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# Entries

# What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. Everybody's returned (either energized or enervated) from a season at Saratoga or a holiday in Hong Kong to find plenty of action awaiting them. Big names and big events add up to big excitement from now to November.



# **PAGES 6-11**

# **Legends of the Fall**

The chase for the 'chase championships begins in earnest as Good Night Shirt leads the pack into Belmont Park for the Lonesome Glory while the potential timber titlists gear up for Shawan Downs.



# **PAGES 12-14**

# **En Garde**

The fall season got underway as the NSA ventured to the old Dueling Grounds for the first time in many moons (where Quem Se Atreve shot from the hip) and steeplechasers slotted into a Standardbred slate at Colonial Downs.



# **PAGES 16-24**

# **Working Vacation**

With seven stakes and a souped-up Open House program, Saratoga meant serious business.



# **PAGE 25**

# **The Big Board**

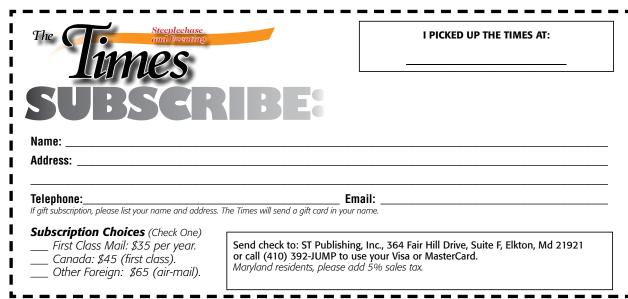
Dark Equation and The Price Of Love play with the numbers.



**PAGES 27-30** 

# **Eventing News**

Gina Miles and McKinlaigh provide the bright spot for American eventers at the Olympics in Hong Kong.





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# On the Cover

While the rest of steeplechasing went to Saratoga, champion Good Night Shirt stayed home to rest up for a fall campaign. The big chestnut looks poised for another title run.

Photo: Tod Marks.



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# **Worth Repeating**

"A bit up and down. I won't make the Ryder Cup."

Irish trainer Charlie Swan, on his golf game; Swan (who brings Dalucci over for the Lonesome Glory at Belmont Sept. 21) put a trans-Atlantic telephone interview on hold to finish the round.

"I own one turtleneck and one jacket - it's great."

Palm Beach Steeplechase coordinator Elizabeth Hedley, on the autumn weather in Florida

"Imagine, I'm calling you."

Trainer Tom Voss, after placing a call to ST - surely for the first time

Take A Number

States represented in the hurdle races at Kentucky Downs. Runners were bred in Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. (Brazil, Canada and Ireland also supplied starters.)

Average field size



SPEAK SOFTLY, AND CARRY A BIG UMBRELLA. NSA starter Barry Watson dealt with the wet Saratoga weather any way he could.

at the 2008 Saratoga meet, down 0.3 from 2007. There were 56 total starters in 2008, two less than the year before.

Jockeys (Padge Whelan, Liam McVicar and Paddy Young) to earn their first Saratoga wins this summer.

# **What's In A Name?**

Terpsichorean, Saratoga Jump Start. Owner/breeder John Sullivan went to the dictionary for this one. The son of Honor Glide and Verdent Hoofer takes his handle from an adjective meaning "of dance, relating to dance" and derived from the Greek muse of dance, Terpsichore.

La Resistance, Kentucky Downs. Lee McKinney is owner, breeder, trainer and presumably namer of this daughter of Allied Forces and Mon Amie Berenger. The 7-year-old mare continues to fight for her first win.



PAPER BOY. With a little help from owner Peggy Steinman and trainer's daughter Caroline Fout, New York Turf Writers Cup winner Dark Equation checks out his headlines in The Saratoga Special.

Tod Marks

# **Sullivan name makes return**

Terpsichorean is new to the steeplechase game; John Sullivan, his owner and breeder, is not.

The 4-year-old gelding thumped other maidens at the Saratoga Open House, impressing jockey Danielle Hodsdon, trainer Jonathan Sheppard and a host of witnesses. Like the others, Sullivan is happy to be involved with a new horse, but the man's jump-racing connections run much deeper than 2008.

His father, Jack Sullivan, was a steward of the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association and started the Adjacent Hunts race meeting. Run first at Fairfield, Conn., and later at Purchase, N.Y., the meet was one of the best on the circuit, complete with pari-mutuel wagering. John Sullivan grew up with horses, rode as a child, spent time at the family farm in Ireland - even riding a few races as an amateur – and galloped Thoroughbreds for Hall of Famer Burley Cocks.

"I've always had a contact with it, and it's nice to come back to it," said Sullivan, whose personal racing and breeding operation

goes back 10 years or so.

Terpsichorean started out in the barn of Barclay Tagg, but didn't develop like a flat horse. Long – distance and term – seemed to be more of

"There aren't any 2-mile flat races in this country so Barclay told me we could either ship him to England or Ireland or see if he might make a steeplechaser," said Sullivan, a Greenwich, Conn. resident. "I contacted Jonathan, he showed an interest and here we are."

A son of Honor Glide and Sullivan's mare Verdent Hoofer, Terpsichorean tested NSA racing with a training flat spin at High Hope, a third in his debut at Colonial Downs June 29 and graduated by leading every call at the Open House. Still a little green, the Florida-bred bypassed the regular Saratoga meet in favor of a fall campaign.

"The Honor Glides seem to develop late and seem to be big, so they ought to be good at this," said Sullivan, whose family bred French champion and leading sire Blushing Groom, among others.

- Joe Clancy





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# Shirt Tale

Back from break, champion casts a long shadow on stakes division

BY JOE CLANCY

FAIL STEED FRIMSSED BREWIEW

Dowling went to the altar. Good Night Shirt went to the field.

And now they get back to work - defending their unbeaten 2008, their 2007 steeplechase Eclipse Award and their three-race winning streak going back to last year's Colonial Cup.

As for what they've done since last being seen together in public May 10 at the Iroquois . . .

Fisher, the trainer, added a synthetic gallop to his Maryland farm to help ensure fitness in his horses. Dowling, the jockey, married Tara Elmore Sept. 14 – cutting the honeymoon down to two days because of the steeplechase schedule. The horse enjoyed his usual summer vacation, and left the work to Four Schools, High Action, Dark Equation and the rest at Colonial Downs and Saratoga.

"He was turned out for 60 days, doing nothing," said Fisher. "All my horses like it, or I leave them out there until they like it anyway. He was fine, as usual. He came back the first part of

# **FALL STEEPLECHASE PREVIEW**

Jack Fisher went to Polytrack. Willie July and started jogging, then galloping and then working when I realized the race was getting here."

The race is the \$150,000 Lonesome Glory at Belmont Sunday, Sept. 21. Good Night Shirt won the inaugural running last season en route to the championship and a record \$314,163 in earnings. Owned by Sonny and Ann Via, the massive chestnut gelding appears poised to do all of the above again despite not having run in four months.

"I'll say what I said last year - we're giving him a race and if he's good enough, he's good enough," said the trainer. "He's giving weight to some horses (under the allowance conditions) and Dark Equation should come back fit and ready to roll. We're trying to have him ready for Far Hills and Camden."

Last year, Fisher had no qualms about not having his horse tight for the Lonesome Glory. Good Night Shirt nearly fell at the first fence – and the last - but won anyway and used the race as a springboard to victory in the Colonial Cup two months later.



Tod Marks

After a four-month vacation, 2007 champion Good Night Shirt gets back to work.

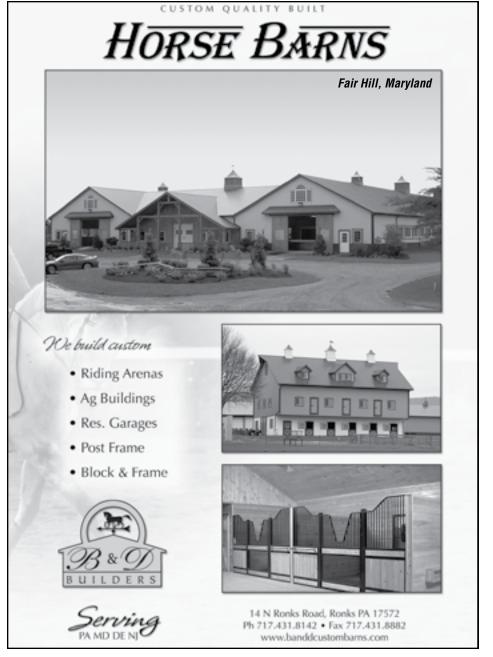
The Maryland-bred son of Concern opened 2008 with a victory at Atlanta in April, taking down a game Hip Hop in the final yards. The 7-year-old followed that with his most polished effort, a thorough drubbing of six foes in the Iroquois. With \$150,000 earned (and without retired three-time champion McDynamo), he headed for the field in control of the division. He returns

in a similar spot as the year's only dual Grade I winner with a \$40,000 lead on Dark Equation, his closest active rival, in the standings.

Dark Equation heads to Belmont in career form after a Saratoga that included a Grade I win in the New York Turf Writers Cup, a second in the Grade II A.P. Smithwick and a training-flat win. Sharp

See **SHIRT** page 7 ▶





# ■ Continued from page 6

as a skate blade, he's clearly the horse of the moment, with all four lifetime jump wins coming at racetracks. Best Attack, second in the Iroquois but winless since May 2007, also aims for Belmont.

Sent off as the second choice at nearly 3-1 last year, Good Night Shirt should be a considerably shorter price this time

"He's vulnerable his first run back, any horse is, but I'm confident," said Dowling. "He was very impressive in the Iroquois. The Turf Writers was a good race, and the races this fall will be good races, but you don't have McDynamo or Sur La Tete in there like you used to.'

Now in his fourth season as a steeple-

races and \$598,973. Just five American steeplechas-

ers have earned more than \$600,000, meaning the raw maiden of 2005 has become the veteran of 2008.

chaser, Good Night Shirt has won eight

"He seems as good and strong as ever," said Dowling. "We used to have a problem getting him to relax at home and now we've got to do more work with him. He's matured so much that he's not the excited young horse he was. Now, he's like a hunter.'

Dowling and Fisher aren't bragging, but they expect another strong campaign.

"His schedule is easy," said Fisher. "It doesn't take a genius to train him - it's the other ones that are the tough ones to train."

"He makes you sound greedy but he's a special horse," said the jockey. "We're very lucky to have him."



Sonny Via (left) and Jack Fisher laughed it up at Saratoga – thinking of Good Night Shirt.

# **Swan, Irish horse Dalucci** aim for Belmont success

Back in 1992, Charlie Swan finished last in the Breeders' Cup Steeplechase at Belmont Park aboard Irish challenger Cock Cockburn.

He hopes to do a bit better this time around. Now a trainer, Swan aims Dalucci at Belmont's Grade I Lonesome Glory Sunday, Sept. 21. The 5-year-old was compromised by soft turf in Ireland this summer.

"He wants fast ground and the American racing will suit him," said Swan. "There's been nowhere to run him because it's been so wet here.'

Dalucci has made nine starts this year, and won a beginner chase at Ballinrobe July 21. Ten days later, he finished fifth in a novice chase at Galway. When it kept raining at home, Swan talked about an American try.

"When the ground got soft again, we started thinking about it because he won't want the soft ground during the winter," Swan said. "We'll have a bit of a busman's holiday. He's got a good cruising speed and is the ideal type for

If the Belmont race goes well, Swan will think about staying for Far Hills Oct. 18. With a maiden hurdle win last April, Dalucci misses the American novice cutoff by about a month - meaning open stakes are his only real option.

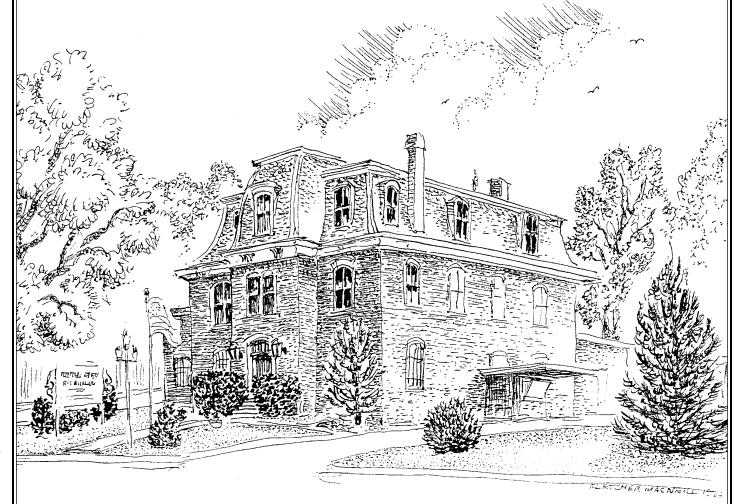
His best work in Ireland came last spring when he finished first or second in five consecutive hurdle races, including wins at Cork and Punchestown. The son of Daylami also owns two flat wins.

Swan, whose other American jump racing experience was a second aboard Castleworth in the 1993 New York Turf Writers Cup at Saratoga, won multiple riding championships in Ireland and rode the great Istabraq to three victories in the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham.

• Dalucci's countrymate Salford City will rest up at owner Fergus Galvin's Hunter Valley Farm in Lexington before returning to Ireland and a winter campaign. The 7-year-old finished third in the A.P. Smithwick and seventh in the New York Turf Writers Cup at Saratoga.







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# Go Figure

# Saratoga hero Dark Equation heads list of challengers to champ

## **BY BRIAN NADEAU**

Good Night Shirt leads at the turn, but a solid band of shooters looks to catch him on the back nine. The 2007 champion's Eclipse Award defense begins in earnest Sept. 21 at Belmont Park with the \$150,000 Lonesome Glory, the first of three open Grade I stakes on the

• Peggy Steinman's Dark Equation emerged from Saratoga as the topranked contender, based on his determined win over Be Certain in the Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup. The 7-year-old climbed the ladder while the champ rested, parlaying a training flat win at Saratoga Jump Start into a second in the Grade II A.P. Smithwick into a half-length win in the Turf Writers.

Trainer Doug Fout has mapped out a fall schedule that includes the Lonesome Glory and the Grade I Colonial Cup at Camden Nov. 16. Dark Equation trails

# **FALL STAKES PREVIEW**

Good Night Shirt by less than \$40,000 in seasonal earnings with several important assignments on tap.

"His two races this summer were really breakout performances and we're looking forward to the fall and a showdown with Good Night Shirt. We're going to test him and make him run and see where we stand after that," Fout said. "Dark Equation came out of the Saratoga race in fantastic shape and is happy and squealing. He tried to buck off the rider the other day, and that's when I know he's feeling good."

• Fout also readies EMO Stable's Orison for a fall campaign that will include the Grade I Grand National Oct. 18 at Far Hills and the Colonial Cup. The Grade II novice winner in 2007 has shown the ability to compete against the best, as evidenced by his second behind Good Night Shirt in last year's Lone-



From left, Bee Charmer, Dr. Bloomer, Be Certain and The Price Of Love could all make an impact on the fall steeplechase schedule.

some Glory, but he struggled in three spring outings this year, failing to hit the board in the Imperial Cup, Royal Chase and Iroquois.

• Bruce Miller has two for the fall stakes, including Sally Radcliffe's accomplished Best Attack, third in the Royal Chase and second in the Iroquois, his last start before a summer vacation. Now 7, Best Attack won the National Hunt Cup at Radnor in 2007, and has made a favorable impression in limited action against open stakes company. He ended his 2007 season third to McDynamo (and ahead of Good Night Shirt) in the Grand National and showed in both spring starts that he figures to be a player this fall. Best Attack's summer hiatus was by design, and Miller looks forward to reaping the benefits.

"He's just been resting over the summer; last year we kept him in training for Saratoga on the hard ground and it ended up costing us some time, so we decided to just freshen him up this summer and point to the fall, and I think it's been the right move," Miller said. "He's doing well and he'll be heading to Belmont for the Lonesome Glory. Hopefully he can come back this fall and run as well as he did in the Iroquois."

- Miller also points Calvin Houghland's Mon Villez to the Lonesome Glory and will use the race to gauge where to proceed for the rest of the season. The 9-year-old finished fifth to Good Night Shirt in the Georgia Cup, won a 3-mile amateur allowance at Nashville, then headed for vacation. Mon Villez has won the Noel Laing Stakes three years in a row and could go for four at Montpelier Nov. 1.
- Alnoff Stable's Be Certain just missed in the Turf Writers, battling for the lead at the last fence and yielding late to Dark Equation. The 4-year-old has shown maturity beyond his years for Tom Voss - the son of Thunder Gulch schooled over hurdles for the first time at Saratoga in 2007.

One year later, Be Certain fits firmly in the open stakes discussion, though he is still eligible for novice races. With spring stars such as Good Night Shirt sitting out the Turf Writers, Voss rolled the dice with Be Certain and wasn't dis-

"It was the right time to take a shot at Saratoga; the division was a little down and he was getting a lot of weight,"

Voss said. "He ran huge, came out of the race in good shape and has been training right along."

Be Certain flashed his talent in the National Hunt Cup at Radnor in May, wearing down his more seasoned barnmate - and 2007 novice champion -Planets Aligned to win by a head.

Faced with an early decision as the fall season started, Voss opted for novice company – entering the 4-year-old in the \$75,000 Monmouth County Hunt Stakes at Monmouth Park Sept. 20. That race replaced the Somerset Medical Center at The Meadowlands on the fall stakes schedule.

• Fox Ridge Farm's Planets Aligned will also see stakes action. The 7-yearold concluded his spring campaign with a head loss to his Be Certain at Radnor, while giving away 18 pounds. Prior to that effort, he easily won the Grade II Temple Gwathmey at Middleburg April 19 and Voss lists the Grade III Appleton at Far Hills as a potential goal.

# **Novice Division Update**

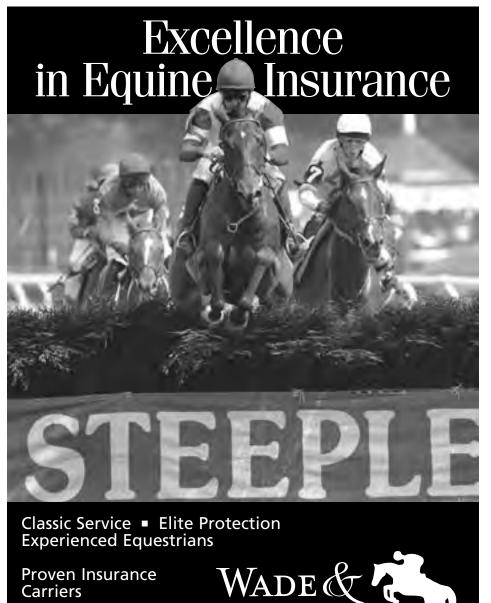
While the stakes division appears well defined, the novice division is as blurry as your grandmother's blackand-white TV.

Be Certain casts a daunting shadow should Voss decide to run him. If the trainer chooses to tackle the big boys at Belmont and beyond, the division becomes as open as the National League wild-card chase.

Monmouth Park kicks off the schedule with the Grade II \$75,000 Monmouth County Hunt Cup Sept. 20. A trio of \$100,000 Grade I events that are sure to help crown the 2008 champion follow: the Foxbrook at Far Hills Oct. 18, the AFLAC U.S. Championship at Callaway Gardens Nov. 1 and the newly created Palm Beach Stakes at the inaugural Palm Beach Steeplechase

• Should Be Certain stay in open company, Voss has a capable replacement in Dynaski. Armata Stable's 5-year-old broke his maiden at Radnor and showed considerable talent at Saratoga, taking the Ninepins Novice and finishing second to The Price Of Love in the Mickey Walsh three weeks later. Voss will target the Grade I Foxbrook at Far Hills as the first major goal.

See **STAKES** page 9▶



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# Stakes —

# **■** Continued from page 8

- Bill Pape's The Price Of Love got the better of Dynaski in the Walsh, scoring a neck win to add to his score in the Jonathan Kiser (over Be Certain) at Saratoga. Bred by Pape and Sheppard, the 5-year-old improved on a distant third to Be Certain and Planets Aligned at Radnor. A showdown could loom at Far Hills with Dynaski following his strong summer in upstate New York.
- Spy In The Sky took the Happy Intellectual Stakes at Saratoga for Randleston Farm and like Be Certain, the 4-year-old has also made a name for himself outside the novice division. In May, fresh off a maiden win, Spy In The Sky was second against open stakes horses in the Grade III Marcellus Frost at Nashville. A second on the flat at Colonial sent Spy In The Sky to the Smithwick, where he hardly disgraced himself by running fourth. Should he remain with his peers this fall he looms a danger for Jimmy Day.
- Jack Fisher trainees Swagger Stick, beaten a head by Spy In The Sky in the Happy Intellectual, and Seer, second to Dynaski at Saratoga, merit respect as well. Trainer Richard Valentine will point first-year steeplechaser Bee Charmer (third to The Price Of Love at Saratoga) for a Virginia Fall optional claimer before tackling the novice division again.

# **Infirmary Report**

Several notable performers from the spring and summer will miss the fall season. Leading the injured reserve is Carl Barnes' High Action, who won a Colonial Downs allowance and the A.P. Smithwick before finishing third in the Turf Writers. The 8-year-old fractured a cannon bone late in that race, and his trainer looks for him to return next spring.

"He's going to be out for six months," Fout said. "It's a tough loss, he ran so well this summer at Colonial and then in the stakes at Saratoga. The good news is that it doesn't look like it will require surgery. The bone has reattached and seems to be coming along, so (if he doesn't need the surgery) that would be great."

Tod Marks Class Shadow could be a player in the filly/mare division.

- High Action isn't the only Fout standout that will be on the shelf this fall. Betsy Mead's Kilbride Rd, the 2006 novice champion who was pulled up late in the Iroquois in May, will be out until the spring and Brigadoon Stable's Gliding, who represented the United States in the world's richest steeplechase race, the \$1.47 million Nakayama Grand Jump, could also miss the remainder of 2008, though Fout noted there was an outside chance he could race this fall.
- Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard will be without Grade I winners Mixed Up and Sovereign Duty, as well as star mare Sweet Shani. Sheppard admitted he is lacking in the stakes department and will look for Marcellus Frost winner Dr. Bloomer and Free Admission, fifth in the Turf Writers, to step up.

# **Bouncing Around**

- The Fields Stable's Guelph took a shot at the boys in the Smithwick and returned none the worse for wear after finishing fifth. The queen of the distaff division won the Henley at Nashville and the Valentine at Fair Hill this spring and has the Peapack at Far Hills as her major goal this fall for Voss . . . Star Ten Stable's Class Shadow chased Guelph home in both stakes this spring for Lilith Boucher and should again loom a danger after testing open foes . . . Dynaskill and Jellyberry also kept Guelph honest, and Miller indicated both will be back to try again.
- Voss hopes to welcome back Orsay at some point soon. The talented but seldom-seen 7-year-old is in training after battling a lung infection . . . The trainer

also has Dreadnaught, Slip Away and Fogcutter pointing to fall races while News Flash will target a maiden and the recently acquired Moon Valley will run in the filly/mare maiden at Shawan Downs. And owner Ken Ramsey has been claiming offspring of Dynaformer for new careers with Voss.

• Fout is high on Ponce, a 6-year-old New Zealand-bred recently purchased for Brigadoon Stable. Undefeated in two Southern Hemisphere hurdle starts, the son of Lord Ballina (the sire of Gliding) could make his U.S. debut at Far Hills... Fout also touted Peggy Steinman's Orebanks, a maiden winner on the flat. The son of Aptitude made a favorable impression schooling at Saratoga and will target 3-year-old races at Middleburg and Far Hills... Fisher picked Pleasant Top as his 3-year-old challenger.



# Fall Guys

# After summer hiatus, timber horses return to a wide-open title picture

## **BY BRIAN NADEAU**

The elder statesmen of the steeplechase scene return from a well-earned summer vacation to a timber division that's very much in play.

Shawan Downs starts the circuit Sept. 27 with a pair of events including the \$25,000 Ski Roundtop Trophy, the first of six stakes slated for the fall. With \$370,000 in total purses available and the two biggest stakes - the New Jersey Hunt Cup and International Gold Cup - scheduled for the same day, there are a number of realistic routes to the timber title.

The 3-mile Ski Roundtop looms as a a royal rumble between Allimac, Bubble Economy, Monte Bianco and Erin Go Bragh. Irish Prince used his victory in the 2007 renewal as a springboard to an undefeated, record-breaking championship season and this year's rendition should again give the winner a jump on the competition.

• In April, Irv Naylor's Allimac turned heads at Middleburg besting the previously undefeated pair of Miles Ahead and Irish Prince - a combined 12-for-12 lifetime over timber - in

# **FALL TIMBER PREVIEW**

front-running fashion. The 11-year-old followed with further front-end fun, wiring the \$75,000 Mason Houghland Memorial in Nashville in an emphatic 22 1/2-length score.

The Irish-bred heads to Shawan in career-best form for trainer Desmond

'Allimac is doing great and we're looking toward the Roundtop as a nice test and a good starting point to the fall," Fogarty said. "We gave him some time off and he seems to have really responded to it. He's been galloping and swimming right along for us and this race should set him up for New Jersey Hunt Cup at Far Hills (Oct. 18).'

 Arcadia Stable's Bubble Economy won the \$100,000 Virginia Gold Cup - the world's richest timber race - at Great Meadow in May, and the generous winner's check has him sitting atop the division standings (\$9,500 ahead of Allimac). Trained by Jack Fisher, the 2004 timber champion finished third in the My Lady's Manor and Grand National this year, but pulled up last time in the Radnor Hunt Cup.

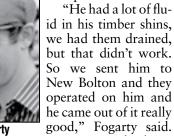


FANTASTIC FOUR: Veterans (from left) Hot Springs, Monte Bianco, Bubble Economy and Miles Ahead are all out for the timber title, just as they were in the finish of the Virginia Gold Cup.

- Fisher barnmate Monte Bianco took the aforementioned Radnor Hunt Cup for Nick Arundel to put himself squarely in the championship picture. The Irish-bred opened the season a relative unknown, but a double-digit allowance win at Camden and a thrilling fourth (yes, there is such a thing) in the Gold Cup led to a breakout performance at Radnor. Monte Bianco pulled away from past champions Miles Ahead and Irish Prince to score by 2 1/2 lengths to stamp himself a serious contender for year-end honors.
- Brigadoon Stable's Erin Go Bragh came home first in the My Lady's Manor this spring for Doug Fout only to be disqualified and placed second for interfering with Hot Springs. The New Zealand-bred later chased home Bubble Economy and friends in the Gold Cup, and was fourth at Radnor. He finished third at the recent Thornton Hills Pointto-Point in Virginia.
- Kinross Farm's Miles Ahead saw his eight-race unbeaten streak over timber end earlier this year, but the 11-year-old still remains a viable threat wherever Neil Morris sends him. Second in both the Gold Cup and Radnor Hunt Cup this spring, the 2005 champion prepped for the upcoming campaign with a second to Major Frank and ahead of Erin Go Bragh at Thornton Hill and eyes the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup (Oct. 11) or the International Gold Cup (Oct. 18).
- One of the most exciting runners on the horizon hasn't been seen in more than 17 months, as Salmo nears a come-

back for Naylor and Fogarty. Previously trained by Fisher, the 12-year-old has been a timber mainstay since finishing third as a maiden in the 2004 International Gold Cup. Winner of the 2006 Radnor Hunt Cup and the first sixfigure Gold Cup in May 2007, Salmo's been readying for his long-awaited return from a bowed tendon suffered last

> year and reoccurring shin problems.



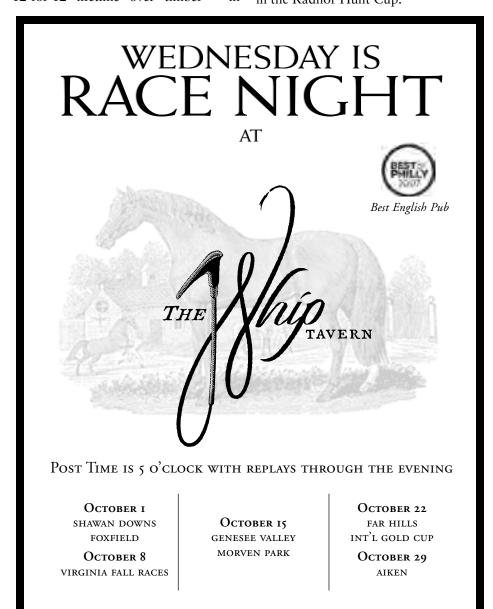
Fogarty

operated on him and he came out of it really good," Fogarty said. 'He seems to be doing fine. He's been galloping and swimming right along, and he's ready to go. The swimming works really nicely – it gives the horses a little extra fitness and a bit

horses really seem to take to it. Fogarty will look to get Salmo started in a point-to-point, then aim for the National Sporting Library Chronicle Cup (Oct. 4) and the International Gold Cup.

more tone than regular training and the

• Naylor's Hot Springs will be back as well, and the 7-year-old son of Wekiva Springs could be an exciting up-andcomer in the division. A two-time winner over timber in 2007, he followed his win in April's My Lady's Manor with a solid third in the Gold Cup. Fogarty has penciled in the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup and the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup (Nov. 2) as goals for the season.



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NSA Fall Timber Schedule								
Total Purses: \$370	Total Purses: \$370,000							
DATE RACE	PURSE	DIST.	RACE MEET					
Sept. 27Ski Roundtop Trophy	. \$25,000.	3 miles.	Shawan Downs					
Sept. 27Maiden timber	15,000 .	3	Shawan Downs					
Oct. 4Maiden timber								
Oct. 4National Sporting Library Chronicle Cup.	35,000.	3 1/4	Virginia Fall					
Oct. 5Amateur highweight timber								
Oct. 11Maiden timber								
Oct. 11Genesee Valley Hunt Cup	25,000.	3 1/2	Genesee Valley					
Oct. 11Allowance timber (NW2)	15,000 .	3 1/4	Morven Park					
Oct. 11Amateur highweight timber	5,000 .	3	Morven Park					
Oct. 18New Jersey Hunt Cup								
Oct. 18The Steeplethon (timber steeplechase)	25,000 .	3	The Plains					
Oct. 18International Gold Cup	50,000.	3 1/2	The Plains					
Nov. 1Maiden timber								
Nov. 2Amateur highweight timber	5,000 .	3	Unionville					
Nov. 2Allowance timber (NW2)								
Nov. 2Pennsylvania Hunt Cup								
Nov. 16Open timber	20,000 .	3 1/2	Camden					
Bold denotes stakes								

# **Breeders' Cup drops steeplechase**

#### **BY JOE CLANCY**

Gone. Again.

Breeders' Cup and steeplechasing went their separate ways this summer with the announcement that Breeders' Cup Ltd. would no longer offer a \$100,000 purse enhancement on the Grand National run at Far Hills in October. Made by the Breeders' Cup board of directors, the move mirrors a decision in 1994 that halted the original Breeders' Cup Steeplechase, which was run from 1986-93 at various locations.

"It's unfortunate, it's sad," said Guy Torsilieri, cochairman of the Far Hills Races and a former NSA vice president. "I don't think they're looking at the whole Thoroughbred horse racing community, I don't think they're looking at our fans and I don't think they're looking at the big picture.'

Far Hills hosted the Breeders' Cup since 1994, either for a race called the Breeders' Cup Grand National or the Breeders' Cup Steeplechase. In either version, the race included additional purse money available for Breeders' Cup-eligible horses on top of a base purse offered by Far Hills.



Set for Oct. 18, the 2008 race will simply be called the Grand National with a \$250,000 purse to all starters. In 2007, the race carried a \$300,000 purse value – a \$200,000 base and up to \$100,000 in Breeders' Cup enhancement. Torsilieri hated to see Breeders' Cup go, but life will go on at Far Hills – the richest meet on the NSA circuit.

"It's actually a better race with

everyone running for the same mon-ey," he said. "We save on the TV production truck that we don't need anymore and longterm it gives us opportunities to do things we might not have been able to do otherwise. But the race should still be here, the Breeders' Cup name should still be in steeplechasing.'

Breeders' Cup got into steeplechasing in 1986 with the creation of the \$250,000 Steeplechase run at Fair Hill, Md. The race shared its day - and NBC's national television coverage - with the championship flat races at Santa Anita. Breeders' Cup provided the entire purse in various formats (the race date and site changed over the years) through 1993.

The company canceled the race after 1993, but funded an enhancement on the Grand National at Far

# Grand National loses \$100K purse enhancement



Five-time winner McDynamo clears a jump (and a Breeders' Cup banner) at Far Hills last year.

Hills from 1994-99. From 2000-05, the Breeders' Cup Steeplechase came back in title - but with a similar format offering extra purse money for eligible horses. The last two runnings have been called the Breeders' Cup Grand National, again with bonus purse money available to eligible horses (in 2007, the Breeders' Cup paid out a total of \$63,000).

To be fully eligible for the Breeders' Cup program, horses must be nominated as foals and be the products of nominated stallions. In its year of birth, a foal can be nominated for \$500 (paid by Oct. 15) or \$1,500 (paid by Dec. 15). That payment makes a horse eligible to the entire Breeders' Cup program.

Many steeplechase horses were nominated as foals, usually by someone other than the current owner, though steeplechase-connected breeders Jonathan Sheppard, Bill Pape, George Strawbridge, Kinross Farm, Mede Cahaba Stud and others consider nominating foals. Sheppard nominated 12 foals in 2007, most with steeplechasing on their list of career goals.

"I stopped nominating when they stopped the race several years ago, but then I started again when the race came back," said Sheppard. "Most of my horses are nominated with an eye toward the steeplechase, not million-dollar flat races."

Because of the change, Sheppard won't nominate nearly as many foals this October but has a barn full of eligible horses with little or no chance of running in a Breeders' Cup race. The trainer does not see the logic in Breeders' Cup's decision.

"It seems incredibly petty and shortsighted," he said. "They're all Thoroughbreds and everybody knows that people who own steeplechasers buy horses at sales, own flat horses and support the game. It's not that much money, we aren't losing all that much, but steeplechasing should be part of the Breeders' Cup.'

Steeplechase horses normally miss out on a chance to run for the Championship purse structure because they aren't good enough on the flat, and the enhancement rewarded horses, owners and breeders for patience and longevity.

Kentucky breeder Nathan Fox nominates dozens of foals a year, and pays nominating fees for stallions at his Richland Hills Farm in Versailles. Fox bred Mc-Dynamo, sold him at Keeneland as a yearling and



Sheppard

watched the horse go on to win five Breeders' Cup Steeplechases. Each of those wins brought a small breeder award check to Fox, but meant far more than money.

"My rewards off the horse were 8 or 10,000 bucks, which is a fraction of what I put into the Breeders' Cup, but it was nice to get a little something back," said Fox. "It obviously brought us a lot of notoriety and he was a special racehorse.

We take a lot of pride in it. It's disappointing to think that the race isn't there anymore."

Breeders' Cup spokesman Jim Gluckson pointed to the funding of \$25 million in purses for the two-day Championship, additional marketing and television costs and cuts in the national Stakes Program budget as reasons for the change. The steeplechase enhancement came from that Stakes Program, which offers purse enhancements to various races around the country. The Grand National was the only jump race in the program, which spent \$5 million to support 100 races

"Breeders' Cup had to cut back in some areas and, regrettably, the cuts included the steeplechase event,' Gluckson said.

# **NSA FALL SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Sept. 20	MONMOUTH PARK, Oceanport, N.J	www.monmouthpark.com
Sunday, Sept. 21	BELMONT PARK, Elmont, N.Y	www.nyra.com
Saturday, Sept. 27	SHAWAN DOWNS, Hunt Valley, Md	www.shawandowns.org
Sunday, Sept. 28	FOXFIELD FALL, Charlottesville, Va	www.foxfieldraces.com
Saturday, Oct. 4	VIRGINIA FALL, Middleburg, Va	www.vafallraces.com
Sunday, Oct. 5	VIRGINIA FALL, Middleburg, Va	www.vafallraces.com
Saturday, Oct. 11	GENESEE VALLEY, Geneseo, N.Y	www.geneseevalleyhunt.org
Saturday, Oct. 11	MORVEN PARK, Leesburg, Va	www.morvenpark.com
Sunday, Oct. 12	PHILADELPHIA PARK, Bensalem, Pa	www.philadelphiapark.com
Saturday, Oct. 18	FAR HILLS, Far Hills, N.J.	www.farhillsrace.org
Saturday, Oct. 18	INTERNATIONAL GOLD CUP, The Plains, Va	www.vagoldcup.com
Saturday, Oct. 25	AIKEN FALL, Aiken, S.C	www.aikensteeplechase.com
Saturday, Nov. 1	S'CHASE AT CALLAWAY, Pine Mountain, Ga	www.steeplechaseatcallaway.org
Saturday, Nov. 1	MONTPELIER, Montpelier Station, Va	www.montpelierraces.com
Sunday, Nov. 2	PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP, Unionville, Pa	www.pahuntcup.org
Sunday, Nov. 16	COLONIAL CUP, Camden, S.C	www.carolina-cup.org
Saturday, Nov. 29	PALM BEACH, Palm Beach, Fla	www.palmbeachsteeplechase.com



#### Quem Se Atreve jumps at the Saratoga Jump Start meet in late July.

# **NSA Standings**

TOP 10 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19										
Sits   1st   2nd   3rd   Money   Win%   Xavier Aizpuru   53   13   9   6   \$312,987   .25   Jody Petty   31   9   6   2   175,200   .29   Danielle Hodsdon   49   8   8   8   350,897   .16   Matt McCarron   52   8   4   6   263,844   .15   Paddy Young   59   7   9   8   199,240   .12   .21   Willie Dowling   33   7   5   7   321,129   .21   Carl Rafter   662   7   3   11   232,983   .11   Padge Whelan   26   6   8   1   249,614   .23   .29	TOP 1	O THE	ROUGH	SEPT	EMBEF	R 19				
Sts										
Xavier Aizpuru						Monev	Win%			
Danielle Hodsdon	Xavier Aizpuru	53	13	9	6		.25			
Matt McCarron         52         8         4         6         263,844         1.5           Paddy Young         .59         7         9         8         199,240         .12           Willie Dowling         .33         7         5         7         321,129         .21           Carl Rafter         .62         7         3         11         232,983         .11           Padge Whelan         .26         6         8         1         249,614         .23           Robbie Walsh         .51         6         1         7         189,743         .12           Will Haynes         .14         4         4         1         62,310         .29           Trainers (Races Won)           Sts         1st         2nd         3rd         Money         Win%           Type Style Money           Trainers (Races Won)           Trainers (Races Won) <td></td> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>175,200</td> <td>.29</td>			9	6	2	175,200	.29			
Paddy Young										
Willie Dowling				•						
Carl Rafter         62         7         3         11         232,983         .11           Padge Whelan         26         6         8         1         249,614         23           Robbie Walsh         .51         6         1         7         189,743         .12           Will Haynes         .14         4         4         1         62,310         .29           Trainers (Races Won)           Sts         1st         2nd         3rd         Money         Win%           Town James         59         15         17         4         \$477,664         .25           Jack Fisher         .75         13         8         13         506,753         .17           Jonathan Sheppard         .59         10         11         9         507,118         .17           Sanna Hendriks         .40         10         9         4         205,500         .25           Doug Fout         .71         8         6         8         311,584         .11           Kathy McKenna         .42         5         1         9         70,550         .12           Bruce Miller         .18 <td></td> <td></td> <td>•</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			•							
Padge Whelan			-		=					
Robbie Walsh			•							
Trainers (Races Won)   Sts   1st   2nd   3rd   Money   Win%   Tom Voss   59   15   17   4   \$477,664   25   Jack Fisher   75   13   8   13   506,753   17   Jonathan Sheppard   59   10   11   9   507,118   17   Sanna Hendriks   40   10   9   4   205,500   25   Doug Fout   71   8   6   8   311,584   11   Kathy McKenna   42   5   1   9   70,550   12   Desmond Fogarty   23   4   3   5   120,250   17   Bruce Miller   18   4   3   2   138,263   22   Mike Berryman   17   4   0   2   58,310   24   Richard Valentine   29   3   4   4   85,070   10   Sts   1st   2nd   3rd   Money   Win%   Sill Pape   18   5   4   2   \$202,672   28   Calvin Houghland   26   4   3   6   183,992   15   Irv Naylor   31   5   4   5   172,600   16   Augustin Stable   27   8   4   3   155,150   30   Sonny Via   2   2   2   0   0   150,000   1.00   Hudson River Farm   3   2   0   0   114,775   67   Peggy Steinman   5   1   1   1   110,488   20   Alnoff Stable   7   2   4   0   91,200   29   Gil Johnston   24   2   2   0   0   114,075   1.00   Dark Equation   4   1   1   1   10,488   25   The Price Of Love   5   3   1   1   109,600   60   Be Certain   6   2   3   0   108,774   33   High Action   3   2   0   1   17,690   67   Dynaski   4   2   2   0   72,700   50			-		-					
Trainers (Races Won)   Sts   1st   2nd   3rd   Money   Win%   Tom Voss					=					
Sts	WIII Hayries	14	4	4	1	02,310	.29			
Tom Voss										
Jack Fisher										
Jonathan Sheppard					-	' '				
Sanna Hendriks         40         10         9         4         205,500         .25           Doug Fout         .71         8         6         8         311,584         .11           Kathy McKenna         .42         5         1         9         70,550         .12           Desmond Fogarty         .23         4         3         5         .120,250         .17           Bruce Miller         .18         4         3         2         .138,263         .22           Mike Berryman         .17         4         0         2         .58,310         .24           Richard Valentine         .29         3         4         4         85,070         .10           Owners (Money Won)           Sts         1st         2nd         3rd         Money         Win%           Bill Pape         .18         5         4         2         \$20,672         .28           Calvin Houghland         .26         4         3         6         183,992         .15           Irv Naylor         .31         5         4         5         .172,600         .16           Augustin Stable         .27										
Doug Fout         71         8         6         8         311,584         11           Kathy McKenna         42         5         1         9         70,550         12           Desmond Fogarty         23         4         3         5         120,250         .17           Bruce Miller         18         4         3         2         138,263         .22           Mike Berryman         17         4         0         2         58,310         .24           Richard Valentine         29         3         4         4         85,070         .10           Owners (Money Won)           Sts         1st         2nd         3rd         Money         Win%           Bill Pape         18         5         4         2         \$202,672         .28           Calvin Houghland         26         4         3         6         183,992         .15           Irv Naylor         31         5         4         5         172,600         .16           Augustin Stable         27         8         4         3         155,150         .30           Sonny Via         2         2         0										
Kathy McKenna         42         5         1         9         70,550         .12           Desmond Fogarty         23         4         3         5         120,250         .17           Bruce Miller         18         4         3         2         138,263         .22           Mike Berryman         17         4         0         2         58,310         .24           Richard Valentine         29         3         4         4         85,070         .10           Owners (Money Won)           Sts         1st         2nd         3rd         Money         Win%           Bill Pape         18         5         4         2         \$202,672         .28           Calvin Houghland         26         4         3         6         183,992         .15           Irv Naylor         31         5         4         5         172,600         .16           Augustin Stable         27         8         4         3         155,150         .30           Sonny Via         2         2         0         0         114,775         .67           Peggy Steinman         5         1					-					
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Mike Berryman         17         4         0         2         58,310         .24           Richard Valentine         29         3         4         4         85,070         .10           Owners (Money Won)           Sis         1st         2nd         3rd         Money         Win%           Bill Pape         18         5         4         2         \$202,672         .28           Calvin Houghland         26         4         3         6         183,992         .15           Irv Naylor         31         5         4         5         172,600         .16           Augustin Stable         27         8         4         3         155,150         .30           Sonny Via         2         2         0         0         150,000         1.00           Hudson River Farm         3         2         0         0         114,775         .67           Peggy Steinman         5         1         1         1         110,488         .20           Alnoff Stable         6         2         3         0         108,774         .33           Armata Stable         7         2 <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>•</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>			•							
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Sits         1st         2nd         3rd         Money         Win%           Bill Pape         18         5         4         2         \$202,672         28           Calvin Houghland         26         4         3         6         183,992         15           Irv Naylor         31         5         4         5         172,600         16           Augustin Stable         27         8         4         3         155,150         30           Sonny Via         2         2         0         0         150,000         1.00           Hudson River Farm         3         2         0         0         114,775         .67           Peggy Steinman         5         1         1         1         110,488         .20           Alnoff Stable         6         2         3         0         108,774         .33           Armata Stable         7         2         4         0         91,200         .29           Gil Johnston         24         2         3         4         80,800         .08           Horses (Money Won)           Sts         1st         2nd         Money         Wi			3	4	4		.10			
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Irv Naylor	Bill Pape	18	5	4	2		.28			
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Sonny Via	Irv Naylor	31		-						
Hudson River Farm         3         2         0         0         114,775         .67           Peggy Steinman         5         1         1         1         110,488         .20           Alnoff Stable         6         2         3         0         108,774         .33           Armata Stable         7         2         4         0         91,200         .29           Gil Johnston         24         2         3         4         80,800         .08           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           Dark Equation         4         1         1         1         110,488         .25           The Price Of Love         5         3         1         1         109,600         .60           Be Certain         6         2         3         0         108,774         .33           High Action         3         2 <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>•</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>				•						
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Armata Stable       7       2       4       0       91,200       .29         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         Dark Equation       .4       1       1       1       110,488       .25         The Price Of Love       .5       3       1       1       109,600       .60         Be Certain       .6       2       3       0       108,774       .33         High Action       .3       2       0       1       77,690       .67         Dynaski       .4       2       2       0       72,700       .50					· ·					
Gil Johnston.       24       2       3       4       80,800       .08         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         Dark Equation       .4       1       1       1       110,488       .25         The Price Of Love       .5       3       1       1       109,600       .60         Be Certain       .6       2       3       0       108,774       .33         High Action       .3       2       0       1       77,690       .67         Dynaski       .4       2       2       0       72,700       .50					-					
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# Direct Hit

Quem Se Atreve fires best shot for Fisher, halts two-year drought

#### **BY SEAN CLANCY**

Jack Fisher follows a simple strategy when it comes to running horses.

"Keep pulling the trigger and hope I hit something," Fisher said. "That's my theory."

Fisher pulled the trigger twice, sending out his 74th and 75th starter of the year (the most of any trainer), in the Belle Meade Plantation Hurdle at Kentucky Downs Sept. 13. The Marylandbased trainer aimed 33-1 Orpington and 29-1 Quem Se Atreve at the \$53,200 restricted stakes. Both performed dismally at Saratoga and were riding long losing streaks.

One hit, one didn't as steeplechasing returned to the Franklin, Ky. race course for the first time since 2000.

Sarah Lyn Stable's Quem Se Atreve (Carl Rafter) reignited the form that won the 2006 Georgia Cup over multiple stakes winner Mixed Up, sweeping to a dominant 7 3/4-length win over Langburg (Padge Whelan) and Four Schools (Matt McCarron). Xavier Aizpuru eased Orpington before the stretch.

"I ran two of them, if they didn't run well, they were going home," Fisher said. "Quem Se Atreve ran well and the other one went home."

Orpington retreated to owner Gil Johnston's farm and Quem Se Atreve shipped back to Maryland with Fisher. The 8-year-old Brazilian-bred needs things to go his way and for the first time in eight starts, things set up like a one-color game of checkers. Rafter placed Quem Se Atreve behind Pals Pride and managed to get the frontrunner to switch off in second. When Pals Pride had enough, Quem Se Atreve

# **KENTUCKY DOWNS**

#### Saturday, September 13

took over, finishing strongly to dispatch Langburg and Four Schools who closed ground but couldn't get within shouting distance of the winner.

"If he was ever going to run well, this was the spot, just because of the layout," Fisher said. "Just when he's thinking about pulling up, the downhill comes and the momentum carries him up the hill. And he likes firmer ground."

In Brazil, Quem Se Atreve won four races and finished second in a Grade I stakes in August 2003. Purchased by Sarah Lyn to run in major races on the flat, he failed to register an on-the-board finish in eight tries for Ken McPeek. Fisher took over in 2005 and seemed to have the horse on the right track when he won two straight, including the Grade II stakes at Atlanta. Seemed to.

The chestnut made just one start in 2007 and emerged this year as a timber prospect.

"I was disappointed ever since he won at Atlanta. I tried the timber thing, that didn't work, he just didn't get the trip," Fisher said. "I didn't find anything wrong with him or Orpington after Saratoga. I thought Orpington would run well at Saratoga and he didn't. Who knows? The owners are always happy, they always say, 'Go on with him.'

• Rainbows For Luck snapped his own losing streak by winning at Kentucky Downs. Owned by Greg Bentley, trained by Paul Rowland and ridden by

See KENTUCKY DOWNS page 13 ▶

#### **Kentucky Downs** Franklin, Ky. Saturday, Sept. 13. Turf: Firm. 1. Rainbows For Luck 2.40 2.40 2. Seeking No More 148 Aizpuru De Ville L 148 Young 3.00 Exacta (3-5) \$23.40. Trifecta (3-5-8) \$57.80. Superfecta (3-5-8-6) \$539.80. 3. Coupe De Ville 4. BK's Double Jade 154 Rafter 149 W. Haynes 5. Honour Emblem 148 6. Frosted Face Foley F. Society Milliner (Ire) 144 Delaney 148 Bordwell PU. La Resistance Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 4:24 2/5. O: Greg Bentley. T: Paul Rowland. B. g. 7 Benny The Dip-Rainbow's Classic, Regal Classic. Bred by Sam-Son Farm (Canada). 2nd. \$53,200. Belle Meade Plantation hurdle stakes. 2 1/4 miles. NW \$18,000 twice in 2007-08 other than maiden, claiming, starter. 1. Quem Se Atreve (Brz) L 142 Rafter 12.20 2. Langburg Whelan 4.00 L 150 3. Four Schools (Ire) McCarron Exacta (4-11) \$236.80. Trifecta (4-11-10) \$2,777.80. Superfecta (4-11-10-9) \$39,421.00. Classy Brute 150 W. Haynes Class Shadow 138 Boucher 6. Pals Pride 150 Foley 7. Luongo Hodsdon 146 8. More Fascination 142 Young PU. Feeling So Pretty Helders 152 150 Aizpuru PU. Orpington PU. Swimming River 146 Walsh Mgn: 7 3/4. Time: 4:19 2/5. O: Sarah Lyn Stable. T: Jack Fisher. Ch. g. 8 Foguete Rodolfo (Brz)-Alika Girl (Brz), Derek (Brz). Bred by Haras Basano (Brz.)



**Rainbows For Luck** 

# Kentucky Downs —

# **■** Continued from page 12

Robbie Walsh, Rainbows For Luck sat well off a contested early pace before sneaking through on the inside to run down Seeking No More (Aizpuru) and Coupe De Ville (Paddy Young). The latter led until the last fence, before making a mistake.

Bred in Canada by Sam-Son Farm, Rainbows For Luck came to steeplechasing with healthy credentials. The son of Benny The Dip won three times on the flat and finished second in the Chief Bearhart Stakes at Woodbine in 2004. Over jumps, it's taken awhile. He made two unfulfilling starts last fall and made his sixth NSA start of the year at Kentucky Downs. Aboard all year, Walsh knew the real Rainbows For Luck was about to stand up.

"The difference this time? It was about to all click. He had his issues before we got him and he used to jump too big, too careful, in his races. We worked at it. Worked at it. Worked at it," Walsh said. "He traveled great, jumped great, made one mistake but that was indecision on my part. He's figured it out upstairs."

Rainbows For Luck put up his best career performance at the Saratoga Open House when finishing third to Terpsichorean and Nat Grew. Rowland nearly ran him back at the real Saratoga but opted to wait until Kentucky Downs.

"At the Open House, everything clicked with him. I told Paul it was the best he had run," Walsh said. "He always runs a good race, the only bad race he's run was at Camden when we put blinkers on him and he kind of ran blind. Sometimes it takes a horse a few races to figure it out, now he's got that experience when he has to step up and run against allowance horses.





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FF-268 (508)

# Still Sailing

# Rouse adds another win to steeplechase legacy

## **BY SEAN CLANCY**

Randy Rouse began his steeplechasing odyssey 50 years ago. Horses such as Quashed, Cinzano and Fire Sale have led the way for the former president of the NSHA.

Add One Sea to the list of hard-working bearers of the red, white and blue. Owned and trained by Rouse, One Sea took the \$15,000 optional claimer feature at Colonial Downs Sept. 14, part of an inaugural two-race steeplechase taste at Colonial's annual harness meet

Five-pound apprentice Roderick Mackenzie guided the 8-year-old son of Kentucky Derby winner Sea Hero who bested Sussex County (Paddy Young) and Gigger (Matt McCarron). Bred by the estate of Walter Jeffords Jr. and originally in the Bruce Miller barn, One Sea entered the \$15,000 race with a 2-for-29 mark. His last victory came via a double disqualification at Virginia Fall in 2005.

Rouse purchased One Sea after he finished second in the Raymond G. Woolfe at Camden in 2003.

"He's turned into a real nice little horse for me. I've had more fun with him than about any other horse," Rouse said. "He's done some good things and has won a lot of the non-sanctioned races and point-to-points. He's a tricky horse to train and has had some back issues over the years, so he'll put in a bad one every now and then. Luckily Sunday he put in a good one."

Rouse, his wife Michelle and assistant David Bourke rely on acupuncture to help the Kentucky-bred gelding and it paid off with his third career victory.

"With his back issues I've had to give him acupuncture over the years and surprisingly he's one of the few horses that I've had that's responded to it. I gave it to him a couple of times a few years back and he did well, then I got away from it," Rouse said. "We started him back up on it, gave it to him three times, he responded and ran well on Sunday. Michelle rode him the day before and she came back and told me 'This horse is doing really good,' so I was optimistic going in that he would run a good race."

Mackenzie won the feature at Potomac Pointto-Point this spring on One Sea and had ridden him in four sanctioned starts prior to Colonial. In a matter of a couple of fences, Mackenzie knew what Michelle Rouse was talking about.

"When you jump a few you know how he's going. I knew. He's tough as nails," Mackenzie said. "I jumped off in fourth or fifth and then he jumped his way to the front. He winged the last. He always tries his best. I rode him at Potomac in bottomless ground, he's got such a heart."

One Sea provided Mackenzie with his first U.S. sanctioned victory. Mackenzie gallops horses at Delaware Park in the morning and breaks babies in the afternoon. He rode jump races in Ireland and England before answering a help wanted ad in *The Racing Post*. He landed a job with Michael Dickinson and began riding races in 2006. He rode seven jump races in 2006 and 19 last year, finishing second five times.

"I'd love to get out and school more horses and ride more races. I've done a lot of point-

# **COLONIAL DOWNS**

## Sunday, September 14

to-pointing," Mackenzie said. "It'll take a little bit of time for people to give me rides. Maybe things will take off. The more I ride, the better."

• Camden-based Allison Fulmer decided to stay north this summer and Charismic American made the move pay off with a win in the \$15,000 maiden claimer. Ridden by Danielle Hodsdon, Charismic American upset 10 rivals, scoring by 3 1/2 lengths over Questioning (Tom Foley) and Cuse (Liam McVicar).

Fulmer has a longer history with Charismic American than it says in the program.

She helped break the 5-year-old Charismatic gelding when he was a yearling with Kip Elser in Camden. She loved him then and followed his career, from Nick Zito's barn in New York to Scott Lake's barn at Delaware Park. Charismic American plummeted to the \$5,000 claiming ranks when Fulmer stepped up and purchased the then 3-for-30 performer in December from owner Nick Sanna.

"I just loved him, his attitude, he's good looking. I followed him and lost the shake when Scott Lake claimed him for \$12,500 at Delaware (in May 2006)," Fulmer said. "By the time I got him in December he was sulky and tired of the racetrack. Nick's excited, he's really happy I have him and he's got a good home. We had to work on his attitude, freshen him up and get him happy. He loves life now. He's adorable."

## **Colonial Downs**

New Kent, Va. Sunday, Sept. 14. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$12,000. Mdn. clm. hi	ırdle.	2 1/4	miles. \$15,000	-\$10,000	clm. pric	e.
1. Charismic American	L	148	Hodsdon	65.40	30.40	18.00
2. Questioning	L	156	Foley		13.60	7.80
3. Cuse	L	151	McVicar			3.60
	\$2 Ex	acta (6	-2) \$469.80. \$1			
			10-cent Superf	fecta (6-2-	10-ALL) \$	1,029.05
4. Sir Chip	L	147	Mackenzie			
5. Sand Box Rules	L	150	McCarron			
6. Ole Boy	L	160	Read			
7. English Dancer	L	148	Traurig			
8. Justabud	L	145	Carter			
9. Running In Reality	L	150	Young			
PU. Wave Warrior	L	148	Rafter			
*R. Salute The News	L	148	Slater			
*-Salute The News refused at start.						
Mgn: 3 1/2. Time: 4:26 4/5. O: Athene Noctura Stable. T: Allison Fulmer.						

B. g. 5 Charismatic-Ameriano, Rubiano. Bred by Ball Farms (Ky).

# 3rd. \$15,000. Optional claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.

+, p			,	· <del>-</del>				
NW \$9,100 once or for \$15,000 clm. price.								
1. One Sea	L	136	Mackenzie	39.60	19.40	5.40		
2. Sussex County	L	153	Young		2.80	2.20		
3. Gigger	L	158	McCarron			2.40		
\$2 Exacta (6-5) \$198.00. \$2 Trifecta (6-5-9) \$352.20								
			* \$1 Sup	erfecta (6	-5 <del>-</del> 9-4) \$3	,562.70		
4. Heros Among Us	L	145	Rafter	,	,			
5. Summersville	L	141	R. Haynes					
6. Gather No Moss	L	150	Traurig					
PU. Jimmie Echo	L	146	Carter					
Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 4:14 4/5.	0/T	: Randy	/ Rouse.					
B. g. 8 Sea Hero-Early Mauc				e of Walte	r Jeffords	Jr. (Ky).		
		-	-			, -,		



Ogualas Lees

Randy Rouse won the Colonial feature with One Sea.

Charismic American made his debut at Charlotte, finishing third and then finished fourth to Slip Away at High Hope. He tailed off in his next two starts, slipping to eighth against maidens at Fair Hill and Colonial Downs. Fulmer based her four-horse string at Equivine Farm in Pennsylvania for the summer and freshened Charismic American for a fall campaign.

"I expected him to run well because of how he was training, his attitude, I wasn't shocked. He ran well at the hunt meets this spring but then was tired

at Fair Hill and Colonial, he was exhausted," Fulmer said. "I was surprised he went off 30-1, he was third and fourth in maiden specials. It was the easiest company he's faced, but it's always a surprise and a relief and I'm thankful for the win. I'm happy for the horse, it helped his confidence."

Hodsdon rides first call for Jonathan Sheppard and first call on Charismic American. She schooled him in Camden for Fulmer and has ridden him in his last four starts.

"Dani's put in a lot of work on his jumping. She'd come over after Sheppard's at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and school him," Fulmer said. "She did all the work, she's been there 100 percent. We're ecstatic and he's really pleased with himself."

Fulmer worked for Elser, Sheppard, Janet Elliot, Shadwell Farm and now runs her own stable which is usually a crossbreed of steeplechase horses, showhorses and foxhunters. That's part of the reason Charismic American could make the move.

"He easily could be a show horse or a foxhunter, that's where I make most of my income and he's a good enough mover and has a great disposition," Fulmer said. "He's taken well to (steeplechasing) and really wants to do it."

As for Fulmer?

"I was born and raised in Camden," Fulmer said. "I grew up doing it and can't imagine doing anything else."



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Thursday, August 28

# School Days

# Dark Equation proves worthy in Grade I win

**BY SEAN CLANCY** 

Matt McCarron didn't want to school Dark Equation. Peggy Steinman didn't want Dark Equation to school. Doug Fout did.

And he's the boss.

Fout went home to Virginia and called McCarron in Saratoga with instructions to school Dark Equation, three days before the New York Turf Writers Cup. A veteran of 12 jump races, Dark Equation needed to school like Saratoga 2008 needed more rain. McCarron buckled his chin strap and aimed Dark Equation at the first roll in the Oklahoma infield.

"I couldn't get him close to the roll, just trying to show it to him, he was like a 2-year-old who had never seen anything, spooking," McCarron said. "He nearly stops at the roll, I called Dougie every hillbilly name I could think of."

Dark Equation tried to stop, then clambered over like a dump truck would. McCarron fumed. Steinman



Tod Marks

Dark Equation (center) challenges Be Certain at the last fence in the New York Turf Writers Cup as High Action (left) tries to rally.

agonized. Fout, finding out about it on the phone, loved it.

"Matt called me, cursing me," Fout said. "I told him he was going to win, every time before he's won a hurdle race he's gotten cheeky before it, then he'll run his heart out."

As they say, bad school, good race.

Steinman's Dark Equation made up for his inauspicious practice session with a flawless performance Aug. 28 in the Grade I stakes, rallying outside to best Be Certain and stablemate High Action in a strategy-strewn renewal of the historic stakes, worth \$159,300.

Carl Rafter sent Four Schools and Paul Carberry aboard Salford City went with him, stretching their seven rivals in a flash. They opened 10 lengths, running and jumping like they robbed a bank while the rest of the field, led by second-choice Be Certain, looked like a clothesline in Hurricane Ike. Two circuits later, the front-runners retreated – setting up the clash of Dark Equation, Be Certain and High Action.

Be Certain (Padge Whelan) gained a slim lead turning for home but Dark Equation collared him from the outside. Both had a jump on favorite High Action,

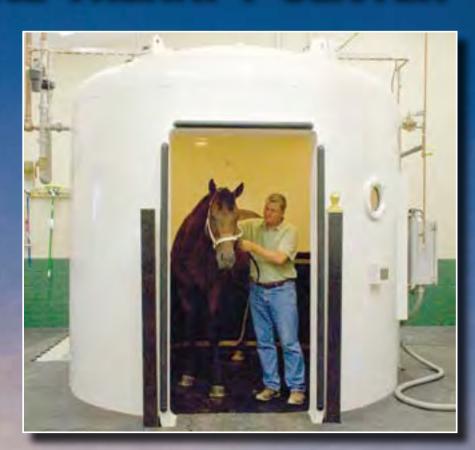
See **SARATOGA** page 18▶





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# Turf Writers —

# Continued from page 16

who got bottled behind a plummeting Salford City. McCarron gunned Dark Equation for a long stride at the last and the 7-year-old responded with a leap that would have won the long jump at the Olympics. Dark Equation wrestled the victory from a game Be Certain, the only 4-year-old in the race, and a hardluck High Action, also trained by Fout.

For Fout, it was nearly an exacta sweep of both graded stakes at Saratoga. On Aug. 7, High Action spurted through on the inside to win the A.P. Smithwick over a circling Dark Equation. Three weeks later, Dark Equation stuck to his game, running and jumping like a copy machine, steadily producing the goods while High Action died by the sword which won him the Smithwick, getting bounced around and allowing Dark Equation first run. Be Certain prevented the Fout exacta by a hard-fought neck.

"I wanted High Action, to be part of history, Campanile (1999) is the last horse to do it, it's great for Ms. Steinman, it's great for Dark Equation, they both deserve it, but deep in my heart I wanted High Action," Fout said. "It's probably my fault, I told Paddy, 'just relax it will all come together, just save the ground on the inside.' He got stopped twice and he probably should have gone out, but you don't know . . . I think that's just experience difference between Matt and Paddy."

McCarron has been plying his trade at Saratoga since 1994, while Young made his Saratoga debut in 2006. Mc-Carron needed all that experience to pull off this year's Turf Writers.

The race appeared to come down to three horses. High Action, who was beaten 7 lengths by Yeats in the Ascot Gold Cup in his previous career; Be Certain, a dynamic 4-year-old trained by Tom Voss; and Irish import Salford City, who finished third to High Action and Dark Equation in the Smithwick but was given credit for just stepping off the plane for that one. Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard's entry of Look At Him and Free Admission went off fourth choice. Dark Equation played the fringe, fifth choice. A course winner last season, he rarely runs a bad race but had never won a stakes over hurdles. The Pennsylvaniabred son of Polish Numbers won for the fourth time in his jump career, and sixth

time overall. He won two races for trainer Christophe Clement on the flat. Jerry Bailey, John Velazquez and McCarron are the only three jockeys to win on

Fout ordered a myectomy earlier in the summer and Dark Equation had been sharp since, winning the training flat race at the Open House and finishing second in the Smithwick.

"He's a war horse, he's been training great. I think that wind thing was bothering him before his last two or three races, Fout said. "For some reason he doesn't like the up and down hills at the hunt meets. He gets his head down and starts second-guessing himself, I can't change it. At the flat tracks, he's like a dozer."

Still, McCarron was thinking more about third money.

"I'll be honest with you, I didn't give this horse any shot of stepping up and running like this. I thought he could be third and I'd be thrilled," McCarron said. "Jonathan Sheppard has this great saying, 'We're cautiously optimistic.' I was cautiously optimistic he'd run back to the way he ran in the Smithwick. I thought this was a better race, did I think he could really win it? No, not really. Was I going to give the horse a ride that made it possible? Sure.'

The tactics of Rafter and Carberry made McCarron's task a lot easier. Their renegade moves handed it off to the closers. There were three of them. High Action stopped cold and Be Certain did the grunt work, running the relay leg between Salford City and the rest of the field. Dark Equation closed the strongest and found the least trouble.

"My tactics went out the window over the first, I wanted to be third and I'm sixth getting run off my feet. I just couldn't believe Salford City could keep going after that gallop. There's nothing you can do about it, especially with my horse," McCarron said. "He was perfect, he gave me a great trip, every time he'd lose a little because of his deliberate jumping, he'd refill the bridle. Because we went so fast, they started to come to him going down the backside, without me having to do anything. That made him swell a little bit and when I called on him, I got some response.'

After the Smithwick, Fout took opposite approaches with his two stakes

He sent High Action home to the farm in Virginia, under the care of assistant James Piper. The son of Theatrical worries and frets and does better at the farm. Fout kept Dark Equation at Saratoga, doing the ground work himself and relying on McCarron to ride him every morning.

"Darky would have trained fine at the farm, he loves the farm, but he's just so easy up here. High Action would fall apart up here, he gets too busy, he's like a little pony, sweating up, he wouldn't do anything stupid, but he's thinking too much, that's why I sent him home," Fout said. "I thought we were going to get the one-two again. I've been disappointed with Darky in the past, he looked like he was going to be real good and I tried a bunch of things, I finally put the blinkers on him, I just never got his system down. He was always hit or

Not anymore.



Matt McCarron celebrates his Grade I victory.

# Action-packed August

# Steeplechasers deliver during 7-race Spa skein

As part of the summer's best Thoroughbred race meet. historic Saratoga Race Course again hosted a regularly steeplechase schedule. Seven races worth \$592,800 came to be, despite a rainout Opening Week. Quality ruled the show as four races were decided by a half-length or less. Trainer Jonathan Sheppard won three (including a pair with The Price Of Love) while Doug Fout doubled home the two major stakes and Virginia shipper Jimmy Day scored his first Spa win since 2000. All seven races were run as stakes, thereby maximizing the horse inventory available. In all, the jump races included 56 starts by 32 individual horses.

The following race recaps were edited from the pages of ST's summer project The Saratoga Special, from reporting done by Brian Nadeau and Joe Clancy.

# July 30 | Dynaski

Tom Voss doles out superlatives as often as a soup kitchen serves lobster bisque, but the trainer keeps talking up Dynaski, winner of the first jump race of the meeting, the \$70,000 Ninepins Novice Stakes.

"I think he could be a really good horse and he's one we've been high on for a long time," the trainer said. "He's a fine looking type but he's had a couple little issues breathing wise but we've taken care of that and he was fine. This was just the next step up for

See **SARATOGA RECAP** page 20



Tod Marks

High Action sails a fence en route to a victory in the A.P. Smithwick at Saratoga Aug. 7.



# Saratoga Recap—

## **■** Continued from page 19

him. They break their maiden and you never know what they're going to do when they run against better horses but he handled it well."

Racing for Armata Stable, Dynaski made just his third hurdle start, under his third jockey. Though rising in class, he handled the challenge with ease.

Padge Whelan settled Dynaski toward the inside early as Look At Him went off to a slight lead, with Slip Away and Swagger Stick in close attendance. The leader stumbled over the seventh, unseated Danielle Hodsdon and caused an anxious moment for Whelan, who checked slightly and floated off the rail to avoid the loose horse. Dynaski hardly turned a hair.

As the field hit the far turn Swagger Stick ran past a tiring Slip Away while Seer and Sparkled moved into contention. Whelan gave Dynaski his cue, angling out for a clear run at the leaders. Passing horses one by one Dynaski joined Swagger Stick and Seer before the last, nailed it perfectly, and drew off to a handy 1 1/4-length score. Seer edged out Swagger Stick for place.

"It was kind of a tricky trip, with the horse falling in front of him," Voss said, "But he just gets better and better every time he runs. He's got a real good run in him, a real good long run."

# **July 31 | The Price Of Love**

"Why go back in a non-winners-of-two somewhere for \$25,000 when I can go for \$70,000 at Saratoga?"

Jonathan Sheppard posed a good question, but it was purely rhetorical. He'd already unsaddled Bill Pape's The Price Of Love following his victory in the \$70,000 Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes.

The 5-year-old came to upstate New York on the back of three solid spring runs and Sheppard handed the reins to his regular jockey Danielle Hodsdon, riding a day after being unseated by Look At Him, another Sheppard and Pape homebred.

Red Letter Day jumped clear to a modest lead early while Hodsdon sat patiently inside, sparring with slight favorite Bee Charmer for second. Hodsdon did her best snowman impression, sitting chilly inside and letting things develop in front of her.

As the field hit the final turn the door swung wide open, with Red Letter Day holding a tenuous lead over The Price Of Love and Be Certain. Bee Charmer shuffled back to fourth, though little more than a length separated the quartet.

Hodsdon produced The Price Of Love on the inside as Red Letter Day battled between horses, Be Certain rallied inside that rival and a resurgent Bee Charmer made it four abreast. Springing over the last, The Price Of Love got up late on the inside to score by a half-length over Be Certain, who was a neck to the good of Bee Charmer, who shared the same margin over Red Letter Day.

"Coming into the summer I think I had like six non-winners of twos, so I had to pick out a couple to run in the novice races." Sheppard said. " (The Price Of Love) came through. He was a horse that I thought would like the flat track and that's kind of why I saved him for here ... With every five or six plans I have I'd say maybe one of them works out."

# **August 7 | High Action**

Doug Fout sat with Carl Barnes and patiently waited to intervene. They were en route to Colonial Downs for High Action's U.S. hurdle debut this summer. Fout listened, smiled and bit his tongue as his new owner proudly proclaimed High Action a better horse than Hirapour.

"I listened for about 10 minutes while he went on and finally I said, 'I don't know, Hirapour beat some mighty good horses and he won an Eclipse Award,' " Fout recalled. "He looked back at me and said, 'You know, I owned Hirapour. You bought him from me.'"

Doug, meet Carl. Carl, meet Doug.

An Englishman, Barnes campaigned Hirapour in partnership and sold him to Fout and Eldon Farm in the summer of 2003.

"He went on to explain it to me and I just laughed and said, 'Oh my God.' I just never met him because we bought Hirapour through an agent," Fout said.





Above: The Price of Love in the winner's circle, a spot with which he became familiar. Owner Bill Pape (left) won three of the seven jump races at the meet.

Left: Dynaski soars over a fence in his July 30 score for trainer Tom Voss.

Tod Marks photos

"I hadn't met Mr. Barnes for the first nine months I had High Action because he didn't come over until the night before the Colonial Downs race."

High Action won that June race at Colonial and repeated in the Grade II A.P. Smithwick Memorial. High Action (Paddy Young) scored a 1 1/2-length victory over barnmate Dark Equation (Matt McCarron) and Salford City (Paul Carberry) in the \$85,600 Smithwick, getting the 2 1/16 miles in 3:52.45.

The 8-year-old son of Theatrical settled in fourth as Irish invader Salford City set the early pace and star mare Guelph kept him company. Salford City barreled through a quick first lap and held a tenuous lead over Guelph. Salford City, Guelph, Dark Equation and High Action spread out single file down the backstretch as the foursome distanced themselves from the field. Guelph began to tire and Salford City quickly scampered clear, opening a 3-length lead while straightening away in the lane. Dark Equation picked up the chase in second and Young produced High Action on the inside. High Action soared the last, seized the lead an instant after landing and pulled away from a weary Salford City. Dark Equation rallied for second.

After nine starts with trainer Michael Stoute, High Action was sold to Barnes in 2003. Sent to Ian Williams, the horse made 24 starts of all sorts. Highlights included two hurdle wins, three flat scores, and a fourth behind Yeats in the 2006 Ascot Gold Cup.

In search of firmer ground, Barnes sent High Action to Fout in the spring of 2007 but had to wait.

"When he got off the plane he had a tendon. He wasn't in my barn 13 hours and we had to stop on

him so I didn't know what I had," said Fout. "He was actually too good of a jumper. He was almost like a show horse; he would just hang in the air. I must have schooled the horse 20 times – I just couldn't get him to jump the brush. He didn't want to get down in them. Once he did he figured out quick he was a good horse."

He proved just the horse for Paddy Young. The jockey won his first U.S. race in 2003 and enjoyed his best season in 2007, finishing second in the standings. The Irishman took a contract this winter to ride first-call for Brigadoon Stable, one of Fout's main clients, but his resume still lacked a Saratoga win – until now.

"It's brilliant," Young said. "It's nice to get it off my back. I haven't ridden (at Saratoga) that much, but I rode more or less every race here last year. Unless you're riding some of the better horses you think it's never going to happen."

# August 14 | Look At Him

Sheppard knew Look At Him horse had talent; the tricky part was getting him to display it in the afternoon. Or even getting him to the afternoon.

Bill Pape's 6-year-old had more starts and stops than a New York City subway, but Look At Him (Robbie Walsh) rolled to a 3 3/4-length victory in the \$67,900 George Sloan Stakes.

Aboard the son of Crowd Pleaser for the first time, Walsh did his homework. He talked to Hodsdon,

See **SARATOGA RECAP** page 21 ▶

# Saratoga Recap—

## **■** Continued from page 20

who rode Look At Him in his last three starts, and plugged in the trusty VCR.

"It was the first time I had ever sat on him but I had watched his races and seen his form, and he looked like a very straightforward horse. Well, I was wide but there was a lot of speed in the race and I knew my horse was handy, so I popped him out and gave him some daylight," Walsh said. "I always felt pressure, but he always kept digging in for more."

Look At Him broke from the outside and Walsh kept him clear through the first two laps of the 2 3/8-mile contest, then moved up on the outside as the leaders wavered. Look At Him shook clear of Sermon Of Love while Swagger Stick dove to the inside and loomed a threat approaching the last. Look At Him jumped with a diminishing lead over Swagger Stick, but surged clear late. Sermon Of Love held the show.

Bred in Pennsylvania by Sheppard and Pape, Look At Him made his hurdle debut at Morven Park in October 2006 with a 36-length score, then finished a solid fourth in the U.S. Championship Novice at Callaway Gardens.

Then the trouble started.

Look At Him missed 2007 and didn't return to afternoon action until May, when he finished second at Radnor. But the hiccups continued, as he failed to finish in his next two starts, an optional claimer at Philadelphia Park July 6 and the Ninepins at Saratoga July 30.

"One, he's had a bit of an ankle



Tod Marks

Look At Him (left) touches down over the last fence in his Saratoga victory for jockey Robbie Walsh.

problem and that's why he was off all last year, and then when we brought him back he had some bad racing luck," Sheppard said. "He just got beat at Radnor and then he threw a shoe at Philadelphia Park and was pulled up. Then he made that bad mistake here and threw Danielle off."

# **August 21 | The Price Of Love**

Three weeks after his first Saratoga score, The Price Of Love rang up one more, as Hodsdon gave the Sheppard and Pape homebred another perfectly timed ride to take the \$70,000 Mickey Walsh Stakes by a measured neck.

"He's the type of horse that loves attention and I think he's thrived up here because of it," Hodsdon said. "With a nine-horse string, instead of at the farm with 50, they get a lot of personalized attention and he really, really thrives on that."

The Price Of Love broke running in the 2 3/8-mile contest and Hodsdon negotiated a ground-saving trip behind Red Letter Day, who set a measured pace up front. Well-backed Seer traveled

in tandem, to the outside of The Price Of Love while Dynaski was content to track in behind on the hedge.

The procession continued to the clubhouse turn, then a race broke out. Seer moved up on the outside of The Price Of Love, the cadence quickened on the backstretch and Red Letter Day reasserted himself on the lead. Seer and The Price Of Love sharpened their knives behind the leader as Dynaski revved up in fourth.

Hodsdon eased the Price Of Love

See **SARATOGA RECAP** page 22



# Saratoga Recap—

## **■** Continued from page 21

outside turning for home and the 5-year-old stuck a head in front of Red Letter Day, with Seer following that move to the outside. As the field straightened away in the lane the outcome remained undecided. The Price Of Love flew the last while Seer almost went to his knees and Dynaski lost momentum. The Price Of Love drew clear in mid-stretch and Dynaski's lastditch effort came short by a neck, the same margin he carried over Seer.

'We fell into a pretty trip out there and it worked out perfectly. My horse tends to be very keen and there looked to be a few speed horses in there, so I figured I would try and hold mine in behind," Hodsdon said. "I was really lucky that the pack was happy to go steady and I was able to let Red Letter Day open up a little bit. My horse really relaxed out there and he jumped 100 percent better than he did last time when he was in tight quarters."

# **August 27 | Spy in The Sky**

Liam McVicar dreamed of winning a race at Saratoga. After breaking two ribs and separating his shoulder in a spill this May, he figured that dream would have to wait for 2009. But with the help of some able doctors and a speedy 4-year-old, McVicar made his dream a reality, guiding Randleston Farm's Spy In The Sky to a determined victory in the \$70,000 Happy Intellectual Stakes.

"I got injured in May so just to be back riding races is great. Winning my first race at Saratoga in August? That's just unbelievable," McVicar said. "I didn't even get my sutures out until June."

McVicar settled Spy In The Sky in seventh, content to lag near the back of the eight-horse field as Swagger Stick set a controlled and uncontested pace. The leader continued in that spot while McVicar slowly moved his mount up on the outside. After 2 miles, Spy In The Sky advanced to fourth and began a sustained



Spy In The Sky (5) charges to the finish line to win the Happy Intellectual for Randleston Farm.

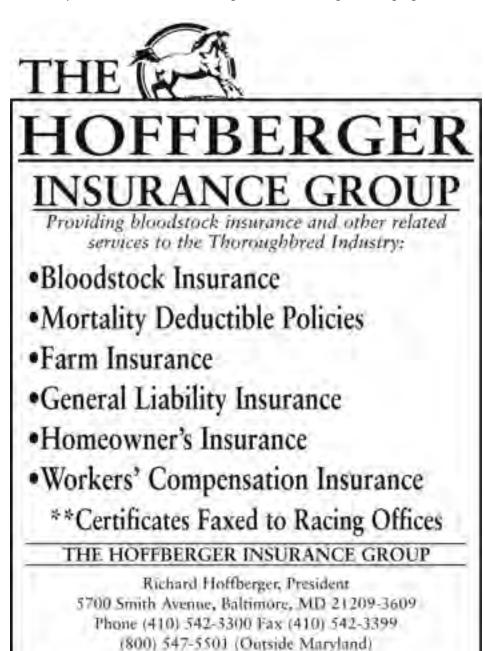
run at the leader; McVicar angled wide well into the far turn while Swagger Stick cut the corner with Langburg in close pursuit.

Spy In The Sky took over second then soared the last, collared the leader in deep stretch and got home a head before Swagger Stick, while Sermon Of Love closed for third.

"They were going too slow out there so I had to go wide on the backside. But once he got there, he's still green as grass, so he was just looking around, taking things in," McVicar said. "He didn't really know he was supposed to run but when he did he finished up good. He pinged the last for me and that was huge."

Trained by Jimmy Day, the son of Thunder Gulch broke his maiden at Middleburg and has been on the fast track since: runner-up at Nashville in the Marcellus Frost, beaten a head on the flat in an entry-level allowance at Colonial and a respectable fourth in the A.P. Smithwick. Day told McVicar to stick with what worked and stay outside while making a late run.

"I wanted to park him in the back and make one run. I told Liam to bring him wide because he did it on the flat and it worked like a charm," Day said. "When he gets in and around horses he just doesn't like it. He likes to be out there on his own and do his own thing."





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# SARATOGA RESULTS

## Saratoga Jump Start

Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Sunday, July 20. Turf: Firm.

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

ion quo, coo. opon o.	9	,		•••		
<ol> <li>Monsieur Henri</li> </ol>	Ĺ	154	Walsh			
2. News Flash	L	147	Whelan			
3. Seeking No More	L	147	Aizpuru			
4. Beech Cay	L	147	McCarron			
5. Coupe De Ville	L	147	Young			
6. Sword Of Dubai	L	154	Rafter			
7. Ramazutti	L	149	McVicar			
Mgn: 2 1/4. Time: 3:55	3/5.					
0: Little Everglades Rar	nch. T	: Jane	t Elliot.			
B. g. 5 Chester House-Lady Of Vision (Ire), Vision.						
Bred by Francis O'Toole			, ,,			

#### 2nd. \$20,000. Maiden claiming hurdle. 2 1/16 miles. \$27,500-\$25,000 clm. price.

1. Major Malibu	L	143	Dowling
2. Waracha	L	143	Whelan
3. Decisive Play	L	150	Hodsdon
4. Wild Ball	L	140	McVicar
5. Surprizer Phew (NZ)	L	150	Slater
PU. Warriorinthesky	L	150	J. Murphy
Mgn: 9. Time: 3:55 4/5.			
O: Long Ball Stable. T: Ja	ck F	isher.	
B. g. 4 Malibu Moon-Maj	or B	arbara	a, Salutely.

Bred by Tim Durborow (Pa).

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

1. Terpsichorean	Ĺ	147	Hodsdon				
2. Nat Grew	L	147	Young				
3. Rainbows For Luck	L	154	Walsh				
4. Hourigan (Ire)	L	154	Dowling				
5. Delta Park	L	147	Aizpuru				
6. So Amazing (Ire)	L	147	Rafter				
PU. Flying Bert	L	154	Slater				
Mgn: 2 1/2. Time: 3:54 2/	/5.						
O: Bright Brook Farm. T:		athan	Sheppard.				
B. g. 4 Honor Glide-Verdent Hoofer, Green Dancer.							
Bred by John Sullivan (Fl	a).		•				

#### 4th. \$25,000. Sport Of Kings claiming hurdle. 2 1/16 miles. \$25,000-\$15,000 clm. price.

1. Gryffindor	L	150	Whelan		
*2. Gigger	L	150	McCarror		
3. Quem Se Atreve (Brz)	L	145	Dowling		
4. Delacroix	L	145	Walsh		
5. Raise A Storm (Ire)	L	145	Rafter		
R. Sound Blaster (Ire)	L	155	Aizpuru		
*-Claimed for \$20,000 by Kinross Farm.					
Mgn: Nose. Time: 3:55 2/5.					
O: Dapple Stable, T: Tom Voss.					

Dk. B./Br. g. 8 Peaks And Valleys-A Sunny Society, Son Ange. Bred by Richard Sinkler (NY).

#### 5th. Training Flat. 1 1/2 miles.

1. Dark Equation	L	150	McCarron
2. Mixed Up		150	Hodsdon
3. High Action	L	150	Young
4. The Price Of Love	L	150	Walsh
5. Meneef (Aus)	L	150	Rafter
6. Prep School	L	150	Slater
7. Tax Ruling	L	150	Santoro
8. Luongo	L	150	Bordwell
Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 2:44 1	/5.		
0 D 0 ' T D			

O: Peggy Steinman. T: Doug Fout.

B. g. 7 Polish Numbers-Night Risk, Wild Again.

Bred by Derry Meeting Farm & London Thoroughbred Services (Pa).

# Saratoga Race Course

# Wednesday, July 30. Turf: Firm. 1st. \$70,000. Hurdle stakes. 2 1/16 miles. NW prior to 9/1/06. The Ninepins.

1. Dynaski	L	150	Whelan	4.80	3.10	2.70
2. Seer	L	143	Aizpuru		6.00	4.40
3. Swagger Stick	L	146	Dowling			4.80
Ex	acta (1	-8) \$	27.40. Trifed	cta (1-8	-5) \$2	07.50.
4. Sparkled	Ĺ	142	Walsh	,	,	
5. Slip Away	L	150	McCarron			
6. Discreet Charmer	L	143	Young			
7. C R'S Deputy	L	139	Rafter			
LR. Look At Him	L	142	Hodsdon			

Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 3:53 1/5. O: Armata Stable. T: Tom Voss.

B. g. 5 Dynaformer-Ski Racer (Fr), Ski Chief. Bred by Budget Stable (Ky).

Thursday, July 31. Turf: Firm.

# 1st. \$70,000. Novice hurdle stakes. 2 1/16 miles.

NW prior to	4/1/	07. TI	ne Jonathai	n Kiser.		
1. The Price Of Love	L	148	Hodsdon	15.80	6.50	3.40
2. Be Certain	L	153	Whelan		4.00	2.40
3. Bee Charmer (Ire)						2.80
Exac	ta (1	(3) \$5	57.00. Trifed	cta (1-3	-7) \$1	88.00.
4. Red Letter Day	L	152	Rafter			
5. Rainiero (Chi)	L	152	Young			
6 Fogcutter	- 1	148	McCarron			

7. Dr. Bloomer L 152 Aizpuru Mgn: 1/2. Time: 3:57 1/5.

O: Bill Pape. T: Jonathan Sheppard. Ch. g. 5 Prenup-Solitary Signal, Caveat. Bred by Bill Pape & Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

#### Thursday, August 7. Turf: Firm.

#### 1st. \$85,600. Hurdle stakes. 2 1/16 miles. The A. P. Smithwick Memorial (Grade II)

I IIV A. I	. Ollilliwion in	unionai (an	uuu 11 <i>1</i>	•	
1. High Action	L 142	Young	8.40	4.70	3.20
2. Dark Equation	L 150	McCarron		9.00	5.00
3. Salford City (Ire)	L 154	Carberry			3.10
- , ,	Exacta (6-1) \$7	4.00. Trifect	a (6-1	-9) \$2	23.00
4 Cov In The Clay	l 1óg	Mallioor	•	,	

4. Spy In The Sky L 142 Whelan 5. Guelph 6. Duke Of Earl (Ire) L 146 Walsh 7. Orpington L 146 Dowling 8. Meneef (Aus) L 146 Rafter Mgn: 1 1/2. Time: 3:52 2/5.

O: Carl Barnes. T: Doug Fout. Ch. g. 8 Theatrical (Ire)-Secret Imperatrice, Secretariat. Bred by Harold Harrison (Ky).

# Thursday, August 14. Turf: Soft.

# 1st. \$67,900. Hurdle stakes. 2 3/8 miles.

NW prior to 4/1/06. The George Sloan.						
1. Look At Him	L	142	Walsh	15.20	6.70	4.70
<ol><li>Swagger Stick</li></ol>	L	146	Dowling		4.30	3.30
<ol><li>Sermon Of Love</li></ol>			Hodsdon			4.50
Exacta	(10-	·5) \$90	0.50. Trifect	ta (10-5	-6) \$7	64.00
4. Delacroix	L	142	J. Murphy	,		
5. Prep School	L	146	Slater			
F. Fogcutter	L	150	Whelan			

PU. Quem Se Atreve (Brz) L 142 Young L 150 McCormack PU. Tax Ruling PU. Slip Away L 150 McCarron Mgn: 3 3/4. Time: 4:47 4/5.

O: Bill Pape. T: Jonathan Sheppard.

Dk. B./Br. g. 6 Crowd Pleaser-Visioness, Buckfinder. Bred by Bill Pape & Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

Thursday, August 21. Turf: Firm.

#### 1st. \$70,000. Hurdle stakes. 2 3/8 miles. NW prior to 9/1/06. The Michael G. Walsh.

itte piic		v	o minomaon a	. www.o.		
1. The Price Of Lov	re L	154	Hodsdon	7.30	3.10	2.30
<ol><li>Dynaski</li></ol>	L	154	Whelan		2.70	2.30
3. Seer	L	141	Aizpuru			2.60
	Exacta (	(4-8)	\$15.40. Trife	ecta (4-	8-9) \$	27.40.
4. Sparkled	L	150	McCarron	·		
5. Red Letter Day	L	154	Rafter			
0 11		4 40	D 11			

6. Hourigan (Ire) L 146 Dowling 7. Coupe De Ville L 137 Young

Mgn: Neck. Time: 4:41 2/5.

O: Bill Pape. T: Jonathan Sheppard. Ch. g. 5 Prenup-Solitary Signal, Caveat. Bred by Bill Pape & Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

# Wednesday, August 27. Turf: Firm. 1st. \$70,000. Hurdle stakes. 2 3/8 miles. NW of a sweenstakes in 2008. The Hanny Inf

NW UI a SWEEP	Stakes III Zuuc	o. Tille napj	uy iiileii	lectual	1.	
1. Spy In The Sky	L 135	McVicar	14.40	5.80	3.20	
<ol><li>Swagger Stick</li></ol>	L 144	Dowling		3.20	2.10	
3. Sermon Of Love	L 144	Hodsdon			2.50	
	Exacta (5-2) \$	39.00. Trif	ecta (5-	2-1) \$	77.00.	

4. Langburg L 148 Whelan 5. Meneef (Aus) L 148 Rafter 6. Orpington L 148 Aizpuru 7. Prep School L 144 McCarron PU. Looks Good Junic L 148 Slater

Mgn: Head. Time: 4:42 3/5.

O: Randleston Farm. T: Jimmy Day.

Ch. g. 4 Thunder Gulch-Monaassabaat, Zilzal. Bred by Gainsborough Farm (Ky).

# Thursday, August 28. Turf: Firm.

# 8th. \$159,300. Hurdle stakes. 2 3/8 miles. The New York Turf Writers Cup (Grade I).

1. Dark Equation	L	152	McCarron 19.00	6.90	4.40
2. Be Certain	L	139	Whelan	4.20	3.20
3. High Action	L	150	Young		2.40
	Evacta (2	-81 \$7	79 00 Trifecta (2-9	8-61 \$2	46 NN

4. Duke Of Earl (Ire) L 136 Aizpuru 5. Free Admission L 142 Hodsdon 6. Luongo L 136 Dowling 7. Salford City (Ire) L 154 Carberry 8. Four Schools (Ire) L 146 Rafter PU. Look At Him L 142 Walsh

Mgn: 1/2. Time: 4:31 1/5.

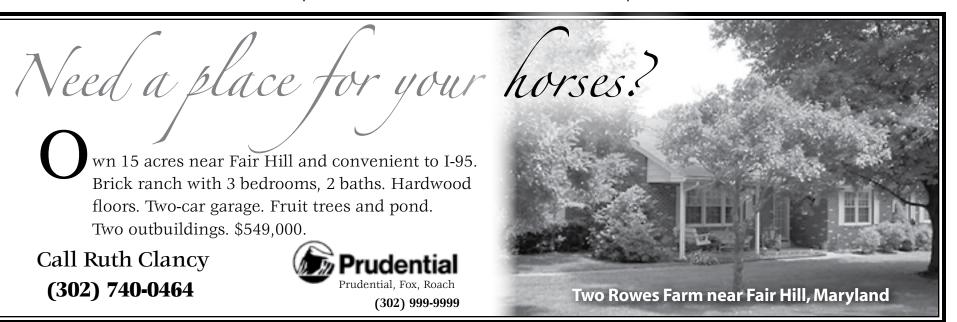
O: Peggy Steinman. T: Doug Fout.

B. g. 7 Polish Numbers-Night Risk, Wild Again.

Bred by Derry Meeting Farm & London Thoroughbred Services (Pa).



The Price Of Love (right) catches (from left) Bee Charmer, Be Certain and Red Letter Day July 31.



# Jumping-Off Political Poli

# Maidens rule on expanded card to usher in 2008 Saratoga season

## **BY JAMIE SANTO**

Monsieur Henri is no stranger to adversity. While still a maiden, his previous connections tried him in the 2006 Irish Derby. Sent off at 400-1, he finished 11th of 13, almost 15 lengths behind Dylan Thomas. So travelling last, 18 lengths behind the early leader in the opener of the newly expanded Saratoga Jump Start July 20 at Saratoga Race Course, must have seemed no big thing. Certainly jockey Robbie Walsh thought as much.

"They got away from me a little bit on the backside but I wasn't too worried because all of a sudden they started backing up and coming back to me," Walsh said. "I just bided my time because I knew they were going at a pretty good clip early and that it would be hard to keep up, so we just coasted along."

They kept coasting until the stretch, when Monsieur Henri announced his presence, bidding adieu to his six rivals in the \$25,000 maiden hurdle. News Flash (Padge Whelan) re-rallied to take second by a neck over Seeking No More (Xavier Aizpuru) in the Jump Start opener.

"We missed one on the backside a little bit but he took the last in great shape," Walsh said, "and it was pretty easy from there – I didn't even have to urge him that much."

Owned by Little Everglades Ranch, Monsieur Henri entered Janet Elliot's barn last year and made two NSA training flat starts (a win at Montpelier and a second at the Colonial Cup). The Kentucky-bred son of Chester House SARATOGA JUMP START Sunday, July 20

was pulled up in his NSA jump debut at Nashville before scoring at Saratoga.

• After trailing runaway winner Magic Maker by upward of 40 lengths throughout his hurdle debut at Philadelphia Park, Major Malibu (Willie Dowling) again found himself light years from the lead in the day's second. The result would be quite different this time, however, as the leaders faded and the son of Malibu Moon turned a 38-length deficit into a 9-length cushion in the final three-sixteenths. Waracha (Whelan) settled for second after battling for the lead through much of the proceedings, while Decisive Play (Danielle Hodsdon) got up for third.

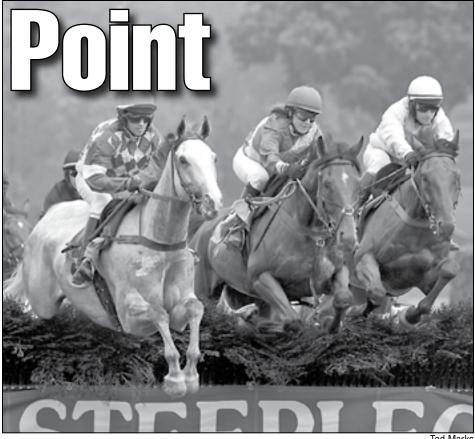
Trained by Jack Fisher for Long Ball Stable, Major Malibu benefited from the drop into maiden-claimer company. His jockey, aboard from the first time, benefitted from recent shoulder surgery.

"My shoulder feels a lot better now after that one," said Dowling, who hadn't raced since having a chip removed after Fail Hill. "I gallop him in the morning and he's been training really good all along, so we figured with maiden claimers he would fit pretty good. I was never worried early on, even though we got way out of it, because they went just so fast early. I just sat back early on in the middle and waited . . . my horse put a really big move on the turn and that was it."



Gryffindor (3) fights for position in his narrow win in the open claimer.

Tod Marks



Tod Marks

Terpsichorean (center) battles for the lead early in his maiden win.

• Terpsichorean (Hodsdon) defied the fate of the card's previous pacesetters, going flag-to-wire in the third, a \$25,000 maiden. Not that his jockey wanted the lead – it's just the 4-year-old son of Honor Glide kept taking her there thanks to his ground-eating stride.

"It's a deceptive gallop. He covers the ground tremendously, and unfortunately that's how I got there," Hodsdon said. "I'd have really liked to sit him in third, have him a little more covered up and relaxed and save him until the end."

Not that he doesn't have the motor to stay on the front; he just doesn't have the experience.

"Being in front when the horses come to him he gets a little keen and he just wouldn't focus; he's still pretty green," Hodsdon said. "But saying that, he still pays attention to his fences. It's not like he's a runoff out there, he just gallops along. I was very happily surprised when I landed for the second last and asked him to go that I still had a lot more horse."

Strengthening in the stretch, Terpsichorean held off Nat Grew (Paddy Young) by 2 1/2 lengths, with Rainbows For Luck (Walsh) back in third. Owned by Bright Brook Farm, the gelding was making his second start for Jonathan Sheppard.

• Like many Saratoga regulars, Gryffindor came to the Spa years ago, had a great time and kept coming back.

On his first visit, Gryffindor squeezed him through a barely perceptible hole on the rail and into the winner's circle to earn an allowance score on the flat four years ago. On his 10th visit, Gryffindor stayed on top throughout to take the open claiming hurdle.

Not that the jockey Padge Whelan was sure of the result.

"I couldn't say for sure that I got there, it was really tight at the end," he said. "When I pulled up I was a little more confident but in this sport you never like to say that you have it until they tell you."

Gryffindor nosed out Gigger (Matt McCarron) to complete the Tom Vosstrained exacta, with Quem Se Atreve (Dowling) third.

Though Whelan had just recently returned to action following an ankle injury, he wasn't all smiles before the fourth, having ridden the runner-up in the day's first two races.

"It's great to back in the saddle. I had a couple of seconds early on and it was frustrating," he said, "Second is the worst place as far as I'm concerned."

Gryffindor's victory was his first over the Saratoga sod since that 2004 score. The New York-bred son of Peaks And Valleys entered Voss' care that year and has raced at the Spa every summer since. Owned by Dapple Stable, he's made 31 of his 42 career starts for Voss, winning six races, including four over jumps.

"He tries real hard that one," Voss said. "He doesn't have a lot of talent, but he always tries. He'll put his head down."

Trainer Neil Morris claimed the runner-up for Kinross Farm.

**Note:** The traditional Open House received an upgrade this year, as the annual event was expanded and transformed into the Saratoga Jump Start, a program to benefit the National Steeplechase Foundation and the Saratogabased Wesley Foundation.

- Additional reporting by Brian Nadeau



Tod Marks

Monsieur Henri bides his time early.



Presented by The Whip Tavern

# **Winning Colors**

Dark Equation rode home from Saratoga with \$106,488 in his saddlebags. The Price Of Love doubled up at the Spa and doubled back to Pennsylvania \$82,600 richer. Only one Pick 6 player had both runners in his stable. Needless to say, he's now in first.

Rodd Santo went from unlisted to A-listed in the span of a single issue, as his Monochrome

Farm rose from obscurity to the top of the standings. Unfortunately, being the younger and wiser brother of Times copy editor (65th place) brings few benefits but does disqualify him from cash

With the super-sized Saratoga Jump Start (nee Open House), a meeting full of nifty NYRA purses and a new stakes at Kentucky Downs, the summer proved profitable for those in the know. That proved to be a select group. Only five folks figured on Dark Equation, just 20 had The Price Of Love and only two people, Lucy Seginak and Lacey Williams, had Belle Meade Plantation winner

Quem Se Atreve in their barns; we hope they also had him at the window, where he was 29-1.

Others of note near the top include ST's web designer Sue Haldeman, steeplechase superfan Richard Hutchinson, ST photographers Tod Marks and Doug Lees and ST's youngest contributor

Dr. Charles Reid topped the charts at the end of July, earning a \$50 ST gift certificate. The Top 26 stables (of 173) are listed here.

- Jamie Santo

# See www.st-publishing.com for complete standings

Monochrome Farm	Rodd Santo
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Dark Equation	\$110,488
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Erin Go Bragh	\$10.400
Lilli do bragii	\$451,310
Dukester	\$451,31U
Dukester	Dr. Unaries Reid
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Irish Prince	ΦΕ 000
Orsay	\$0
	\$437,175
First Last Best Guess	Susan Haldeman
Good Night Shirt	\$150.000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	
Diamete Alienad	
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
•	\$432,400
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Dries Of Lave	
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Bubble Economy	
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Mixed Up	\$12,500
	\$424,100
The Cheltenham Invasion .	Dichard Hutchineon
Cood Night Chiet	
Good Night Shirt	
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Mixed Up	\$12 500
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58.500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Sur La Tete	
our La rete	
	\$405,400
SeaHorse	Alix Michel
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58 500
Miles Ahead	
Diving Forture	
Divine Fortune	\$0
	\$405,400

Plum Creek Farms	
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	\$43.822
Gigger	\$19,650
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First Base Stable	Nolan Clancy
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Sovereign Duty	
Imagina	\$58 500
Preemptive Strike	\$27 000
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Erin Go Bragh	\$10,400
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Wu Farm	\$387,000
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
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Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Irish Prince	\$5,000
Divine Fortune	
Broken Sound Farm	\$381,600
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The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Irish Prince	\$5,000
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Frequent Flyer	Tracy Scott
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Professor Maxwell	\$1,800
Three Carat	
	\$378,400
Geraldal Stable	Allison Janezic
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
Bubble Economy	\$66,500
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Bee Charmer	
	\$376,500
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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	\$16,000
	\$376.500
Jordan River StableMa	ry Beth Martin
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Mixed Up	\$12,500
Straight Gin	\$0
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On The Payroll Ka	thleen Strakes
Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Sweet Shani	\$43.822
Hip Hop	\$28,100
Private Attack	\$25.500
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	\$369.528
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Best Attack	\$43,013
Jellyberry	\$28,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Incomplete	\$9,000
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Good Night Shirt	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58.500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Mixed Up	\$12,500
Irish Prince	\$5,000
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Steeplestakes.com	\$150,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Mixed Up	\$12,500
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Bossy Boots         Faith Hutchinson           Good Night Shirt         \$150,000           The Price Of Love         \$109,600           Sweet Shani         \$43,822           Miles Ahead         \$28,800           Preemptive Strike         \$27,000           Sur La Tete         \$0           \$359,222         \$359,222           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         \$345,800           Sweet Genius         Janice Woytek           Good Night Shirt         \$150,000           Be Certain         \$108,774           Imagina         \$58,500           Mixed Up         \$12,500           Sussex County         \$11,000           Irish Prince         \$5,000           Sussex County         \$11,000           Irish Prince         \$5,000           Mrs. Roddd         Erin Ray           Good Night Shirt         \$150,000           Imagina         \$58,500           Planets Align		
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# Hi ho, Silver!

# Miles, McKinlaigh take 2nd in Hong Kong

### **BY KATY CARTER**

Gina Miles and McKinlaigh have experienced a lot of firsts together: first advanced competition, first four-star, first World Equestrian Games, first Pan American Games. But Miles wasn't sure she and the 17.3-hand Irish Sport Horse could contend for a medal at their first Olympics - until they went out

Miles and McKinlaigh won the individual silver medal on the strength of two foot-perfect show jumping rounds under the lights at the Sha Tin Equestrian Venue in Hong Kong.

"Oh, it was all right," joked Miles, when asked about her achievement. "McKinlaigh was just super."

The Californian turned in a strong performance in the dressage and sat 10th upon the completion of the first day. Miles credits practice sessions with Sandy Phillips, wife of chef d'equipe Mark Phillips, with improving their execution of the Olympic test.

'I was very, very pleased," she said. "One of the reasons I went to England early and did the mandatory outing there was that I knew I'd be training with Sandy."

Citing Phillips' ability to break the test down in order to maximize points, Miles formulated a plan and rode just as she had

# **OLYMPICS EVENTING RECAP**

"Every time I ride with Sandy, I've practiced to really show the test and it has re-

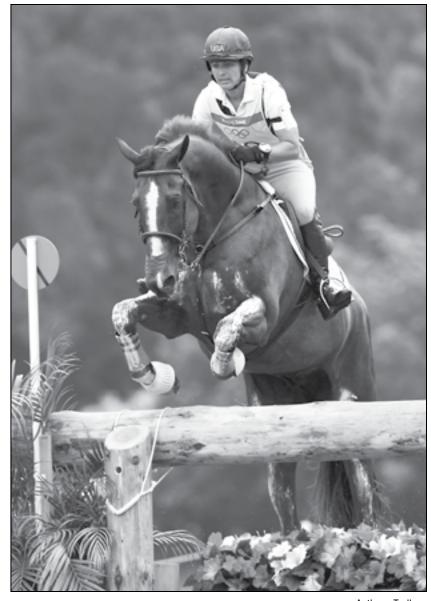
sulted in a personal best," Miles said.
Olympics included. Cross-country day was marked by torrential downpours and high heat and humidity. Due to this situation, the ground jury decreased the course in distance, jumping efforts and time, but the changes did not lessen the overall challenge

"The water early on (fences 5 and 6AB) was tricky, and there were several severe angles," said Miles, who finished a clean jumping effort with 16.8 time penalties to stand tied for fifth with Great Britain's Mary King and Call Again Cavalier. "McKinlaigh was very straight and accurate and I felt good about that."

Hong Kong, officially the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the South China Sea, is one of the most densely populated areas of the world.

Without much land on which to construct a championship course, cross country was run on a golf course, much like at the 1984 Los Angeles Games. This provided horses and riders with more than just jump questions.

See *OLYMPICS* page 27 ▶



Anthony Trollope

McKinlaigh and Gina Miles clear a cross-country jump at the Olympics.

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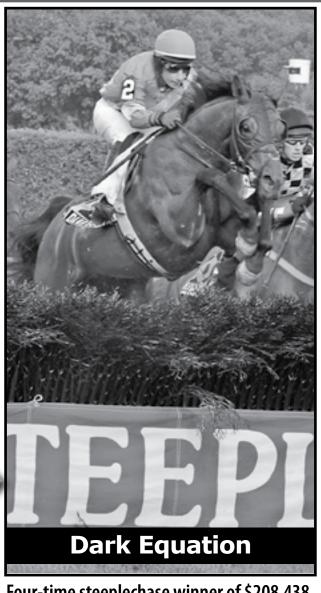
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# Olympics —

### **■** Continued from page 26

"The jumps were just one part of the test, while the terrain was definitely a second set of questions all together," Miles said. "It was like riding moguls. The galloping lanes had drain holes covered by rocks and flower pots – we had to weave and dodge around them!"

Only after walking the course six times did Miles feel she had a good command of her surroundings.

"It was about maximizing the terrain between the fences," she said. "The plan was not to speed up and slow down. Luckily, McKinlaigh balances easily and I didn't have to slow him to set him up. We could just be consistent."

The second day took a bit of a toll on the rest of Team USA. Phillip Dutton was the only other American to finish the course free of jumping penalties. Partnered with Bruce Duchossois' Connaught, the 2008 Rolex Kentucky champions had 19.8 time penalties to stand tied for 14th with William Fox-Pitt of Great Britain. Amy Tryon and Poggio II had a mistake at fence 10, a table, when Poggio hung a leg and sent Tryon flying, which eliminated them from the competition. Becky Holder and Courageous Comet, reserve champions at this year's Rolex, cruised through much of the course, only to suffer a runout at fence 21, while veteran rider Karen O'Connor and the young Mandiba had a runout at jump nine and another at fences 27-28.

Like the dressage, show jumping was held in the evening under the lights in order to combat the weather conditions.



Anthony Trollope

Olympic medalists (from left) Gina Miles, Hinrich Romeike and Tina Cook.

After the team final, in which Germany took gold (followed by Australia and Great Britain) the jumps were raised for the individual final. Only four faults separated the top eight riders.

"Riders returning for the individual final walked the course around 11 p.m., and it didn't start until 11:30 or so," said Miles. "We were able to practice under lights in the main arena, schooling on the flat and over some fences. McKinlaigh can be a bit laid back, but jumping at night on the final day perked him up."

Miles and McKinlaigh, who finished double clean in the team final, turned in

a flawless trip, highlighted by McKinlaigh's "expressive" jumping. The Irishbred truly appeared to be allergic to wood, jerking his knees to his chin and ascending from fifth to second, behind double gold medalist Hinrich Romeike and Marius. Great Britain's Tina Cook took the individual bronze aboard Miners Frolic.

"I just couldn't be more thrilled with McKinlaigh," Miles said. "Everything we've done, we've done together. There have been a lot of ups and downs, but I am so happy to see him shine."

Miles has ridden McKinlaigh (by Highland King out of Kilcumney Hostess) since owners Thom Schulz and Laura Coats imported the giant liver chestnut gelding from Ireland in 1994. Miles enjoyed the chance to compete with the American team on the sport's biggest stage. She even brought along a fan club that included her husband, Morgan, her children Austin and Taylor, her parents and more.

Now back on the farm in California and "hanging out a bit," McKinlaigh will get an extended break despite starting to get bored with the lack of activity. He won't compete again until 2009. His rider will stay plenty busy, even if her plans might move to a smaller stage for now.

"This break will give me a chance to grow my business," she said. "We've always has a small group of good clients, but now I'm planning to add a riding school and do more teaching, as well as bring along new prospect horses."

McKinlaigh and Miles supplied the highlight of the Olympic eventing competition as the American team faltered to finish seventh. Dutton and Connaught qualified for the individual medal round, in spite of an eight-fault round in the team jumping final, and jumped a double clear round to place 13th. However, they were disqualified for unknowingly using illegal equipment. Connaught's hind jumping boots were found to weigh more than the 500-gram maximum established this year by the FEI.

"All of my teammates were so supportive of me and my position," said Miles. "Everyone was very excited and encouraging. We had a great team and all the prospects for a team medal; it just happened that a host of things went wrong the same weekend."





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# **Maritime Law** of Eventing

Deluge can't dampen streaking duo

### **BY KATY CARTER**

Chicagoland is not Waterworld, but competitors at the 2008 Wellpride/ USEA American Eventing Championships could be excused for confusing the two. Storms soaked the Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, Ill., where eight inches of rain, lightning, flood warnings and road closings led officials to scale back the program and run the preliminary, intermediate and advanced divisions as combined tests without cross country.

The weather couldn't stop rider Leslie Law and and Fleeceworks Mystere du Val. Then again, little has this year. The duo added the advanced AEC title to an already impressive 2008 docket that includes wins at Richland Park CIC\*\*\*, The Fork CIC\*\*\* and Maui

Law and Mystere du Val completed the abbreviated program on their dressage score of 28.8, edging out Amy Tryon and Leyland, victors at the 2008 Jersey Fresh CCI\*\*\*, who finished on their dressage score of 29.2. Will Coleman finished third aboard Twizzel (31.7), and Darren Chiacchia ended the short weekend fourth riding Better I Do It (36.7).

Law rides the 8-year-old Selle Francais/Arabian gelding ("Bean" to his friends) for owners Beatrice and Guy Rey-Hermes.

"I have been thrilled with how Bean has turned out this season," said Law. "As far as the dressage, he has always been very capable in that department. Thus, we mostly had to work on building a relationship so that we can go into the ring and perform."

That work has paid off handsomely, and came in especially handy in a format that placed increased emphasis on

With the jumping, it has been a constant job of working on his rideability and being able to lengthen and shorten his stride." Law said. "He was

# **EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

# September 11-13

also quite a spooky horse, so it has also been about waiting patiently for him to mature, see the sights and begin to trust me as his partner."

Law, the gold medalist at the Athens Olympics, also rode Tim and Cheryl Holekamp's mare Armana to the championship in the young event horse 4-year-old division. Although Armana is usually ridden by his wife, Lesley Grant-Law, Law found himself in the irons in Chicago.

"Lesley and I have a thing that she usually qualifies the horses for the championships and then she sticks me on them so she can video and I can take the heat if anything goes wrong," he joked. "Lesley is very grateful for the ride and the mare is quite a nice sports car package; she is bold and careful without being too careful. Best of all, she has a wonderful mind."

## **Intermediate**

Becky Holder and Rejuvenate took on the strength of their dressage score, jumped clean and claimed victory in the intermediate division with a score of 25.6. Rejuvenate, a 10-year-old Thoroughbred-Oldenburg cross, is owned by breeder Ann Bower, who competed him through intermediate.

"I have really been working on his uphill balance and cadence in his workingtrot and quality of his canter," Holder said. "He really stepped up and showed off our homework.'

Holder had a bit of a close call in the preliminary horse championship, when soaked tack caused her to nearly slide off Call Me Ollie so she made a few weather-related adjustments to her plan for Rejuvenate.

"I was determined to keep my saddle a bit more dry so I could give him a de-



Fleeceworks Mystere du Val and Leslie Law take a victory lap after winning the American Eventing Championships in Illinois.

cent ride," she said. "I went up to the ring at the very last minute with a much more dry saddle and plenty of saddle tite; I did end up cutting the warm-up a little too close. I was more flustered than necessary when I entered the ring, but a whole lot more dry."

Holder and Bower have been sharing the ride on Rejuvenate since he started at training level. Holder usually competes the horse during the winter to prepare for the next level, while Bower takes over in the spring and summer so Holder can travel with four-star horse Courageous Comet.

"Ann will do the one-star at Hagyard Mid-South this fall and I will focus on continuing his education for a move to advanced next year," Holder said.

The top five finishers all made it through the ring without a penalty.

California-based young rider Jen-nie Brannigan rode Cooper, her gray Dutch Warmblood, to second (30.3) while Heather Morris piloted Kambala Land's Genial to third (30.9). Will Coleman batted cleanup aboard Nevada Bay (34.4), a bay Dutch Warmblood owned by Nanki Doubleday and Flinor MacPhail rode her own Woodstock II (35.3) to fifth.

# **Preliminary**

Jamie Marlewski and her gray Thoroughbred gelding Sprint Tech bested a field of 13 in the preliminary amateur division, taking the early lead on a dressage score of 29.2. They added four jumping faults to remain atop the leader

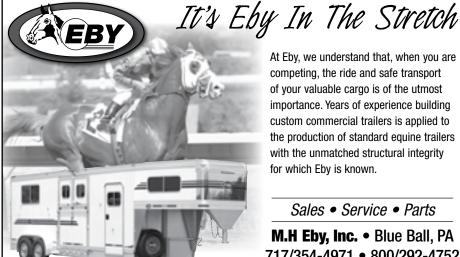
board after Saturday's show jumping to take the championship, holding off Maria Brazil and Bon Chance (34.2) and Ashley Johnson and Macintosh (36.3), both of whom finished on their dressage

In earning the blue, Wisconsin resident Marlewski and Sprint Tech improved upon their 10th at last year's AECs. This season, the pair earned good ribbons at the Indiana Eventing Association Horse Trials (Area VII), Fair Hill International Horse Trials (Area II), and Wayne DuPage Horse Trials (Area IV).

Heather Morris and Mary Burke were separated by less than a point in the preliminary horse division, with Morris' two show-jumping time faults aboard Morgan Grissum's Slate River the difference that propelled Burke and Espirit-de-Corps to the win. Leslie Law and his consistent All The Buzz finished third (35.4) and Jennifer Bazan placed fourth riding It's Otto, owned by Megan Montague.

Show jumping also proved influential in the preliminary junior/young rider division, where a clean trip within the optimum time sent Arden Wildasin and I'm Happy As Larry to the front of the pack. Kaitlynn Chambers held on to second riding Enchanted (31.6) despite two time faults, while early leaders Callie Judy and Call On Me clocked five time penalties and ended the weekend in third (32.1).

See **AEC** page 30 ▶



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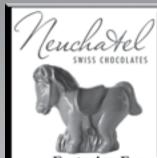
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# AEC —

# **■** Continued from page 28

#### **Training**

Time also proved influential in the training amateur division, though in the cross-country phase. However, Georgians Donna Miller and ArdCeltic Art took the lead and never looked back, adding 3.2 time penalties to their superb dressage score of 23.7.

The gray Connemara stallion is also owned by Miller and the pair has had a highly successful 2008 season, garnering training wins at River Glen (Tenn.), Pine Top (Ga.), FENCE (S.C.), Sporting Days (S.C.) and Poplar Place (Ga.). They also earned primary colors at Full Gallop Farm Horse Trials (S.C.) and Chattahoochee Hills Horse Trials (Ga.).

Kansas native Carrie Meehan piloted the bay Thoroughbred Duane's Country to second, climbing to the reserve championship after sitting fourth on dressage day.

Two time faults on cross country and a double-clean effort in show jumping earned the pair a final score of 33.1. Nipping at their heels in third was another bay Thoroughbred gelding, First Furlong, and his owner/rider Caroline Pingree from Massachusetts (33.6).

Huntly, Va., resident Kate Aldrich rode Virginia Coulter's chestnut Thoroughbred gelding William Don't Tell to the blue ribbon in a competitive training junior division.

The pair, who has consistently earned strong placings throughout the season, took the early lead and finished on an impressive 24.7 dressage score, turning in clean efforts on cross country and in the show-jumping ring.

P.S. American Girl and her pilot Madeline Backus added a mere 1.6 time penalties on cross country to their dressage score of 25.8 and show jumped clean to maintain second, while Ahley Allen rode Grove Pashley to third, finishing on their dressage score of 29.5, half a point ahead of Taylor Foote and Lazerbeam (30.0).

USET veteran Mara Dean of Round Hill, Va., rode Casino, a bay Hanovarian gelding owned by Tracie Taylor, to the championship in the training horse division, adding nothing to their dressage score of 26.3. Dean moved Casino up to training level in February, and the pair has finished first or second in every horse trials they've contested.

# **Novice**

Michigan's own Erin Miller and her bay Trekenher gelding The Tempest topped an extremely competitive field in the novice amateur division.

They took the lead on dressage day and never looked back, earning the championship on their dressage score of 21.1, the low score of the entire week-

Christina Watkins and Fire Fly Farm's Little Joe captured the reserve championship on their dressage score of 24.2, while Brad Turley and Ratzi were a hair slow on cross country, logging 1.2 time penalties to finish in third (25.4).

Jessica Jenkins and Arkadios (26.8), Ed Barnett and Five O'Clock Somewhere (28.4) and Sarah Goodyear and Ronan (28.4) rounded out the top six.

# World Cup attracts eventing stars to France

International intrigue centers in France, host of the HSBC FEI World Cup Eventing Final. Held at Deauville Sept. 19-21 as part of the prestigious R.I.D.E Normandy event, the championship caps a series of 16 qualifiers staged from Montana to Moscow.

Thirteen nations will be represented at the final, with the home side led by two-time defending champion Nicholas Touzaint (Hildago de l'ile), who seeks a three-peat on a new mount after winning the previous two renweals aboard Galan de Sauvagere.

Clark Montgomery (Up Spirit) forms the U.S. contingent and joins a formidable international lineup that includes 2005 champion Clayton Fredericks (Ben Along Time), Lucinda Fredericks (Headley Britannia) and 2008 points leader Kevin McNab (Hufflepuff) from Australia, plus Great Britain's William Fox-Pitt (Kaleidoscope) and Pippa Funnell (Ensign).

Total prize money is 120,000 Euros, about \$170,000).

#### Notable Contenders Australia

Lucinda Fredericks Headley Britannia Kevin McNab
France Leave Mail
Cedric LyardJessy Mail Nicholas TouzaintHildago de l'Île
Germany
Michael Jung La Biothetique's Sam FBW Elmar LeschFinch Hatton
Frank Ostholt Air Jordan
Great Britain

Laura Collett...... Fernhill Sox

William Fox-Pitt......Kaleidescope

Pippa Funnell ..... Ensign

Polly Stockton.....Regulus

INCW ZC	aiaiiu
Andrew Nicholson	Henry Tankerville
Swed	den
Sara Algotsson	Robin des Bois

Clark Montgomery ......Up Spirit

Other countries represented: Belgium, Den-

**United States** 

Other countries represented: Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Poland.

#### 2008 FEI World Cup Rankings

ZUUO FEI WUTTU GUP NATIKITIYS	
1. Kevin McNab (Aus)	220
2. Clark Montgomery (USA)	160
3. Pippa Funnell (GB)	
4. Wendy Schaeffer (Aus)	130
5. Frank Ostholt (Ger)	
6. Oliver Townend (GB)	
7. Geoff Curran (Ire)	
8. Elmar Lesch (Ger)	
9. William Fox-Pitt (GB)	110
10. Dirk Schrade (Ger)	
,	

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