

FREE



The SARATOGA *Special*



Year 7 • No. 24

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Thursday, August 23, 2007

Champion Wait A While

ROUND III

*My Typhoon (2-0) meets
Wait A While in Ballston Spa.*



Diana winner My Typhoon

INSIDE

- Street Sense 3-5 favorite for Saturday's Travers
- Tom Bush finds place on Spa leaderboard
- Stunt Man captures the Albany
- Entries and Handicapping

Typhoon Warning

Diana winner may be tougher going shorter

BY JIM MULVIHILL

This time last year – between the Diana and the Ballston Spa – trainer Bill Mott told *The Special* that My Typhoon “may be better suited for a mile-and-a-sixteenth than a mile-and-an-eighth.” Sure enough, she waltzed into the stretch with a 3-length lead and held on for a three-quarter win over Karen’s Cap in the 2006 Ballston Spa.

This time around, less than four weeks since the 5-year-old earned her first Grade I win with surprising ease in the 9-furlong Diana, does Mott still believe that his mare is more dangerous shortening up to today’s distance?

“I think so,” he answered without hesitation. “I think it’s a good distance for her.”

This is discouraging news for the other eight disaffers lining up in the \$200,000 turf stakes, including two (Meribel and Muralakana) that came up short in the Diana. Even Wait A While – the Champion 3-Year-Old Filly of 2006 with victories in half of her lifetime 16 starts, two of them in Grade I stakes – will find herself in the unusual role of challenger coming off consecutive losses to My Typhoon.

“We didn’t give (My Typhoon) enough respect in the Just A Game so we will monitor the pace scenario a little closer,” said Todd Pletcher, trainer of Wait A While. “She won’t get to go in 25 this time. There might be some other fillies in there who will take care of that.”

Though Wait A While’s only win in three tries this season came five months ago in the Gr. III Honey Fox, Pletcher believes she’s been better than her form might indicate.

“She won her first start back over Precious Kitten, who subsequently won a Grade I,” he said. “Then the rain forced her next race off the turf, on the Polytrack. We decided to experiment with it, which we obviously won’t do again. It didn’t set her back; it was just a waste of time. She had actually worked kind of fast on it, but basically they all work fast on it early in the spring.”

The Polytrack experiment came at Keeneland in the Gr. II Jenny Wiley, won by My Typhoon. They met



Tod Marks

My Typhoon strolls into the Ballston Spa off a victory in the Grade I Diana earlier in the meet. Eddie Castro returns for the ride for Live Oak Plantation and trainer Bill Mott.

again two months later, going a mile at Belmont Park in the Gr. II Just A Game.

“She was second to My Typhoon in a situation where we let My Typhoon go a quarter in 25 (seconds),” Pletcher said. “If you break it down a little closer she hasn’t done much wrong this year. We shipped to California with the idea of running in the Cash Call Mile and she got sick and that sort of put things on hold. She got a fever when she shipped. It was a long way to go for nothing.”

But those disappointments are in the past.

“I think she is as good now as she was last year,” the trainer said. “She will run very well. We are as confident as we can be in a race that is as tough as this one.”

The 2007 edition of the Gr. II Ballston Spa makes a good argument for the concept of awarding graded status after the fact, based on a race’s quality in the year it was run. If a race with three recent Grade I winners (two of them millionaires), not to mention two others who have placed in Grade I stakes, doesn’t deserve a Grade I designation, what does?

“It’s a tough race,” said Mott, who also won the 2003 Ballston Spa with Stylish. “There’s more pace in here (than the Diana) and there’s nothing easy about this race.”

The ultra-consistent My Typhoon received a perfect trip in the July 28 Diana, stalking in second under Eddie Castro before taking over into the far turn and gamely holding off a late charge by Argentina.

“She’s got enough tactical speed that it usually puts her up in fairly good position,” Mott said of My Typhoon. “You’re not always going to get a perfect trip, but having tactical speed and being able to place one where you want them to be is certainly important in that regard.”

Tactics will play an essential role in what promises to be a taxing race thanks to an abundance of classy speed. Mott’s other entrant, Pommes Frites, will likely challenge longshot Iron Goddess for the early lead, with My Typhoon, Wait A While, Muralakana, and Vacare all close behind. Thanks to the tight turns of the inner turf course, those fanned wide may quickly

See **BALLSTON SPA** page 3 ►

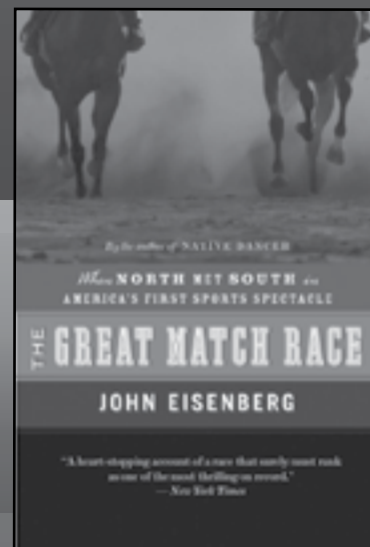
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Ballston Spa —

■ Continued from page 2

find themselves as much as 2 lengths from where they'd rather be.

Trainer Christophe Clement believes the 8 1/2-furlong distance will benefit Meribel, who charged from last in the Diana to finish fourth, 1 3/4 lengths behind My Typhoon, "Not because she won't be falling back as far," he said, "but because there will be more pace."

Meribel was 2-for-2 over the Saratoga turf at last year's meet and picks up John Velazquez in place of Garrett Gomez, who takes the call on Wait A While.

Meribel will break from the rail inside of stablemate Vacare, winner of last year's Gr. I Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Keeneland.

"They're two nice fillies, both training well, very different," Clement said. "Vacare will be close to the pace and Meribel is the other way around, she'll be off the pace. They're both training well and look good and we'll see what happens."

Like Mott, Clement has two Ballston Spa scores to his credit, winning with Penny's Gold in 2001 and Danish in 1996.

Another filly who has had just about enough of My Typhoon is Mauralakana. Trained by Patrick Biancone and ridden by Julien Leparoux, the French-bred has won two of her last five starts, with all three losses coming in graded stakes won by My Typhoon.

Energized since a rendezvous in Kentucky with El Corredor, Iron Goddess gets a chance to shine for the future. Running in foal, she catches a Grade I-caliber field in her graded-stakes debut. The speedster will break from the outside post No. 9.

"It's terrible, but she's one-dimensional; she goes to the lead," trainer Mike Hushion said. "This will give her one last chance to get some graded-stakes black type. We hope maybe we can get lucky before she goes home."

Channing Hill gets the return call on the New York-bred daughter of More Than Ready, who made her career bow at the Spa last year against the boys.

Rounding out the field is Barclay Tagg trainee Dance Away Capote (Alan Garcia), a winner of two overnight stakes at Belmont Park this year, and George Weaver's Amansara (Ramon Dominguez), second in the restricted De La Rose Stakes here Aug. 1.

— Additional reporting by Brian Nadeau.



Tod Marks

Meribel (left) and Muralakana, fourth and sixth respectively in the Diana July 28, tackle My Typhoon once again in today's Ballston Spa.



The field for the 138th Travers Stakes, to be run Saturday, was drawn Wednesday at Saratoga Race Course.

PP	Horse	Owner	Trainer	Jockey	M/L Odds
1	Helsinki	Four Roses	Nick Zito	Julien Leparoux	20-1
2	C P West	Robert LaPenta	Nick Zito	Cornelio Velasquez	5-1
3	For You Reppo	Trident and Gessler	Helen Pitts	Garrett Gomez	20-1
4	Street Sense	Jim Tafel	Carl Nafzger	Calvin Borel	3-5
5	Grasshopper	Will Farish	Neil Howard	Robby Albarado	8-1
6	Loose Leaf	Steve Kaplan	Ken McPeck	Kent Desormeaux	12-1
7	Sightseeing	Phipps Stable	Shug McGaughey	Edgar Prado	6-1

Post Time: 5:40 p.m. Race 9 of 12. Distance: 1 1/4 miles. All Starters carry 126 pounds.

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"Bay Head" by John Thomas Berry

Here & There at Saratoga

AWAY SHE GOES. Dance Away Capote drags rider Robin Smullen whill galloping on the main track Wednesday morning. She runs in the Ballston Spa today.



Tod Marks

Take A Number

768: Cigars in Henry Elser's latest order.

2: Down escalators run up by 6-year-old Nolan Clancy Wednesday morning, breaking the duck on his last day in Saratoga.

1: Rose given to Garrett Gomez after winning the Capades Wednesday.

1: Rose given to a security guard (by Gomez) after the Capades.

Name of the Day

Ninth Of July, fifth race. The filly is by Sea Salute out of Mistical Mirage. Somebody's reading *Hakluytus Posthumus: Contayning a History of the World in Sea Voyages and Lande Travells* by Samuel Purchas, written in 1625 or thereabout. Here's an excerpt, which explains the name: "The second night of this tempest, the ninth of July, they saw on their maine tops a Corpo santo in figure of a flame of fire bright and shining, from thence remooving to the Mizen-mast; and the Pilot saluted it, saying, Salve Corpo santo, salve." Then again, it may just be somebody's birthday.

Worth Repeating

"Thanks. Where are you taking me?"

Security guard after receiving the rose (he was definitely kidding)

"She'll run on one of three surfaces next time: Polytrack, turf or dirt."

Trainer Todd Pletcher, when asked about Panty Raid's next start

"She looks like a colt, she's got no head action at all, it's like riding a Quarter Horse 870. That's what I grew up on, man."

Jockey Garrett Gomez about Capades winner Jazzy

"Keep 'em in the groove."

Trainer Tony Reinstedler's advice to 11-year-old hotwalker Jack Clancy

"I don't know for how long, but right now it fits."

Retired jockey Jose Santos, asked if his Hall of Fame sportcoat fits

"Man, am I glad to see you."

Jockey Ramon Dominguez, to a reporter after the last race

Warehouse Blues

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- 1 airplane (wings removed).
- 1 ski pole.
- 3 decorative watering cans.
- 1 set of cymbals.

Thanks for the space, Patty. Now, anybody want to buy a book?

Weather

Today: Evening showers, high of 77, low 64, chance of rain 30 percent.

Tonight: Possible showers, low 64.

Friday: Scattered thunderstorms, high 87, low 68, chance of rain 40 percent.

Travers Day: Isolated thunderstorms, high 87, low 65, chance of rain 30 percent.

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Knight Ridder chief executive, in 1974**

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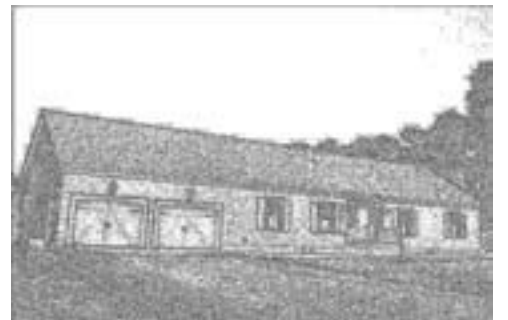
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Saratoga Entries

Thursday, Aug. 23. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) MICHAEL G. WALSH NOVICE STAKES. 2 3/8 MILES. HURDLE. 4&UP. PURSE \$70,000.

1	1	Bold Turn.....	Petty J.....	Kingsley Arch.....	12-1
2	2	More Fascination.....	Young P J.....	Young Leslie.....	12-1
3	3	Planets Aligned.....	Miller Chip.....	Voss Tom.....	6-1
4	4	Dr. Bloomer.....	Slater J.....	Sheppard Jonathan..	7-2
5	5	Rum Squall.....	Aizpuru X.....	Fisher Jack.....	2-1
6	6	Baby League.....	Hodsdon D.....	Sheppard Jonathan..	5-2
7	7	Gigger.....	Murphy Cyril.....	Voss Tom.....	10-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

2ND (1:35) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	First of Ten.....	Hill C.....	Gyarmati Leah.....	15-1
2	2	Big Truck.....	Dominguez R A.....	Tagg Barclay.....	5-2
3	3	Bad Streak.....	Castellano J J.....	Ubillo Rodrigo.....	12-1
4	4	Cape of Storms.....	Bejarano R.....	Sanders Jamie.....	7-2
5	5	Post Exchange.....	Garcia Alan.....	McLaughlin Kiaran..	6-1
6	6	Good Law.....	Prado E S.....	Dutrow Richard.....	3-1
7	7	Barossa.....	Desormeaux K J.....	Ferraro Anthony.....	5-1
8	8	Backtosquareone.....	Velasquez C.....	Lauer Michael.....	20-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (2-4), Daily Double

3RD (2:07) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Veiled Prophet.....	Bejarano R.....	Arnold Rusty.....	6-1
2	2	Footloose Man.....	Castro E.....	Hennig Mark.....	9-2
3	3	Awakino Cat.....	Velasquez C.....	Rice Linda.....	4-1
4	4	Lake Placid.....	Prado E S.....	Matz Michael.....	8-1
5	5	Sundaysunday.....	Dominguez R A.....	Penna Angel.....	12-1
6	6	Letsgotwesteppin.....	Leparoux J R.....	Duggan David.....	15-1
7	7	Ya Think.....	Gomez G K.....	Weaver George.....	5-1
8	8	Bull Rider.....	Garcia Alan.....	Sanders Jamie.....	15-1
9	9	At Attention.....	Desormeaux K J.....	Mott Bill.....	3-1
10	MTO	Mr. Shortcake.....	Velasquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd.....	2-1
11	MTO	Saratoga Seven.....	Velasquez C.....	Lukas Wayne.....	4-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5), Pick 4 (3-6)

4TH (2:39) 7 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. MDN CLM 40,000. PURSE \$25,000.

1	1	Flirty Karakorum.....	Samyn J L.....	Odintz Jeff.....	15-1
2	2	Wheresthonymaggie.....	Rojas R I.....	Shevy Michael.....	20-1
3	3	Hit the Point.....	Bracetty J A.....	Kelly Pat.....	6-1
4	4	Foxy Patty.....	Hill C.....	Hushion Mike.....	5-1
5	5	County Leitrim.....	Bejarano R.....	Weaver George.....	6-1
6	6	Pizza.....	Velasquez C.....	Everett Scott.....	7-2
7	7	Can't Bluff Mulvey.....	Garcia Alan.....	Badgett Billy.....	8-1
8	8	Luck.....	Bridgmohan S X.....	Hernandez Mike.....	5-1
9	9	Astoria Sweetheart.....	Prado E S.....	Klesaris Robert.....	4-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (4-6), Pick 6 (4-9)

5TH (3:11) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	Cat Radio.....	Bracetty J A.....	Chin Peter.....	50-1
2	2	Irish Kahn.....	Coa E M.....	O'Callaghan Niall..	12-1
3	3	Longingfortheone.....	Hill C.....	DiSanto Glenn.....	5-2
4	4	The West Wind Rose.....	Bridgmohan S X.....	Rolffs Mikhael.....	30-1
5	5	Miss Annie M.....	Chavez J F.....	Lostritto Joseph.....	8-1
6	6	My Into Wishin.....	Desormeaux K J.....	Schettino Dominick..	6-1
7	7	Bulla Regia.....	Luzzi M J.....	Lugovich Richard.....	8-1
8	8	Sultry Sue.....	Velasquez C.....	Ritvo Tim.....	3-1
9	9	Ninth of July.....	Velasquez J R.....	Donk David.....	7-2

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

6TH (3:43) 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$70,000.

1	4	Explosive Heat.....	Coa E M.....	Levine Bruce.....	7-2
1A	8	Chucker.....	Prado E S.....	Dutrow, Richard.....	7-2
2	1	Three in the Bag.....	Velasquez J R.....	Dutrow Tony.....	10-1
3	2	Monopoly Pricing.....	Bejarano R.....	Violette Rick.....	8-1
4	3	Vitruvius.....	Desormeaux K J.....	Jerkens Jimmy.....	9-5
5	5	Smokeyjonessutton.....	Leparoux J R.....	Stewart Dallas.....	6-1
6	6	Deputy Indy.....	Castellano J J.....	Hough Stan.....	10-1
7	7	Extreme Supreme.....	Velasquez C.....	Ward John.....	5-1
8	9	Mister Triester.....	Dominguez R A.....	Stall Jr Al.....	15-1

A-Coupled: Explosive Heat and Chucker
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 4 (6-9), Daily Double

7TH (4:15) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$63,000.

1	3	Sigh You.....	Castellano J J.....	Kelly Pat.....	20-1
1A	MTO	Good Card.....	Bracetty J A.....	Kelly Pat.....	20-1
2	1	Monster Drive.....	Velasquez J R.....	Mott Bill.....	2-1
3	2	Dixie Baghdad.....	Morales P.....	DiSanto Glenn.....	30-1
4	4	He's a Lumberjack.....	Chavez J F.....	Ritvo Tim.....	15-1
5	5	Bazooka Bob.....	Hill C.....	Odintz Jeff.....	20-1
6	6	Citifest.....	Ponce J.....	Hertler John.....	6-1
7	7	Metro Meteor.....	Bejarano R.....	Schwartz Scott.....	5-2
8	8	Mr Sam I Am.....	Gomez G K.....	Pletcher Todd.....	8-1
9	9	Storm N Lightning.....	Desormeaux K J.....	Schosberg Rick.....	9-2
10	AE	Inside Info.....	Samyn J L.....	Aquilino Joe.....	15-1
11	AE	Incredible Speed.....	Rojas R I.....	Martin Carlos.....	20-1
12	MTO	Stonewood.....	Desormeaux K J.....	Hushion Mike.....	5-2

A-Coupled: Sigh You and Good Card
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (7-9)

8TH (4:48) THE BALLSTON SPA (GR. II). 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$200,000.

1	1	Meribel.....	Velasquez J R.....	Clement Christophe..	6-1
2	2	Vacare.....	Prado E S.....	Clement Christophe..	5-1
3	3	My Typhoon (IRE).....	Castro E.....	Mott Bill.....	5-2
4	4	Dance Away Capote.....	Garcia Alan.....	Tagg Barclay.....	15-1
5	5	Pommes Frites.....	Velasquez C.....	Mott Bill.....	10-1
6	6	Amansara.....	Dominguez R A.....	Weaver George.....	15-1
7	7	Wait a While.....	Gomez G K.....	Pletcher Todd.....	2-1
8	8	Mauralakana (FR).....	Leparoux J R.....	Biancone Patrick...	10-1
9	9	Iron Goddess.....	Hill C.....	Hushion Mike.....	30-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

9TH (5:20) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	Too Much Zip.....	Coa E M.....	Contessa Gary.....	2-1
2	2	Greeley's Girl.....	Rojas R I.....	Turner Billy.....	15-1
3	3	Patti Tiff.....	Velasquez J R.....	O'Brien Leo.....	10-1
4	4	Fanfire.....	Dominguez R A.....	Dickinson Michael.....	3-1
5	5	Aunt Teree.....	Samyn J L.....	Lostritto Joseph.....	5-1
6	6	Mia.....	Arroyo N Jr.....	Gyarmati Leah.....	10-1
7	7	Mizzenkey.....	Bridgmohan S X.....	Kelly Pat.....	9-2
8	8	Family Grind.....	Dominguez C V.....	Miller-Saul Beth.....	30-1
9	9	Judge's Pride.....	Bracetty J A.....	DiPrima Gregory.....	20-1
10	AE	Luna Laura.....	Luzzi M J.....	O'Brien Keith.....	20-1
11	MTO	Let's Fly Away.....	Dominguez R A.....	Hernandez Mike.....	5-2

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

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The Power Grid



Pete Fornatale



Alan Mann



Brian Nadeau



Fickle Finger of Fate

Race #				
1	Rum Squall Baby League Planets Aligned	Rum Squall Baby League Dr. Bloomer	Baby League Gigger Planets Aligned	Planets Aligned Bold Turn Dr. Bloomer
2	Big Truck Good Law Post Exchange	Good Law Cape Of Storms Big Truck	Post Exchange Cape Of Storms Good Law	Backtosquareone Barossa Cape Of Storms
3	Awakino Cat Lake Placid Ya Think	Lake Placid Veiled Prophet Awakino Cat	Awakino Cat At Attention Ya Think	Veiled Prophet Sundaysunday Lake Placid
4	Pizza Astoria Sweetheart Luck	County Leitrim Foxy Patty Pizza	Foxy Patty Astoria Sweetheart Hit The Point	Flirty Karakorum Luck Pizza
5	Ninth Of July Sultry Sue Bulla Regia	Sultry Sue Ninth Of July My Into Wishin	Longingfortheone My Into Wishin Sultry Sue	Bulla Regia Miss Annie M My Into Wishin
6	Monopoly Pricing Stronach entry Vitruvius	Monopoly Pricing Stronach entry Vitruvius	Smokeyjonessutton Vitruvius Extreme Supreme	Extreme Supreme Smokeyjonessutton Deputy Indy
7	Metro Meteor Monster Drive Storm N Lightning	Storm N Lightning Metro Meteor Sigh You	Storm N Lightning Monster Drive Metro Meteor	He's A Lumberjack Storm N Lightning Bazooka Bob
8	My Typhoon Meribel Wait A While	My Typhoon Meribel Vacare	Vacare Wait A While My Typhoon	Iron Goddess Pommes Frites Mauralakana
9	Fanfire Too Much Zip Mizzenkey	Mizzenkey Too Much Zip Aunt Teree	Fanfire Too Much Zip Aunt Teree	Luna Laura Patti Tiff Mizzenkey
To Date:	45/199	50/199	55/199	26/199

Detailed Analysis

RACE 1: Didn't we already see this exacta earlier in the meet? RUM SQUALL appears dangerous once again. Toss the meaningless flat race at Colonial Downs and what you'll have is a four-race win streak. BABY LEAGUE has the best chance of denying the five-peat; he won at the Open House and was a good second to the top pick Aug. 2. PLANETS ALIGNED reunites with the win rider and could benefit from having a run over the local strip.

RACE 2: BIG TRUCK shows some nice moves on the worktab and is by the excellent juvenile sire Hook And Ladder. Good And Tough is another solid firster sire and Richard Dutrow excels with debut runners, so GOOD LAW is in. POST EXCHANGE didn't do much running first out but he did take money and perhaps can make amends.

RACE 3: Linda Rice and turf sprints go together like mac and cheese, and AWAKINO CAT looks very live based on the worktab and pedigree. Michael Matz isn't really known for winning with firsters but he does own a debut winner at the meet and LAKE PLACID is a little intriguing. YA THINK returns to sprinting on the sod and gets the switch to Garrett Gomez.

RACE 4: PIZZA sports several angles: turf-to-dirt, drop to maiden claiming and blinkers on; low-profile outfit attracts Cornelio Velasquez, always a good sign. ASTORIA SWEETHEART wasn't close last time but today she goes from inside to outside, gets blinkers, Edgar Prado and a return to the level where she almost won. LUCK is another turf-to-dirt from a trainer who is a longshot specialist.

RACE 5: NINTH OF JULY was beaten less than 4 in her first try against state-breds and gets the switch to Johnny V. today. SULTRY SUE has a little tactical ability and showed some late interest last time. It's nice to see Cornelio keep the faith as well. This may be a total stab but I'm a little interested in Fair Hill shipper BULLA REGIA.

RACE 6: MONOPOLY PRICING has run several races that would make him very dangerous and Rick Violette has excellent numbers in all the relevant categories. The Stronach-owned entry of EXPLOSIVE HEAT and CHUCKER each sport impressive career marks and have their an-

gles – the latter has won four in a row (excepting a Grade III try) and the former has won his last two by daylight. The favorite here will be Centennial Farm's VITRUVIUS. The undefeated 3-year-old posted a big figure last time, but that was back in April at the Big A; hard to put faith in horse with as many layoff lines as career starts.

RACE 7: METRO METEOR ran OK last time in a race with a phony pace. He's got a chance to make amends in a truly run race today. Bill Mott's been winning everything and MONSTER DRIVE sure looks logical; I'm just a little concerned about getting value on his charges right now. STORM N LIGHTNING beat the top pick last time and is usable on that basis alone, though I have a feeling he won't improve as much as that one will.

RACE 8: MY TYPHOON has established herself as an absolute freak who loves Saratoga. She might be more tractable than some folks think and is the most likely winner to boot. MERIBEL has always been a favorite of mine; I picked her in a Grade I last time where she didn't acquit herself poorly so how can I ignore her here? WAIT A WHILE showed some impressive bits of form last season though I never fully believed. Still, I'd be remiss to not at least list her among the picks based on her accomplishments.

RACE 9: Michael Dickinson once saddled the first five home in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham, so it doesn't seem like too much to ask that his first starter at this meeting should be live . . . ignore FANFIRE at your own peril. TOO MUCH ZIP goes from outside to inside and has a chance with a cleaner trip. MIZZENKEY gets another chance after her first start at the meeting was washed off the lawn; her turf sprint form isn't so bad.

– Pete Fornatale

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Check Mate

Stunt Man leaves rival Chief's Lake, \$250,000 bonus in Saratoga dust

BY SEAN CLANCY

ALBANY STAKES RECAP

Jim Zito would have crumpled up the check and stuffed it in his pocket. But it's a large check. You know, a "Let's Make A Deal" kind of check, big and bold, with \$250,000 written across it. Zito, of the New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, was all set to play Monty Hall and deliver the check to Vinery's Tom Ludt, once Chief's Lake picked up yesterday's Albany, the third leg of the Big Apple Triple.

But Stunt Man was behind door number three. The 3-year-old gelded son of Western Expression had followed Chief's Lake in the first two legs of the series but powered home much the best in the Albany, cruising to a 2-length score over Dr. V's Magic, with a tiring Chief's Lake 1 3/4 lengths farther back in third.

Zito took the check and the easel and quietly slipped out of the winner's circle. At least until Gary Contessa, trainer of Stunt Man, saw him.

"I'll take that," Contessa said, grabbing the check in jest.

Contessa deserved it. He pulled a reverse with Stunt Man, who failed by 3

1/4 lengths when second without threatening Chief's Lake in the Mike Lee. In the next leg, the New York Derby, he tracked Chief's Lake but again made no impression, winding up third. While his main foes waited for the Albany, Stunt Man went back to work in the Cab Calloway here Aug. 8, picking up third money behind Thundestimate and Logic Way.

Owned by Winning Move Stable, Island Wind Racing and Celebrity Group Stables, Stunt Man galloped comfortably in fourth Wednesday, splitting the seven-horse field as Doctor Freud set the pace with Chief's Lake right off his flank in second. Dr. V's Magic bounced around the first turn but found a nice spot in third through fractions of 24.71, 49.31 and 1:13.68.

Ramon Dominguez, aboard Stunt Man, sat motionless as the dark bay gelding inched closer to Chief's Lake. Garrett Gomez niggled at Chief's Lake and Stunt Man roared past on the outside. By the eighth-pole, the only thing left for Dominguez to do was look around. Stunt Man scored by 2 easy lengths, fin-



Tod Marks

Stunt Man draws off to win the Albany Stakes and deny Chief's Lake a \$250,000 bonus.

ishing the 1 1/8 mile in 1:51.23.

"I liked him on the grass. I was pretty happy with him, he made a middle move and he looked like he got a little tired, I said to myself, 'This was a good race, who knows, maybe he doesn't even care for the grass,'" Dominguez said of the Calloway. "Today, he warmed up great and I thought he was going to run a good race, sure enough, he put himself in a great spot. As soon as we got to the backside, I didn't hesitate to get him three wide because I felt like they were going pretty slow. From then on, he was very handy, he made the lead and he cruised home."

Stunt Man increased his earnings to \$210,616. Not bad for a \$25,000 claim in March.

"One of the smaller guys, Evan Gwartz in Celebrity Group, really liked this horse and brought him to our attention and it was easy from there, it was the right price, the right story," Contessa said. "With a horse like him, you think what's the worst-case scenario, we'll win the maiden 25 with him or something, but we never thought this when we claimed him. He was first-time gelding and it obviously did the trick."

See **ALBANY** page 9 ►

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Albany —

■ Continued from page 8

That was a big part of our claim, his form to that point was mediocre at best, we figured 'if this works, it could really be a home run.' ”

Stunt Man drew off to win by 8 lengths the day Contessa claimed him from Carlos Martin and then it took two tries to bust through his next condition. Since then, it's been all stakes — fourth in the Screenland, second in the Spectacular Bid, second in the Mike Lee, third in the New York Derby and third in the Cab Calloway.

“He's gradually gotten better, he's a very sound horse but I'll tell you what, he went from a seven to a 10 when we got to Saratoga. I can't explain it but certain horses do that and he got to where we can't hold him on the ground,

we can barely walk him to the track, not nasty just a happy horse that's really doing well,” Contessa said. “When he came out of that turf race, I wasn't positive I was going to make it back in two weeks rest, but I'm not kidding you, the next morning, we had to put two shanks on to walk him. I said, ‘OK, we're running back in the Albany, for sure.’ ”

Chief's Lake gave Stunt Man three pounds in the New York Derby. That burden tripled in the Albany; Chief's Lake carried top weight of 124 to Stunt Man's 115. For Contessa, the weight helped, but not as much as geography.

“We were knocking on the door but honestly we weren't that impressive in the first two legs; we ran very well but we weren't overwhelming,” Contessa said. “He's loving Saratoga. The way he's trained up here, if all three legs were at Saratoga, I'd be getting the bonus right now.”



Stunt Man exits the winner's circle with a stakes victory for trainer Gary Contessa.

Tod Marks

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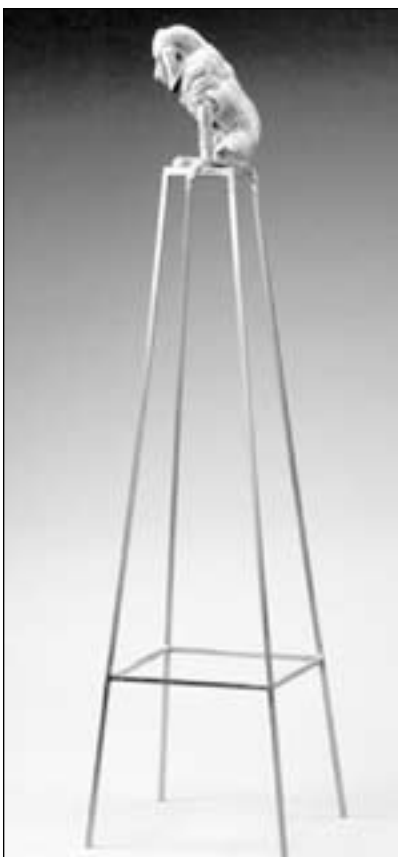
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Saratoga Results

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

1ST. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. CLM 35,000. PURSE \$31,000.

5	Half a Note	Garcia Alan	8.40	3.60	2.70
7	Eddie C.	Castellano J J		3.90	2.70
6	Highly Spoken	Borel C H			2.70

Finish Time: 1:04.06

Trainer: Robert Barbara. Owner: Gee H. W. Stable.

B.g.3 Brahms-Fifty Percent, Irish Open.

Bred by Nicole Zitani & Ramon Rangel (KY).

\$2 Exacta 5-7 Paid \$27.20; \$2 Trifecta 5-7-6 Paid \$58.00

2ND. 5 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

5	Syriana's Song	Borel C H	5.60	3.40	2.60
6	Tazarine	Velasquez C		8.20	4.30
1	Armonk	Garcia Alan			3.60

Finish Time: 57.48

Trainer: Dallas Stewart. Owner: Goldmark Farm.

B.f.2 Indian Charlie-K.O. Kitty, Tale of the Cat.

Bred by Phillip Hager, Hunter Hager & Claire Hager (KY).

\$2 Exacta 5-6 Paid \$51.50; \$2 Quinella 5-6 Paid \$39.60; \$2 Trifecta 5-6-1 Paid \$209.00; \$2 Daily Double (5-5) Paid \$21.40

3RD. 1 1/8 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. AOC 50,000. PURSE \$70,000.

3	Tejida	Marquez Jr C H	9.20	5.90	2.60
8	Omeya (CHI)	Velasquez C		6.00	2.50
5	Wingspan	Gomez G K			2.10

Finish Time: 1:47.93

Trainer: Michael Matz. Owner: Helen Groves.

B.f.4 Rahy-Batique, Storm Cat.

Bred by Helen Groves Revocable Trust (KY).

\$2 Exacta 3-8 Paid \$37.20; \$2 Trifecta 3-8-5 Paid \$55.50

4TH. 7 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

3	Beam of Love	Coa E M	12.80	5.90	4.40
1	Madam Commander	Velasquez C		3.80	3.00
4	Sand and Song	Garcia Alan			6.90

Finish Time: 1:26.02

Trainer: Gary Contessa. Owner: Darlene Bilinski & Edward McGettigan Jr.

Ch.f.2 Prime Timber-Love Destiny, Silver Deputy.

Bred by Sez Who Thoroughbreds (NY).

\$2 Exacta 3-1 Paid \$46.40; \$2 Quinella 1-3 Paid \$21.60; \$2 Trifecta 3-1-4 Paid \$451.00; \$2 Pick 3 (5-3-3) 3 Correct Paid \$479.50

How We Did

RACE 1: Third choice won.

RACE 2: Third choice won

RACE 3: Top pick scratched, second selection finished third, third choice won (there's a pattern here).

RACE 4: Third choice scratched.

RACE 5: Top pick finished third.

RACE 6: Top choice scratched.

RACE 7: First choice ran second, second choice ran third.

RACE 8: Come to Albany for the cold trifectas. Stunt Man rewarded our risk with a \$9.40 win, Dr. V's Magic conjured up a \$35.60 exacta and Chief's Lake filled out a \$71.50 tri.

RACE 9: One In A Romp won in a squeaker, but we still eked out a \$5.20 win and \$25.20 late double.

SEASON TOTALS: 54 wins by top selection in 226 races.

Average win payoff \$6.81.

How We Did summarizes the performance of
The Special's handicappers in the "Detailed Analysis" section.

5TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. AOC 30,000. PURSE \$64,000.

9	Love Cove	Castellano J J	30.80	12.00	6.50
4	Follow My Dream	Desormeaux K J		5.40	3.20
2	Nehantic Kat	Garcia Alan			4.00

Finish Time: 1:42.78

Trainer: Tom Albertrani. Owner: Laue Ranch.

Dk.B./Br.f.3 Not For Love-Sand Pirate, Desert Wine.

Bred by David Cassidy (NY).

\$2 Exacta 9-4 Paid \$181.50; \$2 Trifecta 9-4-2 Paid \$720.00; \$2 Pick 3 (3-3-9) 3 Correct Paid \$1,181.00; \$2 Pick 4 (5-3-3-9) 4 Correct Paid \$5,547.00

6TH. 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MDN CLM 50,000. PURSE \$32,000.

1A	Wild Logic	Bridgmohan S X	5.30	3.30	3.40
2	Centerport Baby	Hill C		19.40	9.20
1	Cherokee Time	Velasquez C	5.30	3.30	3.40

Finish Time: 1:13.19

Trainer: Steve Asmussen. Owner: Vinery Stables & Fog City Stables.

Dk.B./Br.f.2 D'wildcat-Logical Reasoning, Lord Avie.

Bred by Anthony and Leslie Russo (ONT).

\$2 Exacta 1-2 Paid \$111.00; \$2 Trifecta 1-2-9 Paid \$746.00; \$2 Pick 3 (3-9-1) 3 Correct Paid \$567.00

7TH. THE CAPEDES. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$82,250.

5	Jazzy (ARG)	Gomez G K	16.40	8.30	5.00
8	Stormy Kiss (ARG)	Coa E M		9.40	4.60
6	Smart and Fancy	Dominguez R A			2.70

Finish Time: 1:02.79

Trainer: Mark Hennig. Owner: Team Valor Stables,

Robert Muir & Des Scott.

Br.m.5 Mutakddim-Jollie Fille (ARG), Southern Halo.

Bred by La Quebrada (ARG).

\$2 Exacta 5-8 Paid \$159.00; \$2 Trifecta 5-8-6 Paid \$527.00; \$2 Daily Double (1-5) Paid \$59.50; \$3 Pick 3 (9-1-5) 3 Correct Paid \$750.00; \$2 Superfecta 5-8-6-1 Paid \$4,036.00

8TH. THE ALBANY. 1 1/8 MILES. 3YO. NY BRED. PURSE \$150,000.

3	Stunt Man	Dominguez R A	9.40	4.30	2.50
2	Dr. V's Magic	Desormeaux K J		4.80	3.20
5	Chief's Lake	Gomez G K			2.10

Finish Time: 1:51.23

Trainer: Gary Contessa. Owner: Winning Move Stable,

Island Wind Racing & Celebrity Group Stables.

Dk.B./Br.g.3 Western Expression-Ribboned, Well Decorated.

Bred by Flying Zee Stables (NY).

\$2 Exacta 3-2 Paid \$35.60; \$2 Trifecta 3-2-5 Paid \$71.50; \$2 Grand Slam (2/4/9-1/2/-1/5/8-3) Paid \$54.00

9TH. 1 1/8 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$57,000.

4	One in a Romp	Castellano J J	5.20	3.70	3.00
3	Mckenna Mae	Richards G G		12.40	8.20
8	Nuclear Meltdown	Garcia Alan			5.80

Finish Time: 1:50.58

Trainer: Allen Jerkens. Owner: Spruce Pond Stable.

B.f.3 Cryptoclearance-Romp and Stomp, Olympio.

Bred by Amherst Stable & Spruce Pond Stable (NY).

\$2 Exacta 4-3 Paid \$60.00; \$2 Trifecta 4-3-8 Paid \$558.00; \$2 Superfecta 4-3-8-7 Paid \$2,301.00; \$2 Daily Double (3-4) Paid \$25.20; \$2 Pick 3 (5-3-4) 3 Correct Paid \$213.00; \$2 Pick 4 (1-5-3-4) 4 Correct Paid \$732.00; \$2 Pick 6 (3-9-1-5-3-4) 6 Correct Paid \$66,465.00, 5 Correct Paid \$1,055.00

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1 Half A Note



2 Syriana's Song



3 Tejida



4 Beam Of Love



5 Love Cove (9)



6 Wild Logic



7 Jazzy (5)



8 Stunt Man



9 One In A Romp

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Lee Thomas

Jam Session

Jazzy improvises Spa stakes score

BY BRIAN NADEAU

WEDNESDAY RACING RECAP

Barry Irwin, president of Team Valor Stable, has struck gold with his private purchases before. Captain Bodgit, Cashier's Dream and The Deputy all carried the stable's forest green and crimson silks to the winner's circle in Grade I events. While Jazzy has yet to reach that high plateau, she certainly looks to have a bright future sprinting on the lawn. Trained by Mark Hennig, Jazzy (\$16.40) closed from next-to-last under Garrett Gomez to win the \$82,250 Capades Stakes at 5 1/2 furlongs over the Mellon Turf Course.

Irwin bought Jazzy after his friends Robert Muir and Des Scott told him about the daughter of Mutakddim following a third in a Group I race in South Africa. Lasix, the anti-bleeding medication, isn't allowed in that country, and Jazzy had developed a problem.

"She was a bleeder and a couple of guys I know recommended her to me," Irwin explained. "They called me up and said they had a lot of faith in her but that she bled, so I bought half of her with a few partners. I sent her to Mark, put her on Lasix, and it's been a whole new ballgame."

To say the least.

Jazzy made her American debut in Monmouth Park's \$60,000 Incredible Revenge Stakes. Sent off at slightly less than 5-2 she was rank under Joe Bravo, steadied at the half-mile pole, then closed with a rush to just miss by a nose.

Yesterday, Gomez was able to somehow put that nose in front, though Jazzy didn't make it easy. Racing toward the back of the pack, Gomez bided his time as Truly Blushed, winner of the Hush Dear here July 26, pulled the field through a torrid half-mile in 44.84 seconds over a drying out turf course that hasn't seen too many raindrops over the first four weeks. The tricky proposition left Gomez with plenty on his mind.

"I was thinking about how bad the ground was; that (stuff) was flying everywhere. You look for a good spot because it's just tearing up and flying and you can tell they're not getting a hold of it," Gomez said. "You're trying to find somewhere to get a little bit of traction. She was in and out of the bridle a couple of times and I was just playing it how it came."

Turning for home, the leaders began to wilt from the pressure Truly Brushed



Dave Harmon

Jazzy (left) dances past Stormy Kiss (center) and Smart And Fancy to win the Capades.

had applied and Gomez found himself right on top of the action. As the story goes, don't bet on Jazzy if you are faint of heart.

"When I turned for home, I moved on her again and they started to back up all at the same time. I thought I had a really good chance then all of a sudden at the eighth-pole, I knew I had them," Gomez said. "But then she dove in behind them once and I thought 'arrgh.' Any time you've got to slow down, you question, 'Do I still got them or do I have to start and regroup again?'"

He still had them.

Gomez steered his charge outside of the tiring leaders in deep stretch and Jazzy reached for the wire, getting there by a neck over Stormy Kiss. A neck winner has never been as much the best as Jazzy in the Capades.

For Hennig it was redemption for a tough loss at the Jersey Shore just a little over a month ago. A newcomer to his barn, Jazzy has adapted quickly to her surroundings and has kept Hennig's pulse racing every inch of the 11

See **WEDNESDAY** page 15 ►

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 14

furlongs she has run in her two Stateside starts.

"She ran big at Monmouth; she should have won that one too," Hennig said. "We got her back in May and she has trained forward ever since. I wasn't really worried about regression today, as she has done so well since then. We had never worked her on the grass, as she had been training well on the dirt, but she has really settled into our style of training and racing over here. It seems like the Lasix has been helping. When I saw that a horse drifted out in front of her a little bit and she altered course that worried me. I knew she was rolling but I didn't know if she would get up in time."

Irwin agreed wholeheartedly.

"She should have won that first one at Monmouth but she had an unlucky trip," he said. "Today, wow, how much the best was she? I think when you have a guy like Mark training a horse like this, he puts a lot of bottom in them; I don't worry about stuff like that. He's a good trainer and more old-

fashioned, so that's why we gave him the horse." Another good move.

• Half A Note proved Bobby Barbara and Gee H.W. Stable made a savvy claim by winning his turf debut, scoring over \$35,000 platers in Wednesday's opener. Barbara claimed Half A Note for \$25,000 last time out from David Jacobson and it took only 64 seconds to get a return on the investment.

Alan Garcia had Half A Note, a gelded son of 2000 Hollywood Derby winner Brahms, sitting off a half-mile in 46.33 seconds before commencing his rally turning for home. Half A Note looked like he joined the running at the eighth-pole and powered home to score by 4 1/2 lengths over a battling Eddie C.

"He's got some turf pedigree with Brahms who is by Danzig, so we just took a shot," Barbara said. "We blew him out the other day and he worked real good, 3 furlongs in 35, and he's a nice-looking horse, so we took a shot and it worked out."

Trainer Linda Rice saw something as well. She claimed the winner for \$35,000.

See **WEDNESDAY** page 16 ►

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 15

• Syriana's Song (\$5.60) proved her runner-up performance in her debut at 25-1 was no fluke when she wired a field of freshmen fillies in the second. Trained by Dallas Stewart for Goldmark Farm, Syriana's Song went to the front immediately under Calvin Borel and kept Tazarine at bay throughout the 5 furlongs before prevailing by 1 1/4 lengths. Syriana's Song, a daughter of Indian Charlie, chased the Spinaway-bound Irish Smoke in her first outing Aug. 2 while finishing more than 4 lengths clear of third-place finisher Constance.

• Carlos Marquez Jr. came from Delaware Park for a reason — to win.

The jockey wasn't disappointed, as he guided Tejida (\$9.20) to a gate-to-wire victory in the third, a second-level distaff allowance on the inner turf. Trained by Michael Matz for owner/breeder Helen Groves, Tejida broke running under Marquez, and the pair set a comfortable half-mile in 47.85 seconds.

That was all the breather they needed, as Tejida spurted clear when Marquez asked her in deep stretch to prevail by 1 1/2 lengths over Omeya. Wingspan continued a frustrating summer for trainer Todd Pletcher when she came home third at 1-2.

Marquez and Tejida enjoyed their visit to the Spa.

"She had won very easy over at Delaware; I never even let her run. Today



Dave Harmon

One In A Romp (right) collars Mckenna Mae near the wire in Wednesday's finale.

they let me dictate the pace. If somebody else wanted to go I would just let up, but they opened the doors and I just broke running," Marquez said. "I've ridden some good horses but she is very nice. I have been here three or four times and I have won a couple, but it's been five or six years."

A daughter of Rahy and the Storm Cat mare Batique, Tejida is perfect in three starts this year, all under Marquez.

"I was just kind of riding my own race out there. I knew Todd's horse was going to be coming at the end but when they let me go down the backside I knew I was going to be OK," Marquez said. "She was just galloping and I knew it would take an awfully good horse to run by me. She's a big, strong filly. She's a handful; I could have gone around again."

• Typically, 2-year-olds make the most dramatic improvement in their second lifetime starts. Beam Of Love (\$12.80) provided further evidence in the fourth, a 7-furlong sprint for state-bred fillies.

Trained by Gary Contessa, Beam Of Love made her debut here Aug. 8, finishing fourth in a 5-furlong dash after rallying late to make up almost 6 lengths on winner Canadian Ballet. Wednesday she used the extra 2 furlongs to her advantage, as she again closed strongly in the stretch for Eibar Coa to win going away by 6 3/4 lengths. A well-bred daughter of Prime Timber, Beam Of Love went for \$50,000 at Ocala's 2-year-olds-in-training sale to owners Darlene Bilinski and Edward McGettigan Jr.

• Owner Brant Laue has enjoyed a fine summer in Saratoga. Laue, who races under Laue Ranch, has already seen his Grade I winner Gun Salute return from an almost six-month layoff to finish a huge third to Shakespeare and Art Master Aug. 2. Things got a bit sweeter when Laue's Love Cove (\$30.80) gamely held off Follow My Dream in the fifth, an allowance/optional claimer for state-breds over the inner turf.

Javier Castellano had Love Cove stalking the early pace of Appealing Mystery and Shoot The Bugler as the field made its run down the backside. As things bunched turning for home Castellano made his move, sending Love Cove up to challenge the leaders. With Follow My Dream and Kent Desormeaux bearing down on them as the wire approached, Love Cove refused to yield, scoring by a tenacious neck for trainer Tom Albertrani

"We stretched her out for the first time to a mile and a sixteenth. You like them in this New York filly-and-mare division to be able to go long on the grass," Laue said. "She's very versatile; we had been running her short at Aqueduct, and then she jumped forward when we moved her to the turf. She should be a useful filly for us. I got her from David Cassidy and he is really enthused about her. It's a nice family; the filly Half Heaven, who is with Dale Romans, is out of the same mare."

Wednesday's win could be a sign of things to come for Laue.

"It's been a good meet so far. Gun Salute has run well and we entered him in Saturday's Gr. II Bernard Baruch, so this would be a nice prelude for that. It's always nice to be in the winner's circle at Saratoga."

• Steve Asmussen has had the magic touch with 2-year-olds the past few seasons, so it was no surprise to see Wild Logic (\$5.30) score in the sixth, a \$50,000 maiden claimer.

The daughter of D'wildcat had made four career starts coming in, one less than the rest of the field combined. She put that experience to good use under Shaun Bridgmohan, stalking her pace-setting entymate Cherokee Time in third before pulling away to score by a length over Centerport Baby, with Cherokee Logic third. Owned by Vinery Stables and Fog City Stables, Wild Logic came off a neck loss at Churchill Downs July 5.

• Castellano waited until the last possible moment to pull the trigger on One In A Romp (\$5.20) in the ninth, a state-bred maiden affair, but his timing was impeccable. The Cryptoclearance filly got up in the shadow of the wire to defeat longshot Mckenna Mae by a half-length.

Under Gary Richards, Mckenna Mae sped to the lead, carving out a half-mile in 48.21 seconds while well clear of the field. Castellano, meanwhile, sat chilly, last but only 7 lengths from the long-shot leader.

As Richards tried to break the race open turning for home, Castellano put One In A Romp in a full drive, and she picked off horses one by one. With Mckenna Mae still 2 lengths clear inside the eighth-pole Castellano urged his mount for more, and she ground down Mckenna Mae just a few jumps from home. Trained by Hall of Famer Allen Jerkens for Spruce Pond Stable, One In A Romp won for the first time in nine career starts.

Wednesday's claims: First race: Half A Note (\$35,000), Linda Rice, Linda Rice trainer. Fifth race: Stag Dancer (\$30,000), Michael Dubb, Tony Dutrow trainer. Sixth race: Cherokee Time (\$50,000), Saul and Max Kupferberg, John Paresella trainer; Stormy Miracle (\$50,000), Robert Misa Jr., Dominic Galluscio trainer; Vesper (\$50,000), McRace Horse Stable, Leah Gyarmati trainer.



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All The Winners

Jockeys

Kent Desormeaux	31	Jean-Luc Samyn	3
Cornelio Velasquez	29	Xavier Aizpuru	2
Javier Castellano	20	Eddie Castro	2
Edgar Prado	20	Danielle Hodsdon	2
Garrett Gomez	19	Mario Pino	2
John Velazquez	17	Roberto Alvarado	1
Ramon Dominguez	16	Norberto Arroyo Jr	1
Eibar Coa	15	Jose Bracetty	1
Rafael Bejarano	14	Jorge Chavez	1
Alan Garcia	11	Fernando Jara	1
Shaun Bridgmohan	9	Carlos Marquez Jr	1
Calvin Borel	8	Corey Nakatani	1
Julien Leparoux	6	Raul Rojas	1
Channing Hill	4		

Trainers

Bill Mott	18	Bruce Levine	2
Gary Contessa	11	Graham Motion	2
Richard Dutrow	9	Atreo Persaud	2
Todd Pletcher	9	Scott Schwartz	2
Tom Bush	8	Jonathan Sheppard	2
Steve Asmussen	6	Al Stall Jr	2
Stan Hough	6	Dallas Stewart	2
Kiaran McLaughlin	6	George Weaver	2
Christophe Clement	5	Ronny Werner	2
Dominic Galluscio	5	Frank Alexander	1
Linda Rice	5	William Allyn	1
Barclay Tagg	5	Rusty Arnold	1
Saeed bin Suroor	4	Enrique Arroyo	1
Tony Dutrow	4	Bobby Barbara	1
Bobby Frankel	4	John Destefano Jr	1
John Kimmel	4	Chris Englehart	1
Rick Violette	4	Jack Fisher	1
Nick Zito	4	Gary Gullo	1
Charlton Baker	3	Leah Gyarmati	1
Patrick Biancone	3	John Hertler	1
Wally Dollase	3	Roger Horgan	1
David Donk	3	David Jacobson	1
Mark Hennig	3	Leroy Jolley	1
Neil Howard	3	Scott Lake	1
Mike Hushion	3	Michael Lauer	1
Jimmy Jerkens	3	Wayne Lukas	1
Pat Kelly	3	Shug McGaughey	1
Steve Klesaris	3	Mike Miceli	1
Carlos Martin	3	John Morrison	1
Michael Matz	3	Colum O'Brien	1
Ken McPeck	3	Jeff Odintz	1
Carl Nafzger	3	Ambrose Pascucci	1
Angel Penna	3	Guadalupe Preciado	1
Dale Romans	3	Pat Reynolds	1
Rick Schosberg	3	Robert Ribaud	1
Phil Serpe	3	Tim Ritchey	1
Tom Albertrani	2	Tim Ritvo	1
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Bush's League

Hoosier trainer finds success at Saratoga

BY KAREN JOHNSON

Tom Bush came back to his barn Friday afternoon after saddling runner-up Milk Town in the fifth race. Had Milk Town won, it would have been Bush's ninth winner at the meet. Bush's eight winners (from 31 starters, through Wednesday) surpassed his previous Saratoga best – seven winners last year – and placed him high on the leader board. He trails only Bill Mott (18 wins), Gary Contessa, Todd Pletcher and Richard Dutrow.

"Finishing second," Bush said, "you are really satisfied but there is nothing like winning."

But the trainer didn't have time to lament the loss because he had immediate business to attend to upon his arrival at the barn. Two horses were leaving for their owners' farms – one for retirement due to injury and the other for turnout. One of the horses dragged her groom out of the stall toward the awaiting van, and began doing pirouettes in the air.

A very calm Bush asked the groom to return the filly to her stall, where the shank was readjusted and the chain was put over her lip. This time, Bush led the gray filly to the van and she walked up the ramp without a fuss.

Bush, 56, exudes intensity when he talks about his profession, but his demeanor around his horses is relaxed. The horses are definitely responding to Bush and have proven to be quite generous to those who have backed them at the betting windows. Five of Bush's winners have returned double-digit payoffs: \$37.20, \$28, \$23.60, \$22.40 and \$13.80. His wins have come

with all types of runners – stakes horses, allowance horses, maidens and claimers, and on turf and dirt.

"We won a couple of photos and had a dead-heat, so that helps," Bush said. "I never can figure out if I'm going to do well. Finding the right races in the condition book certainly helps."

Bush said one of the things he has learned over time is patience, a trait that has become an important part of his training routine, particularly with horses with soundness issues.

"My nature is not to be patient," he said. "I think the longer you do it and the more success you have, you learn the patience."

Known for his work with New York-breds, Bush has been on the New York scene since the mid-1970s when he worked as foreman for the legendary Greentree Stable and trainer John Gaver Sr., and later as assistant to Angel Penna Sr. Bush also did a stint as a groom for Allen Jerkens. While working for Gaver, Bush met his future wife, Cathy, then an exercise rider. They married in Saratoga 26 years ago.

The heady times Bush now enjoys eluded the Indiana native earlier in his career. After going out on his own in 1983, he later had to take a job as an assistant to Mike Hushion to make ends meet. Bush kept two of his own horses in training while he worked for Hushion. One of them was owned by Dr. Doug Koch, a veterinarian.

"I never gave up training," Bush said. "It was a good period for me because I was able to get my feet back on the ground. I worked extremely hard, but I was well-paid. You always have some down moments



Tod Marks

Trainer Tom Bush is enjoying a solid Saratoga.

in this business – whether you are an owner, trainer or exercise rider."

Together Koch, a New York breeder and proprietor of Berkshire Stud in Pine Plains, N.Y., and Bush won several stakes with progeny out of Passive Action, the dam of Sherpa Guide and Fait Accompli. Other Bush-trained stakes winners are Gold And Roses, who won the John Morrissey Stakes here for the second consecutive year earlier in the meet; Finlandia, last year's Yaddo winner; graded-stakes winner Exclusive Partner; High Peaks; and Rahy's Appeal.

Bush has built his stable up to the point where he now has more horses in his shedrow than ever before.

See **BUSH** page 19 ►



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Bush —

■ Continued from page 18

In addition to 18 stalls here, he has another 30 at Belmont. In fact, this is the first year in many that Bush has been stabled at Saratoga. In the past, he generally shipped horses here on race day.

Bush is typically candid about the swelling of his stable. His thoughts on the matter might surprise some but perhaps are not unusual for a horseman who is described by Koch as "detail-orientated." Bush has the demeanor of a trainer who wouldn't want to sacrifice horsemanship in the face of a growing stable.

"We have more horses to run and that is a positive," Bush said. "You need the numbers to compete, but I'm not enamored with that amount of horses."

But Bush is savvy and knows that as his numbers increase, so does his chances of winning. He is also appreciative of the recognition he has been receiving.

"You win races and the phone rings," he said. "Mostly word of mouth has gotten me these horses. Some of my other owners have recommended me and I am grateful for that."

Koch's more than 25-year business relationship and friendship with Bush is borne out of a deep respect he has for the trainer.

"He is very hard-working and there is no quit to him" Koch said. "He doesn't make many mistakes and he's not afraid to get his pants dirty."

Bush said one of the most essential training practices he has incorporated into his routine, he picked up from Jerkens.

"With Allen, the theme more than anything was the full-court press in getting a horse ready for a race," he said. "We were all over that horse; working on his legs, grazing him. You point to this race and that is what you are working toward. I still find I do that with my grooms. I start talking to the groom about that next race when I have that race picked out."

Something else that Bush recalled from his 1 1/2 years rubbing horses for Jerkens was that Bush's extreme efficiency as a groom came under suspicion with the boss.

"I had four horses and I was in my little corner of the barn," Bush said. "I was very efficient and organized and I started early and I always finished early. That always aggravated Allen because he thought I wasn't doing the work and he was always coming over to see what I was doing."

Jerkens didn't find fault then and doesn't now.

"He has had some bad luck along the way, but he never gave up and he has always kept a nice and neat barn," Jerkens said. "It's nice to see him doing so well."

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Carnauba: A Captivating Tale

The Hollywood story of War Monger's great aunt

BY FRANCES KARON

The winner of Monday's seventh – War Monger, Peter Vegso's lightly raced War Chant colt – ran the third-fastest mile of the meet, behind only Grade I winner Shakespeare and that one's stakes-winning half-sister Fantastic Shirl. Trained by Bill Mott, War Monger is 2-for-4 and deserving of his own pedigree spotlight . . . but if you'll permit some free rein, today's insight centers on a relative of his with an intriguing biography. The protagonist is a half-sister to War Monger's granddam Carnival Princess – Carnauba.

The 1984 movie *A Rare Breed* was a sensationalized version of Carnauba's tale, released the year after Shergar's theft.

The cast includes the ubiquitous George Kennedy, Forrest Tucker (Sgt. O'Rourke from *F Troop*), Don DeFore (Mr. B from *Hazel*) and Tracy Vaccaro – fresh off her spread as the October 1983 *Playboy* Playmate of the Month (turn-offs: newspapers and underwear). Needless to say, the film takes a lot of liberties.

The condensed version: Vaccaro pets the blaze-faced Noholme/Carnival Queen filly at a Fasig-Tipton yearling sale in 1973 and touts her to Kennedy, a wealthy Texan. The filly is an "extry" lot who wasn't catalogued; Kennedy (having seen her for the first time in the ring) buys her for \$25,000 after most bidders have left because he "always wanted to own a damn good filly."

Carnauba is broken (by Vaccaro of course, after the men try and fail for six weeks) and is chosen by a visiting Italian trainer to join his stable. Vaccaro stows away to Milan to be with her. Carnauba does turn out

PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

horses of all ages) and 3 (the Gr. I Oaks d'Italia etc.). She travels to England and wins the Gr. III Fred Darling Stakes. The races are called by Saratoga's voice, Tom Durkin, and the viewer must take his word that the winner of each is Carnauba, since she and her silks change with every scene.

The horse is kidnapped (this is Italy in the '70s, remember?) and held for ransom. A gruesome scene involving the severed leg of a horse delivered by messenger and some snappy dialogue ensues.

Kidnapper: "'E loves thees 'orse, no?"

Tucker: "Well he ain't gonna marry her so cut the crap!"

Then Vaccaro is also forcefully taken, and there are some hairy moments but in the end – due in no small part to the heroics of a mule who refuses to cooperate with the killers – Carnauba is saved, no ransom having been paid and just minutes from death. For a nice touch, Carnauba's people send the mule as her companion home to the States.

The real Carnauba was owned by a real wealthy Texan – Nelson Bunker Hunt – and trained by Luigi Turner (Luigi Nelson in the movie). Hunt was no stranger to damn good fillies; his great champion Dahlia was 5 during the Carnauba caper. Unlike the horse who portrayed her, Carnauba had a small star; she won eight of 14 races, finished second or third three times, and was Italy's champion 2- and 3-year-old filly. She was horse-napped, "by men with steel

to be a "damn good filly," winning the Criterium di Roma against colts and a few other races at 2 (the Gr. II Premio Chiusura against

in their hearts and gold in their eyes" per *The Blood-Horse*, On Oct. 3, 1975, and a ransom of \$300,000 was demanded. Hunt refused to pay. The kidnappers had been hiding her in a girls' riding academy but sold her for the price of meat after the police began to close in on them. She was recovered from the butcher's shop Jan. 25, "about to be slaughtered" and "in such bad condition that she (would) not race again," said Hunt's wife.

Carnauba arrived at Bluegrass Farm in Kentucky March 3 in "surprisingly good condition" and conceived to Hunt's stallion Vaguely Noble March 13; the resultant filly was named Spirited Away to commemorate her mother's saga. (A later foal was named Pay The Ransom.) Carnauba lived a long, healthy and happy life. She got six winners and one stakes winner, the Valid Appeal filly Valid Carnauba, from 11 foals. Her daughters were better broodmares: four of them (including Spirited Away) produced seven stakes winners between them, led by millionaire Ebony Breeze and French highweight Shaanxi.

• • •

Canadian Horse of the Year Fanfreluche, or "Fanny," lived as "Brandy" for some six months in a rough wooden shed on the farm of people who'd found her wandering halterless and hungry around the boonies in 1977. Taken from her paddock at Claiborne Farm with plenty of forethought (and for no apparent reason), Fanfreluche had already produced Canadian Horse of the Year L'Enjoleur, and two soon-to-be Canadian champs, La Voyageuse (top 3-year-old filly of 1978) and the colt Medaille D'Or (top 2-year-old in 1978), as well as Grand Luxe, who exerted tremendous influence in Australia as the female line of super-

See **PEDIGREE** page 21 ►

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Pedigree —

■ Continued from page 20

sire Encosta De Lago and Flying Spur. Returned home two days before her well-intended caretaker had hoped to ride her in his town's annual Christmas parade, Fanfreluche foaled the Secretariat colt she had been carrying and he was duly named Sain Et Sauif, or "safe and sound." While Sain Et Sauif failed to contribute much to the breed, the mare did have post-kidnapping progeny for which breeders can be grateful: D'Accord, an important sire in the New York program; and L'On Vite, dam of Holy Roman Emperor.

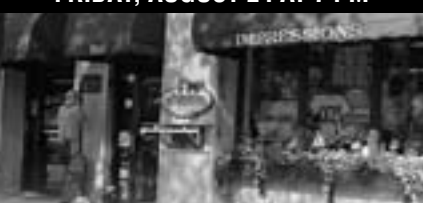
The horse whose disappearance generated more conspiracy theories than *The Da Vinci Code* was Epsom Darby winner Shergar. Taken in 1983 and never returned, it is generally accepted that the prized stallion was killed within hours by IRA abductors.

In 2001, 18-year-old Group I-winning stallion Magical Wonder (a half-brother to Mt. Livermore) was seized in Sardinia. At the last report he was never retrieved.


Because horses have little value other than to their original owners, none of whom in the above cases paid the horses' captors, kidnapping them can be a thankless business, unless the motive is to make a point (as in "The Godfather"). Add to that the chance that a horse can be difficult to handle — as was Shergar, supposedly — and it can turn ugly quickly.

But it all made for a good yarn that War Monger enabled us to segue into.

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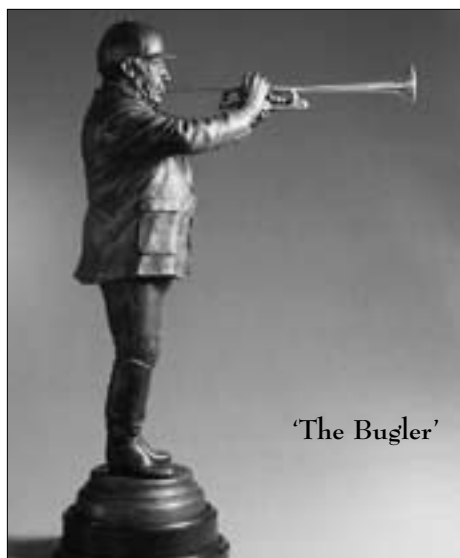
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'Women in racing' film released

Saratoga showing set for Aug. 31

Passion. That's what comes across in the documentary *Women in American Horse Racing* produced by the husband-and-wife team of John and Sandy Ronan.

"The women we talked to are passionate about what they do," said Sandy Ronan. "There's no other work to describe it. They glowed."

When *Women in American Horse Racing* premiered June 16 at Suffolk Downs, it meant the culmination of over two years of work, including early research and fund raising.

"We were a little slow getting out of the gate," John Ronan said. "But I love racing and I love film. The result was worth the wait. It was great fun."

The film highlights women from the backstretch to the boardroom. Take jockeys, for instance. There is footage of Julie Krone's induction to the Hall of Fame, as well as a shot of Krone receiving one of her first trophies, back in 1969. There is an interview with Tammi Piermarini, the leading rider at Suffolk Downs this summer, talking about racing strategy, male riders, and motherhood. There is also a nod to Emma-Jayne Wilson, Woodbine's leading rider the last two seasons.

The documentary also features interviews with a groom, a vet, an outrider, trainers and others. Sandy Ronan, who conducted the interviews, said the wide scope was important: "There really hasn't been enough done on women in racing. And we wanted to celebrate all kinds of work women are doing in the sport. We didn't just want big hats in box seats."

There were big hats present for the premiere, however. The documentary and women were honored by the running of the American Storyboard Lady Godiva Purse, a 6-furlong sprint featuring four women riders: Piermarini, Jane Magrell, Jordan Springer and Annie Sanguinetti. The race commemorated the first women's race ever run, a Bill Veeck promotion put on in April 1969, at the Boston oval.

Sponsors for the movie included *Daily Racing Form* and Autotote.

"Brent Diamond and Mandy Minger at the *Form* were really supportive," John said. "And Rick Pullman, at Autotote, was enthusiastic from the start. He has a great vision of how racing has to reach new audiences."

Sandy Ronan is a social worker with a strong interest in women and workplace issues. She was impressed by the attitudes of the women she interviewed. "The people we talked to love their jobs, love horses, love the whole sport. They were enthusiastic. Passionate. I keep coming back to that."

She describes the movie as positive, but accurate. It doesn't shy away from difficult facts: 1,691 horses have gone to the post in the Kentucky Derby; there have been five women jockeys. There were awkward facts in the front of the house, too. In California, in the 1890s, a woman had to go to court to win the right to place her own bets. Women were still barred from betting at some tracks into the 1940s.

Women in American Horse Racing was created under the banner of American Storyboard, the couple's non-profit film company based in Gloucester, Mass. John Ronan, a writer who also teaches film, formed the company in 2000. An earlier production was on schooners: *Gloucester's Adventure: An American Story*. That production won national awards (Gold Aurora, Telly) and was aired on PBS stations and offered as a pledge premium.

"Horse racing is a long way from schooners," John admitted. "But I have always loved racing. I practically lived at Arlington Park and Hawthorne and Sportsman's Park, in Chicago, when I was younger. I've cut my teaching back to just a couple of film courses so I've got time to get back to that first love."

Women in American Horse Racing will be featured at the Terry Lindsey Equidae Gallery at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs Friday, Aug. 31 at 10 a.m.



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Posted: Help Wanted

There are a lot of things I consider myself, some true, some false (but don't tell me). Handicapper would be near the bottom of the list.

I like to handicap and I like to bet, but I look at both as entertainment. I don't play golf, I don't collect anything, so a little betting here and there is recreation money.

Somehow this summer, I was voted in as the fourth guy in the *New York Post's* handicapping contest for the Saratoga meet. "Showdown at Saratoga" pits four "experts" against each other. Start out with \$1,800, bet up to \$50 a day, most money at the end of the meet wins. Sounds simple. Sounds easy.

"I'm not a handicapper" doesn't deter anyone from choosing me as the fourth guy. Representing OTB, they call me a "backstretch insider." Mom would be so proud. College graduate, former jockey turned *New York Post* tout. My wife, Annie, showed the paper to a friend in Manhattan.

"What does this mean? Your husband is a race-track gambler?"

Forgetting the image and thinking positively, I figure I'll give it a shot, I've got a bunch of handicapper friends who will help.

About four weeks in and it's been a little like John Velazquez at the gate – up and down.

So, there I am in the Saratoga Race Course picnic area Sunday afternoon, taking an easy day while watching and betting some races when I remember the Showdown for Monday.

I do some quick handicapping while leaning on a trash can and make my selections. All I know is my bankroll is in the red but I need to find out the actual

CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy



number, so I scour the picnic area for a *New York Post*.

Finally, I see a tattered copy in a lawn chair.

"Mind if I take a look at this?"

"Yeah, no problem."

Turning to the Showdown page, I start jotting down my bets of the day and current bankroll. The man whose *New York Post* I'm borrowing sidles up to my shoulder and looks at the photos of John DaSilva, Ed Fountaine, Vic Cangialosi and Sean Clancy.

"Those guys suck."

I don't even look up. Pulling my hat down farther and pushing my sunglasses flush to my eyes, I do the most prudent thing.

"Yeah, sure do. I'd never go with what they say."

Then slink away to lose another \$50 for the day. Am I really this bad?

It's an interesting concept, handicapping. I'm just

not very good at it. Or is it that tough? That's what I can't grasp.

So far, I've touted nine winners – Sharp Susan, Sargent Seattle, Divine Fortune, Duchess Of Rokeby, Banrock, Lady Joanne, Texas Elegance and T. D. Vance – and I'm down \$194. How can that be?

But losing an imaginary bankroll isn't what's bothering me. It's my mood.

I'm starting to blame jockeys. I've agonized well into the next morning about a bad trip on the turf. I imagine holes opening up on the hedge while driving to work. I've started to listen to touts. I've slumped to the winner's circle after an epic performance because my horse ran out. Not good.

Like yesterday. I loved One In A Romp after watching her bungle the break in her previous start, then see Allen Jerkens work her five eighths, stretch her out to 1 1/8 miles, go turf to dirt. Love her. So, being down and everything, I hook her up in exotics that I can't even type – is it part wheel, or key, or box over with?

Anyway, I hook her up on top of exactas and triples. One In A Romp gets up in the waning strides to nail Mckenna Mae, a longshot of Tommy Walsh's. The Chief wins one and low-profile Walsh looks like he's got a nice horse. Great race. I'm despondent, my imaginary bankroll takes another hit as my exacta goes one-three and my triple goes one-three-four (and I think five if I can even figure out my wagers).

Does betting really have to take such a toll? I used to root for a good story. Now, I'm rooting for the 2-4-6 in the third.

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Photo by Tod Marks

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