him~~ Charlie Smirke. ~~And it's good news that although Never Say Die is owned by the American Mr Sterling Clarke --- he's going to stay in Britain.~~