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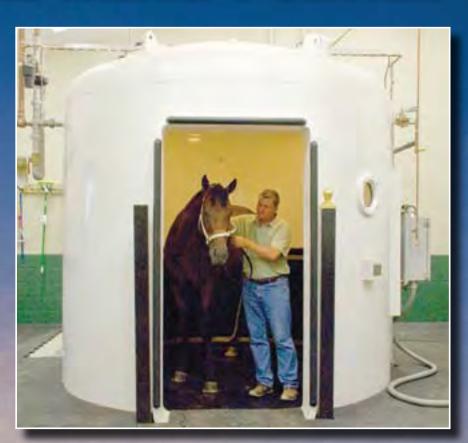
Tod Marks

- ◆ Seer proves visionary in Monmouth Park triumph.
- **♦** Eventers return to Fair Hill International.



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Homestead Farm, c. 1800 - Privately located in Cismont area, 14 mi. From downtown Charlottesville. 173+/- Acre property being used as a horse farm with horse amenities situated in both Albemarle and Louisa counties and within the Keswick hunt territory. Historic home has been painstakingly restored with finest materials such as heart pine in the floors, kitchen cabinets, copper roof and an incredible stone fireplace. \$3,200,000.



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## Entries

#### What's Happening and Where To Find It

Here's your newspaper. The fall season got underway in earnest with racetrack stops at Monmouth Park and Belmont and the first race meets of the season at Shawan Downs (where the rain was the big winner), Foxfield and Virginia Fall. Next stop, Far Hills. The eventers head for our neighborhood and the Fair Hill International.



#### **PAGES 8-11**

#### **Three Win Monte**

Another piece of ammunition in the Jack Fisher arsenal, Monte Bianco jumps to a stakes score at Virginia Fall. Two-day meet also features wins by Ben Swope's Baron Von Ruckus and ex-broodmare Analyze.



#### **PAGES 15-16**

#### **Water Water Everywhere**

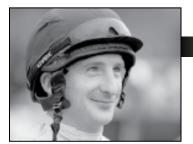
Rain washed away all but two races at Shawan Downs in Maryland as weather overcomes valiant efforts to continue. Nat Grew and Confined picked up maiden hurdle scores before things got too wet.



#### **PAGES 18-20**

#### Still Good, Still The Shirt

Steeplechase champion Good Night Shirt tacks on a second consecutive victory in the Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park to signal his readiness to claim another Eclipse Award.



#### **PAGES 24-25**

#### **Steeplechase News**

A quick look at the Far Hills stakes nominations; Jockey Carl Rafter out for the season with broken leg; more.



#### **PAGES 30-34**

#### **Eventing News**

Fair Hill International preview; Coleman shines at Plantation Field.





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#### On the Cover

The Jack Fisher Express rolls on as the trainer's charges add more stakes. The top photo shows Monte Bianco (right) shadowing Allimac in the Chronicle Cup. The inset shows Good Night Shirt en route to the start of the Lonesome Glory.



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### FOR STARTERS

#### **Worth Repeating**

Jump jockey Xavier Aizpuru, on Seer's photo-finish win at Monmouth Park

"It would be fun to give it a try, but . . . no."

Monmouth Park flat jockey Joe Bravo, on riding a jump race

"I answer to Gregg, Chris or Matt."

Jump jockey Matt McCarron, on his riding pedigree

"With a good horse like him, you can't make any money."

Owner Sonny Via, lamenting the lack of wagering value when his horse Good Night Shirt runs at a racetrack with pari-mutel wagering. Bettors got just \$2.80 for a \$2 win bet. Via made \$95,520 from the winner's purse.

"This might be the first time that I actually did what my doctor told me to do."

Jockey Jody Petty, discussing his four months off as the result of a broken right arm suffered in a spill at Radnor

"My shoes still aren't dried out yet."

Photographer Doug Lees, three days after Shawan Downs

"I've got a better shot at going out and winning a steeplechase race."

Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron when asked if he thought he could win the Walter Haight Award for excellence in turf writing

"You know what they say, there is nothing worse than not being invited to a party you wouldn't be caught dead at."

Paul Wasserman, about a party where he obviously wasn't invited

"Who's writing Steeplechase Times today?"

Tom Voss assistant Robert Cutler, when seeing 75 percent of the ST staff at Delaware Park to see a Voss horse run on the turf

"I rode one. That was enough."

British flat rider Michael Hills, who won his only jump ride

"There is a reason God created point-to-points."

Steeplechase Times' Joe Clancy, as he read the form for an NSA race

#### **Take A Number**

Percent of the 2005 Maine Thoroughbred crop represented by Middleburg debutante Factor Five. Though the colt's home state is a bit off the steeplechase map, his breeding should look familiar. Owned and bred by Judy Tubman, the 3-year-old is a son of Mokhieba, sire of Circuit Bar and a long line of jumpers and eventers.



Amy Dragoo

IN TRAINING. A human steeplechaser practiced her craft at the Plantation Field three-day event in Unionville, Pa. Sept. 20.

Cents profit a \$2 win bet on Curlin netted in his repeat win in the Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont Park Sept. 27.

Cents profit a \$2 win bet on Good Night Shirt netted in his repeat win in the Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park Sept. 21. And they say people don't know how to bet the jumpers.

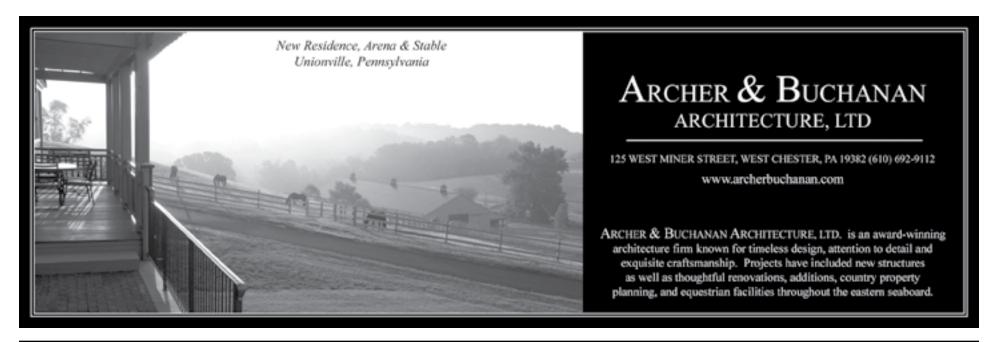
Inches of rain that fell at trainer Jack Fisher's barn (over the hill from Shawan Downs) between 7 and 9 a.m. Sept. 27, the day of the races.

Days between Jonathan Sheppard's last timber win and the Oct. 4 score with He's A Conniver at Middleburg. Foiled Again won at Camden on Nov. 26, 2005.

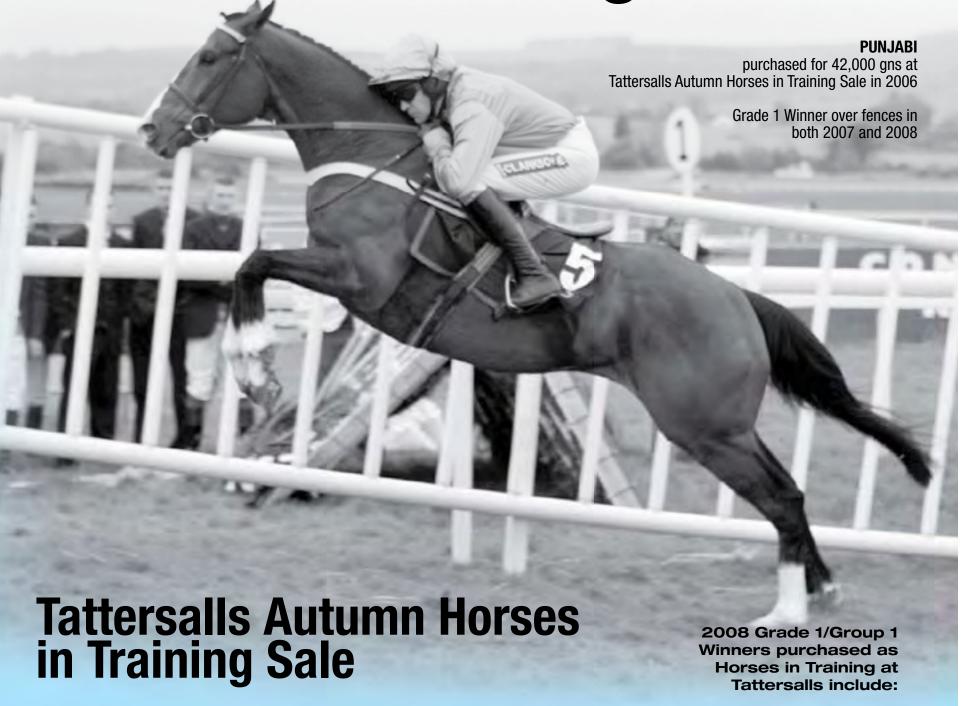
#### What's In A Name?

The Foxfield card helped illustrate Shakepeare's old line. After all, **Irish Prince** and **Erin Go Bragh** are both New Zealanders, Spanish-sounding **Monte Bianco** is actually an Irish-bred and **G'day G'day** hails from Maryland, not Australia.

**Cradle Will Rock, Foxfield.** Jonathan Sheppard hung an appropriate handle on this 8-year-old son of Northern Baby and Swing To It. The trainer clearly had jumps in mind all along for the homebred; he not only ran him over hurdles at 3, but wisely avoided the name Cradle Will Fall.



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winner Monte Bianco

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# Monte gets the money

Former flop turns to contender with third timber score of season

#### **BY BRIAN NADEAU**

MIDDLEBURG, Va. – To say 2007 was a rough year for Monte Bianco would be like saying Elvis Presley was mildly popular.

Owned by Nick Arundel, the Irishbred son of King Of Kings made it to the races twice last year, pulling up in a Charlotte allowance timber in April before falling in the Mason Houghland at Nashville a month later. Those efforts were sandwiched between a fall at Marlborough Point-to-Point that started his season and another in a summer schooling session that ended it.

Jack Fisher summed up his feelings succinctly: "I had had it with him."

The trainer's tone has changed dramatically in 2008. Monte Bianco took the Radnor Hunt Cup in May and thrust himself into the race for the timber title with an authoritative 3 1/4-length victory in the \$35,000 National Sporting

#### **VIRGINIA FALL RACES**

#### October 4-5

Library Chronicle Cup Oct. 4 at the Virginia Fall Races at Glenwood Park.

Helped in large part by the cancellation of the Ski Roundtop due to the weather at Shawan Downs the week before, the 3 1/4-mile Chronicle Cup loomed as one of the season's deepest timber outings. The 10-horse field included five Shawan holdovers, among them 2007 champion Irish Prince, Virginia Gold Cup winner and pro-tem leader Bubble Economy and the "now" horse Allimac, who had stormed to a 22 1/2-length win in the 2008 Houghland. Factoring in the accomplished Erin Go Bragh and last year's Chronicle Cup winner Fields Of Omagh, the race had all the makings of an airtight contest destined to be decided at the final fence.



Monte Bianco glides to the finish with a win in the Chronicle Cup at Virginia Fall.

Until Monte Bianco smashed it open on the far turn like a youngster attacking a piggy bank.

Monte Bianco (Xavier Aizpuru) stalked pace-setting Allimac through the first 3 miles, took over at will approaching the final bend, then drew off over Erin Go Bragh (Paddy Young) and Irish Prince (Jody Petty). The score improved Monte Bianco's record to 3-for-4 on the season, and the \$21,000 winner's check boosted his earnings to \$62,000, leaving him just shy of barnmate and fourth-place finisher Bubble Economy's

\$68,250 in the race for a timber championship.

Monte Bianco's patient early approach stood in stark contrast to his efforts this spring, when he won a Camden allowance and the Radnor Hunt Cup in flag-to-wire fashion. Aizpuru entered the Chronicle Cup concerned about a possible duel for the lead with confirmed front-runner Allimac, but the champion jockey put his trust in experience.

See VIRGINIA FALL page 9▶

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photos. Please call Bill Cochrane at 610-469-6100 for more information and a private showing of this magnificent country property.





#### **Virginia Fall** —

#### **■** Continued from page 8

"At the start of the year it was always about just letting him have some fun. But now he's learning every time and getting more relaxed with it. I was a little worried about getting into a tussle with Allimac and setting it up for a horse like Bubble Economy. Earlier in the year we would have gone into a serious battle with Allimac but luckily we didn't do that," Aizpuru said. "He settled in nicely for me and at the second-last I got upside the leader – it was either take the long spot and try to win the race or sit and wonder what was going to happen behind me. He took over pretty easily and we cruised home."

Aizpuru rode Monte Bianco over hurdles at Saratoga in 2005, when he finished seventh of 10 in a disappointing effort that had as much to do with his antics prior to the race than his jumping during it.

"He had ability but he would always get so upset running over hurdles. He'd leave his race behind him before they even dropped the flag," Aizpuru said. "Timber has seemed to let him relax a little bit and slow things down a little bit."

Fisher echoed his jockey's sentiments, though the trainer has admittedly been slow to come around. After the trials and tribulations of 2007, his patience was paper thin. Monte Bianco threw Blake Curry in a schooling session last summer, escaped and ran off down the road. Fisher was ready to give him directions to wherever he thought he was going.

"Blake gets on him, Monte stops, throws Blake off, and runs off. Nothing was going right. We get him back, he's got an injured joint. I told the vet not to even bother to look at it, it was over. He was hurt," Fisher said. "The vet comes, looks it over, and it's not as bad as I thought, so we got lucky. We hunted him all year and then brought him back this spring."

After crashing more than a student driver trying to parallel park, Monte Bianco could have used a lucky break. He got another one when Fisher sent him to Camden to accompany Swagger Stick, who was running in the Carolina Cup on the card. Fisher named Chip Miller to ride Monte Bianco, but needed a jockey when Miller wasn't available.

"The only reason he was down at Camden is because I was sending Swagger Stick down there too. So a few days before the races Swagger Stick gets sick and colics," Fisher says. "I call Xav and ask him if he left already and he had. He says 'It's OK though, I've got one on the flat for Janet Elliot.' I say to him, 'Right, and you've got the ride on Monte Bianco too.' He kind of just laughed and said 'What? I do?' "

The rest, as they say, is history. Aizpuru picked up the mount and the pair

"Don't be shy, give us a try."

– Buzz Lightyear

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won at Camden. They finished fourth (by three-quarters of a length) in the Virginia Gold Cup, then captured the Radnor Hunt Cup. And now, Monte Bianco is poised to take control of the division.

Fisher will even give him directions.

• Matt McCarron walked casually over to the tub of water sitting next to the weigh-in scale, hoisted it over his head, and dumped it all over Ben Swope.

Not that Swope minded.

The 39-year-old rider notched his first sanctioned victory when he guided Baron Von Ruckus to a determined win over Hey Doctor and New Point in the sixth, a \$5,000 maiden-claiming hurdle at 2 1/8 miles.

"What a great feeling. It was a long time coming, that's for sure. I've been working at it for quite awhile," Swope said. "I've been riding since I was a kid, gave it up for a bit when it got to be too expensive, and it's been about 12 years since I picked it back up again. I've been doing the point-to-points and plugging away trying to win one."

Baron Von Ruckus made sure Swope had a day to remember. The 9-year-old stalked Chevyman for the first nine fences, outjumped that one at the ninth, took control soon after, and then fended off challenges from New Point (Young) and Hey Doctor (McCarron) for a 4 1/4-length win.

"I was waiting for the rest of them to come up to me. When I saw a shadow I asked him and he responded. Every time I asked him he was there for me and gave me a little more," Swope said. "I never try to think about winning my first race, I just wanted to concentrate about getting him to the wire."

Swope, also the owner and trainer,

makes his living shoeing horses in his hometown of Westminster, Md. He stumbled upon Baron Von Ruckus last fall and bought him from client Donald Seebo Jr. after the conclusion of the Mid-Atlantic turf season. Swope prepared the three-time flat winner for a hurdle career and got him going Sept. 27 at Shawan Downs, where Baron Von Ruckus placed fourth of eight against open maidens.

"I've had him about a year. I bought him with the idea of making a hurdle horse out of him," Swope said. "I ran him the first time on the flat at Morven Park this spring and I started him over hurdles for the first time at Shawan last weekend. He improved a lot off that run and here we are."

Soaking wet and happy.

king wet and nappy.

See VIRGINIA FALL page 10 ▶





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#### Virginia Fall Races

Glenwood Park. Middleburg, Va.

Saturday, Oct. 4. Turf: Firm.

Sunday, Oct. 5. Turf: Firm.

1st. \$12,500. Optional clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. NW \$9,100 once or for \$15,000 clm. price.								
MW \$9, IOU ONCE OF IOF	\$10							
1. Gigger	L	153	McCarron					
2. London Grove	L	158	McVicar					
<ol><li>Ordered To Listen</li></ol>	L	154	Aizpuru					
4. One Sea	L	148	Mackenzie					
<ol><li>Dynaway</li></ol>	L	146	Whelan					
<ol><li>Swimming River</li></ol>	L	145	Walsh					
7. G'day G'day	L	158	Young					
8. Zozimus	L	158	Petty					
9. Summersville	L	142	R. Haynes					
10. Charismic American	L	153	Hodsdon					
11. Delacroix	L	141	J. Murphy					
12. Just A Prince (NZ)	L	151	Carter					
13. Gather No Moss	L	144	W. Haynes					
PU. Belknap County	L	154	Ryan					
Mgn: 2 1/2. Time: 3:55 4	/5.		•					
O: Kinross Farm. T: Neil Morris.								

B. g. 6 Go For Gin-Praise, Mr. Prospector. Bred by Claiborne Farm & Adele Dilschneider (Ky).

#### 2nd. \$15,000. Maiden timber. 3 miles.

1. Meadow Larking	L	165	Aizpuru
2. Major Frank	L	165	Walsh
3. Profowens (Ire)		160	Horner
4. Genghis	L	160	Carter
LR. Timmy R	L	160	Nagle
PU. Class Crimson		165	Boucher
PU. Magnitude	L	160	Santoro
PU. In Pursuit Of Love	L	165	Foley
PU. Uppercut		161	Ensor
PU. Broom	L	165	J. Murphy
PU. Won Wild Bird	L	154	W. Haynes
Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 6:26.			•

O: Gil Johnston. T: Jack Fisher.

B. g. 7 Meadowlake-Forladiesonly, Sovereign Dancer. Bred by Dr. & Mrs. R. Smiser West (Ky).

#### 3rd. \$15,000. Maiden timber. 3 miles.

1. He's A Conniver	L	165	Walsh
2. Patriot's Path	L	160	Nagle
3. Greyhame	L	165	Petty
4. Westfield Dancer (Ire)		160	Horner
5. Wazee Moto		165	Slater
6. Toughkenamon	L	165	Durkee
F. Big Is Best (NZ)	L	165	Spate
LR. Twill Do ` ´	L	165	McCarron
LR. Antonio Star	L	160	Carter
LR. Plum Brush		155	Chalfin
LR. Shiny Emblem	L	165	Dowling
PU. Bulawayo	L	165	Young
Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 6:37.			
0 0 1 1 11 1 T			

O: Calvin Houghland. T: Jonathan Sheppard. Ch. g. 6 Crafty Friend-Better To Be Lucky, Roberto. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

#### 4th. \$35,000. Timber stakes. 3 1/4 miles. The National Sporting Library Chronicle Cup

1. Monte Bianco (Ire)	L	165	Aizpuru
2. Erin Go Bragh (NZ)	L	165	Young
3. Irish Prince (NZ)	L	165	Petty
4. Bubble Economy	L	165	Walsh
5. Woodmont	L	155	J. Murphy
PU. Shady Valley	L	155	R. Haynes
PU. Brimson	L	163	C. Miller
PU. Fields Of Omagh	L	160	Foley
PU. Allimac (Ire)	L	165	Dowling
Mgn: 3 1/4. Time: 6:37	3/5.		

O: Nick Arundel. T: Jack Fisher.

B. g. 7 King Of Kings (Ire)-Creme Caramel, Septieme Ciel.

Bred by Mrs. C. A. Waters (Ire).

#### 6th. \$5,000. Maiden clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

\$10,000-\$5,000 clm. price.						
1. Baron Von Ruckus	L	156	Swope			
2. Hey Doctor	L	156	McCarron			
3. New Point	L	156	Young			
4. Sir Bernardo	L	152	J. Murphy			
5. Broadway Bernie	L	143	Santoro			
6. BK's Double Jade	L	143	McVicar			
7. Chevyman	L	148	Petty			
8. Wave Warrior	L	148	Slater			
PU. Ricky's Four	L	152	Walsh			
Mgn: 4 1/4. Time: 3:58 2/5.						
O/T: Ban Cwana						

O/T: Ben Swope.

Dk. B./Br. g. 9 Brief Ruckus-Lady Ann Ville, Strike The Anvil.

Bred by Hubert & Docia Pilcher (Fla).

#### 1st. \$10,000. 3YO mdn. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. 1. Orebanks

2. Quick Now	L	145	Mackenzie
3. Imperial Way	L	150	Whelan
4. Class Real Rock		150	Boucher
5. Miss Crown		144	Dalton
6. Rusty Reign	L	150	Walsh
7. Bunker	L	151	Watts
8. Factor Five	L	145	W. Haynes
9. Praise Me	L	150	McCarron
PU. A Little Risky	L	145	McVicar
Mgn: 10. Time: 4:01 1/5.			
A A			

O: Peggy Steinman. T: Doug Fout.

Dk. B./Br. g. 3 Aptitude-Dyna Two, Dynaformer. Bred by Mrs. Edgar Scott Jr. & Mrs. Lawrence MacElree (Pa).

#### 2nd. \$10,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

1. Fiscal Storm	L	154	Dowling
2. Coupe De Ville	L	150	Young
3. Ufa	L	150	Slater
4. Never Fear	L	154	McCarron
5. Expel	L	150	J. Murphy
6. Awaiting Justice		148	Boucher
7. Roseland	L	152	Ryan
8. Ramazutti	L	151	Chalfin
9. Night Ruckus	L	150	Dalton
10. Hot Rize	L	145	R. Haynes
PU. Rare Call	L	154	Carter
Mgn: Head. Time: 3:58.			
O: Arcadia Stable. T: Jac	k Fis	her.	
B. g. 6 Allen's Prospect-	Soap	Oper	a, Theatrica
(Ire). Bred by Fitz Dixon	(Pa)		

#### 4th. \$7,500. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. Owned and trained in Virginia

1. Dynantonia	L	154	Ryan
2. Jimtown	L	145	Mackenzie
3. Ole Boy	L	150	McCarron
4. Sovietspi (NZ)		145	McVicar
5. Otappaz	L	154	J. Murphy
6. Glide King	L	154	Slater
PU. Cash Broker	L	154	Watts
PU. Marked For Ransom	L	154	Spate
Mgn: 9. Time: 3:58 4/5.			
O: Gregg Ryan. T: Julie G	om	ena.	
B. g. 6 Dynaformer-Sara	ago	ssa St	raight, Ber
trando. Bred by Woods	ide	Farms	s & Liberty

#### 7th. \$7,500. F&M mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

Road Stable (Ky).

\$10,000 cim. price.						
1. Analyze	·	151	Hodsdon			
2. Just Sarah	L	151	J. Murph			
3. Straight To Court	L	151	Foley			
4. Wolf Shadow	L	147	Petty			
5. Bulgarian Miss	L	142	Santoro			
PU. Franzia	L	154	Carter			
Mgn: 8 1/4. Time: 3:59	4/5.					
O: Flying Horse Farm. T:	Jazz	Napra	avnik.			
Dk. B./Br. m. 9 Miner's N	⁄lark∙	-Rhod	onia, Rahy			
Bred by Gary and Mary	West	(Kv).	•			

#### 8th. \$5.000. Allowance hwt. timber. 3 miles.

omi yo,oooi miiomanoo			
NW \$9,000 once in 200	7-08;	Amat	eur jockey
1. The Other Me	L	170	Chalfin
2. Ice Is Nice	L	170	Horner
3. Dr. Ramsey	L	180	Santoro
4. Straight Path	L	180	Nagle
5. Professor Maxwell	L	180	Hundt
6. A Fine Story (GB)		170	W. Hayne
Mgn: 6 1/2. Time: 6:36 1	1/5.		
O: Donald Cochran, T: Lo		Neilso	n III.
B. g. 9 Pulpit-Topicount,	Priv	ate Ac	count.
3 F - F ,			

Bred by Marvin Delfiner & Fred Seitz (Ky).



Douglas Lees Analyze jumps toward the front.



Douglas Lees

Baron Von Ruckus (right) leads New Point in the maiden claimer Saturday.

#### Virginia Fall —

#### ■ Continued from page 9

• While Jonathan Sheppard's Hall of Fame resume includes 23 NSA training championships, there's not much timber on that bronze plaque. The trainer notched his first timber win in almost three years when Calvin Houghland's He's A Conniver took Saturday's third, a \$15,000 maiden contest at 3 miles.

Timber racing scares me," Sheppard admitted. "This horse ran second earlier this year at Camden to Monte Bianco and I couldn't even watch - I had my hands over my eyes."

At Middleburg, he could have peeked. He's A Conniver (Robbie Walsh) settled in mid-pack early before launching a sudden move on the final lap, overtaking Greyhame (Petty) on the final turn and holding off a late charge from Patriot's Path (Darren Nagle).

Sheppard bred the 6-year-old son of Crafty Friend and raced him on the flat and over jumps. But until last May, a maiden-claiming win on the flat was the highlight of an otherwise non-descript career that included a 0-for-3 record over hurdles. And then the phone rang.

"Mr. Houghland called me up and asked if I had any timber horses. I thought of this horse, who wasn't doing much over hurdles. I knew that if we could harness his speed it might be worth a try to test him over timber," Sheppard said. "He's always had a tremendous natural jumping ability even though he's a bit quirky. He's a very talented horse who works as fast as anyone we have."

He's A Conniver made his timber debut at High Hope in May 2007 but fell at the second fence. He returned to finish fifth over hurdles at Saratoga that summer, ran sixth on the flat at Delaware Park and tried timber again in November, running a good second in a maiden at Callaway Gardens. He followed with a respectable second to Monte Bianco at Camden this March and put things together at Middleburg. Sheppard was impressed with the reports.

"From what they told me he showed a nice turn of foot, and that really delighted me," he said. "Robbie did a great job with him because sometimes it's trouble getting this horse to rate nicely. He did a great job settling him in behind and gathering him up. He's starting to come along after knocking at the door his first few starts."

• Neil Morris dropped a claim for Gigger believing he'd picked up a timber prospect for Kinross Farm. The 6-year-old son of Go For Gin sweetened the deal with a convincing hurdle win in the meeting opener, a \$12,500 optional claimer at 2 1/8 miles.

Morris claimed Gigger from trainer Tom Voss for \$20,000 at the Saratoga Jump Start July 20 and the bay gelding made a modest debut in the Kinross colors Sept. 14, checking in third in an optional claimer at Colonial Downs Sept. 14.

It hardly foreshadowed his next performance. Gigger (McCarron) looked overpowering at Middleburg, sitting near the back of the 14-horse field for much of the running before unleashing a powerful turn of foot approaching the final turn and drawing off to a 2 1/2-length win over London Grove (Liam McVicar) and Ordered To Listen (Aizpuru).

Recently retired timber star Miles Ahead leaves some big shoes to fill in the Kinross barn, and while Gigger isn't tapped to be his replacement, Morris is optimistic about his new career.

"We think he's got a bright future over timber, and he'll be pointed to timber racing next year," the trainer said.
"We had our eye on him and the first time he was in for a tag we took him. We bought him to be a timber horse, but obviously if that doesn't work we can always go back to hurdles. He showed what he can do out there so we're very excited about his prospects."

• As it turned out, Gil Johnston's Meadow Larking (Aizpuru) just wanted to take to the trees. After going winless in 10 hurdle starts for Fisher, including three non-threatening efforts this spring, the 7-year-old made his timber debut a winning one, taking the second over Major Frank (Walsh) and Profowens (Lucy Horner).

Aboard for all but one of Meadow Larking's hurdle tries, Aizpuru received some simple pre-race instructions.

"All Jack said was to go out there and have fun; there was no plan. I just thought the important thing was to give him a smooth trip," Aizpuru said, "and I knew that if he jumped like he schooled he would be OK."

Aizpuru gave Meadow Larking a patient, stalking trip for the first two laps of the 3-mile contest, sitting sixth while Major Frank and Broom set the early

See VIRGINIA FALL page 11 ▶

#### **Virginia Fall** —

#### **■** Continued from page 10

tempo. Meadow Larking drew into contention entering the final uphill run, shadowing Major Frank as the pair headed onto the backstretch. With two fences remaining Meadow Larking asserted himself, flying clear of Major Frank and taking command. A smooth jump over the last sent him home to a 1 3/4-length win.

"It was nice and easy for the first turn and when someone came to him the second time he took off a bit and it took him closer into contention," Aizpuru said. "I wanted to sit still and see how far he would go and he jumped the third-last really well and next thing I know I'm right next to Robbie going to the second-last. We jumped that one better than they did and now all of a sudden I'm in front and we got the job done from there."

#### **Sunday Racing**

• Virginia Fall means the first 3-year-old race of the year, and Peggy Steinman's Orebanks (Young) kicked off the season in fine fashion with a 10-length score over Quick Now (Roderick Mackenzie) and Imperial Way (Padge Whelan) in Sunday's first.

The winner had his trainer excited and worried heading into the \$10,000 maiden hurdle.

Doug Fout schooled Orebanks at Saratoga Aug. 27, and the son of Aptitude sailed through the infield of the Oklahoma turf course, hitting a pair of jumps perfectly and then looping back around and repeating the pattern. The effort pleased Fout, who'd been wondering if Orebanks' last-place effort on the flat there five days earlier had done more harm than good.

Though his test run over hurdles Sept. 20 at Blue Ridge Point-to-Point – where he finished third but raced greenly – had brought Fout's butterflies back, Orebanks shooed them away with a performance that puts him in good stead for the \$50,000 Gladstone at Far Hills

"He won the way he was supposed to. It was just a matter of seeing him get around there and not making any mistakes," Fout said. "We just wanted to see him relaxed and settled and make a run at the end. He jumped beautifully and didn't make any mistakes and just smoked the last. I think we've got to look pretty tough at Far Hills with this one behind us."

• Jake Chalfin bagged his first NSA hurdle win at last year's meeting; this time, he returned to the Glenwood Park course to collect his first NSA timber win, guiding Don Cochran's The Other Me for Paddy Neilson in the \$5,000 amateur highweight timber.

Facing a group of accomplished timber runners that included Professor Maxwell and Straight Path, Chalfin settled the 9-year-old in fourth and bided his time as the field bunched approaching the last. Then he let The Other Me loose. The son of Pulpit drew off to a 6 1/2-length win over Ice Is Nice (Horner) and Dr. Ramsey (Billy Santoro).

After coming a cropper the day before aboard Plum Brush, who was in position to win with two fences remaining, Chalfin entered Sunday with a newfound respect for Middleburg's timber course and guarded optimism about The Other Me's chances.



Douglas Lees

The Other Me flies a fence in his timber win Sunday.



Douglas Lees

Gigger (second from right) surges through a crowd in his optional claiming hurdle win at Virginia Fall Saturday.

"I fell going flat-out down the hill, so I was as happy to get my first win over timber as I was to make it around Middleburg without falling," he said. "I had ridden him in a point-to-point at Potomac in May and we were second, so I was confident going in, but I knew there was some tough competition. He has a unique jumping style and his own rhythm, so it makes it hard for me to see my stride on him, and get my timing down too. It was a cool race; you could have thrown a blanket over the field heading to the last. I thought I had plenty of horse left but I didn't know what the others had, so I was a little surprised he pulled away the way he did."

• Unless you're Brett Favre, staying retired is pretty simple. If a Thoroughbred gets back in the game, it's usually because said horse proved infertile as a stallion or failed to carry a foal as a broodmare.

But that's not why Analyze returned.

Jazz Napravnik leased the daughter of Miner's Mark to Nina Gardner in the spring of 2006 for broodmare duty and Gardner bred the mare to her stallion Shadow Show. Analyze produced a foal in 2007, then returned to Napravnik later that year – to resume her racing career.

"She didn't like kids," Napravnik joked. "She said, 'Get me away from them.'"

Analyze (Hodsdon) took out her frustrations of motherhood on her opponents in Sunday's seventh, taking the \$7,500 filly/mare maiden claimer by 8 1/4 lengths over Just Sarah (Jeff Murphy), with Straight To Court (Tom Foley) third.

Napravnik took over Analyze's training from Holly Robinson in 2005 and sent her over hurdles that May at Willowdale, where she finished third against males in a maiden claimer. She followed that effort with a close fourth – behind distaff legends Footlights, Feeling So Pretty and Guelph – in the Valentine Memorial at Fair Hill later that month and made four more hurdle starts before an injury sent her to the sidelines in April 2006.

Enter life as a broodmare. Well, for a little while.

"When she had a tendon issue in 2006 I leased her to Nina," Napravnik said. "When I got her back in October 2007 she wanted to go back into training; she loves every minute of it. So it was like, 'Train on.'

Analyze returned this spring, clocking in fifth at Camden and fourth at Foxfield (losing to Class Shadow both times), then running fifth to Guelph in the Valentine. Sunday's victory marked her 10th start over hurdles – though for Analyze and Napravnik, winning isn't everything.

"She and I are like best friends and she's amazing to ride. She was a troubled horse on the flat and when I sent her over jumps she took to it like a fish to water," the trainer said. "She's been great; she usually picks up a check for me every time, even when she's been in against horses like Guelph."

• Fiscal Storm had been brewing for a while. Though purchased prior to the Fitz Dixon dispersal sale in the fall of 2006, the son of Allen's Prospect had made just one sanctioned start for Fisher and Arcadia Stable. He made his second try count, surging through the stretch to take Sunday's second, a \$10,000 maiden hurdle, by a head.

"He was a useful horse on the flat, but when we first got him, he never got the jumping part down," Fisher said. "We tried him a few times over hurdles and he was horrible."

Fiscal Storm (Willie Dowling) sat off the early leaders, then rallied into contention late in the 2 1/8-mile affair, digging in over the last to collar Coupe De Ville (Young) at the wire, with Ufa (James Slater) third.

Fiscal Storm made his lone NSA start at Great Meadow in May 2007, running a distant eighth in a maiden hurdle, then bowed a tendon and missed the remainder of the season. The 6-year-old resumed training earlier this year, well ahead of where he'd left off.

"When we brought him back this spring he finally started to get the jumping part down," Fisher said. "He's improved quite a bit as a result."

• Owner/jockey Gregg Ryan achieved an NSA milestone in the fourth when he booted Dynantonia home in a \$7,500 maiden hurdle for Virginia-owned and -trained horses. A 6-year-old son of Dynaformer, Dynantonia came into the race with solid flat form including several classy stakes starts.

"On paper, he could be one of the best horses I've been on," said Ryan. "He's a nice, class horse. He's so powerful, but he doesn't know it – really kind and a great jumper. I was on the best horse, so I let him run."

Dynantonia led by the second fence, and turned aside several challenges to win by 9 lengths over Jimtown (Mackenzie) with Ole Boy (McCarron) third. The winner covered the 2 1/8 miles in 3:58 4/5 in his first hurdle start.

With the win, Ryan passed fellow amateur Rigan McKinney on the all-time NSA win list with 148 career victories. The 48-year-old jockey called the win a thrill – especially given the circumstances.

"If I could have won it anywhere I would have, but to win at Glenwood was special," said Ryan, who lives just over the hill from the race course. "The home crowd, family and friends there – it was really, really nice and something special."

The winner raced on the flat for trainer George Weaver, scoring four times and tackling foes such as Jambalaya, Honey Ryder, Einstein, Pellegrino, Silverfoot and Go Deputy. (Coincidentally, he broke his maiden at The Meadowlands in 2004 by 1 3/4 lengths over the aforementioned Fiscal Storm.) Ryan gallops horses for Weaver at Saratoga, and jumped at the chance to buy Dynantonia this spring. Sent to trainer Julie Gomena, the bay won at Blue Ridge Point-to-Point as a September tuneup to Virginia Fall.

#### Foxfield Fall Races

Charlottesville, Va. Sunday, Sept. 28. Turf: Good.

#### 1st. \$10,000. Maiden clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles. \$10,000-\$5,000 clm. price

a iu,uuu-au,uuu ciiii. piice.						
1. Prancing Cat	L	156	Young			
2. Cuse	L	151	McVicar			
3. Back In The Day	L	156	Dowling			
4. Sand Box Rules	L	152	McCarron			
5. General Roanoke		148	Walsh			
6. Justabud	L	147	Carter			
7. Sabotage	L	148	Slater			
8. Template	L	151	Santoro			
PU. Liverpool Gloves	L	152	J. Murphy			
PU. Sir Chip	L	151	R. Haynes			
PU. Steve Bo		151	Delaney			
PU. English Dancer	L	147	W. Haynes			
Mgn: 5. Time: 4:15 2/5.			•			

O: Magalen Bryant. T: Doug Fout. B. g. 5 Black Minnaloushe-Pleasant Prancer, Pleasant Colony. Bred by Magalen Bryant (Ky).

#### 2nd. Training flat. 1 1/16 miles.

1. Hymn To Happiness	L	150	Hodsdon		
2. Ordered To Listen	L	155	Santoro		
3. Heir Apparent (SAf)	L	155	R. Haynes		
4. Gigger	L	155	Slater		
5. Twickenham	L	150	Dowling		
6. Triple Dip	L	155	McVicar		
7. Expel	L	155	J. Murphy		
8. Orison	L	155	McCarron		
9. Area Limits	L	155	Ryan		
PU. Carlet	L	147	Gillam		
Mgn: 3. Time: 1:53 2/5.					
O/T: Jonathan Sheppard.					
Dk.b./Br. g. 3 Royal Anthem-Let's Canoodle, Oh					

#### 3rd. \$10,000. Cond. clm. hurdle. 2 1/8 miles.

Say. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

,ນບເ	, GIIII.	price.
L	144	Hodsdon
L	156	Whelan
L	156	Young
L	141	Santoro
	L	L 156 L 156

i. Kirimbai	- 1	140	Walsh
S. Algezir	ī	144	
'. Dromineer	ī	147	, ,
U. Heros Among Us	ī	144	Slater
PU. Old Fellow (Arg)	ī	155	Ryan
PU. Fieldview	Ē	156	Pettv
/lgn: 3 1/2. Time: 4:10	1/5.		,
V.T. I	.,		

O/T: Jonathan Sheppard.

B. g. 8 Northern Baby-Swing To It, Mr. Leader. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard (Pa).

4th. \$15,000. Maiden n	urai	e. 2 1/	8 miles.			
1. Zozimus	L	154	Petty			
2. Class Bop		138	Boucher			
3. Honour Emblem	L	149	W. Haynes			
4. Right Hand Red	L	149	Santoro			
5. Dynegor	L	150	Slater			
6. Decisive Play	L	154	Hodsdon			
7. BK's Double Jade	L	154	Walsh			
8. Bamco Dynamite	L	149	McVicar			
PU. Sefa Player		150	Murphy			
Mgn: 12 3/4. Time: 4:15.						
O: Dale Thiel. T: Sanna Hendriks.						
Dk.B./Br. g. 5 Dynaformer-Color My Heart,						

Bred by DJR Thoroughbreds (Ky).

#### 5th. Training flat. 2 miles.

Amateur jockeys						
1. Never Fear	Ĺ	168	Santoro			
2. Rare Bush	L	168	Fisher			
3. Junood	L	168	M. Washer			
4. Simon	L	168	Boniface			
5. Timmy R	L	168	Nagle			
6. Artist's Stroke	L	168	Gillam			
7. Miles Ahead	L	168	Morris			
8. Lonesome Nun	L	157	Dang			
9. Salmo	L	168	Fogarty			
10. Hot Rize	L	168	R. Haynes			
11. Pan Adam	L	168	Harris			

Mgn: 6 1/4. Time: 3:26 4/5. O: Kinross Farm. T: Neil Morris.

B. g. 5 Storm Broker-China Blue, Gentleman

Bred by Thornmar Farm (Md).



Zozimus (here at Fair Hill) won at Foxfield for owner Dale Thiel.

## Up for more

Zozimus graduates the maiden ranks as Petty rides to a weekend double

#### **BY BRIAN NADEAU**

Jody Petty sat on the sidelines over the summer, and watched the stand-

Nursing a broken right arm he suffered in a spill at Radnor May 17, he was second with nine wins. The veteran did his best not to notice how the competition fared during the forced vacation. To his amazement, he maintained his position through the summer – and made sure he stayed there with early fall wins at Shawan Downs and Foxfield Sept. 27 and 28.

At Foxfield in Charlottesville, Va., Petty booted home Zozimus in the fourth, a \$15,000 maiden hurdle at 2 1/8 miles.

"It was a good end to being back in the saddle and I'm very excited. I hadn't ridden for four months, and you always kind of wonder if you are fit enough and ready enough to come back. But my arm really feels great and I'm looking forward to the fall season," said Petty, who also picked up a win the day before at Shawan. "There were a few times over the summer where I looked

#### **FOXFIELD RACES**

#### Sunday, September 28

at the standings to see if anyone passed me. I was pretty shocked to still be in

Zozimus hit the front at the drop of the flag and dueled with Class Bop for the first 1 1/2 miles before taking charge after the ninth. They widened their lead from there, comfortably stepping out to a 6-length advantage and cruising under the line 12 3/4 lengths in front of Class Bop (Richard Boucher), who nosed out Honour Emblem (Will Haynes) for the place. The winner covered the distance in 4:15.

Zozimus, trained by Sanna Hendriks for Dale Thiel, threatened to break his maiden several times this spring (he did win a non-sanctioned race at Charlotte in April), running second at Strawberry Hill in April, Radnor in May and then second again at Colonial Downs in July. He put things together at Foxfield, jumping effortlessly while leaving

See *FOXFIELD* page 13 ▶

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#### Foxfield —

#### ■ Continued from page 12

no doubt after all his near-misses. Petty credited the give in the ground.

"We always knew he would handle some softer ground and when I got down there the course was just as beautiful as you can ask for, so I was excited," Petty said. "He just cruised around out there and it was pretty easy. It was nice to finally see him break through after settling for second a few times.'

• Like Zozimus, Prancing Cat finally hit the winner's circle. But the 5-yearold's first lifetime score didn't follow a string of hard-luck losses. In fact, in his previous three hurdle tries Prancing Cat had been beaten a total of 142 1/2

So why the sudden turnaround in form for Maggie Bryant's homebred? Extra work by trainer Doug Fout and iockey Paddy Young.

"We had been working really hard with him (in the morning) to get him to settle and relax. He had been kind of a stop-and-pop type in his races and so we wanted him to turn off a bit and have something for the end," Fout said. "He finally broke through. He won for fun and that was nice to see after his runs earlier this spring."

After leading early and then stopping badly at Great Meadow and Fair Hill, Prancing Cat was a different horse at Foxfield, settling in sixth and rating kindly for the first six fences. Prancing Cat advanced prior to the 10th fence and took the lead before the last and drew off to a 5-length win over Cuse (Liam McVicar) and Back In The Day (Willie Dowling) in 4:15 2/5.

• Jonathan Sheppard always knew Cradle Will Rock had talent. Just getting the 8-year-old to the races proved difficult, however.

The homebred son of Northern Baby had made just nine starts in a career that opened with a flat win at Delaware Park in July 2003. Three bowed tendons produced more time on the sidelines than a junior varsity water boy for the football

Cradle Will Rock (Danielle Hodsdon) met the starter for the first time in more than 15 months and promptly took the third, a \$10,000 conditioned claiming hurdle, by 3 1/2 lengths over Slip Away (Padge Whelan) and Sussex County (Young) in 4:10 1/5.

Hodsdon put Cradle Will Rock into the race immediately, stalking Slip Away while racing clear of the rest through the first 2 miles of the 2 1/8-mile contest. The leaders quickened on the final lap and distanced themselves from a rallying Sussex County. Cradle Will Rock bid for the lead at the 11th fence but stumbled badly, enabling Slip Away to draw off to another clear lead as they headed to the last. Cradle Will Rock found himself, nailed the last, and rerallied over Slip Away to post the vic-

As a 3-year-old in 2003 Cradle Will Rock finished second to eventual division champion Hidden Key in a Middleburg maiden and then fourth to that rival in the Gladstone at Far Hills. The first bowed tendon came in 2004 and Cradle Will Rock was out until July 2005, when he returned to run second on the flat at Colonial Downs. He broke his jump maiden at Morven Park that November and was shelved soon thereafter before returning in 2007 to a pair of unplaced hurdle efforts. For Sheppard, seeing one of his homebreds per-



Prancing Cat (here at Fair Hill) broke his maiden at Foxfield for Maggie Bryant and Doug Fout.

severe through several injuries made the a start out of him and see him come victory that much more satisfying.

"It's always nice to win a race with one of your own. They are kind of like your children, so it gives you a little sense of pride," the trainer said. "I've always liked this horse and as a 3-yearold he was pretty nice. His problem has always been soundness. It's good to get

• Training-flat races showcased a host of returnees and newcomers with victories going to Sheppard's 3-yearold Hymn To Happiness and Kinross Farm's Never Fear. Other names of note included Rare Bush, Salmo and Orison.

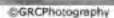
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## Downspour

Rain washes away all but 2 races, including season's 1st timber stakes

#### **BY JOE CLANCY**

HUNT VALLEY, Md. – For Shawan Downs to have any more races, someone was going to have to build an ark. About six inches of rain fell in nine hours on raceday, Sept. 27, leaving the course soft for the first race, a sloppy mess for the second and risky for any contests thereafter.

Organizers and race stewards canceled the third hurdle race and tried to save the two timber contests before scrapping the card with horses in the paddock for the featured Ski Roundtop timber stakes. There was simply too much rain, which impacted the ground, visibility and overall safety. Not to mention parking lots, tents, box-seat areas and anything else outdoors near Baltimore on the day.

"There was nothing pleasant about the decision that had to be made," said Shawan race chairman Charlie Fenwick. "Tough calls were made, but the stewards made the right calls. They made every single effort they could to get in any races they could get in. They took some heat for hanging in there and they took some heat for calling it when they did. I'm proud of the way they handled the situation and the way everybody else did."

Despite the weather, the internal workings of the meet ran as scheduled. Fenwick estimated attendance at 7,500 and the hillside viewing area was fairly crowded early. Fans huddled under umbrellas and picnicked anyway. Sponsors entertained big crowds in the tents on top of the hill. Vendors made a go of it, for a while. Children created mudslides and waded in puddles, happy – if filthy. Horsemen prepared their horses. Jockeys brought out extra goggles, mud pants and Saran Wrap.

But it simply kept raining.

Shawan shelved popular features early, closing the fair area and canceling the children's stick-horse race. By the time the real races were canceled, water gushed through the retaining wall separating the box area from the race course

#### **SHAWAN DOWNS RACES**

Saturday, September 27

and small rivers rolled down walking paths and roads.

Ultimately, the inability to hold safe races forced stewards' hands.

"Obviously I've ridden in a lot of soft ground back home in England, but this was right there with any of them," said jockey Xavier Aizpuru, who won the second race in driving rain and flying mud. "Over here, Far Hills was the softest ground I've ever ridden on and (Shawan) was every bit of that and probably even more."

The rain left Shawan a wasteland of mud, water damage and major repair work. Fenwick made restoring the property his first goal.

"The first responsibility we have is to pay our bills and to return the property to the condition it was on Friday afternoon," said Fenwick. "Exactly what that's going to cost us I don't know. It's clearly in the tens of thousands of dollars."

Fenwick said the race course itself was the least damaged area of the property, but pointed to work that needs to be done on parking areas and roads. Getting the spectators off the property turned out to be the biggest challenge, but that happens at any race meet affected by poor weather. Shawan will also work to ensure a contribution to Greater Baltimore Medical Center, the race meet's beneficiary. A shortened raceday hurt the productivity of a car raffle held at Shawan each year with proceeds coming up \$25,000 short of most years.

"(GBMC) provides 125 volunteers for us and some of them were there at 6:30 in the morning," said Fenwick. "We have a responsibility to the hospital and one way or another we have to recognize that."

By canceling three races, Shawan did not have to pay \$60,000 in purses but faces added expense in course repair. Like the goal of contributing to



Sarah Libbey Greenhalgh



Douglas Lees

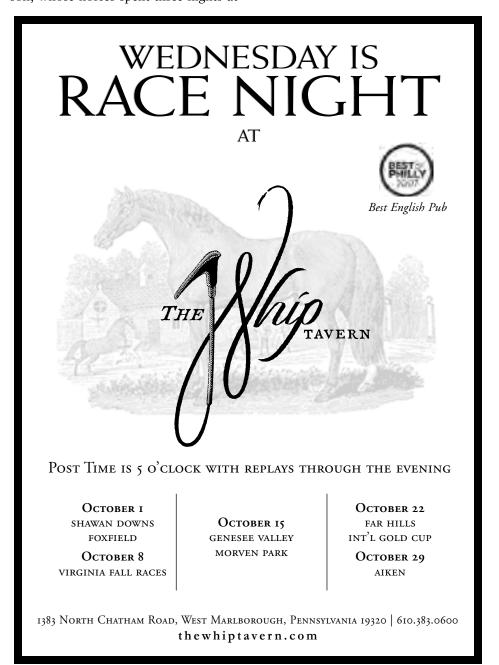
Confined (right) jumps through the rain to win a filly/mare maiden hurdle at Shawan.

GBMC despite the hardships, Fenwick hopes to reward horsemen for supporting the meet – in spite of the weather. Ted Thompson and Karen Gray shipped north from Tennessee and others came from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Some didn't get a chance to run.

"We have some responsibility to horsemen if there is adequate funds after returning the place to proper condition and supporting the hospital," Fenwick said. "I hope we could do something for the horsemen. I had to tell Ted Thompson, whose horses spent three nights at my place, it was over. He had a smile on his face and said he understood. Ted and his owners have absolutely nothing to show for it except for bills so it would be nice to do something for them. I can't promise anything, but we'll try to do it."

• In the racing that did happen, two horses tried to lighten the gloom by stylishly graduating from the maiden ranks.

See **SHAWAN** page 16 ▶



Water pours through the hillside box area at Shawan.

#### **Shawan** -

#### **■** Continued from page 15

Windmill Hollow Stable's Nat Grew (Jody Petty) improved on a record of three seconds and a third in four prior starts by taking over in the final run down the backstretch in the opener, a \$15,000 maiden hurdle. Blue Ash and Baron Von Ruckus slugged it out up front early as the winner settled back in fifth in a field of eight. Petty saved all sorts of ground on the turn into the backstretch and emerged with the lead. Flying fences, the 4-year-old built on his lead and ran off to win by 12 lengths. Delta Park (Aizpuru) finished second with News Flash (Padge Whelan) third. The winner covered the 2 miles and 11 jumps in 4:03 2/5.

"He's a great jumper and he entered plenty fit enough, so we were hoping for a good effort," said Petty. "I didn't expect him to win that easily, but it was also the kind of race where you either handle the ground or you don't and obviously he did.'

Purchased at Keeneland by Michael Moran (who owns the horse in partnership with Dick Sanford of Windmill Hollow), Nat Grew won once on the flat and finished second in his jump debut last fall at Far Hills (in soft turf). This year, the son of Broken Vow finished second to Dynaski at Radnor, third behind Seer and News Flash at Colonial Downs and, most recently, finished second behind Terpsichorean at Saratoga Jump Start July 20.

"He's figuring it out," said Hendriks. "He's been unlucky not to have gotten it done before. He ran well in the soft at Far Hills last year so we were hopeful he'd handle it today."

• One race – and about an inch of rain - later, a dozen fillies and mares tested the saturated turf in a \$15,000 distaff maiden. None took to it like Confined, a first-time hurdle starter for local owner Sherry Fenwick (the wife of Shawan chairman Charlie) and trainer Jonathan Sheppard. Aizpuru put the 4-year-old daughter of Mojave Moon on the lead at the start, and she left the others floundering – literally.

Bred by Sheppard and former steeplechase owner Warren Dempsey, Confined surged away late and won by 15 lengths over Perfectionately (Petty) and World Away (Paddy Young) as just five horses finished.

"My only instructions were to hunt around there and see where she was at the end," said Aizpuru. "I thought I would rather do it in front than in behind eight or nine other horses and it worked out exactly like I had in mind. She jumped great and I had a very smooth trip.'

Confined, a half-sister to jump winner Desert Vigil, broke her flat maiden at Kentucky Downs last fall and prepped for Shawan with a decent fifth in a Penn National allowance Aug. 27. Sheppard paid partial credit to wind surgery, but liked his filly from the start.

"She acted like she was a useful filly," he said. "She ran very nicely for us on the flat (in 2007) so we decided to run her over the summer with a view toward the race at Shawan."

Additional reporting by Brian Nadeau.



Hodsdon

Nat Grew (left) battles with News Flash and Delta Park early in the maiden hurdle.

#### Races at Shawan Downs

Hunt Valley, Md. Saturday, Sept. 27. Turf: Soft.

#### 1et \$15 000 Maiden hurdle 2 miles

ist. \$10,000. Maiucii ii	ulul	5. <b>&amp;</b> III	1169.
1. Nat Grew	L	150	Petty
2. Delta Park	L	150	Aizpuri
3. News Flash	L	150	Whelar
4. Baron Von Ruckus	L	156	Swope
<ol><li>Delawarelovedoctor</li></ol>	L	150	Young
PU. Magic Boots	L	154	Walsh
PU. Blue Ash	L	154	Slater
PU. Questioning	L	154	Foley
Mgn: 12. Time: 4:03 2/5			-
0 M2 1 111 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	1. T	0	11 1

O: Windmill Hollow Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks. B. g. 4 Broken Vow-Ascot Starre, Ascot Knight. Bred by Runnymede Farm & Catesby, Joseph and Wendy Clay (Ky).

#### 2nd. \$15,000. Filly/mare mdn. hurdle. 2 miles. 1. Confined Aizpuru 147 2. Perfectionately 151 Petty 3. World Away Young 147

4. Perkedinthesand Dowling 5. Dynaskill McCarron PU. Sunset Paradise Walsh PU. Swallow Creek Carter Helders 154 PU. Just Sarah 141 PU. Greenwood Smoke McVicar 138 PU. Bluebird Ridge PU. Moon Dolly (GB) J. Murphy Whelan 147 L 151

PU. The Manner Born L 147 Mgn: 15. Time: 4:16.

O: Sherry Fenwick. T: Jonathan Sheppard. B. f. 4 Mojave Moon-Maternity Leave, Northern Baby. Bred by Jonathan Sheppard & Warren Dempsey (Pa.)

Races 3-5 cancelled due to weather.

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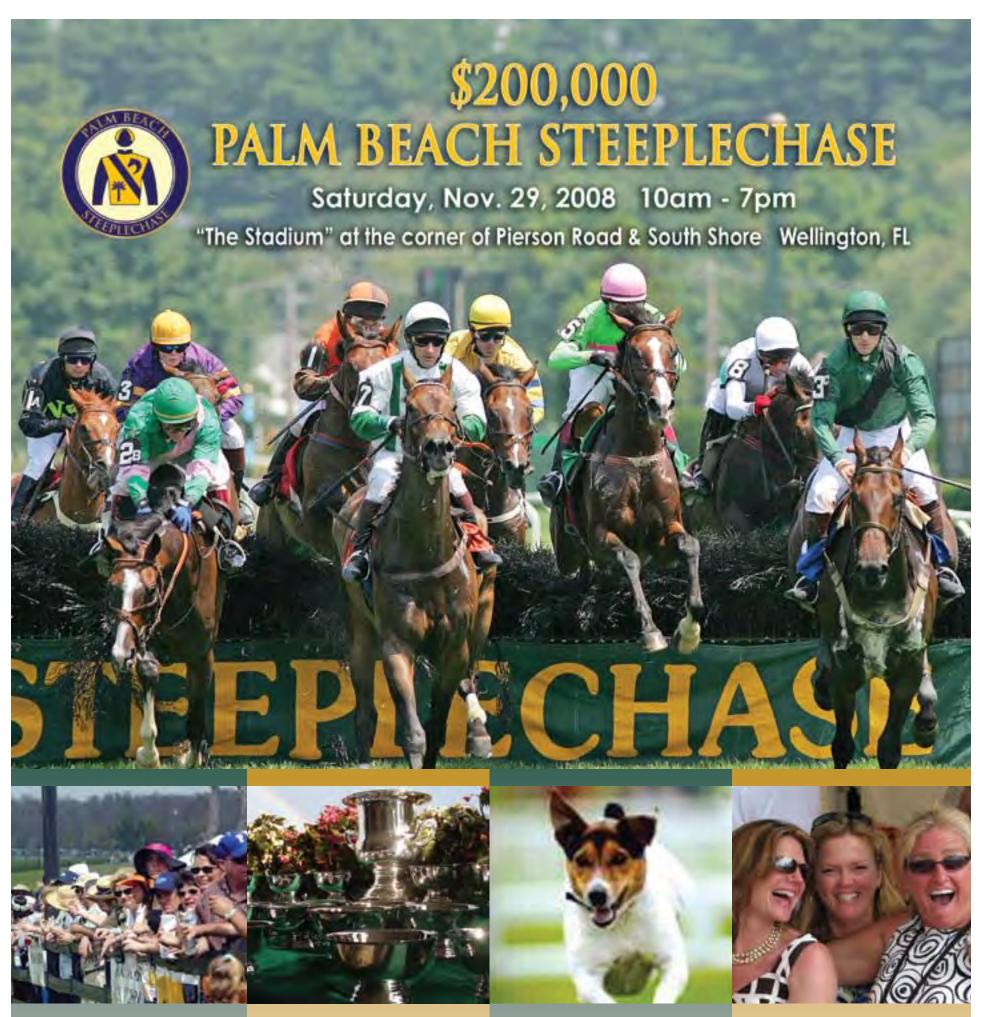
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## Shirt Looks

#### Champ takes control with repeat

#### **BY JOE CLANCY**

ELMONT, N.Y. – Tugging at the reins while sitting second, Good Night Shirt saw a sliver of daylight and attacked – launching from cruising speed to passing gear just before the seventh fence. One, two, three strides, he ran past his takeoff spot and stabbed at the fence – scraping through the plastic brush, landing awkwardly and losing precious momentum.

"I thought that might knock the stuffing out of him carrying the weight – it's pretty tough on you," said jockey Willie Dowling. "Another horse can't finish the race after a mistake like that."

But Good Night Shirt is not another horse

Sent off as the 2-5 favorite in the \$159,200 Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park Sept. 21, he survived the fencebashing and eventually ran away with a 3 3/4-length win over longshots Sermon Of Love and Red Letter Day. Owned by Sonny Via and trained by Jack Fisher, the winner paid a meager \$2.80 while getting the 2 1/2 miles in a course record 4:24.88.

More importantly, he won the race for a second consecutive year, captured

#### **BELMONT PARK**

#### Sunday, September 21

his fourth straight Grade I stakes and put a hammerlock on the 2008 Eclipse Award – serving notice that he has no intention of backing down.

The jumping mistake actually helped the champion, who re-established his cruising spot behind pacemaker Red Letter Day.

"I was able to get him back and get him to relax after that," said Dowling. "It kind of slowed him down a bit. If he flies that, I'm in front, they can take shots at me and then we don't know what happens the rest of the race."

The Lonesome Glory drew eight runners including New York Turf Writers Cup winner Dark Equation, Irish invader Dalucci, Grade I-placed Best Attack and multiple stakes winner Mon Villez, plus Sermon Of Love, Duke Of Earl and Red Letter Day. Good Night Shirt carried 158 pounds, giving away between four and 20 under the allowance conditions.

After a false start, Red Letter Day (Robbie Walsh) skipped to an immediate lead. Good Night Shirt set up in



Tod Marks

Good Night Shirt motors over the last fence, in front of Red Letter Day, in the Lonesome Glory.

second with Dalucci, Duke Of Earl, Mon Villez, Best Attack, Dark Equation and Sermon Of Love filling out the chart. Down the long backstretch the final time, Red Letter Day still led by 2 lengths, followed by Good Night Shirt, Duke Of Earl and Dalucci. As Good Night Shirt went to Red Letter Day on the final turn, Dark Equation (Matt McCarron) also worked into the picture.

Straightening away at the quarterpole, Good Night Shirt drew even with Red Letter Day and took over with a superb leap at the second-last. He jumped the last in the same style and surged away late. Gallant but outgunned, Red Letter Day and Duke Of Earl (Xavier Aizpuru) battled for the minor spots and were caught in the final yards by the

See **BELMONT PARK** page 20 ▶



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#### **Belmont Park**

Elmont, N.Y. Sunday, Sept. 21. Turf: Firm.

#### 1st. \$159,200. Hurdle stakes. 2 1/2 miles. The Lonesome Glory Steeplechase Stakes (Grade I)

1. Good Night Shirt L 158 Dowling 2.80 2.50 2.10 2. Sermon Of Love L 138 Hodsdon 4.90 3.20 3. Red Letter Day L 138 Walsh 7.00 Exacta (7-1) \$15.60. Trifecta (7-1-5) \$153.50.

4. Duke Of Earl (Ire) L 138 Aizpuru
5. Dark Equation L 154 McCarron
6. Dalucci (Ire) 138 Casey
7. Best Attack L 146 Young
Pu. Mon Villez (Fr) L 146 Petty

Mgn: 3 3/4. Time: 4:24 4/5. O: Sonny Via. T: Jack Fisher.

Ch. g. 7 Concern-Hot Story, Two Punch. Bred by Dr. And Mrs. Thomas Bowman (Md).

#### **Belmont Park –**

#### **■** Continued from page 18

late-running Sermon Of Love (Danielle Hodsdon).

Dark Equation was bothered by the right-jumping Dalucci at the final two fences, but flattened out to finish fifth, 6 1/2 lengths behind the winner.

Idle since the Iroquois in May, Good Night Shirt showed no rust, no lack of fitness, no real weakness-

"Going into the race I thought we were vulnerable with the weight and not running for four months – to-day was the day for people to beat us," said Dowling. "But he was impressive. He's so strong. I can't believe a horse can go that quick from start to finish and not give up."

A two-time hurdle winner in 2005 and a stakes winner in 2006, Good Night Shirt came into 2007 unproven at the highest level. He finished second to Mixed Up at Keeneland, defeated McDynamo and Sur La Tete in the Iroquois and completely made his case with autumn victories in the Lonesome Glory and the Colonial Cup.



Tod Marks

Q: Hey Jack

Fisher, how would you

beat Good

**Night Shirt** 

if someone

else trained

A: "I don't know.

horse out there to stand at the start and block him?

Fall in front of

That would be about it."

him? Send a

him?

Owner Sonny Via and assistant trainer Mary McGlothlin lead in champion Good Night Shirt at Belmont.

The 7-year-old son of Concern came into 2008 like he still had more to prove – outsprinting Hip Hop at Atlanta in April, producing a near-perfect Iroquois in May and repeating in the Lonesome Glory in September.

Suddenly, there are no challengers for the massive chestnut whose career steeplechase bankroll stands at \$694,493 (fourth on the all-time list). Fisher drew a comparison to timber great Saluter.

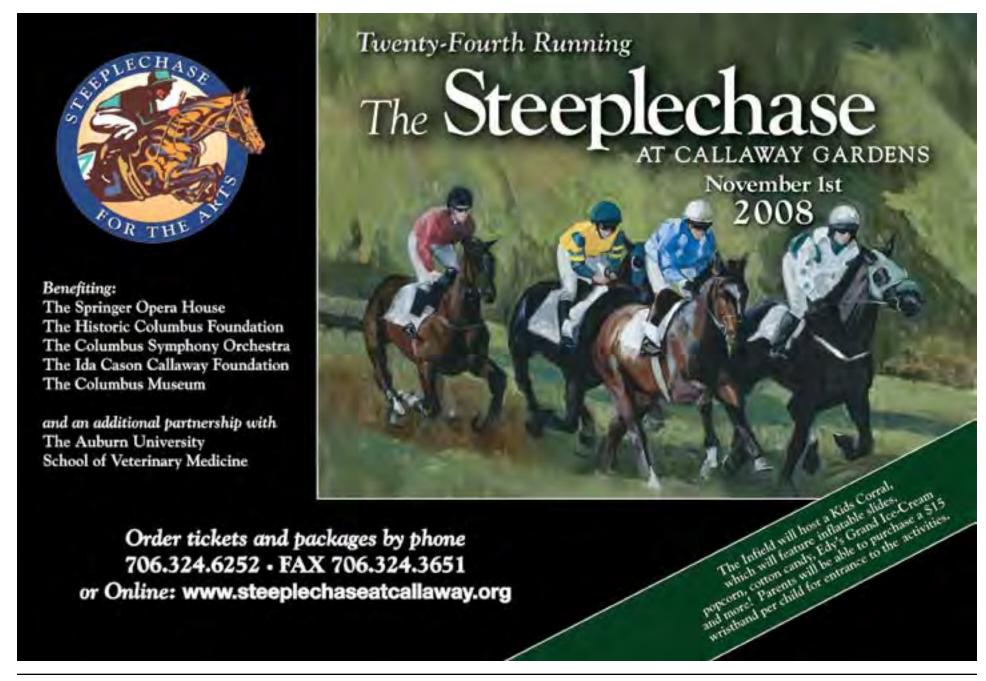
"When I was riding Saluter, if they wanted to go slow, I went to the lead and if they wanted to go fast, I sat out the back," Fisher said. "With horses like this it doesn't matter what you do, they're the best horse. They dare you to beat them."

And much of the time, you can't.

Good Night Shirt has matured. He jumps better, relaxes more, controls the race with ease. He once jumped all his fences the way he did the seventh at Belmont. He used to drag exercise riders around the farm in the mornings; now he gallops in the back and conserves his energy for weekends.

"In the beginning, Saluter would run off in front, then he got where you could put him in behind and this horse is the same way," said Fisher. "It helps them in the long run. I've tried to get (Good Night Shirt) to work better. He's been working behind other horses to try to get him to catch them but he just lets them go. He doesn't care too much."

Until the races.



#### Seer hints at bright future with first stakes victory

## Looking Ahead

#### **BY JOE CLANCY**

OCEANPORT, N.J. – At Monmouth Park in 2008, Seer did two things he couldn't do at Monmouth Park in 2007.

Jump. And win.

He lost twice on the flat at the New Jersey track in 2007, placing fifth and 10th in maiden starts as part of seven tries for Jayeff B Stable and trainer Alan Goldberg. Now a steeplechaser for Sheila Williams and Jack Fisher, he outran favorite Be Certain in the final furlong to capture the \$79,800 Monmouth County Hunt Novice Stakes Sept. 20. Seer improved to 3-for-6 with a second and a third for his new connections – a far cry from his performance in 2007.

The son of Pulpit got close once, finishing second in his career debut at

#### **MONMOUTH PARK**

#### Saturday, September 20

Atlantic City in May, but showed little else. By November, he occupied a spot on the Jayeff B cull list.

And in swooped Fisher, who jumped at the chance to buy the son of Pulpit.

"I wanted a foot in the door so I bought the horse," said Fisher. "A lot of good horses come out of there. I wasn't that high on this horse, but (Goldberg) kept telling me he was a nice horse, that he was all right, that I should trust him."

Seer lost his first jump start by 30 lengths at Radnor, but graduated next out at Colonial Downs June 15. Adding value to the purchase, the 4-year-old broke his flat maiden at Colonial two



Christina Scavuzzo/Equi-Photo

Seer drives past Be Certain in deep stretch to win the Monmouth County Hunt Novice Stakes at Monmouth Park.

weeks later. Second and third in quality efforts at Saratoga, Seer headed to Monmouth Park looking to upset novice division stars Be Certain and The Price Of Love in a field of seven.

Dr. Bloomer (Robbie Walsh) bounded to the early lead as the field stretched out single file – some 25 lengths from

front to back. Be Certain (Padge Whelan) set up shop in second and The Price Of Love dropped back to sixth. In front and looking much improved over his previous two efforts, Dr. Bloomer took the field into the final turn as Be Certain

See **MONMOUTH PARK** page 22 ▶



#### Monmouth Park —

#### **■** Continued from page 21

ranged alongside and Seer (Xavier Aizpuru) drafted into third. Straightening into the stretch, Seer waited a beat and then dove to the inside. Flying the final fence, the winner went after Be Certain and got up to score by a head in 4:22.50 for the 2 1/4 miles. Dr. Bloomer hung around for third.

Aizpuru paid tribute to his horse's guts.

"I had a tough decision to make after the second-last – I was either going to have to make a big sweeping run around the outside, which I didn't want to do, or I was going to have to sit and suffer down on the inside and pray that a gap came," he said. "At the last fence, as brave as he'd been up to then, I had to ask him to be brave again. It was a tight hole so give the horse every credit. He got there."

Seer led The Price Of Love and Dynaski over the last fence at Saratoga Aug. 21, but settled for third (beaten two necks) after scrambling over the final fence. This time, the jump was perfect.

"At Saratoga, he ran like a champion but his jumping let him down a little bit," Aizpuru said. "This time, he jumped like a champion. He met the fences well, did everything right. I'm delighted for the horse because with everything we've asked him to do this year, he's improved and improved and given us everything. He deserved



Tod Marks

Be Certain (left) and Dr. Bloomer battle for control at the last fence as Seer dives to the inside to begin his winning move.

NOTES: New Jersey-based Jayeff B and Goldberg sold future steeplechase stakes winners Orison and Racey Dreamer to EMO Stable and trainer Doug Fout . . . Monmouth hosted its first jump race since Sept. 26, 2004, when Sur La Tete defeated Tres Touche in the Metcalf Memorial by 11 1/2 lengths . . . In the track program, handicappers John Heims and Brad Thomas picked the winner, who went off at 4-1, rather than even-money shot Be Certain, with Heims handing out the cold exacta (\$26.20) . . . With the horses in the paddock, the race was delayed 20 minutes due to a wagering malfunction, but handle still passed \$259,000.

#### Monmouth Park

Oceanport, N.J. Saturday, Sept. 20. Turf: Firm.

6th. \$79,800. Novice hurdle stakes (NW prior to May 1, 2007). 2 1/4 miles.

THE MONITOUR COUNTY HUNG (Grade II)						
1. Seer	L	144	Aizpuru	9.60	3.60	3.00
2. Be Certain	L	150	Whelan		2.80	2.40
3. Dr. Bloomer	L	153	Walsh			6.00
			Exacta (8-6)	\$26.20. Trifecta (	8-6-2) \$129.00	
4. Spy In The Sky	L	147	McVicar` ´	`	•	
5. The Price Of Love	L	156	Hodsdon			
6. Swagger Stick	L	150	Dowling			
PU. Fogcutter	L	150	McCarron			
Mgn: Head. Time: 4:22 2	2/5. (	D: Sheila	Williams. T: Jac	k Fisher.		
B. g. 4 Pulpit-Potrinner	(Arg	), Potrilla	zo (Arg). Bred b	y Jayeff B Stable	& Reynolds Bell	Jr. (Ky).
-			·	-	-	







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## **NSA Standings**

|--|

TOP	10 T	HROUG	H OCT	rober <sup>-</sup>	10		
Jockeys (Races Won)							
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%	
Xavier Aizpuru	60	17	10	7	\$411,777	.28	
Jody Petty		11	7	4	201,275	.27	
Danielle Hodsdon	56	10	9	8	393,695	.18	
Paddy Young		9	11	11	222,940	.13	
Willie Dowling	40	9	5	8	426,793	.23	
Matt McCarron		9	5	7	280,962	.15	
Carl Rafter		7	3	11	232,983	.11	
Robbie Walsh		7	2	9	228,568	.11	
Padge Whelan		6	10	3	268,778	.19	
Will Haynes	20	4	4	2	63,960	.20	
	Trai	ners (Ra	ices V	Von)			
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%	
Jack Fisher		18	9	13	\$701,707	.21	
Tom Voss		15	19	6	496,828	.23	
Jonathan Sheppard		13	12	10	571,396	.19	
Sanna Hendriks		12	10	5	229,700	.26	
Doug Fout		10	8	11	341,052	.12	
Kathy McKenna		5	1	10	72,850	.10	
Desmond Fogarty Bruce Miller		4 4	5 3	5 2	123,850	.14 .19	
Mike Berryman		4	0	3	138,863 59,810	.19	
Neil Morris		3	7	8	86,640	.07	
	_				00,010	.01	
		ıers (Mo	•	,			
	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%	
Sonny Via	3	3	0	0	\$245,520	1.00	
Calvin Houghland		5	4	7	229,628	.17	
Bill Pape		5	4	2	205,864	.25	
Irv Naylor		5 8	6 4	5 4	176,200	.14	
Augustin Stable		o 2	1	2	158,650	.29 .25	
Peggy SteinmanAlnoff Stable		2	4	0	123,356 123,138	.29	
Hudson River Farm		2	0	0	114,775	.67	
Gil Johnston		3	3	4	93,544	.11	
Armata Stable		2	4	0	92,150	.22	
		cas (Ma	nov M	lon)	J=, 100		
	Sts	ses (Mo 1st	2nd	3rd	Monov	Win%	
Good Night Shirt		1 <b>8</b> t	<b>211u</b> 0	<b>31u</b> 0	<b>Money</b> \$245,520	1.00	
Be Certain		2	4	0	123,138	.29	
Dark Equation		1	1	1	116,856	.20	
Sovereign Duty		2	Ó	Ó	114,075	1.00	
The Price Of Love	6	3	1	1	112,792	.50	
High Action		2	Ö	i	77,690	.67	
Seer		2	1	1	76,480	.40	
Spy In The Sky		2	1	1	75,370	.33	
Dynaski	4	2	2	0	72,700	.50	
Bubble Economy	5	1	0	2	68,250	.20	

# Jockey Rafter out for season

#### September fall leads to broken leg

Jockey Carl Rafter will miss the remainder of the steeplechase season after breaking the tibia and fibula in his right leg in a fall at the Blue Ridge Fall Point-to-Point Sept. 20.

Rafter was aboard Straight To Court in a maiden hurdle when a loose horse entered the course and veered suddenly into his path, causing him to fall as a result. The 31-year-old rider could ultimately be out of action for up to six months.

"There was a loose horse that had blinkers on that cut across the track and met me at the corner of the turn. It was just a bad break and really nothing I could do," Rafter said. "It's unfortunate and comes at a tough time but I look forward to returning in the future."

Born in England, Rafter began riding in the States in 2005 and collected his first American win on Capwaynesglass at Foxfield that spring, en route to five victories. He enjoyed a 14-win season in 2007 – including four scores with River Bed and a Chronicle Cup victory aboard Fields Of Omagh – to finish tied for third in the jockey standings. His seven victories and \$232,983 in earnings place him in the Top 10 in both categories this year.

Rafter spent two nights in the hospital after the incident and has already undergone successful surgery to stabilize his injuries.

"They operated on me shortly after the injury, put four pins and a titanium rod in and gave me a temporary cast," Rafter said. "I went back to the doctor October 6 and they took my staples out and fitted me with a permanent cast."

Rafter has yet to target a potential comeback date, but noted that his recovery is going according to plan.

"The doctor is already pleased with my progress. Things seem to be clean and mending in good fashion. I'll head back in about four weeks and be reevaluated," Rafter said. "Then the doctor will tell me if I can start the process of exercising with the cast on and build-

#### STEEPLECHASE NEWS

ing the muscle tissue back and we can go from there."

NOTE: The Blackthorne Inn near Upperville, Va. will host a fund-raiser for Rafter Thursday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. Donations may also be sent to the Carl Rafter Fund, c/o Michele Trufant, 23938 Aldie Dam Rd., Aldie, Va. 20105.

- Brian Nadeau

#### Kinross Farm retires timber champion Miles Ahead

Miles Ahead, the 2005 timber champion who reeled off eight consecutive victories over the lumber to start his career, has been retired by Kinross Farm and trainer Neil Morris.

The 11-year-old son of Unaccounted For finished second in all three starts this season, which included starts in the Virginia Gold Cup and Radnor Hunt Cup. He'd been prepping for a start in the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup or the International Gold Cup.

"He's got no more racing left in him and that's fine by me; he certainly doesn't owe us anything," Morris said. "He'll have a nice long career as a fox-hunter."

Miles Ahead's racing career began at Delaware Park in 1999. Bred in Pennsylvania by Derry Meeting Farm and Ashwell Stable, he started 37 times for trainer Jonathan Sheppard, notching four victories on the flat and two over hurdles. Claimed out of a winning race at Saratoga in August 2004, he soon joined Morris in Virginia.

Miles Ahead made his debut carrying the tan and blue at Middleburg that October, finishing fifth, and followed soon after with a disappointing effort at Philadelphia Park, his second defeat in eight days. Then Morris decided to try him over timber; Miles Ahead wouldn't taste his next defeat for another three and half years.

See **NEWS** page 25 ▶

#### **NSA FALL SCHEDULE**

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

#### News -

#### **■** Continued from page 24

Miles Ahead broke his timber maiden at Callaway Gardens in November 2004, kicking off a streak of eight consecutive victories that included back-to-back runnings of the Virginia Gold Cup. Miles Ahead took home the timber title – as well as the Radnor Hunt Cup and his first Gold Cup – in 2005, going 4-for-4 on the year with \$75,000 in earnings.

A resounding 22-length repeat at Great Meadow capped his two-win 2006 campaign. After making one start in 2007 – a win in October's Genesee Valley Hunt Cup – Miles Ahead was rested for a spring campaign. His winning streak came to an end at Middleburg this April at the hands of the talented front-runner Allimac.

Gunning to the lead was never Miles Ahead's style. "He's a sleepy horse, like a fox-hunter. He'll be going along in third gear, third gear, third gear, and then it's time to shift into fifth gear, but you have to encourage him," Morris said last year. "Halfway through he'll look like he's finished, like he's a big plodder – but obviously he's not. I think that's what makes him such a great timber horse; he can just shut off for you and smoke a cigarette at the back of the bus until he's needed."

Sounds like he'll take to fox-hunting just fine.

- Brian Nadeau

#### Pennsylvania taps Hannum for racing commission post

Jeb Hannum walked into the Half Moon Restaurant in Kennett Square Sept. 24 and shook hands with locals and friends. He was not campaigning. He had already won.

Earlier in the day, the Pennsylvania Senate approved Hannum as a commissioner of the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Racing Commission. The 38-year-old joins fellow Chester County residents Rick Abbott and Dr. Corinne Sweeney as racing commissioners.

Hannum has ridden as an amateur, usually at Delaware Valley point-to-points, and foxhunts regularly with Cheshire Foxhounds. A graduate of Hobart College with a master's in government from the University of Pennsylvania, Hannum works for his family's realestate firm, Country Properties.

Sweeney is a professor of medicine at New Bolton Center and serves as chief operating officer for the University of Pennsylvania's George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals.

Governor Ed Rendell, a Democrat, nominated Hannum, a Republican, for the position earlier this year.

"I wanted to get more involved in flat racing with the slots being passed in Pennsylvania. My name came up for the racing commission, there were two vacancies for nine months," Hannum said. "I wanted to be more involved in flat racing, more for the love of racing. Pennsylvania has the infrastructure to have a vibrant level of racing, perhaps right below New York. The challenge is always for the betting dollar and to keep the racetrack owners committed to flat racing, not just alternative gaming like slots or table games."

Hannum grew up riding pony races – Red Raven and Socks produced his big wins – and worked for Jonathan Sheppard during the summers. He made his one and only appearance in the Maryland Hunt Cup in 1988 aboard his family's Our Climber, but hasn't given up that dream. A member of the Board of the Chester County Hospital and The Buck & Doe Trust, Hannum lives in Unionville with his wife, Emily, and three children.

The racing commission is an administrative commission of the Agriculture Department and has general jurisdiction over all pari-mutuel Thoroughbred activities in Pennsylvania.

As for steeplechasing, Hannum has already given thought to the jump set.

"With the Breeders' Cup dropping the steeplechase, what is the relationship between flat racing and jump racing? The link is further damaged because of that move," he said. "Steeplechasing does provide an alternative to a horse. In light of the Eight Belles tragedy, steeplechasing has to sell itself as a viable alternative for Pennsylvania-breds and horses running at Pennsylvania tracks."

- Edited from a press release



Tod Mark Miles Ahead retires with eight timber victories.

#### THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF THE 'CHASE!



Join us at the 17th Running of the Aiken Fall Steeplechase featuring the Southern Bank  $\mathcal B$  Trust Holiday Cup!

Watch as horses pound the plush turf and soar over fences from your very own tailgate space. Gather with family and friends to experience the thrill of the 'chase!

What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday: six exciting races, carriage parade, shopping, stickhorse races for the kids, hat contests and much more.

Call today to plan a family tailgate, corporate picnic or class reunion.

#### FRIDAY Dance the night away!

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fete

#### "Twilight on the Trails"

Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> • Cocktails 7:00 pm • Dinner 8:00 pm Music by The Headliners. Tickets \$90 each

#### SATURDAY Experience the thrill!

17<sup>th</sup> Running Aiken Fall Steeplechase **6 Exciting Races!** 

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> • Post Time 1:00 pm Six races featuring the Southern Bank & Trust Holiday Cup Purses totaling over §60,000 Reserve your railside tailgate space today!

### See you at the races!



#### Saturday Schedule

9:30 am: Gates Open 10:00 am: Village of Shops Open

11:00 am: Guarantor Tent Party Starts

1:00 pm: First Race1:15 pm: Carriage Parade

1:30 pm: Second Race 2:00 pm: Third Race

2:30 pm: Fourth Race
3:00 pm: Fifth Race
3:30 pm: Sixth Race

For More Information 803-648-9641 • info@aikensteeplechase.com



www.aikensteeplechase.com

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#### **Look Out Below**

The bottom lines shifted, but the bottom line didn't move much. While just about everybody padded their stats courtesy of Good Night Shirt's near six-figure score at Belmont Park, the margins remained basically the same.

The gap between first (still held by Chicago 'chase chief Rodd Santo) and 20th place (still manned by Van Cushny) increased by roughly \$10,000 dollars – which is about the amount the leader collected from Dark Equation and Erin Go Bragh.

Though the big picture remained static, the scene isn't set in stone. In fact, there's plenty of wild cards looming under the radar. Since everyone and their groom has the Shirt – you have to scroll down to Laura Ward-Harned's Kicken Grass Farm, in 107th place, to find a barn without him – he won't tip the scales win or lose. Only novices, distaffers and the timber set can truly catapult someone up in the standings.

The condition book shows the way. The fall season holds out a helping hand with three \$100,000 novice stakes and two \$50,000 filly/mare stakes, while Oct. 18 alone features two \$50,000 timber races. Paul Peterson proved the point, going from 34th to 25th courtesy of Monte Bianco's

Since the overall leader shares a last name with a certain *Times* staffer, Dr. Charles Reid picks up the \$50 ST Publishing gift certificate for topping the charts at the end of September, his third straight monthly honor.

- Jamie Santo

The Top 38 stables (of 173) are listed here. See www.st-publishing.com for complete standings.

Monochrome Farm	Rodd Santo
Good Night Shirt	
Dark Equation	
The Price Of Love	\$109 600
Sweet Shani	
Preemptive Strike	φ+0,022 \$27 በበበ
Erin Go Bragh	φ21,000 Φ16,700
Lilli Go brayii	\$561,090
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Good Night Shirt	DI. Gliaries neiu
Coversion Duty	
Sovereign Duty	#100,000
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Irish Prince	\$8,500
Orsay	
_	\$536,195
First Last Best Guess	
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
·	\$527.920
Champagne Taste	Lisa McLane
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Bubble Economy	\$68,250
Imagina	\$58.500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Mixed Up	\$12,500
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Cheltenham Invasion	. Richard Hutchinson
Good Night Shirt	
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	
Mixed Up	\$12,500
	\$513,420
Plum Creek Farms	Cathy Fowler
Good Night Shirt	\$245.520
Bubble Economy	
Imagina	
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	
Gigger	
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Picture This Stable	Tod Marks
Good Night Shirt	\$245 520
The Price Of Love	\$109 600
Imagina	\$58 500
Planets Aligned	
Miles Ahead	
Sur La Tete	დ20,000 ტი
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SeaHorse	Alix Michel
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Divine Fortune	\$0
	\$500,920
Browntrout Stable	Douglas Lees
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Erin Go Bragh	\$16,700
Kilbride Rd	\$0
F: . B . O	\$488,820
First Base Stable	Nolan Clancy
Good Night Shirt	0.52,027 ± 0.75
Sovereign Duty	0/114,075 معم
Imagina	გეგ,ესს
Preemptive Strike	
Classy Brute	
Coal Ďust	\$486,655
Wu Farm	9400,000
Good Night Shirt	COAE FOO
The Price Of Love	
Imagina	 \$58 500
Planets Aligned	\$58 500
Irish Prince	\$30,300 \$8,500
Divine Fortune	φυ,υσυ Ω2
	¢490 620
Broken Sound Farm N	Marianne Vishno
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Irish Prince	\$8,500
Diego Cao	\$0
	\$480,620
Frequent Flyer	Tracy Scott
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Professor Maxwell	\$2,000
Three Carat	\$0
Geraldal Stable	\$4/4,120
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Planets Aligned	
Preemptive Strike	000,72¢
Bee Charmer	
	\$473,770

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PonyUp Stable	. Ashley Monroe
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
Bubble EconomyImagina	
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
Bee Charmer	\$16,000
	\$473,770
Jordan River StableM	lary Beth Martin
Good Night Shirt The Price Of Love	
Planets Aligned	
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Mixed Up	\$12,500
Straight Gin	\$0
On The Payroll K	\$469,942
Good Night Shirt	\$245 520
The Price Of Love	\$109.600
Sweet Shani	
Hip Hop	\$28,100
Private Attack	\$25,500
Orison	\$12,500 \$18
Samiam Stable	Sam Clancy
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Best Attack	
Jellyberry	\$28,500
Preemptive StrikeIncomplete	\$27,000 \$9.000
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MVP Stable	Ernie Moulos
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of Love	
Imagina	\$58,500
Preemptive StrikeMixed Up	\$12 500.
Irish Prince	\$8.500
	\$461,620
Steeplestakes.com	Van Cushny
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
The Price Of LoveImagina	\$109,600
Preemptive Strike	\$27 000
Mixed Up	\$12,500
Irish Prince	\$8,500
	\$461,620
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Mixed Up	
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Irish Prince	
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Good Night Shirt	\$245 520
The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Miles Ahead	\$28,800
Preemptive StrikeSur La Tete	\$27,000 \$0
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Block House Farms	Chuck Ross
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned Miles Ahead	\$58,500
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Preemptive Strike	\$27,000
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3D Stable	Dallas Butts
GOOD NIGHT SHIFT	\$245,520
Bubble EconomyImagina	\$66,230 \$58,500
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Run The Light	\$19,500
Toughkenamon	\$450
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Monte Bianco	\$62.000
Imagina	
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Bee Charmer	\$16,000
Divine Fortune	
Mrs. Rodddd	\$440,520 Frin Bay
Good Night Shirt	\$245 520
Imagina	\$58,500
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Best Attack	\$43,013
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Good Night Shirt	\$245.520
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Dreadnaught	\$19,522
Mixed Up	\$12 500
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Good Night Shirt	\$245,52U
Bubble Economy	\$68,250
Planets Aligned	\$58,500
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Dreadnaught	\$19,500
Sur La Tete	\$0
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Cheese In The Trap Stable	Adrienne Hall
Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
Sovereign Duty	\$114,075
Sweet Shani	\$43,822
Dreadnaught	\$10,522 \$10,500
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Millstone Farm	\$435,417
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The Price Of Love	\$109,600
Imagina	\$58,500
Mixed Up	\$12,500
Irish Prince	\$8.500
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Planets Aligned	
Best Attack	\$43,013
Dreadnaught	\$19,500
Irish Prince	
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Good Night Shirt	\$245,520
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#### **TIMES EDITORIAL**

## Losing the race with a list

Henry Hooker retired. Shawan Downs created a really cool online advertising campaign – complete with racy music. Palm Beach sounds like a fun place to go for the season's grand finale. Turner Reuter wrote a book. The NSA changed its board-of-directors election rules. Nominations to Far Hills are out. And on and on and on

The list for stories we don't do is always longer than the one we do do (do do?). Sorry. That's the newspaper business, and we've been meaning to get to all of those.

- Hooker presided over the Iroquois meet for years, and spared nothing when it came to horses and horsemen. Once too fast and too firm, the Percy Warner Park turf course became one of the best on his watch. Horses sometimes have trouble with the heat at Nashville in May, so Hooker brought in misting fans and two cooling stations with water and ice. Jockeys get beds (beds!) in the jocks' room. The race office is always prepared (and has M&M's). Thanks for the extra effort for all these years. Hooker handed the reins to Dwight Hall. He's got big shoes to fill.
- Did you get the Shawan Downs video advertisement by e-mail? Hysterical. If you haven't seen it, go to hardridingmaidens.com. Well done. Now about the rain. . .
- We know it's the Saturday after Thanksgiving, but go to Palm Beach for the steeplechase meet Nov. 29. It's Florida, the racing should be great and um it's Florida. In November!
- Longtime steeplechase enthusiast Reuter wrote a book on sporting art. An expert with few peers, Reuter created "Sporting Artists in America," an encyclopedia of sorts with 2,384 short biographies on various artists including former jump jockey Carroll Bassett.
- All NSA members are eligible to vote in the association's 2008 elections for the board of directors. Nice job. It's not quite as important as the other election this fall, but make sure you vote in both.
- Far Hills always showcases the best steeple-chasing of the year and 2008 should be no different. Nominations to the six stakes (worth \$550,000 in purses) overflowed with quality. And it's nice to see a few returning names such as Rare Bush, Orison, Dreadnaught, Baby League and Planets Aligned on the lists. It's still a shame (but we'll live) that the New Jersey meet and Virginia's International Gold Cup share Oct. 18 on the calendar.
- Break up the Fishers. Can you believe Jack Fisher's training run? The 2007 champion exited the summer three wins behind Tom Voss in the standings. After a 6-for-14 streak, Fisher now leads by three. He also passed the \$700,000 mark in seasonal earnings, meaning Jonathan Sheppard's record of \$929,347 is in play. Should be a fun few weeks.



Gregg Ryan rides Dynantonia (right) to victory at Virginia Fall.

Douglas Lees

## Still in the Saddle

#### Ryan rides to 148, sees no reason to stop there

Some call it a record. Some don't. Hit the middle ground and give Gregg Ryan credit for a milestone, a career highlight, a testament to longevity and sticking with something.

Ryan won the 148th National Steeplechase Association race of his career Oct. 5 at Virginia Fall. Riding at Glenwood Park, his home course, in front of scores of friends and family, the 48-year-old passed fellow amateur Rigan McKinney on the NSA victory list – good for 16th place. It's been a long race since his career debut in 1981, complete with triumph, defeat, injury, highs and lows.

"I couldn't have written the script any better," said Ryan two days after the victory. "When I thought about it, I looked back on the days of just getting started to the days of winning 12 or 15 races a year to now. What a thrill this has been. I will always carry this with me."

Ryan has long ridden with skill and distinction while at the same time carving out a business career. He splits time between Middleburg and upstate New York, where he is president of Lee and Mason (an insurance business started by his father, John, in 1954), and regularly exercises flat horses at Saratoga for trainer George Weaver. On weekends, he returns to Middleburg and rides in point-to-points and NSA meets, lately on horses he owns that are trained by Julie Gomena.

"I never thought I'd still be doing it," he said. "It took me six years to lose my bug (apprentice allowance). That was my first goal."

In his first race, the 1980 Genesee Valley Hunt Cup, Ryan fell off Close To Glory but remounted to finish second in the open timber race. And he was hooked. Switched to hurdles, Close To Glory broke his – and

#### The Outside Rail

By Joe Clancy

Ryan's – maiden at Hard Scuffle in 1981 while trained by Jerry Fishback. The jockey claimed the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup, aboard Cyanotype, in 1982 and finally lost that apprentice allowance by winning his 10th career race in 1986.

The next season, Ryan's riding business took off as he won a dozen races from 95 rides. The arc continued with victory totals of eight, 12, 10 and 15 in his next four seasons. In 1989, Ryan rode 108 races. He also went over the century mark in 1992 and 1993.

Along the way, he picked up major rides – winning the \$100,000 Georgia Cup and placing third in the \$750,000 Dueling Grounds Hurdle in 1990 – and rode for the top trainers on the circuit. His career achievements read like those of any top jockey with wins in the Colonial Cup, Georgia Cup, International Gold Cup, Noel Laing, My Lady's Manor, National Hunt Cup, New Jersey Hunt Cup and Appleton. He's ridden winners at Saratoga, ridden champions, ridden maiden claimers.

He's best remembered for his association with the bold-jumping, front-running Circuit Bar. Ryan and the gallant chestnut dazzled witnesses, winning stakes over hurdles and timber.

"There might have been better horses than him, but nothing could compare to him," said Ryan. "The more confident he got, the more confident I got."

As Ryan closed in on McKinney's total last year,

See **RYAN** page 29 ▶

#### Ryan –

#### **■** Continued from page 28

the description of all-time leading amateur got tossed about, but it really doesn't matter. First of all, the record can't be official.

The NSA knows McKinney rode 147 winners, but does not keep complete historical data going back to that day and didn't even license jockeys as specifically amateur or professional for decades. Jockeys have always been paid outside of the association so proving payment – or non-payment – would be problematic. And that's not even getting into the definition of amateur.

During his peak success, Ryan rode as a professional and consistently held a spot in the top 10. The 1990 NSA yearbook, *American Steeplechasing*, says he became a professional midway through that year. He rode in that year's Iroquois Steeplechase, thenrestricted to amateurs, but did not ride there in 1991 or 1992. He returned to the Iroquois in 1993, when it was opened to professionals. Ryan won 15 races in 1991, eight in 1992 and 13 in 1993.

Ryan says he was basically forced to turn professional, and didn't always bill owners for his riding services.

"Amateur means you do it for the love of the sport and that's why I've done it – I'm very content about it," Ryan said. "I won the race at Atlanta, I rode in the race at Dueling Grounds, people said that I was hurting the professionals who rode, that I was taking away opportunities. I could sort of see it, there were times I was riding more races than anyone in the country, but I don't think it had anything to do with me being amateur or professional. People told me I had to turn pro."

So he did. And none if it diminishes his accomplishments.

He grew up riding, but had no real connection to steeplechase participation. He played football and lacrosse, and went to St. Lawrence University as a wrestling prospect. A loss in Canada, to an Olympian, pushed him toward the horses. By then, his father owned a few racehorses and Ryan parlayed some interest into a hotwalking job for Joe Nash at Saratoga in 1980.

"The next year I rode at Saratoga – Joe Nash was impressed, but I still wasn't very good," Ryan said. "I caught the bug and kept telling my dad how much money I could make galloping horses. He forced me to stay in school and graduate."

Ryan's father figured his son would be better off pursuing another career professionally. Throughout his riding career, Ryan also worked in the business world – galloping horses at a racetrack somewhere in the morning, heading off to the office or a meeting and then showing up to ride on the NSA circuit on weekends.

Ryan's career nearly ended in 1994, when a point-to-point fall left him with a broken back. He rode just 18 NSA races that year. He returned as an amateur and has ridden on a more part-time basis – and largely for himself – since then, though he did win the 1998 Colonial Cup aboard eventual champion Flat Top.

Passing McKinney completed Ryan's main recent goal, but he's far from satisfied. Two more wins would give him an even 150 – and move him past Albert Foot and into a tie with Doug Small.

"I remember schooling horses with Dougie Small and I told him that when he was leading rider I was 5 years old," said Ryan, who mentioned a few promising horses for next spring. "He was probably younger than I am now. Those guys are legends to me. The smart thing to do would have been to quit right after winning (number 148), but right now I'd still miss it too much. I'm still having fun doing it and I still feel like I'm riding well."

Ryan rode well early on, and none of his professional success takes away from his achievement in steeplechasing, any more than McKinney's job as a trainer diminished his career. For decades, guys like McKinney, George Sloan, Charlie Fenwick Jr. and Paddy Neilson were the yardsticks for amateur jockeys.

Add Ryan to the list.



**Gregg Ryan's Career Record** 

	Gregg	<b>Kyan</b> '	s Caree	r Kec	ord
Year	Mts	1st	2nd	3rd	Earnings
					Not available
1981	5	1	0	1	Not available
1982	1	1	0	0	Not available
1983	19	2	3	1	Not available
1984	20	2	2	1	Not available
1985	37	2	2	6	Not available
1986	44	2	5	5	Not available
1987	95	12	11	7	\$ 84,300
1988	97	8	5	13	\$ 84,300 95,951
1989	108	12	11	19	158,390
1990	92	10	8	20	260,012
1991	96	15	12	10	199,965
1992	101	8	15	9	171,546
1993	104	13	15	15	233,494
1994	18	2	5	3	50,145
1995	42	6	4	5	85,934
1996	62	12	5	6	137,386
1997	59	9	7	3	166,800
1998	64	7	14	8	182,300
1999	27	0	1	2	17,725
2000	35	2	2	3	28.550
2001	38	1	8	2	34.475
2002	34	4	3	5	34,475
2003	35	4	1	2	41,050
2004	39	2	1	4	28.850
2005	27	1	2	3	20,875
					34,400
2007	32	7	3	4	63.050
2008	19	1	1	4	15,100
	1.385	.148	152	.164	\$2,179,698
	.,				+=, 0,000

#### Election can help smooth a bumpy road

The last year has been a bumpy one as an owner and a trainer. I personally have found the break off of two race meets exhausting and draining. I am writing however to rejoice in the opening of the NSA Board elections. If the Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association has achieved nothing else this year we got that survey proposed and largely written with the help of Gary Baker and Peter Fenwick.

And we also got the elections opened so that members can vote. I am grateful to Laura Schull for attending every ad-hoc committe meeting. She worked hard for SOTA. I also thank Gary Baker for working so hard on the survey. He works as hard as he can with no compensation on behalf of smaller trainers and meets.

I ask every member to please vote – make your voice heard. Please write in suggestions for nominees. Become a patron member. Let us all appreciate that this is a team sport and even though we are trying to beat each other on race day we need each other.

Steeplechasing needs everyone to pull together – everyone. Sharon Blanchard, Bob Blanchard, Bill Price, Lou Raffetto, Bill Gallo, Franny Abbott, we need you to make peace and work together – particularly now. My term as SOTA president ends in December and I am giving it one final push to you five to work out your differences for the sake of all of us that have given our life to this sport.

Thank you.

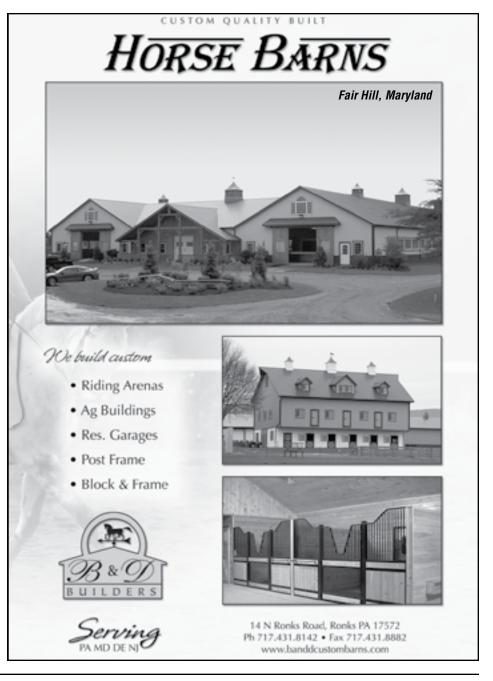
Kathy McKenna, President, Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association

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## **Dutton's** Triple Dip

Local rider brings three horses to quality renewal of fall classic

#### BY SEAN CLANCY

Phillip Dutton dominated Fair Hill International last year, winning the three star with The Foreman and placing third with Woodburn. Both horses showed that destiny called - aiming at Rolex and bigger things down the

This year, Dutton returns to Maryland's CCI three star Oct. 16-19 with the three-winged assault of Loose 'N Cool, Kheops Du Quesnay and Bailey Wick. Admittedly, none are The Fore-

"I'd be surprised if I dominated this year," Dutton said. "The Foreman, in my opinion, was by far the best horse there so he should have won and he did. Fair Hill usually suits me because the time is hard to get and maybe that's my specialty, going fast on course. Nowadays, you have to be competitive in the other two phases too, we'll see how it turns out."

Dutton's trio hails from around the

Dutton imported Loose 'N Cool, now owned by Nina Gardner, from Australia where he saw a little of everything.

"He's a funny kind of horse, before we got him, I think, they chased wild pigs and cattle and sheep off him, he's seen some different stuff than just eventing.'

Does that help him or hurt him?

"I don't know," Dutton said. "I'll tell you after Fair Hill."

Loose 'N Cool comes in fresh off a win at the Morven Park Advanced Horse Trials in early October. The

#### FAIR HILL INT'L PREVIEW

**October 16-19** 

chestnut sports multiple wins and placings at the Intermediate level. He won the USEA Intermediate Level Horse of the year title in 2007. Ranked third after dressage at Morven Park, Loose 'N Cool jumped cleanly and within the time to defeat Jan Byyny on Syd Kent and Jennie Brannigan aboard Cooper.

"This will be a step up for him, with the terrain and going fast. He's not the fastest horse in the world," Dutton said. "Fitness-wise and all that, it's obviously a test. His dressage has come along so I'd like to think he'll be competitive."

In September, Loose 'N Cool finished third at the inaugural Plantation Field CIC\*\*\*, behind Will Coleman's Twizzel and Bailey Wick. Dutton's assistant, Australian rider Boyd Martin, also had success with Loose 'N Cool, scoring a win at Stuart (N.Y.) Horse Trials and a third at Richland Park (Mich.), both at the Intermediate level. Martin finished second and fourth at last year's Fair Hill competition and returns this year with Belmont.

Jess Sweely bred Bailey Wick at his Acorn Hill Farm in Madison, Va. A strapping Irish Sport Horse, Bailey Wick has also enjoyed a stellar 2008 season, most recently finishing second at Plantation Field CIC\*\*\*. The gelding won at Red Hills CIC\*\* in March and picked up the Advanced division at the April Fair Hill International Horse Trials. Dutton also rode Bailey Wick to a



Amy Dragoo

The Robber Baron and Sally Cousins jump to Fair Hill off an advanced win at Plantation Field.



Anthony Trollope

Bailey Wick and Phillip Dutton (here in action at Red Hills) compete at Fair Hill.

fifth in a competitive Jersey Fresh CCI\*\* a month later. While Dutton was preparing for the Beijing Olympic games, Martin again stepped in and rode this horse to a win at Stuart's CIC\*\* and a fifth at Richland Park.

"We've had him a little over a year, this is first three star but he's a really talented horse," Dutton said. "I'm not just looking at Fair Hill for him, but for the future. Bailey Wick, it's his first three star so I'll be seeing how he handles the course, but I'd be surprised if he doesn't do quite well on it."

Kheops Du Quesnay, a Selle Francais owned by Annie Jones and Rebecca Broussard, completes Dutton's international trifecta. Formerly ridden at the Advanced level by Debbie Adams, the bay gelding finished eighth with Dutton at Morven Park's Advanced Horse Trials, turning in clean jumping efforts on cross country and in show jumping. Kheops Du Quesnay completed the Fair Hill CCI\*\*\* last year with Adams.

"He's done a few three stars but it will be the first with me, I've only actually done one event on him, but he looks like a really promising horse," Dutton said. "He's a very strong horse, so I'll be eating plenty of pasta the night before because he's really hard to hold. I'll be trying to settle him, if it means getting a few time faults I'll have to do that, but I want him for long term, so I want him to learn to relax and settle on the course. Having said that, I won't be going out there just for the run either. Certainly with him I'm looking at Kentucky (Rolex), the other two probably need to do another three star before I look to move up."

Fair Hill's roster of horses certainly was impacted by the Olympics. Dutton was a member of the U.S. squad that put up a disappointing performance. While Gina Miles earned a silver medal with McKinlaigh, the U.S. team didn't threaten the medal stand.

"Everybody's shell-shocked because we didn't have a very good performance in the Olympics, they're realizing that we need to change things and do a lot more work," Dutton said. "There's an opportunity for a new bunch of riders and horses to come through, that in itself is a good thing. Hopefully there will be some bright new prospects show up at Fair Hill. This it our toughest three star and it's a good barometer to see if your horse is ready for a four star or not.

Dutton won gold medals for Australia and rode as an American Olympian for the first time this summer. He and Miles were the only two riders on the American team to go clear cross country. The team eventually finished seventh and Dutton was eventually disqualified for using jumping boots that were too heavy. Yeah, a disappointing Olympics.

"Over the past few years, we've all been talking about how we've got to get our dressage and show jumping better, actually, if we'd have had three clear cross country rounds we would have won a medal," Dutton said. "I think we need to get back to basics a bit and make sure the horses and the riders are strong cross country. The dressage and show jumping were respectable. We need to learn from it and go on. Sometimes a bad performance is what you need to spur you along and improve. We've only got two years before the World Championship, right here on our own turf, that's a great opportunity not just for the sport but for the riders to showcase how good they are."

It starts at Fair Hill.

See FAIR HILL page 31 ▶

#### **Fair Hill** —

**■** Continued from page 30

#### Chiacchia brings comeback to Fair Hill with two horses

Most riders are coming to Fair Hill to win. Most riders aren't Darren Chiacchia. He returned from injury to compete again. That in itself is victory.

Chiacchia sustained massive injuries in a fall at Red Hills in March, but remarkably returned to competition this summer at Stuart (Fla.) and Millbrook (N.Y.) with Windfall II and Better I Do It

"At this stage with Windfall he doesn't go to competitions not to be competitive, but it's different this year," said Chiacchia. "Both horses have been an integral part of my recovery, having these two horses has benefitted me and helped me so much to get back. Doing a three star is the next step. Am I going there to win? No. Am I going there to complete my goal of getting back to the top of the sport? Yes."

The path began at the Genesee Valley Horse Trials back in July as Windfall finished second and Better I Do It placed third (from three starters) at the preliminary level. Next came Stuart, where they moved up to Intermediate and took second (Windfall) and ninth (Better I Do It). Chiacchia took four horses to Millbrook, with Windfall and Better I Do It both competing at the Intermediate level.

In August, the big two went Advanced at Richland Park (Mich.) and placed in the top 12. Last month, they put the finishing touches on their Fair Hill preps at the American Eventing Championships where Better I Do It wound up fourth and Windfall took sixth in a rain-shortened (no cross-country) event.

And what about Fair Hill?

"I want to do a good, safe and accurate round," he said. Does it sound like bull? I hope it doesn't sound like bull. I made my mother a promise, an oath. To first be safe. Second, to be competitive. I lied to my mother once a long time ago, I haven't lied to her again in 44 years."

Chiacchia is pleased with his physical condition, considering his injuries. He suffered a severe head injury and spent time in a coma.

"I feel great. I'm truly blessed with my recovery, it's gone really, really well," he said. "Each time I compete I feel better and better about it, but to say I'm going to this competition to win would be an exaggeration."

The horses have been a big part of Chiacchia's recover.

"I owe these two boys everything. I owe them quality rides, that'll be what I'm proudest of, that will be beyond all our expectations," he said. "It's been one hell of a journey, filled with challenges, but that's been my life. I take every day as truly a gift. It's a gift to have another day and a gift to compete in a sport I love."

NOTES: Action (which includes a CCI\*\*\* and CCI\*\*) gets underway Thursday, Oct. 16 with dressage and continues through Sunday. Activities inleude a trade fair and numerous demonstrations and displays (human, equine, canine and other).

Additional reporting by Katy Carter.



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# Working for the Weekend

Riders reap rewards for training

#### **BY KATY CARTER**

Years of patience and persistence paid off in three days, as Will Coleman piloted Tivoli Farm's Twizzel to victory in the Plantation Field CIC\*\*\* Sept. 19-21 in Unionville, Pa.

Coleman waited two years to purchase the Westphalian from former owner Simone Bockmann, who wasn't initially interested in selling. He finally acquired Twizzel in 2006, only to discover that the strapping bay had developed a cyst on his shoulder. Dr. Dean Richardson of the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center injected the cyst with steroids in an effort to shrink it, but the horse was relegated to the sidelines through 2007.

Twizzel and Coleman returned to action this year, finishing fourth at both Jersey Fresh CCI\*\* and Stuart CIC\*\*, then taking third in advanced trials at Millbrook and the American Eventing Championships.

Everything came together at Plantation Field.

#### PLANTATION FIELD EVENT

#### September 19-21

"Twizzel was on form all weekend," Coleman said. "This is really his first season back at competition and I am thrilled. He was at his best in all three phases."

The pair took a solid lead in dressage, earning a score of 38.8, then followed with a steady, purposeful ride on cross country, adding six time penalties.

"We were in the lead by quite a bit, so there was no need to rush," Coleman said. "We were relatively fast compared to other horses, and he jumped great."

The pair clinched the blue ribbon on the strength of a clean show-jumping round on the final day to finish at 50.2. Phillip Dutton took second aboard Bailey Wick (54.4) and third riding Loose 'n Cool (61.5).

Coleman had always liked Twizzel, but hadn't always planned to compete him.

See **PLANTATION** page 34 ▶



Twizzel and Will Coleman clear a fence during cross country at Plantation Field.





Kit Houghton photography

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#### **Plantation** —

#### **■** Continued from page 33

"My dad and I had bought him with the idea of resale, but with the shoulder issues, we feel uncomfortable marketing him to supporters," the 25-year-old rider said. "But he's a world-class horse, so with regard to what he's been through, you could say we've made lemonade out of lemons."

Coleman believes Twizzel's personality and character - combined with sheer athletic ability - has helped the gelding along the road to recovery.

"He thrives on competition and does the job every weekend," he said. "I think he could easily do the 1.35-meter jumper classes because he is so careful and scopey."

The next challenge will be the Fair Hill International CCI\*\*\* Oct. 16-19. Coleman credits Twizzel's training regimen, which includes a great deal of ground work, for having him at the top of his game.

"As he's been immersed in the program we've created, he's been able to build up his strength and that has made it easier for him," Coleman said. "Getting him to peak at the right time is an ongoing experiment, but it appears that we have the recipe down."

• Persistence also came into play in the two-star, where Molly Rosin rode Havarah's Charly to the top with clean jumping efforts on both cross country and show jumping.

"The entire weekend was great," said Rosin. "Each phase was so much better in terms of our working together. I am incredibly happy with our teamwork."

Teamwork is the dominant theme in Rosin's training methodology, and her efforts to channel Charly's larger-than-life personality and athleticism were rewarded handsomely over the course of the week-

Second after dressage, the pair added only a handful of time penalties to their score to finish on 51.8, as Rosin edged her mentor Boyd Martin and Bellaney Destiny (54.0). Three-star champ Coleman picked up a yellow ribbon aboard Nevada Bay (54.4).

"A key is hitting stride together – he is a big, strong horse, and I am a small person," Rosin said. "For my own sake, I rode as many different horses as I possibly could, ranging from breaking babies to galloping racehorses to sitting on dressage stallions. Riding the racehorses taught me to use my bodyweight. I learned to work together with the horse instead of against each other. I also learned that Charly is very nice compared to some others."

While Charly's exuberance for his work is incredible, even admirable, it still poses a challenge.

"He is a big mover in the dressage and he likes to show off," Rosin said. "Our main weakness is accu-



Share Option and Lillian Heard flash some style in the CIC one-star portion of Plantation Field.

racy and obediency, so we work a lot on stretching and relaxing."

As all riders have heard since the dawn of time, the dressage extends into the jumping.

"Sometimes he jumps so big and so powerfully, especially at drops, that it makes turning hard," she said. "He tried his hardest, though. We practice lots of turns."

Rosin found Charly, now 10, four years ago in her home state of California.

"I saw in him the sheer personality and character it takes to be a top competitor. I was able to get a group together to help me bring him along," she said. "I am incredibly grateful to the people involved in the Minyan Syndicate for their support. It is an amazing group."

Two years after starting the Hungarian Warmblood gelding through the levels, Rosin moved east to take advantage of the wealth of events, facilities and opportunities to work with a number of top professionals.

"Recently I've been training with Boyd Martin and he is fantastic," she said. "Boyd's character really comes out in his teaching and he is truly devoted to the sport. He's very analytical, and while he is very positive, he kindly tells you the negatives and helps you work on it."

Rosin entered Charly in the two-star at Fair Hill, which she hopes will be their final outing in 2008.

"It will either be a grand finale or we'll have to regroup," she joked. "Based on this weekend, I am hoping for something good."

#### **Plantation Field Horse Trials**

Unionville, Pa. Sept. 19-21.						
Top Five Finishers CIC***						
PI.		. Horse				
1.	Will Coleman	. Twizzel	50.2			
2.	Phillip Dutton	. Bailey Wick	54.4			
3.		. Loose 'N Cool				
4.		. Belmont II				
5.	Bruce Davidson	. Cruise Lion	63.0			
	CIC**					
1.		. Havarah's Charly				
2.		. Bellaney Destiny				
3.		. Nevada Bay				
4.	Sinead Halpin	. Manior De Carneville	57.5			
5.	Elizabeth Ricklefs	. Snap Decision	59.3			
CIC*						
1.		. Share Option				
2.		. Clifton Jackaroo				
3.		. Suzie Q				
4.		. Black Sox Shiraz				
5.	Colleen Rutleage	. Mandala	58.0			
Advanced A						

#### Sarah Cousins ...... The Robber Baron ...... 40.4 Boyd Martin......Benwald......40.4 Cayla Kitayama ...... Esker Riada ...... 49.7

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Thursday, October 16

Merchandise Tent and Food Court open
CCI\*\*\*/\*\* Dressage in the
William duPont, Jr Arena
5:00 PM Opening Ceremony
and Welcome Reception

Friday, October 17
CCI\*\*\*/\*\* Dressage in the
William duPont, Jr Arena
Dog Agility

Saturday, October 18

CCI\*\*\*/\*\* Eventing – Cross Country
US Pony Club President's Cup Games
Dog Agility • HorsePlay • Kids Corner
Miniature Horses
WhoaBuddy Productions Live Music
The Art and Sport of Falconry
with Live Birds of Prey, Kids' Corner

Sunday, October 19
CCI\*\*\*/\*\* Eventing — Stadium Jumping
US Pony Club President's Cup Awards
Dog Agility • Kids Corner
Miniature Horses • Classic Cars
WhoaBuddy Productions Live Music
The Art and Sport of Falconry
with Live Birds of Prey, Kids' Corner
CCI\*\*\*/\*\* Eventing — Awards

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