

*The* **Times** *Steeplechase  
& Eventing*

Complimentary

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*just*  
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Good Night Shirt powers  
to another Grade I score

**INSIDE** Complete Far Hills coverage ♦ Bubble Economy wins the Gold Cup  
Prep School takes Aiken feature ♦ Amy Tryon scores at Fair Hill International





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## What's Happening and Where To Find It

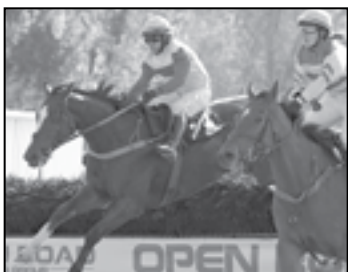
Here's your newspaper. The scene hopped and hummed all down the coast, from South Carolina to New York, but New Jersey held pride of place as the center of the steeplechase world; Mother Nature even showed her benevolent side, providing a fine autumn day for Good Night Shirt's coronation. Meanwhile, eventers leapt past our front door, as Amy Tryon unveiled the newest weapon in her arsenal.



### PAGES 7-8

#### Distance Learning

Prep School proved he's been at his lessons, passing his test at Aiken even with professor Jonathan Sheppard visiting Santa Anita.



### PAGES 10-15

#### New Jack City

With the The Shirt, **Rare Bush** and Swagger Stick running rampant, Far Hills looked like the personal fiefdom of Jack Fisher, though Lilith Boucher served notice with a pair of Class victories.



### PAGES 16-21

#### Cup Runneth Over

Timber champion Bubble Economy enjoyed himself at Great Meadow, where he collected his second Gold Cup on the year with a rousing victory over comeback kid Salmo.



### PAGES 24-27

#### Double Takes

Tom Voss picked up a pair at Morven Park, while **James Slater** tasted sweet redemption at Geneseo.



### PAGES 34-36

#### USEF Championships

Coal Creek doesn't run through the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area, but rider Amy Tryon had him flying above it en route to his first three-star win.



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#### On the Cover

It's getting a bit redundant, and feels like we are repeating ourselves, but that's Good Night Shirt on the cover again. The champion looked better than ever in his romp in the Grand National at Far Hills Oct. 18.

Photo by Tod Marks



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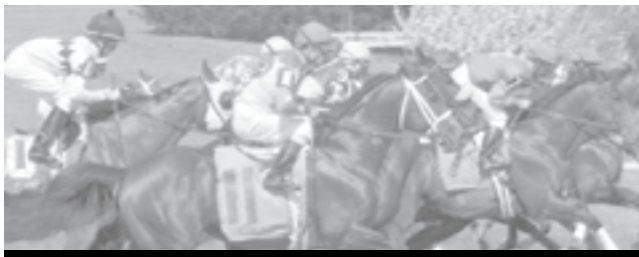
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# FOR STARTERS

## Worth Repeating

“A cheap hat from Wal-Mart, that’s all it is. I didn’t even know it was the Mets until somebody told me.”

**Jockey Paddy Young, sporting a New York Mets hat at Morven Park**

“Bad hair, well bad haircut, no definitely bad hair.”

**Steeplechase trainer Richard Valentine, on why he was wearing a Boston Red Sox hat**

“Paddy Young could hold him with his little finger; I have no chance.”

**Jockey Xavier Aizpuru, about powerhouse steeplechaser Move West**

“I’d like the feeling of riding Will Coleman’s horse, can you imagine what that feels like?”

**Steeplechase trainer Neil Morris, watching Coleman and Twizzel fly around the show-jumping course at the Fair Hill International event**

“Well, I’m not allowed – yet.”

**Owner Zohar Ben-Dov, on someday foxhunting retired timber star Miles Ahead**

“If they were all like this place, I’d ride until I was 60.”

**Jockey Padge Whelan, on his first trip to Far Hills**

“The cup is still half full . . .”

**Optimistic owner Edgar Cato, after his first two starters failed to beat a horse at Far Hills; Cato’s Brigadoon Stable closed the day with a win by Erin Go Bragh in the New Jersey Hunt Cup**

“You’re asking the wrong guy about responsibility. I’m the most irresponsible guy you know.”

**Trainer Jack Fisher, asked if there is a “responsibility” that comes along with training Good Night Shirt**

**Jockey Willie Dowling, who leads the earnings table:** “Can you believe it? I’ve won four, no five, Grade I races this year. Amazing. I’ve come a long way.”

**Jockey Xavier Aizpuru, who leads the wins table:** “Willie, we could be back at home banging around Catterick or some such place. We’ve all come a long way.”

“She made her first start a year ago at Oak Ridge Point-to-Point and she finished second in a maiden flat going a mile. I was amazed, like, ‘how did she do that?’ ”

**Richard Boucher about Peapack winner Class Shadow**

“How about a reality check and a catcher’s mitt.”

**Gus Brown, when asked if he needed anything as his wife, Linda, went into labor with their first child**

“Man, Hoboken is king today. What’s going on out there?”

**New Jersey Transit’s Earl Jones, at the PATH station on Hudson and Christopher Streets in Manhattan, as the Far Hills crowd took the train from Manhattan to Hoboken**

“Steeple race? What’s a steeple race?”

**Jones when told it was the Far Hills Steeplechase**

“Now, all I need is to win the Mini Cooper.”

**Co-breeder Chris Bowman, after Good Night Shirt won the Grand National**

“Oh, let me guess, another *Steeplechase Times* with Good Night Shirt on the cover.”

**Xavier Aizpuru after the Grand National (sorry)**

“I’ve got a red-eye tonight but I promised myself if we won, I’d stay the night.”

**Trainer Jonathan Sheppard – who didn’t make it to Aiken the next day – after winning the Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Turf with Forever Together**

“Get that horse to Cheltenham for the Stayer’s Hurdle.”

**England’s Matt Coleman, after seeing Good Night Shirt win the Grand National**

“A Virginia horse won the Grand National? In England? Or is it France?”

**A Great Meadow racegoer, after a public-address announcement that Virginia’s Good Night Shirt had taken the Grand National (in New Jersey).**

**The Maryland-bred garnered “local” status thanks to owner Sonny Via.**



Tod Marks Photos

## One More Time

Steeplechase legend McDynamo went to Far Hills, scene of his greatest triumphs, Oct. 18 for a retirement ceremony. Honored as the King of Far Hills, the retired champion received a basket of carrots from race meet co-chairs Guy Torsilieri (above) and John von Stade.

The send-off also included a video tribute, a commemorative cooler, a silver tray for owner Michael Moran and a gracious goodbye from the Far Hills fans. Trained by Sanna Hendriks, the now 11-year-old McDynamo won all seven of his starts at the New Jersey meet, including victories in five consecutive Grand Nationals (2003-07). As for McDynamo, he spent the day munching hay back at the barn, met some fans on the race-course rail and posed for a multitude of photos. And made his trainer nostalgic.

“A year ago, he was running,” she said. “He made it here seven years in a row and he really could have made it eight. That’s amazing to me and it’s the fun part now that he’s retired. To enjoy him, to look back on all he did, that’s wonderful.”

“Carbo loading.”

**Owner Michael Moran, on his pre-race diet of pasta at Far Hills**

“You’ll talk about how beautiful he is, how wonderful he is and the fact that he wouldn’t let me catch him this morning, which helped make me late . . . He started the day off stressful just like that. But then he finished it fine.”

**Assistant trainer Mary McGlothlin on Bubble Economy**

## Disc Jockey

Amateur rider George Hundt Jr. studies the competition, walks the course, visualizes fences, gets advice from his wife, Alex, and trainer Richard Valentine – pretty much anything to get ready to ride.

But there’s one more important step.

“I listen to ‘The Man Who Sold the World’ before every race,” he said. “The entire album. It’s the rockiest album, really helps me get ready.”

Released by David Bowie in 1970, “The Man Who Sold the World” includes such hard-driving tracks as the title song, “The Width of a Circle,” “All the Madmen” and “Running Gun Blues.” It has been compared to music by Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath and was supposedly influenced by Franz Kafka and Friedrich Nietzsche. And, apparently, helps steeplechase jockeys get ready.

## What’s In A Name?

**Plymouth Rock, Great Meadow:** OK, it’s closer to Halloween than Thanksgiving, but the son of Stormy Atlantic and Secret Colony deserves a treat.

**Slip Away and Pleasant Top, Aiken and Far Hills:** The eye and the mind do double takes when passing over these fellows in the program. After all, each is only a letter away from their Eclipse Award winning sires, Skip Away and Pleasant Tap.



## Take A Number

**6:** Text messages from Gus Brown stating, “Going in shortly 4 a c section – she didn’t want 2 come out.” Peyton Rebecca Brown came out at 8 pounds, 14 ounces and 21 inches long at 2:24 p.m. Oct. 21. Mother, father and daughter are all doing fine.

**1:** Career victory by jockey Xavier Aizpuru for trainer Sanna Hendriks, after Move West scored over timber at Morven Park.

**17:** Times trainer Doug Fout took Erin Go Bragh foxhunting in preparation for a fall timber campaign; the New Jersey Hunt Cup winner was either well-schooled or just happy to have someone else ride him.

**1-6:** Odds for Good Night Shirt posted by bookmakers at the Far Hills Races. It ended up being an overlay.

**147 1/5:** Combined seconds faster the six races at Far Hills 2008 (firm turf) were than the same races in 2007 (soft turf).

**10,000:** Amount paid (in English pounds) to stable staff for best turned out awards during the course of a year at Cheltenham, England’s leading National Hunt course.

**7:** Horses in Lilith Boucher and Mede Cahaba Stable’s October “Class,” which notched three NSA victories on the month. They are, in alphabetical order: Class Bop, Class Bopper, Class Crash, Class Crimson, Class Disco, Class Real Rock and Class Shadow.

**4:** Horses, out of 41 starters, not treated with Lasix at Far Hills.

**2:** Horses not treated with Lasix to win at Far Hills.



# Quick Study

With trainer, jockey in California  
Prep School aces test in Carolina

BY BRIAN NADEAU

At about the time Matt McCarron hit the lead aboard Prep School in Aiken's \$25,000 Holiday Cup, he knew he was in trouble. Prep School had shut down.

"He stuck his nose in front and then immediately started to wait on horses and idle on me," McCarron said. "I started doing everything I could to get him back going again – shaking him up, yelling at him – but it wasn't until the loose horse came by him that he picked it up again. He lapped onto him and went after him, and without that I'm not sure we would have won."

Call it the most unlikely of assists.

Timber Bay Farm's Prep School, trained by Jonathan Sheppard, re-broke in deep stretch – thanks to the unintentional motivation provided by Second Approval – and held off London Grove (Xavier Aizpuru) by three-quarters of a length, with Charismic American (Bernie Dalton) third. The winner clocked in at 4:21 3/5 for the 2 1/4-mile race, an entry-level allowance.

McCarron settled Prep School in midpack behind a lively pace that got even swifter after Second Approval

## AIKEN FALL RACES

Saturday, October 25

threw James Slater midway through. Prep School encountered traffic on the far turn, but weaved through and took aim at the leaders approaching the last. The 7-year-old surged to the front but waited on London Grove. As McCarron implored his charge to get back in gear, Second Approval came past the front-runners. Prep School caught a glimpse and fought off a game London Grove.

McCarron got the pre-race gameplan from Danielle Hodsdon, who rides the majority of Sheppard's stock in addition to working with the horses on a full-time basis. Sheppard and Hodsdon missed the Aiken festivities, but with good reason. They were at Santa Anita after saddling the victorious Forever Together in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf the day before (see page 32). McCarron made sure things went smoothly in their absence.

"My instructions from Danielle were to try and break sharp, drop the reins and sit back," he said. "There was so much speed in there so it worked out



George Buggs

Prep School (left, Matt McCarron) and London Grove battle over the last fence in the Aiken feature.

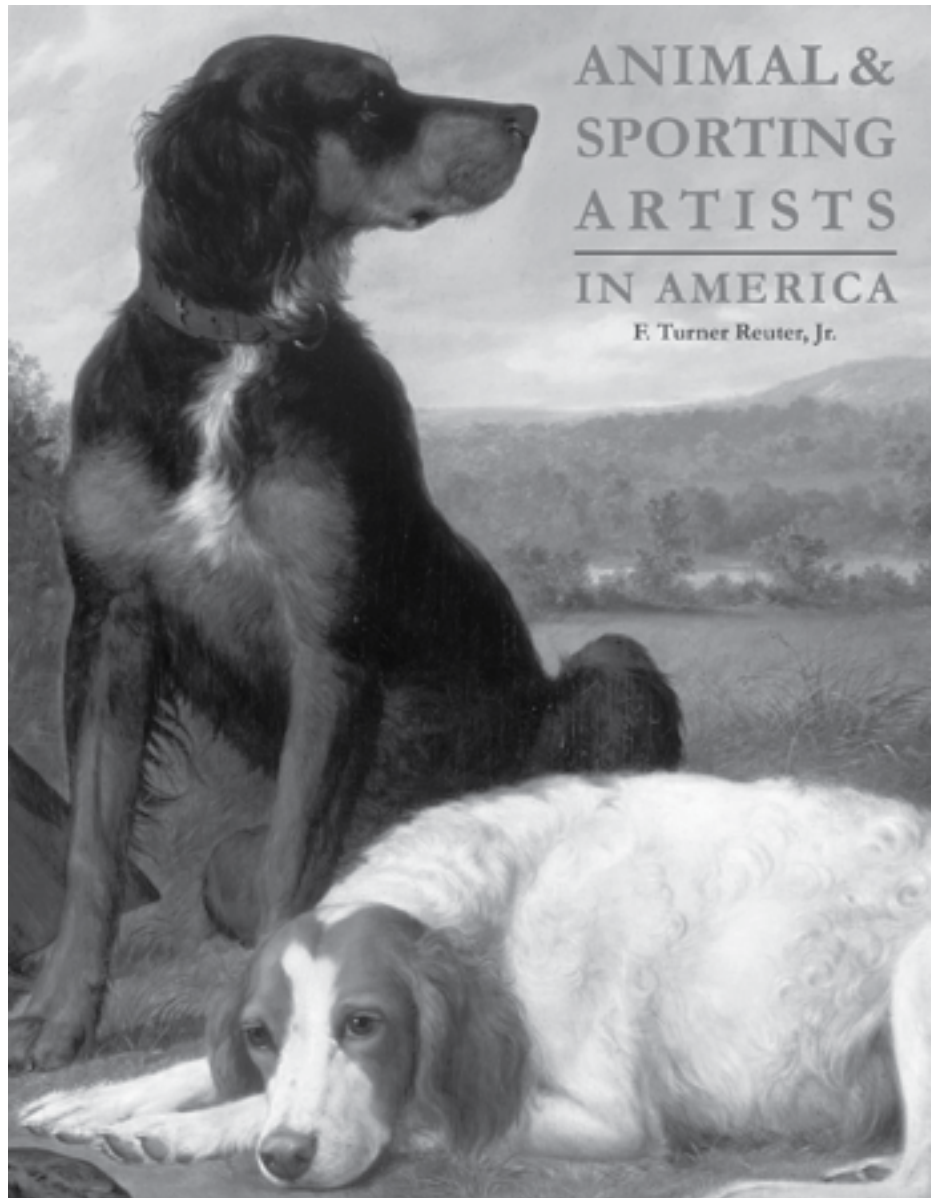
for us. The loose horse helped to bring some of the speed back by messing with the front-runners and though we had some traffic trouble Danielle told me going in that he thrives on that."

Prep School has been an enigma, long on talent but short on accomplishments. The son of Polish Numbers won a maiden at High Hope in May 2007, his fifth start over hurdles, and gave a glimpse of his ability in his next start, running a big third in the Jonathan Kiser novice at Saratoga that August. Away for more than a year, he returned to Saratoga Aug. 14, running fifth – beaten 29 1/2 lengths – as the favorite in the George Sloan novice. Sheppard wheeled Prep School back 13 days later in the

restricted Happy Intellectual stakes and he ran seventh with McCarron aboard. After a brief freshening Prep School ran a disappointing fourth behind Langburg at Philadelphia Park Oct. 12, prompting Sheppard to wonder if the 7-year-old would ever realize his potential.

"We haven't really figured out how to get the best out of this horse yet. He's shown us some glimpses, but never really been able to put everything together and sometimes doesn't try as hard as he should," Sheppard said. "It's been frustrating, because obviously he's got some talent. Maybe after Saturday we finally have him going in the right direction."

See **AIKEN** page 8 ►



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# Aiken —

## ■ Continued from page 7

• Sheppard, Timber Bay and McCarron teamed up earlier in the card as well, winning a maiden claimer, with Mr. J. T. L. The 7-year-old son of Smart Strike scored by a length over Reigning Count (Liam McVicar) and Night Ruckus (Dalton).

McCarron stalked early leader Chevyman and then found a comfortable position in the middle of the nine-horse field. Heading to the second-last, Mr. J. T. L. angled to the outside, took aim at the leaders and drew off late. Hodsdon again provided the blueprint for McCarron, though this time they weren't your customary orders.

"My instructions were pretty simple — Danielle told me to ride him like a girl," McCarron said with a laugh. "Just to break him sharp and then not to lock onto his right rein because he can go into the rail. He's tougher to steer around the turns, so I had to bite my tongue and be delicate with him. My right arm was pretty tired at the end but he jumped phenomenally and when he dropped his head he just ran away from them."

Sheppard had thoughts of heading east after the Breeders' Cup Friday, but decided Mr. J. T. L. was in good hands. He was happy to hear the horse he stumbled on got the job done.

"I got this horse when I was at Woodbine in 2005. I was sitting at a table with George Strawbridge prior to one of the stakes races up there and Roger Attfield stopped by to say hello," Sheppard

said. "He mentioned he had a horse that I might be interested in, so I basically bought him right there. He's been handicapped by his propensity to lug in when he jumps, and he's been rank too. We tried everything with him, one-eyed blinkers and the like, to try and find something that might work. It's nice to see him finally get the job done and I'm really happy for the owners to win two in one day. When I called them Sunday morning they hadn't yet seen the results, so it was a nice surprise."

• Whether toiling in anonymity or making a name for themselves, most steeplechasers spend the first part of their career on the flat. Either way, for most horses hurdles mark act two of their racing career. Miss Crown didn't get the memo.

After fighting a losing battle with the starting gate for the first year of her training, she embarked on a jump career this fall. Two starts in, things look pretty good after the 3-year-old filly broke her maiden against the boys in the Aiken opener.

Miss Crown made her hurdle debut against 3-year-olds at Middleburg and finished fifth, beaten two heads and a neck for second. She led the field for the first lap that day before tiring late. At Aiken she put everything together under Bernie Dalton, battling with Snubbed early, surging clear and then holding off a late charge from Seeking No More (Xavier Aizpuru) and Questioning (Jody Petty) to post a neck victory.

Kate Dalton took over Miss Crown's training this summer after Donna Freyer tried to cure the daughter of High Yield of her starting-gate woes.



George Buggs

**Miss Crown (right, Bernie Dalton) fights off Seeking No More at the last fence in the opener.**

"She was meant to be a nice flat horse but just could never get over her issues and fear of the starting gate, so Donna sent her to us and suggested we make a hurdle horse out of her," said Dalton, the jockey's wife. "We got her in May or early June and she always had the talent. She never batted an eyelid when we sent her over hurdles. She's just happy to have something to do."

Miss Crown's debut three weeks earlier amounted to as much of a feeling-out race for her as it did for her trainer. Dalton was pleased with the result and noticed a change after the race.

"We sent her to Middleburg and just decided to shoot the wind, we didn't really know what to expect. All things considered — the eight-hour trip, the hurdles, a race for the first time — she ran really well," Dalton said. "Her demeanor changed after the race; she was happy. She moved forward off of it. We work her in company with one of our other horses and she would always get outworked. After the Middleburg race he couldn't stay with her anymore."

Her Aiken foes can certainly sympathize.

• After finding novice stakes a bit too tough this summer at Saratoga,

Slip Away has carved out a niche in the claiming ranks. Ken and Sarah Ramsey's 5-year-old notched his second consecutive victory, winning a \$20,000 claimer by a resounding 17 1/4 lengths.

Padge Whelan settled the son of Skip Away just off the pace before taking charge with a circuit remaining and drawing off as much the best over Swimming River (Paddy Young) and Pals Pride (Dalton). The result may have seemed a forgone conclusion early in the running, but Whelan and trainer Tom Voss weren't overconfident beforehand.

"Mr. Voss and I were a little concerned going in that the track would not be to his ideal liking. It can be a sharp course and he's a galloping type of horse, so we thought it might be a little tricky," Whelan said. "But he handled it fine in the end and won easy. He never even came off the bridle; he couldn't have done it any better."

After breaking his maiden at High Hope in May, Slip Away went to Saratoga and lost big twice.

Voss regrouped and tried claimers with Slip Away, who responded with a runner-up effort at Foxfield and a victory at Morven Park.

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### Aiken Fall Races

Aiken, S.C. Saturday, October 25.  
Turf: Good.

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

1. Miss Crown	135	Dalton
2. Seeking No More	L 148	Aizpuru
3. Questioning	L 154	Petty
4. Expel	L 149	J. Murphy
5. Sword Of Dubai	L 154	Slater
6. Awaiting Justice	148	McCarron
7. Snubbed	154	Spat
LR. Bk's Double Jade	149	McVicar
PU. Hot Rize	L 144	R. Haynes

Mgn: Neck. Time: 4:30 3/5.

O/T: Kate Dalton.  
Dk. B./Br. f. 3 High Yield-Costly Crown, Peaks And Valleys. Bred by MDS Farms (NY).

#### 2nd. \$10,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 1/4 miles. \$10,000-\$5,000 clm. price

1. Mr. J. T. L.	L 152	McCarron
2. Reigning Count	L 143	McVicar
3. Night Ruckus	L 150	Dalton
4. Straight To Court	L 142	Young
5. Liverpool Gloves	L 150	J. Murphy
PU. Who's First	L 156	Ryan
PU. George S.	L 146	Helders
PU. Chevyman	L 148	Petty
PU. Mine For Keeps	142	Spat

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

O: Timber Bay Farm. T: Jonathan Sheppard.  
B. g. 7 Smart Strike-Star Reputation, Star Spangled. Bred by Kinghaven Farms (Ont).

#### 3rd. \$15,000. Claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles. \$20,000-\$15,000 clm. price

1. Slip Away	L 152	Whelan
2. Swimming River	L 150	Young
3. Pals Pride	L 152	Dalton
4. Bow Strada (GB)	L 152	McCarron
LR. Pleasant Pick	L 144	Petty
R. Fabi's Legacy	L 147	W. Haynes

Mgn: 17 1/4. Time: 4:20 2/5.

O: Ken Ramsey. T: Tom Voss.  
Gr. g. 5 Skip Away-Aurora Slew, Slew's Royalty.  
Bred by Glencrest Farm, Trontz & Madison (Ky).

#### 4th. \$25,000. Allow. hurdle. 2 1/4 miles. NW1X or NW2

1. Prep School	L 148	McCarron
2. London Grove	L 144	Aizpuru
3. Charismic American	L 144	Dalton
4. Rainbows For Luck	L 156	Young
5. Sunshine Numbers	L 144	Petty
F. Fiscal Storm	L 156	Dowling
LR. Second Approval	L 148	Slater
PU. Belknap County	L 154	Ryan
PU. Waracha	L 140	Whelan

Mgn: 3/4. Time: 4:21 3/5.

O: Timber Bay Farm. T: Jonathan Sheppard.  
B. g. 7 Polish Numbers-Soft Spot, Sunshine Forever. Bred by William Backer (Md).

#### 5th. Training flat. 7 furlongs.

1. Cripple Creek	L 155	Young
2. Say What You See (Ire)	L 155	J. Murphy
3. Bounding Cat	L 155	Slater

Mgn: 3/4. Time: 1:29 3/5.  
O: Greg Hawkins. T: Janet Elliot.  
Ch. g. 9 Carson City-Cally, Salt Lake.  
Bred by Greg Hawkins (Ky).





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# The Best Horse

Good Night Shirt makes it look easy in the Grand National

BY JOE CLANCY

FAR HILLS, N.J. – To help jockey Willie Dowling cope with the pressure of riding Good Night Shirt, Jack Fisher often says “Ride him like he’s the best horse in the race.”

But what’s it like to train Good Night Shirt?

“It’s just like I tell Willie riding him – try not to screw it up,” said Fisher. “The best horse in American steeplechasing lives in my barn, yeah I know. Now what?”

That answer came Oct. 18 in the \$250,000 Grand National Steeplechase at the Far Hills Races. Already the 2007 Eclipse Award winner, Sonny Via’s chestnut put a stranglehold on the 2008 championship with his fourth Grade I score of the season in as many tries. The trainer didn’t screw it up. The jockey didn’t screw it up. And neither did the horse.

Six horses lined up to tackle the favorite. Four-year-old phenom Be Certain bypassed the novice stakes on the card. Best Attack, third in the 2007 race, returned. Australian winner Isti Bee made his American debut.



Trainer Jack Fisher

Irish challenger Dalucci tried again. Upstart Red Letter Day, third to Good Night Shirt at Belmont Park, brought his running shoes. Orison tried to find his 2007 form.

None of them had a chance.

Red Letter Day (Danielle Hodsdon) started fast again and took an easy lead. Good

Night Shirt set up in second, just



Tod Marks

Good Night Shirt (Willie Dowling) soars the final jump in the Grand National, his fifth consecutive victory.

ahead of Be Certain (Padge Whelan). Isti Bee (Paddy Young) fell at the third, and the others rated well off the lead. The group stayed in pretty much that order – running and jumping quickly but in control. Turning into the backstretch the final time, the tempo increased. Red Letter Day stayed on top and Good Night Shirt tugged at the reins in second. Be Certain, Dalucci (Xavier Aizpuru) and Best Attack (Jody Petty) revved up bids. Orison (Matt McCarron) still seemed to have a chance from the back.

Good Night Shirt passed Red Letter Day at the third fence on the backside (and second-last of 14 in the race), but towed Be Certain and Best Attack to the front as well. At the start of the turn, they trailed the favorite by less than a length.

And just when a race developed, Good Night Shirt ended it. The 7-year-old blazed around the turn, roared up the hill, flew the last and left the others gasping.

“I just sat on him. I could feel him picking up speed,” said Dowling of the move to the front. “We went from that nice, sensible gallop to running. He knows it’s time to race. Around that last bend, I could feel his hind legs just flying.”

The winner laughed home by 4 lengths in a quick 4:54 1/5 for the 2 5/8 miles. Be Certain won a battle for second with Best Attack while Red Letter Day stayed for fourth. Second-fastest of 18 runnings at the distance at Far Hills, the time indicated the quality of the performance and a rare chance to race on firm turf at the New Jersey track.

“He looked like a machine,” said Fisher. “He wasn’t even tested and I don’t think he was asked.”

“He’s a machine and he’s getting better,” said Dowling. “I didn’t even push him out. That’s pretty good, isn’t it?”

Uh, yeah.

Good Night Shirt has been perfect this year. He started out at Atlanta, where he bungled the last fence but still won at 2 miles. Next came a repeat of his 2007 score in the 3-mile Iroquois. Given the summer off, the son of Concern returned to win Belmont’s Lonesome Glory – his third Grade I of the season. And then came Far Hills.

Winless in two starts over the course, including a fourth to superstar McDynamo in last year’s Grand National, Good Night Shirt entered as a clear favorite albeit with a little something to prove.


“This is the one race, I knew Jack was pointing him for this race all year and the pressure was on to me,” said Dowling. “It’s good pressure, I love riding the horse, but this is the race he didn’t win last year. This is the one Jack wanted.”

And another one Good Night Shirt took with authority.

The pacesetter carried the field farther than many expected, with the winner content to sit second. A work in progress through much of his career, Good Night Shirt delivered his most complete performance – he relaxed, he jumped superbly, he flowed from fence to fence, he took over when asked.

As Fisher puts it, his horse was once a “big, dumb kid.” Now he’s in the adult league.

See **GRAND NATIONAL** page 11 ►



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## Far Hills Races

Far Hills, N.J. Saturday, Oct. 18.  
Turf: Firm

### 1st. \$50,000. F&M hurdle stakes. 2 1/8 miles. The Peapack

1. Class Shadow	L 148	Boucher
2. Guelph	L 152	Whelan
3. Confined	L 136	Aizpuru
4. Jellyberry	L 140	McCarron
5. Perkedintheland	L 136	Dowling
6. Perfectionately	L 138	Petty
7. Feeling So Pretty	L 150	Taurig
8. The Manner Born	L 132	Hodsdon
PU. World Away	L 137	Young

Mgn: 1 3/4. Time: 4:00 1/5.

O: Star Ten Stable. T: Lilith Boucher.  
Dk. B./Br. f. 4 Rock Point-Class Eclipse, Class Secret. Bred by Mede Cahaba Stable & Stud (Va).

### 2nd. \$100,000. Nov. hurdle stakes. 2 1/2 miles. NW prior to June 1, 2007

#### The Foxbook Supreme Hurdle (Grade I)

1. Swagger Stick	L 150	Dowling
2. Baby League	L 150	Hodsdon
3. Dreadnaught	L 150	Whelan
4. Classy Brute	L 153	W. Haynes
5. Ponce (NZ)	L 153	Young

Mgn: 1 1/4. Time: 4:57 3/5.

O: Gil Johnston. T: Jack Fisher.  
Gr./Ro. g. 6 Cozzene-Regal State, Affirmed. Bred by Clovelly Farms (Ky).

### 3rd. \$50,000. Hurdle hcp. 2 1/8 miles. The Appleton Stakes (Grade III)

1. Rare Bush	L 142	Aizpuru
2. Preemptive Strike	L 152	Petty
*3. Cradle Will Rock	L 134	Hodsdon
4. Langburg	L 144	Boucher
5. Planets Aligned	L 154	Whelan
6. Mon Villez (Fr)	L 150	Young
7. Four Schools (Ire)	L 140	McCarron
PU. Mecklenburg	L 140	W. Haynes

\*DQ from first for interference with Preemptive Strike at last fence.  
Mgn: 3 1/4. Time: 3:56.

O: Mrs. Rufus M. G. Williams. T: Jack Fisher.  
B. g. 8 Dynaformer-Nutbush One, Conquistador Cielo. Bred by William Kenan Rand Jr. (Ky).

### 4th. \$250,000. Hurdle Stakes. 2 5/8 miles. The Grand National (Grade I)

1. Good Night Shirt	L 156	Dowling
2. Be Certain	L 148	Whelan
3. Best Attack	L 156	Petty
4. Red Letter Day	L 156	Hodsdon
5. Dalucci (Ire)	156	Aizpuru
6. Orison	L 156	McCarron
F. Isti Bee (NZ)	L 156	Young

Mgn: 4. Time: 4:54 1/5.

O: Sonny Via. T: Jack Fisher.  
Ch. g. 7 Concern-Hot Story, Two Punch. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Tom Bowman (Md).

### 5th. \$50,000. 3YO hurdle stakes. 2 1/8 miles. The Gladstone

1. Class Real Rock	150	McCarron
2. Orebanks	L 150	Young
3. Imperial Way	L 150	Whelan
4. Diva Maria	L 144	Aizpuru
5. Rusty Reign	L 150	W. Haynes
6. Pleasant Top	L 150	Dowling
OC. Class Bopper	150	Boucher
PU. Bunker	L 150	Petty

Mgn: 1. Time: 4:07 2/5.

O: Mede Cahaba Stable. T: Lilith Boucher.  
Ch. g. 3 Rock Point-Class Reality, Class Secret. Bred by Mede Cahaba Stable & Stud (Va).

### 6th. \$50,000. Timber stakes. 3 1/4 miles. The New Jersey Hunt Cup

1. Erin Go Bragh (NZ)	L 165	Young
2. Irish Prince (NZ)	L 165	Petty
3. Monte Bianco (Ire)	L 165	Aizpuru
PU. Meadow Larking	L 165	Dowling

Mgn: 3/4. Time: 7:04:1/5.

O: Brigadoon Stable. T: Doug Fout.  
B. g. 9 Desert Sun (GB)-Ball Road (NZ), Vice Regal (NZ). Bred by W.P. Maher (NZ).

# Grand National —

## ■ Continued from page 10

In his early races, fences were a second (maybe third) thought: "Oh, here's a jump, OK, let's jump it," his trainer paraphrased. "I can walk through the last and still win."

Now, there is no silliness, no immaturity, no recklessness when he attacks races: "Come on, we're jumping now. How fast can you run and jump at the same time?"

Not fast enough. The style reminded many of five-time Grand National hero McDynamo. Retired to life as a fox-hunter, the three-time Eclipse winner might be the only horse who could have challenged the 2008 Good Night Shirt.

"He looks like McDynamo in the paddock now," said Fisher. "He walks out there like he's the king."

Good Night Shirt still has plenty to do to match McDynamo's heroics, but give the Maryland-bred credit. He improved to 10-for-20 lifetime over jumps and pushed his steeplechase bankroll to \$844,493 (third behind McDynamo and Lonesome Glory on the career ladder).

Perfect in four starts this year and riding a five-race winning streak, Good Night Shirt reached \$395,520 for 2008 to break the single-season earnings record he set last year.

But what if McDynamo was in the race instead of in a pre-race retirement ceremony?

"We would have beaten him, right?" said Fisher with a smile. "I don't know. On this ground, with our horse a year older, we might have gotten him but it would have been a race. On the same ground as last year, McDynamo would have probably been too good for us."

Dowling and McDynamo's trainer Sanna Hendriks shared a golf-cart ride back to the barn after the Grand National, and talked about great horses.

"I might have given your old horse a run for his money today on this ground," said Dowling.

"You might have," Hendriks replied, "but my old fellow might have given you a run for your money too — the nice thing is we don't have to worry about it anymore. I can be happy for you and you can be happy for me."

And everyone can be thrilled, once again, by the best horse in the race.



## Class Shadow

Homebred winner of the \$50,000 Peapack Stp. Stakes for fillies and mares.

**Owner:** Star Ten Stable

**Trainer:** Lilith Boucher

**Jockey:** Richard Boucher

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thanks its team for our success at the  
Far Hills Races Saturday, October 18.

## Class Real Rock

Homebred winner of the \$50,000 Gladstone Stp. Stakes for 3-year-olds.

**Owner:** Mede Cahaba Stable

**Trainer:** Lilith Boucher

**Jockey:** Matt McCarron



And a special thank you to the Far Hills Races  
for another job well done.

Tod Marks Photos



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FF-268 (508)

## Bowmans marvel at power of 'Shirt'

They weren't used to seeing the horses go around three times.

They asked if they could take a photograph with Good Night Shirt back at the barn and ended up in the winner's circle.

They said they were leaving right after the race, then Good Night Shirt won . . . and they were still talking after the fifth.

The Bowmans, breeders of Good Night Shirt, did Far Hills.

"We were up top there and Becky's getting nervous, holding my hand, like it was the first horse race she'd ever been to," Dr. Tom Bowman said. "I said, 'Becky, just calm down.' She said, 'I don't know Dad, for some reason, I'm just so excited about this race.' It was an awesome performance. The whole experience of being here is really, really cool."

Dr. Tom Bowman, Chris Bowman (wife), Becky Davis (daughter), Frank Davis (son-in-law), Catherine Davis (granddaughter), Allison Davis (granddaughter), Quin Hickman (daughter), Dennis Hickman (son-in-law) and Stewart Hickman (grandson) enjoyed — and became part of — the Good Night Shirt show.



Tom Bowman

Top Maryland breeders, the Bowmans hadn't seen the 7-year-old since he was a 2-year-old, but they followed him. Followed him through a two-win flat career, nine wins over jumps, an Eclipse Award, all the way to Far Hills for his fifth consecutive Grade I achievement and 10th career jump victory.

"This is a different world, but when you see a champion performance in any sport, especially in a sport like this, you recognize the difference between some horses," Dr. Bowman said. "This guy is in a different level than the rest of them. It looked like to me, that he really wasn't working real hard. It was a thrill."

Bowman also bred two-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner Bug River. Obviously, neither Bug River nor Good Night Shirt was bred with jumping in mind. But here they are, doing something that seems so natural. So pre-destined.

"He taught me the same thing as Bug River, that most of the successes you have in this game are, at best, happenstance, and many of them are absolutely accidental," Bowman said. "All the plotting, planning and thinking you do and many of the successes come out of left field. It's humbling, it kind of lets you know that you're not as bright as you might think you are. This is a Two Punch mare, there is absolutely no way this would happen. Just pure coincidence."

Good Night Shirt is by Concern, a Breeders' Cup Classic winner trained by Dickie Small. Concern excelled at closing from last while going 10 furlongs — a marathon for flat horses — while the dam, Two Punch's daughter Hot Story, was stakes-placed and represents speed.

"Dickie said he never saw the bottom of Concern. You get that Broad Brush endurance . . . this horse looked like he could run 5 miles and he would have been in the same position," Bowman said. "It was a real thrill. I saw a lot of people here that I've seen occasionally, met once or twice, it was a real pleasure to talk for a while. And my whole family got to be here."

— Sean Clancy



# Shadow Cast

## Bouchers' filly knocks off Guelph, heads to sidelines with leg injury

FAR HILLS, N.J. – Richard Boucher took the loneliest ride home after the Peapack, the opener of an all-stakes card at Far Hills. His tack on his knee, Boucher slumped in the passenger seat of a golf cart shuttle from the turn near the barn to the scale. It's not how he was meant to come back.

"We got the job done," Boucher said, trying to spin something positive.

Class Shadow, trained by Boucher's wife, Lilith, got the job done like a Navy Seal. The 4-year-old daughter of Rock Point wrestled a stakes victory from her veteran rival Guelph. Owned by Star Ten Stable and bred by Mede Cahaba Stable, Class Shadow began the year a maiden, she finished it with \$88,068 in earnings (tops, for now, among the distaffers).

She broke doing it.

After a flawless performance in the 2 1/8-mile stakes, Class Shadow pulled up on the turn, Boucher jumped off and the Virginia-bred walked back to the barn. Lilith Boucher reported that the filly has a suspensory injury and will head to the breeding shed.

"It's such a shame when they run that hard then feel such pain. I hope she's going to be OK," Richard Boucher

### FAR HILLS RACES

Saturday, October 18

said later in the day. "I thought the way she was jumping, it was ouching her a little bit, but she put her head down and ran all the way to the wire."

In two previous scraps with front-running Guelph, Class Shadow pressed but couldn't pin the 7-year-old former champion, finishing third in the Henley at Nashville and second in the Valentine at Fair Hill. This time, maiden Perked-in-the-sand helped do the dirty work, pressuring Guelph from the outset. Class Shadow picked up where Perked-in-the-sand left off, attacking on the outside leaving the backside. The duo locked onto each other up the hill with Class Shadow beginning to get a headlock on Guelph as they came to the last. Guelph gave one more race-changing leap at the last and she made up ground, but not enough. Class Shadow pulled away to win by almost 2 lengths over Guelph (Padge Whelan) in 4:00 1/5. Shawan Downs maiden breaker Confined (Xavier Aizpuru) closed into the third spot, a nose behind Guelph.



Tod Marks

Class Shadow (left, Richard Boucher) battles Guelph at the last fence in the Peapack Stakes for fillies and mares.

The jockey knew this time it was different.

"Guelph really didn't have it her own way, with the other horses on her the whole time, that helped me," Boucher said. "Down the backside, I said, 'You know what, we've got to get up there with her.' My filly doesn't really have a turn of foot but she will try her damn hardest. I thought if we looked her in the eye, she wouldn't get by us. Coming off the turn, I saw Padge slap her on the shoulder and I was like, 'I gotcha.'"

Class Shadow developed through an arduous campaign; she made her first start

at Little Everglades point-to-point, broke her maiden at Camden, took a filly and mare allowance at Foxfield, tried Guelph at Nashville and Fair Hill, beat 10 boys in the Ferguson when second to Four Schools, shipped to Saratoga but scratched from the A.P. Smithwick, then ventured to Kentucky Downs where she finished a dull fifth behind Quem Se Atrave.

"Four years old, to win three races, never ran on the flat, homebred, none of her family had ever done anything, she's like a little diamond in the coal," Boucher said. "In retrospect, I should

See **FAR HILLS** page 14 ►

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# Far Hills —

■ Continued from page 13

have always been right on Guelph's heels. I should have hit her head and head turning for home at Fair Hill because my filly finds her inner strength when she's looked in the eye. When these mares decide to run, you can't get by them. You just can't."

— Sean Clancy

## Swagger Stick aces novice test for Fisher barn

Jack Fisher walked off the Far Hills hill after the Foxbrook and summed up Swagger Stick's career in steeplechasing.

"It just took him a while to learn," Fisher said.

Call him learned and graduated. Gil Johnston's 7-year-old picked up his first win of the year in the \$100,000 Foxbrook Supreme Novice. Making his ninth start of the year, Swagger Stick (Willie Dowling) handled four rivals in the Grade I that took a class hit when divisional leader Be Certain opted for the Grand National. Baby League (Danielle Hodsdon) rallied for second while Dreadnaught (Whelan) finished third as the winner covered the 2 1/2 miles in 4:57 3/5.

After leading jockey Xavier Aizpuru parted company with Swagger Stick for the fourth time (in six starts) at Philadelphia Park this summer, Fisher filled out Swagger Stick's release form.

"Willie was his last chance," Fisher said.

Fisher called on Dowling, who had ridden Swagger Stick at Radnor and knows the Kentucky-bred from galloping and schooling him in the morning. A four-time winner on the flat, Swagger Stick always showed class, but always showed a penchant for jumping errors. At Far Hills, Swagger Stick enjoyed a nearly flawless jumping round (he made one minor mistake with a circuit to go) to collect his most lucrative — and most deserved — steeplechase win. The winner logged hard miles at Saratoga, finishing second twice and third in three contentious races. It took Spy In The Sky, Look At Him, Seer and Dynaski to keep him at bay. None of those highly regarded novices made it to Far Hills.

Dowling took credit, or did he?

"Jack figured out that my style and Xav's style are totally different," Dowling said. "I'm too scared to move on him and Xav's a confident rider, he'll send him. He wasn't making bad mistakes, he was just over-jumping them and that's why Xav kept going over his head. I just keep sitting there, it worked out well. He's a pretty clever horse."



Swagger Stick (center, Willie Dowling) fights off Baby League (left) and Dreadnaught.

Morning schools convinced Fisher that Swagger Stick needed Dowling.

"You've got to just sit there, scared to death like I am. The last time when Xav came off him, he was jumping great, and when he made that mistake, he didn't go one, two, three, he went one and the horse put down on him," Fisher said. "At home, he never makes a mistake. We can't make him make a mistake. In fairness to Xav, I did take him back to the rolls and sent him down to those things, he was going too fast and they were too close together, I made him screw them up and that helped."

That was before Saratoga. The horse has picked up nearly \$100,000 since Dowling took the ride for good. Swagger Stick made up for a lackluster performance in his previous start at Monmouth where he finished sixth of seven, 15 lengths behind Seer. Dowling and Fisher blamed the ground.

"The ground was rough and fast and he never got in a rhythm with me, I think he was looking after himself," Dowling said. "It takes a tough old boy to run three times at Saratoga and come to Far Hills and win a Grade I."

Fisher won the stakes at Monmouth with Seer and never questioned Swagger Stick's performance.

"I threw it out. The ground. I figured just an old, smart horse saying he wasn't going to run on that ground," Fisher said. "He was off the bridle at the start, he jumped two fences and I told Gil, we're in trouble. I guess he was smart, because I broke the other one down (Seer emerged with a leg injury)."

Aizpuru and Dowling have helped put Fisher at the top of the trainer standings and at the cusp of the

\$1 million earnings record. Dowling guided Good Night Shirt and Swagger Stick to victories at Far Hills while Aizpuru partnered Rare Bush to a stakes to complete Fisher's three bagger at Far Hills.

"Willie and Xav are two good riders to have riding for you," Fisher said. "Willie is bad on maidens, he just sits there, he's gotten better. Xav is go, go, go and not all horses are go, go, go all the time. They're two good riders to be able to use. Two totally different styles, one suits one horse and not the other."

— Sean Clancy

## Rare Bush benefits from DQ to capture Appleton

Jody Petty didn't want to claim foul but knew he should. Hodsdon added sticks of lead to her lead pad for the Grand National and worried. Aizpuru hoped he'd get lucky.

Hodsdon's Cradle Will Rock jumped left at the last fence while winning the Grade III Appleton Stakes, racking up a tiring Preemptive Strike (Petty) as Rare Bush (Aizpuru) tried to will his way into the frame from the outside.

"My horse is erratic, it's just the way he is," Hodsdon said. "He met it short and Preemptive Strike met it long."

Collision.

Stewards disqualified Cradle Will Rock, placing him third behind Preemptive Strike and handing the win to Sheila Williams' Rare Bush.

The Appleton always attracts an eclectic group; second-year horses dated out of the novice division, veterans looking to duck the Grand National, claimers stabbing at a big purse and 2-mile specialists. This year, the eight horse field ranged from 134-pound lightweight Cradle Will Rock, who exited a \$10,000 conditioned claiming win at Foxfield, to 154-pound heavyweight Planets Aligned, last year's top novice and winner of the Temple Gwathmey this spring. In between came three-time Noel Laing winner Mon Villez, Ferguson winner Four Schools, 10-year-old multiple stakes winner Preemptive Strike, 4-year-old one-time winner Mecklenburg, Philadelphia Park allowance winner Langburg returning in six days and two-time winner Rare Bush returning from a 19-month hiatus.

Aizpuru tried to rate Rare Bush, who was making his first start since the 2007 Temple Gwathmey, but the 8-year-old son of Dynaformer pulled his way to third behind Preemptive Strike and Cradle Will Rock. Preemptive Strike jumped inconsistently and finally bowed down to Cradle Will Rock as the trio came up the hill to the last. Cradle Will Rock spurted away as Preemptive Strike and Rare Bush climbed on memory. Cradle Will Rock drifted left at the last but was much the best at the wire in 3:56 for the 2 1/8 miles.

"I didn't see it, I was outside and riding," Aizpuru said. "I would like to have won it fair and square, but I'll take it. He's a nice horse, a tough horse."

Fisher did not ship Rare Bush to Far Hills confidently. The former Todd Pletcher pupil won twice in 2006 before finishing second in three straight novice stakes (beaten less than 2 lengths total) at Callaway Gardens, Camden and Middleburg. A leg injury sidelined him after that and a spastic training routine failed to instill confidence.

"Rolling the dice. Rolling the dice," Fisher said. "He won't gallop. On my track he walks for a little bit, jogs for a little bit, then runs off with me. That's what we do. I try to go somewhere else and he basically runs off with me. I put a pelham in his mouth, curb chain, and he's trying to run off all the time. I thought he'd pull up, he hasn't done a work. I can't get him to do anything twice. I've been down there saying I can outwait you, but I can't. He'll just stand there. Sometimes, I just come home."

Fisher was interrupted and reminded the horse owns three wins and three seconds in his last seven starts.

"I guess it's worth it," Fisher said.

— Sean Clancy



The last fence of the Appleton: Rare Bush (left) jumps cleanly while Cradle Will Rock (center) interferes with Preemptive Strike. Cradle Will Rock got to the finish first, but was disqualified and placed third behind Preemptive Strike. Second in the order, Rare Bush was elevated to the victory.

See FAR HILLS page 15 ►



## Three-year-old winner takes Boucher on a 'Real' run

The skirt and heels gave her away.

On a day where keg stands and Jell-O shots were commonplace, Lilith Boucher did her best to stand out. Running down the hillside viewing area, past the punters, around the chalkboard and through spectators more concerned with Coors Light than racing, Boucher yelled, "Come on Real Rock! Come on Real Rock! Come on Real Rock!"

And he did just that. Mede Cahaba Stable's Class Real Rock (Matt McCarron) surged to the lead before the last and drew off to a 1-length victory in the \$50,000 Gladstone Stakes for 3-year-olds.

The race was a balancing act for Boucher, who saddled two including maiden winner Class Bopper. Named on both, the trainer's husband, Richard, chose the latter. Class Bopper went to the front and dragged the field through an ambitious clip. He carried the advantage to the final turn and looked strong before veering left toward the inner circuit and off course. Behind him, Orebanks and Imperial Way bumped while fighting for room. Fourth behind the chaos, Class Real Rock suddenly looked dangerous.

And with Class Bopper out of the picture, Boucher went on her downhill run — cheering with every step. Class Real Rock circled the field to score over Orebanks (Paddy Young) and Imperial Way (Padge Whelan). The winner needed 4:07 2/5 to cover the 2 1/8 miles.

On paper, Richard Boucher's decision to ride Class Bopper made sense. A maiden win over older horses stands out on a 3-year-old's resume. In his lone hurdle start, Class Real Rock settled for fourth behind Orebanks at Virginia Fall Oct. 5. But Lilith Boucher explained that both had merits.

"There was a debate on which one Richard would ride, and he chose Class Bopper because he got along with him a little better," she said. "Class Real Rock won at the Blue Ridge Point-to-Point and at Middleburg he was fourth but Richard had a double-handful, he just never had anywhere to run. Coming to the last he could never get a clear shot and with a 3-year-old you never want to beat them up."

McCarron entered the day knowing he would ride the one Boucher passed on, and hopped aboard Class Real Rock. The jockey knew early on he had a good seat.

"They were going really quick early and he settled wonderfully for me. I was probably farther back than I needed to be, but I didn't want to take any chances of him getting too keen," McCarron said. "He jumped great and at the last he came up really long, and for a 3-year-old to give that kind of fence at the last and to not only make that decision but to make (the fence), it was really impressive. He did everything right."

Class Real Rock fits the steeplechase strategy of owner/breeder Mignon Smith's Mede Cahaba Stable, which enjoyed a big day. In the opener, homebred mare Class Shadow (Rock Point-Class Eclipse, Class Secret) won the Peapack. Class Real Rock (Rock Point-Class Reality, Class Secret) provided the second win. Both horses are the products of generations of Mede Cahaba breeding, on both sides of the pedigree. With two victories on steeplechasing's biggest day, the program obviously works.

"The trend in the States is to buy flat horses and convert them to jumpers, but Mignon really breeds them. So not only are these two horses out of mares for generations, but she owns the stallions as well. I couldn't be happier for her," Boucher said. "Class Real Rock ran on the flat and ran well twice and he kind of reminds me of Class Shadow, in that he's getting more and more professional as the races go on instead of sillier. You have to let them run and figure things out and get confidence."

And see if they make their trainer run down a hill calling their names.

— **Brian Nadeau** Class Real Rock (Matt McCarron) surges away from Orebanks in the Gladstone for 3-year-olds.



Tod Marks

Erin Go Bragh (left, Paddy Young) digs in late to catch Irish Prince in the New Jersey Hunt Cup over timber.

## Better late than never for Fout, Erin Go Bragh in N.J. Hunt Cup

Doug Fout watched the Far Hills finale, the New Jersey Hunt Cup, on the first floor of the finish-line tower. Forgive him if he felt like the entire structure rested on his shoulders.

After sending out five runners to lousy finishes, the trainer reached his last bullet, Erin Go Bragh, in the \$50,000 timber test. In his way stood the streaking Monte Bianco, a winner over Fout's horse twice this year, and defending race winner and 2007 timber champ Irish Prince.

The four-and-a-half-hour drive home to Middleburg, Va., looked like a long ride. And then everything changed.

Brigadoon Stable's Erin Go Bragh (Paddy Young) split his two main rivals approaching the wire and surged clear for a three-quarter length win to cap the day and provide some relief for his trainer.

"Well, we got one. Thank God for that," Fout said. "I'm just glad Erin came through at the end and won it for us. Before that we just didn't have any luck."

Actually, Fout had more luck than anyone on the grounds — it was just all bad. World Away pulled up in the Peapack; Ponce loomed on the inside in the Foxbrook before being checked into the beacons turning for home; Isti Bee fell at the third in the Grand National, interfering with stablemate Orison; and Orebanks never got clear in the Gladstone yet still came within a length.

How was your day?

Despite his track record, Fout entered the race optimistic if not fully undaunted.

"It looks like Monte Bianco and Irish Prince could go at it early and we'd be sitting inside waiting to make a run," he said beforehand. "That's the plan, anyway."

Monte Bianco (Xavier Aizpuru) and Irish Prince (Jody Petty) broke running and traded jabs in the 3 1/4-mile stakes while Erin Go Bragh rated in third, ahead of recent maiden winner Meadow Larking. Irish Prince set the pace for the first three fences. Monte

Bianco assumed command prior to the fourth. Irish Prince bounded back in front just two fences later. Things quickened on the third lap while the order remained unchanged. The final time past the stands, Irish Prince held a 2-length lead over Monte Bianco, who drew closer.

Young sat back and waited for a hanging curveball.

"I was a little further back than I wanted to be but I said to myself 'These guys are really going a gallop out here for a four-horse race,'" Young said. "They went steady for the first circuit and then they really picked it up from there. It was an easier position for me to be where I was than where they were."

Monte Bianco turned up the pressure and the pace quickened down the backside, with Erin Go Bragh waiting for his cue.

On the final turn, Young processed the uninspiring image of Orebanks, who got buried on the inside while the winner rallied outside one race earlier. The jockey tipped Erin Go Bragh to the outside as they straightened away in the lane. Erin Go Bragh flew the last, but again found trouble — sandwiched between horses as they landed. This time there would be no somber ending. Erin Go Bragh split his rivals late to edge clear from Irish Prince, who bettered Monte Bianco by 2 1/2 lengths in a final time of 7:04 1/5.

"The more he jumped the more I could feel him growing underneath me, getting more and more confident. The final time at the bottom of the hill, I thought that maybe we weren't sitting as good as I thought we were so I smooched at him and he started to run off on me. So I knew we were OK," Young said. "He jumped the second-last really well and after getting messed up a bit on the inside for the 3-year-old race I said I better go outside a bit. I gave him a little kick at the last and once he saw the gap he just stuck his head in there and went for it. I'm happy for the horse, he deserved to win one of these."

The 9-year-old New Zealand-bred, a hurdle stakes winner at Far Hills in 2005, was disqualified from first in the My Lady's Manor this spring, finished a well-beaten sixth (which Fout blamed on a thyroid problem) in the Virginia Gold Cup, chased Monte Bianco home at Radnor and again at Middleburg two weeks before Far Hills. In his rookie timber season last year, he finished third to Irish Prince in the New Jersey Hunt Cup shortly after breaking his maiden at Shawan Downs.

Fout made Far Hills the main fall goal and was hardly discouraged after Middleburg.

"He didn't have a hard race at Middleburg, and that helped today. The plan was always to come here and win this race. I'm just tickled he jumped so well; his last two are what won him this race," Fout said. "It's nice for the public too. That's the way these timber races ought to be — three or four horses head-and-head at the last. That's what makes for great timber races."

And for easy rides home.

— **Brian Nadeau**



Tod Marks





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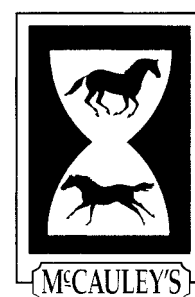
**Bubble Economy** wins International Gold Cup

**Freeboard** wins Fegentri World Cup

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# Double Bubble

Timber veteran completes sweep at Great Meadow to claim '08 title

BY JAMIE SANTO

THE PLAINS, Va. – Bubble Economy does what he feels. Most of the time, he feels like winning timber stakes. Then again, sometimes he doesn't.

"If he's happy, the world is wonderful," said assistant trainer Mary McGlothlin. "I'm his biggest fan, but even I'll say he picks and chooses when he wants to run."

Bubble Economy came into the International Gold Cup Oct. 18 off a fourth in the National Sporting Library Chronicle Cup two weeks earlier at Virginia Fall. So the biggest question before the \$50,000 timber stakes wasn't the weather (a lovely, brisk fall day) or the ground (green and firm) but rather "How you doin'?"

"When he got here I knew he was more on, he was definitely more himself. And in the paddock I knew he was feeling better," McGlothlin said. "If he's jumping well, he's going to run his eyeballs out."

Bubble Economy (Robbie Walsh) certainly gave his all in the \$50,000 International Gold Cup, closing with a flourish to edge front-runner Salmo

## INTERNATIONAL GOLD CUP RACES

Saturday, October 18

(Darren Nagle) and repeat his Virginia Gold Cup score over the Great Meadow course this spring.

The race set up, and played out, as a contest between Bubble Economy and Salmo (who won the Virginia Gold Cup in 2007). With their differing styles – Salmo goes to the front, Bubble Economy comes from out of it – their duel would have to wait for the stretch. Like pen pals playing chess, they battled at a distance. When, after 20 fences, the end game arrived, Bubble Economy had the winning move, rallying through the long stretch to collar Salmo by a neck. Last year's runner-up Woodmont (Jeff Murphy) got up for third. The winner covered the 3 1/2 miles in 7:20 2/5.

Arcadia Stable's Bubble Economy took the timber title in 2004 for trainer Jack Fisher, and has been a regular presence since. Now 9, he's run over the lumber 25 times, notching six wins while hitting the board at a 76-percent clip. It's a more-than-respectable slate, but he doesn't always bring his A game,



Douglas Lees

Bubble Economy (right, Robbie Walsh) edges Salmo at the finish of the International Gold Cup.

as was evident at the Chronicle Cup.

"He was too relaxed at Middleburg," said Walsh, aboard for the first time that day. "Today, as Mary said, he acted different in the stall, he acted different when she brought him in the paddock. He tried to buck me off twice going to the start. I'm like, 'Hmm, he's a lot sharper today.'"

Salmo, despite making his first start in nearly 18 months, planned to the take the lead; Bubble Economy planned to take back. And so it was.

"He can't get to the front, so it was perfect," said McGlothlin. "I know

Salmo, Salmo can jump anywhere, but I knew in the stretch run Bubble could get him. You don't want to be in the front until after the last, and he's got a turn-of-foot – he can run. And the way Robbie did it, he did it just like that."

The jockey liked the way the race set up, and the way his mount reacted. "Yeah, a good solid pace and he's carrying me. I'm trying to get him to switch off rather than trying to get him to wake up."

Salmo led from the get go, and main-

See **GOLD CUP** page 18 ►

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# Gold Cup —

■ Continued from page 17

tained a 2-length lead which gave him room but didn't set him apart from everyone. Professor Maxwell and Profo-wens kept closest early, and Walsh sat in the middle of the pack, but by choice rather than by fate. He won last year's International Gold Cup on Fisher's Seeyouattheevent, and had no option but to sit back.

"The race last year was very quick, a completely different set up. We were strung out all over the place, they were flying," he said. "This year, a lot more of a race. It had pace, but everyone was bunched together and went down the fences together, never got strung out. It rode like a proper jump race today, and that suited Bubbles because he had company along the way . . . He likes to mix it up."

He doesn't like the stick, however, as McGlothlin learned after watching tapes of My Lady's Manor. This spring, she told jockey Chip Miller not to use the whip.

"He does not want to be hit, it pisses him off, so Chip didn't hit him in the stretch in the spring and he duelled it out," McGlothlin said of the Virginia Gold Cup. "I told Robbie 'He gets mad. And if he gets mad, that's it, he's not trying.'"

Walsh kept Bubble Economy happy, and gradually moved into contention. He knew the stick wasn't going to help in the stretch, but had a feeling the horse would motivate himself.

"He'd ping one or two and land



Tod Marks

Bubble Economy (left) flies a jump late in his Gold Cup victory for Arcadia Stable and Jack Fisher.

strong and I'd have to take back a little," the jockey said, "whereas the last time I was trying to get him to take me."

Bubble Economy moved to second entering the final turn, where the second-last nearly ended the rally.

"Just read it a little wrong and didn't meet it ideally. For some reason that fence didn't ride well all day, a lot of the lads talked about it. It just came up

weird off the bend today," Walsh said. "It cost him a little, but at the same time I don't want to get there too soon, anyway. It's a long run from there, so I wasn't in any panic."

The calm was well placed, as was Walsh's horse at the last.

"He winged it and landed running and I felt I was going to get home, because he does quicken well."

Bubble Economy locked down another timber title with the win, which pushed his 2008 earnings to \$98,500 — within \$6,000 of the single-season record set last year by Irish Prince and well ahead of Monte Bianco (\$67,000), his nearest competitor, who finished third at Far Hills and is done for the year with an injury. The second time around is far more impressive than the first, when Bubble Economy eked out a title by \$800 over Bug River on the back of one win and a rather slim \$48,800.

• Scuba Steve likes to dive right into things. The Steeplethon was no exception. The 3-mile contest provides a challenging assortment of natural obstacles, yet Scuba Steve's only concern seemed to be that someone might steal the lead

before he got his hands on it. He needn't have worried.

Making like a Wild West bank robber, Scuba Steve (James Slater) lassoed the lead, made off with it and high-tailed it out of town, taking the \$25,000 contest by 44 lengths for Perry Bolton and trainer Kathy McKenna. He's A Con-niver (Walsh) and Ice Is Nice (Darren Nagle) completed the order of finish, as the winner got home in 5:58 2/5.

While Scuba Steve — alone and unchallenged on the front end — effectively stripped the race of its usual drama, he compensated fans by putting on a jumping exhibition.

"Awesome jumping . . . just incredible," McKenna said. "We've actually jumped the heck out of him. We do it every day. He goes out and we jump a post-and-rail going in to gallop up the field, so he's getting the picture."

The 8-year-old son of Distorted Humor (from the same crop as Funny Cide) took some time finding himself, collecting just two wins in 16 starts on the flat. But he took to the jump game in 2006, winning his first two outings for Mike Berryman, then finishing third in the Grade III Marcellus Frost at Nashville. McKenna purchased the horse for Bolton not long afterward but had to wait for success, as Scuba Steve ended up on the sidelines after just two hurdle starts and a training flat spin.

"I saw him run when Mike Berryman had him and I was like, 'That horse looks like he can get the job done,'" McKenna said. "So I bought him, gave him a bowed tendon, rehabbed him for a year, then just started popping him over timber fences and off we go."

That's for sure. Scuba Steve believes winning is the only thing, even when he's not supposed to be competing.

"We thought foxhunting would be fun . . . Well, he didn't think so. McDynamo, yes, he's a foxhunter. Scuba Steve will never foxhunt," McKenna said. "He does not like to get on the trailer, and he absolutely would wipe out the entire field foxhunting . . . he would try to win the foxhunt."



Douglas Lees

Hold Your Fire heads for the finish with a win in the maiden claimer.

See **GOLD CUP** page 20 ►

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# Gold Cup —

■ Continued from page 18

Instead, McKenna works him around the farm.

The practice set him up well for the Steeplethon's timber fences, hedges, walls, water and the like.

"He's really brave, so I thought he would like this course," McKenna said. "You need a brave horse to run through the water and do all that stuff."

• Jockey Darren Nagle didn't expect Hold Your Fire to come out with guns blazing. But Mimi Voss' homebred hit the bull's-eye in his first shot, making a successful hurdle debut by taking a maiden claimer, by 3 lengths over Jimtown (Roderick Mackenzie), with Simon (Walsh) third in 4:58 2/5.

The 4-year-old son of Waquoit raced three times on the flat for trainer Tom Voss, winning his last, but didn't have so much as a point-to-point outing over jumps. Nagle, who'd schooled him once, liked his mount but was far from confident heading into his jump debut.

"He's a nice horse, but just could have done with one or two runs. He's still a bit sleepy, you know," Nagle said. "But he won that in the style of a really nice horse, so he should go on to better things."

The thought of Hold Your Fire nodding off like a big-rig trucker on a coast-to-coast run loomed large. The jockey's task was to act as No Doz.

"Just to sit handy and not let him fall asleep on me," he said of his pre-race instructions. "Keep him up on the bridle

and keep squeezing. He's a bit lazy, just make sure to keep him on the bridle and make sure to keep him jumping well."

Sitting a comfortable fifth in a 10-horse field behind early pacesetter Jimtown, Hold Your Fire saved plenty of ammo left as the field turned for home. Still, Nagle worried his mount might lose focus.

"Just coming to the last, we maybe just hit the front a little bit too soon and he had a little look around him," Nagle said, "but he started galloping to the line really well."

• Perfect attendance. Mr. Congeniality. Hardest worker. All nice enough sentiments; all usually consolation prizes. Cuse has a wall full. The gray gelding had started 19 sanctioned hurdle races in his 18-month steeplechase career. He'd been runner-up seven times and hit the board another three.

The 7-year-old son of Wekiva Springs broke through at Great Meadow, surging down the stretch under Liam McVicar to get home a half-length clear of Dubai Sunday (Mark Watts) and Delta Park (Walsh) in 5:05 for 2 1/2 miles.

Owner/trainer Karen Gray had confidence heading in, moving him up into the \$25,000 Sport of Kings maiden after two tries against maiden-claiming company.

"I knew he was pretty ready," Gray said. "But after seven seconds, you never know with Cuse."

So what was the difference?

"I think a big part was that Liam didn't hit him with the stick," Gray said. "In the past, he's always stopped after

See **GOLD CUP** page 21 ►



Douglas Lees

Cuse (right, Liam McVicar) gets back to running after clearing the water jump in the opener.

## International Gold Cup

The Plains, Va. Saturday, October 18.  
Turf: Firm.

### 1st. \$25,000. SOK mdn. hurdle. 2 1/2 miles.

1. Cuse	L 149	McVicar
2. Dubai Sunday (Jpn)	L 154	Watts
3. Delta Park	L 146	Walsh
4. Legendary Pacer	L 154	J. Murphy
5. Peggys Run	148	Sbate
OC. Class Bop	134	Foley
OC. Artist's Stroke	154	Dalton
OC. Dynegor	L 146	Slater
OC. Hot Rize	L 141	R. Haynes
PU. News Flash	L 141	Nagle

Mgn: 1/2. Time: 5:05.

O/T: Karen Gray.

Gr./Ro. g. 7 Wekiva Springs-Cayman Queen, Recupere (GB). Bred by Robert Cotran (NY).

### 2nd. \$30,000. Optional clm. hurdle. 2 1/2 miles. NW 2 or for \$30,000 clm. price.

1. Bow Strada (GB)	L 144	Foley
2. Tax Ruling	L 152	Watts
3. Terpsichorean	L 144	Dalton
4. Duke Of Earl (Ire)	L 152	Walsh
5. Ordered To Listen	L 138	Slater
6. G'day G'day	L 147	Mackenzie
7. Algezir	144	J. Murphy
F. Dynaway	L 141	Nagle
LR. Baron Von Ruckus	L 154	Swope
LR. Triple Dip	L 143	McVicar
PU. Swimming River	L 143	R. Haynes

Mgn: 1. Time: 4:54 2/5.

O: Calvin Houghland. T: Bruce Miller.

Ch. g. 11 Rainbow Quest-La Strada (GB), Nini-ski. Bred by K. Rausing (GB).

### 3rd. \$25,000. Timber steeplechase. 3 miles. The Steeplethon

1. Scuba Steve	L 160	Slater
2. He's A Conniver	L 160	Walsh
3. Ice Is Nice	L 155	Nagle
F. Major Frank	L 160	C. Miller
PU. Make It Easy (Ire)	L 155	Horner
PU. Te Akau Five (NZ)	L 160	J. Murphy

Mgn: 44. Time: 5:58 2/5.

O: Perry Bolton. T: Kathy McKenna.  
B. g. 8 Distorted Humor-Frigid Zone, Procida. Bred by Charles Nuckols Jr. & Sons (Ky).

### 4th. \$20,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 1/2 miles. \$30,000-\$25,000 clm. price.

1. Hold Your Fire	L 143	Nagle
2. Jimtown	L 143	Mackenzie
3. Simon	L 148	Walsh
4. Decisive Play	L 148	Dalton
5. Hey Doctor	L 143	Chalfin
6. Sir Bernardo	L 148	J. Murphy
F. Magic Boots	L 156	Carter
F. Just Sarah	L 143	Sbate
OC. Sword Of Dubai	L 156	Slater

PU. Bamco Dynamite L 143 McVicar  
Mgn: 3. Time: 4:58 2/5.

O: The Fields Stable. T: Tom Voss.

Ch. g. 4 Waquoit-Distant Drumroll, Eastern Echo. Bred by Mimi Voss (Md).

### 5th. \$20,000. Open flat. 1 3/4 miles.

#### International Amateur jockeys.

1. Freeboard	L 145	Wyatt
2. Northern Bay	L 140	Penman
3. Organizer	L 145	Gratz
4. Gigger	L 145	Picon
5. Meneef (Aus)	L 145	Jefferson
6. Ricky's Four	L 146	Wood
7. Heir Apparent (Saf)	L 145	Wernin
8. Sir Rahy	L 145	Chalfin
9. Duck Hunt	L 151	Connell
10. Aero	L 130	Burri
11. Sermonize	L 143	Popham
12. What A Warrior	L 145	Florent
13. Pan Adam	L 145	Hagenbach
LR. Bk's Double Jade	153	Williams
LR. Highland Township	132	Marr

Mgn: 5 3/4. Time: 3:28 2/5.

O: Mrs. Henry F. Stern. T: Jack Fisher.

Dk. B./Br. G. 4 Mizzen Mast-Free Question, Unbridled. Bred By Millsec Ltd. (Ky).

### 6th. \$50,000. Timber Stakes. 3 1/2 miles. The International Gold Cup

1. Bubble Economy	L 165	Walsh
2. Salmo	L 160	Nagle
3. Woodmont	L 155	J. Murphy
4. The Other Me	L 160	Chalfin
5. Brimson	L 160	McVicar
6. Shady Valley	L 155	R. Haynes
7. A Fine Story (GB)	150	Horner
8. Profowens (Ire)	154	Carter
9. Professor Maxwell	L 162	Hundt

Mgn: Neck. Time: 7:20 2/5.

O: Arcadia Stable. T: Jack Fisher.

B. g. 9 Rakeen-Buffels, Vaal Reef.

Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Gardner & Mr. and Mrs. Rick Abbott (Pa).

### 7th. \$20,000. Restricted flat. 1 1/4 miles. Bred or sired in Virginia

1. I'm A Hokie	L 160	J. Murphy
2. River Magic	160	Mackenzie
3. Class Disco	150	Dalton
4. Roseville Run	L 160	Ryan
5. Highcrest	L 160	Chalfin
6. Plymouth Rock	L 160	Walsh
7. Class Crash	140	McVicar
8. Smartest One	L 150	Slater
9. Winter Break	L 140	McWade
10. Tatjana's Salute	153	Williams
11. Daylight Fire	L 147	Wood

Mgn: 1/2. Time: 2:17.

O: Gordon Keys. T: Simon Hobson.

B. g. 5 Chief Protocol-Smalltown, Waquoit. Bred by Virginia Tech Foundation (Va).

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# Gold Cup —

■ Continued from page 20

the last fence, he doesn't want to be in the lead."

Cuse didn't have much experience being in front when it counted, but he did have some. He kicked off his 2008 campaign this March winning an unsanctioned jump race at Little Everglades.

Now that Cuse finally has his diploma, he can focus on post-graduate work. Like the two remaining \$100,000 novice stakes on the 2008 schedule.

"I nominated him for Callaway but I might run him in a non-winners of two, I really don't know," Gray said. "I'd like to take him to Palm Beach, that'd be fun. I'm still not sure how many entries they'll get so I'll probably nominate him for there, too."

• Youth may have its day, it just wasn't this one. The second race, an optional claiming hurdle, provided a stark contrast in experience, as the 11-horse field contained a mix of one-win hopefuls on the allowance side and salty vets in for a tag.

With 37 career jump starts and nine wins, 11-year-old Bow Strada was saltier than the bottom of a pretzel bag. But his recent efforts had been mixed. He won a classy claimer in Atlanta, ran a respectable fourth to Good Night Shirt in the Iroquois, then returned from a summer break only to lose Jody Petty with a mistake in a Morven Park claimer.

Seven days later, he produced a win for Calvin Houghland and trainer Bruce Miller, taking the \$30,000 race by a length over Tax Ruling (Watts) and Terpsichorean (Bernie Dalton). Bow Strada (Tom Foley) traveled the 2 1/2 miles in 4:54 2/5.

The British-bred brought six of his jump victories across the pond with him, and has now earned four more since joining the NSA scene in 2005.

• The jockeys in the fifth, a \$20,000 flat race for international amateurs, gathered from around the world. Both the field and the course were wide open,



Douglas Lees

**Bow Strada (left, Tom Foley) stays clear of Tax Ruling in the stretch of the second.**

and after 1 3/4 miles, Freeboard (Blair Wyatt) got up for the victory for Fisher, rolling clear by 5 3/4 lengths over Northern Bay (Michelle Penman).

The early, middle and even late part of the race was dominated by Organizer (Nadine Gratz), a New York-bred with more than \$400,000 in flat earnings. He used every bit of the Great Meadow course, racing wide into every turn, and despite the solid pace and the effort, Organizer kept the lead for nearly 12 furlongs before grudgingly giving way and finishing third.

Purchased as a jump prospect for Ann and Henry Stern, Freeboard was making just his second start since entering Fisher's barn; the first was somewhat dicey, but still rather successful.

"He ran really well. He ran at Kentucky Downs on the flat and his blinkers moved — well, they were too small for his gigantic head — so he went," McGlothlin said. "After sitting behind, he split the pack and took off because he couldn't see, bless his heart. He finished third, so we thought he should be improving off of that."

• I'm A Hokie seemed a natural hunch play in the finale, a \$20,000 flat race for Virginia-bred or sired horses, and he delivered a popular victory, charging late through the stretch under Murphy to nab River Magic (Mackenzie) by a half-length, with Class Disco (Dalton) third. The winner clocked the 10 furlongs in 2:17.

Owned by Gordie Keys and trained by former jump jockey Simon Hobson, I'm A Hokie didn't just adopt the name of Virginia Tech's mascot, he has a true connection to the university, as he was bred by the Virginia Tech Foundation.

The son of Chief Protocol and the Waquoit mare Smalltown is a product of the university's Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center, which holds a yearling auction to benefit the program each year.

The center is a 420-acre farm once was donated to Virginia Tech by the late Paul Mellon in 1949. The center was used for cattle research for 40 years, but was rededicated to horses in 1992.

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3-year-old son of Include, winner of a maiden special going a mile

**HOT TABLE** **HIP #4573**

4-year-old son of Bernstein, multiple winner on turf including last two starts

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**Selling At Keeneland November 3-17**



# Langburg pays way for Voss

BY SEAN CLANCY

Say it costs \$30,000 – give or take – to keep a racehorse in training for a year.

Langburg has the accounting down for Blackwood Stable and trainer Tom Voss.

The 7-year-old son of Langfuhr easily defeated seven rivals in an optional claimer at Philadelphia Park Oct. 12. The win increased his 2008 earnings to the break even point of \$31,076. Last year, the Canadian-bred gelding played below the line, picking up \$18,800 in one jump try and three flat starts. In his first year of jumping in 2006, Langburg won twice, assisting the average by winning \$43,600 over jumps and nearly \$30,000 on the flat.

In his three years with Voss, Langburg has averaged yearly jump earnings of \$24,892. Toss in his flat bankroll, and Langburg's paid his way.

Langburg stalked Mark The Shark and Second Approval in the 2 1/16-mile race before skipping home to win by a comfortable 4 lengths. Second Approval held on for second while favorite Sermon Of Love closed tepidly to wind up third. Langburg finished the distance in 3:50.23.

"He's a horse that can be keen in his races but he switched off well for me and jumped nicely," jockey Padge Whelan said. "I didn't think the ground was to his liking at Kentucky Downs, it was fast and very quick that day and he didn't seem to let himself down into it. But he didn't have that problem and won easy as you please. I wish they could all be like that."

Langburg has gradually returned to form this year. He made his first start since last July with a fourth in the Happy Intellectual at Saratoga, then finished second while no match to the winner Quem Se Atrave at Kentucky Downs. A

## PHILADELPHIA PARK

Sunday, October 12

month later, he ran for the claiming tag at Philadelphia Park and picked up his first jump win since Saratoga 2006.

"I thought he ran really well at Saratoga, which was his first start back after a while off. He bowed on us and it took some time bringing him back. The race at Saratoga was at two and three-eighths and he probably doesn't want to go that far and he got tired," Voss said. "He kind of gets lost and we have no place to run him because he gets in between distances. But at Philly, going short like that, he moved forward off the other race and just galloped."

Bred by Gustav Schickendanz, Langburg made his career debut as a 2-year-old in a 5-furlong maiden at Woodbine in 2003. He won three races on the flat before Voss purchased him in late 2005. He won his debut for Voss at Strawberry Hill in April and has continued to fly above the bar, with over \$300,000 in career earnings. His full-brother Marlang won the Saranac at Saratoga this summer.

"I bought him from Roger Attfield with the intention of making a jumper out of him, but he did some good work on the flat for us as well," Voss said. "He's a talented horse, always has been."

Additional reporting by Brian Nadeau.

### Philadelphia Park

Sunday, October 12. Bensalem, Pa. Turf: Firm.

4th. \$30,000 Optional claiming hurdle, 2 1/16 miles.

NW1X or for \$30,000 clm price.

1. LANGBURG	L 144	Whelan	8.20	3.80	2.20
2. SECOND APPROVAL	L 148	Slater		5.40	2.80
3. SERMON OF LOVE	L 144	Hodsdon			2.20

Exacta (5-3) \$38.40. Trifecta (5-3-4) \$83.60

4. PREP SCHOOL	L 148	McCarron
5. MARK THE SHARK	L 152	Dowling
6. MAJOR MALIBU	L 140	Aizpuru
7. RAINBOWS FOR LUCK	L 156	Walsh
8. MORE FASCINATION	L 148	Young

Mgn: 4. Time: 3:50 1/5. O: Blackwood Stable. T: Tom Voss.

B. g. 7, Langfuhr-Marienburg, Conquistador Cielo.

Bred by Gustav Schickendanz (Canada).



Alyssa Kwiatak/EQUI-PHOTO

Langburg (left, Padge Whelan) battles Second Approval at Philadelphia Park.



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# Classy Barn

## Bouchers' Bopper beats his elders

BY JOE CLANCY

MORVEN PARK RACES

Saturday, October 11

LEESBURG, Va. — Back in March at Camden, trainer Lilith Boucher won a filly/mare maiden hurdle with Class Shadow, but she really wanted to talk about a training-flat win earlier on the card.

"The filly is going to be good, but that other horse could be pretty nice too," said Boucher.

That other horse was 3-year-old Class Bopper, who made four flat starts as a 2-year-old in 2007 (including one in the Laurel Futurity) and used Camden as a springboard to three flat tries, the last coming June 28. And then Boucher thought steeplechasing. Owned and bred by Mede Cahaba Stable, Class Bopper didn't run again until Oct. 11 at Morven Park and the chestnut didn't disappoint — winning a \$15,000 maiden hurdle with a polished effort.

Class Bopper (Richard Boucher) took the lead at the start, and simply kept going. He built a decent lead, settled, kicked clear on the turn and turned aside a late run from Perfectionately (Jake Chalfin) to win by 1 1/2 lengths in 4:23 3/5 for the 2 1/4 miles. Right Hand Red (Danielle Hodsdon) won a photo with Area Limits for third.

"That's the same horse I talked about

at Camden, remember?" Boucher told a reporter afterward. "That was a good effort. He didn't jump the last that well, but he still ran away from them."

The trainer's husband liked the view from Class Bopper's back, though had to deal with some rough moments early.

"Going to the start, I was having problems and down at the start when they called us back (from a false start) he started running around again and pawing and going backward," said Richard Boucher. "When the flag dropped I just figured we'd go. When he schools in front at home, he settles and pays attention, so I thought I was better there than fighting him in behind."

Definitely. Class Bopper settled in front and laughed at any of the late runners to join Class Shadow as a 2008 highlight for the Boucher barn. The 4-year-old filly went on to a solid three-win season that included a stakes score at Far Hills Oct. 18.

• Xavier Aizpuru, timber jockey. A year or so ago, the English import wanted as much to do with lumber as a



Douglas Lees

Class Bopper (right, Richard Boucher) controls the pace in his maiden hurdle win.

spotted owl. Now, he's wearing flannel and carrying an ax. The transplanted Englishman won his fifth timber race of 2008 after hopping aboard Augustin Stable's Move West in the \$15,000 allowance.

The duo sped off to an early lead and made it look easy, winning by 19 1/4 lengths in 6:32 for the 3 1/4 miles. Ravens Rock (Paddy Young) took second with Shiny Emblem (Willie Dowling) third.

When Jody Petty went down earlier in the card, trainer Sanna Hendriks tapped Aizpuru and was happy to have the 2007 NSA champion and current leader. Aizpuru let Move West make most of the decisions and, despite carrying his head low and setting a quick pace, the former hurdler did everything right.

"What a cool horse, a lovely ride," said Aizpuru. "I've been lucky to ride some nice horses over timber and he's another one. He carries his head low and takes a hold, but he is relentless and he jumped brilliantly every step of the way. I didn't want to mess him up by trying to bring him back on his hocks at

his fences, but every time he needed to do it, he did it."

Hendriks nearly thought about stakes at Far Hills or the International Gold Cup a week later, but opted to try the non-winners of two condition at Morven.

"Timber horses make you think about stuff like that, but you wouldn't do that with a hurdle horse," Hendriks said. "I just wanted to win a race with the horse. He's run well in some stakes, but at the same time it's nice for him to win. I had this spot picked out all along and just had to tell myself to stick with it."

As for Aizpuru, he's not making his plans around Hunt Cups and Gold Cups, but will take the success (through Oct. 21, he's 5-for-7 over timber this year).

"I'm not trying to be a timber jockey," he said, "but here I am."

• Aizpuru and trainer Tom Voss teamed up to win the second, an open claimer at the \$15,000-\$10,000 level, with Ken and Sarah Ramsey's Slip

See **MORVEN** page 25 ►



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Douglas Lees

Move West (left, Xavier Aizpuru) jumps with Won Wild Bird in the allowance timber.



# Morven —

■ Continued from page 24

Away. A 5-year-old with a reputation for running away early, Slip Away took back off a quick early pace put up by Jimmie Echo and Deb's Delight before taking over on the backside. Slip Away poured it on from there, winning by 5 3/4 lengths over Humdinger (Matt McCarron) in 4:23 3/5 for the 2 1/4 miles. Deb's Delight (Danielle Hodsdon) stayed for third.

The field included tough veterans Bow Strada, who lost Petty with a mistake late, the Voss-trained Motel Affair, who flattened out late to finish fourth and One Sea, who finished seventh.

"He's just got one gear and these hunt meets help a horse like him because you race up and down hill a bit," Aizpuru said. "It takes the speed away from some of the other horses. We went around that turn, and he grabbed me there and jumped away. They couldn't live with him after that — he jumped so well and kept on."

• The Voss barn also took the first, a maiden claimer for \$10,000-\$5,000, with 4-year-old homebred Waracha. Under Padge Whelan, the speedy chestnut went right to the front, opened a 20-length lead and was never caught while winning by 5 1/4 for Voss' wife, Mimi. New Point (Young) made a run on the turn, but couldn't match the win-



Douglas Lees

**Easy winner Waracha (Padge Whelan) leads a crowd early in the Morven opener.**

ner and Sir Chip (Roderick Mackenzie) finished third. Waracha covered the 2 1/4 miles in 4:16, and caused some head shaking from his trainer.

"He's a really good jumper and if he'd settle at all he'd be OK, but he won't," Voss said. "He jogs up a hill at home and does too much."

Whelan agreed: "He's a lovely little horse, but he's his own worst enemy. I was trying to give him breathers, but he was still running away with me."

• Anna Stable's Music To My Ears (George Hundt Jr.) overcame a dodgy

start to win the jump finale, a \$5,000 highweight allowance timber for amateur jockeys. Trained by Richard Valentine, the Irish-bred bounced through the field just before the flag dropped, but found a comfortable spot behind early leader Uppercut by the first run down the backside.

With about a half-mile to go, Music To My Ears went to the front as Uppercut faltered and eventually lost jockey Larry Ensor, and outran Profowens (Lucy Horner) late to score by 5 1/2 in 6:45 3/5 for the 3 miles. Antonio Star (Diana Gillam) finished third.

Hundt paid credit to his horse.

"He's the perfect amateur rider's horse, he really is," said Hundt. "He was bold where he needed to be and

smart where he needed to be. After the bad start, I didn't want to catch up right away like that, but I knew he would come back to me. I knew he would settle and he did."

Hundt won the amateur-highweight series last year and has continued to improve his game. The former stockbroker rides out at trainer Jonathan Sheppard's barn in the mornings and has a stable of solid timber horses in Virginia with Valentine.

"He is so dedicated, and you can tell," said Valentine. "He's a very good horseman and a very good rider. For the kind of timber racing he's doing, the jockey skills will come. You need to be a horseman first to ride down to those jumps and he's got that."

## Morven Park Steeplechase.

Leesburg, Va. Saturday, October 11. Turf: Firm.

**1st. \$10,000. Mdn. clm. hurdle. 2 1/4 miles. \$10,000-\$5,000 clm. price**

1. Waracha	L 142	Whelan
2. New Point	L 148	Young
3. Sir Chip	L 147	Mackenzie
4. Sand Box Rules	L 150	McCarron
5. Add It	L 152	Petty
6. Sabotage	L 148	Hodsdon
7. Robaire	L 137	Chalfin
LR. Template	L 151	Santoro
LR. Reigning Count	L 143	R. Haynes
PU. Bright Forecast	L 150	Walsh
PU. Justabud	L 147	Carter
PU. Tracy Arm	L 147	McVicar

Mgn: 5 1/4. Time: 4:16 1/5.

O: Mimi Voss. T: Tom Voss.

Ch. g. 4, Not For Love-Call To Arms, Lord At War (Arg). Bred by Mimi Voss (Md).

**2nd. \$10,000. Claiming hurdle. 2 1/4 miles. \$15,000-\$10,000 clm. price**

1. Slip Away	L 146	Aizpuru
2. Humdinger	L 146	McCarron
3. Deb's Delight	L 142	Hodsdon
4. Motel Affair	L 158	Whelan
5. Prancing Cat	L 135	Mackenzie
6. Kirimbai	L 140	Walsh
7. One Sea	L 153	Chalfin
LR. Bow Strada (GB)	L 158	Petty
PU. Sussex County	L 140	Young
PU. Jimmie Echo	L 148	Carter

Mgn: 5 3/4. Time: 4:23 3/5.

O: Ken Ramsey. T: Tom Voss.

Gr./Ro. g. 5 Skip Away-Aurora Slew, Slew's Royalty. Bred by Glencrest Farm, Trontz & Madison (Ky).

**3rd. \$15,000. Maiden hurdle. 2 1/4 miles.**

1. Class Bopper	L 136	Boucher
2. Perfectionately	L 148	Chalfin
3. Right Hand Red	L 154	Hodsdon
4. Area Limits	L 154	McCarron
5. Praise Me	L 136	Young
6. Delawarelovedoctor	L 148	Whelan
7. Liverpool Gloves	L 148	J. Murphy
8. Steve Bo	L 149	Mackenzie
F. Gone Wild Again	L 148	Carter
PU. Rare Call	L 154	Spat
PU. Greenwood Smoke	L 130	McVicar
PU. Simon	L 154	Aizpuru

PU. Dynegor L 148 Walsh

R. Magic Boots L 154 Watts

Mgn: 1 1/2. Time: 4:23 3/5.

O: Mede Cahaba Stable. T: Lillith Boucher.

Ch. g. 3 Bop-Class Vim, Class Secret.

Bred by Mede Cahaba Stable & Stud (Va).

**4th. Training flat. 1 1/4 miles.**

1. Dreadnaught	L 155	Whelan
2. Derby For Darby	L 155	Walsh
3. Triple Dip	L 155	McVicar
4. Orison	L 155	McCarron
5. Pleasant Top	L 150	Dowling
6. Zulla Road	L 155	J. Murphy
7. Mecklenburg	L 155	W. Haynes
8. Witsand Bay	L 155	Watts
9. Wicklow Bound	L 155	Hodsdon
10. Questioning	L 155	Young
11. Twickenham	L 150	Boniface
12. Highland Township	L 150	Malone
13. Old Fellow (Arg)	L 155	Ryan
PU. Marked For Ransom	L 155	Spat

Mgn: Half. Time: 2:13 3/5.

O: Trillium Stable. T: Tom Voss.

B. g. 8 Lac Ouimet-Wings Of Dreams, Sovereign Dancer. Bred by David Pennington (Ky).

**5th. \$15,000. Allowance timber. 3 1/4 miles. NW 2.**

1. Move West	L 165	Aizpuru
2. Ravens Rock	L 165	Young
3. Shiny Emblem	L 160	Dowling
4. Won Wild Bird	L 149	W. Haynes
5. Make It Easy (Ire)	L 160	Carter
6. Westfield Dancer (Ire)	L 155	Horner
PU. Greyhame	L 160	Walsh

Mgn: 19 1/4. Time: 6:32.

O: Augustin Stable. T: Sanna Hendriks.

B. g. 7 Gone West-Ristna (GB), Kris (GB).

Bred by George Strawbridge (Pa).

**6th. \$5,000. Hwt. allowance timber. 3 miles. NW \$9,000 once in 2007-2008. Am. jockeys**

1. Music To My Ears (Ire)	L 170	Hundt
2. Profowens (Ire)	L 170	Horner
3. Antonio Star	L 170	Gillam
LR. Sandyland	L 170	Chalfin
LR. Uppercut	L 170	Ensor
PU. Straight Path	L 180	Ryan

Mgn: 5 1/2. Time: 6:45 3/5.

O: Anna Stable. T: Richard Valentine.

Ch. g. 10 Phardante (Fr)-Evas Charm (GB), Carlborg. Bred by Eamonn McCarthy (Ire).

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Bill Roberts

Western Fling (James Slater) flies a fence in his stakes score at Genesee Valley.

# Slater's Day

## Western Fling, Twill Do deliver pair of timber scores for jockey

BY BRIAN NADEAU

GENESEE VALLEY RACES

Saturday, October 11

James Slater headed to the Genesee Valley Oct. 11 with some unfinished business. Booked to ride Western Fling in the featured \$25,000 timber stakes and Twill Do in the maiden timber, Slater looked forward to redemption.

He got it in a big way after sweeping the card's two NSA races to avenge a pair of hard-luck defeats in the spring of 2007.

With Slater aboard, Western Fling made his timber debut at Foxfield in April 2007 and finished second to Grade I hurdle winner Praise The Prince.

The son of Gone West turned in a promising effort that was far better than the running line looked on paper.

"That day at Foxfield he jumped really well and I had Praise The Prince in my sights the whole way. I remember saying to myself 'This one's in the bag.' Unfortunately we had a bad fence at the second-last and we ended up second, so I always wanted to get back on him," Slater said. "I remembered him and knew he had talent, so going into the race I had a lot of confidence in him."

Slater's confidence was rewarded in the 3 1/2-mile Hunt Cup, as Western Fling proved a game and determined nose winner over Patriot's Path (Darren Nagle), with Toughkenamon (James Stierhoff) completing the three-horse field. Trained by Kathy McKenna for Stewart Strawbridge and Crestview Farm, the winner needed 8:06 to cover the 3 1/2 miles.

Western Fling broke alertly and set the pace while Patriot's Path and Toughkenamon tracked intently.

The order remained unchanged for 17 fences when Nagle turned up the pressure, urging Patriot's Path to a narrow lead at the 18th. With things suddenly in limbo and Western Fling a length behind, Slater asked his mount to dig down. Toughkenamon hung tough on the inside, setting the stage for a tussle in the stretch.

Western Fling counterpunched Patriot's Path in deep stretch, while Toughkenamon came up wanting. The two leaders battled heads apart nearing the line, Western Fling on the inside, Patriot's Path on the outside. Western Fling got a nose in front at the wire, despite giving Patriot's Path 13 pounds.

"He's a classy ol' boy. We knew he was giving weight to the others so I just wanted to try and conserve some energy and trust his class," Slater said. "Darren was pushing on his horse and it really developed into a race at the third-last. He showed some grit out there that helped. Obviously you have to give a lot of credit to Kathy as well; having him ready to go 3 1/2 miles off such a long layoff."

McKenna bought Western Fling, trained by Jonathan Sheppard for George Strawbridge at the time, in the spring of 2005 and received an immediate return. He finished second in a maiden claimer over hurdles and then won a maiden hurdle at the now defunct Brookhill Steeplechase, and a flat race for NSA runners at Colonial Downs.

Little went right from there. Western Fling lost his next nine (on the flat and over hurdles) through 2006. He returned at Foxfield in 2007 (with Slater) for his timber debut and ran second. He failed to win in five starts last year but had found his calling.

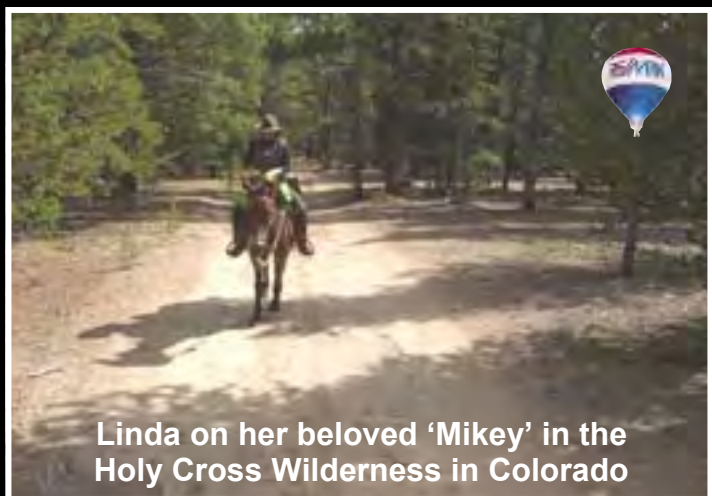
McKenna freshened Western Fling for 2008 while working to get him settled early in his races. He responded with good second at My Lady's Manor in April and scored a pair of lopsided scores at the Grand National and Willowdale, winning by a combined 84 lengths. McKenna credits the "less is more" mantra for the 2008 turnaround.

"I basically just stopped on him and took him cross-country and foxhunt-

See **GENESEE** page 27 ►

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# Genesee —

■ Continued from page 26

ing, and it's worked. He really likes to foxhunt and that can improve a horse's temperament for racing," McKenna said. "He seems like he's really turned the corner for us. He's not worried out there anymore. Before he wouldn't settle early in his races, so we worked with him. I've got to give a lot of credit to (jockey) Carl Rafter as well; he's worked with him a lot and gotten him to settle nicely."

• Slater also made amends in the second, a \$10,000 maiden timber, as Lucy Goelet's Twill Do scored an easy 8-length win over Timmy R (Nagle) and Beneficial Man (Stierhoff), to boost the jockey's personal well-being.

"He's another that I had ridden before and just missed on. We were second, beaten about a long neck to Michele Marieschi at Willowdale last May," Slater said. "That was the picture that appeared in *Steeplechase Times* congratulating George Hundt on winning the race, so ever since then I've wanted to get back on him and win. It's been ingrained in my head, us running second."

Not any longer. Slater rode Twill Do with supreme confidence, sitting off the early pace of Beneficial Man while keeping a measured distance from Timmy R.

Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Tom Bowman (of Good Night Shirt fame), Twill Do took charge on the second lap while Timmy R moved into second. Timmy R challenged to the winner at the 13th fence but Slater gave him a nudge and Twill Do drew off as much the best in 6:26 1/4 for the 3 miles.



Twill Do (James Slater) heads for home with a maiden timber win at Genesee.

Bill Roberts

"We had a really nice ride out there. James got a big lead on Beneficial Man and I was able to just lay off of him and my horse got more and more confidence in his jumping as we went," Slater said. "He was taking some big leaps out there and finally I just looked over my shoulder, was in front without having too much to do, and we just kicked on from there."

Trained by Billy Meister, Twill Do has shown talent in his brief eight-race career, running second twice and third

once prior to Genesee.

All eight starts have come over the lumber and the 8-year-old son of Yar-row Brae could have a bright future.

Slater agrees. "When Billy called me and told me he was going up there I was really excited because I knew he'd be in a very good spot," Slater said, "So after that I knew I had two pretty good chances and was probably on two of the favorites. You really can't ask for more than that, can you?"

## Genesee Valley Hunt Races

Saturday, October 11. Genesee, N.Y.  
Turf firm.

### 1st. \$10,000 maiden timber, 3 miles.

- |                         |       |           |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Twill Do             | L 165 | Slater    |
| 2. Timmy R              | L 160 | Nagle     |
| 3. Beneficial Man (Ire) | L 160 | Stierhoff |

Mgn: 8. Time: 6:26 1/5.

O: Lucy Goelet. T: Billy Meister.

Dk. B./Br. g. 8, Yarrow Brae-A Little Wild, Wild Again. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Tom Bowman (MD).

### 2nd. \$25,000 Timber stakes, 3 1/2 miles.

#### Genesee Valley Hunt Cup

- |                   |       |           |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Western Fling  | L 165 | Slater    |
| 2. Patriot's Path | L 150 | Nagle     |
| 3. Toughkenamon   | L 150 | Stierhoff |

Mgn: Nose. Time: 8:09.

O: Crestview Farm. T: Kathy McKenna.

Dk. B./Br. g. 8, Gone West-Silver Fling, The Minstrel. Bred by George Strawbridge (KY).

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# NSA Standings

THROUGH OCTOBER 31

## Jockeys (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Xavier Aizpuru.....	71	20	12	9	\$487,737	.28
Matt McCarron.....	74	12	6	7	347,712	.16
Jody Petty.....	52	11	9	6	248,675	.21
Willie Dowling.....	48	11	5	9	642,993	.23
Paddy Young.....	84	10	15	11	276,990	.12
Danielle Hodsdon.....	64	10	10	12	434,995	.16
Padge Whelan.....	43	9	12	5	373,728	.21
Robbie Walsh.....	74	8	3	11	269,368	.11
Carl Rafter.....	62	7	3	11	232,983	.11
James Slater.....	52	5	9	6	134,175	.10

## Trainers (Races Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Jack Fisher.....	104	22	10	17	\$995,367	.21
Tom Voss.....	81	20	21	8	621,828	.25
Jonathan Sheppard.....	79	15	14	15	634,396	.19
Sanna Hendriks.....	53	13	14	5	266,300	.25
Doug Fout.....	92	11	10	11	395,252	.12
Kathy McKenna.....	60	7	1	12	107,250	.12
Lilith Boucher.....	23	6	3	3	144,068	.26
Bruce Miller.....	28	5	3	3	186,613	.18
Desmond Fogarty.....	34	4	10	6	151,550	.12
Richard Valentine.....	41	4	5	5	93,170	.10

## Owners (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Sonny Via.....	5	4	0	0	\$397,020	.80
Calvin Houghland.....	37	6	5	8	257,378	.16
Bill Pape.....	22	5	5	2	223,864	.23
Irv Naylor.....	43	5	11	7	204,900	.12
Augustin Stable.....	30	9	5	4	176,650	.30
Alnoff Stable.....	8	2	5	0	168,138	.25
Gil Johnston.....	33	4	3	4	155,544	.12
Peggy Steinman.....	10	2	3	2	134,156	.20
Arcadia Stable.....	27	3	3	7	127,000	.11
Hudson River Farm.....	3	2	0	0	114,775	.67

## Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
*Good Night Shirt.....	4	4	0	0	\$395,520	1.00
Be Certain.....	8	2	5	0	168,138	.25
Dark Equation.....	5	1	1	1	116,856	.20
Sovereign Duty.....	2	2	0	0	114,075	1.00
The Price Of Love.....	6	3	1	1	112,792	.50
Swagger Stick.....	9	1	2	1	98,344	.11
Bubble Economy.....	6	2	0	2	98,250	.33
Class Shadow.....	7	3	2	1	88,068	.43
High Action.....	3	2	0	1	77,690	.67
Seer.....	5	2	1	1	76,480	.40

## Timber Horses (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
*Bubble Economy.....	6	2	0	2	\$98,250	.33
Monte Bianco.....	5	3	0	1	67,000	.60
Allimac.....	3	2	0	0	57,000	.67
Askim.....	2	1	1	0	51,300	.50
Erin Go Bragh.....	5	1	2	0	46,700	.20

## Novice Hurdle Horses (Money Won)

Horses which started 2008 as maidens

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
The Price Of Love.....	6	3	1	1	\$112,792	.50
Class Shadow.....	7	3	2	1	88,068	.43
Seer.....	5	2	1	1	76,480	.40
Spy In The Sky.....	6	2	1	1	75,370	.33
Dynaski.....	4	2	2	0	72,700	.50

## Fillies/Mares (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Class Shadow.....	7	3	2	1	\$88,068	.43
Guelph.....	4	2	1	0	60,424	.50
Imagina.....	3	1	1	0	58,500	.33
Sweet Shani.....	2	0	1	1	43,822	.00
Jellyberry.....	5	1	2	1	31,000	.20

## Three-Year-Olds (Money Won)

	Sts	1st	2nd	3rd	Money	Win%
Class Real Rock.....	2	1	0	0	\$30,500	.50
Orebanks.....	2	1	1	0	15,000	.50
Miss Crown.....	2	1	0	0	9,400	.50
Class Bopper.....	2	1	0	0	9,000	.50
Imperial Way.....	2	0	0	2	6,000	.00

\*-Clinched Division Championship



Tod Marks

Mignon Smith (fifth from right) brought a crowd to the winner's circle at Far Hills.

# Planning Class

For owner/breeder Smith, racing success comes with the territory

BY JOE CLANCY

their names.

Mignon Smith sticks to a plan. Really sticks to a plan. Decades ago, she bought a Thoroughbred horse in Ireland because she liked her. Now, she owns generations of racehorses connected to that one, named Callisto, and they are paying off with racetrack performances like the two Smith got at the Far Hills Races Oct. 18.

Class Shadow (a 4-year-old filly) and Class Real Rock (a 3-year-old gelding) each won a stakes at the country's premier steeplechase meet. The homebreds race for the Smith-led syndicate Star Ten Stable and her Mede Cahaba Stable, respectively. The Far Hills victories helped Smith realize a dream of sorts.

"I couldn't be better," she said a few days later. "It feels pretty great. I enjoyed every minute of it. I only race homebreds. It's so much more satisfying to do it this way. I try to breed horses that are athletic and if they are athletic they can run on turf and they can run over jumps."

After Callisto, the Smith breeding program took its next step when she purchased the stallion Sirte. Though she would not recommend owning the stallion and the mare as a key tenant to Thoroughbred breeding, Smith bred the two and got Classicality who became Mede Cahaba's foundation mare and the reason the horse's all have Class in

The program has grown to include its current portfolio of 15 broodmares, including a few from outside of the family. Smith purchased Gold On The Rocks, who produced Grade I steeplechase winner Clearance Code. That mare is the granddam of Class Real Rock.

Not content to own just mares, Smith stood Class Secret (a homebred son of Secretariat and Class Wizard) for several years. Class Secret never raced, but is the grandsire of numerous Mede Cahaba runners. After Pals Pride won the NSA 3-year-old crown in 2002, Smith purchased the horse's sire Rock Point and he produced both Far Hills winners. More recently, Smith stepped up the sire power by sending mares to such sires as Dynaformer, Not For Love, Bop and others.

Smith grew up near Birmingham, Ala. with horses long a part of her life via foxhunting, a riding school and a small farm. Her great-grandfather, Braxton Bragg Comer, was the governor of Alabama in the early 1900s. Her family founded Avondale Mills, a large textile company that manufactured denim cloth and cotton yarn. After college, Smith moved to Washington, D.C. and worked as a radio reporter for Alabama stations (she was in the White House press room when President Rich-

See **SMITH** page 30 ►

## NSA FALL SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 1 .....STEEPLECHASE AT CALLAWAY, Pine Mountain, Ga.

[www.steeplechaseatcallaway.org](http://www.steeplechaseatcallaway.org)

Saturday, Nov. 1 ..... MONTPELIER, Montpelier Station, Va.

[www.montpelieraces.com](http://www.montpelieraces.com)

Sunday, Nov. 2 .....PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP, Unionville, Pa.

[www.pahuntcup.org](http://www.pahuntcup.org)

Sunday, Nov. 16..... COLONIAL CUP, Camden, S.C.

[www.carolina-cup.org](http://www.carolina-cup.org)

Saturday, Nov. 29..... PALM BEACH, Palm Beach, Fla.

[www.palmbeachsteeplechase.com](http://www.palmbeachsteeplechase.com)



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#### **Friday, Nov. 14**

Rutledge Gallery Art Show  
and Reception  
Blue Grass, Blue Jeans and BBQ  
at the Fine Arts Center of  
Kershaw County.

#### **Saturday, Nov. 15**

8:30 AM – The Masters of the  
Camden Hunt invite you for  
cubbing with the Camden  
Hounds. Hunt horses available  
or bring your own.

9:00 – Colonial Cup Tour de  
Camden Bike Hike

Noon –  
Thoroughbred  
Retirement  
Foundation  
Sporting  
Clays Charity  
Tournament.

#### **Sunday, Nov. 16**

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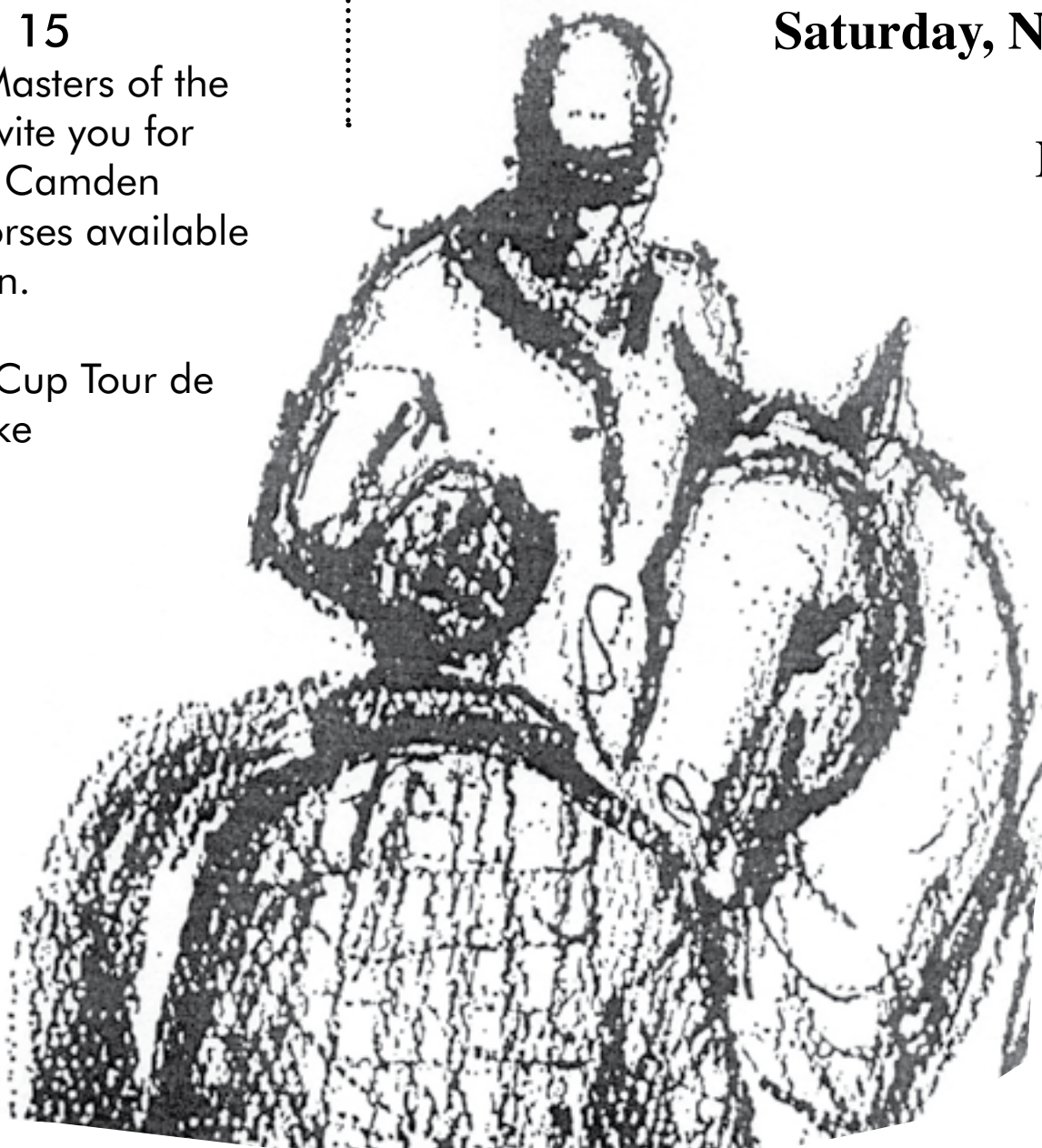
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# News from the NSF

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



## SUPPORT YOUR FOUNDATION!

### Dear Steeplechasing Supporter:

As you are probably aware, 2008 has been a difficult year for many horse sports in terms of safety concerns that resulted from high-profile accidents and injuries. In flat racing, the fatal breakdown of Eight Belles in the Kentucky Derby, as well as the publicized admission of steroid use on horses by some trainers led to outcry from animal-rights groups and a critical self-examination of the sport by many of its participants. In Three-Day-Eventing, multiple injuries and some fatalities to both horses and riders led to investigative pieces on the sport by both HBO and ESPN, and have caused many in that sport to call for drastic reforms.

In light of these occurrences and the increased scrutiny of all horse sports, the efforts of the National Steeplechase Foundation to promote safety in steeplechasing have never been more important. The Foundation is always concerned about safety for our horses and jockeys. The framework of the Foundation's efforts so far has gone a long way toward achieving the goal of safe racing. We are grateful that you value the important role we continue to play; we could not do the work we do without your extraordinary support of these vital programs.

- **Safe Courses-Sound Horses:** The course inspection and assessment program that has been in existence for several years and is funded by the Foundation has resulted in dramatic improvements in racecourse conditions and increased safety in racing. In addition, the Foundation has funded educational trips overseas for NSA course inspector Barry Watson to examine how other steeplechasing jurisdictions handle course management, and that has led to ideas for improving American courses.

- **Drug testing at all NSA race meets:** Especially with increased sophistication of both performance-enhancing and masking drugs, as well as the recently-enacted ban on steroid use by the NSA, funding this program and keeping it as up-to-date as possible is critical.

- **In past years, the NSF has fully or partially subsidized safety helmets, Pro-Cush whips, and safety wings at NSA race courses.** It also gives a \$4,000 annual grant to the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Center to track equine injuries.

As you know, the Foundation is engaged in numerous other beneficial programs, such as promoting amateurism, supporting production of television and other media efforts to promote steeplechasing, and of course supporting steeplechasing in general and thereby the generation of approximately \$5 million donated to charities annually by NSA race meets.

I hope you would agree that, this year especially, it is the emphasis on safety by the Foundation that is so critical. We have been extremely effective in improving the safety of our sport, but we need to continue the momentum and look for ways to enhance it. **Your generous contribution to the Foundation now will allow us to continue this important work.**

**This year there will be a benefit cocktail party at the National Steeplechase Museum in Camden, South Carolina, on Saturday, November 15, the evening before the Colonial Cup, and all donors to the Foundation by that date will be welcome there as our guests.**

I know you agree with me that safety in our sport is a paramount concern. Please join me and my fellow board members in supporting the National Steeplechase Foundation, the organization that promotes safety throughout American steeplechasing.

With heartfelt thanks for your consideration,  
Samuel Slater, President

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

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## Smith –

### Continued from page 28

ard Nixon resigned). Last year, she was inducted into the University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences' Hall of Fame.

Now retired from the media, Smith works full-time at the horses – along with her D.C.-based staff. She has raced steeplechasers since the 1970s, with an early stakes win by Class Blast in the 1980 Raymond Woolfe Memorial at the Colonial Cup. More recently, the stars have included Class Yankee (who won stakes on the flat and placed in stakes over jumps), Class Vantage (who won the Grade I U.S. Championship Novice Stakes in 2006) and the Far Hills stars.

"She's always said that she tries to breed a very good horse that could go on and do anything – racing, steeplechasing, show jumping, whatever," said Lilith Boucher. "She wants to run her horses at a certain level and we do our best to get them there – it's fun to do well for her."

Beyond horses, Smith supports other

worthy causes. In honor of her parents, she recently endowed the J. Craig and Page T. Smith Scholarship Foundation to provide full tuition for Alabama high-school seniors to attend Alabama colleges. In addition, she created the J. Craig Smith Chair for Integrity in Business and funds programs in the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at the University of Alabama.

She nominates her horses to the Breeders' Cup, pushes the idea of more crossover between flat and jump racing, enters horses in yearling shows, supports professional horsemen in three states (Phyllis Jones' Smallwood Farm in Virginia; Mark and Mardi Herman's Red Oak Farm in Maryland; and Lilith and Richard Boucher's Why Not Racing in Pennsylvania) and works to improve the game.

"She quietly supports a lot of things," said Mark Deane, Mede Cahaba's marketing director. "It's a really cool thing to be involved with. She appreciates the people who do the work, she appreciates the horses and she appreciates the success when she gets a chance."

And she's surely getting a chance.

### Reuter book offers look at sporting art

Former amateur steeplechase jockey and sporting art expert Turner Reuter recently released a book "Animal and Sporting Artists in America," a reference work offering biographies of 2,384 artists and more than 400 images. Published by the National Sporting Library, the book will be for sale at a booksigning at the National Steeplechase Museum on Colonial Cup Weekend in November.

Reuter is the curator of fine arts at the National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Va. and owner of Red Fox Fine Art, also in Middleburg.

One of the artists profiled is former jump jockey and trainer Carroll Bassett, a well-known artist and horseman connected to steeplechasing and Camden, S.C. Bassett rode the great Battleship, among others, for the Montpelier stable and was the leading trainer in 1934. Among his works are the bronze medal used as the logo for the Carolina Cup, which is on display in the paddock at Springdale Race Course.

Reuter's biography on Bassett:

#### Carroll Kinney Bassett (1906-1972). Sculptor.

Bassett was born in 1906 in Summit, N.J. (although one source places his birthdate in 1907). He began his association with horses at an early age, first as a foxhunter and later as a high-goal polo player. Among his first known sculptures, cast in bronze, were portraits of Hotspur II and Emerald Isle III, in 1923.

Ideas for his work came largely from his association with the equestrian community in Camden, South Carolina, where he spent time at his parents' winter residence. He studied at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass. and the Art Students League of New York in New York City, and received advice from Herbert Haseltine. He is thought to have sculpted only about 15 models, depicting such subjects as game cocks, mares and foals, polo players, racehorses with jockeys, and horse portraits. His sculpture was modeled mostly for himself and his friends rather than for sale. When he did work on commission, he generally charged only enough to cover the foundry bill and did very little sculpture after 1930.

His career as an amateur steeplechase jockey and trainer began in the late 1920s. He became the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association (now the National Steeplechase Association) leading trainer in 1934. He rode for Marion du Pont Scott's stable, Montpelier, in Orange, Va., and Camden, S.C. He was the jockey for all of the victories in the United States of Battleship, winner of the 1938 English Grand National, and one of Montpelier's most celebrated horses. In 1955, W. Smithson Broadhead painted Battleship for Mrs. Scott. The portrait now is in the collection of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Bassett visited the Genesee Valley in New York several times, riding to hounds and in steeplechases. After his retirement as an amateur jockey, he continued to train for Montpelier for many years. During this time, he developed an interest in fighting chickens and enthusiastically bred, trained and fought game cocks.

The Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, S.C., which features a gallery named in Bassett's honor, has a collection of his work.



Carroll Bassett's sculpture "The Jumpers"



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**Jockey:** Xavier Aizpuru

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**Jockey:** James Slater



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# All Together in California

## Sheppard filly wins Breeders' Cup

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Jonathan Sheppard couldn't remember if he'd ever sent a horse to Santa Anita. Now, he'll never forget.

Augustin Stable's Forever Together blew past the best female grass horses to win the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf Oct. 24.

The 4-year-old daughter of Belong To Me won the first three starts of her career on the main track, including the Grade II Forward Gal Stakes at Gulfstream Park in March 2007. She came within a neck of taking the Grade II Beaumont over the Keeneland Polytrack, but soured on Sheppard soon after, failing to win – or threaten – in her next four starts. Always a horse with her own mind, Forever Together went to Keeneland as part of Sheppard's small Kentucky string. And turned things around.

"She really started to thrive when we got her to Keeneland. She was there for about six weeks this spring and just loved the climate and ambiance," Sheppard said. "Barry Wiseman deserves a

lot of credit too because he worked with her a lot there, especially on her temperament, and then everything just jelled and she took off from there."

Forever Together next ran in a turf stakes at Arlington Park at 1 mile May 17. She won going away. Sheppard thought so highly of the effort he entered her in the Grade I Just A Game at the same distance on the Belmont Stakes undercard. She rallied from last in the field of 10 to finish third. Forever Together had arrived, though turf wasn't the sole reason.

"Switching her over to grass was obviously one of the keys to the turnaround," Sheppard said, "but she also stopped fretting on us. She's an extremely intelligent and rather opinionated horse. When we left Florida with her we couldn't even get her to train, she wouldn't even gallop for us."

Forever Together galloped in the Grade I Diana at Saratoga, rallying from 10th and last, some 15 lengths behind, to win over another exceptional field. She ran third in the Grade II Canadian Stakes at Woodbine Sept. 7 and then an-



Barbara Livingston

Jump jockey Danielle Hodsdon gallops Forever Together this summer at Saratoga.

nexed Keeneland's Grade I First Lady Oct. 3. That was the perfect tightener, but questions about Forever Together's ability to handle the 10 furlongs of the Filly and Mare Turf abounded. Sheppard wasn't worried about the distance.

"She closed like a house of fire in the Diana at 1 1/8 miles on good ground, so I didn't have too many worries about the distance out there because I knew it would be over firm ground," Sheppard said. "I wasn't quite sure if she would have enough time to wear down the leaders because I know that course can be speed favoring and it's only a seven-eighths of a mile turf course."

Forever Together settled in seventh under Julien Leparoux. She ranged up five-wide turning for home, but was eighth in the stretch. With a decisive burst, she rallied past the field inside the final furlong to score a three-quarter-length win in an effort that essentially clinched the Eclipse Award for outstanding female grass horse.

Asked Friday evening, Sheppard was hardly surprised that his filly had visited the winner's circle. The answer wasn't quite the same in late February.

"I never thought that at the beginning of the year I'd be standing here talking about winning a Breeders' Cup race with this filly," Sheppard said. "When I think back to her last three races in Florida, where she couldn't even beat average horses, to winning back-to-back Grade I races, I can't even imagine it."

Forever Together finished with a 4-for-7 mark on the season, with three Grade I wins and \$1,803,993 in earnings. She's a near lock to win the Eclipse Award as the outstanding grass female in America and plans call for a return for her 5-year-old season.

• Top jump jockey Danielle Hodsdon, also a key Sheppard assistant, skipped Aiken to accompany Forever Together to the Breeders' Cup – riding the filly in the mornings and leading her over to the paddock for the race.

• Steeplechase participants Jen Patterson and Bob Chapman handled important assignments at the Breeders' Cup as well.

Patterson, daughter of NSA steward Duncan Patterson, galloped all four of Shug McGaughey's runners while Chapman handled the riding duties on Godolphin's Cocoa Beach.

McGaughey's turf stalwart Dancing Forever rebounded from two disappointing runs over soft turf to finish third in the Breeders' Cup Turf. The big chestnut son of Rahy represented the best American finish in the \$2 million race, winding up third behind England's Conduit and Eagle Mountain.

"He proved he's the best American turf horse," Patterson said. "He's an amazing horse to ride and it's an amazing experience to be out here with all these great horsemen and horses. I miss jump racing at times, but being in California for the Breeders' Cup is something special."

Former jockey Chapman, who rode primarily for trainer Gerald Oxley, has been working in Godolphin's engine room for years and came to California at the controls of Cocoa Beach.

The Chilean-bred 4-year-old vaulted fresh off an upset of champion Ginger Punch in the Beldame. Cocoa Beach got the closest of anybody to the undefeated Zenyatta, finishing second in the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic. Chapman was aboard Cocoa Beach for her bullet work six days before the Breeders' Cup.

"I was strictly a passenger, hanging on for dear life," Chapman said of the 57 4/5-second drill.

### More from the flat world

• Informed Decision did her part to carry the Sheppard-Augustin banner, lighting up the Keeneland Polytrack Oct. 18 (the same day as Far Hills) in 1:20.86 to set a 7-furlong track record while winning the Grade II Raven Run. The 3-year-old daughter of Monarchos has won five of seven starts in 2008, including her debut in January. Deemed a "running machine" by Sheppard, Informed Decision will remain in training and should reappear in late winter.

• Sheppard wasn't the only steeplechase trainer to get a trophy from Keeneland. About an hour before Informed Decision won the Raven Run, Tom Voss sent out Always First to take the Grade III Sycamore. A multiple graded-stakes winner, Always First won for the first time since taking the Cape Henlopen Stakes at Delaware Park in September 2007. His start in the 12-furlong Sycamore marked his ninth consecutive run at the marathon distance.



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## A Uniform Shirt

Steeplechase powerhouse Good Night Shirt continues to rule the NSA standings (see page 28), but he's really having fun with the Pick Six contest. His nearly \$400,000 boosted 123 stables in the game, though that also means the championship will come down to others.

At the moment, timber horses Erin Go Bragh (who made \$30,000 at Far Hills) and Bubble Economy (who made \$30,000 at Great Meadow) are pushing the fortunes of the top two stables. Monochrome Farm (Erin Go Bragh) leads by less than \$40,000 over Champagne Taste (Bubble Economy). Both also have Preemptive Strike and The Price Of Love. Dr. Charles Reid's Dukester stable lost a tough one at Far Hills as his timber horse, Irish Prince, couldn't hold off Erin Go Bragh's late charge in the New Jersey Hunt Cup.

Since the overall leader shares a last name with a certain *Times* staffer, Lisa McLane picks up the \$50 ST Publishing gift certificate for topping the charts at the end of October.

The Top 40 stables (of 173) are listed here.  
See [www.st-publishing.com](http://www.st-publishing.com) for complete standings.

<b>Monochrome Farm</b> .....	<b>Rodd Santo</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Dark Equation .....	\$118,448
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Erin Go Bragh.....	\$46,700
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000

**\$750,090**

<b>Champagne Taste</b> .....	<b>Lisa McLane</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500

**\$710,370**

<b>Dukester</b> .....	<b>Dr. Charles Reid</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Sovereign Duty .....	\$114,075
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Orsay .....	\$0

**\$695,195**

<b>First Last Best Guess</b> .....	<b>Susan Haldeman</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Miles Ahead .....	\$28,800

**\$688,920**

<b>Plum Creek Farms</b> .....	<b>Cathy Fowler</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Gigger .....	\$27,150

**\$683,742**

<b>Browntrout Stable</b> .....	<b>Douglas Lees</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Erin Go Bragh.....	\$46,700
Kilbride Rd .....	\$0

**\$670,820**

<b>Cheltenham Invasion</b> .....	<b>Richard Hutchinson</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Miles Ahead .....	\$28,800
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500

**\$665,420**

<b>Geraldal Stable</b> .....	<b>Allison Janezic</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Bee Charmer .....	\$16,000

**\$664,770**

<b>PonyUp Stable</b> .....	<b>Ashley Monroe</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Bee Charmer .....	\$16,000

**\$664,770**

<b>Sweet Genius</b> .....	<b>Janice Woytek</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Be Certain .....	\$168,138
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Mixed Up .....	\$12,500
Sussex County .....	\$12,000

**\$664,158**

<b>Picture This Stable</b> .....	<b>Tod Marks</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Miles Ahead .....	\$28,800
Sur La Tete .....	\$0

**\$652,920**

<b>SeaHorse</b> .....	<b>Alix Michel</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Miles Ahead .....	\$28,800
Divine Fortune .....	\$0

**\$652,920**

<b>First Base Stable</b> .....	<b>Nolan Clancy</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Sovereign Duty .....	\$114,075
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Classy Brute .....	\$31,660
Coal Dust .....	\$14,900

**\$650,655**

<b>Samiam Stable</b> .....	<b>Sam Clancy</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Best Attack .....	\$68,013
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Jellyberry .....	\$31,000
Incomplete .....	\$9,000

**\$649,133**

<b>Hurler Was The King!</b> .....	<b>Bradley Johnson</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Best Attack .....	\$68,013
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Baby Bert .....	\$500

**\$642,105**

<b>Wu Farm</b> .....	<b>Jeremy Baskin</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Divine Fortune .....	\$0

**\$641,620**

<b>Broken Sound Farm</b> .....	<b>Marianne Vishno</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Diego Cao .....	\$0

**\$641,620**

<b>MVP Stable</b> .....	<b>Ernie Moulos</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500

**\$629,620**

<b>Steeplestakes.com</b> .....	<b>Van Cushny</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500

**\$629,620**

<b>Kfar Tapuakh Stable</b> .....	<b>Howard Newstadt</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Best Attack.....	\$68,013
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Dreadnaught .....	\$29,500
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500

**\$629,533**

<b>Clover Hill</b> .....	<b>Vivian Rall</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Dreadnaught .....	\$29,500
Sur La Tete.....	\$0

**\$627,592**

<b>Frequent Flyer</b> .....	<b>Tracy Scott</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Professor Maxwell .....	\$2,000
Three Carat .....	\$0

**\$626,120**

<b>3D Stable</b> .....	<b>Dallas Butts</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Askim.....	\$51,300
Run The Light .....	\$19,500
Toughkenamon .....	\$2,950

**\$626,020**

<b>On The Payroll</b> .....	<b>Kathleen Strakes</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Hip Hop.....	\$28,100
Private Attack .....	\$25,500
Orison .....	\$20,006

**\$622,548**

<b>Jordan River Stable</b> .....	<b>Mary Beth Martin</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500
Straight Gin.....	\$0

**\$621,942**

<b>Thidwick's Retreat</b> .....	<b>Mary Anne Steele</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Run The Light .....	\$19,500
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500

**\$620,270**

<b>Mrs. Rodddd</b> .....	<b>Erin Ray</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Best Attack.....	\$68,013
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Run The Light .....	\$19,500
Coal Dust .....	\$14,900

**\$616,933**

<b>Bossy Boots</b> .....	<b>Faith Hutchinson</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Miles Ahead .....	\$28,800
Sur La Tete.....	\$0

**\$613,742**

<b>Try Again</b> .....	<b>Jim McVey</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Magic Maker .....	\$19,050
Divine Fortune .....	\$0

**\$607,320**

<b>Twelfth Night Farm</b> .....	<b>Nicholas Schweizer</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Swagger Stick .....	\$85,744
Mark The Shark.....	\$18,050
Seeking No More .....	\$9,700
Thrumcap.....	\$0

**\$607,264**

<b>Block House Farms</b> .....	<b>Chuck Ross</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Miles Ahead .....	\$28,800
Gigger .....	\$27,150

**\$606,470**

<b>In Theory Farm</b> .....	<b>Sharon Gibson</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Bubble Economy .....	\$98,250
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Junood .....	\$14,700
Seeyouattheevent .....	\$0

**\$602,970**

<b>Up and Over Stable</b> .....	<b>John Tower</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Sovereign Duty .....	\$114,075
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Dreadnaught .....	\$29,500
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500
Toughkenamon .....	\$2,950

**\$598,367**

<b>Inkslinger/Ben Nevis Stables</b> ...	<b>Paul Peterson</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Monte Bianco .....	\$67,000
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Bee Charmer .....	\$16,000
Divine Fortune .....	\$0

**\$597,520**

<b>Cheese In The Trap Stable</b> .....	<b>Adrienne Hall</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Sovereign Duty .....	\$114,075
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Dreadnaught .....	\$29,500
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500
Straight Gin.....	\$0

**\$595,417**

<b>Chinese Checkers Stable</b> .....	<b>Bill Hutchinson</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Best Attack.....	\$68,013
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Run The Light .....	\$19,500
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500

**\$595,033**

<b>Millstone Farm</b> .....	<b>James Watrous</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
The Price Of Love.....	\$109,600
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Mixed Up.....	\$12,500
Sur La Tete.....	\$0

**\$593,620**

<b>Crisis Management</b> .....	<b>Joanie Morris</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Best Attack.....	\$68,013
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Sweet Shani .....	\$43,822
Bee Charmer .....	\$16,000
Lear Charm .....	\$2,700

**\$586,555**

<b>The New Guy Stable</b> .....	<b>Jasper Allison</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Swagger Stick .....	\$85,744
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Miles Ahead .....	\$28,800
Bee Charmer .....	\$16,000
Divine Fortune .....	\$0

**\$584,564**

<b>PedaltodaMetal</b> .....	<b>Bob Rush</b>
Good Night Shirt .....	\$395,520
Planets Aligned .....	\$60,500
Imagina .....	\$58,500
Preemptive Strike.....	\$36,000
Irish Prince .....	\$17,500
Fogcutter.....	\$13,300

**\$581,320**



# Coal Power

Tryon rides 8-year-old newcomer to last-round victory in three-star

BY KATY CARTER

FAIR HILL, Md. – In the now-legendary 1982 football game, the California Golden Bears' five laterals on the final kickoff brought them a touchdown and a win against rival Stanford.

Amy Tryon's double-clear show-jumping round aboard Coal Creek rocketed her five spots to the win in the USEF National CCI\*\*\* Championships at the Dansko Fair Hill International Oct. 16-19. While the Stanford marching band did not enter the ring Sunday, its absence certainly didn't take away from the drama of the tight finish.

Tryon, who also finished eighth aboard her Jersey Fresh CCI\*\*\* champion Leyland, jumped Coal Creek out of order and executed a forward, flowing round over Sally Ike's course to finish on 51 points, just two-tenths ahead of Corinne Ashton and Dobbin (51.2). Ashton, first after Saturday's cross-country test, also tackled Sunday's track beautifully, but the victory escaped her when she and Dobbin had a rail at the last fence. Will Coleman and Tivoli Farm's Selle Francais gelding Twizzel

FAIR HILL INTERNATIONAL

October 16-19

also dropped a rail at fence 12 to finish third (51.9).

"He was fantastic so I was thrilled," said Tryon. "You try to go out there and not let yourself and your horse and your owners down. I was really happy with it."

Coal Creek, an 8-year-old bay Thoroughbred owned by Tim and Kathryn Sullivan, worked his way up the standings of his first three-star. After scoring 47.0 in the dressage, good enough for fourth, he added four time penalties on cross country to occupy sixth before Sunday. Despite making few starts of late, Coal Creek (whom Tryon likened to a Labrador Retriever) entered the show-jumping round a contender.

Tryon represented the United States at the Olympics aboard longtime partner Poggio II; Coal Creek went to the sidelines after picking up a minor injury in the spring and had only a fifth in the

See **FAIR HILL** page 35 ►



Anthony Trollope

Coal Creek (Amy Tryon) flies a jump in the show-jumping portion of the event.



Kit Houghton photography

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# Fair Hill —

■ Continued from page 34

advanced combined test at the American Eventing Championships and a completion at the Morven Park Advanced Horse Trials to his recent credit.

"He came home from Florida in April and hasn't done much," said Tryon. "We entered the AECs, but cross country was canceled, so the only event he did this fall was Morven Park. It was less-than-ideal preparation, but I knew if I could get him fit, he would go well at Fair Hill . . . I've never doubted his genuineness or ability to try, even though I knew he was short on experience."

While Derek di Grazia's three-star cross-country track certainly shook up the standings Saturday (as early leaders Leslie Law and Fleeceworks Mystere Du Val were eliminated and Phillip Dutton had an uncharacteristic fall from Loose 'N Cool), Ike's show-jumping course proved to be a true championship test, with only five horse-and-rider combinations performing double-clean rounds.

"It was an interesting course, and actually quite similar to the Olympic course," said Tryon. "The lines were mostly six and seven strides, which gave you lots of options. It forced you to have a plan."

The final line of the track included a triple combination of a triple bar oxer, vertical to vertical, followed by a bending line to a liverpool oxer, and numerous horses and riders suffered rails negotiating the question.

When asked what made the difference in her ride through fences 11 ABC and 12, Tryon was philosophical.

"I think part of it is that as you get closer to the top, you have the horses that went the fastest on cross country and they're a bit body sore and their feet sting on Sunday," Tryon said. "They are not the same horses."

Coal Creek and Leyland will return home to Duvall, Wash., and enjoy a little vacation before they start preparing for the spring season. Tryon expressed her excitement and gratitude for the rides on the talented youngsters, and plans to let them dictate the pace of their advancement.

"They are both 8 years old; they tell me what they want to do," she said. "Ideally, they will be ready for a four-star, but if not, we'll shoot for something else, like Kentucky in 2010."

The Massachusetts-based Ashton, who finished second aboard her chestnut Thoroughbred Dobbin, was naturally disappointed about four-faulting at fence 12, but was nevertheless happy with her performance throughout the weekend. The team has multiple wins at the advanced level in 2008, including Millbrook, Groton House and Pine Top.

"It's a long ride home. I'd feel better about finishing first," she joked. "But my horse jumped great, and the rest felt pretty good."

Ashton plans to spend the winter in Aiken, S.C., and aim Dobbin for the Rolex Kentucky 2009. They finished 26th at Rolex in 2008.

Twizzel literally kicked up his heels Sunday with Will Coleman in the irons. Fresh off a victory in the Plantation Field CIC\*\*\*, Twizzel jumped flawlessly before pulling a rail at fence 12 and settling for third.

"He was trying really hard behind," said Coleman of the Westphalian gelding he co-owns with his father. "I was having to hold him off the front rail more and more. It was hard to keep his front end off the rails, but I'm thrilled with him."

## Single rail propels Prather past Rosin in CCI\*\*

One. Single. Rail.

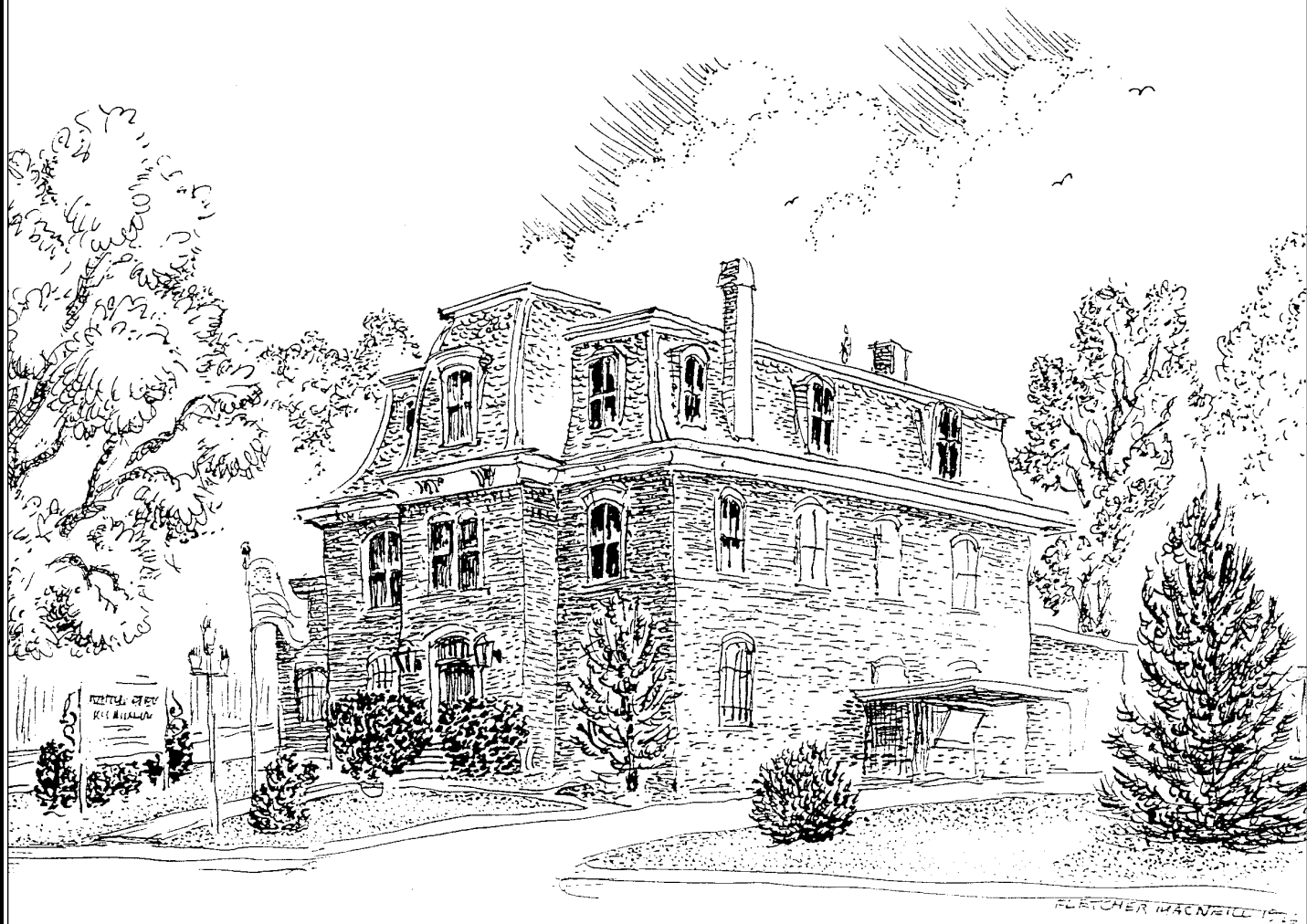
Once again, it determined the outcome in the CCI\*\*. California-based rider Kelly Prather and her Irish Sport Horse mare Ballinakill Glory (46.6) stalked leaders Molly Rosin and Ha-

See **FAIR HILL** page 36 ►



Anthony Trollope  
The CCI\*\*\* champion Coal Creek (left, Amy Tryon) and runner-up Dobbin (Corinne Ashton) enjoy the awards ceremony after the competition.

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FDIC

E.O.E.



Fair Hill —  
Continued from page 35

varah's Charly all weekend. Prather ratcheted up the pressure Sunday by rocking a double-clean round, and when Rosin had a rail in front at an oxer, the West Coast tandem had their win.

Will Coleman piloted Nanki Doubleday's Dutch Warmblood gelding Nevada Bay to the reserve championship with 49.7, getting the tiebreaker over Sinead Halpin and Manoir De Carneville on the virtue of a better cross-country time. Halpin, freshly returned from a year in England, settled for third. Rosin ended the weekend fourth on 50.2. Out of a huge field of 73 starters, 57 completed the event.

"My horse had a great go," said Prather, 24. "I didn't even think about winning. Her ears were pricked and she was ready to go. She jumped great."

Prather found Ballinakill Glory (Mark Twain-Ballinakill Popsey) while working in Ireland for Paul Donovan and Carol Gees at their sales yard, Sportsfield Event Horses. Prather's current employer, Andrea Pfeiffer, purchased the bay mare as a barely broken 3-year-old and brought her to the States for Prather to train and compete. Now 9, the mare has brought Prather success at the preliminary and intermediate levels, scored a win at the Event at Rebecca Farm CCI\* in July and came fifth at Twin Rivers International CIC\*\* in September. They aim to make the move to advanced in 2009.

"The divisions in California are small, so it was great to come out here and win it," said Prather, who has no intentions of leaving her native state. "It gave us a big boost of confidence. We'll move back up and get going again."

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CCI\*\*\* Top 10 Finishers

Pl.	Rider	Horse	Score
1.	Amy Tryon	Coal Creek	51.0
2.	Corinne Ashton	Dobbin	51.2
3.	Will Coleman	Twizzel	51.9
4.	Allison Springer	Destination Known	58.6
5.	Boyd Martin	Belmont II	62.2
6.	Sara Dierks	Somerset II	62.7
7.	Jan Bynny	Syd Kent	62.8
8.	Amy Tryon	Leyland	64.2
9.	Cayla Kitayama	Esker Riada	68.6
10.	Phillip Dutton	Bailey Wick	68.9

CCI\*\* Top 10 Finishers

1.	Kelly Prather	Ballinakill Glory	46.6
2.	Will Coleman	Nevada Bay	49.7
3.	Sinead Halpin	Manoir de Carneville	49.7
4.	Molly Rosin	Havarah's Charly	50.2
5.	Boyd Martin	Remington XXV	51.1
6.	Will Faudree	Pawlow	52.8
7.	Jessica Phoenix	Exponential	56.6
8.	Elinor MacPhail	Woodstock II	58.7
9.	Will Coleman	Cool Connection	61.1
10.	Andrea Leatherman	Mensa	62.2



Ballinakill Glory (Kelly Prather) flies a fence in the cross-country competition.

Anthony Trollope

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**TIMES EDITORIAL**

## Breeders' Cup must matter to return

The Breeders' Cup Steeplechase at Far Hills never worked. Sure, titans like McDynamo came through year after year but the concept never worked. Tying the Breeders' Cup name to a jump race in the hills of New Jersey, a week before the main event and miles from the real thing, proved incongruent. Hanging purple banners and monogramming purple saddle towels doesn't make it the Breeders' Cup.

The Breeders' Cup didn't get enough from the race. Felt more like a token gesture to steeplechasing than a marketing tool for Breeders' Cup. Far Hills didn't get enough from the race. Felt more like a token gesture to Breeders' Cup than a boon for Far Hills.

The Breeders' Cup board decided – again – that steeplechasing doesn't fit its business model. Breeders' Cup scrapped its sponsorship – up to \$100,000 in purse money for Breeders' Cup eligible horses – of steeplechasing's biggest race, sighting the pumped-up purse structure for Friday and Saturday at Santa Anita. This year, the Breeders' Cup increased the number of flat races to 14 over the two-day extravaganza, including the Dirt Marathon which attracted a group of horses who looked more suited to Far Hills than Santa Anita. Good Night Shirt would have looked pretty good in the race. Funny how that works.

So, once again, the relationship between steeplechasing and flat racing frayed.

Steeplechase Times, National Steeplechase Association, owners, trainers, jockeys, members and fans of steeplechasing have played the "We Belong" card for years. Look at Jonathan Sheppard and George Strawbridge, who won the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf with Forever Together. They got their start in steeplechasing. Look at Tom Voss and Sheppard, who were blanked at Far Hills but swept stakes at Keeneland on the same day. Look at all the foals nominated to the Breeders' Cup by Sheppard, Mignon Smith, Mimi Voss . . . do they really think they're going to the Breeders' Cup flat races? Look at all the older geldings who stay productive in steeplechasing . . . Oh there we go again.

Yes, we belong. Yes, we cultivate stars for flat racing. Yes, we play both sports. And, yes, our relationship with flat racing (don't dare call it Thoroughbred racing) has waned to where we're content with a token gesture from the Breeders' Cup and dismayed when we lose it.

It didn't work. Never did work.

So what would work? What should happen now?

Nothing or everything.

The Breeders' Cup Steeplechase began as a \$250,000 stakes at Fair Hill in 1986. Now that was an international steeplechase complete with pomp and pizzazz. Census starred. The next year, France's Gacko ruled at Fair Hill. Jimmy Lorenzo, owned by Diana and Bert Firestone (where have they gone?) won it at Fair Hill in 1988. Highland Bud took the revised edition at Far Hills in 1989. Then Morley Street, trained by Toby Balding (who was at this year's Breeders' Cup and still likes to talk about his two-time Breeders' Cup Steeplechase winner), dominated at Belmont Park and Fair Hill.

See **BREEDERS' CUP** page 39 ►



Anthony Trollope

That's us – center of the photo, top of the hill – watching Coal Creek jump at Fair Hill. The competition winner was awesome, but you should have seen Twizzel.

# Just Watching

## Eventing or otherwise, horses offer great sport

**W**e all agreed we'd like to ride Twizzel. Will Coleman's event horse put on a show-jumping clinic at Fair Hill Oct. 19, flying over verticals and oxers and triple combinations like a four-legged Dwight Stones.

Neil Morris, Matt McCarron, Tina Freudenberger, my 7-year-old son Nolan, pretty much anyone on the hillside at the international three-star competition would have asked for a leg up if Coleman led his horse over. Yes, I got to play spectator at one of the country's great equine events and loved it. Horses are phenomenal athletes and, luckily, we get to watch.

At Fair Hill, Morris took a break from his training job at Kinross Farm. His young son, Wright, presented a trophy in memory of his mother Beale Morris (a top-level even rider). Jockey McCarron won a \$50,000 steeplechase stakes at Far Hills the day before, but marveled at the eventers. The Clancys (Joe, Sam, Ryan, Jack and Nolan) just wanted a day out and got a great one complete with fall color, french fries and flashy jumpers.

Freudenberger, our neighbor, wore her Dubarry boots and brought her daughter Kelly (home from the University of Maryland for the weekend). Steeplechase trainer Richard Valentine was there too, as was jockey Danielle Hodsdon. Gregg Morris, fresh off a stint at the presiding steward at Far Hills, showed up for a look. Bertha Hogan added to her fall schedule. Rumsey Keefe brought the kids (well, some of them).

## The Outside Rail

By Joe Clancy

Neil Morris recognized Vaunted, an eventer who flunked out of a steeplechase career at Kinross. "He wasn't very good with us, but he's better at this," said Morris of the eventual 16th-place finisher. Former ST employee Joanie Morris (now a big wheel at the United States Equestrian Federation) tried to guess who would jump clean, and got it right sometimes.

We chatted about Good Night Shirt and the other winners at Far Hills, caught up on some gossip, discussed Bubble Economy's Gold Cup win. Fair Hill co-chair Lana Wright talked about foxhunting with my grandfather, Paddy, many years ago. Steeplechase and event owner Nina Gardner cheered her horse on and presented a trophy.

And we all watched. One by one, the horses walked into the ring and did superb things. They weren't all perfect – that liverpool oxer proved to be a tough task – but they were all good. Bruce and Buck Davidson saved valuable seconds with exacting lines through the course. Amy Tryon set the bar with Coal Creek.

And then came Twizzel. Second after cross country, the bay Westphalian/Thoroughbred cross stepped to each fence like he owned it, soared into the air, hiked

See **OUTSIDE** page 39 ►



# Outside —

## ■ Continued from page 38

up his hind legs, floated to the ground. And rolled on to the next fence. He got them all, except the last (that liverpool) when he clipped a rail. Must have been the added weight of us riding along with him.

Two-day leader Dobbin (Corinne Ashton) also knocked a rail, handing the win to Coal Creek and Tryon — who are based in Washington State.

Placings didn't really matter to us. We left awed. Call it an equine community, complete with kids and Jack Russells (one named Whistle). Steeplechase, eventing, foxhunting, flat racing, the sports don't really matter. We will come watch, and appreciate — and cross the various lines between them to do so.

It's sometimes too easy to forget all that. When your job is horses, the magic can grow a little thin. So can the appreciation. After all, an accountant would never go watch someone crunch numbers, but that's where we're lucky. Every once in a while, we can simply spectate, appreciate, smile, marvel.

Even if we don't get to ride Twizzel.

### Ups and Downs

- Trainer Lilith Boucher won two races at Far Hills, completing a career milestone she will smile about for years. And then her father died.

One day after Class Shadow and Class Real Rock won the Peapack and

Gladstone stakes, respectively, Boucher dealt with the pain of losing a loved one.

John Wilson, a retired Army Colonel, died Oct. 19 to smack Boucher right back into reality. "He had been sick so we knew but it's still tough," Boucher said. "He did so much to help me get into horses. It was nice that he got to hear of the wins at Far Hills before he died."

Boucher credited her father with fostering the connection with horses, including foxhunting trips to Florida from their home near Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

- It's a little sad that an entire generation of steeplechase fans does not know Hard Scuffle. The Louisville-area meet ran for 20-plus years and delivered on

all fronts — quality racing, superb hospitality and a great time had by all.

Hard Scuffle had the Bolla (at one time America's richest steeplechase), the Bi-State Alliance (a crazy race with fences named the Sloan Getter among other things), the Belle of Louisville riverboat and more. Credit for the event went to the Lampton family, who owned the property and ran the meet to benefit the Kentucky Opera.

Dinwiddie Lampton died in September at 94, which made me think about Hard Scuffle again. Lampton was part race chairman, part hotel manager, part cruise director.

Somehow I was at the first Hard Scuffle (at age 10) and remember a party at the hotel pool. I later recall Mr. Lampton hosting people at houses on the property — and completing last-min-

ute maintenance projects as the guests arrived. He was hell with a saw and a door.

Known for bushy eyebrows as much as his personality, Dinwiddie Lampton was president of the family's American Life & Accident Insurance Co. in Louisville. In addition to his steeplechase connections, he drove carriages, played polo and became something of a Louisville legend via television commercials and quotations such as "Swallow a toad in the morning and you will encounter nothing more disgusting the rest of the day." The father of Callaway Gardens Steeplechase chairman Mason Lampton even ran for governor in 1987.

Hard Scuffle, managed by Lampton's daughter Nana for years, closed its gates after the 1996 running.

I still miss it

# Breeders' Cup —

## ■ Continued from page 38

After that, the Breeders' Cup Steeplechase began to run aground. It moved, got scrapped, came back as a purse bonus and got scrapped again.

If steeplechasing and Breeders' Cup ever dance again, it's got to be as a truly international steeplechase at the host Breeders' Cup track on Friday. Think about it. Put up a \$500,000 purse, partly subsidized by supplementary nominations from Europe and the U.S. Run the 2 1/2-mile stakes over the Easy-Fix hurdles seen at Saratoga this summer to help equalize the playing field for Europe and because they can be set up and taken down in minutes without equipment.

Europeans dominated this year's Breeders' Cup and carried plenty of steeplechase connections. John Gosden once trained Istabraq. Aidan O'Brien started with jumpers. Frankie Dettoni rode a jump race. Johnny Murtagh rode jumpers to keep fit and fresh before landing the job with Coolmore. Brian Meehan does both. Dermot Weld does both. So do owners John Magnier and Michael Tabor. Balding was flat trainer Eoin Harty's guest for the week. Harty's father, Eddie, is a retired jump jockey who finished 16th aboard Balding's Big Valley in the 1970 Colonial Cup. Think Fergus Galvin, who breeds quality Thoroughbreds in Lexington, wouldn't show up with Salford City? And McDynamo's breeder Nathan Fox might think about campaigning his own steeplechaser.

Perhaps this is a pipe dream, maybe a mirage, but if and when the Breeders' Cup discussion turns to steeplechasing again, think big or don't think at all.



**Good Night Shirt** **Bubble Economy**

**Freeboard** **Rare Bush**

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Purses earned on the weekend: \$222,000.

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