

The *Times*

*Steeplechase
& Eventing*

Complimentary

Vol. 15, No. 7 • July 18, 2008
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Inside

- ♦ Four Schools wins Colonial stakes
- ♦ Red Letter Day scores at Philly
- ♦ Dutton heads U.S. eventing team

Saratoga Awaits

Steeplechasers eye Spa glory

Entries

What's Happening and Where To Find It

Rest up. Eat your Wheaties. Drink plenty of fluids. You can sleep in September. Saratoga is on the horizon and it's time to look ahead, with stakes previews, cheat sheets and the like. For those who took the summer off, we'll recap the hurdle (and toteboard) action at Colonial Downs and Philadelphia Park, as well as get you ready for the U.S. eventing squad's upcoming trip to the Olympic Games. Enjoy Hong Kong, and we'll see you at the Spa!



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Spa Treatment

The horse vans have hit the Northway as the racing world makes its seasonal pilgrimage to upstate New York. We cast an eye on the upcoming Saratoga meeting – who's going, who's not – and offer a few tidbits that might help pay for your \$8.95 beverage of choice at Siro's.



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Summer School

You didn't blow off the summer after cramming for the spring finals at Fair Hill, did you? Take a refresher course (or course refresher) with race recaps from Colonial Downs, where Four Schools made the grade in the Zeke Ferguson and transfer student High Action earned some U.S. credit.



PAGES 10-11

Philadelphia Bulletin

The winners at Philly Park July 6 looked like they were running on deadline. Magic Maker did older brother Preemptive Strike proud, going flag-to-wire for a runaway score, and Red Letter Day put longshot players in the black.

'Pick Six'

PAGES 18-19

The Big Board

Colorado's Cathy Fowler remains atop the standings through June, but can her stable maintain its altitude through the dog days of July and August?



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Precious Metal

Newly minted American Phillip Dutton leads the U.S. eventers as they journey east in the quest for Olympic medals.



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On the Cover

Horses and horsemen alike head to Saratoga Race Course, where they'll follow this path from the paddock to the track.

Photos: Dave Harmon (main), Tod Marks, Jeff Coady



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The Steeplechase and Eventing

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Take A Number

77.5: Total lengths separating the eight finishers in the Zeke Ferguson Memorial at Colonial Downs July 13.

3,198: Dollars the \$2 Pick 3 paid for races 2-4 at Colonial Downs July 13, which linked a trio of NSA trainers. Hold Your Fire (\$20.60) took the first leg for Tom Voss, Four Schools (\$54.60) got it done for Richard Valentine in the second spot and The Manner Born (\$25) anchored the ticket for Jonathan Sheppard.

48.50: Average mutuel price of Dale Jackson's three flat winners this summer at Colonial. Jackson saddled Leading Character (\$13.40) early, then sent out Lady Winaway (\$95.40) and Jolly Sue (\$36.60) on back-to-back days later in the meet.

6: Horses who won this summer after running in training flat races at Fair Hill May 24. Wheels Up At Noon (twice), C R's Deputy, Auction Watch, High Action, Highcrest and The Manner Born all competed in the NSA spring finale.

17.10: Average mutuel price of the Fair Hill-prepped winners. We hope you were paying more attention than we were.

2: Horses out of steeplechase winner Saturday Sunshine that started at Colonial Downs June 13. Sunshine Numbers pulled up in the Zeke Ferguson stakes and younger brother Grant Me Sunshine finished sixth a race later.

Worth Repeating

"Can I see that program? I want to know which number I am."

Trainer Jack Fisher, prior to the third race at Philadelphia Park July 6. Jack, you were the 4 and the 9.

"I looked back and saw I was an eighth of a mile in front and I said, 'I'm a dead man if I get caught from here.'"

Jockey Matt McCarron, aboard Magic Maker, en route to a 24 1/2-length win in the fifth race at Philadelphia Park

"That was quite a training feat, huh?"

Fisher, about Sheila Williams' Seer, who won a maiden hurdle race and a maiden flat race at Colonial Downs this summer

"One of the highlights is the Olympic Village, you get to sit down in these huge food halls with as much food as you could ever want to eat, from the healthiest to the fattest. You really get the feeling of the Olympics there, you have a gymnast on one side and a weight lifter on the other."

Eventer Phillip Dutton, on the magic of the Olympics

Jump Trainers Anything But Flat

Remember the horse who won the first flat race at Fair Hill? The one you circled in the program, and hoped to see pop up in the hurdle entries this fall?

Well, you're going to have to keep waiting, because Eldon Farm's Wheels Up At Noon has been having quite a time on the turf for Doug Fout, winning a pair of stakes at Delaware Park, including the \$200,000 Caesar Rodney July 13.

A 4-year-old son of Outflanker, Wheels Up At Noon won four races on the flat in 2007 for trainer Ann Merryman, knocking heads with several of the sophomore turf division's classiest horses throughout an 11-race campaign. Purchased by Fout for Eldon, Wheels Up At Noon made his first start for his new connections in the opener at Fair Hill, winning the 7-furlong training flat by an easy 4 lengths.

"We bought him as a steeplechaser. He was a colt, and after we gelded him, he started to fill out," owner Ken Luke said. "He got nicer looking, larger. So we figured to give him a shot on the turf."

Fout sent Wheels Up At Noon to Delaware Park for the \$55,000 Eight Thirty Stakes June 18 – he scored in gate-to-wire fashion. In

News and Notes from around the circuit

FOR STARTERS



Tod Marks
Wheels Up At Noon bounced out of this Fair Hill win to take two stakes on the turf at Delaware Park.

the Rodney, Wheels Up At Noon (based at Fair Hill with Fout's assistant, former jump jockey Ben Guessford) powered to the front in mid-stretch, and easily held off millionaire Silver Tree by 2 1/4 lengths, paying \$24.60 in the bargain.

"We'll try to step up with him, maybe a Grade III stakes," said Luke. "With his pedigree, we're excited. And he'll still be a steeple-chaser someday."

• Fout wasn't the only NSA trainer to notch a stakes at Delaware Park this year. Jonathan Sheppard turned the trick one day earlier, scoring an upset with Augustin Stable's Palmilla in the Grade III, \$300,000 Robert Dick Memorial July 12.

Sent off at a robust 20-1, Palmilla sat a garden trip in third before wearing down early leader and 1-5 favorite Rosinka in deep stretch to score by a widening 3 1/2 lengths.

A 5-year-old homebred daughter of Crowd Pleaser, Palmilla won for the fourth time in 13 lifetime starts, and increased her lifetime earnings to \$310,310.

"It was a tough field and we would have been happy with third money," Sheppard admitted. "But that's why they run the races."

• Those Fair Hill training flats have proved key races. Auction Watch, who won the other 7-furlong sprint at the May meet, took the \$75,000 Alphabet Soup Handicap at Philadelphia Park June 14. Trainer Sanna Hendriks opted to return Auction Watch to the flat after a pair of disappointing hurdle tries this spring. The 5-year-old son of Belong To Me relished the switch and rolled by 2 lengths, boosting his record over the Philly turf to a perfect 4-for-4.

• Colonial Downs drew NSA trainers for more than the six hurdle races, as many conditioners picked up flat wins at the Virginia track. Sanna Hendriks and Dale Jackson led the way with three each (through July 14). Hendriks scored with Change Course (twice) and Plymouth Rock, while Jackson sent out Leading Character, Lady Winaway and Jolly Sue. Neil Morris (Never Fear), Lilith Boucher (Honey's Meadow), Tom Voss (Hold Your Fire), Sheppard (The Manner Born), Don Yovanovich (Sonic Charm) and Jimmy Day (Wild Ball) all tallied victories as well. Former jump jockey Speedy Smithwick, now a Kentuckian, got off to a quick start at Colonial and had won seven races through July 14.

– Brian Nadeau

Acting Class

Last summer, jockey Danielle Hodsdon won a flat race at Colonial Downs. This summer, she tackled another new career – starring in a television commercial.

Organized by Montpelier Races executive director Martha Strawther and race sponsor Mercedes-Benz of Fredericksburg (Va.), the 30-second spot features Hodsdon, a sports car, the Montpelier course and two steeplechase clips.

Hodsdon's lines? "I just drove this Mercedes-Benz SLK and let me tell you it has some horsepower. And the pick up you need to pass in the straight-

away. I may be a girl, but I do know something about horsepower – and I also know something about passing on the straightaway."

Created by Andy Huffmyer of WCAV in Charlottesville, Va., the commercial touts Montpelier's races this fall and will air in the local market.

"It turned out fabulous," said Huffmyer. "It makes Danielle and Mercedes and Montpelier look good – and that was the goal. Danielle did a great job even though it's not what she does for a living."


Hodsdon enjoyed her time in front of the camera, even if it was a little out of character.

"In school, I never did the acting or the speaking in front of people so it was a different experience for me," she said. "It was kind of fun though."

Now aware of the work that goes into a TV production, Hodsdon said the commercial took several takes – three for the driving segment and a few more for the other scenes, which feature her climbing out of the car and speaking to the camera.

See the video online at www.st-publishing.com.

– Joe Clancy



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BY JOE CLANCY

She? The Voss barn's best chance in the Grade II A.P. Smithwick and Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup might be Guelph. A confirmed star in the filly/mare division, she's 2-for-2 this year and may get a chance to duplicate Footlights' wins against males last summer at Saratoga.



Tod Marks

“Her spring form was perfect, and obviously the boys are a different story, but she’s as tough as they

Last year, Footlights took advantage of the newly expanded conditions – which group wins in restricted filly/mare races along with maiden, claiming and starter victories – and won a first-level allowance opening week before upsetting the Grade I New York Turf

See **SARATOGA** page 6 ►

Brother to a

Richland Hills Farm and Nathan Fox, breeder of five-time Breeders' Cup Steeplechase winner and legendary jumper McDYNAMO, will offer a yearling half-brother to the three-time champion in the Keeneland September Sale.

Legend



Photo by Todd Marks

McDynamo won five consecutive Breeders' Cup Steeplechases. You can own his half-brother.

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		Damascus
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1st dam

RONDONIA, by Monteverdi (IRE). Unraced. Dam of 11 other registered foals,
11 of racing age, 10 to race, 6 winners, including—
OLD CHAPEL (c. by Dynaformer), 6 wins at 2 and 6, \$371,086, Generous
II S. [G3], Garden City S. [L] (BEL, \$51,225), 2nd Pilgrim S. [G3]—
McDynamo (g. by Dynaformer), 17 wins in 34 starts, 3 to 1, champion
champion steeplechaser 3 times. Set per course records at Far Hills.

WINTER

ADVICE (c. by Advocate). 11 wins, 2 to 6, \$152,796.
[O], Tondi H. (FON), 2nd Bachelor S. (\$22,560).

NSA Standings

TOP 10 THROUGH JULY 19

Jockeys (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Xavier Aizpuru.....	43	13	7	4	\$274,622	.30
Jody Petty.....	31	9	6	2	175,200	.29
Matt McCarron.....	40	7	2	4	134,506	.18
Paddy Young.....	47	6	7	6	116,550	.13
Carl Rafter.....	49	6	3	11	184,463	.12
Willie Dowling.....	24	6	3	5	265,500	.25
Danielle Hodsdon.....	39	4	8	5	223,025	.10
Will Haynes.....	12	4	4	1	58,650	.33
Padge Whelan.....	15	4	2	1	114,840	.27
Brooks Durkee.....	18	4	1	6	62,700	.22

Trainers (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Tom Voss.....	44	13	10	4	\$332,790	.30
Jack Fisher.....	55	11	4	9	383,050	.20
Sanna Hendriks.....	37	10	8	4	196,950	.27
Jonathan Sheppard.....	41	6	11	6	329,067	.15
Doug Fout.....	61	6	4	6	130,406	.10
Kathy McKenna.....	35	5	1	9	64,450	.14
Desmond Fogarty.....	20	4	3	5	114,800	.20
Bruce Miller.....	18	4	3	2	138,263	.22
Mike Berryman.....	13	4	0	2	54,200	.31
Richard Valentine.....	24	3	4	2	70,450	.13

Owners (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Irv Naylor.....	28	5	4	5	\$167,150	.18
Calvin Houghland.....	21	4	3	4	165,692	.19
Augustin Stable.....	25	8	4	3	151,100	.32
Sonny Via.....	2	2	0	0	150,000	1.00
Hudson River Farm.....	2	2	0	0	114,075	1.00
Sally Radcliffe.....	8	1	3	2	75,513	.13
Bill Pape.....	12	2	4	2	72,300	.17
Kinross Farm.....	31	2	6	4	71,900	.06
Arcadia Stable.....	15	1	0	4	71,850	.07
Fox Ridge Farm.....	4	2	1	1	69,000	.50

Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Good Night Shirt.....	2	2	0	0	\$150,000	1.00
Sovereign Duty.....	2	2	0	0	114,075	1.00
Be Certain.....	4	2	1	0	67,500	.50
Bubble Economy.....	4	1	0	2	66,500	.25
Planets Aligned.....	2	1	1	0	58,500	.50
Imagina.....	3	1	1	0	58,500	.33
Allimac.....	2	2	0	0	57,000	1.00
Class Shadow.....	5	2	2	1	51,440	.40
Askim.....	2	1	1	0	51,300	.50
Guelph.....	2	2	0	0	48,000	1.00

Saratoga —

■ Continued from page 5

Writers Cup at the end of the meet. The same schedule applies this year, meaning Guelph is eligible for the entry-level allowance races — despite six career wins — and the \$80,000 Smithwick Aug. 7 and the \$150,000 Turf Writers Aug. 28.

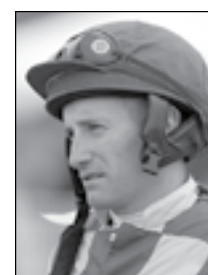
“Obviously you think of just last year and what Footlights did at Saratoga and it’s capable of happening with the right type of horse and the right circumstances,” Aizpuru said. “Last year it panned out; we were the only speed and got a feathery weight. And it’s no secret Guelph’s best runs are on the front end, and it’s an advantage to have a horse like that.”

It also helps that the stakes division is as mixed as a strawberry-banana smoothie. Good Night Shirt’s at home playing golf or fishing or whatever horses do for summer vacation. Royal Chase winner Sovereign Duty is dealing with leg problems. Sweet Shani won’t run until the fall. Six of the Ferguson entrants started for a claiming price this year.

The competition list starts with Mixed Up, even if he has lost four consecutive races. Now a veteran, he won the 2006 Turf Writers and 2007 Smithwick and excels at racetrack steeplechasing. Trainer Jonathan Sheppard sweats over Bill Pape’s charge, but the 9-year-old must be considered a factor.

Newcomer High Action finally got a chance at American steeplechasing and responded with a nice allowance win at Colonial Downs June 15. A major talent in English distance flat racing in 2006 and a hurdle winner there in 2004, he thumped eventual Ferguson winner Four Schools among others. English owner Carl Barnes sent the horse to Doug Fout after hearing of the trainer’s success with English hurdle convert Hirapour a few years ago, with an eye toward major stakes. Now is the time.

Irish invader Salford City ratchets up the intrigue factor with a scheduled raid of Saratoga for owners Fergus Galvin and Adam Lord and trainer Gordon Elliott. Salford City has won five races



Aizpuru

over jumps, winning twice over the bigger steeplechase fences and three times over hurdles in Ireland. The 7-year-old son of Desert Sun broke his maiden last summer and has made 16 starts over fences.

Salford City carries plenty of options as he broke his hurdle maiden June 1, the cutoff date for the novice races at Saratoga.

Originally in the Coolmore pipeline, Salford City won his first two starts on the flat before finishing fifth in the Epsom Derby, then shipped to the United States. Under Patrick Biancone’s care, he faced top turf horses Artie Schiller and Shakespeare and won an allowance race at Belmont. Galvin purchased the half-brother to Irish Derby runner-up Definite Article in 2005.

“We bought him to go to Ireland and jump. I always wanted a good horse to go jumping over there. He’s got high-class flat form and he’s a well-traveled customer,” Galvin said. “We’re coming for the prestige of Saratoga — the horse is getting a lot of publicity in Ireland just because he’s coming over and giving it a try. Irish steeplechase horses don’t usually travel other than to go to England and France. He likes firm ground and the prize money on offer to do the two of them is big. Saratoga is the racetrack of this country, outside of Keeneland in the spring, so we’ll give it a shot.”

Galvin, who owns Hunter Valley Farm in Lexington, Ky., will consign two horses to the Fasig-Tipton Select Sale Aug. 4-5 and looks forward to a successful Saratoga.

“We might have the sales-topper, a colt by A.P. Indy,” he said. “With him and Salford City, it could be a good week.”

Tell that to Guelph.

STAKES NOTES: Four Schools got the perfect trip in the Ferguson but looked good enough to contend in this stakes division . . . Ultra-tough 4-year-old filly Class Shadow could be another factor — joining Guelph in the girls vs. boys brigade.

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NSA Summer Schedule

Saratoga Jump Start

Sunday, July 20..... Saratoga Race Course (5 races).

Saratoga (www.nyra.com)

Thursday, July 24..... \$68,000 Optional claiming hurdle (NW10TMCS or filly, or run for \$30,000)

Thursday, July 31.... \$70,000 Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes (NW prior to June 1, 2007)

Thursday, Aug. 7..... \$80,000 A.P. Smithwick Stakes (Gr. II)

Thursday, Aug. 14.... \$68,000 Optional claiming hurdle (NW10TMCS or filly, or run for \$30,000)

Thursday, Aug. 21... \$70,000 Mickey Walsh Novice (NW prior to June 1, 2007)

Philadelphia Park (www.philadelphiapark.com)

Saturday, Aug. 23..... \$75,000 Flatterer Stakes (PA-breds)

Saratoga (www.nyra.com)

Wednesday, Aug. 27 \$70,000 Optional claiming hurdle (NW20TMCS or filly, or run for \$40,000)

Thursday, Aug. 28.... \$150,000 New York Turf Writers (Gr. I)

The Spa Top 20

Getting the jump on college football, *The Times* staff did its Top 20 for the upcoming Saratoga meet. No rules, no restrictions: just a score of horses who should see action at some point during the meet, ranked according to our collective opinion (with owner, trainer).

1. Guelph (The Fields Stable, Tom Voss): Star mare looks to emulate Footlights in Spa stakes division.

2. Mixed Up (Bill Pape, Jonathan Sheppard): Former Turf Writers and Smithwick winner loves the flat tracks. Watch at Open House.

3. Be Certain (Alnoff Stable, Voss): Radnor win showed there's no 4-year-old jinx here.

4. Rainiero (Augustin Stable, Sanna Hendriks): Righted the ship at Radnor; look out.

5. Salford City (Fergus Galvin and Adam Lord, Gordon Elliott): Irish invader is an intriguing sort with plenty of back-class in America.

6. High Action (Carl Barnes, Doug Fout): Classy European import showed promise in handy Colonial allowance score.

7. Dr. Bloomer (Calvin Houghland, Sheppard): Disappointed at Colonial; a threat off his Marcellus Frost form.

8. Dynaski (Armata Stable, Voss): Radnor maiden winner is well-liked by the barn, and that means a lot if you ask us.

9. Bee Charmer (Whitewood Stable, Richard Valentine): Now that's more like it. Looked like a future star in second go at Colonial.

10. Four Schools (Jacqueline Ohrstrom, Valentine): Claim of the year and then some; galloped in the Ferguson.

11. Class Shadow (Star Ten Stable, Lilith Boucher): Filly wasn't too far from Guelph in two spring tries. Game second vs. boys in Ferguson.

12. Dark Equation (Peggy Steinman, Fout): Veteran has shown he likes the Spa course.

13. The Price Of Love (Pape, Sheppard): Lightly raced sort seems to have plenty of room for improvement. Sneaky third in Radnor stakes.

14. Duke Of Earl (Ann Stern, Jack Fisher): You know what you're going to get from this hard-knocker every time he runs.

15. Fogcutter (Fox Ridge Farm, Voss): Homebred has run well in both hurdle starts.

16. Magic Maker (EMO Stable, Fout): Pulled a Secretariat in his maiden win at Philly Park.

17. Discreet Charmer (Brigadoon Stable, Fout): Looks to improve off even run at Colonial.

18. Red Letter Day (Greg Hawkins, Janet Elliot): May have turned corner in Phila. allowance win.

19. Slip Away (Ken and Sarah Ramsey, Voss): Game maiden winner at High Hope for owner who loves to win races at Saratoga.

20. Dreadnaught (Trillium Stable, Voss): Major stakes winner on turf finally broke through over jumps at Nashville.

Honorable Mention

(in alphabetical order)

C R's Deputy, Free Admission, Gigger, Gryffindor, Langburg, Look At Him, Luongo, Meneef, More Fascination, Motel Affair, News Flash, Orpington, Prep School, Run The Light, Seer, Sermon Of Love, Spy In The Sky, Strathspey Kino, Swagger Stick, Swimming River.

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News from the NSF

The National Steeplechase Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of American steeplechasing through programs that promote safety, education, fairness, and the spirit of amateurism.



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Learning from the Experts



For the second consecutive year, the National Steeplechase Foundation sent Barry Watson, National Steeplechase Association starter and safety advisor, to England for a fact-finding trip aimed at seeing what can be learned from British jump racing and what can be brought home for use in the United States. During his 10-day visit in December, Watson visited the Sandown, Warwick, Chepstow and Cheltenham race courses and talked to everyone from Jockey Club officials to fence builders. He also spent time at the start during each racing day. In short, the trip proved valuable in many areas – course safety, course maintenance, starting procedures and the strengthening of contacts with various English racing officials.

The sixth and final installment of Watson's day-by-day report follows.

...

Dec. 15: I arrived at Cheltenham at 10:30 a.m. to walk the course with Richard Linley. The covers from the night before had just been removed. They had provided the insulation from frost, and the grounds crew was well on its way to having the course prepared for the day's event. Thousands of divots had been repaired, filled and seeded by hand. Much of the race rail had been moved out to provide fresh ground. Richard pointed out nuances of Cheltenham on the way around. His experience as a rider and senior inspector covers some 30 years, and we theorized about some of the complicated problems that surface from time to time.

The Saturday card was impressive, highlighted by two races with combined purses of 350,000 pounds: the Boylesport.com Gold Cup, a steeplechase handicap with a purse of 150,000 pounds contested at 2 5/8 miles on the new course and the Boylesport.com International, a hurdle stakes worth £200,000 at 2 1/8 miles. It's an exciting day of racing with all the atmosphere and pressure of a big event. I can only imagine what kind of a feel the Festival produces with four days of championship racing in the month of March. I suspect it may be comparable to playoff and championship games in professional baseball, basketball and football in the States. It's a big deal. Unfortunately, the day was marred by a fatal injury to Macs Joy in the feature, casting a cloud over an otherwise spectacular event.

IN SUMMARY

Over a span of 10 days I engaged in a great deal of invaluable meetings and experiences that will bear fruit in the not-too-distant future. Two of the more significant observations that may be adopted are the coco mats used on several of the racecourse road crossings and the implementation of an established formula for the number of fences to be jumped over a specific distance. There is also the planned development of a more efficient hurdle wing frame. I have no doubt of the importance of these trips and the contributions they make to the eventual improvements in our own sport. I believe the ties and relationships that are being developed during these events will also lead to bridging the gap and connecting us more securely to the international world of steeplechasing, and thereby improve our standing in the sporting community. Steeplechasing is a major sport in England and Ireland. It may be difficult to achieve this kind of status in America, but there are steps that can be taken to substantially improve our own sport now, and head in a direction that may insure the future and the success of steeplechasing in America. Once again, I feel compelled to express my gratitude and sense of honor for being part of such an endeavor.

The National Steeplechase Foundation supports various initiatives to aid the growth of American steeplechase racing.

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Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh

Four Schools (second from left, Carl Rafter) sets up behind early leader Sunshine Numbers.

Valentine's Day

Four Schools punctuates trainer's double with Ferguson stakes tally

BY JOE CLANCY

NEW KENT, Va. – When Sunshine Numbers blazed away from the start of the Zeke Ferguson Memorial, the race suddenly became a test of survival skills. The horse who could withstand the pace without dropping too far back would win.

Hello, Four Schools.

The long-striding Irish import occupied the second spot – some 15-20 lengths behind the leader and just ahead of heavyweight Dr. Bloomer – as the field stretched itself longer than a freight train headed through nearby Providence Forge on the way to Newport News. A mile into the 2 1/4-mile test, 44 lengths separated the 11 runners.

"It was lightning fast, but he's a big, scopey horse and loved it out there," said jockey Carl Rafter. "I was able to rate him around the bends, and let him jump the fences how he met them."

Four Schools ran past the weary Sunshine Numbers midway down the backstretch and hit the final turn in total command, coasting under the wire by 6 1/2 lengths as Rafter tossed his unneeded whip to the turf. Four-year-old filly Class Shadow (Richard Boucher) nipped fellow late runner Duke Of Earl (Paddy Young) in a photo for second. The winner stopped the clock in 3:55.35 to strike Swoop And Soar's record 3:56 from the book after almost two years.

Owned by Jacqueline Ohrstrom and trained by Richard Valentine, the winner started on each of the three jump days at Colonial – improving from thirds against optional claimers June 15 and June 29. The \$50,000 stakes marked another step forward, and a \$30,000 payday. Valentine won a shake with Jack Fisher and Sanna Hendriks to claim Four Schools at Fair Hill, and

COLONIAL DOWNS

Sunday, July 13

gave partial credit to the anti-bleeding medication Lasix. The 6-year-old made 15 starts in Europe (where Lasix is not used) and did not race on the medication during his previous four American starts for Gary Brown and Barbara McWade.

"We added Lasix and that seemed to really move him up," said Valentine. "It took him a couple starts to realize he wasn't going to bleed."

Valentine tried to buy Four Schools in 2007 – on the advice of assistant Calvin McCormack (who talked to leading English jump jockey Tony McCoy, who rode Four Schools twice overseas) – but had to wait.

"I tried to buy him last year (from Brown and owner Emma Wettren) and was told he was sold to someone else (Lucy Horner)," said Valentine. "When he came out this year I approached them again. We pursued buying him and took a pass (on claiming him at Radnor). When they ran him for \$20,000 again at Fair Hill, it would have been stupid to pass again so we claimed him and were lucky enough to get him."

The Ferguson could prove a stepping-stone to future stakes races – though Valentine wants to weigh his options. The trainer originally planned to skip Saratoga in favor of a fall campaign, but may now reconsider.

"I hope Mrs. Ohrstrom would let us go to Saratoga with him but if she doesn't I understand; he can come back in the fall and do OK," said the trainer. "At Saratoga, we might take a shot (at a stakes) because the good ones aren't there. High Action is a serious horse but

See **FERGUSON** page 9 ►

Ferguson —

■ Continued from page 8

besides that I don't know who you'd see. Good Night Shirt, I'd never want to run against that classy a horse, but we fit this group well though."

• The Ferguson triumph completed a two-race sweep for Valentine and the Ohrstrom family. Whitewood Stable's Bee Charmer (Robbie Walsh) ran away with a \$15,000 maiden hurdle to start the day. A three-time winner with graded-stakes form on the flat, the 6-year-old assumed command from Frosted Face at the start of the backstretch and galloped off to win by 20 lengths. Zozimus (Young) closed late for second with Frosted Face (Foley) third.

Walsh, aboard for the first time, offered high praise.

"He's the best maiden I've ever sat on," said the jockey. "Most of them take two, three or four runs and then they can be really good. He took to it very quickly. He's still green, but he's that good and he can overcome the situation. He's very good, very, very good."

In his first hurdle start (at Colonial June 29) Bee Charmer unseated McCormack, but has been prepping for jump racing much of the year. He won a point-to-point in the spring and won a training flat at the Carolina Cup before returning to trainer Michael Matz and one more turf try — a well-beaten 11th in the Elkhorn at Keeneland.

Walsh rated Bee Charmer off the early run of Frosted Face and bounded toward the front at the sixth of 10 fences.

"He pinged that fence in front of the stands, landed between two horses and was gone," said Walsh. "Not rank gone, but all of the sudden I was going to be doing too much to keep him in behind horses. I didn't want to fight him and when he got to the front he backed off and relaxed. Then there was no need for me to do anything."



Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh

Bee Charmer (Robbie Walsh) glides to the finish.

Four Schools was offered for sale at Goffs in 2002

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Colonial Downs.

New Kent, Va. Sunday, July 13. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

1. Bee Charmer (Ire)	L 154	Walsh	4.60	3.00	2.60
2. Zozimus	L 154	Young		5.80	4.60
3. Frosted Face	L 146	Foley			3.60
Exacta (5-2) \$23.00. Trifecta (5-2-6) \$537.20					
4. Cuse	L 154	Rafter			
PU. Not For Love's Boy	L 145	Carter			
PU. Two Terms	L 154	Whelan			
*LR. Delta Park	L 145	Aizpuru			

*-At Start

Mgn: 20. Time: 4:00 2/5.

O: Whitewood Stable. T: Richard Valentine.

B. g. 6 Anabaa-Bayourida, Slew o' Gold.

Bred by Sarl Elevage du Haras de Bourgeauville (Ire).

3rd. \$54,500 hurdle stakes. 2 1/4 miles.

The Zeke Ferguson (Grade III)

1. Four Schools (Ire)	L 142	Rafter	54.60	20.40	10.60
2. Class Shadow		130	Boucher	6.40	4.20
3. Duke Of Earl	L 142	Young			3.20
Exacta (4-6) \$402.80. Trifecta (4-6-8) \$1,137.80					
4. Free Admission	L 146	Hodsdon			
5. Dr. Bloomer	L 154	Walsh			
6. Motel Affair	L 142	Whelan			
7. Run The Light	L 142	McCarron			
8. Pleasant Pick	L 142	W. Haynes			
PU. Chess Board (GB)	L 142	J. Murphy			
PU. Sunshine Numbers	L 142	Foley			
PU. Swimming River	L 146	Slater			
*NS. Sound Blaster	L 146	Aizpuru			

*-Declared non-starter after refusing at the start.

Mgn: 6 1/2. Time: 3:55 1/5.

O: Jacqueline Ohrstrom. T: Richard Valentine.

B. g. 6 Raise a Grand (Ire)-Haanem (GB), Mtoto (GB).

Bred by Teresa Bergin (Ire).

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Cheeky Devil

Red Letter Day, Elliot use new tack to deliver allowance hurdle score

BY BRIAN NADEAU

PHILADELPHIA PARK

Sunday, July 6

BENSALEM, Pa. — As Janet Elliot walked up the owners' grandstand at Philadelphia Park July 6, fellow trainer Jack Fisher made a half-serious observation: "Janet, I've never seen blinkers look like that before on a horse."

"I guess they call them cheek pieces," Elliot replied. "Someone suggested them to me and I thought 'why not?' I've never tried them before."

That's saying something.

With more than \$7 million in earnings during a training career that's spanned three decades, Elliot had likely employed every piece of equipment this side of a stall door. Well, not every piece . . .

The beneficiary of the unusual and seldom-used equipment was Greg Hawkins' Red Letter Day; the result was a flag-to-wire victory in the \$30,000 allowance/optional claimer that illuminated the tote board. At 18-1, the longest shot in the field of six paid \$38.80 to win.

More common in England and Ireland, cheek pieces are designed, like blinkers, to increase a horse's focus during a race. Think of a shadow roll stretched out and then placed vertically on each side of a horse's, well, cheek.

"I was kind of grasping at straws with this horse," Elliot said. "After he won last year I thought he was going to be quite nice, but he just never put it together."

Red Letter Day broke his maiden on the lead at Charlotte in April 2007, but fell next out at Radnor last May. That led to a trio of flat starts at Colonial Downs, where he finished fourth each time.

Put away for the year, the 5-year-old son of Red Ransom returned this March at Camden, running a distant second to Imagina in the Grade II Carolina Cup, then followed with a dull fifth in an al-



Barbara Weidl/EQUI-PHOTO

Red Letter Day (right, Robbie Walsh) shows the way early at Philadelphia Park.

lowance at Atlanta and a non-threatening fourth at Radnor.

So why not try something new?

Elliot gave a leg up to Robbie Walsh, noting that in the day's first hurdle race, Magic Maker sped to a large early lead and never looked back. Cheek pieces in place, Red Letter Day figured to be more focused and more interested early in the running.

"It looked like speed was holding, especially after seeing Magic Maker, so I told Robbie just to send him away from there and make them come catch him," Elliot said. "He had won on the lead before, so I knew he would be comfortable out there."

Red Letter Day immediately assumed command, establishing a measured but tenuous lead over heavy favorite C R's Deputy (Paddy Young) as the field clicked off the first lap. Less than 5 lengths separated the field as Red Letter Day maintained his short edge turning for home.

But C R's Deputy shot a blank, faltering as the field swung into the stretch, and In Pursuit Of Love flattened out late, leaving Red Letter Day in full flight heading for the last. Streaking under the line, Red Letter Day was 3 1/4 lengths clear of a late-charging Orpington (James Slater), who bested Strathspey Kino (Matt McCarron) for second.

So Janet, are these cheek pieces your new secret weapon?

"I don't know if they were the reason, but he did seem to be more focused out there. Maybe that was it, or it was a return to the flat track, where he has run well before," Elliot said. "It seemed like the horses that were chasing had trouble keeping up and Robbie said every time someone came to him he just took off again. It's good to get him back on track."

• Doug Fout's instructions to Matt McCarron prior to the third race came from a game of Simon Says.

"Go straight to the front," said the trainer to the jockey.

That's exactly what McCarron did aboard EMO Stable's Magic Maker (\$9.60) in the \$25,000 maiden hurdle. Sprinting under the wire the first time, McCarron convinced the 4-year-old to relax, then imitate the Energizer Bunny; the bay kept going and going and going, running away from the field and staying well clear to score by 24 1/2 lengths.

"That was the plan, to break running and go for the lead, but I didn't want to go that fast," McCarron said. "He was sprinting early but then he settled for me and got into a rhythm and jumped great."

See **PHILADELPHIA** page 11 ►

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Philadelphia —

Continued from page 10

A maiden winner on the flat for trainer Kieron Magee, Magic Maker had disappointed in his three hurdle starts this year, squandering large leads and tiring late; in his last outing at Foxfield in April, he opened up 8 early only to finish 50 lengths behind the winner. Fout went back to the drawing board, and then the operating table.

“He was losing his air earlier this spring; he just couldn’t breathe and was coming up short in his races, so we did a myectomy on him,” Fout said. “That’s one of the few that I have ever seen work, so I’m pretty excited. He always jumped good but that was holding him back this spring.”

Magic Maker’s seven rivals didn’t pay much attention as he bounded clear by 30 lengths before the first lap was completed. One race morphed into two, as Magic Maker ran isolated on the lead while the others bandied about amongst themselves. Favorite Beech Cay (Young) waited patiently in second, while Seeking No More (Xavier Aizpuru) and Sword Of Dubai (Carl Rafter) tracked that rival intently.

But while the others waited, Magic Maker opened up by two football fields. He hit the backstretch a furlong in front of his fellows, who resembled a wish-bone offense trying to overcome a 30-point deficit with handoffs to the full-back.

A half-brother to major stakes winner (and confirmed front-runner) Pre-emptive Strike, Magic Maker erred over the last but the outcome had long been decided and he coasted to the easy score. Beech Cay held second, a half-length ahead of Seeking No More. Magic Maker came back with a hematoma on his leg, but Fout is optimistic he’ll be ready to return soon.

“We’re giving him a few days and then we’ll re-evaluate him,” the trainer said. “I’m hoping to make one of the Saratoga races with him.”



Babara Weidl/EQUI-**PHOTO**
Magic Maker (Matt McCarron) rolls to the finish line.



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Philadelphia Park.
Bensalem, Pa. Sunday, July 6. Turf: Firm.

3rd. \$25,000. Sport Of Kings maiden hurdle. 2 1/16 miles.

1. Magic Maker	L	145	McCarron	9.60	3.80	3.20
2. Beech Cay	L	145	Young		3.60	2.20
3. Seeking No More	L	145	Aizpuru			2.20

Exacta (10-5) \$35.60. Trifecta (10-5-4) \$102.40

4. Sword Of Dubai	L	154	Rafter			
5. Surprizer Phew (NZ)	L	154	Slater			
6. Major Malibu	L	145	Hodsdon			
F. Lujan		149	Carter			
PU. Flying Bert	L	154	Walsh			

Mgn: 24 1/4. Time: 3:46 1/5. O: EMO Stable. T: Doug Fout.
Ch. g. 4 Performing Magic-Mirkwood, Far North.
Bred by Harlan Williams (Md).

5th. \$30,000. Optional allowance/claiming hurdle. 2 1/16 miles.
NW1Z or for \$25,000 clm. price.


1. Red Letter Day	L	148	Walsh	38.80	10.60	7.60
2. Orpington	L	156	Slater		4.40	2.60
3. Strathspey Kino (GB)	L	135	McCarron			4.00

Exacta (5-1) \$120.80. Trifecta (5-1-2) \$639.60

4. C R's Deputy	L	143	Young			
5. In Pursuit Of Love	L	152	Rafter			
LR. Swagger Stick	L	152	Aizpuru			
PU. Look At Him	L	144	Hodsdon			

Mgn: 3 1/4. Time: 3:50 3/5. O: Greg Hawkins. T: Janet Elliot.
B. g. 5 Red Ransom-Western Wind, Gone West.
Bred by Dr. John Chandler (Ky).

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Summer Vacation

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Making his NSA hurdle debut, High Action looked like a multi-million dollar yearling purchase – long on class but short on accomplishments. With efforts in the Group I Ascot Gold Cup (finishing just 7 lengths behind Yeats) as well as a pair of Group II contests, the 8-year-old had tackled some of Europe's best stayers on the flat in 2006.

High Action proved flat class can be carried over jumps with a convincing win in the \$20,000 allowance/optional claimer June 15. Piloted by Paddy Young, he scored by a handy 4 1/2 lengths over Free Admission (Danielle Hodsdon), with Four Schools (Carl Rafter) third.

Despite joining trainer Doug Fout's barn in time for a 2007 steeplechase schedule, High Action was making his first official start since August 2006. Owned by Englishman Carl Barnes, the 8-year-old son of Theatrical started on the road back with a second in a training flat at Foxfield in April and tuned up for Colonial with a 2-length win in a training flat at Fair Hill May 24, where he benefitted when race favorite C R's Deputy bore out badly on the far turn while in front.



High Action (center, Paddy Young) jumps with Four Schools (left) and Mark The Shark early at Colonial Downs June 15.

Coady Photo

At Colonial, High Action left little to chance. Breaking a tad slowly, Young let things develop, racing toward the rear of the eight-horse field for the first mile as Quem Se Atreve and Free Admission assured an honest pace up front. High Action advanced during the second lap and made a bold move as the field turned for home, drawing into contention just a neck behind Free Admission, who had begun to dispatch Quem Se Atreve. Streaking to the last, High Action split Free Admission and a tiring Quem Se Atreve and drew clear for the score, the ninth victory in his 34-race career.

"He's a horse with just a ton of back class who will run all day, so we started schooling him about two months ago," Fout said. "He's got such a great attitude but it looked like he got run off his feet a little early on. Then he found himself and that was that."

• Dionne Warwick couldn't have predicted a rosi-er June for Seer. Winless on the flat, Sheila Williams' 4-year-old entered the first hurdle race at Colonial June 15 fresh from a double-digit loss in his jump de-

See **COLONIAL** page 13 ►

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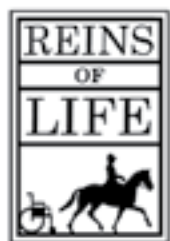
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Colonial —

■ Continued from page 12

but at Radnor. Some four minutes later, he'd broken his maiden with an upset at \$21.40. Two weeks later, Seer took to the Colonial turf again and took care of his flat maiden as well for trainer Jack Fisher. Not a bad month from a horse who'd previously hit the board just once in eight career starts.

"The plan all along was to run him over hurdles and then come back on the flat," Fisher said. "I thought he would be competitive in both spots and felt he would fit in with maidens on the flat. We went into both races thinking he had a big shot."

Seer (Xavier Aizpuru) happily ignored breakaway longshot Magic Boots (Nick Carter), hanging back in a group that included News Flash (James Slater) and public choice Nat Grew (Young).

As the early leader returned to the pack, Seer asserted himself. Circling horses on the turn, he prevailed in a three-way tussle through the stretch, beating News Flash by 1 3/4 lengths, while Nat Grew stayed on for third.

- Matt McCarron hadn't talked to Tom Voss about Fogcutter's prospects prior to the June 29 opener. Not that the veteran jockey was worried about his mount.

"Tom's horses are running like scalded cats this year," McCarron said.

Indeed. Voss topped the NSA leaderboard heading into the summer season, and Fogcutter held with the trend and McCarron's assesment. Running like his tail was on fire, the Fox Ridge Farm homebred collared Pop The Pirate (Young) late to score by three-quarters of a length in the \$15,000 maiden.

The 5-year-old son of Woodman tested the hurdle game at Strawberry Hill (over the Colonial course) April 12, checking in third in a six-horse maiden field before missing the rest of the spring.

Fogcutter settled in fifth as Frosted Face set the ear-



Pals Pride (Tom Foley) flies toward victory at Colonial Downs June 29.

Coady Photo

ly pace, with Pop The Pirate, Terpsichorean and Delta Park giving close chase as the field clicked off the first lap. Pop The Pirate took charge as the field straightened away in the lane, sneaking past Frosted Face and opening 3 lengths as the field hit the final furlong. McCarron tapped the brakes while getting Fogcutter to the outside of Pop The Pirate before launching a late rally over the last. Terpsichorean (Hodsdon) held well to be third in his hurdle debut.

"He overcame my ride out there today and jumped great for me," McCarron said. "When Paddy got through turning for home I got stuck behind about three others and had to steady just a bit for a few strides. When we finally got in the clear he gave me a long, sustained run. Tom told me in the paddock that he was a good jumper and he likes him a lot, so for Tom to say something like that about a horse means something, as he doesn't say that too often."

- Like the fading memory of the Phillies' last World Series title, Pals Pride's NSA 3-year-old championship registers vaguely.

It was 2002 to be exact and judging by his flag-to-wire victory in a \$20,000 allowance/optional claimer Pals Pride has regained at least some of that form. The Phillies were in first place too, though their champion-

ship taste came way back in 1980.

Bred, owned and trained by Kevin Pallister, Pals Pride has won two of three hurdle starts this season after missing 2007 with a myriad of leg injuries. Now 9, Pals Pride scored at Stonybrook and finished third at Block House in April. Pallister gave the son of Rock Point a run on the flat at Colonial June 11 (he finished seventh) to gain some fitness.

Consider the screws nice and tight.

Pals Pride played "catch me if you can" over a salty field that included 4-5 favorite Duke Of Earl and the talented Mark The Shark.

They couldn't even come close.

Pals Pride (Tom Foley) tussled with Mark The Shark for the first quarter-mile, then opened up on the field. And then opened up some more. He stretched the lead to 10 lengths, then to 15 lengths after 2 miles. Like the opening of Gilligan's Island, the group on the shore watched Foley and Pals Pride set sail and eagerly awaited their return. Like the S.S. Minnow, they never did.

Duke Of Earl, still sixth as the field turned for home, broke clear to make a late, but non-threatening run while Pals Pride cantered across the line a tired but deserving 3 3/4-length winner. Four Schools (Robbie Walsh), third for much of the running, held his position under the line.

For Pallister, who has been there since the beginning with Pals Pride, the return to form has been a vindication of sorts for a horse who never got to show his full potential.

"It was nice to see him run like that; he's always been a good horse but has just had a lot of training problems over the years and a lot of problems with his legs," Pallister said. "That was a really tough allowance race with a lot of good horses in there. He likes to run out front, if you drop him out of it he just doesn't get into it, so we thought if they are going to give you the lead go ahead. He jumped out in front and Mark The Shark is a known front-runner too, but Carl (Rafter) decided to take a hold of him and let us go. Tom asked him to quicken and they opened up and they just never caught him."

NOTES: The NSA shortened Colonial's summer steeplechase session to three days (two races each day) and saw an average field size of 9.5, compared to 8.9 over eight races and four weeks in 2007.



Coady Photo

Seer (Xavier Aizpuru) heads for the finish with a maiden hurdle win June 15.



Coady Photo

Fogcutter (Matt McCarron) gets to the line first in a maiden hurdle June 29.

Colonial Downs

New Kent, Va. Sunday, June 15. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

1. Seer	L 145	Aizpuru	21.40	16.80	9.60
2. News Flash	L 145	Slater		4.60	3.40
3. Nat Grew	L 145	Young			3.00

Exacta (5-4) \$120.40. Trifecta (5-4-3) \$347.60

4. Rainbows For Luck	L 154	Walsh
5. Sword Of Dubai	L 154	Rafter
6. Cuse	L 154	Boucher
7. Country Cousin	L 154	McCormack
8. Charismic American	L 154	Hodsdon
9. Decisive Play	L 144	Bordwell
10. Magic Boots	L 149	Carter
F. Fershaw	L 154	McCarron
PU. Duck Hunt	L 145	J. Murphy

Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 4:09 2/5 O: Sheila Williams. T: Jack Fisher.

B. g. 4 Pulpit-Potrinner (Arg), Potrillazo (Arg).

Bred by Jayeff B Stables & Reynolds Bell (Ky).

3rd. \$20,000 Allowance/claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

NW \$14,000 once other clm, 3YO; or for \$20,000 clm. price.

1. High Action	L 148	Young	9.80	6.00	3.00
2. Free Admission	L 143	Hodsdon		8.20	6.60
3. Four Schools (Ire)	L 148	Rafter			4.80

Exacta (3-2) \$93.80. Trifecta (3-2-4) \$752.80

4. Gigger	L 156	Slater
5. Quem Se Atrave (Brz)	L 143	Boucher
PU. Big Is Best (NZ)	L 142	Carter
PU. Fieldview	L 148	Walsh
PU. Mark The Shark	L 151	Aizpuru

Mgn: 4 1/2. Time: 3:57. O: Carl Barnes. T: Doug Fout.

Ch. g. 8 Theatrical (Ire)-Secret Imperatrice, Secretariat.

Bred by Harold Harrison (Ky).

Sunday, June 29. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

1. Fogcutter	L 154	McCarron	9.40	6.00	4.20
2. Pop The Pirate (NZ)	L 154	Young		7.40	4.80
3. Terpsichorean	L 145	Hodsdon			8.60

Exacta (2-6) \$80.40. Trifecta (2-6-10) \$733.80

4. Country Cousin	L 154	Rafter
5. Delta Park	L 145	Aizpuru
6. Frosted Face	L 146	Foley
7. Zozimus	L 154	Walsh
LR. Bee Charmer (Ire)	L 154	McCormack
PU. Squealing Blondie	137	Carter

Mgn: 3/4. Time: 4:00 3/5.

O: Fox Ridge Farm. T: Tom Voss.

B. h. 5 Woodman-Upper Noosh, Red Ransom.

Bred by Fox Ridge Farm (Ky).

3rd. \$20,000. Allowance/claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

NW \$14,000 once other clm, 3YO; or for \$20,000 clm. price.

1. Pals Pride	L 151	Foley	55.20	12.40	9.40
2. Duke Of Earl (Ire)	L 151	Aizpuru		3.00	2.40
3. Four Schools (Ire)	L 148	Walsh			4.60

Exacta (6-4) \$129.80. Trifecta (6-4-10) \$1,152.40

4. Sermon Of Love	L 148	Hodsdon
5. Discreet Charmer	L 147	Young
6. Gigger	L 156	Slater
7. Chess Board (GB)	L 148	McCarron
8. Closetoyourheart	L 148	J. Murphy
9. One Sea	L 143	Mackenzie
PU. Mark The Shark	L 151	Rafter

Mgn: 3 3/4. Time: 3:56 4/5.

O: Little Bay Racing Stable. T: Kevin Pallister.

B. g. 9 Rock Point-Joli Princess, Lejoli.

Bred by Kevin Pallister (NC).

Classic Eye

Famed English artist featured in exhibition

BY GARY MULLINAX

Americans who love sporting art learned to appreciate Alfred Munnings' paintings of horses and riders even before the artist produced his best-known images on the racetracks and hunting fields of his native England.

Munnings became a hit with this country's horse set during a six-month visit in 1924, when his luminous international career was beginning to blossom. Soon, portraits and other images commissioned from Munnings adorned the walls of rural estates throughout the eastern United States, where his visit was concentrated.

This avid interest has continued over the years as later generations acquired his work through family gifts or purchase at auction. One result is "Alfred J. Munnings From Regional Collections," this summer's exhibition at the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, Pa.

The show is a thank you to the nearby Radnor Hunt Races, which annually benefit the Brandywine Conservancy, parent organization of the museum. The conservancy preserves open land in the Brandywine



The Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum

Munnings' famous "Start of the Cambridgeshire" painting, which is owned by George Strawbridge Jr.

Valley. Chairman George "Frolic" Weymouth, well-known in the horse world for his striking horse-and-carriage teams, helped organize the show.

The region of the show's title encompasses the horse country around Unionville, Pa., and the training center at Fair Hill, Md. The museum, about 30 miles west of Philadelphia, is also home to many works by the Wyeth family as well as 19th-century landscapes and other American art.

The show brings together 56 works, most loaned anonymously, by a man usually considered the foremost equine artist of the 20th century – perhaps one of the best ever after George Stubbs, "neck and neck with John Frederick Herring," said exhibition curator Audrey Lewis, getting into the spirit of Munnings' favorite subject. Included are some of his best-known works and many that are rarely seen apart from house visits.

"Munnings was able to capture the subtleties of movement and the expressiveness of horses," Lewis

said. "He could really show how horses reflect all the color and light around them, how the light comes through the trees."

Anyone familiar with horses will appreciate the way he captures their everyday movements and attitudes.

"People see the painting called 'Crossing the Ford' and how the horses resist the rider pulling them along," she said. "They say everyone who works with horses knows the feeling."

The exhibition's "Portrait of Robert E. Strawbridge, Jr." is a direct artifact of Munnings' 1920s trip to America. Painted on Long Island, N.Y., it shows Strawbridge clad in white atop his polo pony. The painting was loaned to the exhibition by his son, Robert E. Strawbridge III.

Munnings also painted the polo-playing Strawbridge's father, Robert Early Strawbridge, as he gal-

See **MUNNINGS** page 15 ►

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Munnings —

■ Continued from page 14

loped in his bright red coat aboard a foxhunter, hounds sniffing and darting purposefully at his feet. Munnings painted Strawbridge at his estate in England; he also owned a home in Bryn Mawr, Pa. The work is on loan from granddaughter Pandy Strawbridge McDonough.

Other notable works in the show include "In the Saddling Paddock: Cheltenham March Meeting," "Lining 'em Up: The Orange Jockey #10," "After the Race" and "Winner at Epsom."

The sporting art shares space with pure landscapes such as "When the Evening Sun Is Low (Summer at Withypool)," paintings of women in gardens and other subjects away from the fields of sport, most depicting people at their leisure. Like his equine paintings, these owe much to impressionism as well as the landscapes of John Constable and other romantic realists.

Indeed, walking up to "Langham Mill Pool," a visitor might think that one of Claude Monet's paintings of water lilies had found its way into the show.

"It's a very similar treatment," Lewis said. "In the Munnings you don't quite lose track of where you are the way you do with Monet. You always know you're looking at a pond. People who come to see Munnings because they like horses begin to like his other work as well."

George Strawbridge Jr., head of Augustin Stable, is another of the show's 11 lenders. A distant relation of the aforementioned Strawbridges, he received his first Munnings as a gift from his aunt 45 years ago. "Start of the Cambridgeshire (Under Starter's Orders)," depicts keyed-up horses with flashing eyes and arching necks as they jostle for position under jockeys whose brightly colored silks contrast with the looming gray of a turbulent sky — all tension waiting for release. It is a highlight of the show.

"That was the basis of my love affair with Munnings," Strawbridge said. "It's clear, lucid, and it has enormous daring. I don't know of any other artist who would paint a red tail on a horse."

Strawbridge collects work by Munnings only. Compared with Stubbs, he said, Munnings "is not as static, more vivid. Stubbs painted portraits, not action."

Munnings studied Stubbs' "The Anatomy of the Horse" for lessons in horse anatomy, as has virtually every equine artist after Stubbs.

Though pure equine art became increasingly important to Munnings as his career developed, he was already depicting horses and ponies with flair and accuracy in paintings of gypsies made during rural travels in England as a young man. Several of these are in the exhibition.

A little later, Munnings began to focus on society paintings, often including horses. In the 1920s and 1930s his focus turned increasingly to equine art as he became a familiar figure on fox hunts or painting in open air at the start of races at Newmarket and elsewhere.

Horses, he once said, "have given me much trouble and sleepless nights, they have been my supporters, friends — my destiny, in fact. Looking back at my life, interwoven with theirs — painting them, feeding them, riding them — I hope that I have learned something of their ways. I have never ceased trying to understand him."

Munnings was elected president of the Royal Academy in 1944. In that capacity five years later he delivered a highly publicized diatribe against modern art on the BBC. Critics and other tastemakers reacted swiftly.

"That speech made him ridiculed a bit at the time and after," Lewis said. "He had not distinguished himself in the eyes of art historians. It damaged his reputation."

The reverberations from his diatribe have diminished, and Munnings fans were never swayed. Munnings works have recently fetched between \$2 million to almost \$8 million.

But you don't have to spend millions to enjoy a work by Alfred Munnings. The price of admission to a museum in Pennsylvania horse country will do it, or entrée into some of the homes nearby, where you can still see horses training on the fields outside or foxhunters streaming across the rolling hills.

Munnings would probably enjoy another visit.

• • •

"Alfred J. Munnings From Regional Collections," Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pa. June 1 through Sept. 1. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$8 (\$5 for students, seniors and ages 6-12). Call (610) 388-2700 or go to brandywinemuseum.org for more information.



The Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum

"Winner at Epsom" is another well-known Munnings painting.

Shopping for success?

Saratoga Prospects 2008

Four Schools (IRE) won \$50,000 Zeke Ferguson Stakes at Colonial Downs on 20 July in record time.

Bee Charmer (IRE) was an impressive maiden winner on the same card.

Cheltenham 2008

G1 Gold Cup winner (by 7 lengths)

G1 Champion Hurdle winner

G1 Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner

G1 Arkle Chase winner (by 13 lengths)

G1 Royal & Sun Alliance Chase 1-2

G1 Ryanair Chase 1-2

G1 Champion Bumper 1-2-3-4-5-6

G1 Ballymore Properties Hurdle winner

G1 Triumph Hurdle 1-2-3

Aintree 2008

G3 Grand National 1-2-3-4-5

G1 Aintree Hurdle winner (by 10 lengths)

G1 Maghull Novices' Chase winner

G1 Sefton Novices' Hurdle 1-2-3

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Queen's Cup aims for return

BY JOE CLANCY

Citing a desire to step toward reconciliation and progress, Queen's Cup Steeplechase chairman Bill Price recently announced the meet's intention to return to the National Steeplechase Association schedule in 2009.

Price informed the NSA via a July 8 letter to president Franny Abbott, and awaits a decision from the NSA board of directors. The board next meets Aug. 7 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and will consider Price's request. The Queen's Cup will run April 25 (the last Saturday in April) next year – the meet's traditional date and a spot now occupied by NSA meets Atlanta, Foxfield and the Maryland Hunt Cup. Price did not request a specific date in the letter, but Queen's Cup stationary features the phrase "Always the last Saturday in April" at the bottom and he said that he intends to race on the date.

"We've run the last 14 years on that date and it's the only date we can run because of contracts we have with PSL holders and sponsors," said Price. (The

Queen's Cup helped fund its course construction by selling personal space licenses, which enables tailgate space buyers to reserve a specific location on the course.)

The date may be a sticking point, however. This spring, with the Queen's Cup effectively off the NSA calendar, Atlanta announced a switch to that weekend for 2009.

"The NSA's response will be the next step," said Price. "They asked us to submit our date request in writing by August 1 and we will do that. We will run that date with or without NSA sanction."

"The process and regulations are that an entity has to apply for sanctioning and in conjunction put forward a race date," said Lou Raffetto, the NSA's chief executive officer. "Unfortunately for Queen's Cup, when they dropped out of NSA, they left a hole that Atlanta filled. It's up to the board to either approve the date (Queen's Cup) requests or ask them to pick another date."

NSA president Franny Abbott was "ecstatic" over the news about Queen's



Tod Marks

The Queen's Cup Steeplechase could return to the NSA calendar next year.

Cup's intentions to return, but was cautious about the date issue.

"We went a long way in trying to avoid what eventually happened with Atlanta moving on to that date," he said. "There are people out there who think we didn't do anything or didn't do enough, but we left the door open quite awhile. I don't think anyone thinks it's a good idea to have four race meetings on one day."

Regardless of the outcome, Price's announcement changes the climate. Abbott and Raffetto both spoke favorably of the change in posture and see it as a positive step toward bringing two race meets back into the fold.

The Queen's Cup and Little Everglades left the circuit for 2008 due to differences of opinion with the NSA's direction. In response, the NSA board chose to hire a CEO and brought in Raffetto, a longtime executive in Thoroughbred racing.

"Our intention was to get attention and we did that," said Price. "Lou is there and he's proof enough that they were listening. We need to come back – we made our point and we don't think we're as effective as we were. The intent was never to get divisive and we've become divisive. We can do more to help

See **QUEEN'S CUP** page 17 ►

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Queen's Cup —

■ Continued from page 16

the sport from the inside than we can from the outside.”

Raffetto welcomes the new position and hopes to see the meets as part of the schedule.

“I would love to see them both come back,” he said. “It would be a good message to send.”

Price emphasized that his intention to return is separate from any thoughts Little Everglades organizers may have. The Florida meet was first to opt out of the NSA, and (along with Queen's Cup organizers) has been critical of the association's management. Little Everglades chairman Bob Blanchard said essentially the opposite of Price at the NSA/SOTA Steeplechase Conference June 28 at the Dulles Marriott in Chantilly, Va.

“Until such time as I feel we can make more of a contribution on the inside, we're going to stay on the outside,” Blanchard told the crowd.

• • •

At that conference, which attracted 40 participants, Raffetto spoke for a half-hour on the state of the sport and the opportunities for growth. He fired back at criticism from the two race meets, and pointed to several projects in the works including new racing opportunities and new safety initiatives.

“I've spent way too much energy deflecting shots at our bow,” he said. “There are issues we need to talk about. We need to work together, stick together and speak with one voice.”

The meeting included a lengthy and far-reaching panel discussion representing all areas of the sport. Topics centered on progress including a new election process for NSA directors. Like the Queen's Cup issue, that topic will be discussed at the Saratoga board meeting with the new process recommended by the NSA's ad hoc committee created early this year. The group also discussed safety issues, potential additions of rules regarding horse age, increasing the jockey pool, expanding data collection with regard to equine injuries, studying new fence possibilities and other matters.

NSA board member Ernie Oare, who was on the panel, echoed Raffetto's thoughts about togetherness.

“All this energy is from people having a passion for the game, which is good,” Oare said. “But we're in all different directions. We ought to be going toward how we can make the national governing body we have better.”

• • •

Kentucky Downs, Colonial Downs to host jump races in September

Jumpers will again duel over familiar bluegrass as steeplechasing returns to Kentucky Downs for the first time in nearly eight years. The turf-only track will offer a pair of hurdle races to open its Kentucky Cup Turf Festival Sept. 13: the \$50,000 Grabel Stakes and a \$25,000 maiden race.

Kentucky Downs has a storied, albeit brief, history in steeplechase racing. On April 22, 1990, the track (then known as Dueling Grounds) hosted the richest steeplechase race ever run in North America — the \$750,000 Dueling Grounds International Hurdle, won by the Irish import Grabel. A pair of races followed in 1991 and 1992, but the circuit hasn't visited the expansive track since Sept. 23, 2000, when two races were run.

Located in Franklin, just north of the Tennessee border, Kentucky Downs offers a select number of racing days each September, holding only turf racing, highlighted by the \$500,000 Kentucky Cup Turf Festival and the featured Grade III \$200,000 Kentucky Cup Turf. The hurdle races, scheduled as the first two races on that card, will be run at 2 1/4 miles.

Billed as “America's only European style race course,” Kentucky Downs is a large and expansive facility with a 1 3/8-mile turf course that features a tight first turn followed by a wide, sweeping second turn.



Franklin Voss' painting of Man O' War and jockey Johnny Loftus.

National Sporting Library

The layout appeals to horsemen and fans alike, and track president/co-owner Corey Johnsen is excited about the NSA's return.

“We're really looking forward to welcoming back steeplechase racing to Kentucky Downs; this is a good first step and we can expand from there,” Johnsen said. “We think it offers a unique aspect to our racing and I'm excited about the fabulous views the spectators will get on our course. It's a great way to market our product to the Nashville crowd who are very familiar with steeplechase racing.”

Home to the successful and historic Iroquois Steeplechase in the spring, Nashville is roughly 45 miles south of Franklin. Each spring tens of thousands of fans flock to the Iroquois, and Johnsen hopes to attract some of those fans, and their attention, north to Kentucky Downs.

“This has generated a tremendous amount of interest out of Nashville and we plan to tie the steeplechase races into a fund-raiser for the Bell Meade Plantation. We've hired Henry Hooker as a steeplechase consultant, and he's a driving force at the Iroquois in the spring,” Johnsen said. “We felt this was an important event, and that's why we made the decision to put the two races on our big day.”

- The NSA circuit will also revisit Colonial Downs this fall, stopping by the track for a pair of races Sept. 14. The New Kent, Va. track runs a Thoroughbred meet June 9 through Aug. 6, and opens a Standardbred meet Sept. 12.

“We're still in the process of determining the races, but tentatively we'll have two for \$15,000 each. We think this is a good idea and spacing-wise, it's a good fit,” said Bill Gallo, NSA director of racing. “With Kentucky Downs, this kind of kicks off the fall schedule. The management at Colonial Downs has been thinking about doing this for a few years; it will integrate into their Standardbred meet and should work out well.”

Colonial, which serves as a bridge to the fall season along with racing at Saratoga and Philadelphia Park in the summer, held a pair of races June 15, June 29 and July 13. The added September date keeps the total number of races the same as in 2007.

— Brian Nadeau

Maryland Hunt Cup honors Smith

The Maryland Hunt Cup Association presented its S. Bryce Wing Award for 2008 to longtime race participant and former jockey Crompton “Tommy” Smith Jr.

Wing was a member of the Maryland Hunt Cup Association from 1939 until his death at age 85 in 1975, serving as secretary of race from 1956-66. He was also president of the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association (now the National Steeplechase Association) from 1948-64, as well as a member of The Jockey Club and Master of Foxhounds at Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club.

“After his death in 1975, the Maryland Hunt Cup Committee decided upon an award in memory of Mr. Wing to recognize people who make a special contribution to Maryland timber racing,” said Shockey Gillet,

current Maryland Hunt Cup secretary, in making the presentation. “There are just a few names in our sport that are recognized around the world, and Crompton Smith Jr., is one of them.”

Gillet then recited Tommy Smith's accomplishments:

- Five Maryland Hunt Cup riding victories; 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1966 (three aboard Jay Trump).

- Course record set in 1963 aboard Jay Trump.

- Victories in Maryland's three major NSA timber races, My Lady's Manor, Grand National and Maryland Hunt Cup, on Jay Trump in 1964.

- A historic victory with Jay Trump in the 1965 English Grand National at Aintree (the first American rider to win on an American-owned horse).

- A historic third with Jay Trump in the 1965 Grand Steeplechase de Paris at Auteuil, France.

In 1995, Smith returned to Maryland after a business career in Minnesota and began once again to train horses to run over timber. He also served on the Maryland Hunt Cup committee from 1999 until he turned his duties there over to his daughter Alix, following a riding accident.

The S. Bryce Wing silver trophy is not necessarily given every year, but is awarded as warranted. The first such presentation was made in 1976; Crompton Smith is the 22nd honoree in 33 years.

“Tommy, you are a living legend,” concluded Gillet. “We are in awe of your accomplishments. It is our privilege to present you with this small tribute.”

Sporting Library hosts Voss art exhibit

The Voss Family: Artists of American Sporting Life will open to the public at the National Sporting Library Aug. 29.

Organized by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and curated by Ms. Gregory Weidman, the exhibition features more than 60 works of art by this prolific family of sporting artists who depicted the champions of the American turf and other sporting subjects.

Franklin Brooke Voss (1880-1953) was one of the foremost equestrian artists of the 20th century, painting such champions of American flat racing such as Man O' War, Equipoise, Seabiscuit, War Admiral, Sir Barton, and Whirlaway for the premier racing families such as the Whitneys, Riddles, Vanderbilts, Phippses, and Wideners. Franklin Voss also depicted steeplechase races, foxhunting, and coaching. He was also a noted dog portraitist. His brother, Edward Somerville Voss (1883-1969), was known for his lively watercolors of foxhunting scenes, and sister, Jessie Voss Lewis (1876-1962), captured family members in the medium of pastel. Franklin's sister-in-law, Elsa Horne Voss (1895-1982), sculpted small bronzes of animals. Each family member is represented in the exhibition.

The painting of legendary champion racehorse Man O' War with his jockey, Hall of Famer Johnny Loftus, is one of the artist's most recognizable works. The exhibit will feature some of Voss's preliminary sketches still owned by the family, displayed alongside the related completed works.

The exhibit brings together works by the Voss family from three museums and almost 30 private lenders. The National Sporting Library owns three paintings in the exhibition, including Mrs. William C. Langley on Sandown (1921), a handsome portrait of horsewoman Elida Langley riding sidesaddle while foxhunting with the Meadow Brook Hounds on Long Island. The largest contributions of art to the exhibit came from Mimi and Tom Voss and Barbara Voss Noell.

The library is the final stop of the Voss exhibit, which opened at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga on July 22, 2007, and is on view through July 27 at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore, Md. The exhibition will close at the National Sporting Library Feb. 28, 2009. The exhibit is free during the Library's hours of operation, which are Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturday 1-4 p.m. For information, call (540) 687-6542 or visit www.nsl.org.

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STEEPLECHASE 'Pick Six' FANTASY STABLE GAME

Presented by The Whip Tavern

Summer break in the game

Must have been the heat. Or was it the humidity? Whatever the cause, there sure wasn't much activity on the Pick Six leaderboard this past month. It wasn't for lack of opportunity. With Colonial Downs and Philly Park throwing National Fences across their turf courses, fantasy owners had time to collect a travelling money and make a move in the standings. They just didn't have the horses.

Of the eight jump winners this summer, only three – Magic Maker, Fogcutter and Bee Charmer – were actually in anybody's stable, with top earner Four Schools (\$35,800) the leading absentee. Colorado's Cathy Fowler remains queen of the mountain, and collects another \$50 ST gift certificate for holding the top spot through June. Fowler even managed to pad her lead by \$1,600, courtesy of a few consolation checks from Gigger.

The Top 42 stables (of 173) are listed. See www.st-publishing.com for complete standings.

– *Jamie Santo*

Plum Creek Farms	Cathy Fowler
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Gigger	\$13,650
	\$390,972

First Base Stable	Nolan Clancy
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Classy Brute	\$24,000
Coal Dust	\$14,900
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Geraldal Stable	Allison Janezic
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
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Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Bee Charmer	\$9,000
	\$369,500

PonyUp Stable	Ashley Monroe
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Bee Charmer	\$9,000
	\$369,500

Dukester	Dr. Charles Reid
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Imagina	\$58,500
The Price Of Love	\$27,000
Irish Prince	\$5,000
Orsay	\$0
	\$354,575

First Last Best Guess	Susan Haldeman
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
The Price Of Love	\$27,000
	\$349,800

3D Stable	Dallas Butts
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Imagina	\$58,500
Askim	\$51,300
Run The Light	\$19,500
Toughkenamon	\$0
	\$345,800

Mrs. Rodddd	Erin Ray
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Best Attack	\$43,013
Run The Light	\$19,500
Coal Dust	\$14,900
	\$344,413

Champagne Taste	Lisa McLane
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
The Price Of Love	\$27,000
Mixed Up	\$12,500
	\$341,500

Cheese In The Trap Stable	Adrienne Hall
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Dreadnaught	\$19,500
Mixed Up	\$12,500
Straight Gin	\$0
	\$339,897

Up and Over Stable	John Tower
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Dreadnaught	\$19,500
Mixed Up	\$12,500
Toughkenamon	\$0
	\$339,897

Clover Hill	Vivian Rall
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Dreadnaught	\$19,500
Sur La Tete	\$0
	\$338,322

Block House Farms	Chuck Ross
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Gigger	\$13,650
	\$336,450

Cheltenham Invasion	Richard Hutchinson
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
The Price Of Love	\$27,000
Mixed Up	\$12,500
	\$335,300

Kfar Tapuakh Stable	Howard Newstadt
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
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Dreadnaught	\$19,500
Irish Prince	\$5,000
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Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
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Mixed Up	\$12,500
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Best Attack	\$43,013
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Baby Bert	\$500
	\$330,835

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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
The Price Of Love	\$27,000
Sur La Tete	\$0
	\$322,800

SeaHorse.....	Alix Michel
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
The Price Of Love.....	\$27,000
Divine Fortune.....	\$0
	\$322,800
Try Again	Jim McVey
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$27,000
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Divine Fortune.....	\$0
	\$321,050
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
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Imagina	\$58,500
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Planets Aligned	\$58,500
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Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$27,000
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Gigger	\$13,650
Sur La Tete.....	\$0
	\$309,450
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Best Attack.....	\$43,013
Bee Charmer	\$9,000
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Best Attack.....	\$43,013
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Imagina	\$58,500
Best Attack.....	\$43,013
Preemptive Strike.....	\$27,000
Run The Light	\$19,500
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Imagina	\$58,500
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500
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	\$301,800
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Jellyberry	\$28,500
Irish Prince	\$5,000
Diego Cao	\$0
	\$300,500
Percey	Nattilie Hendriks
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Preemptive Strike.....	\$27,000
Rochester.....	\$21,000
Late Launch	\$0
	\$300,322
Firethorn	Winfield Sapp
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$27,000
Irish Prince	\$5,000
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	\$299,000

Wu Farm	Jeremy Baskin
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
The Price Of Love.....	\$27,000
Irish Prince	\$5,000
Divine Fortune.....	\$0
	\$299,000
Broken Sound Farm.....	Marianne Vishno
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
The Price Of Love.....	\$27,000
Irish Prince	\$5,000
Diego Cao	\$0
	\$299,000
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
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Ready for the World

Old hand leads new country to the Olympics

BY SEAN CLANCY

Phillip Dutton couldn't say anything. The two-time gold medal winner had just finished an arduous session of flat work at True Prospect Farm in Unionville, Pa., when a visitor walked in and offered glibness.

"You look a long way from the Olympics."

Dutton squinted his eyes, befuddled, and offered a semblance of a chuckle.

It was a week before the announcement of the Olympic team and a dull, humid day in an indoor ring, half a world away from Hong Kong, but Dutton never strays too far from the Olympics.

A week later, after the final selection process held at the The Fork in North Carolina, the United States Equestrian Federation selected Dutton, Becky Holder, Gina Miles, Amy Tryon and Heidi White to represent America in the 2008 Olympic Games, which begin in Hong Kong Aug. 8. Dutton made the



Shannon Brinkman

See **OLYMPICS** page 21 ►

Phillip Dutton, who collected his first Rolex in April (above), seeks to bring back Olympic gold to his newly adopted home.

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Olympics —

■ Continued from page 20

first team with Bruce Duchossois' Connaught and the replacement team with Acorn Hill Farm's Woodburn.

See why he was befuddled?

Dutton was the only rider with two selected horses while the others venture into the Olympics with their career mainstays.

Holder teams with recent Rolex runner-up Courageous Comet. The Minnesota-based rider and the New York-bred Thoroughbred have a history together that includes victories in the advanced at Southern Pines in March and CIC three-star wins at Richland Park and Maui Jim in 2007.

Miles, the youngest member of the American squad, rides her veteran McKinlaigh. The Californian has enjoyed a long string of success aboard the 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse, taking home individual bronze and team gold from the 2007 Pan American Games and notching wins this year in the CIC three-star at Galway Downs and the advanced at Twin Rivers.

Tryon will partner the 16-year-old Thoroughbred Poggio II; the combination joins Dutton as the only Americans with Olympic experience. Hailing from Washington and together since 1997, they brought back a team bronze from Athens in 2004 (where they finished sixth in the individual standings) and graced the international stage in the last two World Equestrian Games, earning team gold in 2002 and an individual bronze in 2006.

White goes to her first Olympics with 15-year-old Thoroughbred Northern Spy. Based in Aiken, S.C., White was a reserve for the 2004 Olympic squad, Rolex runner-up in 2006, and member of the U.S. team at the 2006 World Equestrian Games.

Buck Davidson (Ballynoe Castle RM), Bonnie Mosser (Merloch) and Karen O'Connor (Mandiba) round out the replacement team. The horses in the United States shipped to England July 17 where they will join McKinlaigh, Poggio and Mandiba, who did their final mandatory outing at Barbury Castle. The team will enter quarantine July 22 and ship to Hong Kong July 30.

Dutton will try to win his third Olympic gold medal and his first as an American. The 44-year-old native of Australia takes nothing for granted.

"It's never a forgone conclusion, our sport is so hard to dominate because so many factors go into it, especially with the horse," Dutton said. "You look at the Triple Crown, nobody would have bet against that horse (Big Brown) and then he runs like that. It's not just about riding well, you've got to prepare your horse well, you've got to make sure you and your horse are peaking on that weekend. I'm trying not to leave anything to chance and work on every point I can get."

Dutton usually gets those points. He won his first Rolex this spring when Connaught edged Holder and Courageous Comet. Connaught has relished a relatively light schedule this year, placing second in intermediate at Southern Pines and advanced at The Fork, then punching through the wall in Kentucky.

"Connaught is thriving," Dutton said. "He's more seasoned than Woodburn, but his natural physique prob-

ably isn't as suited to those conditions. He's not the best galloper, he spends too much time in the air when he jumps, he's not a full Thoroughbred, that part won't be ideal for him, but it would be fun to have him in two show-jumping rounds that's for sure."

In this year's Olympics, riders will compete in one show jumping round to determine the team competition and another to determine the individual medals. With just seven downed rails in his last 21 competitions, Connaught respects show jumps as a Tour de France rider respects hills.

Woodburn doesn't possess the seasoning of Connaught, but he's a capable Plan B. The burly chestnut finished ninth at Rolex, his first time around the big course in Lexington.

"It's pretty much on schedule, they both came out of Kentucky well," Dutton said. "Woodburn has really matured from that event, he's still got his future in front of him. He's still pretty green at this level but he's pretty well suited to the conditions of Hong Kong, which will be pretty hot."

In eventing, experience means everything. Dutton has traveled the world like Willie Nelson, performing on every stage at every level. But not Hong Kong.

The course has been set up at Sha Tin Racecourse and it's new to everybody. Added to that unknown is the unpredictability of the weather, which will be humid for sure, anything else, who knows?

"You don't know how it's going to ride or what to expect really. It's a level playing field, it's not like going to Badminton and everybody knows how to ride Badminton," Dutton said. "You have to be mentally very tough. There will be a lot of times when the event is put on hold because of these storms coming through. You might be getting ready for dressage, something you've planned for the last six months and all of a sudden they say, 'Oh, you're on hold.' You go back to the stable and then you've got to come out and they say, you've got 10 minutes before you go. You have to be pretty prepared for those kind of things."

Dutton, who moved to the States in 1991, ranks as the veteran of the team. He won an Olympic gold medal in Atlanta in 1996 and returned to his home country and won another one in Sydney in 2000.

"Each Olympics is very special – it's arguably the greatest sporting event in the world. To be a part of that with our sport, being such a small sport, it's great to be a part of the world attention," Dutton said. "The first two I ever did were pretty unique. To me, the first one was in Atlanta, I was riding for Australia but America was my home, so to stand up there and hear your National Anthem, that's enough to end your career on, that's a highlight."

Dutton certainly wasn't finished with his first Olympics.

"Sydney, being my home city, every relative that I've ever known was there to watch me. To win another gold medal there in front of the home crowd, that's pretty hard to top," Dutton said. "This will be pretty memorable, I hope, it's the first time representing America, if I get there. I represented America at the Pan Am Games, that's a big deal, but this is the major leagues."

Indeed, Dutton and the rest of the American team are ready for the show.



Shannon Brinkman

Becky Holder and Courageous Comet finished second at Rolex Kentucky; they'll take aim at their first Olympics in Hong Kong.



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Oh, Canada

West Virginia-based White travels north to claim three-star in Quebec

BY KATY CARTER

BROMONT CCI

June 12-15

Bromont, Quebec, is roughly 650 miles from Sharon White's hometown of Summit Point, W.Va., which equates to about an 11-hour drive. She got a great return on her investment, by capturing her first three-star aboard The King's Spirit at the Bromont Three Day Event CCI*** June 12-15. White kept her cool to win on 78.3, holding off the challenge from California-based Andrea Baxter, who finished second aboard Estrella (78.9). Sally Cousins rode to third place on Tsunami III (102.7).

"This event was pretty special for me," said White, who brought The King's Spirit, also known as "March", up through the levels. "I've had March since she was 4, and to have the opportunity to bring a horse to this level is just wonderful."

On the first day of competition, the pair earned a dressage score of 66.5, good enough for third behind Australian Boyd Martin and Benwald (55.0) and Canadian Waylon Roberts and his longtime mount Paleface (58.7). Baxter and Estrella sat fourth on a score of 68.5, while Cousins rounded out the

field aboard Tsunami (71.5) and The Robber Baron (72.6), respectively.

There was much shuffling on cross country day, when overnight leader Martin had a stop and 32.8 time penalties to drop Benwald from the lead. Young rider Roberts ascended to first place (0 jumping penalties, 17.6 time), followed by White (0 jumping penalties, 4.8 time) and Baxter (0 jumping penalties, 6.4 time).

"The cross-country course was spectacular. It was a privilege to ride," said White, who finished closest to the optimum time. "The organizers did a lot of work on this course and, in spite of the rain, the footing was fabulous."

Sunday's show-jumping course proved to be a challenge, and not one of the three-star entrants turned in a double-clear round.

"This was a pretty hard course," said White, who had one rail and three time faults. "It was more of a true show-jumper course than we are used to seeing. Part of what makes this whole event so



Anthony Trollope

The King's Spirit (Sharon White) jumps a fence during cross country at Bromont.

wonderful is that it asks you if you're ready to go to the next level. If you do well here, it is a good indication you are."

Estrella and Baxter also had a rail, but finished within the time, merely .6 penalty points behind White. Cousins and Tsunami completed Sunday's test on 12 jumping faults and 8 time, while Roberts and Paleface turned in an uncharacteristic round, dropping eight rails within the optimum time. Cousins also had four rails and 10 time penalties with The Robber Baron. Martin and

Benwald finished sixth.

Owned by longtime Bromont supporters Peter and Susan Barry (Peter finished second on Kilrodan Abbott in the CCI*), The King's Spirit comes from a long and distinguished line of top sport horses. The 15.3-hand bay mare is by Rock King and out of Hinton Spirit (by Welton Apollo). Rock King has sired multiple winners at all levels of eventing in the United Kingdom, and his sire Just A Monarch produce Burghley winner King's Jester. Grandsire, Welton Apollo,

See **BROMONT** page 23 ►



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Bromont —

■ Continued from page 22

is one of only handful of stallions to have competed successfully at the four-star level.

"Her breeding shows," said White. "She has incredibly floaty gaits and is a bold jumper. She is incredibly genuine and easy to ride; she does all phases in a rubber snaffle and never gets wound up or excited. She makes it really fun."

White and her horse have established a notable record, taking second at the 2004 American Eventing Championships, as well as fifth at the 2005 Bromont and Radnor CCI two-stars. After making the move to

advanced, they won the 2007 Millbrook Horse Trials and finished fifth at Poplar Place before completing the Fair Hill CCI*** last fall in 16th. The 2008 season brought top-10 finishes at Southern Pines (ninth), Fair Hill (seventh) and the Maryland Combined Training Association Horse Trials (third).

After recovering from a series of injuries, White remains focused on the future and the opportunities available through her trademark work ethic and dedication to her horses and the sport.

"I just had plates removed from my pelvis and even had a staph infection last winter," she said. "I'd really love to go to Blenheim. I've not had the chance to compete in Europe before and it would really be fantastic."

Bromont Results

CCI***		
1. Sharon White	The King's Spirit	78.3
2. Andrea Baxter	Estrella	78.9
3. Sally Cousins	Tsunami III	102.7
CCI**		
1. Boyd Martin	Galileo VI	47.9
2. Ryan Wood	Wynella Wolverine	57.9
3. Michelle Mueller	Amistad	68.0
CCI*		
1. Nicole Parkin	Lexus	48.2
2. Peter Barry	Kilrodan Abbott	55.7
3. Coren Morgan (Y)	Ebb Tide	57.3

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Safety Summit offers new ideas, next steps

Compiled from industry press releases

The USEF/USEA Safety Summit, held June 7-8 in Lexington, Ky., drew more than 250 members of the eventing community dedicated to finding solutions to the safety issues facing the sport.

Co-hosted by the United States Equestrian Federation and the United States Eventing Association, the summit drew attendees from every facet of eventing, from spectators to course designers, all seeking to develop tangible steps to make eventing as safe as possible.

The determination made at the beginning of the meeting proved true: there is just not one answer.

USEF President David O'Connor made the focus of solutions very simple: "The goal is to reduce the number of horse falls in the sport."

While rare, horse falls dramatically increase the chance of injury to horses and riders, and horse welfare and safety are the top priority in making any decisions going forward.

USEA President Kevin Baumgardner agreed, urging all eventers to find common ground and work together to ensure the sport is as safe as possible for horses and riders alike.

Although it cannot be mandated, rider responsibility – defined as putting the safety and welfare of the horse before anything else – was a major theme. A large part of this is rider awareness. A shift in culture recognizing that eventing is no longer a sport based on experience, but instead will become a sport based on education, is also a critical aspect of rider responsibility.

The summit included four breakout sessions, focusing on veterinary/medical issues, cross-country course design, qualifications and education.

Discussion surrounded each topic and produced significant action items; every area, however, requires more data to help guide the sport in the future.

Some key action items to which the USEF and USEA are committed:

Course Design

- The USEF determined that it will subsidize the cost of frangible pins to anyone who is approved to install them by the USEA education department and requests them from this point forward. The specifics are as follows:

- Any frangible pin installed before June 9, 2008 will be billed by the installer to the organizer in the traditional manner.

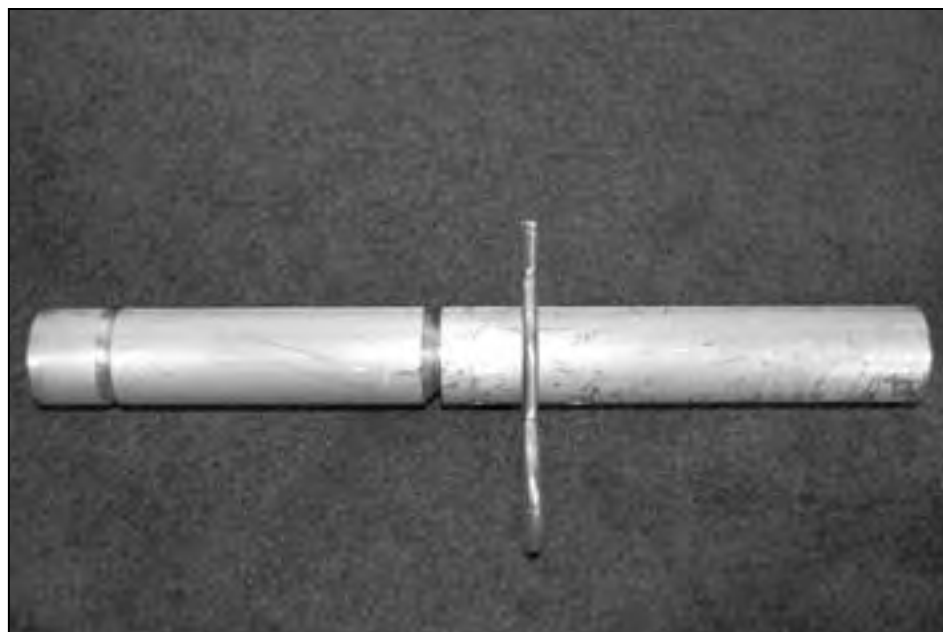
- Any frangible pin installed on or after June 9, 2008 that is from the current inventory of a pin installer will be billed to the Federation by the person who purchased the pin. The event organizer for which these pins are installed must be cc'ed on the invoice to the Federation.

- Any frangible pin purchased after June 9, 2008 will be supplied by Mick Costello and he will be reimbursed by the Federation for that pin.

- There is also a commitment to continue research and development of deformable technology. Captain Mark Phillips, a member of the U.S. Course Advisor Program and the technical advisor for U.S. eventing, stressed that deformable jump construction must be based on engineering.

- The USEA is currently setting up a series of seminars to certify more course builders in the installation of frangible pins beginning at events in July. Mick Costello, Dan Starck, Eric Bull and Tremaine Cooper are offering their services free of charge to the USEA and the USEF to teach these seminars. The goal is to have more pin installers available for organizers. See www.useventing.com for more information.

- The USEF Fall Form has been updated to track more detailed information on the kind of jumps that cause falls.



Courtesy of USEF

A closeup view of a frangible pin, which is designed to allow fences to give way – and improve safety for horses and riders in eventing. Use of the pin will be subsidized in eventing.

- The USEA Course Advisor Program is going to be extended to the training level and the organizations are going to look into the specifications and philosophy for training level set forth in 2002. The definitions for courses are going to be developed so they can be rated more accurately and consistently.

Veterinary/Medical

- Dr. Catherine Kohn feels that mandating necropsies on any horse that suffers a fatality at a USEA recognized competition is vital in gathering data and understanding accidents and trends. The USEA will assume the full cost of these necropsies. This is an example of both organizations commitment to developing consistent, usable data.

- More information is needed about the cardiopulmonary function of horses; Dr. Kohn recommended that this be the focus of our veterinary research going forward and is working to develop a mechanism to do so.

- Medical records need to be more available (without violating privacy laws) to ensure that riders are fit to compete.

- Standards need to be developed to objectively evaluate the performance and fitness level of both horses and riders.

- The USEF/USEA was presented with research surrounding the issue of speed on the cross course. Providing funding to continue that research was met with approval on all levels.

Qualifications and Education

- The USEA is dedicated to certifying 500 ICP Instructors by 2010. Currently 135 people are certified.

- A watch list is being instituted which will allow people who meet certain qualifications (being determined) to put riders on notice that they are riding dangerously. These riders will be contacted and will be made aware of the situation. The specifics on removal from the list are still being finalized.

- The USEF is drafting an outline to have technical delegates work directly for the USEF rather than the event organizer.



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Dierks rides Somerset II to victory at Maui Jim three-star

Sara Dierks and Somerset II captured the blue ribbon at the CIC*** at the Maui Jim Horse Trials in Wayne, Ill. Third after dressage, Dierks added just four cross-country penalties and a single show-jumping fault to finish with 66.4. Allison Springer and Arthur, ahead after dressage and cross country, finished second with (68.0), with Jennifer Libby and Jazz King third on 81.4. Held July 10-13 at the Lamplight Equestrian Center and Pratt Wayne Forest Preserve, the three-star served as the advanced division in the Adequan USEA Gold Cup series.

In the CIC** (the intermediate Gold Cup division), Canadian Leslie Law, winner of the gold medal at Athens in 2004, led throughout aboard Fleeceworks Mystere Du Val, ending with a clean stadium round to finish on 59.7. Cassidy Lundmark, who won the Maui Jim two-star last year, finished second aboard What's Shakin (72.9) with Karen Shull and Just My Style third at 73.0.

Callie Judy and Irish Odyssey took the one-star, rising from 14th after dressage to finish at 56.8, edging out Melissa Miller and Detail Specialist (57.9) and Lynne Partridge and First Mark (58.9).

Adequan USEA Gold Cup Leaderboard Advanced

1. Allison Springer	Arthur.....	495
2. Clark Montgomery	Up Spirit.....	425
3. Gina Miles	McKinlaigh	290
3. Heidi White	Northern Spy.....	290
5. Jennifer Wooten.....	The Good Witch	265

Intermediate

1. Jennie Brannigan	Cooper	405
2. Alexandra Knowles.....	Last Call	170
3. Julie Ann Boyer.....	Rumor Hazit.....	145
3. Pippa Moon.....	Ribbo	145
5. Alexis Helffrich.....	Spike.....	130
5. Becky Holder.....	Rejuvenate	130
5. Leslie Law	Fleeceworks Mystere du Val.....	130
5. Bonnie Mosser.....	Merloch.....	130

FEI World Cup Roundup

Melbourne (Australia) June 6-9: Wendy Schaeffer, heroine of Australia's Olympic team at Atlanta in 1996, won at the Melbourne CIC***-W on Koyuna Sun Dancer. Schaeffer, who, at 21 was the youngest woman to win an equestrian Olympic gold medal, was second after dressage and rose to the lead when Shane Rose and Cleddau Bobby Dazzler, who had scored 46.7, had a run-out and dropped to sixth, and held her overnight lead as the only rider of the 10 starters to achieve a clear show jumping round over a technical course.

Kevin McNab took second on Hufflepuff by producing one of only two cross-country rounds within the optimum time. Megan Jones, who will join Rose on Australia's 2008 Olympic squad, was third on Kirby Park Allofasudden.

Minsk (Belarus), June 19-22: Liaksandra Hlushakova notched a win on her home soil, riding Logika, a horse she has produced from one-star level and with whom she has won at each level, and finished second in the Moscow CCI**.

The field was reduced to eight, due to the fact that the Olympic candidates were in training in Poland, but it was a tight contest. Hlushakova was only fifth after dressage, but there were only two clear cross-country rounds, so her joint fastest time of 16.8 gave her enough leeway to have two show jumps down in the final phase and still beat Ilya Anisin and Rascasse by 2.90 penalties.

The site at Minsk has had several million dollars spent on it, and the event was televised and attended by the sports minister.

Strzegom (Poland), June 26-29: Germany's Elmar Lesch achieved his first FEI World Cup points in style, heading an international field at Strzegom, Poland.



Anthony Trollope

Somerset II (Sara Dierks) flies a fence on the way to victory at Maui Jim.

Riding Finch Hatton TS, he rose from 13th after dressage to win with one of only two clear jumping rounds.

His compatriot, Dirk Schrade, riding his top horse Sindy 43, led after dressage and cross-country but incurred 16 jumping penalties plus 5 time penalties to drop to second.

Sweden's Sara Algotsson, riding her home-bred team horse, Robin des Bois, was second after cross-country, but incurred 12 faults to finish third.

A total of 24 riders from 10 nations started, but the cross-country was to prove influential. Although there were 10 clears, only the top three riders finished with under 10 time penalties and 10 were eliminated or retired.

The Standings

With 11 of the 16 qualifiers now complete

1. Clark Montgomery	USA.....	160
2. Oliver Townend	GB	115
2. Pippa Funnell	GB	115
4. Geoff Curran	IRE	112
5. William Fox-Pitt.....	GB	110
6. Dirk Schrade	GER.....	102
7. Eight riders tied with 100		

The next stops in the series are Kalispell, Montana, (July 25-27) and Warwick, Australia (July 26-27). The HSBC FEI World Cup Final will take place in Deauville, France, Sept. 18-21.

Plantation Field to Host Three-Star

Fair Hill Events announced the creation of the Plantation Field International CIC***, to be held Sept. 19-21 in Unionville, Pa. Already a popular venue for horse trials at all levels, this is the first time that Plantation Field will offer an internationally recognized competition.

Located in the heart of Chester County hunt country on property owned by Katie and Cuyler Walker and Carol Davidson, Plantation Field hosts competitions six weekends every year; the only other annual event at this location is Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds point-to-point.

In addition to the CIC three-star, FEI recognized competition will be offered at the two-star and one-star levels, and USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) and USEA (United States Eventing Association) recognized horse trials will be offered for preliminary through advanced levels. Prize money will be offered at all levels.

Plantation Field has long attracted competitors from the upper echelons of the sport: winners of past horse trials include Phillip Dutton, Boyd Martin, Stu-

art Black and Kim Morani. Event organizers are excited to offer an international caliber event for the first time.

"A lot of the time the lower levels are held at the same event as a CIC to make it profitable, but we want to put all of our focus on the upper levels at this event," said event organizer Denis Glaccum. "We've always emphasized to the riders that it's their event - we do this for you. We want to have a first-class event that is very friendly to competitors."

Dressage judges will be Marilyn Payne and Brian Ross. Payne is an FEI "O" judge who will judge the eventing competition at the Olympic Games in Hong Kong and has been on the ground jury at Badminton; Ross is an "S" rated judge who has judged at the World Equestrian Games and Rolex Kentucky.

The three-star cross-country course will be designed by Tremaine Cooper; the two-star, one-star and the horse-trials courses will be designed by Denis Glaccum. Eric Bull and crew of ETB Equine Construction will build the courses.

"It's one of the prettier sites in the world and we believe our venue offers some of the finest galloping terrain around," said Glaccum.

Meet the competition

Olympic rosters for other eventing nations
(with rider and horse):

Australia

Clayton Fredericks.....	Ben Along Time
Lucinda Fredericks.....	Headley Britannia
Sonja Johnson	Ringwoud Jaguar
Megan Jones.....	Kirby Park Irish Jester
Shane Rose.....	All Luck

Canada

Kyle Carter	Madison Park
Sandra Donnelly.....	Buenos Aires
Selena O'Hanlon.....	Colombo
Samantha Taylor	Livewire
Michael Winter.....	King Pin

Germany

Andreas Dibowski	Euroridings Butts Leon
Ingrid Klimke.....	FRH Butts Abraxas
Frank Ostholt.....	Mr. Medicott
Hinrich Romeike	Marius Voigt-Logistik
Peter Thomsen.....	The Ghost of Hamish

Great Britain

Kristina Cook.....	Miners Frolic
Daisy Dick.....	Spring Along
William Fox-Pitt.....	Parkmore Ed
Sharon Hunt.....	Tankers Town
Mary King	Call Again Cavalier



TIMES EDITORIAL

Press the issues, not the press

It's summer time. Cocktail parties, barbecues, picnics. We've been to Argentine asados, Fourth of July cookouts, a pond party for the kids, lunches out, coffee breaks, you name it.

Lots of steeplechase people. And lots of steeplechase conversation.

But not about the horses. Nope, no one asked about Good Night Shirt's summer plans or Guelph's aerial display at Fair Hill or about hyped Saratoga runners (have you seen Bee Charmer's form?). No, none of that came up. In a world meant to be about the horses, the horses never came up.

Conversation starts and ends with the politics. Casual fans know more (or at least have heard more) about dissension among the ranks than about racing. Little Everglades and Queen's Cup departed, the NSA hired a new boss and that's what people talk about. That's how far it's gone. No one talks about the racing. That's pathetic.

They want to know what's going on with the NSA. From us, many want to know what we think of the new steeplechase newspaper. The one that slashes at the newspaper we've been running since 1994.

What do we think? Competition is good. Shoddy journalism isn't.

The *Steeplechase Free Press* wrote that *Steeplechase Times* is controlled by the National Steeplechase Association. They concluded this because we didn't cover the Little Everglades POINT-TO-POINT this spring and they're confused on our contract with the NSA to provide communications services. We've never covered point-to-points, mostly for space limitations. As for the communications job with the NSA, the office writes press releases, hustles steeplechase stories to media outlets, organizes the television contract with ESPN, edits the steeplechase yearbook and basically puts out the fires that come our way. It's a decent gig, one we've been doing officially and unofficially since we started the paper. We've outlived Steve Flatow, *Chase Magazine*, Leslie Shantz, National Steeplechase Enterprises . . . we're on our fourth NSA President. We've stayed the course.

In an ideal world, the one newspaper about the sport wouldn't be that close to the national governing body. But this is not an ideal world. You'll notice other overlap – husbands and wives competing against each other, jockeys living together, owners and trainers on the NSA board, race meet directors owning horses at their race meets – it's a small sport, people must wear a multitude of hats. That's OK with us. That's partially what makes the sport special.

Is *Steeplechase Times* controlled, funded or run by the NSA? Hardly. Sure, the NSA made offers early on about buying the paper and all of us agreed that it was better left alone.

That's the way we'd like to keep it. As for the *Steeplechase Free Press*. Good luck, we value competition. While you were trying to sully our name, we went out and won the General Excellence award for the American Horse Publications. That's what we do for the sport.

Criticize us. Doubt us. Don't libel us and keep us out of your fight with the NSA.



Tod Marks

Comin' At You

Eight Thoroughbreds tackle a Saratoga steeplechase fence last summer. The jumpers head north to New York again this summer. See you there.

Small but Mighty

The Outside Rail

By Joe Clancy

Four. Six if you count part-timers. Seven if you count my dad, who does Pennsylvania distribution. Eight if you count Barry Watson, who handles Maryland and Virginia.

Other than the occasional freelance writer, some independent advertising sales people, a core group of freelance photographers and a cast of volunteers, that's the staff of *Steeplechase/Eventing Times*. We only have a few people. But we do good work. And that's the point.

Last month in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., we were honored to receive a General Excellence Award in the American Horse Publications contest for material published in 2007. Judges gushed about our newspaper's overall quality:

"Brilliant writing and editing, superb leads on every page, from the cover story to the obits. Witty, pithy and sophisticated – goes way beyond 'who won what where.' Design, text, covers, photography, paper stock all support the editorial mission. Offers an intimate, insider's view of the world it covers that's unmatched in its division, perhaps in the industry."

Thanks. We're flattered. All four of us. OK, eight or so. Regardless of the count we come up with, we're smaller than the other guys. Our peer in the tabloid/newspaper division, *Thoroughbred Times* (which re-

ceived an honorable mention) lists 27 people on its editorial staff. And that's not counting 32 correspondents. Editorial staff. Hah. Our staff does it all. For an employee or company owner, a day at work could include selling an ad, writing a story, answering the phone, delivering papers, updating the subscription database, tweaking the website, giving a Steeplechase 101 lecture, pretty much anything.

When we started *Steeplechase Times* way back in 1994, people told us it would never work. Too small a sport, too indifferent a fan base, too much work. Publishing experts told us that newspapers that start for editorial reasons – like ours – never last. Start a newspaper for advertising reasons, that's how you make it.

Even though we sometimes agree with those people, we're still at it. We've added to our company where now it counts several products among its stable. We took the *Steeplechase Times* concept to Saratoga and Keeneland, added eventing coverage, took over the Thoroughbred Racing Calendar, published a book, created an Internet site (now in its third generation), freelanced for bigger-name publications and carried on through various economic ups and downs.

And why does this history lesson matter? Because we couldn't do it without you – the reader, the advertiser, the supporter, the partner. Small business isn't easy. Often it isn't pretty. Sometimes it's scary. We appreciate your connection to our business and hope you are pleased with the products we produce.

Thanks for being there.

American Horse Publications Contest

For information published in 2007

- General Excellence: *Steeplechase/Eventing Times*. Third such honor since newspaper was founded in 1994.
- Second place, feature story: Joe Clancy for "Walking Away," article about champion McDynamo's retirement.
- Second place, personality profile: Joe Clancy for *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* article on journalist Peter Winants.



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July 8, 2008

Mr. Francis H. Abbott, Jr.
President
National Steeplechase Association
400 Fair Hill Drive
Elkton, MD 21921

Dear Franny,

As per Carrington's and my conversation with you and Lou this afternoon, Queen's Cup is coming back into the fold of the NSA in hopes that we can work collectively toward our common goals of improving the sport for all concerned. With that as our motivation, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Charlotte Steeplechase Association, Inc., Queen's Cup is officially announcing that it will run sanction under NSA effective immediately.

With regards to the New Fence initiatives that we started and funded and in order to keep positive momentum moving forward, we are prepared to turn-over all information, plastic samples, concepts and designs to you and your fence committee in hopes that the NSA and the NSF will take a leadership role and continue the effort in designing an even better, safer fence for our equine athletes.

We look forward to working with you, Lou and the Board of Directors of the NSA to achieve what is in the best interest of our sport today and well into the future.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Price
Vice President
Charlotte Steeplechase Association, Inc.

WJPV/bn

Cc: Jonathan E. Sheppard – Chairman, NSA
Louis J. Raffetto, Jr. – Chief Executive Officer, NSA
V. Carrington Price – President, CSA
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