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SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Sunday, July 29, 2007



Lawyer Ron (11) surges away from Fairbanks (right) and the rest of the Whitney field.

Tod Marks

Inside

- › My Typhoon wins Grade I Diana.
- › Ginger Punch rolls in Go For Wand.
- › Diabolical gets the Vanderbilt win.
- › Street Sense goes in Sunday's Jim Dandy.
- › Sunday & Monday Handicapping

Holding Court

Lawyer Ron rules track in record-breaking romp

BY SEAN CLANCY

Draw reins are fairly simple contraptions. Basically long reins that loop from each side of the girth through the bit and into a rider's hands, if they work, they're magic. If they don't work, they're devilish.

For Lawyer Ron, they were better than pixie dust. The day he walked into Todd Pletcher's barn last fall, the draw reins went on his equipment chart. They've never left. He wears them every day, usually under the precise hands of exercise rider Eddie King. The electric colt learned to settle in the morning, making him dangerous (OK, more dangerous) in the afternoon. And, yesterday, a track record holder at Saratoga.

Owned by Hines Racing, Lawyer Ron crushed a competitive field in the Grade I Whitney Handicap, scampering home

THE WHITNEY

to win by 4 3/4 lengths over Wanderin Boy and Diamond Stripes. The final time of 1:46.64 crushed the track record set by Left Bank in the 2002 Whitney.

Lawyer Ron's penchant for runaway gallops and frantic moves in the afternoon had been well chronicled, ever since he prepared for the 2006 Kentucky Derby. Trained by Bob Holthus, the son of Langfuhr rattled off five stakes wins last year but after finishing second in the Super Derby, owners made the move to Pletcher.

"We went to the draw reins, basically, from Day One. That was the first step, getting his gallops in control. With the draw reins, he's almost kind to gallop," Pletcher said. "It's been a work in progress, it's been a combination of things but most importantly it's time and maturation of the horse. Repetition, doing things over and over."

Lawyer Ron broke sharply and quickly sliced from the

See **WHITNEY** page 4 ▶



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E-mail: sean@st-publishing.com
Internet: www.saratogaspecial.com

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The Staff

Editors/Publishers: Sean Clancy, Joe Clancy
Copy Chief: Jamie Santo

Writers/Contributors: Alysse Jacobs, Karen
Johnson, David Kosak, Brian Nadeau,
Katherine Sarasohn, Rebecca Walton

Art Director: Kevin Titter

Racing Analysts: Pete Fornatale, Alan Mann

Photographers: Dave Harmon, Tod Marks,
Barbara Livingston

Menial Tasks Division: Ryan Clancy,
Jack Clancy, Nolan Clancy

National Equine Product Advertising:
Debbie LaBerge (717) 529-2158

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part of our newspapers, a cornerstone of
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what we will be."

— Lee Hills, Pulitzer Prize winner,
Knight Ridder chief executive, in 1974

Take A Number

1: Pick-up truck that lost a taillight scraping along
an iron gate while turning into the Saratoga Race
Course parking lot Saturday.

163,282: Payout of Saturday's Pick 4 (for a \$2
ticket) for races 2, 3, 4 and 5. See you at Siro's,
buddy.

12: Saratoga Race Course winners that paid \$20
or above through the first four days of racing.

Worth Repeating

"I had myself up to 25 the other day, but then I
realized there was a car behind me."

**Saratoga Sleigh innkeeper Don Nichols,
on the "Your Speed Is" machine outside his
front door on Union Avenue**

"I was supposed to go home tonight but I can't
make it tonight. I've got something to do."

**Jockey Mario Pino, on his traveling
(and celebrating) plans, after winning
the Vanderbilt Handicap Saturday**

"Man, there are never any four-leaf clovers."

**Trainer Todd Pletcher's son Peyton,
moments before Lawyer Ron
ran away with the Whitney Saturday.
Guess he didn't really need them.**

Weather

Today: A few showers early with isolated thunder-
storms developing later in the day. High 82. Winds
light and variable. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Tonight: Scattered thunderstorms during the eve-
ning, then cloudy skies overnight. Low 62. Winds
light and variable. Chance of rain 40 percent.

Monday: Slight chance of a thunderstorm. Highs in
the low 80s and lows in the low 60s.

Tuesday: Dark, so you should be sleeping; how-
ever, mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid-80s
and lows in the low 60s.

Names of the Day

Admiral Bird, sixth race Sunday. The 3-year-old is by Royal Academy
(where any good Navy man surely went, back in Admiral Byrd's day) and
out of Sea Puffin (which Byrd surely saw in his polar exploration).

Canary Yellow, fourth race Monday: The 2-year-old filly is by Mineshaft
out of Danzig Colors.

Barns of Saratoga, Part II

Simply put, the old red barn near the Nelson Avenue stable gate looks
uninviting. All the doors have heavy locks and there is a "No Parking" sign
out front. The curvature of the roof makes the structure look unstable.
Throw in the chipped wood covering the building and it appears to be aban-
doned.



Alysse Jacobs

The old red barn belongs to Crown Hay and Feed.

But a truck with Crown Hay and Feed, Inc. on the side, parked under
the protection of an awning, suggests the structure may not be completely
out of order.

The inside contains the essence of life, at least according to horses.
Crown Feeds has been supplying the racetrack with the essential hay and
grain since 1957. Some say the barn was once an ice house, before being
acquired by Crown.

Inside are stacks of hay and grain. Rather than the anticipated moldy
air, there is an aromatic smell of alfalfa and sweet feed. A cluttered desk in
a small office contains everything the company needs to deliver the pre-
cious goods.

Behind the barn is the only sign of life, a black cat. It darts from view,
leaving the barn lonely again. There are still a few old stalls inside. Now
used for storage, the place begs the question: who used to inhabit the old
barn?

— Alysse Jacobs

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The Whitney —

■ Continued from page 1

11 hole to the three path, stalking Wanderin Boy and stablemate Fairbanks into the first turn. Lawyer Ron tucked to Fairbanks' right flank, just where Velazquez wanted to be through a quarter-mile in 23.86 seconds and a half in 47.37.

After the half, Wanderin Boy had stretched out his 10 rivals — 14 lengths from him to longshot Awesome Twist. Into the turn, no jockey sat as confident as Velazquez.

"He can be a little bit difficult but now you can put him anywhere you want," Velazquez said. "I heard a couple of guys chirping behind me, I knew he was cruising, unless he was lying to me."

Pletcher saw what Velazquez felt.

"I had a very good feeling at the five-eighths pole, I said, 'absolutely no excuse from here,'" Pletcher recalled. "He was comfortable, he wasn't throwing his head, sometimes he can get a little awkward around the turn but today he was good."

By the head of the stretch, Velazquez asked Lawyer Ron if he was telling the truth and the explosive colt answered like a defendant on the stand. He pounced on Wanderin Boy and flashed past the eighth pole for an emphatic win. Velazquez kept to the task, mostly because he was thinking about Pletcher's dynamite behind him.

"I waited, waited, waited, and when I asked at the quarter pole he was right there, he switched his lead and was getting better," Velazquez said. "The only



Dave Harmon

Lawyer Ron (John Velazquez) floats home in the Whitney.

reason I kept riding him was I knew Magna Graduate has a good kick and I didn't know where he was."

The tepid favorite at 4-1, Magna Graduate never threatened, winding up sixth. The paper edition of the Whitney looked indecipherable. The toteboard version was no clearer, as five horses hovered at 5-1 with one minute to post. Lawyer Ron simplified it.

Pletcher took over Lawyer Ron last fall, about a month before the Breeders' Cup. On a short track to the Breeders' Cup, King had him galloping better in the morning but as soon as the gates opened, those lessons went out the window and the long-striding colt went up in smoke in the first quarter, he ended up ninth of 13. Pletcher stopped with him and planned for 2007.

"His record at Oaklawn Park was phenomenal so I circled the Oaklawn Park Handicap as the first major goal," Pletcher said. "I wanted to get a race into him so we found a mile allowance race at Gulfstream which served the purpose of getting him to settle and relax. He got a good race in that day, took some dirt."

Lawyer Ron trounced eight allowance foes, then won his fourth stakes in Arkansas crushing six rivals in April's Oaklawn Park Handicap. Returned to the Metropolitan Mile in May, he finished third behind Corinthian and Political Force then succumbed to inside speed at Monmouth Park, failing at 1-10 and finishing second to runaway leader Gottcha Gold. Pletcher was undeterred.

"I was disappointed in the condition of the racetrack at Monmouth that day," Pletcher said. "It was an inside conveyor belt, he ran a hell of a race to get close, when the figures came out, he ran his race, he was just on the wrong surface. I felt good coming out of it."

Then he drew the 11 hole in the Whitney. Pletcher kicked the ground.

"I was very concerned about it, but I talked to Angel (Cordero), and he said, 'It's good. It's good. It's good for this horse.' He was a hundred percent right, as long as he got away cleanly and ran into the first turn, which he did, then he was just three wide," Pletcher said. "The credit goes to the horse to be able to break away from there, put himself in the race, get a position and still keep going from there, I thought it was a peak effort."

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Gathering Storm

Older and wiser,
My Typhoon gets Gr. I

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Bill Mott might not be a fan of "The A-Team," but he sure knows how to put a plan together.

Mott convinced Charlotte Weber, owner of Live Oak Plantation, to keep My Typhoon out of the breeding shed and on the track for her 5-year-old season. Saturday, in the daunting heat of Saratoga Springs, My Typhoon (\$8.10) rewarded the decision with a handy win in the Grade I, \$500,000 Diana Stakes before 29,216 fans. The hard-charging Argentina finished three-quarters of a length back in second with Makderah, the 6-5 favorite, a non-threatening third.

What took more than eight months to plan, took only a little more than 106 seconds to accomplish. The victory gained My Typhoon an automatic berth in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf Oct. 27 at Monmouth Park. Actually, it gained her a lot more than that.

"That was a good move, wasn't it?" Weber asked from an overcrowded and overjoyed winner's circle.



Tod Marks

My Typhoon kicks clear of Makderah (left) and Argentina late in the Diana, the first of four stakes Saturday.

Consider that the clubhouse leader for understatement of the year. "Her value just went up a whole lot." That statement's in the running as well.

As a half-sister to English and Irish Derby winner Galileo, My Typhoon had already assured herself to be the center of attention as a broodmare prospect. With multiple Grade II wins, as well as a placing in a Grade I, she more than earned back her purchase price of \$2.8 million. Yet Grade I glory, as often happens, had proved elusive through her first three campaigns. Mott felt there was more in the tank, however, and he knew what winning a big one would mean.

"With her pedigree, I knew if we could win a Grade I race, her value would be huge," Mott said. "We felt she had some good races in front of her and we decided to bring her back."

Even the best-laid plans don't always come to fruition. You need a willing partner. In My Typhoon, Mott found the perfect mate.

In the past the chestnut daughter of Giant's Causeway has run her best races when alone on the lead. Last time out in the Gr. II Just A Game Breeders' Cup

See *DIANA* page 7 ►

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Diana —

Continued from page 6

she was allowed to dictate the splits and the result was a runaway victory over Wait A While, Eclipse Award-winning 3-Year-Old Filly of 2006. With this in mind, trainer Patrick Biancone entered the rabbit Countess Scala to keep Mott's charge honest and boost the chances of his other two runners, Muralakana and Danzon. The Hall of Famer from South Dakota was not deterred.

"The rabbit never worried me," Mott said. "I felt that she would be helping us as much as anyone. This filly has learned to relax in her races. She was rank as a 3-year-old, but she has been able to rate and settle this season."

Saturday she was on her best behavior for jockey Eddie Castro, who's now won three in a row aboard the mare. Settling just off the pace of Countess Scala, Castro bided his time in second. The big cat had the rabbit well within her sights.

"I was confident she would relax for me," Castro said. "I put her right off the other horse and she opened up when I asked her."

Did she ever.

A shake of the hands by Castro and Countess Scala was behind My Typhoon in the blink of an eye. Streaking by the eighth-pole she was almost 2 lengths in front. With each powerful stride she pulled the dream closer. Argentina made a race of it nearing the wire, but the outcome was never in doubt. The rabbit worked to perfection, for My Typhoon, that is. Danzon and Muralakana could do no better than fifth and sixth, respectively.

Makderah had wowed Belmont Park audiences in her last two starts with a devastating turn of foot. On Saturday she found herself with a bird's eye view of My Typhoon's flashy feet. And her beautiful tail.

"Patrick's rabbit actually helped My Typhoon," a disappointed Kieran McLaughlin, Makderah's trainer said afterward. "(Castro) had his feet in the dashboard the whole way around. She ran good though, they just weren't stopping out there."

Weber walked — almost glided — across the new clubhouse floor on her way for champagne in the trustees room. With the victory safely in hand it was time to look towards the future; to find another mountain to scale.

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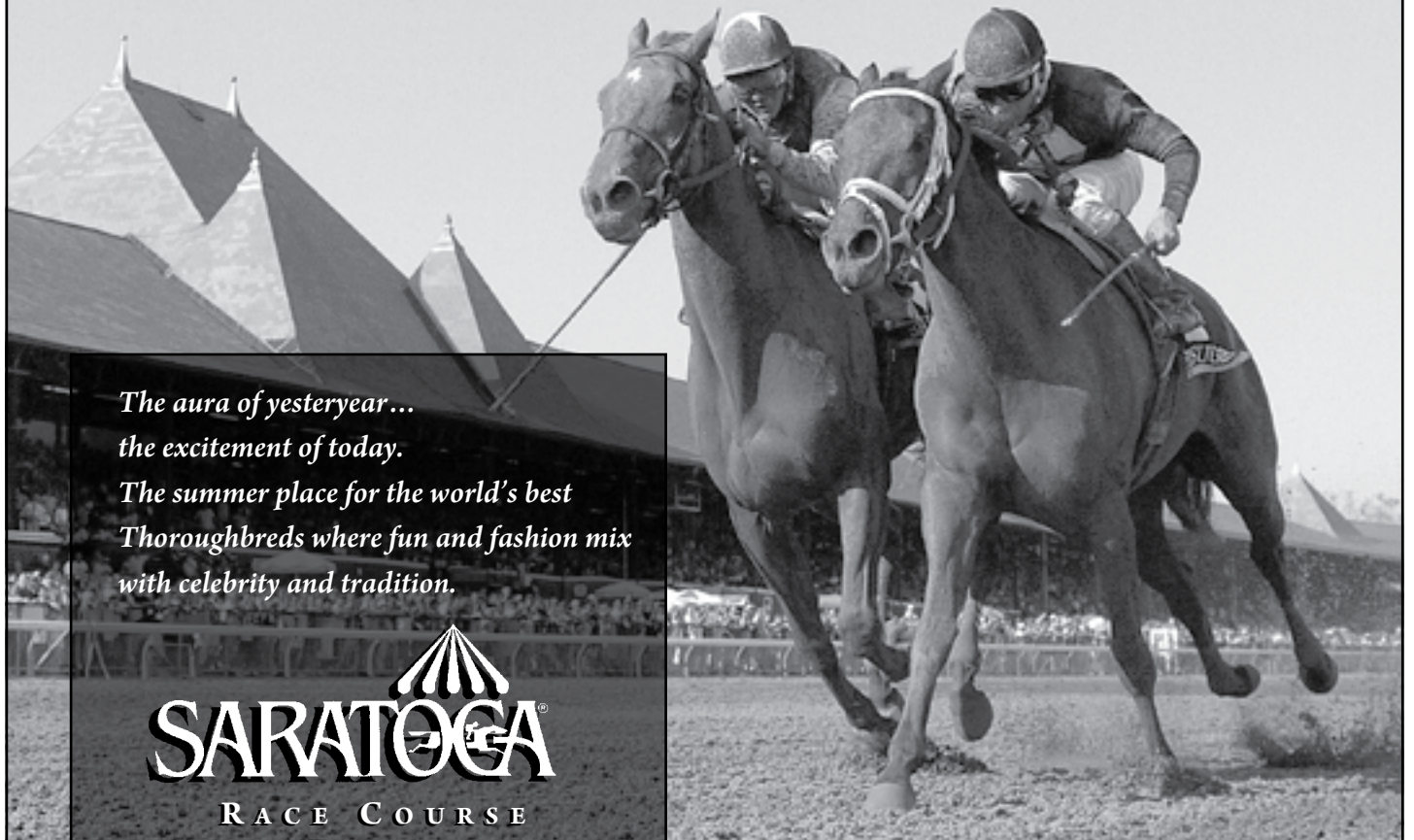
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A Knockout

Frankel's Ginger Punch flattens field with powerful run through stretch

BY KAREN JOHNSON

A jovial Bobby Frankel donned a Breeders' Cup cap for his ESPN interview following his win with Ginger Punch in Saturday's Grade I Go For Wand. The ESPN crew handed Frankel a bottled water; later when the staff from TVG conducted their post-race chat, the trainer was treated to more of an upscale beverage – vitamin water.

Frankel joked off the air, "ESPN is cheap."

There was nothing cheap about Ginger Punch's brilliant 6-length win over five overmatched rivals in the 9-furlong Go For Wand Handicap.

Ridden patiently by Rafael Bejarano, Ginger Punch, the 6-5 favorite, won her first two-turn race with an explosive move down the stretch of Saratoga Race Course.

Following in Ginger Punch's wake was Miss Shop, Teammate, Plaid, Soul Search and Ermine. The final time was 1:49.19 over a fast track. Ginger Punch returned \$4.50. She has been the favorite in 8 of 11 career starts.

Bejarano and Ginger Punch tracked pacesetter Teammate through moderate

GO FOR WAND RECAP

fractions of 24.51 seconds for the opening quarter and 48.83 for the half-mile run. After three quarters in 1:12.86, Ginger Punch was on the move – the race to the wire was decided at the top of stretch.

"I wanted to be close to (Teammate)," Bejarano said. "When we came to the half-mile, I put some pressure on the leader. I just had a lot of horse."

The win was Ginger Punch's second straight stakes score, after her facile win in the Grade II First Flight Handicap earlier this month at Belmont Park. Mix in a second-by-a-neck finish in the Gr. I Ogden Phipps earlier this year, and the daughter of Awesome Again has now earned \$441,279.

Although not nominated to the Breeders' Cup by her owner and breeder Frank Stronach, Ginger Punch earned an automatic berth to the Breeders' Cup Distaff with her win in the Go For Wand under the newly created "Win-and-You're-in" format. Frankel said that it's extremely likely that Stronach will pony up the supplemental fee to get his 4-year-old filly in the \$2 million Dis-



Tod Marks

Ginger Punch powers out of the gate at the start of the Go For Wand.

taff at Monmouth Park Oct. 27.

Frankel, who won his first Go For Wand in 2003 with Sightseek, said the main reason behind Ginger Punch's superior recent form is the elimination of a throat issue. Last year Ginger Punch suffered from pharyngeal hyperplasia – "little pimples in her throat," Frankel explained – that eventually blocked her airways and compromised her breathing.

Frankel gave Ginger Punch two long

vacations in the hope that the throat problem would resolve itself. When it became apparent that wasn't the case, Frankel opted for surgery.

"We lasered off one on one side and then another a few days later on the other side," Frankel said. "I didn't trust the laser, but as the last resort that's what I went for."

Ginger Punch was a bit of a surprise

See **GO FOR WAND** page 9 ▶

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Go For Wand —

■ Continued from page 8

entry in the Go For Wand, as Frankel acknowledged he originally thought about running in the 7-furlong Ballerina here Aug. 26.

“But (the Go For Wand) came up weak and the Ballerina put her too close to other races that I might have wanted to run in, like the Ruffian,” he said.

The Gr. I Ruffian at Belmont Sept. 8 is the next likely race for Ginger Punch.

“As good as she is now, that’s where I want to go next,” Frankel said.

A dejected Ronny Werner was at a loss to explain Ermine’s 14 1/4-length

defeat as the second choice. Earlier this year, the 4-year-old was a very solid contender in the filly and mare division with a win in the Gr. I Apple Blossom Handicap and two runner-up finishes in a pair of Grade Is at Santa Anita – The Santa Maria and Santa Margarita. But the Go For Wand marked the second consecutive disappointment for Ermine, who finished fourth as the favorite in the Gr. II Fleur de Lis at Churchill Downs June 16.

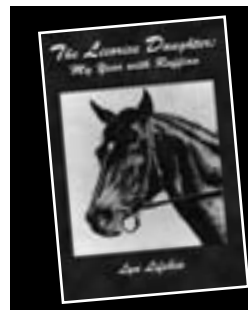
As Werner and his son made their way through the crowded clubhouse back to the barn to check on Ermine, the trainer said, “We’re losing her. She is going in the wrong direction right now.”

Meanwhile, Ginger Punch is headed to the Jersey Shore.



Dave Harmon

Considerably more alone at the finish, Ginger Punch glides home.



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Devil's in Details

Pino, Diabolical call
on perfect sprint trip

BY JOE CLANCY

Named to ride favorite Diabolical in a race with all sorts of implications, Mario Pino drew up the scenario he wanted in advance of Saturday's \$250,000 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap.

And then got it.

Diabolical broke sharply, rated just behind streaking pacesetters Commentator and Attila's Storm, rolled into gear near the quarter-pole and won a prolonged stretch battle in the Grade II stakes to clinch a spot in the Breeders' Cup Sprint. Diabolical came wide toward the front and inched away late to win by a half-length in 1:08.67. A game Attila's Storm, in close attendance to fractions of 21.74, 44.45 and 55.26 seconds stayed on for place with Simon Pure third. The winner paid \$7 and rewarded Pino's planning.

"I wanted that trip at the beginning, looking at it, but sometimes stuff happens or doesn't happen and you don't get it," said the jockey. "He put me in a good spot. He broke well, and I just eased him back



Dave Harmon

Diabolical (Mario Pino) edges past Attila's Storm near the wire in the Vanderbilt Saturday.

off the two leaders. He sat there and I knew that any time I wanted him he was going to move."

Owned by Puglisi Stable and Steve Klesaris, the winner improved his 6-furlong record to three wins and three seconds in six starts – and stamped himself a legitimate Sprint contender. He was good enough at 2 and 3 to make Klesaris, also the horse's trainer, consider the Triple Crown (he finished eighth in the Preakness) and long turf races. But Diabolical turned to sprinting last fall and produced a win in the Gallant Bob and then a second to eventual division champion Thor's Echo in the De Francis Dash.

Klesaris mapped out his 2007 plan with the Breeders' Cup in mind and circled the Vanderbilt as his summer goal. The Vosburgh Sept. 30 at Belmont Park should come next, and then it's straight to Monmouth Park in October.

"It's a nice feeling – you could sit back and not even run," said the trainer of his charge's automatic Breeders' Cup birth. "Sprinters can be hard to keep healthy. You've got to be careful with them to keep them on top of their game. This was a longterm plan. We de-

See **VANDERBILT** page 11 ►

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Vanderbilt —

■ Continued from page 10

cided to skip the Calder race (the Gr. II Smile July 7) and give him two months coming into this. Now we can do whatever we want.”

Diabolical already did that in the Vanderbilt — letting Attila's Storm and Commentator do the dirty work up front yet staying close enough to take the run out of any potential closers. Pino angled the stocky chestnut out just before the end of the turn. Attila's Storm responded, but Diabolical produced more in the final half-furlong.

“He's doing it every time now,” said Jeff Puglisi while watching the replay. “He sits, waits for the wire and then he makes his move. He's had two tough second-place finishes in Grade Is (the De Francis last fall and the Carter to Silver Wagon in April). Today he had to be tough again — he gets outside and he just beats them.”

Puglisi, who paid \$300,000 for the son of Artax at Ocala in 2005, led a strong contingent to the winner's circle, clapping hands and slapping backs.

“He was very impressive in the sale and he had so much talent we had to try the longer routes because there's a lot of money in longer races — we tried him on the grass, tried him at two turns, he ran in the Preakness,” said the owner. “But he's obviously best at 6 furlongs and that's what he's telling us. We've kept him there. This horse is just too much fun, we're having too much fun with him.”

Based at Fair Hill in Maryland, but



Dave Harmon

Diabolical's people picked up the Vanderbilt trophy — and a Breeders' Cup blanket.

a longtime player in New York racing, Klesaris is having fun too — just not showing it as much.

“I don't react right away, I'm not a reactionist — a couple hours from now it will hit me,” he said. “He's a very courageous horse with a lot of determination and it's exciting to be around one like him and to be involved with a horse like him, much less own a piece of him — pretty incredible, really.”

The day before the Vanderbilt, Klesaris called his horse a little bull, but went a step further in the winner's circle.

“In the stall, he gives you a look like he wants somebody's ass — he's just a tough sucker. He's Jake LaMotta, a raging bull.”

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In Like Them

Undercard produces victories for out-of-towners, longshots

BY BRIAN NADEAU

"Win and You're In" hit Saratoga Saturday, and 29,216 fans came out to see three Grade I stakes and a Grade II. The winners of the four stakes automatically secured berths in the starting gate on Breeders' Cup Day, Oct. 27 at Monmouth Park. The appetizers for the main course provided some fireworks of their own, with an array of longshots lighting up the tote board.

• As the regular jockey of Miesque's Approval, the 2006 Breeders' Cup Mile winner and Champion Male Turf Horse of 2006, Eddie Castro has tasted success on racing's grandest stage. Castro, who shipped in to ride My Typhoon in the Grade I Diana, crossed another milestone off his to-do list Saturday when he rode Thorn Song (\$31.80) to victory for trainer Dale Romans in the third, an entry-level allowance race over the turf.

"This feels great," a beaming Castro said of his first career Saratoga score. "I'm looking forward to the stakes later, but to get one out of the way, it's unbelievable."

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

As Castro would soon find out, the best was yet to come.

• Private Lap (\$11) got his nose on the wire in the first, a \$22,500 claimer for older horses, winning a frantic, four-horse blanket finish under Mario Pino. Assuming command from the start while being dogged on the lead for the entire 9 furlongs, he gamely held off 38-1 Wood Winner. Trained by the Fair Hill Training Center-based Steve Klesaris, Private Lap won for the second consecutive time.

Like Castro, out-of-town jockey Pino (and Klesaris) would taste bigger success later on the card.

• Trainer Nick Zito raised some eyebrows last summer when he won with six first-time starters. Zito, long known for giving his younger horses a race or two before tightening the screws, decided it was time to crank them up a bit. War Pass (\$15.80) continued the trend with a front-running score under California-based Corey Nakatani in the



Dave Harmon

Thorn Song (2) gives Eddie Castro his first riding victory at Saratoga in Saturday's third.

second, a maiden for 2-year-olds. A son of Sprint champion Cherokee Run, the winner could be a major player in the Grade I Hopeful on closing day.

• Fresh Episode (\$97) hushed the packed house when flew past the field in the fourth, a \$22,500 claimer for 3-year-olds. Ridden by Cornelio Velasquez the son of Freud stalked the front-running Tonybeatthegate and got up to win by a

half-length over Need The Write Off for trainer Debra Divitto.

• Velasquez was back at it again in the fifth, a maiden for 3-year-olds and up, this time aboard Blackfoot Trail (\$63) for trainer Wally Dollase. Sitting 10th of 13, Velasquez bided his time while Parade The Flag carved out a

See **SATURDAY** page 14 ▶

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Jeff Snyder Photos

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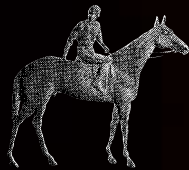
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Dave Harmon

Blackfoot Trail (Cornelio Velasquez) charges to the wire in the fifth.

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 12

wicked half-mile in 44.76 seconds. Velasquez asked Blackfoot Trail turning for home and outfinished 37-1 Holla Bend to complete a \$1,486 exacta.

"I don't really look at the tote board," Velasquez said, wiping what seemed like half the main track off his mud-ridden silks. "I just try and go out and give every horse the best chance to win, regardless of their odds. I don't think it would be fair to anyone if I looked at the odds. I just try and give it my all, and let it happen."

• The comebacking Monster Drive (\$4.90), off since February, scored an

easier-than-it-looked victory in the sixth, an entry-level allowance for state-breds. Under a confident John Velazquez, the 3-year-old son of Belmont winner Commendable won by three-quarters of a length over a game Zipperoo, to give Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott an early birthday present. Mott, who turns 54 Sunday, would blow out the candles later when My Typhoon scored in the Diana.

• Any Which Way (\$23) powered up the rail to catch the pace-setting Saratoga Kaz to win the nightcap, a state-bred maiden, under Rafael Bejarano. Trained by Gary Gullo, the 4-year-old Line In The Sand gelding won for the first time from eight lifetime starts for owner Langsam Sherrill.

All The Winners

Jockeys

Garrett Gomez.....	6
Javier Castellano.....	4
John Velazquez.....	4
Rafael Bejarano.....	3
Kent Desormeaux.....	3
Edgar Prado.....	3
Eddie Castro.....	2
Eibar Coa.....	2
Ramon Dominguez.....	2
Mario Pino.....	2
Cornelio Velasquez.....	2
Xavier Aizpuru.....	1
Roberto Alvarado.....	1
Calvin Borel.....	1
Shaun Bridgmohan.....	1
Alan Garcia.....	1
Julien Lejaroux.....	1
Corey Nakatani.....	1



Garrett Gomez



John Velazquez

Trainers

Christophe Clement.....	3
Steve Asmussen.....	2
Gary Contessa.....	2
Stan Hough.....	2
Steve Klesaris.....	2
Bruce Levine.....	2
Bill Mott.....	2
Todd Pletcher.....	2
Billy Badgett.....	1
Patrick Biancone.....	1
Saeed bin Suroor.....	1
Tom Bush.....	1
John Destafano Jr.....	1
Debra Divitto.....	1
Wally Dollase.....	1
Richard Dutrow.....	1
Tony Dutrow.....	1
Bobby Frankel.....	1
Gary Gullo.....	1
Roger Horgan.....	1
David Jacobson.....	1
Pat Kelly.....	1
Scott Lake.....	1
Kiaran McLaughlin.....	1
Colum O'Brien.....	1
Dale Romans.....	1
Scott Schwartz.....	1
Phil Serpe.....	1
Al Stall Jr.....	1
Ronny Werner.....	1
Nick Zito.....	1



Christophe Clement



Steve Klesaris

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1 Private Lap



2 War Pass



3 Thorn Song



4 Fresh Episode



5 Blackfoot Trail



6 Monster Drive



7 Diabolical



8 Ginger Punch



9 Any Which Way

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Saratoga Results

SATURDAY, JULY 28

1ST. 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. CLM 22,500. PURSE \$36,000.

7	Private Lap	Pino M G	11.00	6.80	4.80
8	Wood Winner	Bridgmohan S X	27.80	13.60	
4	Sir Jackie	Prado E S		3.70	

Finish Time: 1:51.16

Trainer: Steve Klesaris. Owner: Puglisi Stables.
Dk.B./Br.h.8 Private Terms-Just Like Jill, Dynaformer.
Bred by Ken & Sarah Ramsey (KY).

\$2 Exacta 7-8 Paid \$377.00; \$2 Trifecta 7-8-4 Paid \$1,838.00

2ND. 6 FURLONGS. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

4	War Pass	Nakatani C S	15.80	8.10	5.80
7	Commandeered	Desormeaux K J	15.40	7.60	
6	Globalization	Gomez G K		3.10	

Finish Time: 1:10.26

Trainer: Nick Zito. Owner: Robert LaPenta.
Dk.B./Br.c.2 Cherokee Run-Vue, Mr. Prospector.
Bred by Cherry Valley Farm (KY).

\$2 Exacta 4-7 Paid \$288.00; \$2 Quinella 4-7 Paid \$135.50; \$2 Trifecta 4-7-6 Paid \$1,490.00; \$2 Daily Double (7-4) Paid \$100.00

3RD. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. ALW. PURSE \$68,000.

2	Thorn Song	Castro E	31.80	16.40	8.60
8	Codeword (IRE)	Coa E M		8.60	5.00
6	Mister White Socks	Garcia Alan		4.50	

Finish Time: 1:41.60

Trainer: Dale Romans. Owner: Zayat Stables.
Gr./Ro.c.4 Unbridled's Song-Festal, Storm Bird.
Bred by Pinnacle Racing & Taylor Made Farm (KY).

\$2 Exacta 2-8 Paid \$321.00; \$2 Trifecta 2-8-6 Paid \$2,025.00; \$2 Superfecta 2-8-6-3 Paid \$14,885.00

4TH. 6 FURLONGS. 3YO. CLM 22,500. PURSE \$35,000.

8	Fresh Episode	Velasquez C	97.00	35.40	14.00
2	Need the Write Off	Prado E S		5.60	4.30
1A	Exacceleration	Coa E M		5.60	

Finish Time: 1:10.96

Trainer: Debra Divitto. Owner: Michael Divitto Sr. & John Lemmens.
B.c.3 Freud-Saintly Lady, Saint Ballado.
Bred by Thomas/Lakin/Yagoda (NY).

\$2 Exacta 8-2 Paid \$635.00; \$2 Quinella 2-8 Paid \$203.00; \$2 Trifecta 8-2-1 Paid \$2,894.00; \$2 Pick 3 (4-2-8) 3 Correct Paid \$14,282.00

5TH. 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

9	Blackfoot Trail	Velasquez C	63.00	25.60	10.60
11	Holla Bend	Chavez J F		26.40	10.80
2B	Parade the Flag	Jara F		3.10	

Finish Time: 1:10.16

Trainer: Wally Dollase. Owner: John Gunther.
Ch.c.3 Menifee-Freddie Frisson, Dixieland Band.
Bred by John Gunther (KY).

\$2 Exacta 9-11 Paid \$1,486.00; \$2 Trifecta 9-11-2 Paid \$8,223.00; \$2 Pick 3 (2-8-9) 3 Correct Paid \$18,023.00 Pick 3 Pool \$167,641; \$2 Pick 4 (4-2-8-9) 4 Correct Paid \$163,282.00

6TH. 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW. PURSE \$61,000.

8	Monster Drive	Velasquez J R	4.90	3.50	2.60
3	Zipperoo	Gomez G K		4.80	3.40
6	Defereoftheheart	Coa E M		2.70	

Finish Time: 1:09.92

Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Zayat Stables.
Ch.c.3 Commendable-Ms. D. D. Walton, Known Fact.
Bred by Very Un Stable (NY).

\$2 Exacta 8-3 Paid \$19.60; \$2 Trifecta 8-3-6 Paid \$41.20; \$2 Pick 3 (8-9-8) 3 Correct Paid \$10,954.00

7TH. THE DIANA (GR. I). 1 1/8 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$520,000.

5	My Typhoon (IRE)	Castro E	8.10	4.70	2.80
7	Argentina (IRE)	Prado E S		7.60	3.90
4	Makderah (IRE)	Garcia Alan		2.40	

Finish Time: 1:46.47

Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Live Oak Plantation.
Ch.m.5 Giant's Causeway-Urban Sea, Miswaki.
Bred by Sunderland Holdings (IRE).

\$2 Exacta 5-7 Paid \$59.00; \$2 Trifecta 5-7-4 Paid \$133.00; \$2 Daily Double (8-5) Paid \$25.40; \$2 Pick 3 (9-8-5) 3 Correct Paid \$838.00

8TH. THE ALFRED G. VANDERBILT (GR. II). 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. PURSE \$260,000.

5	Diabolical	Pino M G	7.00	4.00	3.10
3	Attila's Storm	Velasquez J R		9.80	6.20
8	Simon Pure	Gomez G K		5.20	

Finish Time: 1:08.67

Trainer: Steve Klesaris.
Owner: Puglisi Stables & Steve Klesaris.
Ch.c.4 Artax-Bonnie Byerly, Dayjur.
Bred by Longleaf Pine Farm (KY).

\$2 Exacta 5-3 Paid \$80.00; \$2 Trifecta 5-3-8 Paid \$519.00; \$2 Pick 3 (8-5-5) 3 Correct Paid \$67.00

9TH. THE GO FOR WAND (GR. I). 1 1/8 MILES. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$250,000.

5	Ginger Punch	Bejarano R	4.50	3.00	2.30
2	Miss Shop	Castellano J J		5.70	4.10
4	Teammate	Velasquez C		3.70	

Finish Time: 1:49.19

Trainer: Bobby Frankel. Owner: Stronach Stables.
Ch.f.4 Awesome Again-Nappelon, Bold Revenue.
Bred by Adena Springs (FLA).

\$2 Exacta 5-2 Paid \$26.60; \$2 Trifecta 5-2-4 Paid \$93.50; \$2 Daily Double (5-5) Paid \$13.40; \$2 Grand Slam (3/6/8-4/5/7-3/5/8-5) Paid \$11.80

10TH. THE WHITNEY HANDICAP (GR. I). 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. PURSE \$810,000.

11	Lawyer Ron	Velasquez J R	13.00	7.70	5.30
5	Wanderin Boy	Bejarano R		25.20	14.00
9	Diamond Stripes	Prado E S		5.30	

Finish Time: 1:46.64

Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Owner: Hines Racing.
Ch.c.4 Langfuhr-Donation, Lord Avie.
Bred by James Hines Jr. (KY).

\$2 Exacta (11-5) Paid \$388.50; \$2 Trifecta (11-5-9) Paid \$3,034.00; \$2 Superfecta (11-5-9-4) Paid \$37,820.00; \$2 Pick 3 (5-5-11) 3 Correct Paid \$117.00; \$2 Pick 4 (5-5-5-11) 4 Correct Paid \$370.50; \$2 Pick 6 (9-8-5-5-5-11) 6 Correct Paid \$31,973.00, 5 Correct Paid \$141.50; \$2 Daily Double (5-11) Paid \$29.80

11TH. 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

3	Any Which Way	Bejarano R	23.00	12.00	7.80
4	Saratoga Kaz	Beckner D V		9.90	7.60
7	Royal Livingston	Velasquez J R		4.70	

Finish Time: 1:11.09

Trainer: Gary Gullo. Owner: Sherrill Langsam.
Ch.g.4 Line in the Sand-Celandine, Star Gallant.
Bred by Dr. Steve & Sherrill Langsam (NY).

\$2 Exacta 3-4 Paid \$256.50; \$2 Trifecta 3-4-7 Paid \$1,546.00; \$2 Superfecta 3-4-7-1 Paid \$13,142.00; \$2 Daily Double (11-3) Paid \$153.50; \$2 Pick 3 (5-11-3) 3 Correct Paid \$264.50

Track: Fast; Turf: Firm
Attendance: 29,216; Handle: \$5,415,416

How We Did

- RACE 1:** Third choice finished, well, third.
- RACE 2:** War Pass helped us loot the window for \$15.80.
- RACE 3:** Second choice won.
- RACE 4:** Top pick finished third.
- RACE 5:** Second selection finished third.
- RACE 6:** Monster Drive scared up a \$4.90 win and Zipperoo helped close out a \$19.60 exacta.
- RACE 7:** Top pick finished third while third choice ran second.
- RACE 8:** Diabolical demonstrated that the wages of sin is a \$7.00 win ticket.
- RACE 9:** First pick finished third and third pick finished first.
- RACE 10:** Second pick was third and third choice won.
- RACE 11:** Any Which Way but lose. The Empire-bred paid a stately \$23.00 to cap off a four-win day.

SEASON TOTALS: 11 wins by top selection in 39 races.
Average win payoff \$8.91

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Horse Sense

Nafzger, Street Sense take pragmatic path

BY SEAN CLANCY

Carl Nafzger knew before anybody – Street Sense was not going to the Belmont Stakes. As soon as the Kentucky Derby winner succumbed to Curlin’s roundhouse in the Preakness, Nafzger knew it was time to step off the Triple Crown bus and regroup for the summer.

Well, summer starts now.

Jim Tafel’s colt takes on five rivals, including the undefeated Tiz Wonderful, in Sunday’s Gr. II Jim Dandy, going a mile and an eighth for \$500,000.

Nafzger hopped in a golf cart on the backside Saturday morning and started to explain the rationale of walking away from a million-dollar race, the challenge of taking on Curlin – and, as it turned out, Rags To Riches – in the third leg of the Triple Crown.

“It wasn’t even a decision. It was automatic. To me the challenge was over, the challenge now is this fall. Truthfully, the Triple Crown was out; you’ve got a good horse so you had to start thinking ahead,”



Tod Marks

Kentucky Derby winner Street Sense gets back to work in the Jim Dandy Sunday at Saratoga.

Nafzger said. “Look, you’ve got the Triple Crown, you’ve got Saratoga and you’ve got the Breeders’ Cup. Why would you want to keep pushing something you can’t attain? How do you explain it to someone who doesn’t know horses? I’ve learned you don’t try.”

Nafzger watched the Belmont just like any other fan, glad to be at home and glad to see a good show. He won’t even think about where Street Sense would have finished. Considering he’s never been worse than third in his nine-race career, he probably would have joined the fray as Curlin and Rags To Riches slugged it out all the way to the wire.

“The Belmont was a great race. I was sitting there watching it and as I said to (my wife) Wanda, ‘Who do I want to win the Belmont? I don’t really care. This is a really good race,’” Nafzger said. “Curlin ran a superb

race. I was glad to see Curlin run as well as he did, he ran an unbelievable race. He’ll be tough this fall. If we can get a good track here and Curlin run well down there (at Monmouth in the Haskell Aug. 5), it’ll be interesting to see how this fall shapes up.”

Curlin and Street Sense certainly provided the moment of the year when tangling at Pimlico. Before the Preakness, Nafzger was confident that he had Street Sense at his best. Sure, the Derby was good but he believed the Preakness would be better. And still does.

“I told you the Preakness would be his best race he ever ran, I think it was his best race. He got beat and Curlin ran a hell of a race, and they ran fast,” Nafzger said. “Half a jump before the wire, we’d have won.”

See **JIM DANDY** page 19 ►



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Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 18

Half a jump after the wire, we'd have won. But they wrote the damn race a mile and three-sixteenths, not half a jump before, not a half after. That's how racing is — he got beat."

Yeah, save the explanations for the racetrack. Street Sense arrived in Saratoga bigger and better than he left Pimlico back in May. Nafzger's assistant Ian Wilkes described him as anxious, a good anxious. After a blistering work July 19 at Churchill Downs, Nafzger gave him an easy 4 furlongs in 51.59 seconds Thursday. Regular jockey Calvin Borel was aboard for the breeze; all he did was talk to him around the turn and let him stretch his legs down the stretch.

"Horses grow up, they mature, they're different horses," Nafzger said. "I'm happy with him, he's ready to run. I think both of us are ready to get back to the races."

Tell that to Steve Asmussen.

Curlin's trainer leaves his big gun at home, waiting for next week's Haskell at Monmouth Park, and takes a swing at Street Sense with the undefeated Tiz Wonderful. Undefeated and unraced since winning the Gr. II Kentucky Jockey Club at Churchill in November. Owned by Stonestreet Stables, the son of Tiznow hurt his right-front tendon in that one and has been nursed back to the races. Asmussen knows it's a tall order, taking on Street Sense off of such a layoff.

"We made a conscious decision when we brought him back to keep him on racetracks that he's stayed sound on before. He trained well and ran well up here last year," Asmussen said. "First race back against the Derby winner — not ideal, but it's a lot more responsible than shipping him for an easier spot over a surface that he hasn't been on before. I think we'd be taking a bigger chance of him not being able to defend himself and reinjuring himself and eliminating who he could be."

Who he could be? In Asmussen's mind, he could be anything. Maybe even Curlin. Asmussen worked them together earlier this month.

"When you look at his form, he had the three races Curlin had — a maiden, a Grade Three and a Grade Two. Eerie similar," Asmussen said. "Running against Street Sense, that's where the work against Curlin came in three weeks ago, that's that level he's going to see in the Jim Dandy. From what we saw of

that, Curlin could handle him right now but he did get a lot out of the work and he's progressed."

Tiz Wonderful had about a month when he wasn't under tack after his injury and then Asmussen put him under a long, slow program trying to recondition his fitness while keeping his tendon tight. Asmussen decided months ago that the Jim Dandy would be Tiz Wonderful's return race. Not an allowance race but a Grade Two stakes against the Derby winner.

"Timing wise, what you'd have to fire in a three-other-than to win, and you have to get (the race) to go," Asmussen said. "With his health being our concern and our biggest responsibility, knowing when you would get to run him, knowing you could get two works here. There's no way he's at his best right now but it's the responsible way to try and get him back to 100 percent. You always run to win. It would be hard to have more respect for Street Sense than I do, knowing how good a horse and what an effort it took to beat him, but this is Saratoga."

• • •

Nick Zito brings C P West back to the scene of his first and only score. But it's not like the colt has a one-line resume. The son of Came Home has been hanging with the big dogs — he's taken on Street Sense twice and is the only entrant to have faced both Curlin and Rags To Riches. Plus, C P West has the home-field advantage, as the horse with the Manhattan address has been forwarding his mail upstate since May,

working once a week here since the end of June. With regular rider Prado sticking with Sightseeing, Cornelio Velasquez gets his first leg up.

Shug McGaughey brings Sightseeing for a day at the Spa. The son of Pulput just missed against Nobiz Like Shobiz in the Wood, then flew home just in time to take the Peter Pan. He had a tough trip in the Dwyer, but fired a subsequent 5-furlong bullet at his Belmont base last week and retains regular rider Edgar Prado.

Cowtown Cat has seen both sides of the coin since joining Todd Pletcher's barn. After comfy wins in the Gotham and Illinois Derby, he was the anchor-man the first Saturday in May and fourth as the odds-on choice in Thistledown's Ohio Derby. Garrett Gomez is aboard for the first time.

Flashstorm brings a wealth of racing experience to town, with Wayne Lukas, Overbrook Farm and 14 races under his belt. He was 0-for-7 as a freshman, but has picked it up in 2007. Racing everywhere from Aqueduct to Arkansas, he's notched three wins on the year, and was a game second in the Iowa Derby in his last. Shaun Bridgmohan rides.

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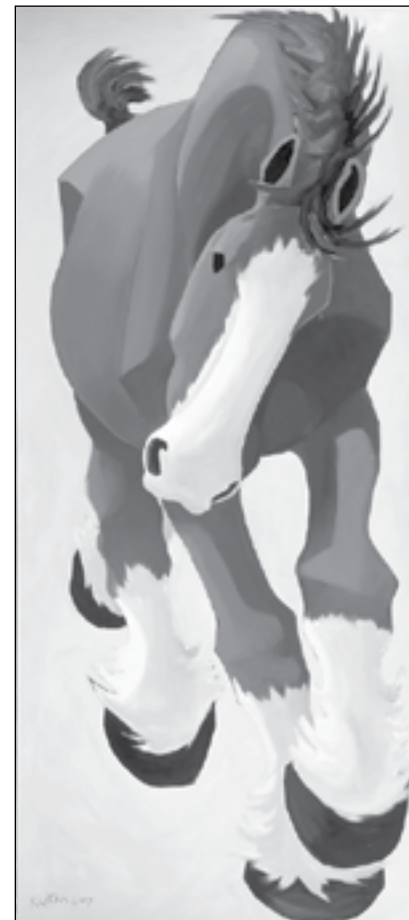
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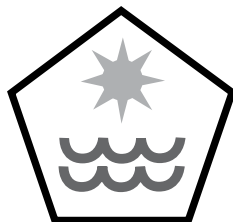
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Saratoga Entries

Sunday, July 29. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 3YO. CLM 20,000. PURSE \$35,000.

1	1	Cool the Economy.....Gomez G K.....	Violette Rick.....	2-1
2	2	Heaven's Flame.....Garcia Alan.....	Barbara Robert.....	12-1
3	3	Kimkanrun.....Dominguez R A.....	Dutrow Tony.....	8-1
4	4	Bravo's Princess.....Velasquez C.....	Ritvo Tim.....	10-1
5	5	Rapidian.....Desormeaux K J.....	McPeek Ken.....	15-1
6	6	La Bomba.....Hill C.....	Lake Scott.....	6-1
7	7	Sneaky Girl.....Bejarano R.....	Gullo Gary.....	15-1
8	8	Tzipi.....Coa E M.....	Contessa Gary.....	7-2
9	9	Smokin Racer.....Velasquez J R.....	Englehart Chris.....	6-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

2ND (1:32) 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Hopehopehope.....Leparoux J R.....	Biancone Patrick.....	5-1
2	2	Songsimage.....Gomez G K.....	Violette Rick.....	9-2
3	3	Rap Tale.....Velasquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd.....	8-1
4	4	J Z Warrior.....Desormeaux K J.....	Mott Bill.....	4-1
5	5	Alpha Tammy.....Dominguez R A.....	Sanders Jamie.....	30-1
6	6	Red Hot Bullet.....Velasquez C.....	Jolley Leroy.....	12-1
7	7	Seemingly.....Borel C H.....	Wilkes Ian.....	8-1
8	8	Spirit Line.....Prado E S.....	Lukas Wayne.....	12-1
9	9	Jolie the Cat.....Bridgmohan S X.....	Asmussen Steve.....	5-2

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (2-4), Pick 4 (2-5)

3RD (2:04) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Just Hoping.....Bridgmohan S X.....	Sheppard Jonathan.....	12-1
2	2	Frozen Prospect.....Luzzi M J.....	Rice Linda.....	15-1
3	3	Come Fly Away.....Velasquez C.....	Hushion Mike.....	12-1
4	4	Sophie's Salad.....Velasquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd.....	4-1
5	5	Slewfoundmoney.....Desormeaux K J.....	Mott Bill.....	3-1
6	6	Ms. Sabbatical.....Prado E S.....	McPeek Ken.....	6-1
7	7	Lucky Alizea.....Castellano J J.....	Hough Stan.....	20-1
8	8	Stormy Winter.....Samyn J L.....	Kelly Pat.....	8-1
9	9	Tuckahoe Road.....Gomez G K.....	Clement Christophe.....	5-2

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

4TH (2:36) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 4&UP. CLM 40,000. PURSE \$47,000.

1	6	Irish Ballerina.....Garcia Alan.....	Barbara Robert.....	12-1
1A	MTO	Most Charming.....Garcia Alan.....	Barbara Robert.....	12-1
2	1	My Sister Diane.....Desormeaux K J.....	O'Brien Colum.....	8-1
3	2	Joyeux Ruler.....Rojas R I.....	Persaud Atreo.....	15-1
4	3	Josefina's Pride.....Velasquez C.....	Schosberg Rick.....	5-1
5	4	Morlana.....Bridgmohan S X.....	Asmussen Steve.....	20-1
6	5	Madam Manguy (AUS).....Coa E M.....	Parisella John.....	7-2
7	7	Twilight Gallop.....Luzzi M J.....	Russo Frank.....	20-1
8	8	Optimist Girl (ARG).....Velasquez J R.....	Donk David.....	6-1
9	9	Early Hatch.....Dominguez R A.....	Motion Graham.....	6-1
10	10	Chicago's Girl.....Hill C.....	Cuadra Victor.....	15-1
11	11	Willi's Sweet Girl.....Prado E S.....	Contessa Gary.....	9-2
12	MTO	Snows Gone.....No rider.....	Domino Carl.....	8-1
13	MTO	Classic Example.....No rider.....	Gyarmati Leah.....	12-1
14	MTO	Birdie Run.....Hill C.....	Sedlacek Roy.....	10-1

A-Coupled: Irish Ballerina and Most Charming
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (4-6)

5TH (3:08) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	5	Madam Commander.....Velasquez C.....	Hernandez Mike.....	8-1
1A	10	Free and Brave.....Bejarano R.....	Kimmel John.....	8-1
2	1	Staid.....Bridgmohan S X.....	Asmussen Steve.....	5-2
3	2	Speak Proudly.....Dominguez R A.....	Schosberg Rick.....	6-1
4	3	Mine Or Who's.....Desormeaux K J.....	Mott Bill.....	5-1
5	4	Glorious America.....Coa E M.....	Contessa Gary.....	12-1
6	6	Ophite.....Castellano J J.....	Donk David.....	15-1
7	7	Devi.....Hill C.....	D'Alessandro Ralph.....	30-1
8	8	Doodlin.....Gomez G K.....	Bush Tom.....	10-1
9	9	Justinline.....Rojas R I.....	Cedano Heriberto.....	30-1
10	11	Exonerated.....Prado E S.....	Motion Graham.....	3-1

A-Coupled: Madam Commander and Free and Brave
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (5-7), Pick 6 (5-10)

6TH (3:41) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 30,000. PURSE \$64,000.

1	5	French Transition.....Prado E S.....	Serpe Phil.....	6-1
1A	MTO	Taking the Redeye.....Coa E M.....	Martin Frank.....	6-1
2	1	Ready Enough.....Desormeaux K J.....	Galluscio Dominic.....	8-1
3	2	Prince Raffie.....Coa E M.....	Levine Bruce.....	12-1
4	3	Of All Times.....Hill C.....	Matties Gregg.....	8-1
5	4	Banrock.....Velasquez C.....	Bush Tom.....	7-2
6	6	Academy Royale.....Garcia Alan.....	Pugh Peter.....	15-1
7	7	Jacks Express.....Luzzi M J.....	Jerkens Jimmy.....	15-1
8	8	Couth.....Bejarano R.....	Hernandez Mike.....	15-1
9	9	Red Down South.....Chavez J F.....	Kappes Steven.....	50-1
10	10	Admiral Bird.....Gomez G K.....	Clement Christophe.....	3-1
11	11	Good Going Darl.....Castellano J J.....	Stoklosa Richard.....	15-1
12	12	Chasing the Crown.....Velasquez J R.....	Ward Wesley.....	10-1
13	MTO	Seeking the Money.....Rojas R I.....	Everett Scott.....	12-1
14	MTO	Questioning.....Hill C.....	Lerman Roy.....	15-1
15	MTO	September Hero.....Samyn J L.....	Wolferseder John.....	30-1

A-Coupled: French Transition and Taking the Redeye
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (6-8), Grand Slam (6-9), Daily Double

7TH (4:14) 6 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	Zitta.....Coa E M.....	Baker Charlton.....	8-1
2	2	Light Tactic.....Prado E S.....	Schosberg Rick.....	5-1
3	3	City Spirit.....Desormeaux K J.....	Hushion Mike.....	4-1
4	4	Alchera.....Rojas R I.....	O'Brien Keith.....	15-1
5	5	My Girl Celina.....Velasquez C.....	Polese Ralph.....	30-1
6	6	Let's Fly Away.....Dominguez R A.....	Hernandez Mike.....	20-1
7	7	Abby Morgan.....Garcia Alan.....	Dutrow Tony.....	6-1
8	8	Wheresthonymaggie.....Chavez J F.....	Shevy Michael.....	50-1
9	9	Talented Treasure.....Gomez G K.....	Stoklosa Richard.....	3-1
10	10	Breezing.....Castellano J J.....	Clement Christophe.....	7-2
11	11	Union Center.....Bracetty J A.....	Candlin John.....	50-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 4 (7-10)

8TH (4:47) 6 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALLOW. PURSE \$61,000.

1	1	Twistaway.....Coa E M.....	Terranova II John.....	8-1
2	2	Rizzi's Twist.....Velasquez C.....	Levine Bruce.....	5-1
3	3	Katnik.....Hill C.....	Sedlacek Roy.....	30-1
4	4	Second Marriage.....Dominguez R A.....	Contessa Gary.....	12-1
5	5	Classic Flirt.....Gomez G K.....	Gorham Michael.....	4-1
6	6	Sweet Victory.....Bracetty J A.....	Kelly Pat.....	50-1
7	7	Lottie Zip.....Prado E S.....	Dutrow Tony.....	3-1
8	8	Seventeen Love.....Garcia Alan.....	Hills Timothy.....	6-1
9	9	Greg's Lassy.....Bejarano R.....	Violette Rick.....	7-2

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (8-10)

9TH (5:20) THE JIM DANDY (GR. II). 1 1/8 MILES. 3YO. PURSE \$500,000.

1	1	Sightseeing.....Prado E S.....	McGaughey Shug.....	10-1
2	2	Flashstorm.....Bridgmohan S X.....	Lukas Wayne.....	15-1
3	3	Street Sense.....Borel C H.....	Nafzger Carl.....	2-5
4	4	Cowtown Cat.....Gomez G K.....	Pletcher Todd.....	20-1
5	5	Tiz Wonderful.....Velasquez J R.....	Asmussen Steve.....	9-2
6	6	C P West.....Velasquez C.....	Zito Nick.....	6-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

10TH (5:52) 6 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. CLM 20,000. PURSE \$35,000.

1	1	Jules for A. J.....Desormeaux K J.....	Galluscio Dominic.....	6-1
2	2	Angel Dancer.....Ponce J.....	Friedman Mitchell.....	15-1
3	3	What's Your Point.....Velasquez J R.....	Schosberg Rick.....	8-1
4	4	Fighting Speedy.....Velasquez C.....	Miceli Michael.....	5-1
5	5	Ballymist.....Borel C H.....	Kilstein Matthew.....	50-1
6	6	Roxanne's Dancer.....Dominguez R A.....	Araya Rene.....	12-1
7	7	Zelna J.....Hill C.....	Ortiz Paulino.....	12-1
8	8	Flying Falcon.....Chavez J F.....	Russo Sal.....	15-1
9	9	Sweet Time.....Garcia Alan.....	Lake Scott.....	4-1
10	10	Short Fuse Tara.....Bejarano R.....	Jacobson David.....	3-1
11	11	College Girl.....Jara F.....	Arroyo Enrique.....	12-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

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Race #	Pete Fornatale 	Frank Scatoni 	Brian Nadeau 	Fickle Finger of Fate 
1	Kimkanrun Smokin Racer Cool The Economy	Cool The Economy Kimkanrun Tzipi	Cool The Economy Rapidian Tzipi	Sneaky Girl Cool The Economy Bravo's Princess
2	J Z Warrior Jolie The Cat Rap Tale	Jolie The Cat J Z Warrior Songsimage	J Z Warrior Jolie The Cat Songsimage	Seemingly Alpha Tammy Hopehopehope
3	Tuckahoe Road Slewfoundmoney Just Hoping	Tuckahoe Road Slewfoundmoney Come Fly Away	Tuckahoe Road Sophie's Salad Lucky Alizea	Sophie's Salad Slewfoundmoney Just Hoping
4	Early Hatch Josefina's Pride My Sister Diane	Josefina's Pride Madam Manguy Early Hatch	My Sister Diane Madam Manguy Optimist Girl	Morlana Josefina's Pride Optimist Girl
5	Exonerated Staid Broman entry	Mine Or Who's Staid Exonerated	Exonerated Staid Mine Or Who's	Doodlin Staid Justinline
6	Banrock Admiral Bird Of All Times	Banrock French Transition Admiral Bird	Banrock Admiral Bird French Transition	Red Down South French Transition Prince Raffle
7	Breezing City Spirit Zitta	Talented Treasure Zitta Light Tactic	Breezing Talented Treasure Abby Morgan	Union Center Let's Fly Away Light Tactic
8	Classic Flirt Twistaway Lottie Zip	Classic Flirt Lottie Zip Twistaway	Twistaway Rizzi's Twist Greg's Lassy	Sweet Victory Seventeen Love Greg's Lassy
9	Street Sense Tiz Wonderful Sightseeing	Street Sense Tiz Wonderful C P West	Street Sense Sightseeing Tiz Wonderful	Tiz Wonderful Street Sense Sightseeing
10	Short Fuse Tara Fighting Speedy Sweet Time	Short Fuse Tara Sweet Time Fighting Speedy	Short Fuse Tara Fighting Speedy Sweet Time	Angel Dancer Sweet Time College Girl
To Date:	11/39	10/39	8/39	7/39

Sunday Detailed Analysis

RACE 1: For diehards only. If you're still reading, that means you. KIMKANRUN is the nominal choice as she absolutely aired in her two starts vs. claimers and I have questions about several of the others who project to be lower prices. SMOKIN RACER is cheap but she's in form at least and John Velazquez is enticed. COOL THE ECONOMY is on sale, half off; not my kind of play but someone has to run third.

RACE 2: J Z WARRIOR took a lot of money for Bill Mott first-out and his horses usually improve with a race; plus the filly who beat her in that initial outing looks to be a good one. JOLIE THE CAT also took money in her debut for win-early connections; she's nicely drawn outside and can be a factor with a better break. RAP TALE could improve in her second start for the titanic tag-team of Todd Pletcher and John Velazquez.

RACE 3: TUCKAHOE ROAD ran a corker earlier this month and just missed getting there; terrific shot in this one. One more cutback could also be the trick for SLEWFOUNDMONEY who came within 2 lengths of the top pick last time. JUST HOPING is an intriguing Delaware Park shipper who could work out a trip at a price.

RACE 4: EARLY HATCH just beat cheaper impressively down at Del Park and that win was validated when the runner-up came back to win; has a good chance for this shrewd and successful outfit. JOSEFINA'S PRIDE drops down below the level of the claim and is second-off-the-layoff. MY SISTER DIANE has done all her racing in Florida but is well drawn in first start for Colum O'Brien.

RACE 5: EXONERATED took money and ran OK at Belmont, dueling for the lead before tiring; nicely slotted for improvement today. STAID actually beat the top pick that day; I'll use here but I didn't put her on top because it seems these maidens often break poorly from the rail. The Broman-owned entry intrigues: Mike Hernandez has a good record with firsters at Saratoga so MADAM COMMANDER is in, and Hook And Ladder's strong start with debut types puts FREE AND BRAVE in consideration.

RACE 6: BANROCK had an absolute horror trip in his first start of the year; not sure what happened last time but it was a weirdly run race on yielding

ground and I'm willing to toss it. Should be set for a peak effort back at his condition in his third start of the year. ADMIRAL BIRD, a 3-year-old with a lot of talent, goes out for the white-hot Christophe Clement barn. I'm concerned about being overbet but I'll use him as a saver at least. OF ALL TIMES' race two back might win this . . . could see using at a price.

RACE 7: Sure, BREEZING raised some question marks finishing 23 1/4 back last time at 3-5, but I trust she'll be ready off the layoff and be back to her old self. This is the type of layoff runner where – much like a first-time starter – I'd actually like to see the money show. CITY SPIRIT worked nicely over the track and looks to be precocious from pedigree and trainer perspectives. ZITTA couldn't get it done against maiden claimers and breaks from a tricky post but Charlton Baker always deserves a look, especially at Saratoga. I'll try and work her in there somewhere.

RACE 8: CLASSIC FLIRT has a pattern I love – a little trouble first time against winners – and she should move back up today with that experience; that she beat open maidens first out is a nice bonus. Price is the only question mark. TWISTAWAY has seen some ambitious spots in her young life, but she's back at her condition today and should be nice and fit with the cutback and turf-to-dirt move. LOTTIE ZIP is tactically oriented and comes off a smashing maiden score.

RACE 9: Really wanted to make a wiseguy case for the second pick, figuring maybe he could go gate to wire a la Strong Contender against Empire Maker a few years back. But the presence of the other speed means it's gotta be STREET SENSE, doesn't it? With the real goal in a few weeks he won't be cranked up but 75 percent of him should be good enough in a race that sets up for him. Enjoy it and get the blue and yellow paint ready for the canoe. TIZ WONDERFUL is inexperienced, but when last seen many months ago he looked a speedy, progressive sort; chances greatly improve if Flashstorm and/or Cowtown Cat scratch. SIGHTSEEING usually runs in the money and is a nice horse; I'd be surprised to see him finish ahead of Street Sense but he seems very logical underneath.

RACE 10: SHORT FUSE TARA is sent out by a trainer whose horses have been firing here and looks the choice on form and figures as well; possible single. FIGHTING SPEEDY drops down below the level of the claim; toss that turf effort last time and her four previous runs were pretty good. SWEET TIME has tactical speed and is in good trim; that might be enough if the top one doesn't fire.

– Pete Fornatale

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Bridging the Gap

Sprint stakes can lead to bigger, better things

BY BRIAN NADEAU

The rickety rope-bridge that is Monday's Gr. II Amsterdam connects two distant and distinct shores. On one side sits allowance and minor stakes company. Beckoning on the far bank is the Gr. I King's Bishop and the best 3-year-olds sprinters in the country. After 6 tricky furlongs, the Amsterdam field should know where they stand.

While Forty Grams isn't the most battle-tested sprinter around – he's never even run shorter than 7 furlongs – he does enter the \$150,000 stakes as the most accomplished runner. He sharpened his teeth on the Triple Crown trail this spring, and though he might have gotten a few chips along the way, he has been a gem of consistency for trainer Steve Asmussen, who is looking forward to shortening the son of Distorted Humor up.

"We're finally running him in the races he belongs in," Asmussen said. "He had some success up to one mile and then we got big eyes, you see those pots out there going a mile and an sixteenth, a mile and an eighth."

Forty Grams didn't necessarily find gold at the end of the rainbow, but the pot he did stumble on was a lucrative one. Grade II- and III-placed, he's collected more than \$270,000 this year alone.

"It's not like he can't be effective at the longer distances," Asmussen lamented, "but he can't be at his best."

AMSTERDAM STAKES PREVIEW

With Edgar Prado aboard for the first time, his best might get the job done in the Amsterdam. If he stumbles, plenty of horses are poised to step up.

Roman's Run enters in career form for Dale Romans. He comes off two straight scores over allowance foes at Churchill Downs. A son of Tiznow, he should sit a good trip under his rail draw for Garrett Gomez, who is off to a flying start in his second season at the Spa.

Holy Canyon has lost his last two starts, but a closer inspection of the company he's been keeping indicates he was chasing some fleet older sprinters in Rondo and Abraaz. Trained by Jimmy Jerkens, he won his first two starts sitting just off the pace and bounding clear. Jean-Luc Samyn, aboard for all four starts, has the return call.

Belmont's leading trainer Gary Contessa made a clever claim back in May, picking up Americanus for \$50,000. In two subsequent starts the son Yonaguska has a second (by a head) and an easy 5 3/4-length score. He should be a factor from the opening bell and may only need a repeat of his last to be unsaddled for Eibar Coa.

Most Distinguished ran a winning race in the Gr. II Woody Stephens; the only glitch was Teuflesberg, who was a little better that day. Shortening up after several route tries this winter, he may have found a niche sprinting. He has the ability to sit close to a quick pace and hold off the oncoming rush for Hall of Fame trainer Nick Zito and Rafael Bejarano.

Rounding out the field are Elite Squadron, undefeated in two starts this year for trainer James Baker and Calvin Borel; Out of Gwedda, a stakes winning



Tod Marks

Most Distinguished comes out of the Grade II Woody Stephens.

2-year-old now in the hands of Billy Badgett and ridden by Kent Desormeaux; the Grade-II placed Starbase, trained by Wayne Lukas and under Cornelio Velasquez for the first time; and the ubiquitous Sir Five Star, a minor stakes winner earlier this season for Jamie Sanders, who'll have John Velazquez aboard for his 18th career start.

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Monday Saratoga Entries

Monday, July 30. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALLOW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Stopbluffing	Hill C	Carroll Del	6-1
2	2	Fairway Drive	Jara F	Martin Carlos	12-1
3	3	Chernobyl's Hero	Luzzi M J	Odintz Jeff	4-1
4	4	Lorccan	Velasquez C	Walsh Thomas	12-1
5	5	Shifter	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	15-1
6	6	Stud Muffin	Bejarano R	Galluscio Dominic	9-2
7	7	Raven H	Garcia Alan	Bush Tom	6-1
8	8	Wally World	Prado E S	Levine Bruce	2-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

2ND (1:32) 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. MDN CLM 35,000. PURSE \$24,000.

1	1	Carson Camp	Bridgmohan S X	Asmussen Steve	2-1
2	2	King Tallymon	Velasquez C	Rice Linda	8-1
3	3	Fregata	Hill C	Domino Carl	12-1
4	4	General Beach	Bejarano R	Zito Nick	8-1
5	5	Mighty Thor	Dominguez R A	Klanfer Alan	10-1
6	6	Pennant Race	Prado E S	Serpe Phil	3-1
7	7	Max's Bid	Gomez G K	Klesaris Robert	7-2
8	8	He's Tough	Rojas R I	O'Brien Keith	30-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (2-4), Pick 4 (2-5)

3RD (2:04) THE BANSHEE BREEZE. 1 1/8 MILES. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$80,000.

1	1	Lemons Forever	Leparoux J R	Stewart Dallas	5-1
2	2	Altesse	Velasquez J R	McGaughey Shug	3-1
3	3	Leo's Pegasus	Gomez G K	Howard Neil	4-1
4	4	Lady Joanne	Borel C H	Nafzger Carl	1-1
5	5	Funny Annie	Velasquez C	McDonald Michael	12-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

4TH (2:36) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	2	Its Ready	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd	4-1
1A	AE	Darling Monique	Gomez G K	Pletcher Todd	4-1
2	1	Vivacious Vivian	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	6-1
3	3	Awesome I Am	Garcia Alan	Terranova II John	20-1
4	4	Canary Yellow	Dominguez R A	Martin Carlos	20-1
5	5	Boston Cat	Leparoux J R	Biancone Patrick	5-1
6	6	Our Dreamette	Coa E M	Ritvo Tim	3-1
7	7	Little Springer	Bridgmohan S X	Sanders Jamie	15-1
8	8	Press Leak	Bejarano R	Howard Neil	12-1
9	9	Prairie Melody	Velasquez C	Rice Linda	20-1
10	10	La Menina	Prado E S	Matz Michael	8-1
11	11	Delta Weekend	Gomez G K	Alexander Frank	15-1
12	12	Carnival City	Borel C H	Lukas Wayne	20-1

A-Coupled: Its Ready and Darling Monique
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (4-6), Pick 6 (4-9)

5TH (3:08) 1 MILE. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$57,000.

1	1	Stormy Success	Chavez J F	Toscano Jr. John	10-1
2	2	Sky Dragon	Rojas R I	Cedano Heribert	12-1
3	3	I Talk You Listen	Samyn J L	Wolferseder John	30-1
4	4	Seittam	Morales P	Matties Gregg	15-1
5	5	Big City Sports	Hill C	Russo Sal	20-1
6	6	Refined Royalty	Castellano J J	Destefano John	12-1
7	7	Triple Bogey Blues	Coa E M	McLaughlin Kiaran	4-1
8	8	Final Authority	Velasquez J R	Bond James	15-1
9	9	Extra Zip	Dominguez R A	Martin Carlos	2-1
10	10	Typhoon Tycoon	Gomez G K	Fisher Linda	5-2
11	AE	Threeandoh	Desormeaux K J	Lerman Roy	8-1
12	AE	Dubliner	Prado E S	Donk David	5-2
13	AE	A Rose Like Us	Gomez O	Hernandez Mike	15-1
14	MTO	Will Never Bend	Bracetty J A	Kelly Pat	15-1
15	MTO	Deb's Roof	Bracetty J A	Weaver George	9-5

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (5-7), Grand Slam (5-8)

6TH (3:41) 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$70,000.

1	1	Smokeyjonessutton	Leparoux J R	Stewart Dallas	8-1
2	2	Helsinki	Desormeaux K J	Zito Nick	15-1
3	3	Soaring By	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd	15-1
4	4	Mint Slewlep	Dominguez R A	Bailes Robert	15-1
5	5	Sharp Attack	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne	30-1
6	6	Extreme Supreme	Bejarano R	Ward John	4-1
7	7	Menacing	Bridgmohan S X	Ritchey Tim	20-1
8	8	Past the Point	Gomez G K	Harty Eoin	12-1
9	9	Hunting	Prado E S	McGaughey Shug	7-2
10	10	Deputy Indy	Castellano J J	Hough Stan	8-1
11	11	Grasshopper	Borel C H	Howard Neil	9-2
12	12	Explosive Heat	Coa E M	Levine Bruce	10-1
13	AE	Mister Triester	Dominguez R A	Stall Jr. Al	15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 4 (6-9), Daily Double

7TH (4:14) 1 MILE. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 30,000. PURSE \$64,000.

1	AE	Don't Mind Me	Desormeaux K J	Galluscio Dominic	5-1
1A	AE	Visual Candy	Leparoux J R	Galluscio Dominic	5-1
2	AE	Whateverwillbillb	Prado E S	Martin Carlos	10-1
2B	MTO	Western Sweep	Prado E S	Martin Carlos	10-1
3	1	Chestoria	Coa E M	Levine Bruce	2-1
4	2	Appealing Mystery	Hill C	Turner Billy	20-1
5	3	Factual Number	Chavez J F	Lalman Dennis	30-1
6	4	Jesse's Justice	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd	7-2
7	5	Against the Grain	Velasquez C	Bush Tom	8-1
8	6	Love Cove	Castellano J J	Albertrani Tom	8-1
9	7	Shoot the Bugler	Borel C H	Aquillino Joe	15-1
10	8	Classic Marilyn	Samyn J L	Hertler John	15-1
11	9	Higher Incentive	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	4-1
12	10	Nehantic Kat	Garcia Alan	Tagg Barclay	10-1
13	MTO	Gattinara	Luzzi M J	Bond James	4-1
14	MTO	Morning Gallop	Velasquez C	Hennig Mark	12-1

A-Coupled: Don't Mind Me and Visual Candy
B-Coupled: Whateverwillbillb and Western Sweep
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (7-9)

8TH (4:47) THE AMSTERDAM (GR. II). 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 3YO. PURSE \$150,000.

1	1	Roman's Run	Gomez G K	Romans Dale	6-1
2	2	Holy Canyon	Samyn J L	Jerkens Allen	8-1
3	3	Starbase	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne	20-1
4	4	Elite Squadron	Borel C H	Baker James	8-1
5	5	Out of Gwedda	Desormeaux K J	Badgett Billy	10-1
6	6	Sir Five Star	Velasquez J R	Sanders Jamie	20-1
7	7	Americanus	Coa E M	Contessa Gary	5-2
8	8	Most Distinguished	Bejarano R	Zito Nick	2-1
9	9	Forty Grams	Prado E S	Asmussen Steve	12-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

9TH (5:20) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$34,000.

1	1	Hawkinsville	Velasquez J R	Ward Wesley	15-1
2	2	Grosvenor Square (IRE)	Garcia Alan	Sciacca Gary	20-1
3	3	Questioning	Hill C	Lerman Roy	15-1
4	4	Minute of Fame	Bridgmohan S X	Sheppard Jonathan	20-1
5	5	John's Song	Velasquez C	Serpe Phil	9-2
6	6	Dancing Tin Man	Castellano J J	Donk David	10-1
7	7	Copyco	Chavez J F	DiPrima Gregory	20-1
8	8	Southack	Rojas R I	Gyarmati Leah	50-1
9	9	Quick Comeback	Coa E M	Contessa Gary	3-1
10	10	Marrouche	Desormeaux K J	Kimmel John	6-1
11	11	Gaelic Sunrise	Prado E S	Romans Dale	6-1
12	12	Straight Romance	Dominguez R A	Tagg Barclay	5-1
13	AE	S. S. Crafty	Bejarano R	Rice Linda	20-1
14	AE	Tahoe Warrior	Gomez G K	Weaver George	10-1
15	MTO	Mount Wilton	Bridgmohan S X	Reinstedler Tony	5-2
16	MTO	Moonshiner	Luzzi M J	Lake Scott	3-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

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Monday Analysis

Monday, July 30

1ST RACE: WALLY WORLD will have to work out a trip from here, but he has enough tactical speed to allow Edgar Prado to do just that. Local fans have something to root for, as this gelding is owned by Loudonville's Roddy Valente. Just don't expect much of a price. STUD MUFFIN has enough speed to stay close to the pick, and could offer some value if the top one falters. CHERNOBYL'S HERO woke up last time at 21-1 and a repeat would put him right there.

2ND RACE: Not much to like from the proven commodities here, so let's go with newcomer MAX'S BID. He was almost 10 clear of third in his debut for \$20,000, and goes up the ladder to \$35,000, both positive signs. CARSON CAMP has had too many tries to put on top (0-for-9 lifetime) but seems good enough to be in the picture at underlaid odds. KING TALLYMON may stay around longer than many think.

3RD RACE: LADY JOANNE finds a nice spot to prep for the Grade I Alabama Aug. 18. A repeat of her last, where she pressed multiple Grade I winner Octave in the Coaching Club should get the job done with room to spare. ALTESSE hasn't quite shown the ability of mom Aldice, a Grade I winner over this track, but she could threaten if Lady Joanne isn't fully cranked. LEMONS FOREVER could pick up the pieces if the pace is too hot, a strategy that work to perfection in the Grade I Kentucky Oaks last season.

4TH RACE: Check the tote in this spot, a turf dash for maiden 2-year-old fillies. Tepid choice OUR DREAMETTE, who has taken a lot of money and run well in both her lifetime starts for trainer Tim Ritvo. VIVACIOUS VIVIAN gets the rail for her career debut, and that's never a bad thing for this 5 1/2-furlong distance. DELTA WEEKEND is by a sire who is off to a good start with his youngsters, and trainer Frank Alexander knows how to get a turf horse to the wire first.

5TH RACE: Spin the wheel and hope in this spot; a head-scratcher of a race. Maybe blinkers-off will get SKY DRAGON over the hump for Ocala Cedano, who can pop at a price every now and again. REFINED ROYALTY took money in his turf debut and isn't facing any world-beaters. TRIPLE BOGEY BLUES figures, but will probably be overbet for expert connections.

6TH RACE: Some Triple Crown leftovers show up here and while they should attract a lot of support we'll try to get home with GRASSHOPPER, who may have bounced in his last off a big return score. While his outside post is a concern at this distance, he should have ample speed to track and looks to make a run from off-the-pace. HUNTING has the same style and should be able to work out a trip from his wide draw as well. A lot of speed signed on and that should aid his rally. HELSINKI tried the big boys in the Dwyer last out, and while that didn't work, he can close into this for a big piece. Blinkers-on has long been a big angle for Nick Zito.

7TH RACE: NEHANTIC KAT returns for Barclay Tagg, an expert at getting horses to win off a long layoff. Decent turf breeding and should have plenty of speed to track. Call in a tough race. CHESTORIA was a monster once she got to the green last year for trainer Bruce Levine. Also enters off a big freshening, but the pace should play to her favor. She's possibly prepping for stakes company, and that's the only drawback. JESSE'S JUSTICE may need to rate a bit for John Velazquez, and that's not out of the question, considering she used that style to break her maiden at Belmont three back.

8TH RACE: A neat renewal of the Amsterdam, the local prep for the King's Bishop on Travers Day. Speed has been holding a bit better of late, so let's see if ELITE SQUADRON can wire them. AMERICANUS figures off his two races since being claimed by Gary Contessa. He could be in the right spot if the top choice folds. FORTY GRAMS shortens up after chasing Triple Crown dreams this spring.

9TH RACE: Puzzling nightcap, so we'll try QUICK COMEBACK, who looks to be loose on the lead. He's run two big races since hitting the turf and might not look back under Eibar Coa. MARROUCHE has a good-race, bad-race pattern, so it's risky picking him off his good run last time out. He does have two wins at the distance, so he fits. JOHN'S SONG might be closest to the top choice early, and if things are slow up front he can hang for a share and maybe more.

- Brian Nadeau

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Where Are They Now?

The 2006 Jim Dandy **Bernardini**



Tod Marks

The Special takes a look back at the Saratoga stakes winners of 2006, and what's happened in their lives since they found glory at the Spa.

Despite winning the Preakness, Bernardini arrived in town still very much in Barbaro's shadow. Coming off a 10-week layoff, he came into his own in the Jim Dandy as he blew away all comers. That trend continued as he rolled up daylight scores over fellow sophomores in the Travers and veterans in the Jockey Club Gold Cup. He would get caught by Invasor in the Breeders' Cup Classic, but certainly there was no shame in that.

Retired to Darley at Jonabell, Bernardini's first book was so full of classy dames it might have belonged to Frank Sinatra. Consider the pedigree of the ladies that came to call on the

3-year-old champion :

Champions: 9

Dams of Champions: 8

Grade/Group I winners: 22

Dams of Grade/Group I winners: 39

Siblings to Grade/Group I winners: 28

Daughters of Grade/Group I winners: 11

Who's Next?

Binoculars all in the family

BY DAVID KOSAK

Anthony Guy stands behind the binocular-rental counter in the clubhouse, just like his great-grandfather did in 1895 when he started the business.

At that date, and for many years thereafter, it was common practice for spectators to stop by the rental stand.

"Using binoculars makes watching the races a more personal experience," said Guy as he handed another pair of lenses to a waiting customer. "When you watch TV, you only can watch what they give you."

Lineage and longevity are honored at the Spa. Elements such as Guy's rental stand generate an atmosphere where the past and present are one. He rests his elbow on the old-fashioned counter and points to the old, tattered trunks that stored some of the first binoculars his family rented.

"I donated a couple of pairs to the museum across the street and even one of the trunks too," he said. "The job is kind of something I just fell into. I was a communications/art major in college and then worked in radio for several

years. But the radio station I was working for had legal problems and they bounced a lot of people."

After that, Guy jumped around between various professions; never really finding a job that worked for him. Then in 1999, his mother died unexpectedly.

"So I inherited the business," he said filtering through some papers.

This is the eighth summer Guy's been in charge of the family operation and tradition. The rest of year, whatever NYRA track is running is where he and his business call home. At each oval, he rents out a small vending area and picks up right where he left off.

The fans who used to rely on Guy and his family don't need their services as much anymore – though at Saratoga and on major stakes days business booms.

"It's the same four or five thousand people that I see day in and day out, but they can afford their own binoculars, so they don't rent them," he said. "(On bigger days) I get a lot of first timers, more the tourist type who will rent them."

To help compensate for the changing



Rebecca Walton

Following a family tradition, Anthony Guy owns the binocular rental stand at Saratoga and other NYRA tracks.

times, Guy provides additional services.

"We also store and ship binoculars for owners and trainers, so there are people like the Peitzes (trainer Danny Peitz and his family) who keep their glasses with me."

It's ironic to find Guy at a track; more so, running a business and working there as his full-time job.

"I came to the track once with my grandfather and I hated it because there weren't any girls there," he said.

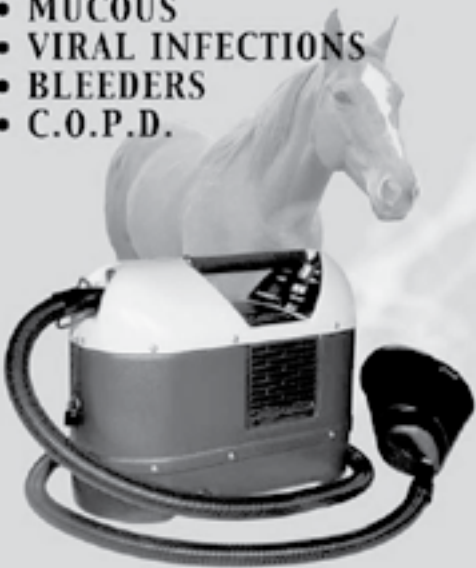
In fact, he spends most of his time right there behind the counter, usually just watching the races on TV himself. Guy said he actually may not be handing out binoculars at the track much

longer – at least not full-time.

"Some days I don't rent any . . . racing has become kind of a thing that is easy to ignore," he said. "The only place people really get excited about it is here."

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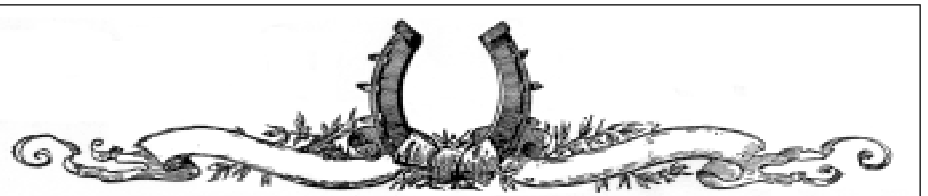
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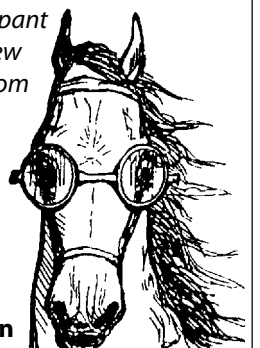
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August 14: Visit an anatomical museum of limb and hoof disorders with educator **Allie Hayes**; Special Guest: **Frank Gravlee DVM**, author of new book on laminitis

August 21: Cornell Vet School's **Michael Wildenstein** on rampant hoof infections in New York; Farrier Tales from **Bob Skradzio**; "The Shoe Show"

interactive display of old or unusual shoes and artifacts.



One gentleman to another

Bob Holthus is a mentor to a lot of people. The 73-year-old trainer put the old in old school – a Kentucky and Arkansas tradition, steady as peanut butter, sweet as jelly, everybody likes Bob Holthus.

Son of a trainer, he's been at it for over 50 years, winning nine titles at Oaklawn Park. He's so big in the Razorback State, he made the Arkansas Walk of Fame, for outstanding residents of the state who have made significant contributions to society – now that's big. Lawyer Ron and his old-time trainer produced the feel-good story of the 2006 Triple Crown. The horse won six in a row before the Derby, the trainer had recovered from a heart attack.

Last fall, Burt Welker of Stonewall Farm called Todd Pletcher and asked him to take Lawyer Ron. Not a bad call to get if you're a trainer. Here's a 3-year-old millionaire who's won eight races, including the Arkansas Derby, Rebel and Risen Star Stakes, fresh off a second in the Super Derby and heading to the Breeders' Cup. It happens all the time to Pletcher, he gets high-dollar yearlings, record-setting 2-year-old purchases (for better or worse), flashy imports, well intentioned homebreds and horses transferring from another trainer. It's the latter that can be tricky. Owners or owner representatives call him to take horses, a lot of times away from another trainer who could be a friend, a peer, a mentor.

This time it was mentor. Lawyer Ron flopped in the Derby, finishing 21 lengths off of Barbaro. He came back in August to win the St. Louis Derby – a one-off, \$250,000 bonanza at Fairmount Park – and finished second in the Super Derby. That's when Welker, representing Stonewall Farm who bought a big share in the horse before the Derby, called Pletcher with what turned out to be an ultimatum.

"To be honest with you, I was pretty uncomfortable with it because I like Mr. Holthus and he had done a good job with the horse," Pletcher said. "I told them,

CUP OF COFFEE



By Sean Clancy

'I'd rather not.' They called back a couple of weeks later and said, 'We're going to make a change and it's going to be either you or somebody else.' I said, 'Well, if that's the situation, I have no choice.' I called Mr. Holthus and told him that, he was very kind about it."

It's the owners job to make the call; it's the trainer's job to answer it.

Owners transfer a lot of horses to Pletcher, it's the nature of the business. Trainers get replaced quicker than batteries, there isn't a trainer out there who hasn't been replaced. Soon, there won't be a trainer who hasn't been replaced by Pletcher.

But Bob Holthus was different. "I've known him pretty much my whole life, he and my father trained together, places like Arkansas," Pletcher said. "He's a gentleman and a good trainer. He's been very nice, I talked to him when we first got the horse in, he loves the horse, he said he hopes the horse does well because he's got a breeding right. It's a tough business to have a lot of friends who are trainers, it's a competitive business and at the end of the day it is a business, you have to treat it that way. But with this horse, we're just happy we've done as well with him as Mr. Holthus did."



Pletcher's far-reaching success has triggered animosity, jealousy, rumors . . . you name it, he's heard it. But not from Bob Holthus. Pletcher is almost apologetic about taking Lawyer Ron, but he makes no bones about the rest.

"When you're doing well, not everybody is rooting for you. It's the position we're in and it's the position I want to be in," Pletcher said. "On the flip side, I think it was '98, I had just got going and had finally built my stable up to 40 horses and Lazy Lane called me one day and said we're picking up those 14 tomorrow. I've been on the wrong side and it doesn't feel good. I saw my dad have horses taken away from him and get horses. Unfortunately it's the nature of the business."

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