

FREE

The SARATOGA Special



Year 7 • No. 27

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Sunday, August 26, 2007



Street Sense fights past the stubborn Grasshopper near the finish of Saturday's Travers

Tod Marks

Street Fighter

Derby winner prevails in Gr. I battle with Grasshopper

BY SEAN CLANCY

Calvin Borel can't remember the month – whether it was April, May or June of last year. All he knew was he had never felt anything like it before.

An unraced 2-year-old worked three eighths in 34, galloped out in 47 and change at Churchill Downs. Borel could barely pull him up.

Carl Nafzger told Borel something he already knew. "This is our big horse."

Yesterday, that big horse won the Grade I Travers. Street Sense continued his march toward a championship with a calculated half-length victory over upstart Grasshopper. Street Sense, owned and bred by Jim Tafel, finished the 1 1/4 miles in 2:02.69 for his second victory at Saratoga this summer. The son of Street Cry took the Grade II Jim Dandy a month earlier, giving him two wins this summer to go along with his

THE TRAVERS STAKES

two wins – including the Kentucky Derby – this spring. Overall, he's six for 11 with earnings of over \$4 million.

Borel, who's ridden him his entire career, still remembers that first breeze.

"Oh, what I got here," Borel remembers thinking. "He was jumping from here to that table, when I stood up and galloped out, it was unbelievable, scary. I slowed him down and I'll never forget that feeling, oooh, Lord."

The feeling is still going strong.

Borel placed Street Sense closer than usual, sitting in third behind a mild pace set by Grasshopper and Robby Albarado. Jim Dandy runner-up C P West galloped along in second with Street Sense stalking from the outside through a quarter-mile

See **TRAVERS** page 4 ►

INSIDE

- Hard Spun gets it done in King's Bishop
- Shakis rallies up hedge to capture Baruch
- La Traviata as good as advertised in the Victory Ride
- Burmilla steps up in Sunday's Ballerina
- Sunday and Monday Entries/Handicapping

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Here & There at Saratoga



Tod Marks

CAJUN COMBO. Calvin Borel and Robby Albarado bump fists after finishing 1-2 in the Travers.

Worth Repeating

“How’d we ever get him beat before?”

Assistant trainer Neal McLaughlin after Shakis zoomed through the Bernard Baruch in track-record time Saturday.

“That doesn’t help your college fund though, does it?”

Kieran McLaughlin to daughter Erin, who bragged “now we have two track records.”

Country-music fan looking for Toby Keith in the paddock before the King’s Bishop: “He’ll be the one in the cowboy hat.”

Hard Spun fan: “Other than Larry Jones.”

“I’m his biggest fan – well, his second-biggest fan.”

Trainer Neil Howard, about Street Sense (and trainer Carl Nafzger), Saturday morning. A few hours later, Howard’s Grasshopper gave Street Sense all he could handle in the Travers stretch.

“Oh, I don’t count tomorrow – I’ve done my work. I guess you still count it though.”

Photographer Dave Harmon, after dropping off his Saturday photos, to *The Special* staff – which still had several hours of work to go

“This is one of those days when it’s hard to not let them see you sweat.”

Overheard at the races Saturday afternoon

“Sorry, I need them for the next race. Oh, here you go, I’ll borrow a pair.”

Jockey Robby Albarado, asked for his last pair of goggles after the 11th race

“How do I like Saratoga? How do you think I like Saratoga?”

Calvin Borel’s agent, Jerry Hissam, after the Travers

Names of the Day

Cassoulet, third race Sunday. By Distorted Humor out of Aunt Dot. Cassoulet is a rich, slow-cooked bean stew or casserole originating in the southwest of France, containing meat (typically pork sausages, goose, duck or mutton) pork skin and white haricot beans. Apparently Aunt Dot made a mean one.

Fidelio, third race Sunday. Though the colt’s by Awesome Again, Beethoven only managed to be awesome once – at least when it came to writing operas. “Fidelio” was Ludwig van B’s lone effort. The story tells how Leonore, disguised as a prison guard named Fidelio, rescues her husband Florestan from death in a political prison.

Biohazzard, second race Monday. Cool handle – just don’t put it on his stall door.

Names of the Day – Tunebusters Edition

Monday’s card reads like a jukebox. There’s Rock Lobster (The B-52s), Shady Lane (Pavement), The Price Of Love (New Order) and Mama Theresa, Broadway Bud, Charming Jill, My Anna Rose and Sugar Swirl which if they aren’t Golden Oldies darn well should be.

Weather

Sunday: A few showers in the morning, then clouds lingering in the afternoon. Warm. High near 85. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy. Low around 60.

Monday: Partly cloudy. High in the mid 80s.

Tuesday: A dark day in name only; there’ll be a mix of sun and clouds if you look up. High in the mid 80s, low near 60.

The SARATOGA Special

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Travers —

■ Continued from page 1

in 23.68 and a half in 48.18. Borel cued Street Sense to go after Grasshopper on the turn and the duo quickly dispatched C P West to make it a two-horse race. Albarado had it his way.

"I wanted to make sure he came around me. Street Sense is a different horse when he has to come around, he doesn't have the acceleration like he does when he's on the rail," Albarado said. "The Blue Grass, the Preakness — you look at the races he had to come around. I've learned a lot about him, just watching all his races. When he comes around, he faces a little adversity and he goes to laying in a little, he's not as confident as he is when he's laying on that rail sprinting home."

At the head of the stretch, Street Sense powered to the lead and for a moment looked like he was going to cruise home in a Travers coronation. But, that's not his style. He stalled. Grasshopper fought. The 38,000-plus fans roared to see the first Derby/Travers double since Thunder Gulch in 1995. In what is becoming his typical style (at least when he's off the rail and away from Churchill Downs), Street Sense made it harder than it was, failing to put away a stubborn Grasshopper who dug in on the rail. Borel went right-handed on Street Sense while Albarado went left handed, still confident.

"At every point in the race, I thought I had him," Albarado said. "I squeezed him at about the five-sixteenths pole and Calvin was already riding, I said, 'Oh,



Tod Marks

Grasshopper clings to the lead, but gets a stiff challenge from Street Sense turning for home.

man I've got a shot.' I knew Street Sense will lug in a little, lay on me a little, and maybe I'll get a head bob at the wire. But that's why he's the champ."

Borel switched to his left hand after Street Sense switched back to his left lead inside the sixteenth pole but the 2-year-old champion maintained a neck over Grasshopper all the way to the wire. Borel and Albarado, who finished one-two (in the opposite order) in the Preakness stood in the irons and touched fists.

"I got you Rob," Borel said to Alba-

rado. "I got you."

The official margin was a half-length. Helsinki, the longest price on the board, rallied for third, beaten over 10 lengths by the front pair. Sightseeing flattened out to finish a disappointing fourth with C P West, Loose Leaf and For Your Reppo completing the field.

Borel can't explain why Street Sense dawdles when he gets in front.

"It ain't a good feeling. Every time he runs somewhere new, it's different. At Churchill, he bellies down and runs. Here, he's just doing what he's got to

do. I know there's a lot more there, and that's amazing," Borel said. "I have to be careful, just to watch someone coming that surprises him. He started that in the Preakness, he ran fast but he kind of hung with me. That's why I decided to wait today, to give him a target."

Grasshopper proved to be a formidable target. A winner of three out of five starts, including an allowance race here earlier in the meet, Grasshopper made the Travers a memorable race, while

See **TRAVERS** page 5 ►

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Travers —

■ Continued from page 4

making his stakes debut for trainer Neil Howard.

"I like Robby's colt, he's a good horse, but (Street Sense) is a lot better than what you saw today. He just ran around there and did what he had to do. I pulled the trigger turning for home, he went to that horse and got about a neck, half-length on him and then he let that other horse come back," Borel said. "He's messing around, switching leads. I hate to beat him up too much, he's doing his job, he's like, 'leave me alone,' but I'm still scared something's going to run and surprise him, so I've got to be careful. He's an awesome horse. Scary."

Borel rated Street Sense's Travers effort a seven on a scale of one to 10.

Nafzger wasn't rating anything. He was proud of his horse, satisfied that his plan to skip the Belmont and prepare for a Saratoga campaign had come to fruition. Rarely does a plan work so smoothly. For Nafzger, Saratoga has been as simple as connect the dots. He came here to win the Jim Dandy and Travers, Street Sense ticked off both stakes like a short order cook whips up french fries.

"He executed," Nafzger said. "He's a different horse than most of them. He's getting dangerous, Calvin said he wouldn't go on, he wanted to play with

that other horse. I liked the horses so far behind us, they were all there at the quarter pole and we were gone by the wire."

Nafzger and Howard built a friendly rivalry when they produced Unbridled and Summer Squall through the 1990 Triple Crown. Nafzger won the Derby with Unbridled, Howard countered with the Preakness. For years, they've passed each other and traded greetings.

"Hey, Derby trainer," Howard says.

"Hey, Preakness trainer," Nafzger counters.

Nafzger knew Howard wasn't throwing Grasshopper into the Travers and hoping for the best. Nafzger knows Howard's style and it's not to make appearance money.

"I love Neil, we have more fun together. We're real close," Nafzger said. "Before the race, he says, 'If I could just run second to you, I'd be happy.' I said, 'Yeah.' I know Neil, he isn't in there unless he thinks he can win. Neil is a good horseman."

Nafzger has developed his own philosophy while training. He loves to think about how and why things work. Then, when it's all said and done, he deflects it all to the horse. In his words, the horse takes you there. That's it.

"This is the game, you've got to win, you've got lose, you've got to do what you've got to do," Nafzger said. "Trainers don't train any better than the horse. If you get a good horse, you can train

See **TRAVERS** page 6 ►



Dave Harmon

Street Sense gets his neck in front of Grasshopper in mid-stretch of the Travers.

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Travers —

■ Continued from page 5

them and you can have a lot of fun. It's that simple. But, I know one thing, I took a deep breath at the wire."

So did Tafel.

When asked if this was a culmination for a lifetime of horses, Tafel put the brakes on that thought.

"Don't make it sound like this is the end, I'm still up here," Tafel said. "It was great to see it, the way he won it, it was really competitive, much more than I thought it would be. Calvin said that horse would be ready. Will Farish came up to me and said, 'Looks like we're running for second.' I said, 'I hope it isn't me running second.' It's been a great run."

Street Sense's stud career has already been finalized with Darley taking over the horse when his racing career is over. Most likely that will happen after the Breeders' Cup Classic at Monmouth Park Oct. 27.

Nafzger holds plenty of options for the next bridge on that path. The Mass Cap, the Hawthorne Gold Cup, the Jockey Club Gold Cup or the Super Derby come to mind. For now, phase two has been completed.

"Let's savor this one," Nafzger said.

Borel has savored every minute with Street Sense since that breeze. The jockey came to Saratoga this summer because of Street Sense. He's won five stakes at the meet, including three Grade I stakes. He won the Alabama with Lady Joanne and the Sword Dancer with Grand Cour-
turier.



Dave Harmon

At the wire, Street Sense stays clear with Grasshopper a game second.

"He changed my life, he turned everything around, winning the Derby, he's a horse you dream about. I wouldn't even be here without him," Borel said. "You just hope one comes along like him, you just go on trying that's all you can do, I wasn't going to give up until I found one. I knew it the first time I got on

him. If he just stayed sound. I've been on some nice horses but he was different and I felt like I had the right man to keep him sound in Carl. He's very patient, because he's been there before, he's been to the Derby, the Preakness, the Travers."

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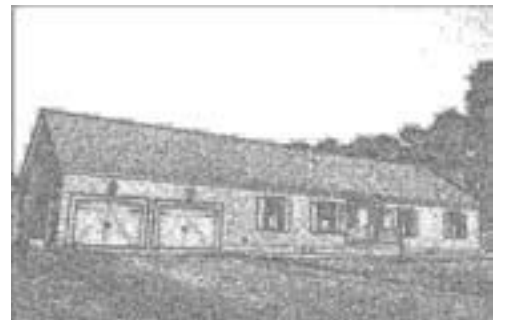
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Hard to be Good

Hard Spun sprints to Gr. I win for Jones

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Larry Jones snuck into the backstretch office at the test barn just as Street Sense was loading in the gate for the 138th Travers.

"We're rooting for Grasshopper, we train a half-sister to him," Jones exclaimed.

Fair enough Larry, we'll let you slide on that one.

Jones watched Street Sense eke out the Travers, then quietly headed out to his pick-up truck. Thirty minutes earlier Jones' Hard Spun silenced a field of 10 other 3-year-olds with a win in the Grade I King's Bishop. The Fox Hill Farm colt battled Spin Master into submission early and then turned back a stiff challenge from First Defence late to win a Grade I for the first time.

Yet in the world of Larry Jones there's no time for champagne and caviar; the horses come first. Quite often, actually. He made a left out of the winner's circle, and walked to the test barn to meet his horse.

Hard Spun, a firecracker of a 3-year-old, took the



Tod Marks

Hard Spun (right) braces for a challenge from First Defence at the top of the stretch in the King's Bishop.

road less traveled to this year's Kentucky Derby. Literally and figuratively. He prepped for the Derby in the Grade II Lane's End Stakes over Turfway Park's Polytrack, meaning he would enter the Derby off six week's rest. The critics wondered how Jones could get a horse to run the race of his life off of that kind of "layoff."

Jones wasn't through. He stoked the fire a bit more when Hard Spun worked 5 furlongs in 57 seconds just a few days before the Derby. Yet Hard Spun ran the

race of his life in the Derby. Getting a half-mile in 46 1/5 seconds, he repelled every horse not named Street Sense, and finished almost 6 lengths ahead of Curlin for second. Clearly Jones knew what he was doing.

Solid efforts in the Preakness, Belmont, and Haskell followed. Surely it would be on to the Travers and another dance with old partner Street Sense. But Jones and Fox Hill Farm owner Rick Porter had a different

See **KING'S BISHOP** page 9 ►



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King's Bishop —

■ Continued from page 8

thought — shorten up to 7 furlongs in the King's Bishop.

And as the race drew near, people questioned Jones once again. "Why isn't Hard Spun going in the Travers? The race has no pace and he would be a perfect fit. Why in the world would he cut him back to 7 furlongs? It makes no sense."

Before the race, it made no sense to anyone not named Larry Jones. Afterward, well, Hard Spun's a Grade I winner now.

"Maybe 90 percent of the horses couldn't do it (cut back to 7 furlongs) but this horse here is just as fast as anyone," Jones said. "Now, if I had Street Sense or Curlin, I wouldn't try it. But with this particular horse it wasn't an issue. All we did was gallop him and let him get on his toes after the second in the Haskell because he was dead fit there."

The King's Bishop is the perfect test of speed and stamina. The 6-furlong specialists try and stretch their speed while the routers find out if they can stay in contact and still deliver closing kicks.

On paper the race was filled with high-class speed. Jones assessed things and gave Mario Pino a leg up with the idea they would be sitting third behind the two inside horses — E Z Warrior for trainer Bob Baffert and Spin Master for Dale Romans.

Then the gates opened and everything changed.

E Z Warrior blew the start and Spin Master found himself alone on the lead. It was left to Pino and Hard Spun to pick up the chase.

"I figured we would be no worse than third, the way it looked on the sheets to me. I figured there were two inside horses and we would let them go ahead and battle themselves and then maybe we would sit there and try to pick it up when one of them started easing up," Jones said. "I guess the 1 horse broke slow and we had to go and take on the chase ourselves. I knew Dale's horse and we didn't want to let him get away; he's legit."

Legit enough to set a half-mile in 44.20 seconds with Hard Spun glued to his flank. The 38,909 in attendance gasped when the fraction was put on the board. But not Jones.

"I was really pleased with how easy my horse was able to run with that

pace; you could tell from his body style that it wasn't hard for him doing it as he was running pretty comfortable," Jones said. "His ears were still up and his head was pretty still. The half, when I saw it, still wasn't a major concern for me. This horse, he is fast. That part wasn't an extreme question."

As the field turned for home Hard Spun swatted away Spin Master (he would finish last) like a fly on a cow's back. Just as Hard Spun assumed command there was another, more severe challenge. Jones squirmed in his seat.

First Defence and Javier Castellano, in the famed colors of Juddmonte Farm, ranged up boldly, with the enthusiasm of a younger brother getting a chance to play with the big boys. Trained by Bobby Frankel, the son of the venerable Honest Lady was lying in the weeds, sitting the garden trip.

"He took them over when he wanted to but I was a little concerned when Bobby's horse tangled with him," Jones said. "It was just about the time where maybe we could give him a breather that Bobby's horse was rolling."

First Defence stuck a nose in front as the duo blew through 6 furlongs in 1:08.71. Pino called on everything and, as it turned out, Hard Spun had more than a cat burglar with the keys to the safe.

Thriving on the challenge, Hard Spun weathered First Defence's combination and delivered a knockout blow of his own, drawing off at the wire. In the end, after battling through wicked fractions and being headed in the lane, the son of Danzig pulled away, scoring by 1 1/2 lengths while getting the 7 furlongs in 1:22.34. First Defence stayed for second with E Z Warrior third.

"He was loping when he made the lead. That's what made it so close because he was waiting on horses," Pino said. "But once he felt the other horse next to him he jumped to another gear. I can really say that was like a workout in a Grade I race. Right after the wire, if you see the motion of the horse, he was loping."



Dave Harmon

Hard Spun puts away First Defence in the stretch.

The effort left Jones to think back to the Haskell, when Hard Spun repelled the challenge of heavily favored Curlin as the pair approached the wire battling for second behind Any Given Saturday.

"He dug in; he's pure guts and determination. It was the same way he beat Curlin in the Haskell. Curlin had dead-aim on him but this horse wasn't going to let him by," Jones said. "They have to pass him fast — you don't want to get up and eyeball him and give him a chance to get tied on. You have to blow by him like Street Sense did in the Derby — just don't give him a chance."

The victory left Jones to look toward the future and possible engagements with Street Sense and Curlin, and whoever else may show up for the jackpot at

the end of the rainbow — the Breeders' Cup Classic Oct. 27.

How Hard Spun gets there? Well, there's plenty of room for discussion.

"This was a good progression for us today — now we can go back in the battle. We will either go to a mile or a mile and an eighth to set him up (for the Classic)," Jones said. "We got the Grade I pressure off our back. It's kind of like the graded-stakes earnings with the Derby — once we knew he was going to make the Derby we could train him into the race the way we wanted to. I quit looking once I saw we were getting away from him (First Defence). Once his ears went up I felt good. I don't know how many he won by today."

It was a length and a half Larry.

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Inside Job

Shakis, Garcia fly up hedge to get turf mark

BY JOE CLANCY

Kieran McLaughlin sat on a wooden chair in the Trustees Room, smiling and sweaty. A few moments earlier, his horse Shakis scorched through the \$200,000 Bernard Baruch Handicap – breaking a 34-year-old track record, raising the temperature a few more degrees on an already sweltering day and immediately becoming a player in the turf mile division.

As the race replayed on a television over his head, McLaughlin watched 21-year-old jockey Alan Garcia coolly aim Shakis through successive openings on the hedge – sixth, fifth, fourth, third, second and finally alongside pacesetter Ballast at the furlong pole. Without going around a single horse, Irish-bred Shakis responded to a series of mere nudges from Garcia, emerged with the lead in the stretch and accelerated away from the closers to win by three-quarters of a length over Big Prairie with Drum Major a head back



Tod Marks

Shakis (right) reaches for the finish line as Big Prairie (left) rallies in the Bernard Baruch.

third. Final time for the 1 1/8 miles was 1:45.33 and trimmed 1/5 of a second off the mark held jointly by turf stars Tentam (from the 1973 Baruch) and Waya (1978 Diana).

Like many, McLaughlin marveled at Garcia's ride.

"It's easier to sit there like that when you've only had 21 birthdays instead of 40-some like me," McLaughlin said. "I'd be nervous as anything."

The never-nervous Garcia made the decisions in the Grade II victory, but the Shadwell Farm horse provided the gears.

"My horse was very willing; whatever I did, he kept

going with me," said the jockey. "It was a good pace for him, he wasn't going too fast. When I asked him to run, it felt like the starting gate again. He ran right up there."

Shakis came to McLaughlin on the recommendation of former assistant Doug Watson, who felt American racing might suit the son of Machiavellian. Bred in Ireland by Shadwell, Shakis raced in France at 2, 3 and 4 – winning three minor races and finishing fourth to future star Dalakhani in his first start – and went

See **BARUCH** page 11 ►

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Larry Wheeler "Rainy day - Saratoga Paddock"

Baruch —

■ Continued from page 10

to Dubai at 5. He won a 1 1/4-mile turf stakes there in March 2006 and even tried the Dubai World Cup (a well-beaten 11th) that year. Still in Dubai this winter, Shakis labored home 10th in a Group II in March before coming to the United States.

"Doug just thought he would suit American racing very well and didn't want him to stay there another summer for six months with no racing," said McLaughlin moments after getting a call from Watson in Dubai (where it was a little after midnight). "The pace of American racing is nicer for some of them, some of them like it firm, Lasix sometimes really helps; it's just a lot of different things and it makes a difference. If they don't like what they have over there, they can really improve here."

Shadwell horses arrive in the McLaughlin barn frequently from overseas, and the trainer follows a similar path with them.

"They're real nice horses when we get them, and that helps," he said. "We just train on and some of them go forward and some don't. Most of them do go forward and we liked him a lot when we got him."

Shakis began his American career on a forward note, winning an optional claimer with a powerful late charge at the Baruch's distance May 25 at Belmont.

Encouraged, McLaughlin stepped his horse up to the Grade I Manhattan at 1



Tod Marks

Assistant trainer Neal McLaughlin (right) and trainer Kieran McLaughlin's son Ryan lead Shakis and Alan Garcia into the winner's circle after the Bernard Baruch.

1/4 miles. Shakis ran a better race, but lost by a head and a nose to Better Talk Now and English Channel. Stretched another furlong to 1 3/8 miles, Shakis started as the favorite in the Bowling Green July 15, but flattened out late to finish fourth behind Sunriver.

"His first race was impressive because he finished so strong and the Manhattan was a great race," McLaughlin said. "The last time Sunriver was a little better than we knew and our horse just didn't stay the 11 furlongs."

After Saturday's performance, Shakis may not have to worry about that anymore. McLaughlin talked with Shadwell's Rick Nichols by telephone after the race and Keeneland's Shadwell Mile (sponsored by the farm) Oct. 6 could be next.

"He might like an even faster pace more," said McLaughlin, "so that's where we'll go. He can really finish fast."

Especially with Garcia making 21-year-old decisions on his back.

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Ooh La La

Biancone filly lives up to billing with front-running sprint victory

BY KAREN JOHNSON

As La Traviata approached the eighth-pole in Saturday's Victory Ride Stakes, 7 lengths in front of her nine rivals, her trainer, Patrick Biancone, left his preferred spot in the box section and purposefully strode to where the filly's co-owner, Michael Tabor, sat. Biancone and Tabor then exchanged a handshake as La Traviata zoomed under the wire.

It's a fair bet that Tabor and Biancone were thinking the same thing: Thank you, Breeders' Cup, for adding a \$1 million, 6-furlong race for fillies and mares to your schedule this year.

Biancone displayed a great deal of confidence concerning the outcome of the \$114,700 Victory Ride Stakes, a 6-furlong dirt race for 3-year-old fillies, even before the gates opened.

Earlier in the week, the trainer declared La Traviata, a daughter of Johannesburg, the fastest horse he had trained during his 32-year career. That's quite a statement, considering Biancone has conditioned a fair amount of zippy sprinters, including Mayakovsky, Zavata, Whywhywhy, Henny Hughes and Pomeroy.

VICTORY RIDE STAKES RECAP

With her 9 1/4-length win over runner up Half Time Crown in the Grade III Victory Ride, La Traviata remains undefeated in three starts at three tracks. She won a maiden race by 13 1/4 lengths at Churchill Downs June 8 and the Post Deb Stakes at Monmouth Park by 5 lengths July 22.

La Traviata's lack of seasoning didn't reveal itself in the Saratoga paddock, which can be a hectic scene on Travers Day. The dark bay filly was a picture of calm and appeared to be unfazed by the steamy weather, crowd and unfamiliar surroundings.

La Traviata, with Julien Leparoux in the saddle, stumbled badly coming out of the gate in the Victory Ride, but showed athleticism by quickly gathering herself and scampering to an unchallenged lead. She looked like she was in a mere gallop as she reeled off fractions of 22.13 seconds, 45.20, and 57.11. The final time was 1:09.78 over a fast track.

La Traviata returned \$3.70 as the 4-5 favorite in the Victory Ride. She has been the odds-on favorite in each of her



Dave Harmon

Unbeaten filly La Traviata glides to the finish with a lopsided score in the Victory Ride.

starts. Her earnings stand at \$129,248.

Half Time Crown, the longest price in the field at 54-1, finished second after an extremely troubled trip. It was another 1 1/4 lengths back to Appealing Zophie in third.

Featherbed, winner of the Weekend Surprise Stakes here earlier in the meet, was scratched Saturday morning by her trainer, Todd Pletcher, who said the filly suffered from a skin irritation on her legs. Street Sass and Ticket To Seattle were also scratched.

La Traviata, purchased by Coolmore agent Demi O'Byrne last year for \$1.1 million at Fasig-Tipton's Calder sale, races for Tabor, Coolmore owner John Magnier, and Derrick Smith.

As Tabor made his way to the winner's circle, he remarked that he had yet to see the filly run in person and that it was a treat.

"She is just lovely," Tabor said. "She did it beautifully. She goes in 22 and just

See **VICTORY RIDE** page 13 ►

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Victory Ride —

■ Continued from page 12

does it so easily.”

What pleased Biancone the most was the manner in which La Traviata won, and it had nothing to do with the margin of victory. He knew she had talent going into the race, but she lacked seasoning and maturity. Fast horses sometimes don't understand the concept of rating — and Biancone would know.

Biancone pantomimed with his index fingers La Traviata flicking her ears back and forth as she enjoyed her solitary lead.

“She was relaxed; I was happy to see that,” Biancone said.

Leparoux, aboard for her two prior wins, concurred.

“She did it different today,” the rider said. “Today she took the lead and re-

laxed.”

Biancone said that La Traviata will not race again before the Breeders' Cup at Monmouth Oct. 26. In a few days, she will return to Biancone's barn at Keeneland where she prepared for the Victory Ride with three very sharp works over the Polytrack.

“Sprinters should be fresh,” he said. “She has won at Monmouth, so we know she likes the track. I don't want to run her at 7 [furlongs] and then come back at 6. It's not necessary.”

Biancone, whose Cosmonaut finished fifth as the Bernard Baruch favorite three races earlier, was beaming when he talked about La Traviata's performance in the Victory Ride in the Trustees Room.

“She gives you her all every time,” he said. “Everyone said it was so easy today, but she ran the race — she ran hard.”

Oh, did she ever.



Tod Marks

La Traviata exits the winner's circle with her third win in as many starts for trainer Patrick Biancone.

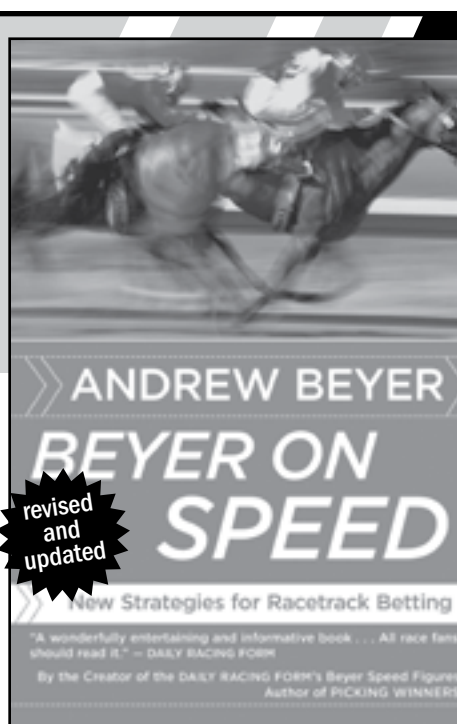
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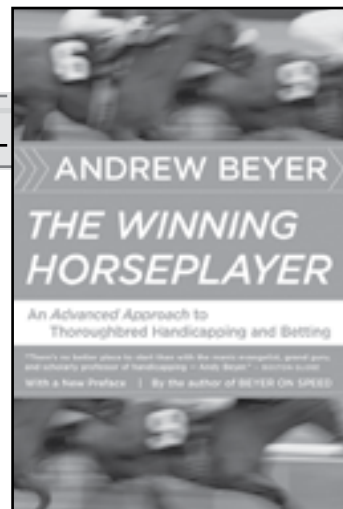
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Take That

Top jocks Desormeaux, Velasquez bookend Travers Day undercard

BY BRIAN NADEAU
and DAVID KOSAK

When last we left you Cornelio Velasquez had won four and it was up to Kent Desormeaux to retaliate in the battle for the Saratoga riding title.

He didn't wait long. Desormeaux landed the first punch Saturday as Got The Last Laugh (\$8.30) took the opener, an allowance/optional claimer on the inner turf.

The win also served as perhaps the deciding blow in the tussle for the Spa training belt, giving Bill Mott 19 for the meet and an eight-win cushion over Gary Contessa.

Score one for Joe Public as well, as they hammered the Mott-trainee down from his 12-1 morning line.

Desormeaux had Got The Last Laugh tracking in fifth position as the field traveled down the backside. Making his move as the field turned for home, Desormeaux had plenty in reserve to score by a length over the closing Broadway Producer.

- As the trainer of 1995 Travers hero Thunder Gulch, D. Wayne Lukas

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

knows how to find his way to the winner's circle on the meet's showcase day. He walked the path again after Mythical Pegasus (\$9.70) took the second, a freshman sprint, by a hard-fought neck over Grand Minstrel.

Grand Minstrel went to the front immediately under Garrett Gomez and they quickly assumed command after a quarter mile in a quick 22.37 seconds. Mythical Pegasus (under Velasquez) followed in close pursuit, and the two colts hit the half together in 45.59.

Just as Grand Minstrel looked like he had put away Mythical Pegasus the latter dug in deep to close the gap and get up late in the shadow of the wire.

"This horse has come in and really fit our program," Lukas said. "I like him and I think he can be a good horse. He was really game today and showed a lot of courage to get him at the end. He is a candidate to stretch out and I'm excited about that."

- Fast Thought, running for purse money only after the post-time scratch of his entry-mate Borobudur took the



Dave Harmon

Got The Last Laugh gets the first race, winning the allowance/optional claimer for trainer Bill Mott and jockey Kent Desormeaux.

third, a maiden turf affair. Rafael Bejarano put Fast Thought on the lead and they never looked back, wiring Peace Mon by 1 1/4 lengths for trainer Bobby Frankel. On the toteboard it was Peace Mon (\$8.60) getting credit for the win for trainer Kiaran McLaughlin and Alan Garcia.

- Graham Motion didn't expect to even be in the paddock for the fourth, but the trainer made it all the way to the winner's circle. Royal Guard (\$10.20) quietly drew into the \$35,000 claimer from three-deep on the also-eligible

list, then closed with a roar to score for owner Richard Thompson.

Taking the final turn seven-wide, the 7-year-old son of Hector Protector didn't look to be a factor. However, finishing with a fury down the middle of the inner turf, he got up in the final strides under Ramon Dominguez to nail Taming The Tiger by a head at the wire.

"I felt pretty good about this horse in this race," Motion said. "On his back class, he was the class of the race. I was tickled to death when they told me he

See **SATURDAY** page 16 ►

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Royal Guard nips Taming The Tiger (9) at the wire in Saturday's fourth race.

Tod Marks

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 14

was going to draw-in. It's huge. He doesn't have to go wide, it's the nature of his style. He's not a horse you want to rush early. Ramon did a great job saving ground, but the last turn he had to go for it. If he was going to have any shot, he had to swing him out wide."

• Lucky 13 struck in the fifth, an allowance sprint for distaffers over the Mellon turf.

Once his mount drew in off the AE list, jockey Julien Leparoux didn't need any good-luck charms to get Christophe Clement-trainee Life Is A Cabernet (\$45.80) into the mix. All it took was speed.

"The trainer told me she was pretty fast, but with a number on the outside we didn't really know what was going to happen," Leparoux said. "He told me just to break and to see — and she broke like a rocket. I went to the front and she was doing it real easy. When I asked her in the stretch she went back again. It's a pretty nice filly."

She was only two-fifths of a second off the course record for 5 1/2 furlongs, finishing in 1:01.51.

The 3-year-old daughter of Travers winner Coronado's Quest beat the field in fine taste, scoring in gate-to-wire fashion. In only her third start, experience wasn't an issue. Instead, she just needed a chance. Owner Lewis Schaffel bubbled with joy after seeing her run.

See **SATURDAY** page 18 ►

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, Barn 15

- 264 c. **GONE WEST - Black Escort**
Out of a G2-placed 2yo SW
- 267 c. **A.P. INDY - Bollinger (AUS)**
Out of a G1 SW of 5 of 8 lifetime
- 505 f. **ELUSIVE QUALITY - Al Desima (GB)**
Out of a G1-placed winner & producer

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, Barn 15

- 1896 c. **Sky Mesa - Love Sting**
SW 1st dam, Champion 2nd dam, G1SW 4th dam
- 1925 c. **Pulpit - Nault**
2nd foal from SP, family of ALTHEA
- 1951 c. **Forest Wildcat - Proper Cielo**
Out of a sister to PROPER REALITY-G1 etc.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, Barn 38

- 1111 c. **ELUSIVE QUALITY - Madame X Ski**
Out of a SW sister to TENSKI [G1]
- 1166 f. **MINESHAFT - Pocus Hocus**
1st foal from G3SW of 6 races and \$400,000
- 1180 f. **MEDAGLIA D'ORO - Rangoon Belle**
Half-brother to multiple GSW BELLESKI
- 1258 f. **FORESTRY - Tropical Punch**
2nd foal from SW of 11 races
- 1280 f. **EMPIRE MAKER - Winsome (GB)**
Out of a sister to GSW HORATIA



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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 16

“You got to be in it, to win it,” he said. “But the trainer had confidence and saw that she was improving and thought that she could be competitive. He was right.”

- Many headed for the gates after the Travers, but owner/trainer Donna Wormser wasn't planning on going anywhere — she'd been waiting all meet to see her Starforaday (\$57.50) run in the 11th.

“I've been here waiting six weeks for this race. This is really big. I can't tell you how great it is,” she said. “When my horse is right, he's really good. I mean he's so fast. He was right today; he earned his name, Starforaday.”

After getting outrun in the backstretch and sitting in last, the 4-year-old son of Five Star Day rallied between horses turning for home. Closing in deep stretch with Robby Albarado aboard, he pulled away to a 3-length victory in the optional claimer on the main track.

The colt, who's had eight trainer switches, has special meaning to Wormser.

“I own several other horses, but this horse has kind of had a place in my heart. I really like this horse,” Wormser said. “Every time I lose him, I somehow get him back. I even hauled him up here in my own truck and trailer with my two dogs.”

- A dozen horses made the 7:21 p.m. post of the 12th and final race on the Travers Day card. Zipperoo (\$6.20) didn't seem to mind staying out late.

The City Zip-gelding sped to the early lead, set the pace and drew away by 3 1/2 lengths. The 3-year-old looked more like the veteran under Cornelio Velasquez in the New York-bred optional claimer, giving trainer James Bond his first win of the meet.

“Yeah, that duck was getting close here at the end. I was getting a little bit nervous, and we have nice horses



Dave Harmon

Starforaday lives up to his name with a win in Saturday's 11th race. He paid \$57.50.

in the barn. It's just been frustrating,” Bond said. “This horse has been training well and he just ran into a nice horse last time of Billy's (Mott). He's just been running well and doing the right things. He likes Saratoga; it's his home base. It was a great win and (co-owners) Mr. and Mrs. Burns were here, which is nice.”

As for sweating out the weather, Bond had other plans.

“I got here around 4. I got done with the barn and went home and took a shower,” he said smiling. “I haven't been suffering like everyone here. But it was a great card of racing today. It's nice to win on Travers Day. We're happy to be here.”

The score was the jockey's 37th of the meet, and he left with a five-win bulge over Desormeaux.

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All The Winners

Jockeys

Cornelio Velasquez	37	Jean-Luc Samyn	3
Kent Desormeaux	32	Xavier Aizpuru	2
Javier Castellano	21	Jose Bracetty	2
Garrett Gomez	21	Eddie Castro	2
Ramon Dominguez	20	Danielle Hodsdon	2
Edgar Prado	20	Raul Rojas	2
John Velazquez	18	Robby Albarado	1
Rafael Bejarano	16	Roberto Alvarado	1
Eibar Coa	15	Norberto Arroyo Jr	1
Alan Garcia	13	Jorge Chavez	1
Calvin Borel	9	Fernando Jara	1
Shaun Bridgmohan	9	Mike Luzzi	1
Julien Lejaroux	8	Carlos Marquez Jr	1
Channing Hill	5	Chip Miller	1
Mario Pino	3	Corey Nakatani	1

Trainers

Bill Mott	19	Tim Hills	2
Gary Contessa	11	Bruce Levine	2
Todd Pletcher	10	Wayne Lukas	2
Richard Dutrow	9	Shug McGaughey	2
Tom Bush	8	Atreo Persaud	2
Kiaran McLaughlin	7	Jonathan Sheppard	2
Steve Asmussen	6	Al Stall Jr	2
Christophe Clement	6	Dallas Stewart	2
Stan Hough	6	Mike Trombetta	2
Linda Rice	6	John Ward	2
Barclay Tagg	6	Ronny Werner	2
Tony Dutrow	5	Frank Alexander	1
Bobby Frankel	5	William Allyn	1
Dominic Galluscio	5	Rusty Arnold	1
John Kimmel	5	Enrique Arroyo	1
Patrick Biancone	4	Bobby Barbara	1
Saeed bin Suroor	4	James Bond	1
Carl Nafzger	4	John Destefano Jr	1
Rick Schosberg	4	Gregory DiPrima	1
Rick Violette	4	Scott Everett	1
George Weaver	4	Jack Fisher	1
Nick Zito	4	Gary Gullo	1
Charlton Baker	3	Leah Gyarmati	1
Wally Dollase	3	John Hertler	1
David Donk	3	Roger Horgan	1
Mark Hennig	3	David Jacobson	1
Neil Howard	3	Leroy Jolley	1
Mike Hushion	3	Larry Jones	1
Allen Jerkens	3	Scott Lake	1
Jimmy Jerkens	3	Michael Lauer	1
Pat Kelly	3	Mike Miceli	1
Steve Klesaris	3	John Morrison	1
Carlos Martin	3	Colum O'Brien	1
Michael Matz	3	Jeff Odintz	1
Ken McPeck	3	Ambrose Pascucci	1
Graham Motion	3	Guadalupe Preciado	1
Angel Penna	3	Pat Reynolds	1
Dale Romans	3	Robert Ribaud	1
Scott Schwartz	3	Tim Ritchey	1
Phil Serpe	3	Tim Ritvo	1
Tom Albertrani	2	James Ryerson	1
Billy Badgett	2	Dominick Schettino	1
Bob Baffert	2	Gary Sciacca	1
Glenn DiSanto	2	Howie Tesher	1
Debra Divitto	2	Tom Voss	1
Chris Englehart	2	Donna Wormser	1
Eoin Harty	2		
Mike Hernandez	2		



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

1ST. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. AOC 50,000. PURSE \$70,000.

1	Got the Last Laugh	Desormeaux K J	8.30	5.10	4.30
2	Broadway Producer	Castellano J J		7.90	5.70
7	Tiverton	Coa E M			5.40

Finish Time: 1:41.38

Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Zayat Stables.
Dk.B./Br.c.3 Distorted Humor-Theresa's Tizzy, Cee's Tizzy.
Bred by Brilliant STB, Fielding, Taylor Made, et al. (KY).

\$2 Exacta 1-2 Paid \$73.00; \$2 Trifecta 1-2-7 Paid \$527.00

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

3	Mythical Pegasus	Velasquez C	9.70	4.40	3.40
2	Grand Minstrel	Gomez G K		3.70	3.10
6	Eagle Strike	Bejarano R			6.20

Finish Time: 1:10.95

Trainer: Wayne Lukas. Owner: James Spence.
Dk.B./Br.c.2 Fusaichi Pegasus-Lilly Capote, Capote.
Bred by James Spence (KY).

\$2 Exacta (3-2) Paid \$34.60; \$2 Quinella (2-3) Paid \$17.80; \$2 Trifecta (3-2-6) Paid \$250.00; \$2 Daily Double (1-3) Paid \$55.00

3RD. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

2B	Fast Thought	Bejarano R	PURSE MONEY ONLY		
3	Peace Mon	Garcia Alan	8.60	3.80	3.00
9	Virginia Minstrel	Coa E M		3.00	2.20
1	On Fire	Velazquez J R			4.30

Finish Time: 1:41.20

Trainer: Bobby Frankel. Owner: Juddmonte Farms.
Dk.B./Br.c.4 Aptitude-Bionic (GB), Zafonic.
Bred by Juddmonte Farms (KY).

\$2 Exacta 3-9 Paid \$21.20; \$2 Trifecta 3-9-1 Paid \$146.00

4TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 4&UP. CLM 35,000. PURSE \$46,000.

13	Royal Guard (GB)	Dominguez R A	10.20	5.40	4.50
9	Taming the Tiger	Prado E S		4.80	3.60
8	Westmoreland	Gomez G K			3.50

Finish Time: 1:41.44

Trainer: Graham Motion. Owner: Richard Thompson.
Ch.g.7 Hector Protector-Jezyah, Chief's Crown.
Bred by B. Borough (GB).

\$2 Exacta 13-9 Paid \$62.00; \$2 Quinella 9-13 Paid \$32.40; \$2 Trifecta 13-9-8 Paid \$249.50; \$2 Pick 3 (3-3-13) 3 Correct Paid \$576.00; \$2 Consolation Pick 3 (3-2-13) Paid \$122.00

5TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. ALW. PURSE \$67,000.

13	Life Is a Cabernet	Leparoux J R	45.80	18.60	10.40
6	Diamondrella (GB)	Bejarano R		14.80	11.00
11	Sophie's Salad	Velazquez J R			5.50

Finish Time: 1:01.51

Trainer: Christophe Clement. Owner: Lewis Schaffel.
B.f.3 Coronado's Quest-Antahkarana, Dynaformer.
Bred by Lewis Schaffel (KY).

\$2 Exacta 13-6 Paid \$737.00; \$2 Trifecta 13-6-11 Paid \$6,278.00; \$2 Pick 3 (3-13-13) 3 Correct Paid \$2,210.00; \$2 Pick 4 (3-3-13-13) 4 Correct Paid \$8,812.00; \$2 Consolation Pick 3 (3-13-1) Paid \$79.00

6TH. 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

12	Now a Victor	Dominguez R A	7.80	6.00	4.50
6	Noble Truth	Bridgmohan S X		18.00	10.20
10	Forest of Dreams	Desormeaux K J			4.40

Finish Time: 1:17.00

Trainer: Michael Trombetta. Owner: Kirk Wycoff.
B.c.3 Yankee Victor-Try a Gator Girl, Copelan.
Bred by Brereton Jones (KY).

\$2 Exacta 12-6 Paid \$213.50; \$2 Trifecta 12-6-10 Paid \$1,074.00; \$2 Pick 3 (13-13-12) 3 Correct Paid \$1,904.00; \$2 Consolation Pick 3 (13-1-12) Paid \$81.00

7TH. THE BERNARD BARUCH (GR. II). 1 1/8 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. PURSE \$200,000.

1	Shakis (IRE)	Garcia Alan	12.60	6.50	4.50
2	Big Prairie	Castellano J J		17.80	10.60
3	Drum Major	Bejarano R			6.50

Finish Time: 1:45.33

Trainer: Kiaran McLaughlin. Owner: Shadwell Stable.
Dk.B./Br.h.7 Machiavellian-Tawaaded (IRE), Nashwan.
Bred by Shadwell (IRE).

\$2 Exacta 1-2 Paid \$247.50; \$2 Trifecta 1-2-3 Paid \$1,274.00; \$2 Daily Double (12-1) Paid \$46.60; \$2 Pick 3 (13-12-1) 3 Correct Paid \$2,770.00; \$2 Superfecta 1-2-3-11 Paid \$15,267.00

8TH. THE KING'S BISHOP (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. 3YO. PURSE \$250,000.

3	Hard Spun	Pino M G	4.60	3.50	2.60
9	First Defence	Castellano J J		6.30	4.60
1	E Z Warrior	Flores D R			7.10

Finish Time: 1:22.34

Trainer: Larry Jones. Owner: Fox Hill Farms.
B.c.3 Danzig-Turkish Tryst, Turkoman.
Bred by Michael Moran & Brushwood Stable (PA).

\$2 Exacta 3-9 Paid \$36.20; \$2 Trifecta 3-9-1 Paid \$230.50; \$2 Pick 3 (12-1-3) 3 Correct Paid \$128.50; \$2 Superfecta 3-9-1-7 Paid \$733.00

9TH. THE TRAVERS (GR. I.). 1 1/4 MILES. 3YO. PURSE \$1,000,000.

4	Street Sense	Borel C H	2.70	2.20	2.10
5	Grasshopper	Albarado R J		4.60	3.80
1	Helsinki	Leparoux J R			7.80

Finish Time: 2:02.69

Trainer: Carl Nafzger. Owner: James Tafel.
Dk.B./Br.c.3 Street Cry (IRE)-Bedazzle, Dixieland Band.
Bred by James Tafel (KY).

\$2 Exacta 4-5 Paid \$13.00; \$2 Trifecta 4-5-1 Paid \$216.00; \$2 Daily Double (3-4) Paid \$5.90; \$2 Superfecta 4-5-1-7 Paid \$742.00; \$2 Grand Slam (6/10-12-1/2/3-1/3/9-4) Paid \$28.40

10TH. THE VICTORY RIDE (GR. III). 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 3YO. PURSE \$114,700.

8	La Traviata	Leparoux J R	3.70	3.30	2.70
12	Half Time Crown	Velasquez C		27.80	12.60
1	Appealing Zophie	Bridgmohan S X			5.30

Finish Time: 1:09.78

Trainer: Patrick Biancone. Owner: Susan Magnier,
Michael Tabor & and Derrick Smith.
Dk.B./Br.f.3 Johannesburg-Piedras Negras, Unbridled.
Bred by John and Marsha Antonelli (CA).

\$2 Exacta 8-12 Paid \$157.00; \$2 Trifecta 8-12-1 Paid \$1,191.00; \$2 Pick 3 (3-4-8) 3 Correct Paid \$13.60; \$2 Pick 4 (1-3-4-8) 4 Correct Paid \$83.50; \$2 Daily Double (4-8) Paid \$5.80

11TH. 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. AOC 75,000. PURSE \$67,000.

2	Starforaday	Albarado R J	57.50	28.20	9.60
10	Executive Search	Castellano J J		20.40	7.30
1A	Blue Sky God	Luzzi M J			2.80

Finish Time: 1:11.55

Trainer: Donna Wormser. Owner: Donna Wormser.
B.c.4 Five Star Day-Known Feminist, Known Fact.
Bred by Schelford Farm (KY).

\$2 Exacta 2-10 Paid \$887.00; \$2 Trifecta 2-10-1 Paid \$4,460.00; \$2 Pick 3 (4-8-2) 3 Correct Paid; \$2 Daily Double (8-2) Paid \$224.00

12TH. 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW. PURSE \$61,000.

7	Zipperoo	Velasquez C	6.20	4.20	3.00
8	Love Abroad	Desormeaux K J		9.80	8.50
2	Any Which Way	Bejarano R			11.20

Finish Time: 1:12.19

Trainer: James Bond. Owner: Christine Burns,
Tina Marie Bond & Philip Wegman.
Ch.g.3 City Zip-Hugmelikeyouloveme, Notebook.
Bred by Dr. Michael Galvin (NY).

\$2 Exacta 7-8 Paid \$82.00; \$2 Trifecta 7-8-2 Paid \$1,336.00; \$2 Superfecta 7-8-2-13 Paid \$9,322.00; \$2 Daily Double (2-7) Paid \$137.00; \$2 Pick 3 (8-2-7) 3 Correct Paid \$667.00; \$2 Pick 6 (1-3-4-8-2-7) 6 Correct Paid \$13,708.00, 5 Correct Paid \$33.20; \$2 Pick 4 (4-8-2-7) 4 Correct Paid \$1,025.00

How We Did

RACE 1: Second selection finished second.

RACE 2: Top choice finished second, third pick finished third.

RACE 3: Our top choice went by the wayside when half of the Bobby Frankel entry scratched at the gate and the other ran for purse money only. (He won.) Mutually speaking, our third choice finished third.

RACE 4: Top choice finished second.

RACE 5: Second selection scratched.

RACE 6: Nothing to see here.

RACE 7: There was great racing (and a track record) in the Bernard Baruch, but nothing doing at the windows.

RACE 8: Second selection won.

RACE 9: Street Sense was the word on the street, so our chalky but sensible selection paid only \$2.70 to win. Grass-hopper proved an apt pupil, rounding out a \$13.00 exacta.

RACE 10: Second selection won.

RACE 11: The rains came and went. We moved on.

RACE 12: Third choice scratched.

SEASON TOTALS: 55 wins by top selection in 238 races.

Average win payoff \$6.74.

How We Did summarizes the performance of

The Special's handicappers in the "Detailed Analysis" section.

Track: Fast; Turf: Firm

Attendance: 38,909; Handle: \$7,765,702

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



1 Got The Last Laugh



2 Mythical Pegasus (3)



3 Fast Thought



4 Royal Guard (13)



5 Life Is A Cabernet



6 Now A Victor



9 Street Sense



11 Starforaday



12 Zipperoo



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New Dress

Honorable Miss winner Burmilla changes costumes, eyes win No. 5

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Don't let the silks fool you, Burmilla is the same gal she has always been – and that doesn't bode well for her nine rivals in Sunday's Grade I \$250,000 Ballerina Stakes.

The striking chestnut daughter of Storm Cat was transferred from the maroon-and-white silks of Darley Stable to the royal blue of Godolphin after her last start, a win in the Grade II Honorable Miss Stakes here Aug. 3. Not that it matters to Burmilla. A perfect 4-for-4, she has shown that colors make little difference to her; it's only the finish line that matters.

Formerly trained by Eoin Harty for Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum's Darley Stable, Burmilla was expertly campaigned through her first four starts and the 4-year-old filly sliced through them like a Ginsu through a can. A maiden score was followed by two allowance victories, the last being her seasonal debut at Churchill Downs in June. The Honorable Miss was the perfect stepping stone for a filly that had been long on promise but short on afternoon exercise.

BALLERINA STAKES PREVIEW

Sent to the front immediately by Rafael Bejarano, Burmilla set a controlled tempo, resulting in a half-mile in a tepid 45.90 seconds. The moderate pace left Bejarano with plenty left for the drive and Burmilla bounded clear to a 2 3/4-length score.

The victory stamped Burmilla as a filly with unlimited potential, and thus the switch to Darley's big brother, the Godolphin operation, which is also under Maktoum's wing, was made. Rick Mettee, who oversees the Godolphin horses in the United States for trainer Saeed bin Suroor, assumed the training duties shortly after the Honorable Miss win. Mettee gave a crash-course on the Darley-Godolphin relationship outside of his barn Saturday morning.

"The basic goal of the Maktoum family is to have their best horses running in the blue Godolphin colors. It doesn't always work out that way, as you saw with, obviously, Bernardini and Dubai Escapade, there have been plenty of good horses with the maroon-and-white



Tod Marks

See **BALLERINA** page 23 ►

Burmilla comes into Sunday's Ballerina with a 4-for-4 career record.



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Ballerina —

■ Continued from page 22

silks,” Mettee said. “But the basic goal is to have the best running in those blue silks. This has been going on in Europe for years but this just happens to be the first time you have seen it here.”

The switch to the Godolphin banner was not a sudden change; instead it had been one that was talked about for some time. Mettee has admired Burmilla from afar in the past, as well as watched her train here at Saratoga.

“When she won the Churchill race, we had our eye on her, but we just felt the best thing was to leave her with Eoin for the first start at Saratoga and see how she went from the allowance at Churchill to a Group race at Saratoga,” Mettee said. “But I have been watching her go for awhile, even training up to that first race. We knew something could be in the works if she were to run well, so I was somewhat familiar with her when she came over here. I have seen her train before. I got her after the Honorable Miss and I have put two works into her. She is not a great work filly by any stretch of the imagination. Eoin had told me that is just the way she is; she’ll work 1:02 for 5 furlongs. He said that when she is fresh off a lay-off she’ll give you fast works but when she gets fits she just pulls herself back a little bit.”

Mettee understands the effects that a breakthrough performance can have on a young horse, yet he is quick to hint there might be more improvement for a filly who has only run four times in a year and a half.

“She has been straight and true and sound, but you never know off a big effort like that. She is 4-years-old and improving and for the first time she has been able to string starts together. The good horses, they are going to improve with races; they aren’t going to react like some horses do,” Mettee said. “I hope it wasn’t just a freaky effort on a Sara-

toga track because she’s probably not going to pull that same trip tomorrow. Being in the 10-hole horses are going to go inside of her and she is probably going to have to sit a little bit anyway and hopefully she can stretch out to the 7 furlongs. We know it’s not going to be easy but she ran a big number for a filly who has only raced four times.”

Indian Flare was left in Burmilla’s wake in the Honorable Miss. A Judmonte homebred trained by Bobby Frankel, Indian Flare has shown flashes of brilliance earlier this year, most notably in the Grade II Vagrancy at Belmont Park, where she stalked a quick half-mile in 44.40 under Javier Castellano before edging off to a half-length victory. Frankel sent her to Calder and Grade I glory in the Princess Rooney Handicap July 7. Indian Flare was bumped early and never showed her customary early lick, checking in a disappointing 11th at 3-1.

Castellano is back aboard in the Ballerina, and Indian Flare is 3-for-6 at the 7-furlong distance. Last year she finished fourth in the Ballerina to runaway winner Dubai Escapade and Frankel enters Sunday hoping to bridge the gap between the two Honorable Miss heroes.

“The Calder race was a toss-out; she went down there and just didn’t pick up the ground,” Frankel said. “I don’t know; we’ll see if we can make up the 2 3/4 lengths on Burmilla. It’s hard to say if she has improved since the Honorable Miss but she is doing well (coming in to the Ballerina). I think 7 furlongs is a good fit for her. The other filly (Burmilla) got it a bit easy the other day; they let her go the first quarter in 23, and that’s pretty slow for those horses. We are on the inside so we will have to let her run out of there today.”

Maryfield has shipped east to score before, winning Aqueduct’s Grade II Distaff Breeders’ Cup earlier this spring. Trainer Doug O’Neill will head to the well once more when he sends out the 6-year-old mare to break from the rail. Elvis Trujillo, who rode Mary-

field, a daughter of Elusive Quality, to a close fourth-place finish in the Princess Rooney, retains the mount.

Pussycat Doll wheels back after only nine days rest for trainer Bob Baffert after struggling over Del Mar’s newly-installed Polytrack surface in the Grade III Rancho Bernardo Handicap Aug. 17. A 5-year-old daughter of Real Quiet, Pussycat Doll has done her best running at today’s 7-furlong distance. In six tries she has three wins, all Grade I scores – the La Brea, Humana Distaff and Santa Monica. Kent Desormeaux picks up the mount on Pussycat Doll, who does her best running from just off the pace.

Baroness Thatcher finished only a neck behind Boca Grande in the Test, while 2 1/4 lengths clear of fourth. Trained by Patrick Biancone for Zayat Stable, she has faced nothing but the best of her generation this year. Rags To Riches and Panty Raid dot her past performances, as well as turf, dirt, and Polytrack. Garret Gomez, who had ridden Pussycat Doll in seven or her last eighth starts, will stick with Baroness Thatcher in the Ballerina. Her versatile running style should allow him to work out a trip from the six-hole.

Rounding out the field are: Swap Fliparoo (Eibar Coa), who won the Test here last year for trainer Allen Jerkens; Boca Grande (Julien Leparoux), second in this year’s Test for Shug McGaughey; Nothing But Fun (Cornelio Velasquez), second in this race last year to monster Dubai Escapade for Mike Hushion; Miraculous Miss (Ramon Dominguez), winless in her only attempt this season for Steve Klesaris; and Cherokee Jewel (Alan Garcia), a minor stakes winner here last year for Tim Hills.

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Sunday's Saratoga Entries

Sunday, Aug. 26. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 6 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 75,000. PURSE \$67,000.

1	1	Countess Scala.....	Leparoux J R.....	Biancone Patrick ...	10-1
2	2	Pro Pink	Hill C	Sanders Jamie.....	12-1
3	3	Tiger On the Loose	Bejarano R	Frankel Bobby	3-1
4	4	Meredith Bee	Velasquez J R.....	Mott Bill.....	5-2
5	5	Awsugahnow.....	Borel C H.....	Wilkes Ian	6-1
6	6	She's Achance.....	Velasquez C.....	Trombetta Michael...	8-1
7	7	Sumwonlovesyou.....	Dominguez R A.....	Simon Chuck.....	6-1
8	8	Sequoia Queen	Gomez G K.....	Asmussen Steven....	5-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

2ND (1:32) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

1A	7	Scarlet Love	Velasquez C.....	Dollase Wally.....	9-2
1A	9	Athena of Troy	Bridgmohan S X....	Dollase Wally.....	9-2
2	AE	Miss Fervor	Garcia Alan.....	Albertrani Tom.....	15-1
2B	AE	Sophia Grace.....	Samyn J L.....	Leahy Michael	15-1
3	1	Our Secret.....	Bejarano R	Weaver George.....	5-1
4	2	Mula Mula	Gomez G K.....	Matz Michael.....	6-1
5	3	She Belongs to Us.....	Castellano J J.....	Contessa Gary	15-1
6	4	Loxy Lady.....	Coa E M	Hennig Mark.....	12-1
7	5	Golden Oasis	Dominguez R A.....	Frankel Bobby	8-1
8	6	Mademoisellewhaki.....	Leparoux J R.....	Biancone Patrick	3-1
9	8	Come Fly Away.....	Hill C	Hushion Mike	15-1
10	10	Slewfoundmoney	Desormeaux K J....	Mott Bill.....	4-1
11	AE	Impressionism	Velasquez J R.....	McGaughey Shug....	2-1
12	MTO	A. P. Test	Castellano J J.....	Kelly Pat	4-1

A-Coupled: Scarlet Love and Athena of Troy
B-Coupled: Miss Fervor and Sophia Grace
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (2-4), Pick 4 (2-5)

3RD (2:04) 6 FURLONGS. 2YO. ALW/OPT CLM 75,000. PURSE \$67,000.

1	1	War Pass.....	Velasquez C.....	Zito Nick.....	2-1
2	2	Cassoulet	Dominguez R A.....	Motion Graham	10-1
3	3	Bucky Came Home	Bejarano R	Sanders Jamie.....	6-1
4	4	Ascot Hall.....	Gomez G K.....	Dutrow Tony.....	5-1
5	5	Pyro	Bridgmohan S X....	Asmussen Steve.....	5-2
6	6	Fidelio.....	Castellano J J.....	Frankel Bobby	7-2

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

4TH (2:36) 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 75,000. PURSE \$68,000.

1	1	Sacrifice Bunt.....	Desormeaux K J....	Mott Bill.....	5-1
2	2	Nosybody.....	Borel C H.....	McPeck Ken	20-1
3	3	Kong the King.....	Coa E M	Reynolds Pat.....	4-1
4	4	Building New Era.....	Velasquez J R.....	Contessa Gary	7-2
5	5	True Competitor	Velasquez C.....	Ward John.....	6-1
6	6	Daaher.....	Luzzi M J.....	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	3-1
7	7	Chekhov	Gomez G K.....	Biancone Patrick ...	10-1
8	8	Where's My Halo	Dominguez R A.....	Levine Bruce	8-1

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

5TH (3:08) 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1A	2	Phi Beta Mom.....	Coa E M	Pletcher Todd	3-1
1A	3	Miss General.....	Velasquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd	3-1
2	1	Carnival City	Bridgmohan S X....	Lukas Wayne.....	12-1
3	4	Buona Sera.....	Garcia Alan.....	Bush Tom.....	8-1
4	5	Seemingly	Borel C H.....	Wilkes Ian	20-1
5	6	Elusive Lady	Velasquez C.....	Kimmel John	15-1
6	7	Eightyfive S	Gomez G K.....	Hennig Mark.....	15-1
7	8	Backseat Rhythm	Castellano J J.....	Reynolds Pat	6-1
8	9	Nightnightnight	Leparoux J R.....	Biancone Patrick ...	10-1
9	10	Blowing Kisses.....	Desormeaux K J....	Matz Michael.....	5-1
10	11	Tates Queen.....	Bejarano R	Harty Eoin	9-2
11	12	Receipt.....	Dominguez R A.....	McGaughey Shug....	12-1

A-Coupled: Phi Beta Mom and Miss General
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (5-7), Pick 6 (5-10)

6TH (3:41) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$34,000.

1	1	Friar.....	Gomez G K.....	Stall Jr Al.....	5-2
2	2	Sweet Brush.....	Velasquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd	7-2
3	3	Kaufman.....	Castellano J J.....	Hills Tim	12-1
4	4	Monsieur Henri	Dominguez R A.....	Motion Graham	15-1
5	5	Gold Pageantry.....	Garcia Alan.....	Tesher Howie.....	8-1
6	6	Stratonic.....	Coa E M	Tagg Barclay.....	6-1
7	7	Broadway Bud	Velasquez C.....	Donk David.....	8-1
8	8	I'ma a Fax.....	Samyn J L.....	Kelly Pat	30-1
9	9	Dr Rico.....	Leparoux J R.....	Ritvo Tim.....	20-1
10	10	Ready Enough	Desormeaux K J....	Galluscio Dominic ..	5-1
11	AE	Exton	Rojas R I.....	DiSanto Glenn	15-1
12	AE	Quick Comeback	Desormeaux K J....	Contessa Gary	9-2
13	MTO	Hacker Craft	No rider	Simon Chuck.....	12-1
14	MTO	Proudly Pyrite	Coa E M	Bush Tom	5-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (6-8), Grand Slam (6-9), Daily Double

7TH (4:14) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	Token Bay.....	Ponce J	Ubillo Rodrigo	6-1
2	2	Hollywood Terrace.....	Samyn J L.....	Lostritto Joseph	15-1
3	3	Zitta	Garcia Alan.....	Baker Charlton.....	12-1
4	4	Worth a Shot.....	Borel C H.....	Corrao James	20-1
5	5	Pennylove.....	Desormeaux K J....	Schosberg Rick.....	6-1
6	6	Delightful One	Bracetty J A.....	Vitali Marcus	12-1
7	7	Let's Fly Away.....	Dominguez R A.....	Hernandez Mike.....	5-2
8	8	Satin Queen.....	Hill C	Ferraro James	15-1
9	9	Intrigue.....	Velasquez C.....	Bush Tom	3-1
10	10	Pretty Gal	Chavez J F.....	Bond James	8-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 4 (7-10)

8TH (4:47) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$61,000.

1	1	That'll Do.....	Hill C	Gyarmati Leah	6-1
2	2	Defrizz.....	Samyn J L.....	Freeman Mike.....	5-1
3	3	Allaboutmack	Chavez J F.....	Lostritto Joseph	10-1
4	4	One for Allison	Morales P.....	Disanto Glenn.....	20-1
5	5	Highly Spoken	Borel C H.....	Jacobson David.....	12-1
6	6	Ballston.....	Rojas R I.....	Aquilino Joe	30-1
7	7	A Wild Minute.....	Gomez O	Candlin John	50-1
8	8	Huge City.....	Velasquez C.....	Rice Linda	6-1
9	9	Beneath the Crown.....	Desormeaux K J....	Voss Tom	3-1
10	10	Burn One Turn One.....	Bridgmohan S X....	Asmussen Steve.....	7-2
11	11	Thunder Minister.....	Velasquez J R.....	O'Brien Keith	12-1
12	MTO	Any Which Way	Bejarano R	Gullo Gary	7-2

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

9TH (5:20) THE BALLERINA (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$250,000.

1	1	Maryfield.....	Trujillo E.....	O'Neill Doug	8-1
2	2	Pussycat Doll	Desormeaux K J....	Baffert Bob	7-2
3	3	Indian Flare	Castellano J J.....	Frankel Bobby	9-2
4	4	Swap Fliparoo	Coa E M	Jerkens Allen.....	12-1
5	5	Boca Grande.....	Leparoux J R.....	McGaughey Shug....	8-1
6	6	Baroness Thatcher	Gomez G K.....	Biancone Patrick	8-1
7	7	Nothing But Fun	Velasquez C.....	Hushion Mike	20-1
8	8	Miraculous Miss.....	Dominguez R A.....	Klesaris Steve.....	10-1
9	9	Cherokee Jewel	Garcia Alan.....	Hills Tim	20-1
10	10	Burmilla.....	Bejarano R	bin Suroor Saeed	3-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

10TH (5:52) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Heights.....	Castellano J J.....	Donk David.....	30-1
2	2	Juror	Gomez G K.....	bin Suroor Saeed	2-1
3	3	Saturday's Cat	Garcia Alan.....	Barbara Robert	20-1
4	4	Stately Pegasus.....	Desormeaux K J....	Kimmel John	10-1
5	5	Egyptian King	Bracetty J A.....	Chin Peter	50-1
6	6	Solvent.....	Bejarano R	Weaver George.....	15-1
7	7	Logic Way	Velasquez J R.....	O'Brien Keith	3-1
8	8	In the Spotlight.....	Samyn J L.....	Hertler John	10-1
9	9	Triple Bogey Blues.....	Coa E M	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	15-1
10	10	Calagaitor.....	Velasquez C.....	Tesher Howie.....	15-1
11	11	Back to Mandalay	Leparoux J R.....	Zito Nick.....	6-1
12	12	Strikeuptheblues	Arroyo N Jr	Bush Tom	15-1
13	AE	Striking Rizzi	Dominguez R A.....	Carroll II Del	12-1
14	AE	One Good Man	Coa E M	Klesaris Robert.....	15-1
15	AE	Kill Devil Rum.....	Dominguez R A.....	Kingsley Arch	20-1
16	MTO	Wonforthe goodguys.....	Morales P.....	DiSanto Glenn	6-1

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Pete Fornatale



Alan Mann



Brian Nadeau



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Race #				
1	Tiger On The Loose Meredith Bee Sequoia Queen	Tiger On The Loose Meredith Bee Sequoia Queen	Awsugahnow Meredith Bee Tiger On The Loose	Pro Pink Tiger On The Loose Awsugahnow
2	Mula Mula Golden Oasis Mademoisellewhaki	Golden Oasis Scarlet Love Our Secret	Dollase Entry Mula Mula Our Secret	Come Fly Away Loxy Lady Mademoisellewhaki
3	War Pass Fidelio Pyro	War Pass Pyro Cassoulet	War Pass Pyro Fidelio	Ascot Hall Pyro Bucky Came Home
4	Kong The King True Competitor Daaher	Kong The King Daaher True Competitor	Kong The King Sacrifice Bunt True Competitor	Where's My Halo Building New Era Sacrifice Bunt
5	Tates Queen Buona Sera Backseat Rhythm	Phi Beta Mom Tates Queen Eightyfive S	Blowing Kisses Elusive Lady Backseat Rhythm	Eightyfive S Receipt Blowing Kisses
6	Friar Sweet Brush Broadway Bud	Friar Gold Pageantry Stratonic	Friar Sweet Brush Ready Enough	Dr Rico Broadway Bud Ready Enough
7	Intrique Pennylove Let's Fly Away	Let's Fly Away Intrique Pennylove	Intrique Satin Queen Pretty Gal	Zitta Pretty Gal Delightful One
8	Beneath the Crown Burn One Turn One That'll Do	Burn One Turn One Huge City Allaboutmack	That'll Do Beneath The Crown Defrizz	One For Allison Ballston Defrizz
9	Burmilla Boca Grande Swap Fliparoo	Burmilla Indian Flare Boca Grande	Burmilla Indian Flare Baroness Thatcher	Nothing But Fun Pussycat Doll Boca Grande
10	Logic Way Juror In the Spotlight	Solvent Logic Way Juror	Juror Logic Way Solvent	Triple Bogey Blues Egyptian King Saturday's Cat
To Date:	50/230	52/230	64/230	30/230

Sunday's Detailed Analysis

RACE 1: TIGER ON THE LOOSE ran well last time despite trouble. If she runs back to that race two back, I like her chances. MEREDITH BEE also had trouble in that race and is another I'll use. SEQUOIA QUEEN took money and won by air last time. She's a threat right back.

RACE 2: MULA MULA was bet like she has talent and has an appealing turf pedigree. GOLDEN OASIS also looks like she'll turf and rates a look. MADEMOISELLEWHAKI ran well earlier in the meet and could improve.

RACE 3: WAR PASS impressed opening week and looks like one of the ones here. FIDELIO goes from Poly to dirt and gets a potentially favorable draw. PYRO showed the ability to pass horses which could be a valuable quality here.

RACE 4: KONG THE KING looks like he could be sitting on a big race figure pattern wise. TRUE COMPETITOR didn't have the easiest of trips and could improve second off the layoff. DAAHER has been running ok in stakes and drops in to allowance company here.

RACE 5: TATES QUEEN is by a debut sire I like and this barn can have them ready. BUONA SERA ran OK first out and can be expected to improve off that run. BACKSEAT RHYTHM was fourth in a live looking race and is another I'll use.

RACE 6: FRIAR was competitive against significantly better at Churchill Downs, and drops in class for a barn which has been sharp here in limited starts. GOLD PAGEANTRY was already showing signs of life in state-bred allowances before successfully dropping in class; moves up a bit but always gives an honest effort. STRATONIC moves up in class confidently for Barclay Tagg, and can take this on his back form.

RACE 7: LET'S FLY AWAY may not be an exciting pick, but her close second here, achieved despite trouble early and late, makes her a rou-

tine selection. INTRIQUE, first-time for Tom Bush, is a half-sister to the stakes-winning Rahy's Appeal by the good debut sire Silver Deputy. PENNYLOVE was well-bet in her debut at Aqueduct, and returns for the hot Rick Schosberg barn.

RACE 8: BURN ONE TURN ONE ran OK in his first race in seven months, and returns to the turf. He graduated in a grassy sprint at Belmont last year. HUGE CITY was caught very wide in his turf debut and surged to lead between calls before tiring from his efforts; can make amends for the sharp Linda Rice. ALLABOUTMACK beat the top choice when even wider in his first race since January and is an obvious contender.

RACE 9: It's hard to oppose Godolphin these days with anything they run, especially so on the dirt. BURMILLA won't pay for your Travers weekend if she wins the Grade I Ballerina. But despite the fact that her Honorable Miss win came against just four rivals, there's little apparent speed inside of her, and her pedigree says she'll be tough to run down even trying seven furlongs for the first time. INDIAN FLARE rebounded with a nice second to the top pick and should be in hot pursuit again. BOCA GRANDE closed for second from far back employing new tactics with Julien Leparoux, and is poised to pick up the pieces again.

RACE 10: SOLVENT finished well in an allowance here, and gets blinkers on for the red-hot George Weaver. Employing that equipment change, the trainer has won three times, including Pulla Fast One at 21-1, and run second twice in the last week. He won't pulla 'nother fast one on me this time; let's all get out for the meet at his 15-1 morning line. LOGIC WAY has the class and the speed figures to make him the one to beat. JUROR is one of those Godolphin horses that I just said was hard to oppose; his sole win is on Poly in Britian, so let's take a shot against anyway.

- Pete Fornatale & Alan Mann

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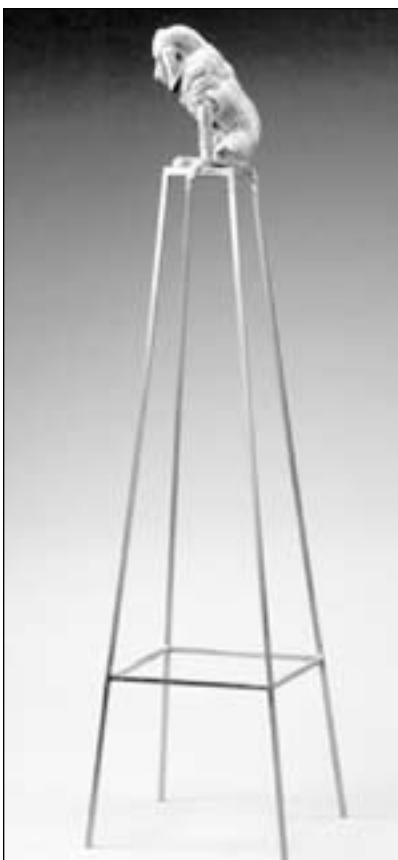
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Monday's Saratoga Entries

Monday, Aug. 27. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 6 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. CLAIMING 25,000. PURSE \$39,000.

1	1	Tax Considerations	.....Garcia Alan	.....Persaud Atreo	.....12-1
2	2	Devil's Last Dance	.....Hill C	.....D'Alessandro Ralph	.....15-1
3	3	Flying Falcon	.....Chavez J F	.....Russo Sal	.....5-1
4	4	In Command	.....Prado E S	.....Dutrow Richard	.....3-1
5	5	Most Charming	.....Coa E M	.....Levine Bruce	.....8-1
6	6	Harmonic Miss	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Jacobson David	.....5-1
7	7	What's Your Point	.....Dominguez R A	.....Dutrow Tony	.....5-2
8	8	Mutakaway	.....Gomez G K	.....De Stefano Jr John	.....6-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

2ND (1:32) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	Mad Money Classic	.....Luzzi M J	.....Levine Bruce	.....10-1
2	2	Gimmee Getme	.....Rojas R I	.....Martin Frank	.....20-1
3	3	Western Call	.....Bejarano R	.....Hough Stan	.....8-1
4	4	Will Never Bend	.....Bracetty J A	.....Kelly Pat	.....30-1
5	5	Saratoga Kaz	.....Coa E M	.....Kazamias Peter	.....3-1
6	6	Deb's Roof	.....Chavez J F	.....Weaver George	.....7-2
7	7	Treasure Mountain	.....Gomez G K	.....Preciado Guadalupe	.....4-1
8	8	Biohazard	.....Castellano J J	.....Lerman Michael	.....5-1
9	9	Hammock	.....Prado E S	.....Schosberg Rick	.....6-1

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

3RD (2:04) THE SARATOGA DEW. 1 1/8 MILES. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. PURSE \$80,000.

1	1	Borrowing Base	.....Castellano J J	.....Quick Patrick	.....15-1
2	2	Stolen Star	.....Velasquez C	.....Kimmel John	.....9-2
3	3	Ice Cool Kitty	.....Prado E S	.....Dutrow Richard	.....6-5
4	4	Mama Theresa	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Galluscio Dominic	.....5-1
5	5	Shady Lane	.....Bejarano R	.....Galluscio Dominic	.....8-1
6	6	Lauren's Tizzy	.....Gomez G K	.....Hennig Mark	.....3-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

4TH (2:36) THE JENA JENA. 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. NY BRED. PURSE \$80,000.

1	1	Speak Proudly	.....Dominguez R A	.....Schosberg Rick	.....10-1
2	2	Jovanna	.....Bejarano R	.....Dutrow Richard	.....6-1
3	3	Expect the End	.....Prado E S	.....Dutrow Richard	.....8-5
4	4	Myakka	.....Velasquez C	.....Rice Linda	.....2-1
5	5	Bet the Diva	.....Coa E M	.....Contessa Gary	.....5-1
6	6	Crazy Catlady	.....Garcia Alan	.....Hills Tim	.....20-1
7	7	Slipstone	.....Bridgmohan S X	.....Hernandez Mike	.....15-1

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

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

1	7	Supporter	.....Bridgmohan S X	.....Hernandez Mike	.....12-1
1A	AE	Farri H.	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Kimmel John	.....12-1
2	1	Jet Setting	.....Prado E S	.....Asmussen Steve	.....3-1
3	2	My Anna Rose	.....Coa E M	.....Sciaccia Gary	.....15-1
4	3	Linden Ave	.....Castellano J J	.....Hills Tim	.....8-1
5	4	Meriwether Jessica	.....Velasquez C	.....McDonald Michael	.....12-1
6	5	Vain Vixen	.....Gomez G K	.....Bush Tom	.....15-1
7	6	Golden Spirits	.....Velazquez J R	.....Donk David	.....10-1
8	8	Nicole Cat	.....Hill C	.....O'Brien Keith	.....20-1
9	9	Like a Rose	.....Dominguez R A	.....Contessa Gary	.....5-1
10	10	Meredith Bay	.....Bejarano R	.....Kelly Pat	.....15-1
11	11	Cape Cod Escape	.....Rojas R I	.....Schwartz Scott	.....20-1
12	12	City of Lights	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Dutrow Tony	.....4-1

A-Coupled: Supporter and Farri H.

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (5-7), Pick 6 (5-10)

6TH (3:41) 6 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALLOW. PURSE \$61,000.

1	5	Golden Elegance	.....Prado E S	.....Gorham Michael	.....5-1
1A	9	Classic Flirt	.....Prado E S	.....Gorham Michael	.....5-1
2	6	City in the Clouds	.....Dominguez R A	.....Contessa Gary	.....8-1
2B	7	Charming Jill	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Contessa Gary	.....8-1
3	1	Karakorum Knockout	.....Bracetty J A	.....Odintz Jeff	.....20-1
4	2	Sweet Victory	.....Samyn J L	.....Kelly Pat	.....30-1
5	3	Sort of Tricky	.....Garcia Alan	.....Romans Dale	.....8-5
6	4	Rizzi's Twist	.....Velasquez C	.....Levine Bruce	.....3-1
7	8	Musical Melody	.....Hill C	.....Turner Billy	.....12-1
8	10	Kitty Nip	.....Rojas R I	.....Candlin John	.....15-1
9	11	Huxley Heroine	.....Coa E M	.....Englehart Chris	.....8-1

A-Coupled: Golden Elegance and Classic Flirt

B-Coupled: City in the Clouds and Charming Jill

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (6-8), Grand Slam (6-9), Daily Double

7TH (4:14) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$31,000.

1	2	Dorothy's Destiny	.....Luzzi M J	.....Rice Linda	.....6-1
1A	7	Off Sweets	.....Velasquez C	.....Rice Linda	.....6-1
2	1	All Fired Up	.....Chavez J F	.....Gullo Gary	.....15-1
3	3	Royal Spaulding	.....Garcia Alan	.....Tagg Barclay	.....5-2
4	4	Top Royelle (GB)	.....Leparoux J R	.....Simon Chuck	.....15-1
5	5	Osceola County	.....Bejarano R	.....Weaver George	.....15-1
6	6	Dancing Cherokee	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Kimmel John	.....3-1
7	8	Diamond Jane	.....Rojas R I	.....Carle Jeffrey	.....20-1
8	9	Theresa's Decision	.....Bracetty J A	.....Streicher Kenneth	.....30-1
9	10	Skip the Glitter	.....Coa E M	.....Lake Scott	.....10-1
10	11	Message of a Myth	.....Dominguez R A	.....Cibelli Jane	.....4-1

A-Coupled: Dorothy's Destiny and Off Sweets

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 4 (7-10)

8TH (4:47) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 4&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 100,000. PURSE \$79,000.

1	1	Fez (SAF)	.....Leparoux J R	.....McLaughlin Kieran	.....8-1
2	2	Rock Lobster	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Reynolds Pat	.....9-2
3	3	Heat of the Night (SAF)	.....Velazquez J R	.....Pletcher Todd	.....3-1
4	4	Classic Campaign	.....Prado E S	.....Mott Bill	.....5-2
5	5	Karelian	.....Bejarano R	.....Arnold Rusty	.....4-1
6	6	Dreadnaught	.....Samyn J L	.....Voss Tom	.....6-1
7	7	Gigawatt	.....Castellano J J	.....Lerman Michael	.....15-1
8	MTO	Evening Attire	.....No rider	.....Kelly Pat	.....2-1
9	MTO	Sleek John	.....No rider	.....Gullo Gary	.....6-1

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

9TH (5:20) THE CLASSY MIRAGE. 6 1/2 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$80,000.

1	1	Cherokee Jewel	.....Velasquez C	.....Hills Tim	.....6-1
2	2	Fast Deal	.....Leparoux J R	.....Lukas Wayne	.....6-1
3	3	Humorous Gal	.....Borel C H	.....Wilkes Ian	.....10-1
4	4	More Angels	.....Velazquez J R	.....Levine Bruce	.....5-1
5	5	Cuaba	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Mott Bill	.....2-1
6	6	Sugar Swirl	.....Gomez G K	.....Frankel Bobby	.....5-2
7	7	Rich Fantasy	.....Bridgmohan S X	.....Werner Ronny	.....15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

10TH (5:52) 1 3/8 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$68,000.

1	AE	Spurred	.....Castellano J J	.....Donk David	.....5-2
1A	AE	Broadway Bud	.....Velasquez C	.....Donk David	.....5-2
2	1	Corporate Quest	.....Bridgmohan S X	.....Elliot Janet	.....15-1
3	2	Chief Running Bear	.....Dominguez R A	.....Motion Graham	.....12-1
4	3	Bold Hawk	.....Samyn J L	.....Toner Jimmy	.....3-1
5	4	League of Nations	.....Leparoux J R	.....Arnold Rusty	.....7-2
6	5	War 'n Honor	.....Luzzi M J	.....Voss Tom	.....15-1
7	6	Perrycarditus	.....Gomez G K	.....Hennig Mark	.....15-1
8	7	You're the Mon	.....Desormeaux K J	.....Mott Bill	.....9-2
9	8	Banrock	.....Velasquez C	.....Bush Tom	.....8-1
10	9	Classic Fran	.....Coa E M	.....Contessa Gary	.....6-1
11	10	Giant Storm	.....Prado E S	.....Hough Stan	.....20-1
12	AE	Dynamont	.....Coa E M	.....Hendriks Sanna	.....20-1
13	AE	The Price of Love	.....Gomez G K	.....Sheppard Jonathan	.....15-1
14	AE	Chalook	.....Garcia Alan	.....McManus Thomas	.....30-1
15	AE	ExtonRojas R IDiSanto Glenn30-1

A-Coupled: Spurred and Broadway Bud

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

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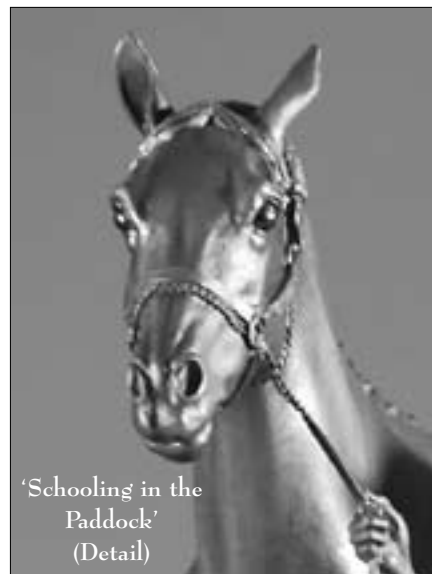
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Monday's Detailed Analysis

RACE 1: Tony Dutrow plunked down \$20,000 for WHAT'S YOUR POINT last time and it looks like a good move judging from the competition here; Ramon Dominguez should have her stalking the speed and rolling late. FLYING FALCON might try to get brave on the engine, a strategy that almost worked last time against slightly lesser. IN COMMAND steadied in her most recent outing yet still bounded home a much-the-best winner; dangerous right back.

RACE 2: George Weaver is suddenly white-hot, so DEB'S ROOF seems logical. Last-out he chased a complete freak in Posted; nobody like that in here. SARATOGA KAZ had an inspiring debut and he gets Eibar Coa; that can't be a bad thing. HAMMOCK made a middle-move in his well-bet debut behind Premium Wine, who won here Friday, and Rick Schosberg has done little wrong this summer at the Spa.

RACE 3: LAUREN'S TIZZY was visually impressive taking the minor Fleet Indian here Aug. 1 and she looks tough right back. A daughter of Tiznow, she has a long-striding style that's tailor-made for two-turns at Saratoga. ICE COOL KITTY was ambitiously spotted last time in the Grade II Delaware Handicap and things didn't go to plan, as she came home last; if that effort didn't take too much out of her she could be a handful. The concern is her two quick figures came in one-turn miles downstate. STOLEN STAR might try to sneak away from these down the backstretch and she could prove a threat if the rest let her walk early.

RACE 4: Call this \$80,000 stakes the Schuyler-ville Jr. EXPECT THE END seems quite salty; she chased Todd Pletcher's fleet New York City Girl in the Colleen last time at Monmouth and faces fellow Empire-breds today. MYAKKA was a good thing breaking her maiden earlier in the meet and seems capable for Linda Rice. JOVANNA is an ambitious maiden, but there isn't much beyond the top two and she wouldn't be a huge surprise.

RACE 5: Steve Asmussen reaches out for Edgar Prado, so that tells me JET SETTING is live in this freshman dash. Mike Hernandez sends out SUPPORTER, who fired a bullet at Oklahoma Aug. 15; Chester and Mary Broman race and breed good horses. LIKE A ROSE is a daughter of Hook And Ladder, who is 6-for-16 with his debut runners. That might be all you need to know in here.

RACE 6: SORT OF TRICKY could not have run any faster in her debut. While I don't usually like to take ex-maidens facing winners first-back, there's no real threat here and Dale Romans only stretches her an additional sixteenth. RIZZI'S TWIST has been mired in this condition since May; maybe the new blinkers could perk her up a bit. Someone has to run third . . . why not CLASSIC FLIRT? Toss the last where she stumbled badly at the start and her form comes into focus.

RACE 7: Turf sprints just aren't my thing, so I won't be crushed if you steer clear here. Let's see if TOP ROYELLE can get Saratoga grad Chuck Simon into the spotlight. She should have plenty of foundation after running longer in her previous four starts this year. The lawn dashes have seemed kind to speed horses late-

ly, so maybe the Chopper can pop at a price with ALL FIRED UP. She'll take them as far as she can. ROYAL SPAULDING is logical for Barclay Tagg, but she's burned enough money to light the infield on fire.

RACE 8: Good stuff here, with a few holdovers from Saturday's Grade II Baruch, I'm sure. KAR-ELIAN was scratched out of the Baruch for this spot; Rafael Bejarano should have him close to a moderate pace and then we'll have to see if this 5-year-old is good enough. CLASSIC CAMPAIGN hits hard for leading trainer Bill Mott and returns to a distance where he's done his best work. ROCK LOBSTER won the Grade III Saranac here last year. He might be a little better with some give in the ground.

RACE 9: Hmmm, this 6 1/2-furlong affair has the look of a race that is going to completely fall apart inside the sixteenth-pole, as there appears to be a ton of speed signed on. So I'm going to try HUMOROUS GAL simply because she will be a much better price than CUABA, who also

seems to get set up in here. The former aired in a sloppy conditioned allowance at Churchill in June; the latter was visually impressive taking a third-level allowance here earlier in the meet and loms mighty large today. SUGAR SWIRL seems to have a hint of a rating gear, and she'll need it if she wants to have any firepower when the top two come calling late.

RACE 10: I took CHIEF RUNNING BEAR last time out and I saw enough to think he can factor here. Bumped heading into the second-turn this guy was only beaten 7 3/4 lengths in a race he must have needed. Thorn Song improved to 3-for-3 on the lawn winning that day, and Bear figures to be much tighter for his second start in the states. Dominguez gets aboard, and that tips the hand even more. YOU'RE THE MON figures to go favored (and rightfully so) for the Mott-Desormeaux machine. He is a must-use, but he does face his elders for the first time. Tread lightly. BANROCK finally broke through in his last and a repeat of that race puts him in the mix.

— Brian Nadeau

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- King's Bishop (GI) \$250,000
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- Victory Ride (GIII) \$100,000

8/26 SUN

- Ballerina (GI) \$250,000

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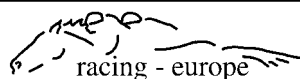
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Gates open 11 am weekdays, 10:30 am weekends (7 am on Travers Day and 1 pm for sunset racing).



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Worth Reviewing

For readers of *The Special*, the trainers of yesterday's best bets didn't just tip their hands, they announced their cards to everyone before the flop. In case you missed it, check out some of these snippets we printed in the annual Travers Day feature known as Saratoga Stakes Speak. Sorry if this sounds a little like the tip-sheet dudes bragging about their eight winners on top, but we're proud to have doled out so many useful insights.

Gary Gullo on Victory Ride runner-up Half Time Crown (\$27.80, \$12.60): "I think with a clean start, she should run well. She's always run great on the dirt; never been worse than second other than that start. She'll be a big price and she'll be worth a bet." Result: She was a big price, and she was worth a bet.

Patrick Biancone on Victory Ride winner La Traviata (\$3.70, \$3.30, \$2.70): "I can tell you one thing — she is the fastest horse I ever trained. I think as long as she breaks clean the race is over . . . I'm telling you she's the fastest horse I've ever trained." Result: She didn't break clean, so actually it took about an eighth of a mile until the race was over.

Rusty Arnold on Baruch runner-up Big Prairie (\$17.80, \$10.60): "He had a lot of time off before his last race and he was fifth, only beaten three lengths, and the horse behind him came back and won the Sword Dancer. I knew it was too short, but I just had to get a race into him." Result: Overlooked in the wagering, he rounded out a \$247 exacta.

Neil Howard on Travers runner-up Grasshopper (\$4.60, \$3.80): "He's got a good running style for a race like this, he shouldn't be too far back and hopefully it'll work out where he'll be a few lengths off the early pacesetter and you see if you have enough to hold off Street Sense . . ." Result: Speaks truth, Yoda does.

George Weaver on Baruch third Drum Major (\$6.50): "We are really happy with him. I'll tell you what — you can't fault his last race. I think that was an indicator he is in the best form of his career. If he can step it up just a little bit from that race we should be right there." Result: Missed by less than a length and filled out a \$1,274 trifecta!

Kieran McLaughlin on Bernard Baruch winner Shakis (\$12.60, \$6.50, \$4.50): "He's drawn well, they're going to take down the rails he gets good, fresh ground. I don't feel like he's tailing off after three runs in this country, usually they get better because we learn a little more about them." Result: Yeah, he got a little better.

— Jim Mulvihill

Six staff pickers can't pick six

So did we make you any money Saturday? The small novel that was the Travers edition of *The Saratoga Special* covered all the bases, with six of the best handicappers around giving you their selections after hours upon hours of detailed scrutiny. Well, remove "best" and replace "hours" with "minutes" and it leaves you with six handicappers giving you their selections. Fine, make it simple and remove "handicappers." There you have it — six punters giving you spot selections. Beats *The Pink Sheet* though, doesn't it?

Yet somewhere along the way we steered you in the right direction. The crowd was late-arriving, so that easily allows us to ignore the first six races. Brian "Semi-pro" Nadeau was the only one who had anything working in the early going, but a \$9.70 and \$8.60 winner won't help you buy a full-page ad in *The Special* anytime soon.

But much like the weather, we kept getting hotter as the day moved on. And showing that we actually do know a little something about the races, we really had it working in the stakes.

Nadeau started things off with Shakis in the Bernard Baruch. Thanks for a perfect ride and a \$12.60 winner, Alan Garcia. Onward and upward we go.

Oddly enough, defending champ Jamie Santo was the only one to pick heavily favored Hard Spun in the King's Bishop, and he nailed First Defence as well, capping off a healthy \$36.20 exacta. Not digging Jamie? How many cases of Coke does \$36.20 get you? Sean "Read me in the New York Post" Clancy and Nadeau had the exacta in reverse order — but you know to always box it, right?

Travers 138 didn't offer much value on the toteboard, but Sean, brother Joe and Dave "Have air mattress, will travel" Kosak all had the \$13 exacta. Beats a sharp stick in the eye.

For those still paying attention after the main attraction, La Traviata made the \$3.70 win price look at a bargain after she laughed at some nice 3-year-old fillies in the Victory Ride. Sean and Jim "I came to help out and got a blackout?" Mulvihill sussed her out. Combine our picks and the Pick 4 was yours. Just don't spend the \$83.50 all in one place.

Clearing aside the dead tickets on the office floor — a task akin to sweeping New York City following a ticker-tape parade — the final tally reads as follows:

Brian "Beat The Dartboard" Nadeau: five wins by the top selection.
"Texas Jim" Mulvihill and Sean "Your OTB Host" Clancy: three.
Jamie "Waiting for Dolphin Season" Santo and super-amateur Dave Kosak: two.
Joe "Quick Pick" Clancy: one cashable ticket (a \$2.70 value).

For his efforts, Nadeau received a healthy bonus — valued at \$2.70.

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Ms. Cancelli in front of her "Travers Triptych: Bernardini, Bluegrass Cat, Dr. Pleasure and Hesanoildalt"

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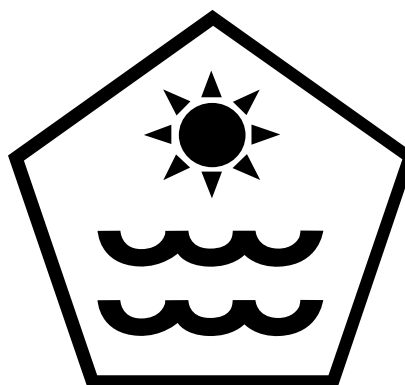
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Special 3, Blackouts 0

Travers Blackout 2007 – the electricity just went out in Saratoga. The only thing missing is Birdstone. Writing by the light of my laptop, brake lights flash red out the window, thunder booms, police sirens whine in the distance. We wade deeper and deeper into the deadline weeds.

How do you solve a problem? Get a bigger one.

We thought trying to cover four stakes and 12 races, dead-legged off the biggest *Saratoga Special* edition in history, was the problem. Now cover four stakes and 12 races without electricity. Now that's a problem.

"Somebody tell a story," Jim Mulvihill says. "OK, I'll start . . . this story begins at 10 o'clock when I went to the ATM machine . . ."

Mulvihill's out of money, Alan Garcia hedged the Bernard Baruch with Shakis, Hard Spun clawed out the King's Bishop, La Traviata wowed the Victory Ride, Street Sense did just what he had to do in the Travers. We thought that's how the story ended.

At least until the office went black.

Tod Marks makes his way down South East Street to drop off his Travers photos and then heads to the other side of town where he lives.

"Good luck gentlemen," Marks says. "I'm going to try to get home now."

Karen Johnson calls.

"Do you have power?" Johnson asks. "OK, well I just wanted to know if I was the only one in the dark."

Nope, looks like a city-wide blackout.

At least until Brian Nadeau calls.

"We have power at the track," Nadeau says. "I'm e-mailing you my article."

Perfect, well, other than we don't have Internet.

In seven years, we've never missed printing an

CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy



edition – through debt, illness, madness, emotional crises, threatened divorces, missed deadlines and two other blackouts. One blackout, we call it Chamber of Commerce Building '03 was a power grid failure from Manhattan to Saratoga. Somehow, our little corner of Saratoga zapped back to life to finish the paper in time for that night's deadline. The second, East Avenue '06 turned out to be a one side-of-the-street meltdown, we rectified it when we ran an electric chord out the back door and into our neighbor's kitchen, we made that deadline too.

But, right now, it's not looking promising. It's 8:51, and I'm the only who's even typing. Editor Jamie Santo is on a mission to drink a case of Coke before it warms. Intern David Kosak just called his mother. Vacationing Mulvihill is trying to figure out where he went wrong between ATM and SBO (Saratoga Black Out).

A hook and ladder just went down Lincoln Avenue. That can't be good.

We call the power company.

"Estimated time of fixture: In the future."

Steve O'Shea's Travers party up the street tempts us, sure looks like a decent alternative to sitting in a

dark office with a bunch of degenerate racetrackers trying to figure out if we should wait it out or call it a day. At least O'Shea serves beer on tap, even if it's in the dark. Drink fast before the ice melts.

If we just knew how long it would take to get power, we'd either abandon ship or stick it out. We could always do Sunday's edition for Monday, I could stop by Carl Nafzger's barn in the morning, watch Street Sense jog and take all afternoon to write the Travers article. It's tempting.

It's getting hot. Actually hotter. No air conditioning, no Internet, no candles even – well one candle but no matches.

It's now 9:11, my laptop runs as the lone speed, 3:54 left in the battery. That should last me until after midnight. I feel like I'm watching Hanukkah candles, hoping they last the night.

"Let's go to Siro's," David Kosak says. "What are we waiting for?"

"Our 21st birthday," Mulvihill says to our 20-year-old intern.

Conversation has taken a hit.

"What would happen if the racetrack lost power during the races?"

"Well, you don't need electricity to run the races. They're horses."

"What about the gate? It needs electricity."

"Who needs the gate?"

Then it gets curt.

"What would we do if it doesn't come back on?" Kosak says. "Print tomorrow morning? Monday? Or wait until Wednesday?"

"I don't know Dave," my brother Joe says. "I haven't given it a lot of thought."

Better start.

We're All About Your Horse...

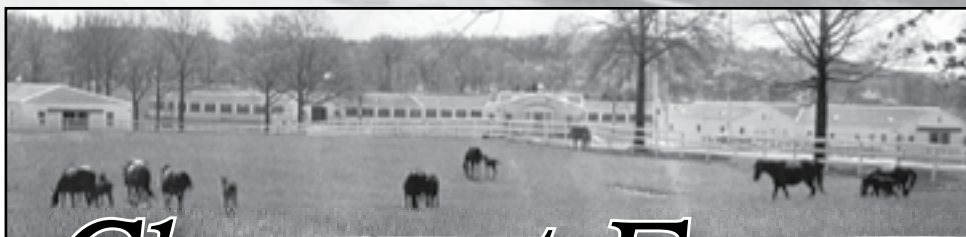
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