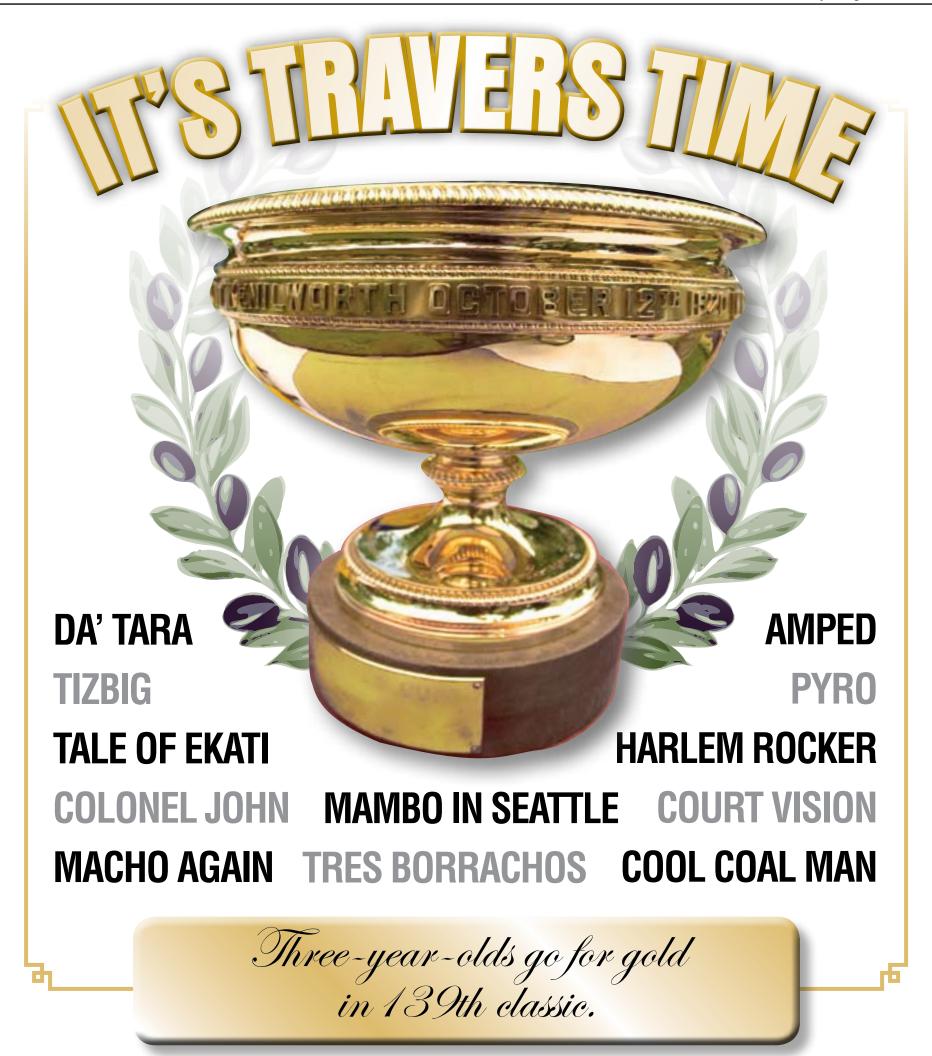
Year 8 • No. 26

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Saturday, August 23, 2008



"My overall impression is that FIRST SAMURAI is dominant. He's passing along good size and bone, athleticism.

I couldn't be more complimentary."

Mike Ryan

"I've seen several foals... they look strong, bright, athletic – at this point, you'd have to be happy with what you see."

Frankie Brothers

"This colt is a very nice individual. He has a nice body, is correct, has a good hip, a nice head – a lot of presence."

Mike O'Farrell, Ocala Stud

"Our filly is balanced, powerfully made, with a huge hip, good hind leg and a strong sloping shoulder. She is correct with knees well put on, short cannons and plenty of bone."

Dr. Joe Yocum, Overbrook

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Frances Relihan, Vinery

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

#### **Here & There at Saratoga**



#### A Travers tale

Robin Smullen leads Travers hopeful Tale of Ekati out for a workout.

#### **Worth Repeating**

"The freelance proofreading doesn't pay much!!!" Text message sent by trainer Mark Hennig at 6:33 Friday morning, after he was listed as a trainer and freelance proofreader in Friday's paper; the caption should have said "volunteer."

"At least he's reading." Toadie Taylor after reading the text

"Don't fall in love with him."

Trainer Bobby Frankel to jockey Edgar Prado, before he breezed a 2-year-old Friday morning

"He's a trainer's trainer."

Trainer Eoin Harty, about Hall of Famer Allen Jerkens

"It's Christmas Eve."

**Handicapper Kyle Brownell** Friday morning

"If I had a million dollars - which is fledgling at the moment - I'd claim My Cousin Matt and give him a good home.

The Special's Brian Nadeau

"I'd rather get a professional."

**Exercise rider Phil White** after The Special's Sean Clancy volunteered to school a prospective jumper

"We're about to find out how good Harlem Rocker is . . . we're about to find out agile you are." Trainer Todd Pletcher to *The Special's* 

Sean Clancy, interviewing him on the horse path as a horse of Dominic Galluscio's galloped up behind them

"As long as he has someone to make fun of, he's in a good mood."

Owner Tom Gallo, about trainer Barclay Tagg, who had recently finished ribbing Gallo

More Here and There on Page 4

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### **Here & There at Saratoga**

#### **Worth Repeating**

Tourist, watching the clockers work at Oklahoma Friday: "Oh, man, you guys must have all the winners." Clockers (sarcastically, in unison): "Oh yeah. Nine, sometimes 10, a day."

"Secretariat lost to Onion? Why?"

Racing fan, listening to two others discuss Big Red's somewhat unexplainable loss in the 1973 Whitney

"Maggie May."

Theme song on photographer Maggie Furbay's cell phone

#### **Names of the Day**

**Coal Baron, second race.** The 2-year-old colt is by Mineshaft out of Miss Grindstone.

Nautical Storm, 10th race. The 3-year-old colt is by Storm Cat out of Perfect Wave.

#### Weather

**Today:** Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny High 83



**Tonight:** A few clouds from time to time. Low around 60. Winds light and variable.

**Sunday:** Mix of sun and clouds. High in the mid 80s and low in the mid 60s.

**Monday:** Clouds giving way to sun. High in the mid 70s and low in the mid 50s.

**Tuesday:** Mainly sunny. High in the mid 70s and low in the low 50s.



#### A cool trip

Cool Coal Man trains for the Mid-Summer Derby.





## **Here & There at Saratoga**

The Big Horserace The Special's straw (well, hay) poll began back at Keeneland in April, and we'll keep a running total of the votes around town.

McCain Richard DePass Danielle Hodsdon Kip Elser **Bruce Brown** Steve Adika Pat Reynolds Al Stall Matt Muzikar Lenny Pike Bill Mott Mark Hennig Stan Hough Mitch Friedman Robby Albarado Rusty Arnold Don Nichols Cindy Nichols Danny Peitz Sal Russo Tim Ritvo Steve Young **Brant Laue** Doc Richardson Jerry Bailey George Weaver Gary Contessa Terry Finley Rick Violette Kiaran McLaughlin Mike Geraghty Roger Horgan

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**Barry Watson** 

John Kimmel

Sonny Taylor

Eibar Coa

Conor Foley Pat Turner Jim Gallagher Brian Walls Derek Smith Leah Gyarmati Charlton Baker Dave Grace Wendy (clocker girl) Little Wendy (clocker girl) Joanne Jones Toadie Taylor Alan Garcia Tony Micallef Sherry Ross Phil Janack Mary Jane Howell Van Cushny Tara O'Brien

Duncan Hinkle Maxine Correa Nick Martinez Pam Donehower Alix Michel Roy Lerman Jan Woods Colleen O'Brien Gaile Fitzgerald Barbara Brown Michael Martin Trevor McCarron Javier Castellano Bruce Levine Larry Hausman

Althea Richards

Sheryl Schwartz Ann Macleod John DeStefano Gerry Donk Melaina Phipps Will Phipps Kyle Brownell Allen Iwinski Peter Pugh Flaco Escobar David Engel Heather Craig Michael Thomas Elliott Masie Susie Bricker Tim McKinsey Kathy Jones Ethan Jones-Potts Joan Ciampi Tim Hills

Neither Doc Danner Doug Fout Rich Cristiano Richard DeStasio Josh Cooper Freddie Bond Bob Frieze Danielle Rosier Norm Casse

Independent Barry Wiseman

**Ross Perot** Dan Pride **Richard Nixon** 

Alan Brodsky

Jeremy Edge **Daffy Duck** Chris O'Connor

Gus Brown

Undecided Skip Dickstein Mike Trombetta Dave Grening Wayne Lukas Jimmy Jerkens Tiffany Mueller Tom Albertrani The Fruit Man Javier Castellano John Adger Mitch Levites Ray Amato Jeff Carle Doug Cauthen Tom Bush Joe DiAngelo

Steve Klesaris Coupled Entry Allan Lavin









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## Ginger Punched

### Superstar delivers in stretch to nail Lemon Drop Mom

#### **BY BRIAN NADEAU**

Bobby Frankel walked into the paddock prior to the Grade I Personal Ensign and tried to distance himself from the rest of the overflow crowd. Frankel was content with being left alone. Quiet, reserved, and focused, he watched as champion Ginger Punch was led into her saddling area. And then he got as nervous as a mother who's lost her child in the supermarket.

"I didn't realize it until we got her to the paddock but she was in heat out there today," Frankel said. "She was horsing in the paddock the whole time."

Stronach Stable's Ginger Punch (Rafael Bejarano) may not have been on her best behavior prior to the 10-furlong Personal Ensign but once the gates opened she again showed her Eclipse Award-winning form in the \$400,000 stakes. In a thrilling and determined stretch drive she scored a nose victory over upstart Lemon Drop Mom

See **PERSONAL ENSIGN** page 9 ▶



Ginger Punch (left) catches Lemon Drop Mom just before the wire in Friday's Personal Ensign.











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5 h, NOONMARK (G3)	\$348,965
5 m, ROSHANI (G3)	\$331,300
4 f, SOCIAL QUEEN (G3)	\$241,380
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5 h, INDEPENDENT GEORGE .	\$326,507
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3 g, KILDERRY	\$136,220
3 c, FORT DRUM	\$130,243
3 c, BARRIER REEF	\$113,435

ani Bhavan streaks home to a 7-length victory, easing down at the wire in the Grade II Adirondack Stakes, earning an exceptional 100 Beyer Speed Figure — the second highest Beyer for any two-year-old thus far in 2008. \$30,000 KEESEP 2007 yrl. Consigned by Hermitage Farm LLC: Agent.; 2-2-0-0; Earnings: \$114,000

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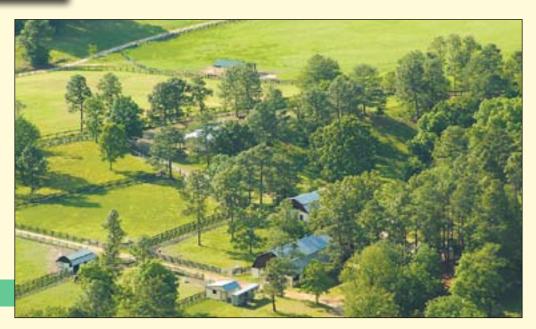


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Ginger Punch and Lemon Drop Mom slug it out down the lane in the Personal Ensign.

Dave Harmon

## Personal Ensign —

#### **■** Continued from page 6

(Jose Caraballo) with Unbridled Belle (Ramon Dominguez) farther back in third.

Ginger Punch entered the Personal Ensign off a victory here in the Grade I Go For Wand July 26. Sent off at 1-5 in the 9-furlong handicap she found more trouble than Ferris Bueller on his day off. Boxed in with nowhere to go through much of the running she split horses late to win by 1 1/4-lengths in a race that had every punter with a win ticket heading to church on Sunday morning.

Friday Ginger Punch broke with the field and settled into fourth position on the inside as Golden Velvet set a slow

quarter-mile in 24.62. Lemon Drop Mom sat in second, keeping the early leader honest, while second-choice Unbridled Belle raced three deep and in close contact with the leading pair. Longshots Indescribable and So Glitzy completed the compact field. Golden Velvet continued to set a soft pace and passed the half-mile in 49.85, while Unbridled Belle stuck a nose in front of Lemon Drop Mom. Bejarano urged Ginger Punch off the rail to secure a position outside of Lemon Drop Mom and in the clear.

Golden Velvet began to pick up the tempo as the field approached the far turn and Unbridled Belle made the first move, dragging Dominguez to the leader. Entering the turn Golden Velvet began to tire and drifted out, allowing Lemon Drop Mom a dream run on the rail. Caraballo cut the corner

See **PERSONAL ENSIGN** page 10



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Ginger Punch exits the winner's circle with another Grade I victory.

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### Personal Ensign —

#### ■ Continued from page 9

and was instantly in front of Unbridled Belle. Bejarano loaded his slingshot and flung Ginger Punch four-wide and took dead-aim on Lemon Drop Mom and Unbridled Belle. There would be no traffic issues today.

"They kept me in trouble last time so I went out there today remembering the trip we got. It was pretty tight out there and everyone was trying to beat me that day," Bejarano said. "That's why today I tried to keep her outside and in the clear and then make a run with her. I just wanted her to be comfortable and relaxed.'

As the field straightened away in the lane Ginger Punch joined Lemon Drop Mom on the lead while Unbridled Belle came up wanting in between the two. Ginger Punch and Lemon Drop Mom traveled as one nearing the eighth-pole; their bodies synchronized like Michael Phelps and Milorad Cavic. Ginger Punch appeared to put a nose in front as they passed the sixteenth pole but Lemon Drop Mom countered back, reengaging her rival and driving to the wire to complete an epic renewal of the Personal Ensign.

"It was pretty tight in the end. My filly never quit trying and the other horse was so close to me, so I didn't really know," Bejarano said. "She seems to be getting better each time out there. Today was the first time trying 10 furlongs and she got a little tired in the end but she just kept coming back, just kept trying. When the other horse passed me she didn't want to lose, she just kept trying and fought back."

Ginger Punch stormed to a championship in 2007 after a dominant second half of the season. The daughter of Awesome Again took her first career Grade I in last year's Go For Wand, winning by 6 lengths, and then annexed the Grade I Ruffian at Belmont Park before running third there in the Grade I Beldame. She cemented her Eclipse Award with a game win in the Grade I Breeders' Cup Distaff at Monmouth Park.

Earlier this spring Stronach resisted the temptation to retire Ginger Punch to a life as a broodmare, much like when he passed on stud duty with his Horse of the Year Ghostzapper in 2005. She's responded with five wins from six starts, and Friday's score marked her third straight Grade I victory, following the Ogden Phipps at Belmont June 14 and the Go For Wand earlier in the meet.

After the Personal Ensign was official, Stronach walked onto the main track and met Ginger Punch amid the shadows that crept over a Saratoga grandstand that has seen few races better than Friday's feature. The 75-yearold Austrian gushed with pride as he paraded his star mare back into the sunlight, where she was greeted to an ovation reserved only for champions at Saratoga. Stronach circled Ginger Punch three times for the crowd and then led her into the winner's circle for the entire sport to see.

"This was the whole reason we brought her back to the races, to run in races like this today. We always thought she was a great filly and it's good for

See **PERSONAL ENSIGN** page 11 ▶

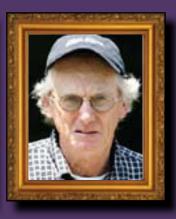
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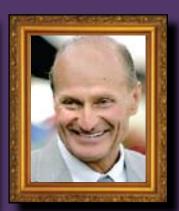


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## Personal Ensign —

#### **■** Continued from page 10

racing. People want to see that," Stronach said. "I was very proud of her today, spotting six pounds to the other filly and still digging in and getting the job done."

Stronach was swept up in the hysteria of the raucous winner's circle and headed with his party for a well-deserved celebration. Save one.

"Bobby, come join us in the Trustees' room for some champagne?" Stronach asked.
"I've got to head to the paddock and saddle

one in the next race," Frankel replied.

Frankel walked to the paddock to saddle Good Request for the finale, and then headed to the racing office. He opened the door, climbed into the far corner and sat on the bench – quiet, reserved

and focused. And at peace and with another Grade I in his pocket.

He waited – patiently and by himself – as posttime approached. A well-wisher stopped by to offer congratulations and Frankel admitted he wasn't too optimistic as Ginger Punch and Lemon Drop Mom hit the wire.

"I really didn't think she won it. It was close and I thought she lost the bob," Frankel said. "But she showed that she's a true champion today. She lost ground and was giving weight to a nice filly while trying a mile and a quarter for the first time. And then all that stuff in the paddock, being in heat and all. But she still got it done. So for her to go out there and still win, with all that going against her, that's a champion."

Moments later Good Request took the night-

"That one I knew I won," Frankel said.

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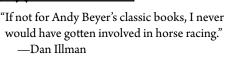
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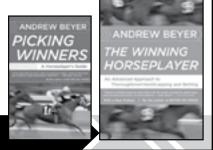
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Robby Albarado10
Shaun Bridgmohan10
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Channing Hill8
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Jose Espinoza5
Richard Migliore5
Sebastian Morales4
Elvis Trujillo4
Jorge Chavez3
Jeffrey Sanchez3
Rafael Bejarano2
Danielle Hodsdon2
Rudy Rodriguez2
Gabriel Saez2
Jamie Theriot2
Aldo Arboleda1
Garrett Gomez1
Pedro Rodriguez1
Jean-Luc Samyn1
Robbie Walsh1
Padge Whelan1
Paddy Young1

*12* 

Trainers	
Todd Pletcher13	3
Richard Dutrow Jr10	)
Gary Contessa	9
Bobby Frankel	
Kiaran McLaughlin	9
Steve Asmussen	8
Tony Dutrow	8
Barclay Tagg	
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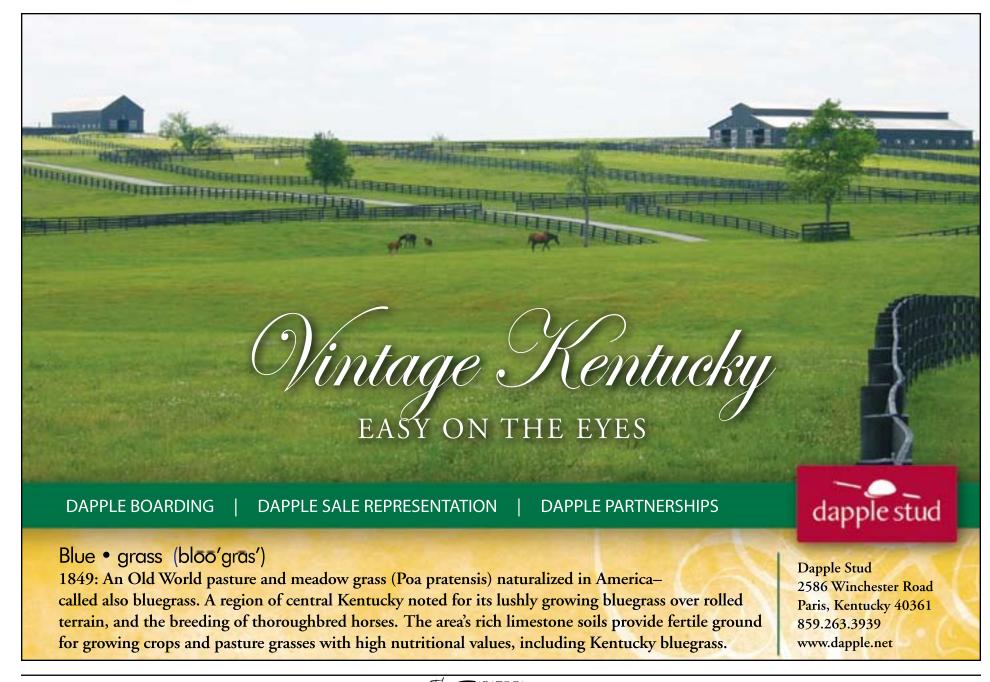


Is Channing Hill smiling because he'd just won his eighth race or just reached his 21st birthday? It could have been either Friday.

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Bruce Brown	
Mark Casse	
David Donk	
John Fahey III	
Dominic Galluscio	
Eoin Harty	
Mark Hennig	
Mike Hernandez	
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Pat Kelly	
Carlos Martin	

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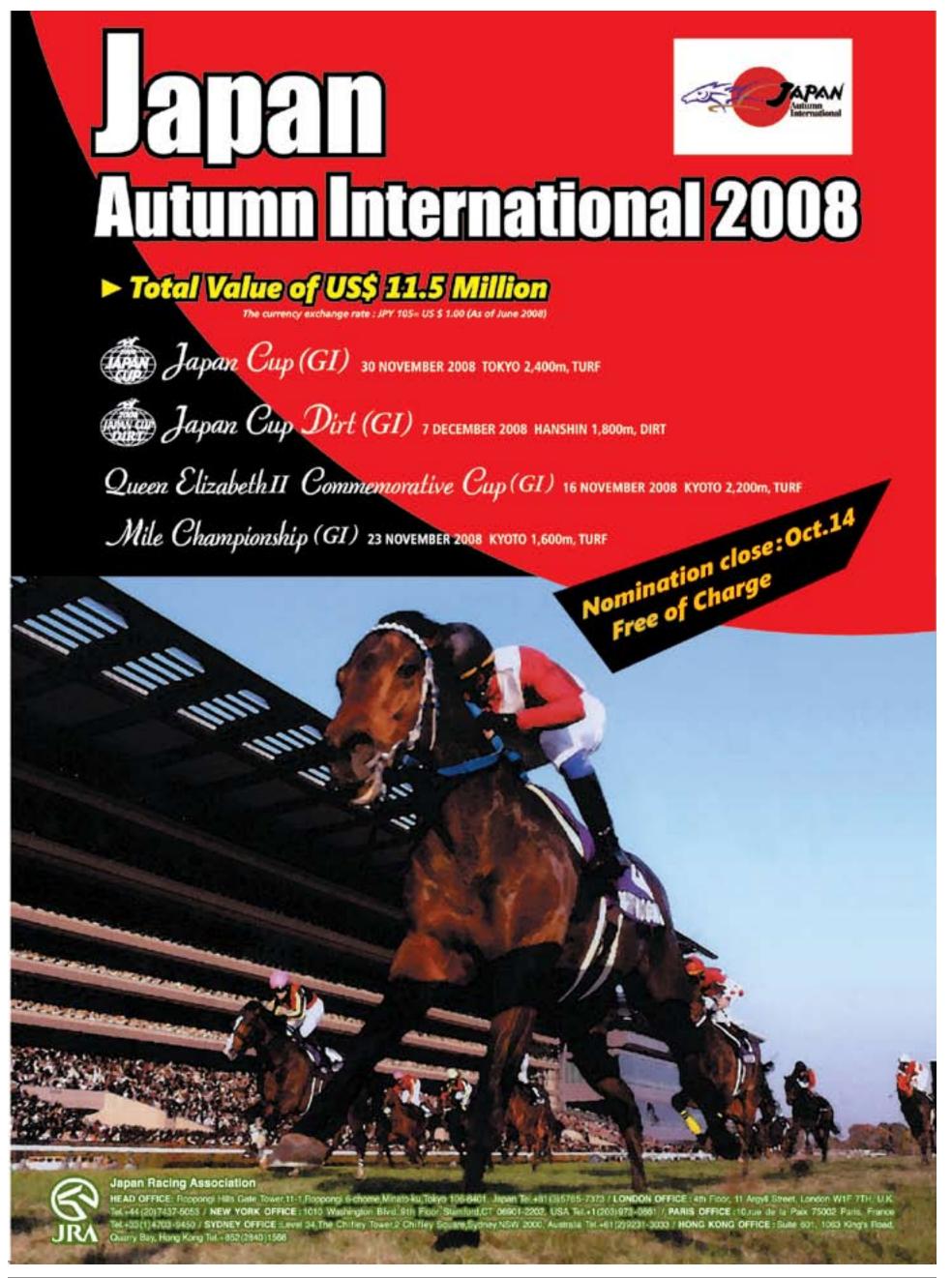
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#### **SATURDAY'S** SARATOGA ENTRIES

**Saturday, August 23.** Post Time 12:00 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

181	(12	:00) 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$79,000.		
1	Ż	Cash McCoolGomez G K Dutrow Jr Richard9-2		
1A	11	Diamond IsleVelasquez C Dutrow Jr Richard 9-2		
2	1	Successful LoveMaragh R Ritvo Tim20-1		
3	2	On Board Again Castellano J J Frankel Bobby7-2		
4	3	Barrier ReefVelazquez J R bin Suroor Saeed15-1		
5	4	West ExpressPrado E S Kenneally Eddie6-1		
6	5	Manager BoireLeparoux J R Carroll David30-1		
7	6	GoldsvilleDesormeaux K J Mott Bill6-1		
8	8	Bill PlaceDominguez R A Arroyo Enrique15-1		
9	9	Aquino (URU)Garcia Alan McLaughlin Kiaran5-2		
10	10	Yes MasterAlbarado R J Contessa Gary 15-1		
	Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (1-3), Daily Double			

2ND (12:34) 6 FURLONGS	. 2YO. MSW.	PURSE \$72,000.
		· • · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1 1 Land Luction	Cootallan	a II Diatabas Ta

LIID (12.04) 01 0112011α0. 210. moti. 1 01102 ψ12,000.				
1	1	Lord Justice	Castellano J J	. Pletcher Todd8-1
1A	9	Platte River	Dominguez R A	. Pletcher Todd8-1
2	2	Coal Baron	Maragh R	. Carroll David15-1
3	3	Florentino (JPN)	Garcia Alan	. McLaughlin Kiaran 7-2
4	4			. Baffert Bob3-1
5	5	Something Gold	Bridgmohan S X	. Asmussen Steve8-1
6	6	Yore	Leparoux J R	. Dickey Charles8-1
7	7			. Stewart Dallas 15-1
8	8	Nowhere to Hide	Luzzi M J	. Zito Nick6-1
9	10	Gone Astray	Gomez G K	. McGaughey Shug 4-1
	Exa	acta, Quinellá, Trifecta,	Pick 3 (2-4), Pick	4 (2-5), Daily Double

#### 3RD (1:08) 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$72,000.

1	6	Chosen EmpireCoa E MFrankel Bobby8-1
1A	9	Major GeneralLuzzi M JFrankel Bobby8-1
2	1	Bet the LimitLeparoux J R McGaughey Shug6-1
3	2	Mahwell
4	3	Tiz ItPrado E STerranova II John5-2
5	4	Storm PlayVelazquez J R Jerkens Jimmy8-1
6	5	Different DrummerVelasquez C Jerkens Allen 15-1
7	7	Jimmy SimmsBridgmohan S X Asmussen Steve 4-1
8	8	Louann's BootCastellano J J Peitz Daniel20-1
9	10	Prince OmarMaragh RMott Bill20-1
10	11	Rio Maggiore (BRZ) Espinoza J L Malek Raja30-1
11	12	Perfect PrecisionDominguez R A Hennig Mark15-1
		Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5), Daily Double

#### 4TH (1:42) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALLOW. PURSE \$72,000.

1	Ì	Gold PageantryBridgmohan S X Tesher Howie12-1			
2	2	Beneath the CrownDominguez R A Voss Tom8-1			
3	3	Smart EnufCastellano J J Donk David6-1			
4	4	Key VictoryVelasquez C Carroll II Del15-1			
5	5	Victory AssuredDesormeaux K J Hennig Mark15-1			
6	6	Tobruk Chavez J F Hernandez Mike8-1			
7	7	WoodrunnerCoa E MTagg Barclay7-2			
8	8	Cardiff RoadEspinoza J L DiSanto Glenn20-1			
9	9	Al Amir Maragh R Penna Angel3-1			
10	10	Express to ThewestRodriguez R R Schwartz Scott20-1			
11	11	Dazzling DerekPrado E SDutrow Jr Richard 12-1			
12	12	Triple Bogey BluesLuzzi M J McLaughlin Kiaran 15-1			
13	ΑE	Rodeo HandGomez G K Dunham Bob30-1			
14	ΑE	MissinglisalewisLuzzi M J Lewis Lisa12-1			
15	ΑE	UnflaggingHill C Weaver George6-1			
16	ΑE	Ode to RevolutionVelazquez J R Hills Tim8-1			
	Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (4-6), Daily Double				

#### 5TH (2:16) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$73,000.

1	1	Interference	.Espinoza J L	Friedman Mitch50-1
2	2	Tizzy	.Albarado R J	McPeek Ken15-1
3	3	Uncle Indy	.Maragh R	Penna Angel8-1
4	4	Sir Jock	.Velazquez J R	Romans Dale15-1
5	5	Royal Lord	.Hill C	Quick Patrick12-1
6	6	Allegre	.Bridgmohan S X	Harty Eoin20-1
7	7	Whywhy Cat	.Leparoux J R	Werner Ronny 15-1
8	8	Intercoastal	.Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill3-1
9	9	Yuletide	.Chavez J F	Sheppard Jonathan 12-1
10	10	Rogue Victory	.Prado E S	Weaver George7-2
11	11	Certifiably Royal	.Dominguez R A	Iwinski Allen6-1
12	12	Strike It Ritz	.Gomez G K	Clement Christophe 8-1
13	ΑE	Radical Sabbatical	.Coa E M	Tagg Barclay8-1
14	ΑE	Yield Bogey	.Samyn J L	Kelly Pat12-1
15	ΑE	Whitley	.Castellano J J	Arnold Rusty15-1
16	ΑE	Lion's Circle	.Velasquez C	Kenneally Eddie 30-1
		Exacta, Trifecta, Sup	erfecta, Pick 3 (5-7	'), Daily Double

#### 6TH (2:51) 1 1/16 MILES, TURF, 3&UP, ALLOW, PURSE \$78,000

UII	1 (4.	31) 1 1/10 MILLS. 10111. 3α01. ALLOW. 1 0113L φ70,000.
1	1	Parc des Princes (BRZ)Prado E SFrankel Bobby3-1
2	2	HammockDesormeaux K J Schosberg Rick12-1
3	3	Big StickGarcia Alan McLaughlin Kiaran8-1
4	4	Al Nasr Dream (IRE)Leparoux J R Kenneally Eddie 12-1
5	5	Blue LionGomez G K Arnold Rusty5-1
6	6	Riptide (ARG)Velasquez C Donk David12-1
7	7	SartoLuzzi M JZito Nick30-1
8	8	Extra ZipHill CMartin Carlos15-1
9	9	Baletti
10	10	Marguet CatMaragh RRitvo Tim30-1
11	11	PicouDominguez R A Brown Chad15-1
12	12	Ea Castellano J J Albertrani Tom12-1
13	ΑE	BaronialVelazquez J R McGaughey Shug 9-2
14	ΑE	Vision of SunriseMaragh RBush Tom20-1
15	ΑE	Piney MountainCoa E M Fout Doug50-1
16	ΑE	Just JulianPrado E S Matz Michael15-1
Exa	acta,	Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (6-8), Grand Slam (6-9), Daily Double

#### 7TH (3:27) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$80,000. 10 Broadway Producer...Velasquez C........ Terranova II John .. 10-1 MTO True Resurgence ......Sanchez J...... Terranova II John ..10-1 2 Ketchikan ......Albarado R J ...... Stall Jr Al......15-1 3 Holiday Trip ............8-1 Russian Sage .......Coa E M ......Ritvo Tim.....10-1 4 Baron Von Tap.....Bridgmohan S X... Tesher Howie......20-1 5 Sir Lowry ......Velazquez J R ...... Frankel Bobby ......3-1 6 Yario (IRE).....Prado E S ......Harty Eoin ......15-1 Key Event .....Rodriguez R R .....Foster III Daniel ....20-1 8 Prussian.....Desormeaux K J... Mott Bill.... 9

15 AE Pennington.......Coa E M ......Violette Rick......6-1 A-Coupled: Broadway Producer and True Resurgence Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (7-9), Pick 6 (7-12), Daily Double

#### 8TH (4:03) THE VICTORY RIDE (GR. III). 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 3YO. PURSE \$100,000.

1	2	Throbbin' Heart	Bridgmohan S X	. Asmussen Steve8-1
1A	8	J Z Warrior	Desormeaux K J	. Mott Bill8-1
2	1	Palanka City	Coa E M	. Tagg Barclay8-1
3	3	More Happy	Velasquez C	Baffert Bob12-1
4	4	Informed Decision	Velazquez J R	Sheppard Jonathan 5-1
5	5	Indyanne	Baze R A	Gilchrist Greg6-5
6	6	Porte Bonheur	Dominguez R A	. Duggan David8-1
7	7	Sly Storm	Castellano J J	. Proctor Tom4-1
		ed: Throbbin' Heart a		
Е	xacta	a, Trifecta, Pick 3 (8-1	10), Pick 4 (8-11), D	aily Double, 60Minute6

#### 9TH (4:38) THE BERNARD BARUCH (GR. II). 1 1/8 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. PURSE \$200,000.

		<b>4200,000</b> .
1	1	Drum MajorVelasquez C Weaver George6-1
2	2	Thorn SongLeparoux J R Romans Dale3-1
3	3	Operation Red Dawn . Dominguez R A Clement Christophe 5-1
4	4	Elusive Fort (SAF)Coa E M Malek Raja30-1
5	5	Distorted RealityVelazquez J R Pletcher Todd6-1
6	6	Shakis (IRE)Garcia Alan McLaughlin Kiaran8-1
7	7	Proudinsky (GER)Prado E S Frankel Bobby9-2
8	8	Sensational HumorMaragh R Bush Tom15-1
9	9	Yate's Black CatAlbarado R J Romans Dale15-1
10	10	War MongerDesormeaux K J Mott Bill8-1
Exa	cta, ˈ	Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (9-11), Daily Double, 60Minute6

#### 10TH (5:10) THE KING'S BISHOP (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. 3YO. PURSE \$250,000.

1	6	Kodiak Kowboy	Saez G	Jones Larry3-1	
1A	11	Lantana Mob	Dominguez R A	Trombetta Mike3-1	
2	1	Desert Key	Velazquez J R	Jerkens Jimmy4-1	
3	2	Gentleman James	Aguilar M	. Mora Myra15-1	
4	3	Nautical Storm	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne50-1	
5	4	Visionaire	Garcia Alan	Matz Michael10-1	
6	5	Silver Edition	Leparoux J R	Lukas Wayne15-1	
7	7	Golden Spikes	Trujillo E	Wolfson Martin6-1	
8	8	J Be K	Gomez G K	Asmussen Steve5-2	
9	9	Salute the Sarge	Desormeaux K J	. Guillot Eric30-1	
10	10	I'm So Lucky	Albarado R J	. Ward Jr John8-1	
A-C	oupl	ed: Kodiak Kowboy a	nd Lantana Mob		
	E ' T'' ' D' ' O D ' (40 40) D '' D '' D ''				

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (10-12), Daily Double Wagers

#### 11TH (5:45) THE TRAVERS (GR. I). 1 1/4 MILES. 3YO. PURSE \$1,000,000.

1	1	Tale of Ekati	Prado E S	. Tagg Barclay	20-1
2	2	Colonel John	Gomez G K	. Harty Eoin	8-1
3	3	Da' Tara	Garcia Alan	. Zito Nick	8-1
4	4	Tizbig	Velasquez C	Jerkens Allen	30-1
5	5	Macho Again			
6	6				
7	7	Amped	Chavez J F	Zito Nick	30-1
8	8	Harlem Rocker	Coa E M	Pletcher Todd	4-1
9	9	Mambo in Seattle	Albarado R J	. Howard Neil	5-1
10	10	Tres Borrachos	Baze T C	Greely Beau	15-1
		Pyro			
		Court Vision			
		Exacta, Trifed	cta, Superfecta, Dail	y Double	

#### 12TH (6:20) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$67,000.

1	1	Smarteralex	Morales S	Cedano Heriberto 20-1	
1A	ΑE	Subversive ActionA	Arboleda A	Cedano Heriberto 20-1	
2	2	Winloc's Saint Ray S	Sanchez J	Miceli Michael8-1	
3	3	Miracle Causewayl	Hill C	Baker Charlton30-1	
4	4	Fra Lippo	Garcia Alan	Clement Christophe 4-1	
5	5	Night in Tunisa\	/elazquez J R	Pletcher Todd9-2	
6	6	Rockon Rockoff(	Coa E M	Ryan Derek6-1	
7	7	Mail HeroicsE	Espinoza J L	Morrison John15-1	
8	8	Burnished CopperF	Prado E S	Motion Graham3-1	
9	9	Hoist the Gala0	Chavez J F	O'Brien Leo20-1	
10	10	Coaltown LegendE	Bermudez J E	Feron Kathleen30-1	
11	11	Iron Gate[	Dominguez R A	Donk David6-1	
12	12	Napoleon DynamiteF	Rodriguez R R	Shevy Michael50-1	
13	ΑE	Look Now	Chavez J F	Candlin John15-1	
A-C	A-Coupled: Smarteralex and Subversive Action				

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta





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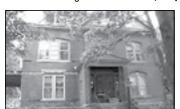
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Race #



On Board Again

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Goldsville

On Board Again

Aquino

Gone Astray

Something Gold

Yore

Bet The Limit

Storm Play

Mahwell

Al Amir

Beneath The Crown

Woodrunner

Intercoastal

Rogue Victory

Allegre





Brian

Nadeau

On Board Again

West Express

Manager Boire

Gone Astray

**Spaniard** 

Nowhere To Hide

Bet The Limit

Major General

Tiz It

Woodrunner

Tobruk

Al Amir

Rogue Victory

Intercoastal

Royal Lord Al Nasr Dream

Baronial

Parc Des Princes

Yario

Prussian

## Panagot

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	Nowhere To Hide
^	Mahwell
3	Tiz It
	Jimmy Simms
_	Woodrunner

Fo

1	Al Amir
•	Beneath The Crown
	Intercoastal
5	Rogue Victory
	Allegre
_	Al Nasr Dream
5	Big Stick

	Picou
	Prussian
7	Sir Lowry
	Blazing Dynamo
	Indyanne
2	Sly Storm

Zayat entry

Kodiak Kowboy

Mambo In Seattle

54/224

	Thorn Song
	War Monger
7	Shakis
$\cap$	Desert Key
	J Be K

1	Colonel John
	Tres Borrachos
	Fra Lippo
9	Brunished Copper

_	Night In Tunisia

Through 8/21

Parc Des Princes
Baletti
Ea
Prussian
Sir Lowry
Holiday Trip
Indyanne
Informed Decision
Sly Storm
Proudinsky
Distorted Reality
Thorn Song
J Be K
Vinery Entry
Golden Spikes
Mambo In Seattle
Macho Again
Harlem Rocker
Fra Lippo
Burnished Copper
Rockon Rockoff

Russian Sage Informed Decision Indyanne Sly Storm Thorn Song Drum Major Proudinsky J Be K Golden Spikes Visionaire Tres Borrachos Tizbig Macho Again Miracle Causeway **Burnished Copper** Mail Heroics

58/224

Mambo In Seattle Pyro **Burnished Copper** Rockon Rockoff Iron Gate 69/224

### Sallee Horse Vans

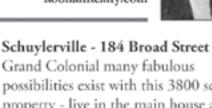
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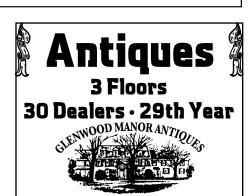




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#### **SATURDAY'S** DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### BY BRIAN NADEAU

**RACE 1:** ON BOARD AGAIN surely needed his last, which was his first start since October 2006; he should move forward off that effort and be much tighter today. WEST EXPRESS steps up in class but could control the pace, which would make him tough turning for home. Don't sleep on MANAGER BOIRE, who goes out for an expert trainer; there's talent here to be sure.

RACE 2: Shug McGaughey was 0-for-31 with his 2-year-olds not long ago but was 2-for-2 this past week; he might win again with GONE ASTRAY, who ran big in his Opening Day unveiling. SPANIARD didn't fare poorly in his local debut but he's got a way to go to match older sis Indian Blessing. NOWHERE TO HIDE was rumored to be a good thing in his debut and will improve.

RACE 3: BET THE LIMIT had zero chance over the speed-favoring track Aug. 9, yet he still made up 7 lengths late; could be the second winner for dam Educated Risk this week. MAJOR GENERAL caught a couple of good ones in his November debut and has trained forwardly for an expert layoff barn. TIZ IT will get there someday, and if he clears this field there's a good chance it's today.

**RACE 4:** WOODRUNNER has an upside, and he's probably faster than most of these fellows. TOBRUK makes his first start for a barn everyone can root for, and any of his last three races wins this. AL AMIR might get strung out wide but his positional speed should have him in a good spot turning for home.

**RACE 5:** ROGUE VICTORY goes out for a hot barn and improved immensely in blinkers last time; just needs a clean break to get his picture taken. INTERCOASTAL will go favored but the barn's been cold, there's a full field and he figures to be 2-1. ROYAL LORD cuts back and could fill your trifecta at a nice number.

**RACE 6:** Taking a chance with AL NASR DREAM, who makes his first U.S. start for a crafty barn. Let the tote be your guide; if you see this guy at 6-1 you're in good shape. If BARONIAL draws in he'll be tough as he showed stretch improvement with blinkers last time. PARC DES PRINCES will go favored but will have to run hard every step from the rail; plus, there's the dreaded Euro-bounce

RACE 7: If you haven't noticed so far the word of the day is value — there's simply no reason to take too short of a price in these deep and competitive fields. With that in mind let's tab YARIO for the upset. It's a stretch, but maybe he just didn't like the slick turf out west. PRUSSIAN will be about 8-5 and is clearly the horse to beat, but there are about a half-dozen just as fast. RUSSIAN SAGE has a huge shot and if he gets forgotten he's worth a win bet.

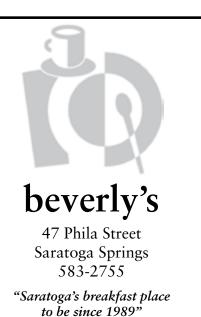
**RACE 8:** Who doesn't want to show speed in the Victory Ride? Call me a steeplechase nut but Jonathan Sheppard has gone out of his way to show us why he's in the Hall of Fame this meet; INFORMED DECISION showed high promise in the spring and should be rolling in the lane. INDYANNE has done little wrong and rates as the speed of the speed she's making yet another cross-country trip, so at 3-5 we can try and beat her. SLY STORM has shown a rating gear, which would come in handy.

**RACE 9:** There's nothing better than lone speed on the turf, and that's what you get with THORN SONG, who rates as the **day's best bet.** He's as loose as can be in this spot; here's hoping Julien Leparoux lulls them all to sleep. DRUM MAJOR hasn't been seen since this race last year but George Weaver is uncanny at getting horses to fire off of extended layoffs. PROUDINSKY seems well-spotted, but his last at Belmont Park was a real head scratcher.

**RACE 10:** J BE K is simply a monster at one-turn and looks to sit a dream trip, so forget about the price. GOLDEN SPIKES has run huge since he started sprinting and can give the top one fits in the lane if the pace is too hot. VISIONAIRE will probably have too much to do turning for home but he can rally for a piece.

**RACE 11:** Travers Stakes. TRES BORRACHOS, TIZBIG, MACHO AGAIN (see page 21 for in-depth analysis).

**RACE 12:** OK, there's a decent chance that come post time for the finale you're going to be looking for a nice longshot to recoup your losses. We might have one in MIRACLE CAUSEWAY, who ran well in his only turf start; he added blinkers last time and today he makes his first turf start with them on. Bombs away. BURNISHED COPPER looms a danger once again, but he's had a lot of chances already. MAIL HEROICS is another with a chance at a price.







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## **Spotlight on UK Racing**

by Timeform & Racing UK

Saturday, August 23rd, Goodwood (UK) Race 3 (10:15 am) totesport Celebration Mile Gr2 (3yo+) 1m; Purse \$200,000

#### RACE ANALYSIS (In Program Number Order)

- BANKABLE Has been showing progressive form this year. His only disappointment came when he was a well-backed favorite for the Royal Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot, finishing fifth. He was badly drawn that day, however, and in the end he ran well to finish as close as he did. Finished second to the Passage of Time on his latest run over ten furlongs and may not have finished improving yet, but he has it all to do against a top-class rival. Timeform Rating 133
- DOCOFTHEBAY Runner-up in the Royal Hunt Cup, which represented a lifetime best. Disappointed in the Buckingham Palace Stakes two days later, but there are obvious excuses for that run. His form is smart, but this looks beyond his capabilities. 127
- DUBAI'S TOUCH Third in a heritage handicap earlier this month off a mark of 100. Capable of smart form, but that seems to be his limit and it's highly unlikely it will be good enough to win this. 123
- THIRD SET Slightly disappointing on his British reappearance, when only a fair fifth of eight in the Gr3 Sovereign Stakes at Salisbury earlier this month having been off the track since February. Prior to that, he had been highly progressive, unbeaten in five turf starts (the last two during the Dubai Carnival) having been officially rated 85 fourteen months ago. If he is able to rediscover his Dubai form he could challenge for second. 132
- RAVEN'S PASS One of Europe's leading milers who would be a dual Gr1 winner were it not for the indomitable Henrythenavigator. Despite early doubts about his stamina over this trip, he has finished strongly in both the Sussex Stakes earlier this month and the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot. Disappointing in between those runs when second in the Gr1 Prix Jean Prat behind Tamayuz. This represents his first attempt against older horses, but it looks to be a straightforward task. He may not be at his best if the ground is on the soft side, though. 144

#### CONCLUSION

Four course winners in the line up, but this looks like a fairly straightforward opportunity for the only one that isn't and RAVEN'S PASS should get off the mark for 2008. His chances won't be helped by rain, and the likely muddling pace (there are no recognized front-runners in the field) which could turn the race into a sprint, but John Gosden's colt looks to have enough in hand to deal with either of those eventualities and come out on top. Bankable may well prove best over further than a mile, but he is a genuine Group race contender in the making and is taken to get

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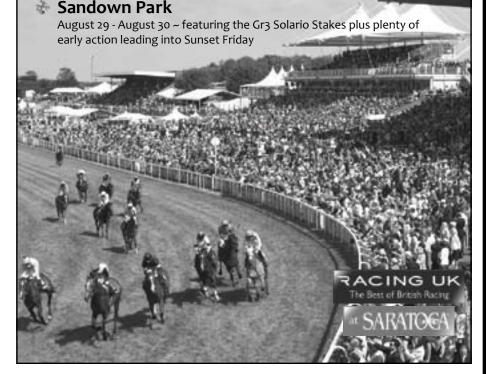
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Saturday, August 23rd, Newmarket (UK) Race 6 (10:35 am) Juddmonte International Stakes Gr1 (3yo+) 1 1/4 miles; Purse \$500,000

#### RACE ANALYSIS (In Program Number Order)

- CHAMPIONSHIP POINT Disappointing recently, but two of those runs have been on heavy ground and things didn't go his way in between, so they can be excused. Nevertheless, even though his win in the Huxley Stakes at Chester in May represents smart form, he is up against it here. Timeform Rating 125
- **DUKE of MARMALADE** The best turf horse in the world on Timeform ratings, winning four Gr1 races from four starts in 2008. This will prove a test of stamina more akin to his King George win last time than his penultimate win in the Prince of Wales Stakes, but he has shown himself capable of top-class form at either trip. 142
- HALICARNASSUS Without a win since the Newbury Arc Trial last September. He looks held by several in this field and, given that his best form has come in small fields, he probably won't be suited by facing ten rivals. 126
- MULTIDIMENSIONAL Very smart performer who won the ten-furlong Rose of Lancaster at Haydock earlier this month. His very best effort was at a mile-and-a-half, though, and he has a stiff task against the best in this field.

- PHOENIX TOWER Yet to be out of the first two so far, narrowly beaten in the Eclipse last month his third runnerup finish in Gr1s this season. Consistent rather than progressive though, and it's hard to see him reversing form with Duke of Marmalade from the Prince of Wales's Stakes. **133**
- **PIPEDREAMER** Has successfully graduated from the handicap ranks this season, finally securing his first Group win in the York Stakes last time. A strong pace will suit, but his best is unlikely to be good enough. 132
- RED ROCK CANYON A smart performer in his own right who is one of the best maidens in training. However, he is often used as a pacemaker for his stablemates, and it's likely that is once again to be his role. 122
- ROB ROY Showed he was as good as ever following an injury-punctuated 2007 when fifth in the Eclipse last time, suggesting this is his optimum distance. No six-year-old has ever won this race. 128
- CAT JUNIOR Smart form when making the frame in both the Prix Jean Prat and the St James's Palace Stakes on his last two starts. Stepped up in trip and first-time tonguetied, he is best watched. 127
- 10 NEW APPROACH The Derby hero at Epsom in June, but missed the Irish equivalent after meeting a setback. The

stiffer layout of this track will suit him compared to York, whilst recent rain will have helped his cause (seemed most unsuited by firm ground in the Irish 2000 Guineas). The 8 lb weight-for-age allowance he receives from Duke of Marmalade could prove significant. 141

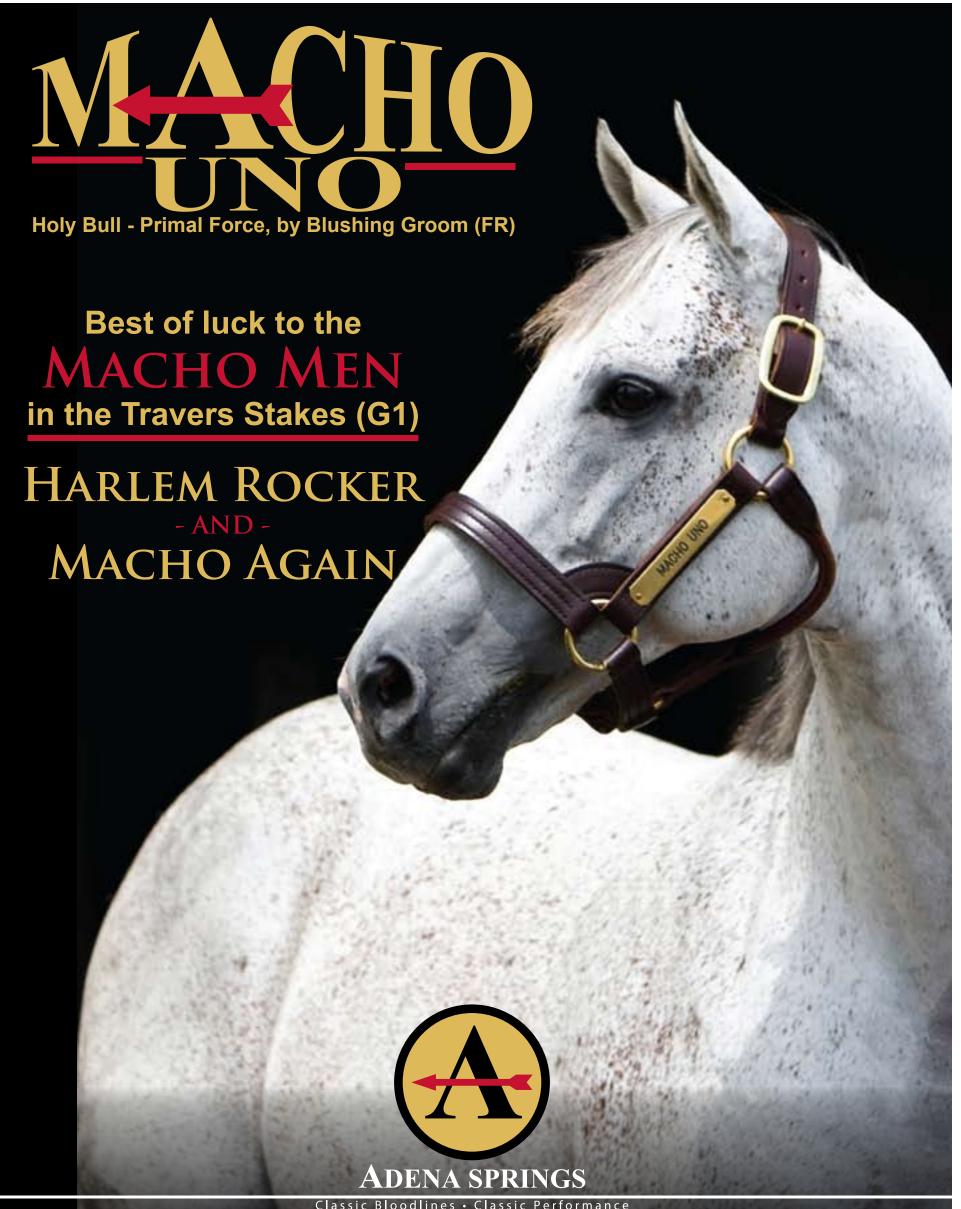
STUBBS ART Third in both England and Ireland's 2000 Guineas behind two top-class performers. One of those was New Approach however, and it is hard to see Stubbs Art reversing the form over a trip more suited to the Derby winner. 123

#### CONCLUSION

This clash between Duke of Marmalade and NEW APPROACH is one of the most eagerly-anticipated of the season, and it's hard to see beyond those two. His preparation has hardly been ideal given his injury, but given their respective current prices New Approach is most definitely the value choice over Duke of Marmalade. Pipedreamer is preferred in the open battle for

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he Midsummer Derby may not have the star power of Big Brown but with a dozen sophomores signed on, this deep and competitive field should offer great value regardless of who you fancy. Let's take a look at each contender and try to offer a rough betting guide in relation to their possible post-time odds.

Tale Of Ekati: While he probably needed his run in the Jim Dandy, he hasn't really progressed from his 2-year-old form, which marked him as one of the best of his generation. Sat a garden trip to take the Wood Memorial in April and while he should enjoy another good trip it's tough to envision him sealing the deal at a distance that might be a hint beyond his scope. I'm expecting a move forward, but the bottom of the exotics is probably his ceiling. He's going to be in the 12-1 range and if you are a believer you can do worse; I'll pass.

**Colonel John:** Synthetic specialist really didn't have a chance to answer the conventional dirt question in the Kentucky Derby, as he never got to stretch his legs while mired in traffic for much of the running. Figures to love the 10 furlongs and should be in striking range turning for home. From there it's simply a question of whether he's good enough. Eoin Harty knows how to get a horse to peak for a big race but this colt figures to be in the 6-1 range, and with a lot of unanswered questions, it's not worth taking a shot. A legitimate threat, but I'll try to beat him.



Tod Marks
Tres Borrachos looks like a good play off his Swaps Stakes win.

Da' Tara: Capitalized on Big Brown's mishaps in the Belmont Stakes but got cooked last time in the Jim Dandy. Nick Zito has been known to resurrect a horse from a poor Jim Dandy before and this colt looks eerily similar to Albert The Great, who got dueled into the ground in the Jim Dandy and just missed the Travers. The problem today is the fellow next door, Tizbig, who figures to severely compromise this guy's chances. At about 15-1 you have to make this classic winner prove his Belmont was no fluke.

**Tizbig:** Last-minute entrant brings plenty of speed to the table and Allen Jerkens has upset better horses with lesser stock. Rates as the pacesetter and if Da' Tara's connections are worried about reliving the Jim Dandy front-end fry-up there's a legitimate chance this guy steals away on the front end. No question he's jumping into the deep end without water wings, but if Cornelio Velasquez can slow the splits down, this colt could get mighty brave. You get a true legend at 20-1, with a potential pace advantage, in a race that lacks a true standout. Hmmm.

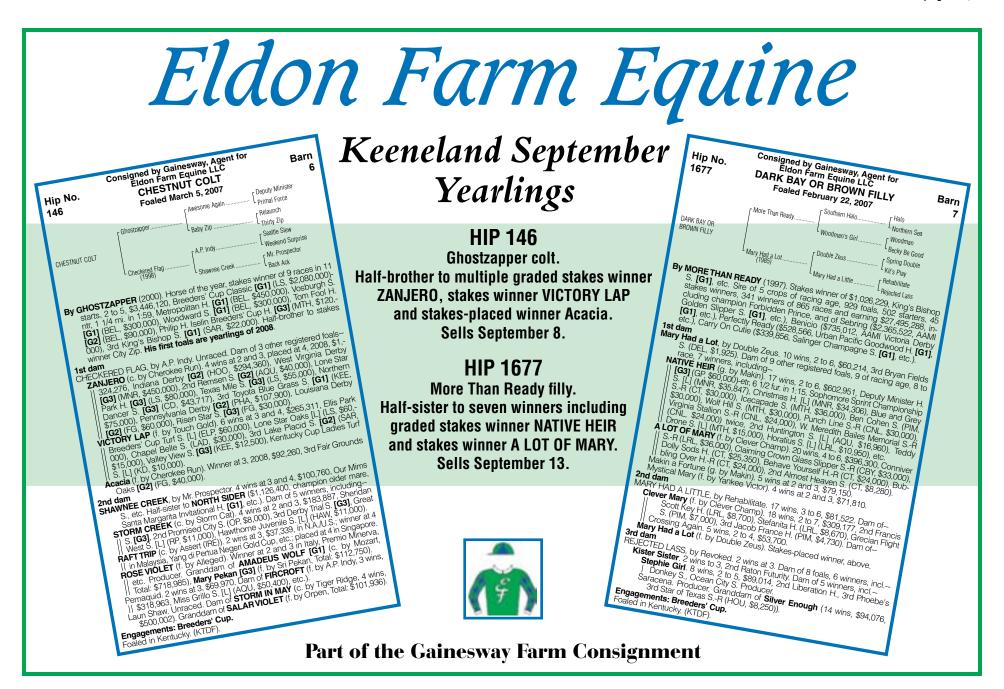
Macho Again: Determined winner of the Jim Dandy has been taking self-guided tours of the backside since but seems none the worse for wear. Mighty impressed with his resoluteness in the lane last time (when it looked like Pyro was going to blast by him) and heck, there's even a chance he moves forward off that race. If that's the case he's got a mighty big shot. The last three winners of the Jim Dandy have returned to win the Travers and this colt has every right to make it four in a row. I'll draw the line in the sand at 6-1. Swing for the fences if you get it.

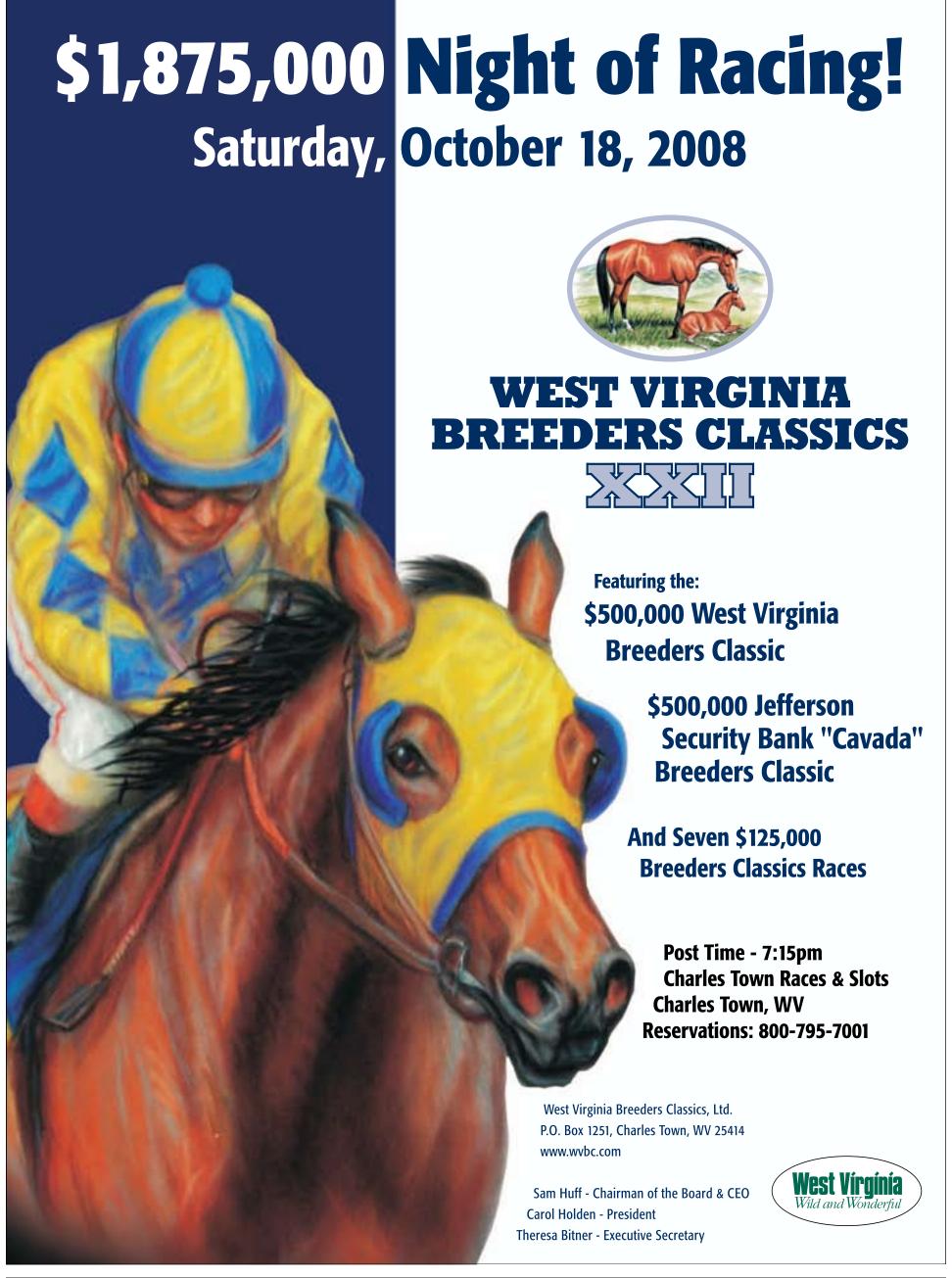
**Cool Coal Man:** Does anyone realize how well he ran in the Haskell? On a speed-favoring track he was only beaten 6 lengths by Big Brown, in a race he probably needed. His best efforts have come when he's sat off the pace and gotten the jump on the closers . . . which could very well be today's scenario. Of course, he'll have to run faster than he ever has, but 3-year-olds have been known to improve leaps and bounds overnight. He's not at the top of my list but at 20-1 you have a horse that can spice up your exotic tickets.

**Amped:** A well-beaten third to Travers rival Mambo In Seattle in the Walton, but that race did mark his first start at two turns on dirt, so he could move forward. Still, he'd have to move forward a whole lot. He should be in the vicinity of 40-1, but even that's not enough to get the pulse racing.

**Harlem Rocker:** One of the favorites comes in off a win over Canadian-breds in the Prince of Wales Stakes at Fort Erie. Frank Stronach's homebred is a perfect 4-for-4 on dirt, but the

See *HANDICAPPING* page 23 ▶





## **Handicapping** —

#### **■** Continued from page 21

Prince of Wales was his only two-turn start on the real stuff, and he didn't exactly break any stopwatches that day. His score in the Grade III Withers was a thing of beauty, but he benefited when favorite J Be K was pressured on the lead at a distance that isn't his best. At about 5-1 I'm willing to take a strong stand against this otherwise nice colt.

Mambo In Seattle: Exits off a gut-wrenching win in the Walton Stakes, a race carded directly before the Jim Dandy, and one that was faster too. While certainly impressive, his performance does raise the dreaded "bounce" question. Runner-up You And I Forever was supposed to run here but passed and this colt ran much faster than he ever has before. That it's Neil Howard calling the shots eases the worry a bit, but I still have a hard time believing he moves forward off that taxing effort. And I've got bad news for all you hoping for a price - I'm thinking this guy goes off your as your favorite. Tremendous respect for the connections, human and equine, but I've got to let this guy beat me at 4-1, which would be a big underlay.

Tres Borrachos: Showed a new gear in the Swaps, rating then pouncing in the stretch, a strategy that would do wonders here. Unlike Colonel John, this colt has run well over dirt and his third in the Arkansas Derby was solid. Dad romped in the Jim Dandy (albeit over a sloppy track) a few years back, so there's a decent chance he'll take to his new surroundings. Figures to be tracking Tizbig and Da' Tara early and will look to get the jump on the field turning for home. So let's see, you have an improving sort who could be in a sweet spot at the top of the stretch. At about 12-1? Sign me up, we've found our hero.

**Pyro:** Morning-line favorite looked a sure winner in deep stretch of the Jim Dandy but blinked when Macho Ago asked him the question. We've got an awful lot of pomp and circumstance here but do we have some afternoon exploits to back it up? It's debatable. His last two, including a win in the Grade III Northern Dancer at Churchill Downs, have been steps in the right direction, but here's another who could have a lot to do turning for home. If he couldn't get up in the Jim Dandy after the leaders posted a half-mile in 46 4/5 seconds, how will he get up when they throw 48 and change out there today? Playing against at 4-1.

**Court Vision:** Hasn't progressed since his juvenile campaign and was sent to turf for his last two. Ran faster than ever in the Grade II Virginia Derby last out on the sod, but now he's back running long on the dirt. The IEAH boys are in the Travers after all, but this colt has to improve bucketloads to threaten. He's every bit of 30-1, but I doubt you will get it. Passing.

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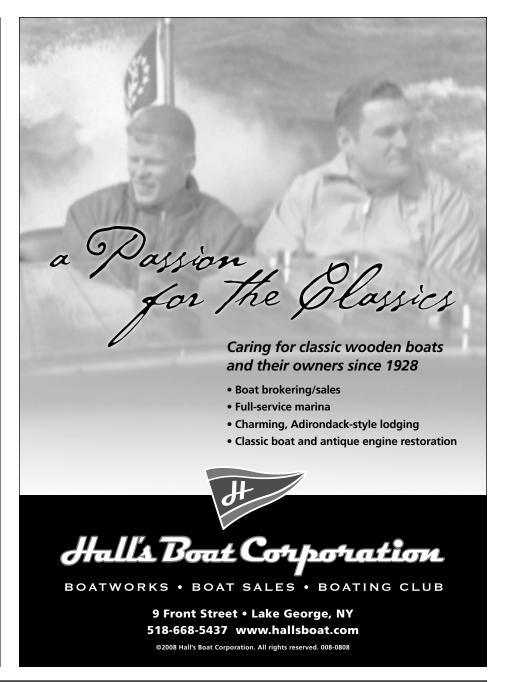
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## Goal to Go

### Big field aims for Saratoga glory in 139th edition of summer classic

#### **BY SEAN CLANCY**

Twelve horses, 10 trainers. All staring at one goal - the 139th Travers Stakes.

Remember, trainers began their quest as fans. Teased by the intrigue of a good horse, respectful of what it takes to get a good horse and agonized by the chances of demoralizing a good horse, trainers bear the brunt of taking a shot in the deep and contentious Travers. Fans sit back and watch. Trainers live and die by what happens Saturday afternoon.

"I feel like we have a very, very nice colt, but it's a very deep race," said Neil Howard, trainer of third choice Mambo In Seattle. "A wonderful group of horses when you look top to bottom."

"It's a hell of a race, it's a Group I, it's a million dollars and it's a make or break race for a stallion," said Eoin Harty, trainer of California shipper Colonel John. "The critics have been very down on this crop of 3-year-olds, but let history be the judge of who they are."

"It's an interesting race. You can see a number of things happening," said Todd Pletcher, trainer of second choice Harlem Rocker. "There's a little bit of speed and as long as there's an honest

#### **TRAVERS STAKES PREVIEW**

pace, then you can just ride your race. But it's the Travers.'

The race is there, it's a prestigious race, so we're in it. Let's just see what happens," said Nick Zito, trainer of Belmont Stakes winner Da' Tara, twotime winner Amped and Haskell thirdplace finisher Cool Coal Man. "They are all bred for the mile-and-a-quarter and how many times can you run a 3-year-old going a mile-and-a-quarter? I hope it works.'

"The race is tough, but he's here and ready to go," said Barclay Tagg, trainer of Wood Memorial winner Tale Of Ekati. "You always worry about the Travers Day conditions. It's like running the gauntlet when you come through all those fans."

The Travers - presented by Shadwell Farm - attracted three Grade I winners (Tale Of Ekati, Colonel John, Da' Tara), five Grade II winners (Macho Again, Cool Coal Man, Tres Borrachos, Pyro, Court Vision), one Grade III winner (Harlem Rocker). The only three horses to not have won a graded stakes are Mambo In Seattle, who's won his



Tod Marks

Pyro steps into the Travers as a slight favorite in a field of 12.

last three including the Henry Walton Stakes on the Jim Dandy undercard, Amped and Tizbig, who's trained by none other than Allen Jerkens.

Shake it up and see what happens.

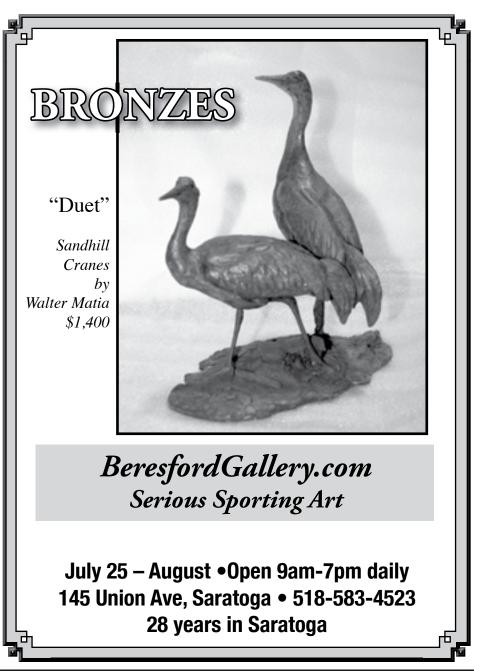
Mambo In Seattle represents the second brigade of 3-year-olds, the ones who skipped the Triple Crown wars and approached the summer as their big dance. The bay son of Kingmambo won one of four starts to begin his career and has gone undefeated in his last three. Owned by Will Farish and Mrs. William

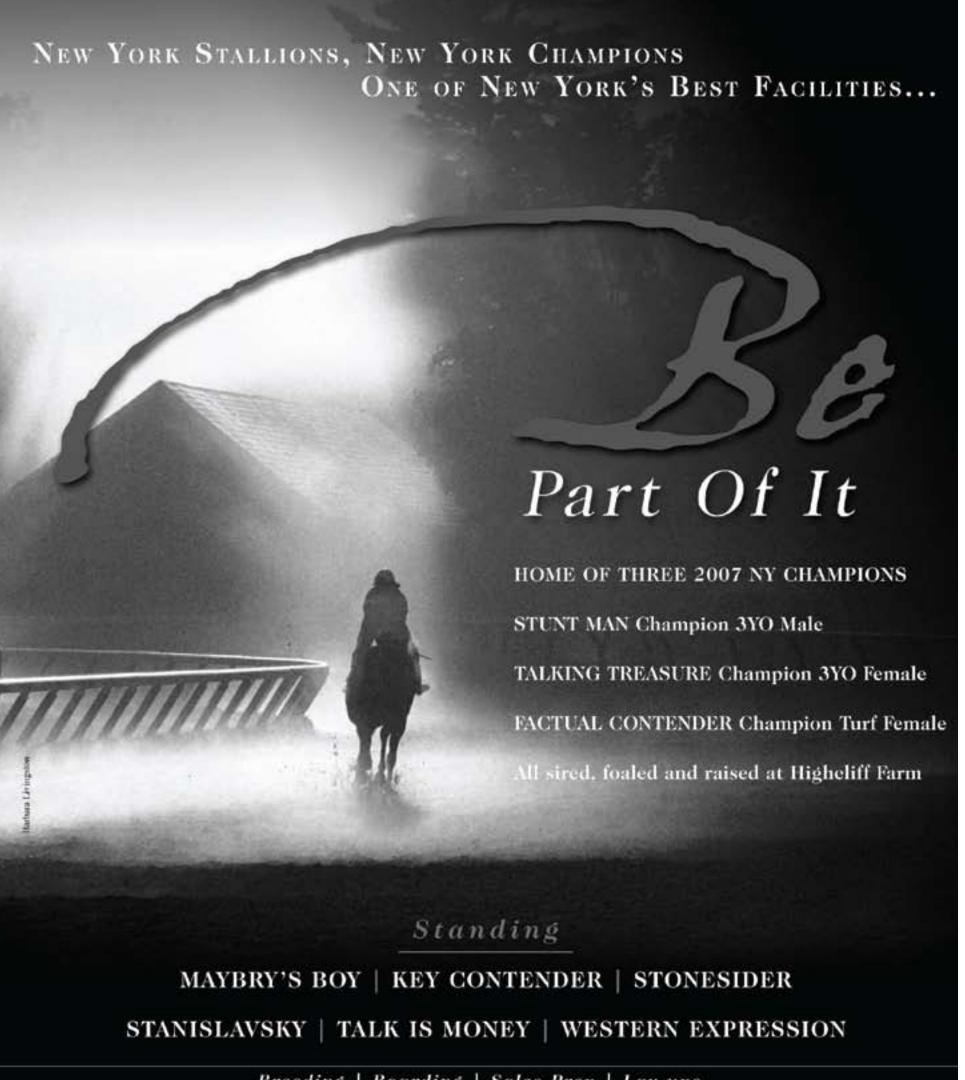
Kilroy, Mambo In Seattle won two allowance races at Churchill Downs and then benefited from the addition of the Henry Walton to the Jim Dandy undercard July 27. Under today's pilot Robby Albarado, Mambo In Seattle battled a game You And I Forever but prevailed by a neck. Conservative by nature, Howard loved that stepping stone.

"He's lightly raced but he's done everything right. He's made better and stronger progress in a short period of

See **TRAVERS** page 26 ▶







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#### Travers —

#### **■** Continued from page 24

time than an average horse, that's why we don't feel too remiss in doing this," Howard said. "He's a real professional, easy to train, very straightforward, he's got a lot of the attributes you like to see in a horse that's going to compete in a race like this. Demeanor. Professionalism. Focus. He's a good doer. He's a very good keeper. He holds his flesh. He's just one of those horses that always looks good, never worries about anything. He's a good-feeling colt, but in an honest way, not in a wishywashy way. I think that's what makes the difference - that distinction."

Mambo In Seattle made his seventh start in the Walton and it served as a perfect two-turn prep for the Travers. Since then, he's breezed three times; going a half-mile eight days after his race, then going three-quarters in 1:13 Aug. 10 and finished his preps with another half-mile Macho Again eats up the track in a workout at Oklahoma. tightener Aug. 19.

"You don't always get to stay on schedule, 99 out of 100 times something gets in your way, the horse not doing just right or making every race you want, weather keeps you from breezing every time you want to, just like people, there are some days when you're scheduled to breeze and little things happen," Howard said. "In this instance, it's been uncanny, the way things have gone for this horse. That reason was our determining factor in going to the Travers."

Howard began this journey all the way back at Churchill this spring. Mambo In Seattle finished second in an allowance race on Derby Day. While other Travers starters Tale Of Ekati, Pyro, Court Vision and Colonel John were going through the spin cycle of the Derby, Mambo In Seattle was making just his second start of his sophomore season.

"He had a chance to go through his conditions, that's what they're there for, especially when you have a good horse," Howard said. "The races went when we wanted them to, we were able to graduate in distances the way we wanted to, and we came up here and there was a race which was a little bit more competitive than a three-other-than but it wasn't the Jim Dandy. Over the track. It almost makes you wonder how things could go so smooth, it never does. We don't feel like we've pushed him over his limits to get

Harlem Rocker enters the Travers riding the same second-wave campaign as Mambo In Seattle. Trained by Todd Pletcher, Harlem Rocker carries a gaudy



Tizbig aims big in the Grade I Travers.

26



4-for-5 mark, his only defeat coming over Woodbine's Polytrack in the Queen's Plate Trial. Owned and bred by Frank Stronach, Harlem Rocker ran down King's Bishop favorite J Be K in the Withers back in April and took the Prince of Wales Stakes in his most recent start. Eibar Coa returns in the saddle.

"I thought the race that stamped him as a real quality horse was the Withers when he beat J Be K, who's obviously a real talented horse. We kind of got off track a bit when we went to the Queen's Plate Trial, he didn't seem to appreciate the synthetic surface but he rebounded and ran a big race in the Prince of Wales, he probably won easier than it looks. That was at a mile and three sixteenths, but the competition of the Travers is a lot different than there, I don't want to short-change the Prince of Wales but this is a different group of horses."

Pletcher nearly leapt from the Withers to the Preakness but he and Stronach agreed to aim the Ontario-bred son of Macho Uno to Canada for the rich Canadian Triple Crown.

"He was doing awfully well at that time. I think it would be foolish to predict that he was going to beat Big Brown, but we wouldn't have been embar-rassed in the Preakness," Pletcher said. "We're anxious about it. This horse is doing great. He's training like a real good horse and we're about to find out if he is."

In that same camp stands trainer Eoin Harty, who ships in from Del Mar with Santa Anita Derby winner Colonel John. Owned and bred by WinStar Farm, the son of Tiznow had people buzzing leading to the Kentucky Derby. He entered the Derby after six starts where he never finished worse than second. His Derby proved to be a bad date – over early. Breaking from the 10 hole, he got shuffled around like a rumor and wound up sixth. Harty opted for the exit ramp from the Triple Crown Trail and aimed at a summer campaign which began with the Swaps at Hollywood Park July 12. It also began with a loss, Colonel John finished third behind Travers starter Tres Borrachos. Jockey Garrett Gomez has the return call.

"Initially I was disappointed but when cooler heads prevailed and we realized how the race set up, the weight I was giving away, the layoff, the wide trip, it wasn't as bad as it looked," Harty said. "He's got a really good turn of foot, a late kick, but unfortunately the way the race set up Gomez had to put him in the race right off the bat. Everybody figured Tres Borrachos would sit off the speed, then he takes back and Garrett figured if he didn't put some pressure on the speed horse we were running for second, so he was committed.

Harty dismisses the fact that Colonel John has done most of his running over a synthetic track and comes to Saratoga confident.

"He's a really easy horse to train, he puts so much into everything he does," Harty said. "He's training really well, he acts like he's sitting on a big one."

Trainer Dallas Stewart had Macho Again sitting on a big one in the Jim Dandy July 27. The West Point Thoroughbreds' colt could have gotten a job



Court Vision eyes a Grade I win in the Travers.

with US Postal Service, delivering despite traffic and mud. Macho Again got past Tiz Now Tiz Then late and then had to hold off an onrushing Pyro. He and jockey Julien Leparoux took the Grade II stakes by a half-length over Pyro.

"He hasn't had to do much since the Jim Dandy, just two little half-mile breezes," Stewart said. "He's a tough horse, he lets you know how he's feeling and I think the mile and a quarter suits him."

Jockey Shaun Bridgmohan knows too well that the 1 1/8 miles of the Jim Dandy suited Macho Again just perfectly. The regular rider of Pyro nearly ran down Macho Again but just couldn't seal the deal in the final strides. Bridgmohan has ridden Pyro, trained by Steve Asmussen for breeder Ron Winchell, in all 10 starts. Pyro has one way of doing things and that's arriving late on the scene. That won't change in the

"There were things I could have done, I had a chance to move a little earlier, Macho Again got the jump on me. I was thinking I needed to ride my horse and not worry about any other horses," Bridgmohan said. "That's the same format I'm taking into the Travers, because he's a horse you have to be alert with what he's doing and not what everybody else is doing. Strategy-wise, I can't be taking him out of his game, I know how he likes to run and I'm not going to play cute and try to do this and that, I'm going to ride Pyro for who he is, straightforward."

See *TRAVERS* page 28 ▶



Tod Marks

Belmont winner Da' Tara enjoys a bath at Saratoga.



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#### Travers –

#### **■** Continued from page 26

Bridgmohan thought he had Macho Again measured in the Jim Dandy but couldn't quite get to the resolute gray.

"Yeah, I thought I was going to get there. He gave me a nice run and I thought for sure he was going to get the job done," Bridgmohan said. "He got a little tired, I expect him to move forward off that race. I expect him to run another big race. He's a horse you have to really pay attention to. He was getting to Macho Again the last time so giving him more distance should help him. He's such a willing horse, when he's right, he lays it out there for you. That's all you ask, that's why I have to do what's right for Pyro and not worry about anybody else.

Tale Of Ekati failed to finish off his run in the Jim Dandy, winding up fourth for owner Charles Fipke and trainer Barclay Tagg. Tale Of Ekati rallied to win the Wood Memorial in April and finished better than any other Travers starter in the Derby when staying on to be fourth. Edgar Prado rides.

Belmont Stakes winner Da' Tara will try to take the field on a merry dance like he did in the final leg of the Triple Crown. Trained by Nick Zito for owner Robert LaPenta, Da' Tara couldn't shake Mint Lane in the Jim Dandy and cooked on the lead, winding up last. Alan Garcia has the return call.

Allen Jerkens admittedly takes a shot with one-time winner Tizbig. The massive son of Tiznow recently finished second in an allowance race. Recently,

as in six days ago. Owned by Long Bay Stable, Tizbig has the Chief (have you heard, they call him the Giant Killer?) and entices Cornelio Velasquez to stay put.

Zito reaches into his paint can and throws Cool Coal Man into another Grade I contest. The paint stuck in the Fountain of Youth and the Spend A Buck, earlier this summer at Monmouth. The Mineshaft colt finished third behind Big Brown in the Haskell and gets the services of John Velazquez.

Amped completes Zito's threepronged Travers attack. A son of Fusaichi Pegasus, Amped closed some ground in the Henry Walton but never threatened Mambo In Seattle, ending up third. Jorge Chavez has been aboard in his last three starts and will be again in the Travers.

Beau Greely upset the Swaps with Tres Borrachos and will try to turn the trick again. Owned by Greely, his brother John and Phil Houches, Tres Borrachos stands 2-for-10 in his career and vaults out of his best performance to date. Tyler Baze ships in for the ride.

Court Vision rounds out the field from the outside post. Owned by IEAH Stable and WinStar Farm, Court Vision played hard on the Triple Crown scene but failed in the Fountain of Youth, the Wood Memorial and the Derby. Trainer Bill Moot re-routed to the turf and he finished fourth in the Colonial Turf Cup and a hard-fought second in the Virginia Derby. Kent Desormeaux, aboard for the first time in the Virginia Derby, rides again.



Tod Marks

Colonel John sports a blue sheet at Saratoga earlier this week.

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## Back In Town

Thinking of old friends, Gilchrist returns to Saratoga with speedy filly

#### **BY KAREN JOHNSON**

Greg Gilchrist came to Saratoga for the first time three years ago with the undefeated Lost In The Fog, a 3-yearold who kept his unblemished record intact by winning the Grade I King's Bishop.

The trainer returns today, venturing from his Northern California base with another undefeated 3-year-old sprinter, Indyanne – the morning-line favorite in the Grade III Victory Ride.

Much has happened since Gilchrist ran Lost In The Fog in the 2005 King's Bishop.

A brilliant sprinter who possessed the determination to outlast his rivals in 11 of 14 career starts, Lost In The Fog was euthanized Sept. 17, 2006, less than two months after being diagnosed with incurable cancer.

Two months ago, Gilchrist lost another friend when Harry Aleo, Lost In The Fog's owner, died from complications of cancer. He was 88.

Gilchrist, 60, has marched on despite the sorrows of the last few years. He continues to do well with his stable of 25 to 30 horses at Golden Gate Fields,

#### **VICTORY RIDE STAKES**

and currently is striking at a 28 percent win rate with his starters.

The star in the barn is Indyanne, owned by David and Jill Heerensperger. The filly is undefeated in four starts – emphatically so. She's won by a combined 32 1/2 lengths, and has never been headed. Indyanne became a graded stakes winner in her last start, the Grade III Azalea at Calder July 12.

Even in good times, Gilchrist has Lost In The Fog and Aleo on his mind.

"It doesn't seem like it has been three years since I was here with Lost In The Fog," Gilchrist said Friday morning. "I told someone that I probably had more respect for Lost In The Fog than for 75 percent of the people I know. He was quite an animal. And to think, he was running here that year and just about a year later he died. The last race he won was at Churchill in June, and in September he was dead."

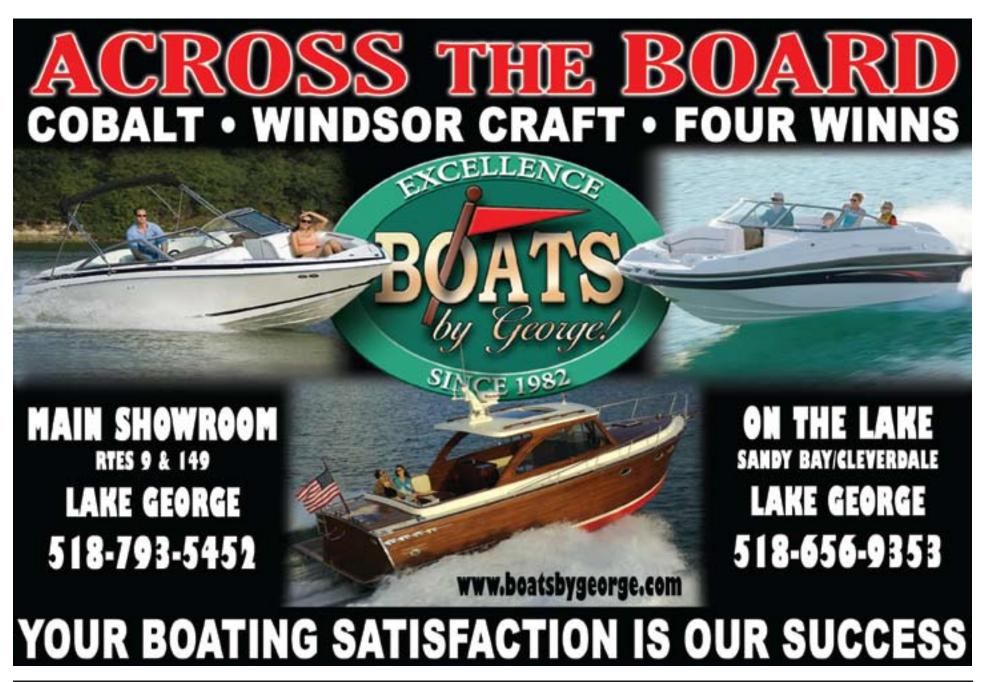
It still hits Gilchrist hard.

"When he died, he had 100 pounds of tumors in him" he said. "I've been

See *GILCHRIST* page 32 ▶



Unbeaten filly Indyanne takes aim at today's Grade III Victory Ride for California-based trainer Greg Gilchrist. Three years ago, Gilchrist's Lost In The Fog won the Grade I King's Bishop.





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#### Gilchrist —

#### **■** Continued from page 30

doing this a long time, and I've not had one die of cancer that I knew of. I just had a very close connection to that horse. He was like a best friend to me. If he had been a person that would have been the guy you wanted to be in the foxhole with. He would not let you down, that horse."

Aleo got into the business in 1979, and Gilchrist was his one and only trainer. The two shared their first Grade I win when Lost In The Fog rambled home in the King's Bishop. The colt later won the Eclipse Award as champion sprinter of 2005, despite finishing seventh in the Breeders' Cup Sprint, the first defeat of his career.

"Twenty-nine years, Harry and I we were together," Gilchrist said. "I was the only one to train for him. That's a rarity in any business. You don't get people that are that loyal. We disagreed a lot, but we had the same basic ideals on what life is really all about, and what makes good people and bad people. We both are pretty hard-headed that way,

Gilchrist had been training five years when Aleo tracked him down at the state fair in California. Aleo was familiar with the Gilchrist's early success, and wanted his guidance in getting started in the business.

"I got a message at the stable gate of the fair to call this Harry Aleo," Gilchrist said. "So, I just called the number, and it kind of took off from there. I remember the first horse I bought him, Sunny Shy. We gave \$10,000 for him, and I think he ran fourth or fifth the first time we ran him. The next time we ran him, he won."

Gilchrist learned the ins-and-outs of the horse business from his father, trainer "Boots" Gilchrist, and two uncles, also trainers. Gilchrist said his father taught

him just about everything he knows, and routinely gave his son horsemanship lessons.

"My dad was just a real excellent horseman," Gilchrist said. "He understood horses. When I would do something wrong, he would look at me and just shake his head. He would say, 'Son, you've got to be smarter than a mule if you want to plow the field.' I wondered why he kept saying that to me, and it fi-

nally dawned on me one day. Once you put that to use, and try to understand what the animal is doing, it can help you lot."

Indyanne sparked something in Gilchrist the first time he saw her, and he wasted no time in recommending her to the Heerenspergers, who purchased the daughter of Indian Charlie for \$375,000 at Fasig-Tipton's 2-year-old-in-training sale at Calder.

"I got the tapes of the horses in the sale (breezing)," Gilchrist said. "My God, when she went across the screen, I said, 'Stop it right there. Back that one up.' It was like a pretty woman walking into a room. She just made your head

turn. She was just a machine. No wasted action, at all.

'She's a little back at the knee, and she had a splint on her," he added. "In fact, I think John Ferguson (agent for Godolphin) was looking at her pretty close. I didn't think I had any chance. And then for some reason, right at the end, they were off the filly. Actually, it hurt Terry Oliver (the consignor), I think, because most people knew Fergu-

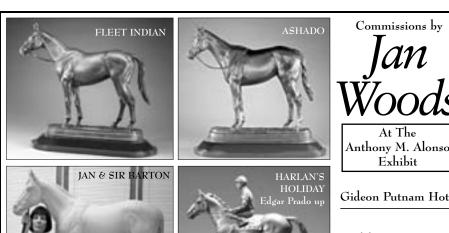
> son was looking at her and how are you going to go up and bid against (Godolphin). Believe me; I thought she would bring three-quarters of a million.

> Gilchrist is not unfamiliar with fleet-footed fillies. He trained multiple stakes winner Soviet Problem, who finished second against the boys in the 1994 Breeders' Cup Sprint.

**Greg Gilchrist** When Soviet Problem raced in the Breeders' Cup, the only option was to take on colts; now there's a Breeders' Cup race in Indyanne's division. Gilchrist isn't committing to the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint at the moment, but that could change if Indyanne continues to run so well.

> If her demeanor Friday morning is any indication, she appears ready to extend her win streak in the Grade III Victory Ride.

> "I took her to the track and she's just looking around on her way there," Gilchrist said. "But as soon as she stepped foot on the track, she just squealed and bucked and was like, 'Oh man, this looks all right.'



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## Fighting Trim

### I'm So Lucky part of lean, live barn

**BY JOE CLANCY** 

John Ward won a Kentucky Derby with Monarchos. He won a Kentucky Oaks with Gal In A Ruckus. He trained champion Beautiful Pleasure. But he's endured some lean Saratoga seasons the last couple of years.

The Kentucky-based trainer has made amends this summer, however,

with three wins, a second and a third in five starts.

"We retired a lot of our well-bred females that weren't quite up to the task; they get to be moms now, said Ward Thursday. "We also have the luxury of bringing the ones that are really top-drawer to Saratoga and they're running well. We've also been lucky to get more good homebreds into the system."

Ward's string in Barn 77 on the Oklahoma side includes just eight stalls, but small does not necessarily mean weak. The Ward barn percolates quality with such horses as Forest Command, Dr. Pleasure and I'm So Lucky.

#### KING'S BISHOP STAKES

King's Bishop (Gr. I) and looks primed for a solid effort off three consecutive wins for owner John Oxley. The son of Langfuhr, 8-1 on the morning line, breaks from the 10 post in a field of 11. Worth \$250,000, the 7-furlong test almost always lures a quality field and this year is no different.

> Kodiak Kowboy, J Be K and Desert Key headline, but will need their track spikes in what looks like quick group. I'm So Lucky makes his stakes debut a year after making his career debut here in a roughly run juvenile maiden won by J Be K. Third in his next start, he missed the rest of 2007 with a hairline fracture of a pastern. Oxley and Ward have been rewarded for their patience as

I'm So Lucky won a Keeneland maiden and a Churchill Downs allowance before dispatching optional-claiming foes here Aug. 2.

"He stayed in Kentucky when the rest of the stable went to Florida, and when The latter starts in today's NetJets the pastern healed up he came to Flor-



Tod Marks

I'm So Lucky moves from this optional-claiming win to the Grade I King's Bishop.

ida," Ward said. "That was February, and he's trained right on since then."

The stocky chestnut has already won at 7 furlongs and should be able to craft a stalking trip outside the leaders. Still, the horse rises from optional claimer to Grade I stakes and has a few lengths to make up on the major players in the King's Bishop.

"It was a mutual agreement between us and the Oxleys that he needed this next step," said Ward. "It's the last time you get to run against straight 3-yearolds. He's able to rate and just lay wherever you want, which will get him pretty far in this race. He has great acceleration off of a stalking kind of a trip."

See **WARD** page 34 ▶



John Ward

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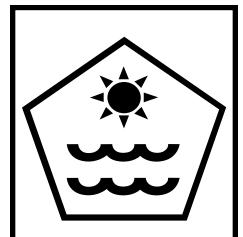
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I'm So Lucky in the winner's circle.

### **Ward** —

#### ■ Continued from page 33

I'm So Lucky is a testament to patience and perseverance. He made his career debut here in late August, losing by 18 1/2 lengths to J Be K while getting bumped early. The son of Langfuhr didn't run again until October, and finished third at Keeneland.

Then he really took a break, missing the winter while recuperating from the pastern injury. The hairline fracture healed with time, and I'm So Lucky returned to the afternoon with a 7-length score in a Keeneland maiden race in late April.

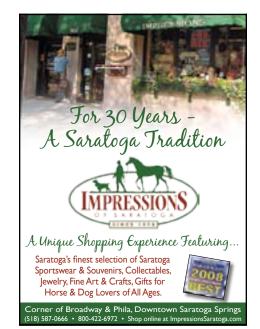
He parlayed that into a first-level allowance win at Churchill June 11 and then notched his Saratoga score.

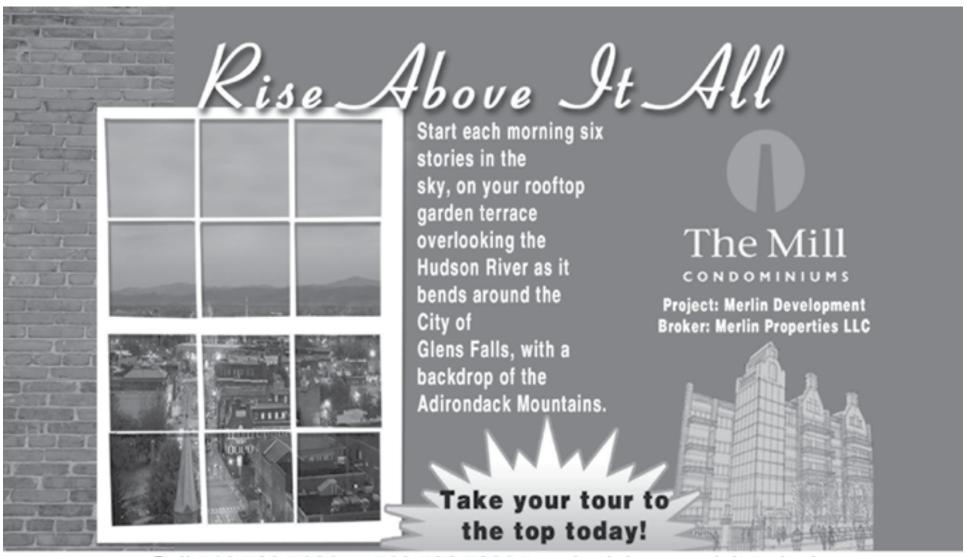
The \$240,000 Keeneland September purchase starts without a layoff line for the first time in his five-race career.

Ward expects a sharp horse.

"The 'two-other than' condition in New York is a tough one to make so that was a pretty good effort," he said. "The handicappers need to look at that. It was against 3-year-olds and up and now he goes back to just 3-year-olds. His numbers look like he's got to step up 5 or 6 lengths, but the other favorites have had a hard race and he didn't. If we're ever going to catch them this might be the time."



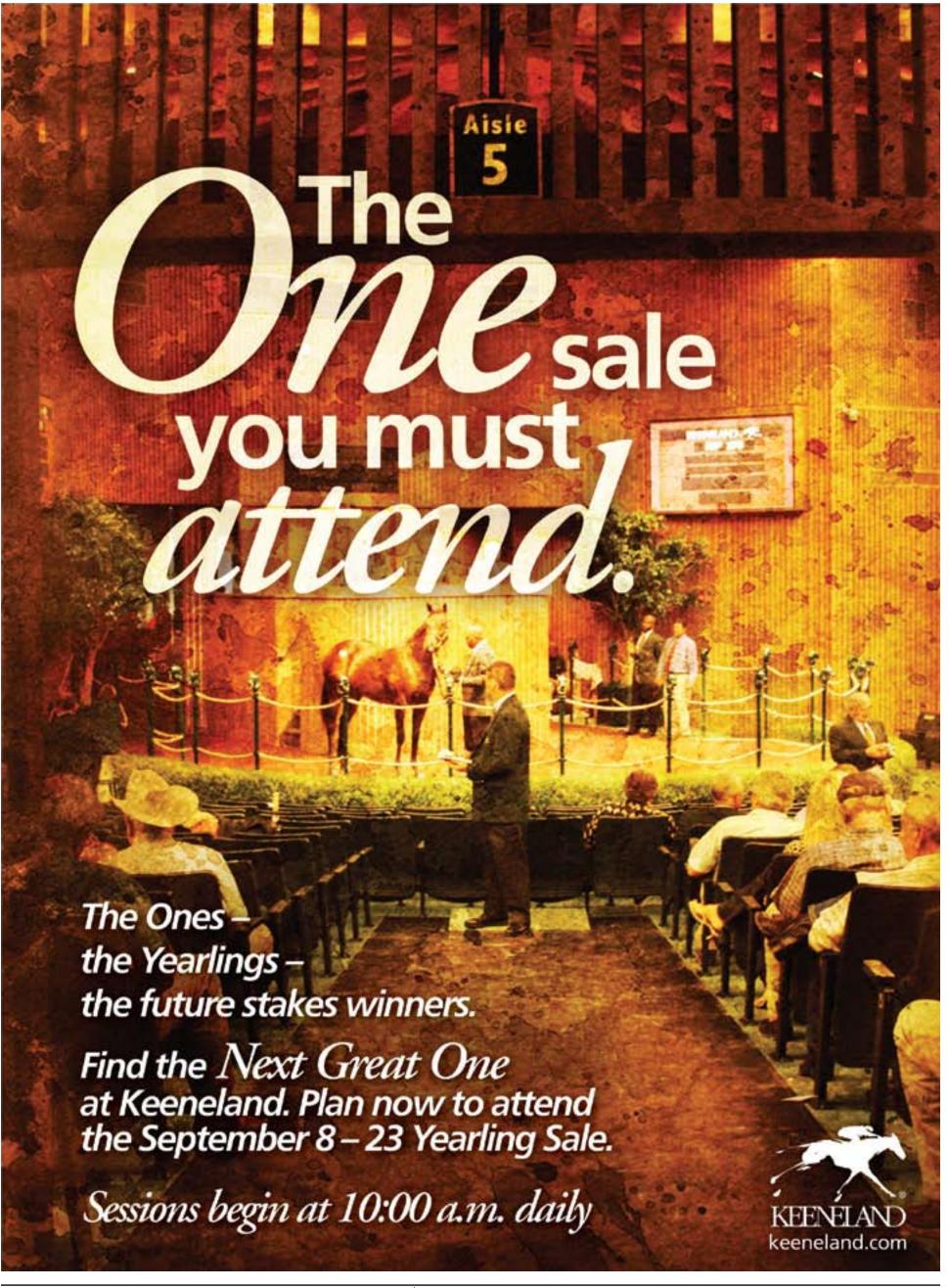




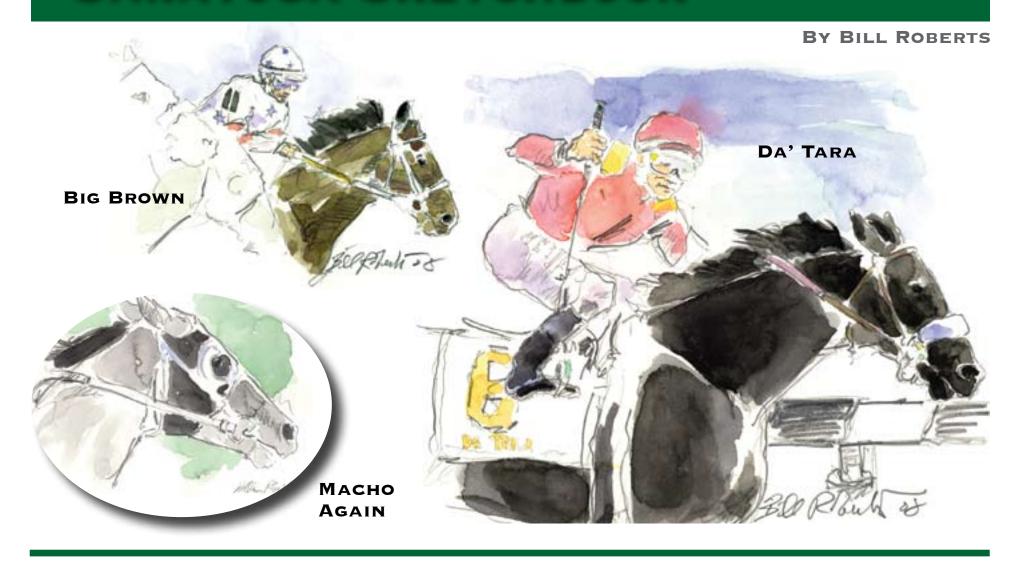
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## SCHOOL DAYS NARA students past and present keep learning on the backside



After working summers at Keeneland, Anna Roberts came to Saratoga for the summer.

#### **BY LAURA PEPPER**

aratoga is the summer place to be. The slogan rings true for railbirds and racetrackers, and even more so for four students of the North American Racing Academy (NARA), a jockey school founded and run by Hall of Famer Chris McCarron.

All three female graduates of the school's first class and one current student of the second class are working at Saratoga this summer, at stables that they were connected to through the school.

Jackie Davis rides for Allen Jerkens, Jessica Stidth works for Ken McPeek, Anna Roberts exercises horses for Al Stall Jr, while current NARA student Mike Straight works for the Prestons, a part of the stable of Oxbow Racing trained by Charles Dickey.

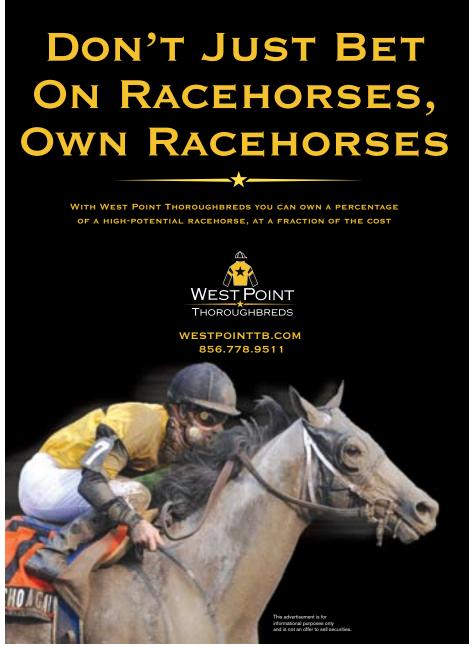
They all hope to gain enough firsthand experience to be ready to compete at a high level, and ride in races on a regular basis. Many days, the students come out to the track in the afternoon. They welcome each other with warm greetings, sit together on a picnic bench, say hi to jockeys such as Robby Albarado and Channing Hill, and watch the races together. They even hang out together downtown on occasion. Mostly, their lives center around horses.

On Opening Day of the Saratoga meet, Straight raced through the rain in search of a TV simulcasting Ellis Park. His twin brother, Matt, an NARA graduate, was riding in the opener.

While his brother completes his first round of apprenticeship at the Kentucky track, Mike rides in the morning and takes care of horses for the Prestons, working toward the day he loads into the Saratoga gate.

See **JOCKEY GRADS** page 39 ▶





## **Jockey Grads** —

#### **■** Continued from page 38

"I always dreamed about riding here when I was younger, and I figured since we have the summer off, there's no better place to be," Straight said. "The Prestons gave horses to Chris for us to learn on, so I kind of got connected through them. They told me they were going to send a bunch of horses up here, so I said, 'I'm in, I'm ready.' "

Straight has been at Saratoga since the beginning of July and hopes to stay until the end of the meet. Since NARA's school year starts at the end of August, McCarron will have the final say on whether or not Straight can continue working through Labor Day. Straight hopes that he can stay.

"(Chris) knows that this is where I want to be and what I want to be doing this summer," he said, "and it works out really well."

Straight rides five or six horses on any given day, depending on if they're breezing or not.

"You've got to be ready for anything, especially when you're on the horses." he said. "You have to be ready, and have fun."

At the school, there are less than a dozen horses out on the track at one time. At Saratoga, however, there are quite a few more.

"In the morning we expected it. There are so many horses out there you've just got to be on your game at all times," Straight said. "I've never been on a track with that many horses, so it's a really good experience. Being around here with a lot of the top jockeys, being around those guys and just getting used to a lot of horses on the track, you know you've really got to watch what you're doing."

Straight grew up in East Greenbush, just south of the Spa, and he and his twin brother have been coming to Saratoga since they were kids.

He's attended every Opening Day since he was 8, and never experienced one like this year's rainswept version.



aura Pepper

"I always dreamed about riding here when I was younger," said Mike Straight, whose twin brother is a NARA graduate.

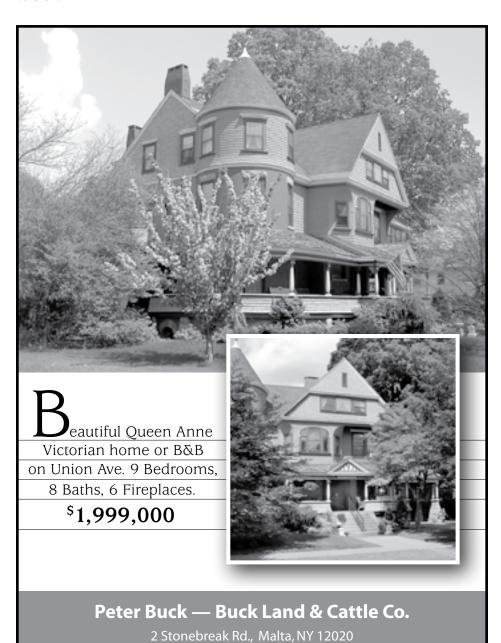
As a third-generation racetracker, Kentucky native Jessica Stidth was born for the horses.

Thinking that this year's meet would be her last opportunity to work at Saratoga, Stidth couldn't stay away. She asked trainer Ken McPeek, a family friend, if she could join the crew coming to Saratoga, and he gave the OK.

The two had come in contact several times over the years at the horse sales, and were also connected through Ken's wife, Sue, and Stidth's mother. Both women are photographers, and knew each other before Sue became a McPeek.

"Chris McCarron and I were walking around Keeneland looking for an internship to set me up with," Stidth recalled, "and Kenny was Chris' top choice. I've been with him since."

See **JOCKEY GRADS** page 40 ▶



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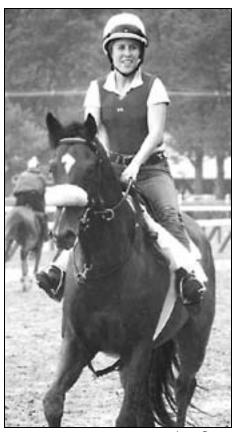


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FF-268 (508)



So far, Jessica Stidth is the only graduate to take part in an official race outside of the school.

## **Jockey Grads** —

#### **■** Continued from page 39

In the second half of the NARA program, each student is required to intern for a trainer for a semester. Stidth began her internship with McPeek last November.

So far, she is the only female graduate to take the reins in an official race outside of NARA's graduation race, and the first graduate to do so overall. She rode Greenwood Lady twice at River Downs in Ohio earlier this summer. For her first race, 5 1/2 furlongs on the dirt, Stidth headed to the gate with McCarron as her pony boy. Surprisingly, it was the Hall of Fame jockey, not the rookie, who felt the pressure of the moment.

"He was a nervous wreck," Stidth said of McCarron.

Fifth in her debut, the next race was a maiden at a mile; Stidth finished third.

"I couldn't have asked for two better experiences for my first two races," she said.

Many graduates and current students went up to see the race. The second class tend to Greenwood Lady at the NARA barn, grooming, galloping, and breezing her as she awaits her next race.

"I really wanted to do well that first race especially because it was their filly; it broke my heart and I think it tore me up more than anything that I didn't at least hit the board with her and we ran fifth . . . I just wanted to win it so bad for the students because they work so hard with her," Stidth said.

Due to neck issues arising from a spill off a horse at McPeek's Magdalena Farm, Stidth took some time off from the races to better heal.

"When I start my races I want to be a hundred percent," she said.

Her next race depends solely on when a trainer will put her on a horse. Only then can she get her apprentice license for Saratoga, but she does hope that she will be able to ride at the New York track before the meet ends. For now, she will continue riding in the mornings.

See **JOCKEY GRADS** page 42 ▶



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## **Jockey Grads** —

#### **■** Continued from page 40

"I like the feel of it. I like that I feel as though I've gone back in time somewhat in New York racing," Stidth said. "My father rode here, and my grandfather rode here, so even though they're not here physically with me now, I can feel a presence with them, and even my mom, I know my mom's been up here, and I just feel like so many greats have been through here and wonderful people in my family, so it's historic. It's classic, and just to be out here on the track, I've got a smile on my face all morning long . . . I can't keep a smile off of my face."

Advice comes daily from parents and elsewhere, and Stidth takes it all in.

"So many people say that there are three tracks you have to see – Del Mar, Keeneland and Saratoga. This was my last part of the triangle," Stidth said. "Keeneland is my home track. I learned how to ride a bike out there, I learned how to drive my car out there, and I breezed my first horse out there. I worked at Del Mar when I got out of the Navy. I worked in a television truck and oddly enough, I never saw a live race because I was in the truck all the time, but it was still wonderful."

Stidth spent two years in the Navy, going to boot camp (where she won more awards there than any of the 1,100 other sailors) in 2001 and she looks back fondly on her service.

"It was great," she said. "It was a great confidence-building experience. It made me realize that I was actually a strong person."



Laura Pepper

Jacqueline Davis, daughter of former jockey Robbie Davis, heads to the track.

Jacqueline Davis is no stranger to Saratoga Race Course; her father, former jockey Robbie Davis, was a mainstay on the New York circuit for many years. Jacqueline grew up at the track, spending her summers watching her dad ride at the Spa. She even worked here a few years, manning one of the information booths, among others duties.

"It's home. That's mainly why I wanted to come," she said. "It's home."

Davis' father was hesitant about her becoming a jockey.

"At first he wasn't too happy because it's dangerous, and he knows what he went through, but now that he sees that my heart is in it and it's all I want to do, he's right behind me. He's ready to go," Davis said. "It's always been my career choice, like 'Oh, I want to do this, I want to be a jockey.' But you know how little kids have a lot of things they want to do? I've always known I want to do this."

Davis said that she is not going to race into the gate before she's ready; she wants to gain as much experience on the backside as she can, and learn enough skills to help her during her career.

She began working for trainer Allen Jerkens at Gulfstream Park in January. Perhaps during the Belmont or Aqueduct meet, The Chief will give Davis her first mount. To ride at Saratoga would be the ultimate for her.

"Oh God, that would be such a dream," she said. "The elite come here. If I have a chance to ride here you would probably see me in tears. I'd be grinning ear to ear and you'd see my tears, and you would see a big crowd of my family."

Working for the legendary Jerkens, Davis has gained a lot of knowledge.

"I learned how to follow instructions better. . . . you have to do things the way he wants to," she said. "I learned better balance on their horses. I had a good seat to begin with, but when I got to their barn I had to have a better one.

"Getting on and working a lot of different horses, makes you think on your toes. You can be quicker to react, especially if you get on horses that aren't well-behaved; especially in the gate, you learn how to react quicker. That's another thing I learned working at Jerkens' barn; my reaction time is better."

Davis is the second of six children, and the only one who has attended NARA – so far.

"I love the whole of racing. I was obsessed with it," she said. "It looks fun. The adrenaline rush looks incredible. My dad started on us when we were little – looking for the next rush. We're

See JOCKEY GRADS page 44 ▶



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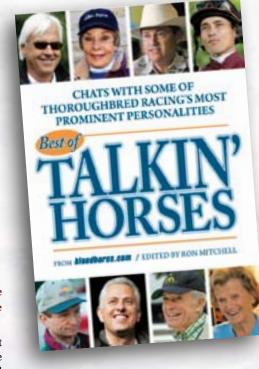
How do you balance family and work when you have to spend so much time at the barn and you have a young child at home? — Las Vegas, Nevada

We all sacrifice, but by the same token we all reap the rewards. Training is a 24/7 job. I may not be the first one to the barn in the morning, but I'm there every day. So far it's worked out great. [But] my ex-wife hates me, some days [my wife] Jill hates me, and Bode calls me Bob.

## JONES

What do you like to do for fun when you are not working with the horses? Do you have other hobbies? — Newark, Delaware

I have two [other] things: I eat and I sleep. But horses are it. If I had an opportunity I would love to go watch the rodeos, see things, and be around things [like] I used to do, to see how it has changed. But basically, it is all horses all the time. It would be great to spend time with old friends.



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#### JERRY RAIL FY

What did you eat for your first big meal when you knew your riding was completed? — Cincinnati, Ohio

My first lunch, I ordered a Reuben sandwich, something I had been wanting to do for at least ten years. I could only finish half of it.

#### DR. LARRY BRAMLAGE

What has been your most challenging surgical procedure in your career? — Eddyville, Kentucky

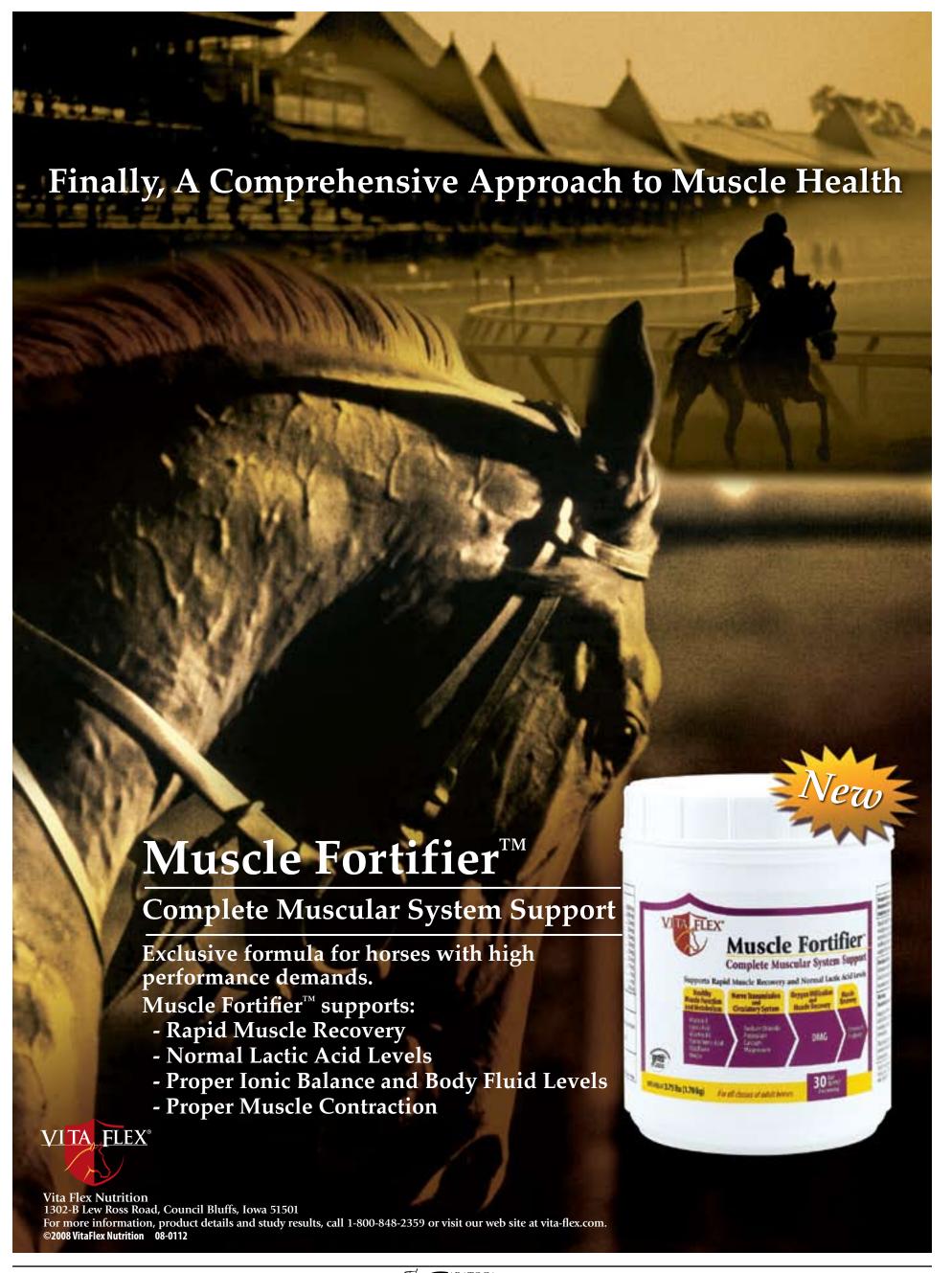
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## **Jockey Grads** —

#### **■** Continued from page 42

little daredevils. When I told him, at first he was like 'You really want to do this?' and it's 'Daddy, it's your own fault you started us, man.' (Riding races) looks like it's going to be a blast. I know I'm going to love it."

Anna Roberts is set on taking her time with the horses, waiting until she is absolutely ready to ride races. For now, she spends her time working for Al Stall Jr. and Claiborne Farm.

Roberts worked at Keeneland most of the summer, but learning that SaraNew York for the first time.

"My trainer was bringing two of his riders," she said, "and I asked him if I could go."

During her stay at Saratoga, Roberts hopes to learn more about galloping. She is already gaining other insights.

"I'm learning the surfaces, because I've been up at Keeneland and I've been on the Polytrack. I have a filly who is a freak on the Polytrack, but here, she doesn't really like it," Roberts said. "I thought she was going to do awesome . I think she still does good but she does have an issue with it here and it's interesting to see how horses deal with it."

the opportunity to be able to work in at Keeneland do not host quite as many horses as Saratoga.

> "If you're training on the Oklahoma track, it can be a little hectic; it teaches you how to be around a lot of other horses at once and be conscientious of other people on the track. On the (main) track it's wide and open and not as tight," she said, "we go there sometimes.'

Roberts began riding horses at 10, but initially took the equestrian route.

"I've always loved racing," Roberts said. "I started riding hunter-jumpers because when I started going to the racetrack, everybody told me if I want to ride, take riding lessons to get a few basics. I still take lessons and ride hunter-jumpers every once in awhile, but this (Thoroughbred racing) is

Her mom, Lynn, assistant photographer at Fair Grounds in Louisiana, is supportive. "She just wants me to chase my dreams," Roberts said.

The NARA contingent are all chasing their dreams. As up-and-coming female riders, Stidth, Davis and Roberts face many difficulties ahead. However, the female graduates are ready for the

"A lot of women (are seen) as not being finishers, as in being able to hand-ride a horse. I've got to work harder at that," Davis said. "Women have come a long way and we have a long way to go. But it's a lot better than it was, you know. I've got to be stronger than the next guy, I've got to look twice as good as he does to get the same mount."

There are some that treat the women the same as the men.

"Most of the guys, if you go in with the right attitude, are going to help you out, you know; unless you mess with them they're not going to try to mess with you. It's all fair game,' Roberts said.

As representatives of NARA, the students are anxious to learn and to show others the knowledge that they have gained both at school and working in the field. They will not, however, make the mistake of going in too

"Take your time, seriously," Roberts said. "Racing is not going anywhere. There's no reason to rush it - especially the girls, because they're already harder on you, as it is. You don't want to start and mess it up. You'll never get another chance, that's just how it is. That's why I'm just taking my time. When I start, I want to be awesome."

It is only a matter of time until these up-and-comers become regular journeymen - and women.



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## Close Encounters Photo day at Saratoga

#### **FRIDAY RACING RECAP**

#### **BY JOHN PANAGOT**

The chart tells you a nose but the win photo will show you a nostril. That was the distance between the winner, Dream Empress (Robby Albarado) and Dynaslew (Kent Desormeaux) in Friday's second, a maiden special weight for 2-year-olds going 1 1/16 miles on the Mellon turf.

"That was the closest photo I've even won in my career," trainer Ken McPeek said. "Oh my God, easily the closest. Unbelievable."

Close was the theme of the day, where nine of 10 races were decided by a length or less, including three noses, a head and two necks.

Albarado had the daughter of Bernstein placed in midpack for 5 furlongs, while Concorde's Dance (Shaun Bridgmohan) set fractions of 23.03 and 47.25 seconds. At the top of the stretch, Dream Empress split competitors and held off the gutsy Dynaslew, with Concorde's Dance third. Coming off a 1-mile grass outing in her Ellis Park debut, Dream Empress had turf experience on her side.

"The race at Ellis was a bit of a throwout – if we forced her down there,

See *FRIDAY RECAP* page 45 ▶



Dave Harmon

Dream Empress (rail) holds off Dynaslew at the wire in Friday's second race.

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## Friday Recap -

#### **■** Continued from page 46

it would have probably cost us more," McPeek said. "I do think at least it was a learning experience. We knew she was really talented; we were ready for her to run her up here. I don't know what we'll do, we'll probably look at the Kentucky Cup Juvenile fillies on Polytrack next."

• Thanks to Tom Durkin, everyone at the Spa knew it was Channing Hill's 21st birthday. After the "Nebraska Kid" returned to the winner's circle aboard Critical Cathy (for the second time this meet), the track announcer drew a loud response from the crowd with the best wishes. "That's the best birthday present I can think of," Hill said.

Hill had Critical Cathy well placed throughout the sixth race, and at the head of the stretch gave his mount her cue. At the eighth-pole she was clear, but Western Sweep (Edgar Prado) came rolling to finish a head behind.

"I'll be honest, I actually thought she got beat," Hill said. "Coming down the last sixteenth, that horse was coming, I felt her breathing on my neck the whole time. But at the wire I thought she might have gotten nosed."

Trained by Mike Hushion and owned by Barry Schwartz, Critical Cathy is a 3-year-old daughter of Gold Token. Hill has worked and ridden the gray throughout her career.

See *FRIDAY RECAP* page 46 ▶



Dave Harmon

Jane Schosberg leads Sunshine For Life, trained by her son Rick (left), into the winner's circle.

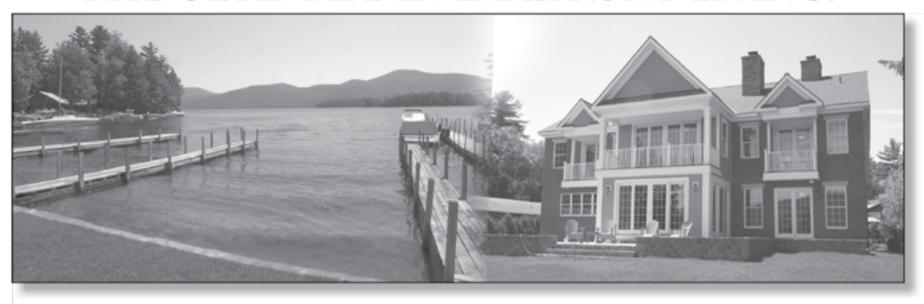
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## Friday Recap —

#### **■** Continued from page 47

"When she broke her maiden I thought she was a nice filly," the jockey said as he signed an autograph for a fan. "I was breezing her a little before that and I always thought she was going to be all right. But when she broke her maiden, she did it like a pretty nice horse. She really showed how much heart she had today."

Hill now has eight wins on the meeting, two more than all of last year's meet.

"Basically as long I keep taking lifts and everyone stays safe then I'll stay happy. I just try to come up here and work hard, work as hard as I can," Hill said. "One of my biggest goals is to be leading rider at Saratoga; that would just be awesome. Ever since I was really, really little that's what I've wanted."

• Tight Storm (Rajiv Maragh) enjoyed the biggest spread of the day, coming under the wire 2 lengths clear to take Friday's third for trainer Gary Contessa and Winning Move Stable and Island Wind Racing.

Half of the favored entry, Tight Storm payed \$5.30 to win, with Tzipi (Hill) second and Sugarless (Mike Luzzi) third.

Maragh, Contessa and Winning Move scored again in the seventh, this time with Quick Comeback, at a stunning \$85.50. The price reminded his owner of a similar occurence.

"Second year in a row (with a longshot) like that, and I had my family here



Dave Harmon

Critical Cathy (rail) has a neck in front of Western Sweep a few strides before the finish.

for that one too," said Winning Move's Steve Sigler. "Bethpage Black did it last year."

The owner was very appreciative of his partners and showed loyalty to his connections.

"It's very nice to get two. You never lose faith in the people you do business with and your partners," said Sigler. "Like a manager who has a really good pitcher. The pitcher gets bombed three or four times in a row. They don't take him out

of the rotation. They don't lose faith."

Contessa wasn't surprised by his horse's effort. The trainer thought a different style of race would suit his colt.

"He gets run into the ground every time he runs; he finally gets a paceless race and he wins," Contessa said. "He's not a bad horse."

Bright Illusion (Julien Leparoux) finished a length behind the winner and a neck in front of Stormy Success (Jeffrey Sanchez) for second.

• Sunshine For Life (Ramon Dominguez) broke alertly and jumped out to the lead in Friday's eighth, a \$78,000 allowance/optional claimer going 1 3/16 miles on the Mellon.

The 4-year-old daughter of Giant's Causeway clicked off a quick first quarter in 23.10, while clear by 2 lengths. Dominguez managed to slow down the tempo in the second quarter; the field completed a half-mile in 48.04. The Rick Schosberg trainee was now alone by 3 lengths.

Down the stretch, Sunshine For Life seemed to be running out of daylight: 1 1/2 lengths, 1 length, where's the wire, a half-length . . . Then the wire came. Viva La Flag (John Velazquez), after gaining gradually from the head of the stretch, came up short.

"When I saw 23 flat, I was a little concerned, but you've got to realize that they're going down the stretch," Schosberg said. "They're not going to get away with 24 and change if they're not running on the turn. The second quarter was key, he backed it up to 25. from then on, I knew she was going to be tough. I thought, 'We're a longshot, maybe they'll leave us alone.' Then Shug made a big run but we held him off. We lost one by a head today and now we won one by a head."

Schosberg was as excited as they come and for good reason – his mother Jane Schosberg owns the horse.

"You want to win them all, but my mom is up here and this is her horse, there's nothing better," Rick Schosberg said. "They drove up here to see her run and this is just very exciting when it's your family operation."





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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

181. 1 1/8 MILES. 3YU. CLM 35,000. PUKSE \$45,000.						
6	Oldham	Morales S	14.40	6.50	4.20	
4	High Brass	Castellano J J		7.60	5.20	
1	Globalization	Coa E M			2.60	
Finish	Time: 1:50.95					

Trainer: Greg DiPrima. Owner: Marisa Lizza.

Dk.B./Br. g. 3 Menifee-Tuscoga, Theatrical (IRE).

Bred by Arthur Hancock III (KY).

\$2 Exacta 6-4 Paid \$107.00; \$2 Trifecta 6-4-1 Paid \$345.00

**2ND. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.** 6 Dream Empress Albarado R J 6.90 4.20

6 Dream Empress Albarado R J 6.90 4.20 3.20
7 Dynaslew Desormeaux K J 6.50 5.50
2 Concorde's Dance Bridgmohan S X 3.90
Finish Time: 1:41.49

Trainer: Ken McPeek. Owner: Livin the Dream Racing. B. f. 2 Bernstein-Chinese Empress, Nijinsky II.

Bred by Hopewell Investments, Glencrest Farm and Bryan Cross (KY). \$2 Exacta 6-7 Paid \$47.00; \$2 Quinella 6-7 Paid \$26.80; \$2 Trifecta 6-7-2 Paid \$159.50; \$2 Daily Double (6-6) Paid \$38.60

3RD. 7 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. CLM 25,000. PURSE \$39,000.

 1
 Tight Storm
 Maragh R
 5.30
 2.70
 2.10

 6
 Tzipi
 Hill C
 2.80
 2.40

 2
 Sugarless
 Luzzi M J
 3.90

 Finish Time: 1:24.26
 3.90

Trainer: Gary Contessa. Owner: Winning Move Stable & Island Wind Racing.

B. f. 4 Stormin Fever-Heirtight, Crafty Prospector.

Bred by Cheryl Green, Ashdown Farms & Malinda Fiveash (KY). \$2 Exacta 1-6 Paid \$13.40; \$2 Trifecta 1-6-2 Paid \$67.00; \$2 Pick 3 (6-6-1) 3 Correct Paid \$132.00; \$2 Daily Double (6-1) Paid \$17.60

4TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

<b>TITLE</b>	0 1/E 1 011E011G0. 10111		9 WW. 1 OI	OL WOL, OU	<b>U</b> .
9	Onoitsmymothernlaw	Migliore R	8.60	3.50	3.10
1	Cocktail Attire	Dominguez R A		2.70	2.50
3	Grand Finesse	Leparoux J R			5.70
Finish	ı Time: 1:02.56				

Trainer: Kiaran McLaughlin. Owner: Jeff Singer. B. f. 3 Johannesburg-Dancal (IRE), Mujadil. Bred by Lynda Lail (KY).

\$2 Exacta 9-1 Paid \$18.40; \$2 Quinella 1-9 Paid \$8.50; \$2 Trifecta 9-1-3 Paid \$119.00; \$2 Pick 3 (6-1-9) 3 Correct Paid \$76.50; \$2 Daily Double (1-9) Paid \$23.60; \$2 Superfecta 9-1-3-5 Paid \$887.00

#### 5TH. 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. NY BRED. MDN CLM 35,000. PURSE \$25,000.

<b>UIII.</b> <i>1</i>	I DIILDINGO. DADI. INI	DITLD. INDIT OLIN	00,000. 1	CITOL WED	,000.
10	Captain Sword	Prado E S	4.40	3.20	2.60
9	Rock Key	Velasquez C		7.00	4.80
5	DQ-Knife and Fork	Morales S			5.10
Finish	Time: 1:24.46				

Trainer: Richard Dutrow Jr. Owner: Robert Petronella. B. g. 3 Gold Token-Bella Ransom, Red Ransom. Bred by Stonewall Farm (NY).

\$2 Exacta 10-9 Paid \$24.80; \$2 Trifecta 10-9-5 Paid \$133.00; \$2 Pick 3 (1-9-10) 3 Correct Paid \$45.40; \$2 Pick 4 (6-1-9-10) 4 Correct Paid \$178.00; \$2 Daily Double (9-10) Paid \$15.00; \$2 Superfecta 10-9-5-4 Paid \$504.00

### 6TH. 6 1/2 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. AOC 25,000. PURSE \$63,000.

5 Critical Cathy Hill C 6.00 4.10 2.70 2 Western Sweep Prado E S 6.80 4.20 10 Smokin Sarah Velazquez J R 3.90 Finish Time: 1:17.09

Trainer: Mike Hushion. Owner: Barry Schwartz. Gr./Ro. f. 3 Gold Token-Boltono, Unbridled's Song. Bred by Stonewall Farm (NY).

\$2 Exacta 5-2 Paid \$47.40; \$2 Trifecta 5-2-10 Paid \$195.50; \$2 Pick 3 (9-10-5) 3 Correct Paid \$56.50; \$2 Daily Double (10-5) Paid \$13.20; \$2 Superfecta 5-2-10-7 Paid \$891.00

7TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. CLM 35,000. PURSE \$36,000.

9 Quick Comeback Maragh R 85.50 40.80 20.40 6 Bright Illusion Leparoux J R 14.40 9.50 5 Stormy Success Sanchez J 17.40 Finish Time: 1:43.30

Trainer: Gary Contessa. Owner: Winning Move Stable.

B. c. 4 Lil's Lad-Quick Alert, Gold Fever. Bred by Seguel 2003 (NY).

\$2 Exacta 9-6 Paid \$871.00; \$2 Trifecta 9-6-5 Paid \$23,323.00; \$2 Daily Double (5-9) Paid \$430.00; \$2 Pick 3 (10-5-9) 3 Correct Paid \$831.00; \$2 Superfecta 9-6-5-10 Paid \$92,778.00

#### 8TH, 1 3/16 MILES, TURF, F&M, 3&UP, AOC 50,000, PURSE \$78,000.

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	Sunshine for Life	Dominguez R A 30.60	12.80	7.40
	Viva La Flag	Velazquez J R	4.30	3.00
	Caprice (GER)	Prado E S		3.00
inish	Time: 1:53 75			

Trainer: Rick Schosberg. Owner: Jane Schosberg.
Ch. f. 4 Giant's Causeway-Million Stories, Exclusive Native.
Bred by Buckram Oak Farm (KY).

\$2 Exacta 9-2 Paid \$131.50; \$2 Trifecta 9-2-4 Paid \$641.00; \$2 Pick 3 (5-9-9) 3 Correct Paid \$4,077.00; \$2 Daily Double (9-9) Paid \$1,199.00; \$2 Superfecta 9-2-4-8 Paid \$2,721.00

#### 9TH. THE PERSONAL ENSIGN (GR. I). 1 1/4 MILES. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$400.000.

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	Ginger Punch	Bejarano R	3.30	2.70	2.10
	Lemon Drop Mom	Caraballo J C		5.60	2.90
	Unbridled Belle	Dominguez R A			2.10
inish	Time: 2:03 37	•			

Trainer: Bobby Frankel. Owner: Stronach Stables. Ch. m . 5 Awesome Again-Nappelon, Bold Revenue. Bred by Adena Springs (FL).

\$2 Exacta 1-3 Paid \$21.40; \$2 Trifecta 1-3-5 Paid \$35.60; \$2 Grand Slam (2/5/6/10-5/6/9-2/4/9-1) Paid \$433.50; \$2 Pick 3 (9-9-1) 3 Correct Paid \$4,102.00; \$2 Daily Double (9-1) Paid \$85.00

#### 10TH. 1 3/8 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. ALW. PURSE \$84,000.

6	Good Request	Dominguez R A	8.60	4.80	3.80
2	Hidden Glance	Albarado R J		17.20	10.20
8	Quasicobra	Velazquez J R			9.30
Finish	n Time: 2:17.16	•			

Trainer: Bobby Frankel. Owner: Bobby Frankel. B. c. 4 Dynaformer-Skimble, Lyphard. Bred by Juddmonte Farms (KY).

\$2 Exacta 6-2 Paid \$176.00; \$2 Trifecta 6-2-8 Paid \$1,581.00; \$2 Superfecta 6-2-8-9 Paid \$16,378.00; \$2 Daily Double (1-6) Paid \$17.00; \$2 Pick 3 (9-1-6) 3 Correct Paid \$421.50; \$2 Pick 4 (9-9-1-6) 4 Correct Paid \$25,606.00; \$2 Pick 6 (7/10-5/6-9-9-1-6) 6 Correct Paid \$106,975.00, 5 Correct Paid \$563.00

TRACK: FAST; TURF: FIRM ATTENDANCE: 22,988; HANDLE: \$4,526,727

#### FRIDAY'S CLAIM BOX

**1st:** Jumponthebandwagon by Mike Maker for Ken and Sarah Ramsey.

3rd: Tzipi by Bruce Levine for Vincent Scuderi.

**5th:** Captain Sword by Enrique Arroyo for Roberto Urrutia.

**6th:** Western Sweep by Wesley Ward, Smokin Sarah by Mitch Friedman for Sunny Meadow Farm.

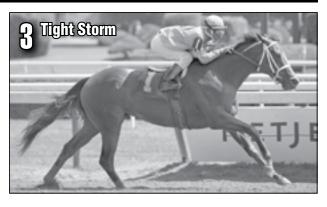
**7th:** Mogul Man by Dominic Galluscio for Sanford Robbins.



#### FRIDAY'S SARATOGA WINNERS • PHOTOS BY TOD MARKS AND DAVE HARMON









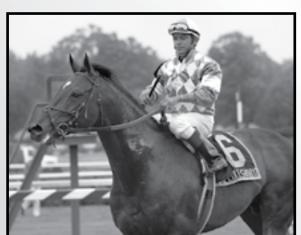








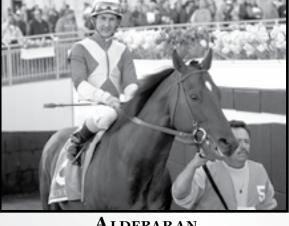




NOBIZ LIKE SHOBIZ Winner of the Grade II Hall of Fame Stakes



ALDEBARAN Winner of the Grade I Forego Handicap





SUAVE Winner of the Grade II Saratoga Breeders' Cup



Sun King • Second in Grade I Whitney Handicap Second and third in Grade I Woodward

## SARATOGA **STARS**





3225 Old Frankfort Pike Lexington, Kentucky 40510 (859) 254-0424 www.darbydan.com

## STAKES SPEAK | THE VICTORY RIDE

\$100,000 purse \* 3-year-old fillies \* Grade III \* Post time: 4:03 p.m.

The field in post-position order (with program number)

**2. PALANKA CITY**Winner of the Grade III Miss Preakness is a midwestern girl who got her start out at Arlington Park, River Downs and Oaklawn Park then entered Barclay Tagg's barn prior to the Test, settling the pace before fading to fourth. Daughter of Carson City returns to her favorite distance, where she has four wins, a second and a third in six starts.

Trainer Barclay Tagg: "I've only run her the one time so we're still learning a little bit. This is a pretty tough race for her, but there's not that much out there. She's doing well, so we'll see how it goes."

#### 1. THROBBIN' HEART

Daughter of Smoke Glacken finished second to Indian Blessing in debut here last season and has since won a pair of minor stakes.

Assistant trainer Scott Blasi: "She's OK, but we're scratching."

#### 3. MORE HAPPY

For a California girl, this filly certainly spends a lot of time in New York; though based out West with Bob Baffert, the daughter of the late Vindication is making her fourth start at the Spa, where she won the Grade II Adirondack last year.

Tonja Terranova, who helps oversee Baffert's New York horses: "She got a little bit tired last time (in the Flanders) but she's trained well since and is coming into the race in good shape. She came to us last year ready to run and she took the stakes up here. She's grown and gotten bigger since last year. She was always a very easygoing horse to train and that really hasn't changed since we had her with us."

#### 4. INFORMED DECISION

Broke her maiden at better than 26-1 down at Gulfstream Park, then got put up over fellow Victory Ride entrant J Z Warrior in her next outing there. Daughter of Monarchos has been on the shelf since running away from an allowance field over Keeneland's Polytrack in April.

Trainer Jonathan Sheppard: "She's fairly aggressive but in a good way. She's fast, no doubt about it. We're throwing her in the deep end a little bit, running in a Grade III stakes off a four-month layoff. She was going through, for want of a better word, growing pains . . . inflamation in her knees, nothing you could really put your finger on so they said to back off of her, so we did. Dean Richardson looked at the bone scan results and mapped out a little program for us and we've followed it fairly religously. A month of jogging, a month of galloping, then start mixing in some slow breezing the third month and then go on with her, that's what we've done and knock on wood she's done pretty well. She's had two fast works. I was toying with an allowance race next week if I pick up the Form and think it's too tough. I know there's one good filly in there from California. (Looks at Form). She's undefeated? Well, we'll think about it."

#### 5. INDYANNE

She's not only undefeated, nobody's ever come close to her. The daughter of Indian Charlie enjoyed three laughers in northern California, then travelled to Calder and dismantled the Grade III Azalea, posting a faster time (1:10.92) than Benny The Bull (1:11.41) did 90 minutes later in the Smile Sprint Handicap.

**Trainer Greg Gilchrist:** "There's an old saying in horse racing – 'time only counts when you are in jail.' So, do I think she can outrun Benny the Bull? I wouldn't go as far as to say that. But she did run faster than him that day and that is certainly a good indication. Pace is everything. She certainly ran awfully well that day. The good part about that was that she won by 9 1/2 lengths, so she actually was eased up at the end. So it was a pretty impressive race.

"Actually, in the (Azalea) we wanted to be lying second or third. But she went in 21 and change, so who was going to be in front of her? There are a couple of real legitimate speed horses in (the Victory Ride). We would welcome some pace. I would like to see her lay off of them. In the long run, it can make a better horse out of her. You don't want to be just one dimensional if you can help it. However, it is going to be the same thing; we are not going to change anything we do. We are going to let her run away from there, and just see what other people are doing, and make an adjustment from there, if we have to."



Tod Marks



#### 6. PORTE BONHEUR

Daughter of Hennessy comes in off a win in the \$82,000 Flanders here Aug. 2 for a trainer who's been enjoying a lovely meet.

Trainer David Duggan: "I wasn't too happy to see Indyanne in there, but this is kind of the spot we have to go to. When I first got her I thought she was a decent filly, they paid a lot of money for her, so there's no questions she was legitimate. But it's like anything else; you've got to show it on the racetrack. She proved the other day she belongs. She's a real spitfire to be around. You know, those chestnut fillies are like redheads. But she's a good filly so you make some allowances for that kind. This is the next logical progression and she's done nothing wrong so far. You find out up here where you stand."

#### 7. SLY STORM

Daughter of Storm Cat owns a 3-for-3 mark at 6 furlongs with wins at Keeneland, Churchill Downs and Monmouth Park.

Trainer Tom Proctor: "She looks pretty good in there other than that gray freak (Indyanne). If you took her out of there, you'd like her a little more, but who knows? She's a pretty nice filly. I don't like the gray one showing up but I had a clue she was coming. I watched the race at Calder, it was pretty freaky, but who knows, you start hauling here and there, the colt (Lost In The Fog) handled it, but this is a filly. It's got to be a little hard on them, traveling coast to coast. She looked like a big, stout thing on TV. Mine will be better next year, I think she'll grow up a little.

#### **1A. J Z WARRIOR**

Daughter of Harlan's Holiday ran off by 10 lengths here in maiden breaker last year, and has two wins and a second in three tries at today's dis-

Jockey Kent Desormeaux: "She's quick. The post will help her."

## STAKES SPEAK | THE BERNARD BARUCH

\$200,000 purse \* 3-year-olds and up \* Grade II \* 1 1/8 miles turf \* Post time: 4:38 p.m.

The field in post-position order (with program number)

#### 1. DRUM MAJOR

Salty 6-year-old hasn't marched in the afternoon since last year's Baruch, but has been tuning up in the morning here for months.

Trainer George Weaver: "We gave him some time off for a little suspensory tear. He's back doing well, we've had some stop-and-go things with him this year, nothing really major. We'd have probably preferred to run him back in June but he's here and he's doing well. It's hard to get an allowance race to go, we need to get him going again, he always shows up. It wouldn't surprise me if he ended up winning it because he always tries. He's a difficult horse to be around – he's a colt and he knows it. There's a chance he might need one, but he loves this turf course and we want to give it a shot. The horse has a lot of miles in him and it's time to run. Do I think he's 100 percent cranked up? No. Is he good enough to win? Yes.'

#### 2. THORN SONG

Son of Unbridled's Song picked up two allowance wins over the course last year; won Grade II Firecracker at Churchill Downs July 4 and ran third in the Fourstardave here three weeks ago.

Trainer Dale Romans: "He's a nice horse, he's versatile, he can do whatever you want him to do and he's easy to train. He's easy on himself, and very consistent. We've always loved him, but he wasn't running as well as he was training when we first got him. So we decided to put him on the turf, to see if he'd run like he was training and that sure woke him up. He's real good coming out of his last. We wouldn't run him back if he wasn't really on top of his game."

#### 3. OPERATION RED DAWN

Third to Kip Deville last out in the Poker, turf veteran always in the mix but still seeking first stakes score.

Trainer Christophe Clement: "He's a nice horse, very consistent. But I'm not sure if I'm going to run him. We're not 100-percent sure what we're going to do, I'm not sure if he's doing as well as he should be. I have to talk to my owner and we'll make a decision . . . This race is tougher than expected. He's been a nice horse; consistent. If you keep him at a certain level he never seems to run a bad race. Kip Deville might be the best miler we have in the country and (Operation Red Dawn) ran a good race (in the Poker). A mile and a sixteenth to a mile and an eighth is his best trip. He'll run on any kind of ground."

#### 4. ELUSIVE FORT

South African-bred son of Grand Prix de Paris winner Fort Wood won a slew of graded stakes in his native land, but finished seventh in the Fourstardave, the first start for his new barn.

Trainer Raja Malek: "The horse has come out of his last race in excellent condition. He obviously hadn't run in months, and it rained excessively for an hour before the race. So the course was very deep, which I think he hates. The outside post had him five-wide around both turns, and it's going to be pretty firm turf and he's got an excellent post. He's much better and much happier, and he should do well. Hopefully, he'll be sitting right off of it. We should be able to get a good trip and he shouldn't have to be three, four, five wide like the last time."

#### 5. DISTORTED REALITY

Florida-bred son of Distorted Humor has been competitive in three Saratoga stakes tries, the latest being a closing fourth in the Fourstardave.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "Good, hard-knocking, consistent horse. He ran very well in the Fourstardave, got into a little trouble at the quarter pole but a mile and an eighth suits him a little better than the mile and sixteenth did that day. He'll go over and run hard and like a lot of turf races, somebody's got to get lucky. You lead him over there and let him do his thing, he usually shows up and tries hard."

#### 6. SHAKIS

Set the Spa ablaze at 7, winning last year's Baruch in track-record time, and boasts the biggest bankroll in the field, but hasn't hit the board in

Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin: "He's doing great and training fabulous. He had a couple of legitimate excuses to start the year but still he's in tough. The course is going to be firm, the distance is going to be right, and we know off his race here last year that he loves it here. Everything is there for a good run."

#### 7. PROUDINSKY

German-bred broke maiden in Dusseldorf and collected stakes wins at Bay Meadows and Fair Grounds, but finished 11th in his first outing in New York, the Grade I Manhattan.

Trainer Bobby Frankel: "He's a nice horse. Bad feet for the Manhattan. Hopefully they're good now. Who's the horse to beat?"







**8. SENSATIONAL HUMOR**A relative newcomer to the lawn, this son of Distorted Humor improved greatly on the green. Has faced many in today's field and owns an allowance win over War Monger here last summer.

Trainer Tom Bush: "He's an overachiever. My kind of horse. He's a really, really neat horse. The horse of Clement's (Operation Red Dawn) just beat him coming off the layoff, that was his A race. He needs to come up with his A race again and maybe more. He's a lovely, lovely horse. It's more like a Grade III. His last race was completely paceless, I'd love to get him covered up where he's in trouble, where you have to hold him, hold him, hold him, he loves that, then he gets down on his belly. He worked good the other day at the Oklahoma, he went 59 and 2 like all the way 59 and 2, not fast early and slow late. But, he's got to come up with a big one. He'll be 15-1."

#### 9. YATE'S BLACK CAT

The second half of Dale Romans' uncoupled entry, and like his barnmate the son of Black Minnaloushe has been busy, racing six times in 2008 with an allowance win, a pair of stakes seconds and a fourth to

**Trainer Dale Romans:** "I've had him a long time, when he first came in he was a big pretty horse. It took us a while to get his maiden broke but we knew he could run. He's got a totally different running style than Thorn Song. He's obviously going to close, and he's in good form so we're going to take a shot with him. Everybody wants to run at Saratoga so we're going to give him a shot. This is his distance; he likes the mile and an eighth."

**10. WAR MONGER**Big bay son of War Chant is the youngest horse in the field, but has raced over the Spa sod three times in his career.

Jockey Kent Desormeaux: "One of the most beautiful horses I ride. Balance, strength. He's easy to ride, he just hasn't had things go his way. I honestly tried some things with him when the situation was different and he didn't go for that. I let him camp three wide at Keeneland and he didn't enjoy that. He enjoys cover and I didn't get that for him. I got a lot of blame for that but in the end, it was just too tiring, it was like going a mile and a half on that yielding ground."

## STAKES SPEAK | THE KING'S BISHOP

\$250,000 purse \* 3-year-olds \* 7 furlongs \* Grade I \* Post Time: 5:10 p.m.

#### 2. DESERT KEY

Unraced at 2, this son of E Dubai has come into his own in New York with two wins and two seconds, losing by a head to Kodiak Kowboy in a cracker-jack renewal of the Amsterdam.

Trainer Jimmy Jerkens: "Hope the rail's good like it usually is on Travers Day. If you're outside a bit, you can choose to sit off them a bit. I'll leave it up to Johnny V. He just ran off in his debut, he wasn't doing very well in Florida, he wasn't eating good and I had a lot of problems with his stomach. My poor night watchman had to get him out every night. I hope I didn't screw it up the other day when he breezed, we didn't let him run, he did it in a common gallop way out in the middle of the track with his mouth wide open. I thought he went in 19, I was about to kill the exercise rider and they say, 14 and change. He'll take your breath away breezing in the mornings. I was trying to get some more stamina in him but sometimes you're better off with these type of horses just letting them run. I'm going to blow him out a little (3 furlongs in 35 seconds at Oklahoma Thursday) morning and hope he doesn't overdo it."

#### 3. GENTLEMAN JAMES

Son of Yankee Gentleman has made a home for himself in Florida, and comes north for his base at Calder, where he finished second to fellow Floridian and King's Bishop entrant Golden Spikes in his last two outings.

Trainer Myra Mora: "He's on the muscle and he's doing fabulous. He loves the cooler weather up here; that moves him up 5 lengths. We came from Calder where it was 95 degrees, so he's as happy as a clam. He's really peaked in his last two races. Nothing really happened different but I think he just started getting a clue what it's all about. We started thinking of this race after he ran so well in the Carry Back. Basically we said that if Golden Spikes is going to be in contention at Saratoga then we'd be as well. You know that old saying, 'you can't win if you're not in.'

#### 4. NAUTICAL STORM

Making his third career start – and third this meet – the son of Storm Cat is thinking big after dominating maidens here Aug. 9.

Trainer Wayne Lukas: "I'm taking kind of a flyer with him in here, he's got to step up his game, but he ran a pretty good number the other day. He's a pretty professional horse mentally, so that should help him. He was our best 2-year-old last year and we thought he could be a Triple Crown type of horse. He chipped a knee, and though it wasn't serious they wanted to take it out. So we gave him plenty of time after it and he's come back well.'

#### 5. VISIONAIRE

Winner of the foggiest renewal of the Grade III Gotham, the son of Grand Slam enters off a win going 6 1/2 furlongs in the Saratoga slop.

Trainer Michael Matz: "He's easy to be around, he's a very quiet horse. He's quiet all the time, he just does what he has to do. I thought last time might be too short for him, he was coming off 1 1/6 miles and 1 1/8 miles races, I just thought it was going to be too short, but there was no other option. We're going to try him in this race, but there is a lot of awfully fast horses in the race. The only way he can do it is coming from off the pace. A lot of those horses have awfully big numbers. The extra half-furlong will help. I'd like it even better if it was a mile, but it is what it is."



#### 6. SILVER EDITION

Fourteen starts make him the most experienced fellow in the field. While he owns just two wins, he has numerous recent stakes placings, including runner-up finishes in the Hirsch Jacobs, Woody Stephens and Jersey

Trainer Wayne Lukas: "He's just a real hard-knocking horse who goes out there and runs his race every time. He's the type of horse that you just love to have in the barn. It is the perfect trip for him and with all the speed he should get set up to make a run late.'

#### 1. KODIAK KOWBOY

Winner of the aforementioned Amsterdam in his first start for his new barn, he also took last year's Saratoga Special, making him 2-for-2 at the Spa.

Trainer Larry Jones: "Thank goodness I had gotten on some good horses recently so it wasn't such a shock, you could tell he's a good horse. A good horse. The only thing I disliked was he likes to change his leads a little more often than I would prefer. He doesn't stay on it all the way down the lane, like he's getting tired, but I guess he's just having a good

time. Whatever he wants to do. I don't care. I just don't mess with them. I learned when I was young, they told me good horses will train themselves and I didn't have the horses to prove it, and it's true. Hard Spun, Eight Belles, Proud Spell, Kodiak Kowboy, they train themselves. We train them all differently but kind of the same in that we let the horses call the shots, as long as they're not being stupid. We're not going to let them run off for a mile and a half, but as long as they go out and find a speed they're comfortable with and go on a loose rein, then we let them do whatever they want to do. My job is to ask them to change leads here if you're not going to and we're going to start here and finish up here. The rest of it is up to the horse, because I assume you're a good horse. So far, it's worked.'

7. GOLDEN SPIKES
The reigning King of Calder took the Grade II Carry Back and the \$94,000 Unbridled there over Gentleman James and will have old friend Elvis Trujillo in

Trainer Marty Wolfson: "He was a horse that ran well at two turns but he seemed to hang a bit. In the Peter Pan he moved right with Casino Drive and flattened out, so we started thinking that maybe he would be a better sprinter. He's not a big horse, not long-legged at all, but he's very athletic. I've had some Seeking The Golds before who were better going shorter and this colt fits that

mold. Since we've taken the blinkers off he's lost a bit of his speed and that's allowed him to relax which should enable him to get a good

#### 8. J BE K

First seen at Spa 2007 dusting maiden competition for Bob Baffert, the son of Silver Deputy hasn't slowed down since switching barns, taking the Bay Shore, Woody Stephens and Jersey Shore.

Assistant trainer Scott Blasi: "He is a very nice horse. This is a race we have been pointing towards all year with him. His races have been planned out accordingly for timing and race preparation. Hopefully, we will get his A-plus race. Any kind of horse that has been successful like he has, I don't think you ever take them out of their game. Garrett (Gomez) knows him very well; he's ridden him several times. We are all comfortable with what is going to happen."

#### 9. SALUTE THE SARGE

Son of Forest Wildcat has been training by the beach at Del Mar. Winner of Hollywood Juvenile and Best Pal at 2, he hasn't had as much success this year, or in his two trips over old-fashioned dirt.

Kent Desormeaux: "One run. He belongs at Saratoga. I rode him in the Del Mar Futurity and had a terrible trip. He's not fast, just a grinder."

#### 10. I'M SO LUCKY

Riding a three-race win streak from Keeneland to Churchill to the Spa, where the son of Langfuhr rolled by 4 1/4 lengths Aug. 2.

Trainer John Ward: "Have you looked at the way the gate lines up? We're just sitting outside of them all. It will let us just fall into a stalking position and not get caught up in that speed jam on the inside. We got a favorable draw, a favorable weight and a favorable Roman numeral, I, at the end of the race name. That's why we're running."

#### **1A. LANTANA MOB**

The fourth runner coming out of Calder's Carry Back (he finished third), the son of Posse makes his second start since entering Mike Trombetta's

Trainer Mike Trombetta: "This race is always a nice race, and this year it's no different. This race has made a lot nice stallions. The horse is doing well, we gave him a nice little blowout and he handled the track pretty well, so it's a good start. The seven-eighths gives him a little more time to get it together and if he's making a run, then it gives him a little more opportunity to do it. I would think we're going to be coming from off the pace, we'll be stalking to some capacity but we'll see if we can find a spot to get comfortable coming from that outside slot."

Tod Marks

## STAKES SPEAK | THE TRAVERS

\$1,000,000 purse \* 3-year-olds \* Grade I \* 1 1/4 miles \* Post Time: 5:45 p.m.

**1. TALE OF EKATI**Wood Memorial winner finished fourth in the Kentucky Derby and sixth in the Belmont Stakes, and was a close fourth last out to Macho Again in the Jim Dandy.

Trainer Barclay Tagg: "He's not very big, but he's strong. He's a tough little bastard. Reminds me a lot of Showing Up, he has the same kind of attitude. You always worry about the Travers Day conditions. It's like running the gauntlet when you come through all those fans. We paddock them, paddock them and paddock them a lot. It's not always the answer, but 90 percent of the time it helps. You take a horse over there and he'll be broken out all over and shaking and shimmying and just the fact that you did it, the next day he's fine. You never know."

#### 2. COLONEL JOHN

California invader has cleaned up over synthetic surfaces, winning the Grade I Santa Anita Derby, among others. Tries dirt for second time after finishing sixth in the Kentucky Derby.

Trainer Eoin Harty: "He's a really easy horse to train, he puts so much into everything he does. He's training really well, he acts like he's sitting on a big one."

**3. DA'TARA**Surprise front-running Belmont Stakes winner heads a trio of Nick Zito runners in the Mid-Summer Derby. Son of Tiznow got burned up in a Jim Dandy speed duel and finished last.

Trainer Nick Zito: "You just have to throw the Jim Dandy out, just throw it out. Hopefully, it won't work out like that again. He should be OK. He's been training here since spring, and he seems good."

#### 4. TIZBIG

Huge son of Tiznow has only a maiden win (and a nice second in the Dwyer to Mint Lane) to show for 12 career starts, but is on the improve and goes out for a man you can never discount.

Trainer Allen Jerkens: "We wouldn't put him in and spend all that money if we didn't think he was doing good. He's a big and strong horse. We just hope he's improving enough to where he'd make a difference, that's all. He's a longshot, and we know that. He should be extra fit because he ran just six days ago, that's the idea. Sometimes that's good and sometimes that's not. Sometimes they get extra strength from running close together and sometimes they go the other way. He's a longshot, you get lucky once and a while and you look stupid a lot."

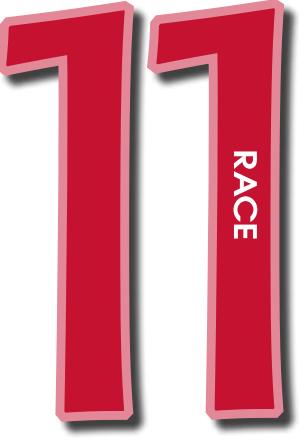
#### 5. MACHO AGAIN

Gritty gray winner of the Jim Dandy and Preakness runner-up found

Trainer Dallas Stewart: "He fits a mile and a quarter. I think we've got him back to the way he was in the Jim Dandy, but it's four weeks, it's not six weeks, not eight weeks. He's pretty tough, he'll let you know how he's

#### 6. COOL COAL MAN

Part two of the Zito-Bob La Penta trifecta won the Fountain of Youth back in February and returned from a brief freshening with a respectable third to Big Brown in the Haskell at Monmouth Park.





Tod Marks

Trainer Nick Zito: "He came out of the Haskell pretty good, that's why I'm running him back. The reason I'm taking a shot is he looked very good coming out of the race, which I was very surprised by. Sometimes they get knocked out when you go down there from here. You never know. He looked great and his workout here (a 48 2/5 half-mile at Oklahoma Aug. 14) was unbelievable. He's responded to everything, I'm happy about

#### 7. AMPED

Part three of the Zito trilogy broke his maiden at Belmont Park in May, picked up his second win July 6 and finished third (albeit a distant third) behind Mambo In Seattle in the Henry Walton here July 27.

Trainer Nick Zito: "He's obviously bred for the distance (Fusaichi Pegasus-Sweet Sarah, Deputy Minister) and most importantly he came out of the same race with Mambo In Seattle. He wants the mile-and-a-quarter, he had a race over the track and he's good right now."

#### 8. HARLEM ROCKER

The Ontario-bred is 4-for-4 on a dirt track, including a score in the Grade III Withers at Aqueduct and the \$500,000 Prince of Wales at Fort Erie in his native Ontario.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "I think he's in the same league as a horse like (Travers winner) Flower Alley. His Travers was one of those situations where we were about as confident as you could be going into the race, we felt like everything was just right. You could see it all coming together at the right time. I feel like this horse is doing just as well, now, what he's got to prove is that he can run against the top quality horses around two turns. He proved it in the Withers he can do it around one turn, now he's got to go do it at this distance."

#### 9. MAMBO IN SEATTLE

Neil Howard trainee riding a three-race win streak that includes a pair of Churchill Downs allowance and a score here in the Henry Walton that went faster than the equidistant Jim Dandy one race later.

**Trainer Neil Howard:** "His last two races have been good. Even though he ran hard, he needed something to test him but not put him over the top. He's run his races, he's performed, we know all that, now it's time to put his Tiger Woods face on which is so hard to do. The horse has trained as good as any horse I've ever had train going to a big race, that I will tell you.

#### 10. TRES BORRACHOS

Gelding has plenty in his bankroll and more dirt in his form than most Californians, though most of his success, including his recent score in the Grade II Swaps at Hollywood Park, has come over a synthetic surface.

**Trainer Beau Greely:** "He took to the track like a freight train Thursday morning and if he runs like that we'll be OK. He's trained and run well at Santa Anita, Hollywood Park and Oaklawn so I don't have any worries about him handling it here. He was broken at Calumet Farm and since he's been with us he's given us everything he's had. He's the type of horse you iust love to be around.

#### 11. PYRO

The field's lone millionaire has three graded stakes scores to his credit as well as some solid seconds, including his runner up outing in the Jim Dandy July 27.

Assistant trainer Scott Blasi: "For a 12-horse field, (post 11) wouldn't be the one we picked, but it's what we've got to work with. It's a very even field and usually the trip wins these types of races. With his style, I don't think the post compromises his chances like a horse that has a lot of tactical speed. With a 12-horse field no matter where you draw you need to get a good trip. He got pinched back at the start, a little bit (in the Jim Dandy). He had a clear shot at the winner down the lane and didn't get by him. The winner ran a good race, but our horse ran a great race as well.

#### **OURT VISION**

Winner of the Iroquois and the Remsen has been travelling over the lawn of late, including a tidy runner-up showing in the Virginia Derby, where he missed Gio Ponti by a nose.

Jockey Kent Desormeaux: "Coming to his own. He's done it before. He's versatile, he ran big last time."

## **BORN TO RUN**

Travers runners Mambo In Seattle (right) and Amped (below) get ready for their big day.





Tod Marks photos

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# Double time at The Special

"Joe, is this the biggest Saratoga Special in history?"

"Nah, I think it ties it."

"Oh, let's go up four more pages, break the record. We can do a four-page Ginger Punch photo spread. Blow it out of the water."

Yes, it's punchy in the Saratoga Special office as this 56-page paperweight (please recycle) churns its way to the newsstands. The first year we eked out eight-pagers, now we're grinding out 56-page tomes. If you're reading, at least, we know the Travers issue really made it. Right now, it feels like Everest and the sherpas just turned around.

The pizza man dropped off four pies to get us through the night. Next year, we're being sponsored by Giacone's. Four large a day and we'll product-place in every issue:

Ginger Punch spread over the field like tomato sauce on a Giacone's pie. Mambo In Seattle delivers quicker than Giacone's.

Today's is covered. We'll tip the driver

A 56-page newspaper prints in two sections, because it's too thick to go through the printer in one slice. Something we learned the hard way the second year in business at Saratoga. That's when we started selling enough ads to warrant two sections. Mind you, I stick with the Asmussen philosophy of you can never have too many horses, er, ads, so I say bring em on, we'll make it work. If every day was Travers Day, we'd be proficient at doubling our deadline, we'd be Rupert Murdoch and we'd be nuts. Edit, design, write and sell two papers a day. First one due at 3 in the afternoon. Second one due at 11 at night. Where's Asmussen when you need him?

"Sure, sure, Printer, we'll get the first section done by early afternoon No problem."

It just left the office at 6:18. Uh oh. One section still to go and we're technically three hours behind schedule. Tick. Tock. Tick. Tock. Tock.

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#### **CUP OF COFFEE**

By Sean Clancy



Right now, we need reinforcements. We need the Tom Durkin call, the Migliore left-handed whip, the Ginger Punch.

Joe works on page 42 and tries to talk to his wife.

"I'm just trying to finish . . . "

Joe, there will be another paper. There won't be another wife.

"I'm taking my five-minute break."

Joe makes his way to the back stoop. We've had a lot of back-stoop phone conversations over the years, head in hand trying to put out the fires of real life. Well, the two married guys of our office staff of seven have weathered them, nobody else, it seems. At least we have less every year – that's got to mean something. I check the back window, Joe's smiling and walking in circles. Sweet, all is well at home.

We watched Ginger Punch on tape delay on the OTB show. Nothing like watching from afar as a champion guts one out. Next year, we're going for a trailer next to Siro's, so we can run across the street to see it in the flesh. John Panagot and Brian Nadeau handled today's writing. A 2,000-word Travers story bogged me down, it's the first day of racing I've missed all meet. We sat back and cheered for the champion, agonized over the photo finish, ignoring the fact that it had already happened – we didn't know she had won it. We've learned not to take calls from the track between the time the OTB show blacks out and when it returns. No sense spoiling the outcome of races that we'll tell our grandkids about as we stroll down Broadway and Ryan, Jack, and Nolan run the show. Proud Spell. Grand Couturier. Ginger Punch. Macho Again. Kodiak Kowboy. Indian Blessing. Yeah, we like the horses.

It's 8:03 and we're working on the quotes pages for today's issues. Exclusive quotes about every starter in every stakes. Yeah, that's what we love. Tracking down Myra Mora, Raja Malek, and Michael Matz (all we needed was Michael Maker). We like when trainers march us down to a horse's stall and say, "Touch him. Touch him, man. Touch him. He's like a rock, you couldn't drive a nail through him." Then the horse turns his hind end and we're reminded that we're simply caretaker and stenographer. We'll bet on the Rock in Saturday's Travers.

If we make it that far.

We've been here 12 straight hours. Is that the Closing Ceremonies of the Olympics? Is it Thanksgiving yet?

Joe stomps out again.
"I feel like a prisoner making license

He's so dramatic.

