

FREE



The SARATOGA *Special*



Year 8 • No. 31

SARATOGA DAILY NEWSPAPER • THOROUGHBRED RACING

Saturday, August 30, 2008

**Curlin eyes Woodward,
history in Saratoga debut**

Super Horse

Tod Marks

INSIDE: WOODWARD AND FOREGO STAKES PREVIEWS • ENTRIES AND HANDICAPPING

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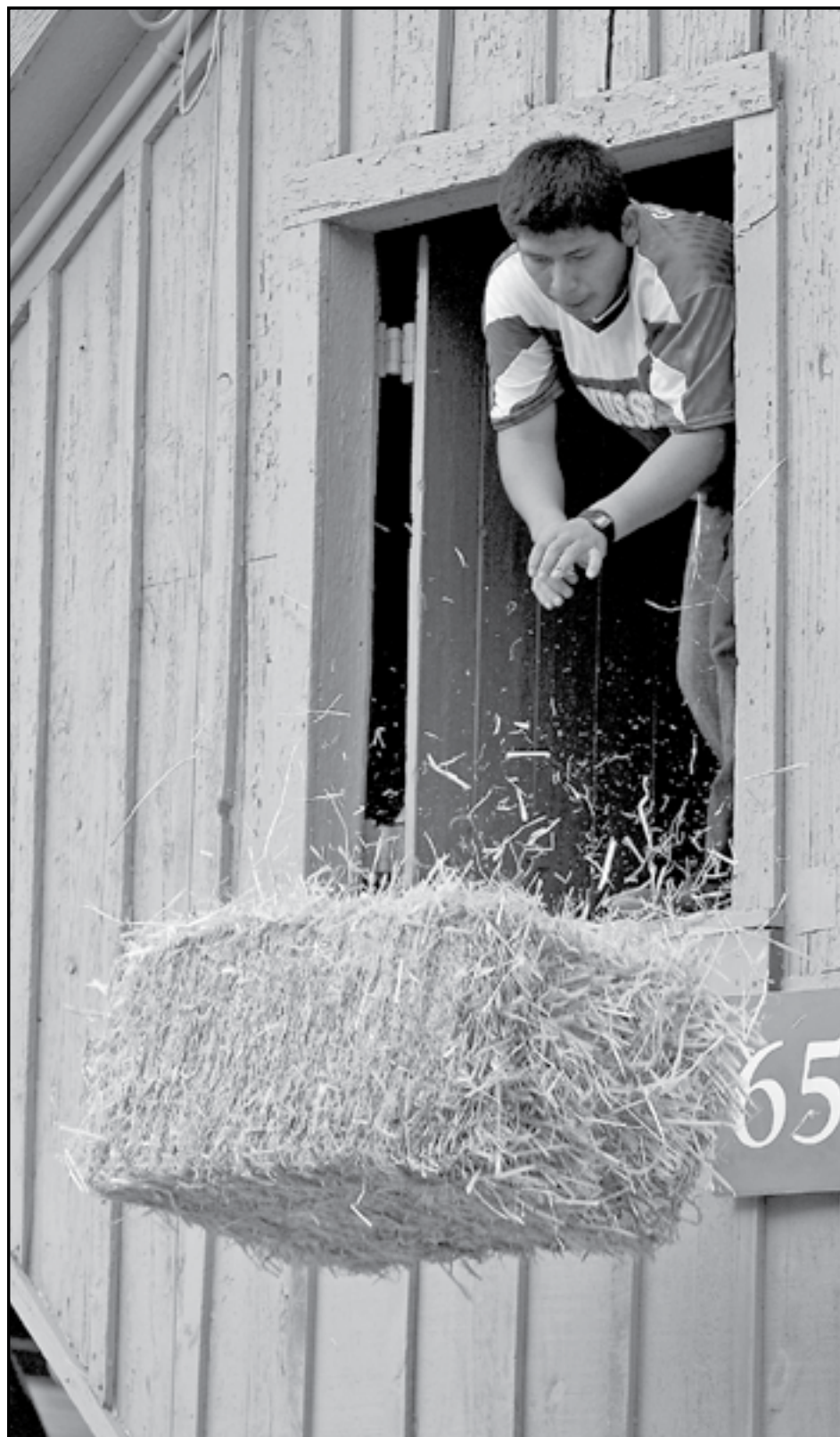
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what we are, and what we will be."

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

Here & There at Saratoga



Tod Marks

"It's OK – I didn't hit Curlin"

An assistant drops a bale of straw at Steve Asmussen's barn.

Worth Repeating

"Good morning, Champion. You are my American
Idol."

**Justin Atkins, assistant to Mike Maker,
to New York Turf Writers Cup winning
jockey Matt McCarron Friday morning**

"Who is this I'm working with, John's Call?"

**Trainer James Bond, after trainer Tom Voss
called about working a horse from the gate;
Voss' retired Grade I winner turned lead pony
John's Call, 17, no longer goes in the gate.**

"Yeah, I got a colt I like. He's OK."

**Jockey Robby Albarado when asked if he
liked anything he was riding on today's card**

"I called him every hillbilly name I could think of."

**Jockey Matt McCarron about trainer
Doug Fout after a schooling session went awry**

"Joe Clancy said, 'It makes your meet.' It makes
my year."

McCarron, after winning the Turf Writers

"He gets his old head down, he's like a dozer."

**Trainer Doug Fout about
Turf Writers winner Dark Equation**

"Wake me up when we get to Virginia."

**Fout assistant James Piper,
after a celebratory night
out and an impending trip home**

"He's not riding high. He's big."

**Trainer Bobby Frankel after an onlooker
commented that exercise rider
Walter Blum was riding high in the saddle**

"Most radio shows have a remote feed, we have
a cell phone."

Radio host Tom Gallo

"You're like a bumper car."

**Photographer Dave Harmon to
The Special's Joe Clancy who
is trying to get out of town quickly**

"Call me when I'm not in school."

Jack Clancy, 12, Friday morning

"He tells me all I do is get in the way."

Agent Steve Bass about trainer Tom Proctor

"He's only talked about one other horse like that:
Mineshaft."

**Jockey Robby Albarado
about Neil Howard and Mambo In Seattle**

"I'll savor it when the weather changes."

**Trainer Dave Duggan
about his six-win meet at Saratoga**

More Here and There on Page 3

ANDROMEDA'S HERO

- WON or placed in 10 Stakes Races,
including Gr. I Belmont Stakes,
Gr. I Jockey Club Gold Cup,
Gr. I Suburban Handicap and the
Gr. I Donn Handicap
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Take A Number

1 Tongue tie removed by *The Special's* Brian Nadeau – not really a horseperson – on Friday morning.

Names of the Day

Midnight Slammer, third race. Stud book 'em, Danno. The paperwork says it all for Team Five Star Stable's colt, who's by Officer out of Grand Slam mare Midnight Rhapsody.

Vinnie Van Go, sixth race. Dutch-born painter or Brooklyn-born cabbie? Either way, it's a cool handle for Harold Lerner's New York-bred.

L'Oiseau d'Argent, 11th race. French was never our strong suit, so it took us a while to finally translate this 9-year-old's name; it means silver bird, which is apt, since this fellow's a son of Silver Hawk. Tres bon.

Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy skies early. A few showers developing later in the day. High 77. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Tonight: A few clouds from time to time. Low 57. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.



Sunday: Sunny. High in the low 80s and low in the mid 50s.

Monday: Mainly sunny. High in the low 80s and low in the upper 50s.

Tuesday: Who really cares?



Tod Marks

“Hey, look – you made the paper!”

Caroline Fout and Peggy Steinman read *The Special* to Turf Writers Cup winner Dark Equation.

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Here & There at Saratoga

The Big Horserace

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



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

Pat Kelly
Beth Fout
Barry Schwartz
Randy Romero
John Hennig
Dallas Stewart
Loretta Lusteg
Barclay Tagg
Robin Smullen
Jimmy Toner
Matt Firestone
Rick Lang
Bill Graves
Max Hodge
Noel Twyman
Trish Moseley
Jeff Hooper
Steve Rushing
Dr. Hunt
Matt Cumani
Grey Price
Rita Cutler
Robert Cutler
Jean-Luc Samyn
Webb Carroll
Susie Hart
Pug Hart
Guy Torsilieri
Beverly Torsilieri
Alex Neuman
Bob McNair
Ben Haggin
Colum O'Brien
Scott Schwartz

Pam Ritter
Billy Badgett
Daisy Phipps
Stuart Janney
Tom Voss
Mike Sellito
Jamie Lamonica
Eddie Brown
Bonner Young
Harry Walker
Pat Hennig
Matt McCarron
Ciarran Dunne
Moon Gamble
Roddy Valente
Dave Rarey
Craig Peretz
Bessie Gruwell
Eileen Cornacchia
Joe Cornacchia
Gregg Ryan
Duke Burris
Sandi Burris
Mary Ryan
Bill Hirsch
Jack Fisher
Ann Via
Sonny Via
Rose Hennig
Peter Willmott
John Morrison
Dick Powell
Jeff Odintz
Nancy Brennan

Jeanne Wood
Nathan Wood
Vic Gilardi
Anthony Mormino
Jeannine Edwards
Tom Stone
Derek Ryan
Patrick Kerrison
Bruce Jackson

Undecided

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

Independent
Barry Wiseman

Obama
Tom Goff
Sam Maloney
Sandy Maggio
Pat Correa
Jeffrey Sanchez
Helen Richards
Del Carroll
Winston Heslop
Jorge Chavez
Keith O'Brien
Carlos Martin
Mike Hushion
Barbara Livingston
Bobby Frankel
Richard Migliore
Angel Cordero
Dr. Castro
Fay Donk
Steve Bass
Seth Benzel
Cindy Weaver
Dr. Galvin
Barry Watson
John Kimmel
Sonny Taylor
Eibar Coa
Conor Foley
Pat Turner
Jim Gallagher
Brian Walls
Derek Smith
Leah Gyarmati
Charlton Baker

Dave Grace
Wendy (clocker girl)
Little Wendy (clocker girl)
Joanne Jones
Toadie Taylor
Alan Garcia
Tony Micallef
Sherry Ross
Phil Janack
Mary Jane Howell
Van Cushny
Tara O'Brien
Duncan Hinkle
Maxine Correa
Nick Martinez
Pam Donehower
Alix Michel
Roy Lerman
Jan Woods
Colleen O'Brien
Gaile Fitzgerald
Barbara Brown
Michael Martin
Trevor McCarron
Javier Castellano
Bruce Levine
Larry Hausman
Althea Richards
Sheryl Schwartz
Ann Macleod
John DeStefano
Gerry Donk
Melaina Phipps
Will Phipps

Kyle Brownell
Allen Iwinski
Peter Pugh
Flaco Escobar
David Engel
Heather Craig
Michael Thomas
Elliott Masie
Susie Bricker
Tim McKinsey
Kathy Jones
Ethan Jones-Potts
Joan Ciampi
Tim Hills
Tracy Attfield
Vicky King
Paul Keane
Vicky Rose
Mike MacAdam
Emma Brockaway
Brendan Pendergast
Maria Mann
Joe Spadaro
Rob Sauer
Diana Baker
Jim Lanson
Marilyn Lane
Paula Weglarz

Ross Perot
Dan Pride

Richard Nixon
Alan Brodsky

Daffy Duck
Chris O'Connor
Gus Brown
Brian Ange

Joe Biden
Mike Luzzi

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

Coupled Entry
Allan Lavin

Margaret Thatcher
Jeremy Edge



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For more information or to nominate, call Racing Secretary Thomas Creel at 617-568-3240.



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Look Sharp

Curlin draws attention of Saratoga, seven rivals

BY SEAN CLANCY

Finally, he's here.

Curlin makes his long-awaited Saratoga debut in today's 55th running of the Woodward, feature on the final Saturday of the meet.

The \$500,000 stakes attracted seven others, including Grade I winner Divine Park, but it's all about the reigning Horse of the Year. A winner of nine of 13 starts and more than \$9.4 million, Stonestreet Stables' Curlin sends Saratoga out with the biggest of bangs.

Trained by Steve Asmussen and ridden by Robby Albarado, Curlin makes his fifth start of the year and tries to put a turf loss – his first loss since last year's Haskell – behind him. The 4-year-old son of Smart Strike finished a game second in his turf debut, the Grade I Man O' War July 12 at Belmont Park. That squelched talk of trying to tackle France's Arc de Triomphe. Longchamp's loss is Saratoga's gain. Now, it's back to what Curlin does best, two turns on good old-fashioned dirt.

Stonestreet's Jess Jackson toyed with the idea of a globetrotting foray but ultimately decided to stick to what got them here and that means the 1 1/8 miles of the Woodward. That's fine by Asmussen.

WOODWARD STAKES PREVIEW

"Less variables, walk across the street. If not the Woodward, it would have been on another surface, either synthetic or turf, so this way it kept the workout schedule the easiest for him," Asmussen said. "We walked him across the street and worked him on the main track. He'd actually never worked over there; he's done all his works on the Oklahoma track over the years."

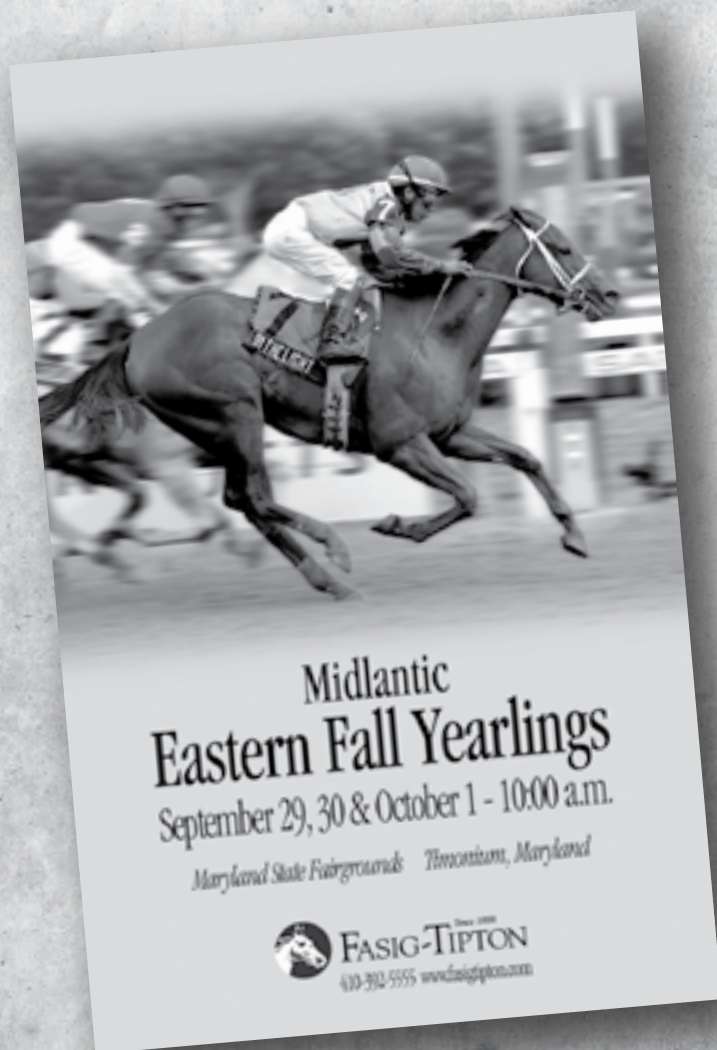
Curlin has become the perfect Saratoga tourist over the past two summers, getting up and enjoying the morning and doing nothing in the afternoon. Saratoga has been simply a training center. That changes today. The big chestnut colt breezed 7 furlongs in 1:24 4/5 seconds Aug. 18 and followed that with a half-mile move at Oklahoma Aug. 25, his sixth breeze since the Man O' War.

"You want to see the best horses in the best physical condition on a platform that they can run their best races. That's what we're concerned about with Curlin," Asmussen said. "What makes him special, and the reason he has the fan base he does, is because of how continuously he runs solid efforts. It's something to be proud of and we're



Tod Marks

See **WOODWARD** page 8 ▶ **WALKING TALL.** Curlin strolls with assistant trainer Scott Blasi at Saratoga.



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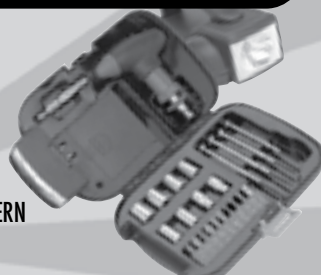
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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 6

blessed to be a part of him. We now have a goal in the Woodward. I'm glad I'm on his side, he gives you confidence — there's an air to him."

Curlin has always done things he's not supposed to be able to do. He won his debut by double digits. He won a stakes in his second start. He finished third in the Kentucky Derby in just his fourth lifetime start. He won the Preakness two weeks later and topped off an epic Triple Crown series with a head loss to Rags To Riches. He blipped in the Haskell, then won the Jockey Club Gold Cup and Breeders' Cup Classic. That was his 3-year-old season.

Jackson decided to keep Curlin in training as a 4-year-old for days like this. After winning the Breeders' Cup Classic last fall to top off his championship season, Curlin shipped to Dubai to win the Jaguar Trophy, a prep for the Grade I Dubai World Cup. He trounced 11 rivals in that \$6 million stakes, cruising to a 7 3/4-length win over Asiatic Boy and Well Armed, runner-up last weekend in the Grade I Pacific Classic. The big horse has earned nearly \$4.4 million this year.

"Mr. Jackson has allowed us the opportunity to continue the excitement level he's maintained since he walked into the barn," Asmussen said. "It's a blessing for us and a financial sacrifice on his part. The horse has made \$4 million this year and it doesn't even come close to what he would have made at stud."

The third-leading money earner in history, Curlin will pass Skip Away with a victory today and has the all-time leader, 19-win machine Cigar, in his sights. Asmussen, ever analytical, believes he's identified the root of Curlin's success.

"It's a combination of two things, he is the physical specimen and he does have the state of mind which enables it," the trainer said. "I've been blessed with it,



Tod Marks

See **WOODWARD** page 10 ►

Divine Park looks to flash the form he showed winning the Met Mile at Belmont Park in May.



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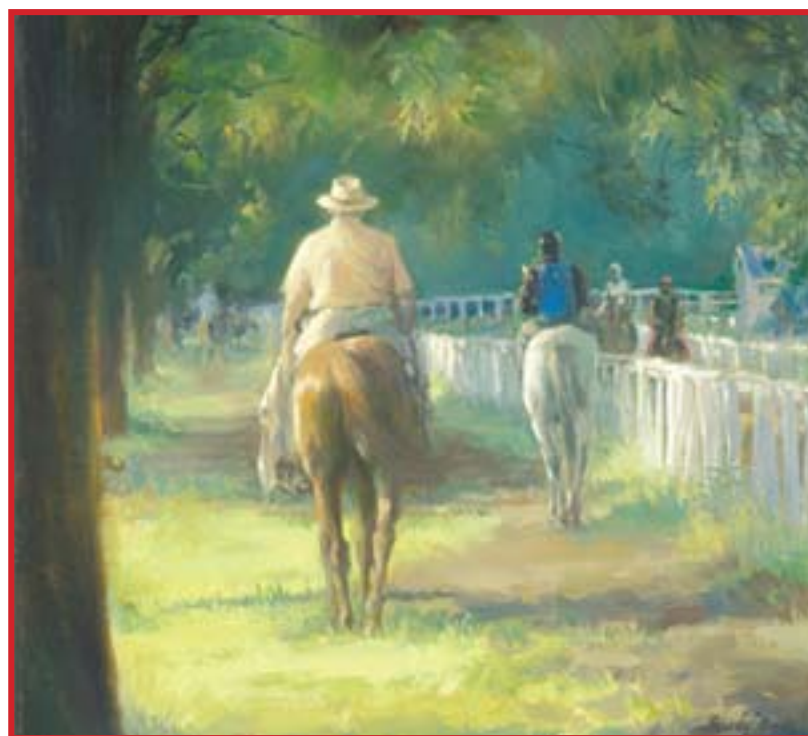
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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 8

he's shown a confidence about him that separates him."

Yes, Curlin is separated from his seven foes in the Woodward.

James Barry's Divine Park rates as second choice behind the wonder horse. Trained by Kiaran McLaughlin, Divine Park would garner favoritism in most years. The Chester House colt won his first three starts last spring, then lost two in a row this winter, the Malibu at Santa Anita and the General George at Laurel. He went right back to winning, however, taking an Aqueduct allowance then rallying to win the Westchester April 30 and the Met Mile May 26.

"We're a top horse and we should probably be undefeated. He had the tough trip out west, over the synthetic surface from the 14-hole off a nine-month lay-off. And then we came back and broke through the (gate) in the race at Laurel," McLaughlin said. "We've always been high on him. You can see that by me taking him out west in a Grade I off a nine-month layoff. His race in the Met Mile was a breakthrough and showed us what we thought he was all along."

Not one to back down, McLaughlin is ready for the challenge.

"We passed on the Whitney because he wasn't doing as well as I wanted him to do. So we scratched and aimed for this race," McLaughlin said. "He's doing great and we're ready to go. I feel like we have the best chance to beat Curlin. We're looking forward to tak-



Tod Marks

Out Of Control, runner-up in the Grade I Manhattan on the turf, switches to dirt for a shot at reigning Horse of the Year Curlin.

ing on Curlin. He's the best horse out there and it's a good measuring stick to see where our horse ranks,"

Saratoga's leading jockey Alan Garcia rides for Saratoga's leading trainer.

"This would be the perfect send-off to what's been a great meet so far,"

McLaughlin said. "We have everything to gain and nothing to lose. We'll go out there and run our race. He went two turns once at Aqueduct and I thought that was one of his best races."

Trainer Bobby Frankel switches Grade II stakes winner Out Of Con-

trol from the turf to tackle Curlin. The 5-year-old son of Vettori just missed in the Manhattan, finishing second to Dancing Forever, but makes his first dirt start since last March, when third in a

See **WOODWARD** page 12 ►



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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 10

second-level allowance. John Velazquez rides for owner/breeder Stud TNT. Out Of Control put together a pair of bullet works as primers for his Grade I assault. He zipped 5 furlongs over the main track in one-minute flat Aug. 18 and duplicated the performance over the training track Aug. 25.

"He's worked unbelievable the last two times," Frankel said. "He can run on the dirt, he won two races at Santa Anita before it was switched. He's a good horse, he's got a shot."

Loose Leaf vaults into the Woodward fresh off a third-level allowance victory just 17 days ago. The 4-year-old son of Notebook upset five rivals that day, his first start this year, and will have Eibar Coa aboard for the first time today. Trainer Ken McPeck has hunted big game before with the Stevestan Stables runner, chasing Street Sense in last year's Travers and Chelokee in last year's Northern Dancer.

"The horse is doing well, and he's in good form so we figured we'd take a flyer. Strange things can happen in this game," McPeck said. "I had a choice — I could have taken him to Monmouth to run him in an overnight stakes — but it's still not a bad thing to run second or third in this race. He likes the track a lot and it's easier just to walk him over there rather than ship him, so we'll take a shot and see how it goes."

Todd Pletcher removes blinkers from A. P. Arrow who was soundly beaten



Divine Park returns to the barn following his Met Mile score.

Tod Marks

Thoroughbred Racing's All-Time Leading Earners

Horse	Starts	Wins	2nds	3rds	Earnings
Cigar	33	19	4	5	\$ 9,999,815
Skip Away	38	18	10	6	\$ 9,616,360
Curlin*	13	9	2	2	\$ 9,496,800
Fantastic Light	25	12	5	3	\$ 8,486,957
Invasor (ARG)	12	11	0	0	\$ 7,804,070
Pleasantly Perfect	18	9	3	2	\$ 7,789,880
Smarty Jones	9	8	1	0	\$ 7,613,155
Silver Charm	24	12	7	2	\$ 6,944,369
Captain Steve	25	9	3	7	\$ 6,828,356
Alysheba	26	11	8	2	\$ 6,679,242

* A win in today's Woodward would move Curlin to second.

in the Whitney and the Suburban after running a decent fourth to Curlin in the Dubai World Cup. Cornelio Velazquez picks up the ride on the Allen Paulson Living Trust homebred. Winner of the Clark Handicap in November, A. P. Arrow stands as the second-leading earner in the field with \$1.4 million.

Red-hot Eoin Harty — who won the Travers last Saturday and took second in Del Mar's Pacific Classic a day later — takes a swing at Curlin with Darley's Past The Point.

The 4-year-old son of Indian Charlie won a second-level allowance here Aug. 3, his most recent start. Edgar Prado takes the call on the three-time winner who hasn't faced stakes competition since finishing third in last year's Super Derby.

Any pace conversation starts with Stone Farm homebred Wanderin Boy. The Nick Zito-trained 7-year-old breaks from the outside under Julien Leparoux and will take the field through the early fractions.

The son of Seeking The Gold strolled in a money allowance at the meet, building his confidence after five straight losses against top stakes horses, including last year's Woodward where he finished seventh behind Lawyer Ron. Wanderin Boy is one of three millionaires in the race.

Dr. D. F. C. will try to land a piece of today's \$500,000 pie while arriving latest of all. Trained by Rodrigo Ubillo and ridden by Aldo Arboleda, the hard-knocking New York-bred won the Solomon Northup here Aug. 9 and will make his first graded-stakes start in the Woodward.

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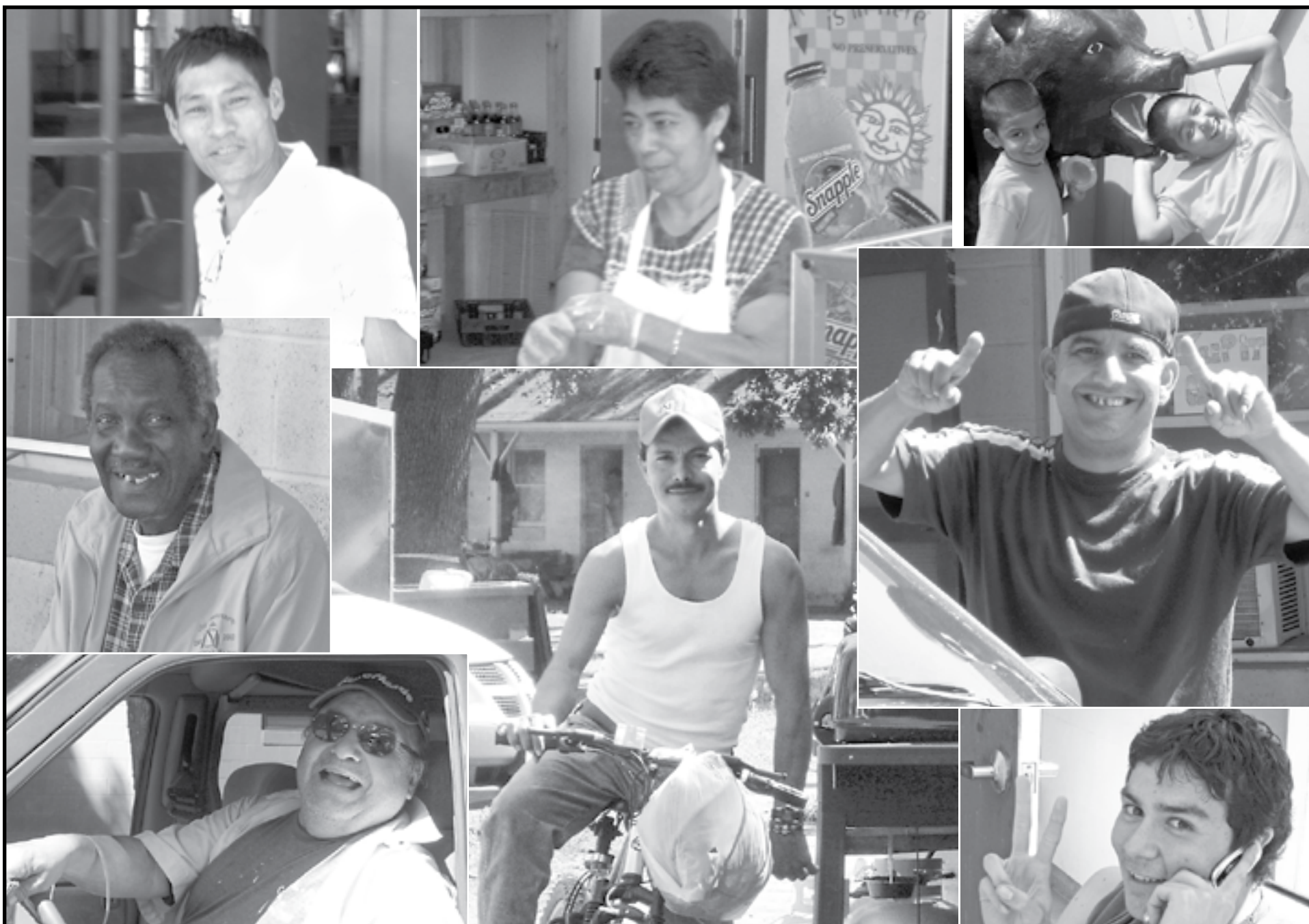
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- Congratulations to "Barcelona" our 2008 RTCA Soccer League Champions.
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SATURDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, August 30. Post Time 1:00 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. CLAIMING 20,000. PURSE \$36,000.

1	1	Terrific Storm	Leparoux J R	Maker Mike	8-1
2	2	Delta Sea	Prado E S	Dutrow Jr Richard	7-2
3	3	Gold to Go	Chavez J F	Lukas Wayne	15-1
4	4	Blowout	Garcia Alan	Pletcher Todd	12-1
5	5	Por Favor	Albarado R J	Fahey III John	4-1
6	6	Dodwell	Arboleda A	Latimer Samuel	20-1
7	7	Wood Winner	Rodriguez R R	Persaud Randi	12-1
8	8	King Mobay	Velazquez J R	Aro Michael	5-2
9	9	Hawkinsville	Coa E M	Brown Bruce	5-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (1-3), Daily Double

2ND (1:31) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

1	9	Long Jump	Hill C	Stewart Dallas	15-1
1A	MTO	Flint River	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	15-1
2	1	Mischief	Samyn J L	Voss Tom	12-1
3	2	Saint (GER)	Luzzi M J	Albertrani Tom	20-1
4	3	Whitley	Albarado R J	Arnold Rusty	12-1
5	4	Storm Harbor	Coa E M	Benzel Seth	7-2
6	5	Sol a Pino	Prado E S	Mott Bill	5-1
7	6	Lion's Circle	Leparoux J R	Kenneally Eddie	20-1
8	7	Sharif Al Medina	Velasquez C	Penna Angel	2-1
9	8	Ballymoy	Garcia Alan	Mongeon Kathy	8-1
10	10	Offshore	Velazquez J R	McGaughey Shug	8-1
11	MTO	Glenwood Canyon	Albarado R J	Stall Jr Al	5-1
12	MTO	Due to Get Even	No rider	Contessa Gary	12-1
13	MTO	Forest Echoes	Garcia Alan	McLaughlin Kiaran	5-2

A-Coupled: Long Jump and Flint River

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

3RD (2:02) 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 25,000. PURSE \$63,000.

1	6	Midnight Slammer	Prado E S	Galluscio Dominic	4-1
1A	8	Endless Circle	Prado E S	Galluscio Dominic	4-1
2	1	Benny the Waiter	Coa E M	Levine Bruce	2-1
3	2	Winaway	Garcia Alan	Hills Tim	20-1
4	3	Citifest	Berrios Cruz J	Hertler John	30-1
5	4	Rollers	Velazquez J R	Tagg Barclay	9-5
6	5	Couth	Luzzi M J	Jacobson David	15-1
7	7	Benlayla	Velasquez C	Schosberg Rick	6-1
8	9	Strummer	Rodriguez R R	Aquilino Joe	12-1

A-Coupled: Midnight Slammer and Endless Circle

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (3-5), Daily Double

4TH (2:33) 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. CLAIMING 25,000. PURSE \$33,000.

1	1	Jump It	Rodriguez R R	Contessa Gary	4-1
2	2	Skypa	Arboleda A	Sciacca Gary	30-1
3	3	Chief Tashmo	Berrios Cruz J	Maver Jr Eduardo	30-1
4	4	Chief Talkeetna	Velazquez J R	Ward Wesley	5-2
5	5	Defrereoftheheart	Espinoza J L	Arroyo Enrique	10-1
6	6	Know the Game	Hill C	Aquilino Joe	12-1
7	7	Gimmearoutine	Luzzi M J	Barbara Bobby	6-1
8	8	T. J.'s Posse	Coa E M	Trombetta Mike	7-2
9	9	Farleyshelonwheels	Prado E S	Dutrow Jr Richard	8-1
10	10	Role Play	Samyn J L	Kettell James	20-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (4-6), Daily Double

5TH (3:05) 1 1/8 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$34,000.

1	7	Elder Skatesman	Samyn J L	Allyn William	15-1
1A	8	Brushed Prince	Bermudez J E	Allyn William	15-1
2	1	Warn	Albarado R J	Werner Ronny	15-1
3	2	Swift Strike	Leparoux J R	Sheppard Jonathan	12-1
4	3	Moore Miles	Coa E M	Brown Bruce	3-1
5	4	Rodando	Arboleda A	Ubillo Rodrigo	50-1
6	5	Galaxy Express	Luzzi M J	Schettino Dom	20-1
7	6	Calcutta Clipper	Velasquez C	Trombetta Mike	8-1
8	9	Botanico In (ARG)	Hill C	Levine Bruce	15-1
9	10	Jamaludin	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	5-2
10	11	Fios	Prado E S	Hough Stan	6-1
11	12	Lucky Will	Garcia Alan	Ward Wesley	6-1
12	AE	Millennium Jet	Luzzi M J	Barbara Bobby	10-1
13	AE	Munition	Samyn J L	Jacobson David	30-1
14	AE	Monsooned Malabar	Prado E S	Contessa Gary	8-1
15	AE	Colie Z	Chavez J F	Orseno Joseph	15-1

A-Coupled: Elder Skatesman and Brushed Prince

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (5-7), Daily Double

6TH (3:37) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$57,000.

1	3	Triste Doble Q	Velasquez C	Contessa Gary	10-1
1A	MTO	Vinnie Van Go	Prado E S	Contessa Gary	10-1
2	4	French Action	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	2-1
2B	MTO	Footnote This	Hill C	Pletcher Todd	2-1
3	1	Dear Cat	Garcia Alan	Hartmann Mary	15-1
4	2	Western Fable	Prado E S	Martin Carlos	5-2
5	5	Randi'sapproval	Espinoza J L	Persaud Randi	20-1
6	6	Benton Drive	Luzzi M J	Hough Stan	6-1
7	7	Spencerific	Hill C	Cedano Heriberto	20-1
8	8	Don't You Linger	Rodriguez R R	Feron Kathleen	12-1
9	9	Grand Morning	Vargas R	O'Brien Leo	20-1
10	10	The Cuff Shooter	Leparoux J R	Serpe Phil	12-1
11	AE	Saarlandisourland	Velazquez J R	O'Brien Keith	4-1
12	AE	Gargantua	Chavez J F	Sciacca Gary	12-1
13	MTO	Cat Three Approach	Velazquez C	Hernandez Mike	12-1
14	MTO	Hudson Heights	Chavez J F	O'Brien Colum	12-1

A-Coupled: Triste Doble Q and Vinnie Van Go

B-Coupled: French Action and Footnote This

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (6-8), Pick 6 (6-11), Daily Double

7TH (4:09) 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. ALLOW. PURSE \$67,000.

1	5	Golden Weekend	Luzzi M J	Martin Carlos	9-2
1A	10	Close to the Vest	Rodriguez R R	Serpe Phil	9-2
2	1	Sammarco	Hill C	Hushion Mike	5-2
3	2	Indymine	Garcia Alan	Callejas Bernardo	20-1
4	3	Understatement	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	5-1
5	4	August Rex	Albarado R J	Levine Bruce	6-1
6	6	Nautical Storm	Leparoux J R	Lukas Wayne	8-1
7	7	Super Shape (ARG)	Velasquez C	Dutrow Jr Richard	6-1
8	8	Freedom Bay	Coa E M	Kimmel John	10-1
9	9	Sargent Seattle	Prado E S	Hough Stan	15-1

A-Coupled: Golden Weekend and Close to the Vest

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (7-9), Grand Slam (7-10), Daily Double

8TH (4:41) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Just a Coincidence	Samyn J L	Zito Nick	3-1
1A	3	Ruler's Vision	Espinoza J L	Zito Nick	3-1
2	2	Imperial Council	Prado E S	McGaughey Shug	12-1
3	4	Coach Gravy	Garcia Alan	Asmussen Steve	15-1
4	5	Fast Draw	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne	12-1
5	6	Sean Lafitte	Luzzi M J	Stewart Dallas	20-1
6	7	Speed Limit	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	4-1
7	8	Bold Vindication	Hill C	Hough Stan	12-1
8	9	Sailors Song	Chavez J F	Collazo Henry	20-1
9	10	Hello Broadway	Coa E M	Tagg Barclay	5-1
10	11	Big Flirt	Garcia J A	Ward Wesley	6-1
11	12	Pious David	Albarado R J	Mott Bill	12-1
12	13	Webcast	Leparoux J R	Kenneally Eddie	20-1

A-Coupled: Just a Coincidence and Ruler's Vision

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (8-10), Pick 4 (8-11), Daily Double

9TH (5:13) THE FOREGO (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. PURSE \$250,000.

1	2	Forefathers	Prado E S	Mott Bill	5-1
1A	6	Premium Wine	Leparoux J R	Dutrow Tony	5-1
2	1	First Defence	Hill C	Frankel Bobby	9-2
3	3	Eternal Star	Velazquez J R	Trombetta Mike	6-1
4	4	Bold Start	Albarado R J	McPeek Ken	10-1
5	5	Ferocious Fires	Velasquez C	Dutrow Tony	15-1
6	7	Real Estate	Coa E M	Levine Bruce	15-1
7	8	Lucky Island (ARG)	Garcia Alan	McLaughlin Kiaran	8-5
8	9	Greeley's Conquest	Chavez J F	Thomas Gary	15-1
9	10	Tasteyville	Luzzi M J	Kelly Pat	8-1

A-Coupled: Forefathers and Premium Wine

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (9-11), Daily Double

10TH (5:45) THE WOODWARD (GR. I). 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. PURSE \$500,000.

1	1	A. P. Arrow	Velasquez C	Pletcher Todd	20-1
2	2	Loose Leaf	Coa E M	McPeek Ken	15-1
3	3	Past the Point	Prado E S	Harty Eoin	15-1
4	4	Divine Park	Garcia Alan	McLaughlin Kiaran	3-1
5	5	Curlin	Albarado R J	Asmussen Steve	3-5
6	6	Dr. D. F. C.	Arboleda A	Ubillo Rodrigo	50-1
7	7	Out of Control (BRZ)	Velazquez J R	Frankel Bobby	12-1
8	8	Wanderin Boy	Leparoux J R	Zito Nick	8-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

11TH (6:18) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$46,000.

1	1	Cabazon	Albarado R J	Fahey III John	12-1
2	2	Rock Lobster	Prado E S	Reynolds Pat	6-1
3	3	Dictina's Boy	Samyn J L	Voss Tom	15-1
4	4	Sea of Trees	Leparoux J R	Lukas Wayne	15-1
5	5	L'Oiseau d'Argent	Rodriguez R R	Parisella John	12-1
6	6	Peter's Puddles	Arboleda A	Sciacca Gary	50-1
7	7	Transit of Venus	Coa E M	DiPrima Greg	5-2
8	8	Ground Hero	Velazquez J R	Weaver George	4-1
9	9	Come Close	Velasquez C	Sheppard Jonathan	10-1
10	10	Mad Bob Cat	Luzzi M J	Jacobson David	30-1
11	11	Casey's Joy	Garcia Alan	McLaughlin Kiaran	9-2
12	12	Fit Faze	Hill C	Persaud Randi	30-1
13	AE	Gold Pageantry	Chavez J F	Tesher Howie	30-1
14	MTO	Irish Majesty	Luzzi M J	Contessa Gary	5-2
15	MTO	Piper's Fort	Velasquez C	Hernandez Mike	8-1
16	MTO	Golden Glen	No rider	Dutrow Jr Richard	2-1

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Race #				
1	King Mobay Terrific Story Hawkinsville	Por Favor King Mobay Delta Sea	King Mobay Delta Sea Terrific Storm	Terrific Storm Por Favor King Mobay
2	Mischief Whitley Sol A Pino	Sharif Al Medina Storm Harbor Offshore	Storm Harbor Offshore Sharif Al Medina	Sharif Al Medina Storm Harbor Offshore
3	Rollers Benny The Waiter Endless Circle	Benny The Waiter Rollers Benlayla	Rollers Benny The Waiter Endless Circle	Rollers Benny The Waiter Endless Circle
4	Chief Talkeetna Jump It Defreereoftheheart	T.J.'s Posse Chief Talkeetna Jump It	T.J.'s Posse Farleyshelonwheels Chief Talkeetna	Chief Talkeetna T.J.'s Posse Farleyshelonwheels
5	Swift Strike Moore Miles Lucky Will	Moore Miles Jamaludin Botanico In	Moore Miles Jamaludin Warn	Jamaludin Moore Miles Elder Skatesman
6	Western Fable Benton Drive Saarlandisourland	Western Fable French Action Benton Drive	French Action Benton Drive Western Fable	Western Fable Saarlandisourland Pletcher entry
7	Sammarco Sargent Seattle Golden Weekend	Understatement Sammarco Flying Zee entry	Freedom Bay Nautical Storm August Rex	Sammarco August Rex Super Shape
8	Zito entry Webcast Bold Vindication	Hello Broadway Speed Limit Big Flirt	Fast Draw Just A Coincidence Speed Limit	Zito entry Big Flirt Speed Limit
9	Lucky Island First Defence Tasteyville	Lucky Island Real Estate First Defence	Lucky Island First Defence Eternal Star	Lucky Island Tasteyville Eternal Star
10	Curlin Wanderin Boy Divine Park	Curlin Out Of Control Divine Park	Curlin Out Of Control Divine Park	Curlin Divine Park Past The Point
11	Transit Of Venus Come Close Dictina's Boy	Ground Hero Come Close Rock Lobster	Transit Of Venus Come Close Dictina's Boy	Ground Hero Transit Of Venus Dictina's Boy
To Date:	66/285	74/285	72/285	88/285

SATURDAY'S DETAILED ANALYSIS

BY BRIAN NADEAU

RACE 1: KING MOBAY didn't draw too well but the speed is on his inside, so he should be able to get over before the first turn, which is critical. DELTA SEA has been going strong since I was in high school and should be a factor. TERRIFIC STORM tries the main track for connections that have been on fire of late.

RACE 2: STORM HARBOR probably didn't like the give in the ground last time, but his effort two-back on firm turf stamps him the one to beat. OFFSHORE is loaded with pedigree and half-sister Pine Island actually won her career debut on the lawn. SHARIF AL MEDINA caught a yielding course and ran huge at Belmont Park; the same effort puts him right on the wire.

RACE 3: Today's **best bet** comes in exacta form. ROLLERS is drawn outside his main rival BENNY THE WAITER, and that could prove the deciding factor for these two quick state-breds. Look for them to separate themselves from the field turning for home; we'll give the edge to Rollers based on his post. ENDLESS CIRCLE will be closing late, but might have too much to do.

RACE 4: T.J.'S POSSE rolls into town off a strong effort at Delaware Park, and it's best not to sell that circuit too short. FARLEYSHELONWHEELS is out of jail and takes a big plunge off the claim price, so tread lightly. CHIEF TALKEETNA rises only slightly after a big win earlier in the meet; the barn is usually very aggressive with new claims, so the move raises a flag.

RACE 5: MOORE MILES ran big over yielding turf earlier in the meet and the return to firm ground should only help. JAMALUDIN drops in for a tag for the first time for Todd Pletcher; he's the most likely winner, but at false odds. WARN, another dropper, should be flying down the lane.

RACE 6: FRENCH ACTION might win this one by default, as the experienced runners haven't shown much and this guy is loaded with pedigree. BENTON DRIVE goes out for a solid debut barn and should be respected. WESTERN FABLE went off favored in his local bow and stretches out to two turns.

RACE 7: In a field loaded with early speed let's see if FREEDOM BAY can make a late run; John Kimmel is an expert with this kind of returnee. NAUTICAL STORM scratched out of the King's Bishop for this spot, and looks to be the speed of the speed. AUGUST REX gets the complete makeover – blinkers and Lasix – and is a serious danger if not too keyed-up early.

RACE 8: FAST DRAW seems to be progressing nicely for Wayne Lukas; full-brother to Grand Slam in a good spot today. JUST A COINCIDENCE caught Munnings (who might well go favored in Monday's Hopeful) and looms the main danger. SPEED LIMIT hails from the family of Banshee Breeze and is one to watch later this fall.

RACE 9: LUCKY ISLAND has been unbeatable this season and should move forward at low odds; a threat from on or near the pace. FIRST DEFENCE drew a tough post but has done his best work over this oval; if the top one isn't on his game this colt has a big chance. ETERNAL STAR ran big earlier in the meet and stretches back to 7 furlongs, which should soften the splits up a tad; dangerous from close range.

RACE 10: I won't pick against CURLIN, who seems far superior to anyone. But if you're intent on betting the race, there will be value if you can get heavy second-choice Divine Park out of the exacta. With that in mind let's use OUT OF CONTROL underneath. Bobby Frankel is running him on dirt here for a reason, so he must be respected. DIVINE PARK hasn't been seen since his Met Mile win but has trained forwardly since and goes for meet-leading connections.

RACE 11: TRANSIT OF VENUS looks like the right one in the finale. Either of his last two efforts would win this for fun, so look for him to cap a \$6 late double. COME CLOSE won off the bench going 5 1/2 furlongs – imagine what he'll do with a run under his belt at his favorite distance? Look out. I'd be fired if I didn't pick DICTINA'S BOY, but he's certainly not without hope if things get hot and bothered up front. Good luck to the "house horse."

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John Velazquez.....	32	Padge Whelan.....	1	Greg DiPrima.....	3
Edgar Prado.....	29	Paddy Young.....	1	David Donk.....	3
Ramon Dominguez.....	27			Eoin Harty.....	3
Eibar Coa.....	24	Trainers		Stan Hough.....	3
Cornelio Velasquez.....	23	Kiaran McLaughlin.....	16	Allen Jerkens.....	3
Julien Leparoux.....	19	Todd Pletcher.....	15	Pat Kelly.....	3
Javier Castellano.....	16	Richard Dutrow Jr.....	11	Eddie Kenneally.....	3
Rajiv Maragh.....	15	Steve Asmussen.....	9	John Morrison.....	3
Kent Desormeaux.....	14	Gary Contessa.....	9	Graham Motion.....	3
Shaun Bridgmohan.....	12	Bobby Frankel.....	9	Angel Penna.....	3
Robby Albarado.....	11	Linda Rice.....	9	Pat Reynolds.....	3
Channing Hill.....	10	Tony Dutrow.....	8	Rick Schosberg.....	3
Mike Luzzi.....	9	Barclay Tagg.....	8	John Terranova II.....	3
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Tod Marks

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Tim Ritvo.....	2
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Phil Serpe.....	2
Dallas Stewart.....	2
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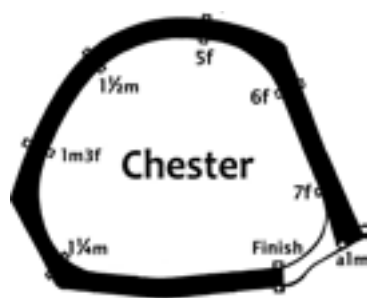
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Spotlight on UK Racing

by Timeform & Racing UK

**Saturday, August 30th,
CHESTER Race 3 (10:25 am)
Class 2 Heritage Handicap (3yo & Up)
about 1m; Purse \$80,000**



RACE ANALYSIS (In Program Number Order)

- ORDNANCE ROW:** Has been plying his trade at a higher level all season with success, better than ever when winning Group 3 at Salisbury last time. No doubt he's the class act in the field, and he represents a trainer in red-hot form, but a mammoth effort will be required off top-weight to repeat his win in this in 2006. **Timeform Rating: 122**
- DREAM LODGE:** Has struggled in handicaps all year off a lower mark than this, but seemed to produce a career-best when winning minor event at Doncaster last month. Not discredited in a listed heat at Pontefract just three days later but has plenty on back at this level and it's not hard to look elsewhere. **122?**
- CELTIC SULTAN:** He was allowed an easy lead when winning a handicap over this course and distance on his reappearance, and he has since shaped as though continuing in form, going well for a long way before the extended trip took its toll last time. His presence should ensure good gallop and his willing attitude should stand him in good stead in this competitive heat. **126**
- AL MUHEER:** A return to sprinting brought about a revival when second to Shifting Star at Ascot earlier this month before he was given unrealistic task in listed event last time. Effective at a mile, but he looks too high in the weights at the moment. **120**
- VANDERLIN:** Has been below his best since posting good thirds in minor events on his first two starts this year. Not completely discredited when fourth in a similar race at Great Leighs last time, however, and he goes off a 6 lb lower mark here than when winning this race last year. **127**
- UNDERWORLD:** Improving fast and left behind a poor effort in the International Stakes at Ascot when winning a handicap at Newbury two weeks ago. Probably has more to offer and the stable, although hard to predict at present, had a winner here yesterday. **120+**
- HUZZAH:** - SCRATCHED -
- EXTRATERRESTRIAL:** Not quite in the same form as he was when winning at Thirsk and finishing a good second to Celtic Sultan over course and distance in the spring. There was some encouragement when a respectable sixth to Zero Tolerance at Haydock last time, but he has to get back to his very best if he's to feature. **124**
- HINTON ADMIRAL:** A stablemate of Extraterrestrial and, like him, below form since May. There have been no real signs of a revival of late and probably best left alone. **?**

- PAWAN:** Better than ever at the age of eight and has been generally consistent since ending a long losing run at Warwick in July. Respectable fifth in a minor event at same track last time but clearly far more exposed than most of these. **123**
- DREAM THEME:** Would be well-in on the pick of his three-year-old form, but he has made little impact since a sound reappearance and not sure to stay this trip. **122**
- ADVERSITY:** Put up his best effort to win here in June but couldn't defy a 12-lb rise when eighth in a very competitive handicap at Goodwood last time. May well resume his progress here and there's every chance he'll go close if he does. His Caribbean-born apprentice jockey has hit the board on 13 of his 27 rides in Britain, including a winner for this stable. **127**
- CARCINETTO:** A good third at Great Leighs on Thursday, but she isn't easy to predict and there's a chance she'll find this race coming too. **122**
- FURNACE:** Didn't reappear until July, but has posted creditable efforts on both starts and is lightly-raced for a four-year-old. Consistent and has dropped to a realistic mark, though he hasn't won since his debut. **121**
- TROUBADOUR:** Has been consistent enough this year and looks very well treated based on her all-weather form. Hasn't faced a trip this short since his two year old days, but he did race freely when second at Ascot last time. **122**
- THEBES:** Completed a hat-trick on the all-weather in the spring and recorded his first win on turf at Newmarket two weeks ago. A 7-lb rise for that seems plenty (ran well when fifth at Goodwood next time) and he will need things to fall right if he's to win this. **119**
- FATHSTA:** Well held in similar event at track yesterday. **122**

CONCLUSION

A thoroughly competitive handicap and those with course and distance form and a low draw could hold a significant edge. Step forward then the winner of this same race last year – **VANDERLIN** - who races off 6 lb less this year and has been performing creditably in better company. Unexposed three-year-olds have a good record in this type of race at Chester, so with possibly more improvement in them, the lightly-raced **Underworld** and **Adversity** could have a say. Those looking for a place and exacta alternative at a bigger price should consider **Celtic Sultan**, whose tendency to race prominently is a positive trait around the tight turns of Chester.

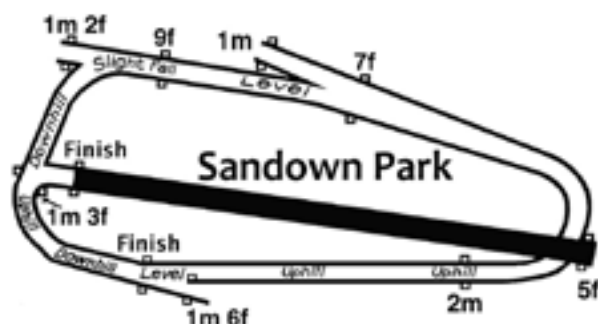
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**Saturday, August 30th,
SANDOWN Race 5 (11:15 am)
Class 4 Handicap (3yo) 5f; Purse \$20,000**



Fanning the Flame

Fans' group gains momentum with Saratoga impact

BY MARILYN LANE

Sometimes the obvious isn't obvious.

As Thoroughbred racing searches to hold its turf in a changing world, our commonalities should be obvious, not our differences. It doesn't matter what role we play in racing, we are first of all fans. Weaving ourselves together is the obvious way to strengthen the fabric. Without fans there is no racing; without racing there is no reason to breed, sell or train racehorses.

Thorofan is one group doing just that. It's not the first. Others have tried and faded away; perhaps the industry was not ready to gather common threads.

Thorofan may be the weaver's loom. With members from 26 states and numbers growing daily, it represents nearly every segment of the industry. Members come from varied occupations and backgrounds – what unites them is that they are fans that care about the future of this sport.

Through Thorofan, their passion for horses and racing is carried to all who are curious. Its educational arm furnishes new fans with the tools to enjoy Thoroughbred racing, and adds new facets to bring the intrigues of the racing community to people otherwise outside the loop.

Members range in age from 18 to 88. Memories of great horses range from Whirlaway to Smarty Jones.

I asked some members to tell me how the racing bug bit them and why they joined Thorofan. The responses would crowd Curlin out of *The Special*, but a sampling follows.

"I became a member because our sport has long needed the voice of us, the fans who spend time, money and quite simply love the GAME. By supporting Thorofan we will insure the future of horse racing by increasing the fan base and allowing everyone everywhere to experience the euphoria of being part of the sport of kings. May the horse be with us all!"

– Richard Ascani

"I became a fan when I visited Saratoga at age 16 in the summer of 1968. I chose to join Thorofan because the average horse racing fan needs a voice."

– Gilbert Sullivan, Birmingham, Ala.

"I liked racing right from my youth. I joined Thorofan because I think it is about time that there was some organization representative of the fanbase. I'm hopeful that Thorofan will have the necessary 'clout' to persuade agreements over simulcasting/signal-handling/account-wagering and, just as importantly, to implore the government to reconsider its stance regarding taxation of pools/winnings."

– Rick Carroll

"I became a racing fan at 16 when a high-school classmate took me to Jamaica Race Track to meet his grandfather, the legendary trainer Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons. I joined Thorofan to be part of an organization that could have a positive voice on racing."

– Jim Chatfield

"I joined Thorofan hoping the issues I care about in racing are addressed: education, safety and caring. My observation is that Thorofan has done an excellent job so far in educating the fan. I happen to have been in the Carousel recently when a sponsored seminar in cooperation with Capital District OTB was given. Andrea DeLong did a fantastic job of passing along a lot of knowledge to the novice fan."

– Tom Weaver

"I became a fan of horse racing in 1967. I had just gotten out of the Army, and a friend asked me if I wanted to go to Opening Day at Saratoga. Although I first said no, I finally relented. Red Smith once said, 'Don't say you dislike horse racing until you have been to Saratoga, Longchamps or Hialeah.' He was right. I was absolutely fascinated, and that fascination has never ceased. I joined Thorofan because I think there is a need for a fan-based organization. It also gives me a chance to meet other people who feel as I do about the sport."

– Allan Carter

"When Funny Cide emerged and gave us that magical trip in the spring of '03, I went from a bettor to a fan of Thoroughbred racing. Since that spring I have developed and nurtured an appreciation for the breeding, training, sales and everything else Thoroughbred related. I chose to join Thorofan because of the potential I see for the organization. I see an amazing opportunity to promote the sport and draw in the casual fan to many of the issues facing our industry over the next decade. There is a beauty and elegance to this sport that goes a level deeper than the average fan explores and I want to be an integral part of changing these levels of awareness."

– Darryl Nevins, Foal of '84

Thorofan is here to educate, advocate and excite people about racing. It aims to teach the novice from the ground up and take fans to areas of racing they may otherwise not have the opportunity or curiosity to visit. Thorofan is dedicated to carrying a positive voice from the racing industry to a world outside the paddock fences.

To learn more, visit www.thorofan.com.

Saratoga resident and former trainer Marilyn Lane is a founding member of Thorofan.

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By Dave Harmon and Tod Marks

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Lucky's Chance

Argentinian out to prove himself best of division

BY BRIAN NADEAU

News of Benny The Bull's sudden retirement Wednesday shook up the Grade I Forego and the entire sprint division, but did little to jolt Kieran McLaughlin from his office chair. The trainer, who sends out Shadwell Stable's Lucky Island in the \$250,000 stakes, feels his Argentinian-bred colt is a force in his own right.

"He doesn't need to step up in the division now that Benny The Bull is out. He's already there," McLaughlin said. "Benny The Bull was in tough if he was in there."

Though Benny The Bull, the likely Forego favorite, loomed as the top sprinter in the land, a look through Lucky Island's past performances gives credence to McLaughlin's claim. The 4-year-old son of Lucky Roberto is undefeated in four starts this season, winning by a combined 13 1/4 lengths. His biggest effort came in the Grade II Tom Fool at Belmont Park July 4, when Lucky Island made all the running over

FOREGO HANDICAP PREVIEW

a muddy track at today's 7-furlong distance and drew off to a 4 1/4-length win over Forego rivals Tasteyville and Premium Wine.

Shadwell purchased Lucky Island following a 9-length debut win in June 2007 in his native Argentina. Sent to McLaughlin later that summer, Lucky Island made his U.S. bow in an optional claimer at Calder in December. Sent off at 9-5 in the seven-horse field, he stumbled at the start, was steadied early and finished last. Those weren't the only factors contributing to the poor performance.

"We've loved this horse since the first time we got him. You see what his odds were when he first ran for us. He's always trained like a nice horse but ran poorly in his first start because he bled a bit," McLaughlin said. "We put him on Lasix after that race and the turnaround has been tremendous — I've never seen a horse improve so much from it."

Lucky Island made his first start on the anti-bleeding medication in an entry-level allowance at Gulfstream Park in February, where he pressed the pace and drew off to a 2 1/4-length score. He notched an even easier win in an optional claimer at Aqueduct in April,



Tod Marks

Lucky Island enters as the morning-line favorite for today's Grade I Forego.

prompting McLaughlin to test deeper waters. Lucky Island entered the Grade III Bold Ruler at Belmont May 10 as a relative unknown; he exited as a major sprint player after a 2 1/4-length win. The Tom Fool put him near the top of the list.

McLaughlin backed off on Lucky Island afterward and aimed directly

for the Forego. Lucky Island shows a strong series of local works and should be forwardly placed under regular rider Alan Garcia. McLaughlin, who leads the Saratoga trainer standings, looks forward to a big sendoff.

"We pointed to this race ever since

See **FOREGO** page 24 ►

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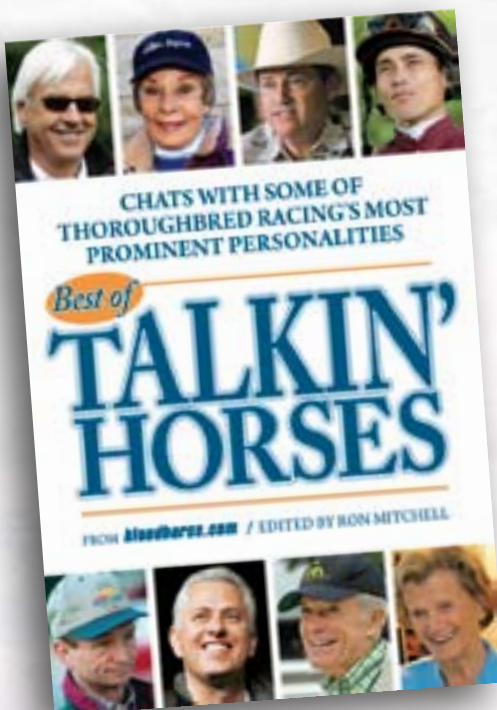
How do you balance family and work when you have to spend so much time at the barn and you have a young child at home? — Las Vegas, Nevada

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

LARRY JONES

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

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



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JERRY BAILEY

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

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

DR. LARRY BRAMLAGE

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

Alydar's hind limb fracture [because of the] complicated situation, bad patient, [and the] bankers and lawyers everywhere. It was not the toughest individual surgery, but [it was] the toughest situation.



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Tod Marks

Eternal Star (right) and Bold Start (1-2 in the James Marvin here Aug. 9) meet again while stepping up in the Forego.



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Forego —

■ Continued from page 23

he won the Tom Fool and he has been training right along since. We're ready to go," McLaughlin said. "I think 7 furlongs or a mile is his best trip, so we're excited to get him back going again. It's been a great meet so far and hopefully the best is yet to come. We've got some unfinished business. It would be very important from a stallion standpoint to win a Grade I, so this is the race we want to win."

The 8-5 favorite looms as the horse to beat, but there are plenty of challengers. Harry and Tom Meyerhoff's Eternal Star enters in career form, having won five of his last six starts. The most

impressive came here Aug. 9, when the son of Five Star Day battled on the lead through quick factions and held off hard-charging Bold Start by a neck in the James Marvin Stakes.

Mike Trombetta brought Eternal Star to Saratoga following his win in the 7-furlong, \$200,000 Donald Levine Memorial at Philadelphia Park June 28. The trainer hoped the 5-year-old could progress to the Forego. After the game score in the Marvin, Trombetta sees today as the perfect spot to test his colt.

"Obviously the race drew some nice horses and Kiaran's horse is definitely one to be reckoned with. We came up here with a plan and we got the prep race under our belt. We said all along if he ran well there we would look at the Forego, and that's where we are,"

See **FOREGO** page 25 ►

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Forego —

■ Continued from page 24

Trombetta said. "He likes 7 furlongs and (today) is the time to find out where we stand. We're going from some good racing to a Grade I, so several things need to be accomplished, but we're here and he deserves a shot."

While First Defence is winless in three starts at Saratoga, you could argue that two of his best races have come at the Spa. He gave Hard Spun all he could handle in last year's King's Bishop and rallied for second in the Grade II Vanderbilt earlier this meet. Trained by Bobby Frankel for longtime client Juddmonte Farms, the son of Unbridled's Song took the Grade III Jaipur over the Belmont turf in June and seeks a graded score on dirt. Channing Hill rides for the first time.

Tony Dutrow sends out the uncoupled entry of Ferocious Fires and Premium Wine, and neither would be a surprise. Owned by Sanford Goldfarb, Ira Davis and William Vidro, Ferocious Fires is undefeated in eight career starts on dirt and the 5-year-old son of Lite The Fuse has already been busy at the meet, winning a pair of minor stakes to run his record to 4-for-4 at the Spa.

Zayat Stable's Premium Wine also enters off a win over the track, a comfortable 2-length decision in an optional claimer Aug. 13.

The 4-year-old son of Prime Timber finished third, beaten 5 1/4 lengths in the Tom Fool, but has done some of his best work at 7 furlongs, including a big third to the undefeated Bustin Stones in the

Grade I Carter this April at Aqueduct. Julien Leparoux takes the call.

Real Estate (Eibar Coa to ride) took an optional claimer earlier in the meet for trainer Bruce Levine. Owned and bred by Peter Blum, the lightly raced 4-year-old has won three of five career starts and tries graded company for the first time. A half-brother to Grade I winners Madcap Escapade and Dubai Escapade, the future appears bright for the son of High Yield.

"He's certainly the best bred horse in the race. He's a versatile horse who comes in training well, so it's a good time to take a shot," Levine said. "He seems to like the track and ran big here the other day. He's lightly raced and his race here the other day was impressive, he showed to be very game, so he deserves a shot in there."

Fox Ridge Farm's Tasteyville ran second to Lucky Island in the Tom Fool prior to finishing 10th in the two-turn Whitney July 26. The Pat Kelly-trainee has an affinity for a sloppy track, posting a career-best effort in the Grade III Sport Page at a rainy Aqueduct in October, when he won by 9 1/4 lengths. Kelly will check the weather forecast before making a final decision whether to run the son of With Approval. Mike Luzzi has the call if he starts.

Rounding out the Forego field are: Bold Start (Robby Albarado), a stakes winner at Ellis Park who got necked out by Eternal Star in the James Marvin here for Ken McPeck; Forefathers (Edgar Prado), Premium Wine's entymate, who enters off a Belmont allowance score in June for Bill Mott; and Greeley's Conquest (Jorge Chavez), a stakes winner at Prairie Meadows in his last start for Gary Thomas.



Tod Marks

Real Estate tackles top sprinters in the Forego after winning at the meet.



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Proud Pop

Homebred 2-year-old rewards Iracane with Spa turf stakes win

BY BRIAN NADEAU

John Iracane pointed to the rambunctious and misbehaving Bittel Road in the paddock before Friday's With Anticipations Stakes and remarked to a group of friends that the first time he saw the colt he was waist-high. The breeder and co-owner got a closer look a few minutes later after Bittel Road prevailed in a prolonged stretch duel over Skipadate in the \$82,400 stakes.

"You see him when he was first born and now you see him in the winner's circle at Saratoga and it's a pretty big deal. I only have five horses in training and this is by far the biggest one," Iracane said. "This is the first time I've seen him since he was a year old, so it's pretty special to be here today and seeing it all unfold in front of you."

Trainer Todd Pletcher sent out a trio of 2-year-olds in the With Anticipation, a 1 1/16-mile freshman affair over the Mellon turf, and after some anxious moments odds-on favorite Bittel Road came home first.

Bittel Road (John Velazquez) bumped with Ninth Client at the start and raced in close quarters early before finding

WITH ANTICIPATION RECAP

himself and settling in mid-pack. Ninth Client and High Cry paired to set an honest half-mile in 47.98 seconds while Bittel Road bided his time in between horses in fourth, alongside Uncle T Seven. Second choice Skipadate and first-time starter Herr Mozart lagged at the back of the eight-horse field.

Ninth Client and High Cry led the field to the far turn before stepping aside when the real running began.

Uncle T Seven shot through on the inside turning for home while Bittel Road revved his engines in behind the leaders. Skipadate (Shaun Bridgmohan) and Herr Mozart (Rajiv Maragh) began rallying from the back. Velazquez bided his time until a seam opened as the field straightened away in the lane. He shot through Bittel Lane to the outside of Uncle T Seven while Skipadate and Herr Mozart dove to his inside. As the field hit the eighth-pole, the contest came down to a grudge match between Bittel Road and Skipadate, who battled like Hagler and Hearn. Bittel Road surged clear under the line by a head, with Herr Mozart rounding out the trifecta.



Dave Harmon

Hitting the line together – and in stride – Bittel Road nips Skipadate in Friday's feature.

Iracane bred Stormy Atlantic to the Sultry Song mare Sultry Sal and the result was Bittel Road, a dark, strapping colt who made his debut at Belmont Park July 11, where he won a 6-furlong turf maiden by 3 1/4 lengths for Iracane and co-owner Jim Scaturchio. Bittel Road went straight to the front, clocked a half-mile in 45.86 and never looked back, drawing off at ease and not being asked for his best. With limited spots for a victorious freshman turf horse Pletcher opted to start three in the With Anticipation, including state-bred Double Domino and filly High Cry, then sat back and hoped the race would go.

"We entered High Cry in the P.G. Johnson and that didn't fill and we were keeping an eye on a 6-furlong New York-bred stake for Double Domino and that didn't fill," Pletcher said. "We got worrying that this one wouldn't fill either so we decided to enter all three in the hopes of helping the race along."

For a 2-year-old in August, the race into the first turn can be just as harrowing as a 3-year-old stampeding into the first turn of the Kentucky Derby. Though Bittel Road scored in a one-turn sprint in his debut while encour-

See **WITH ANTICIPATION** page 27 ►

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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 26

tering little adversity, Pletcher was confident the colt would handle increased distance and competition Friday.

"What I was impressed about was that he overcame some adversity. He got bumped at the start and then had some traffic issues but he dug in and showed some gameness and maturity beyond his experience level," Pletcher said. "We were pretty optimistic that he would run well in his debut at Belmont but two turns for a 2-year-old at this time of the year is always a question mark. He trained like a horse that would handle two turns — he's a big, scopey, nice horse — but you never know until you do it."

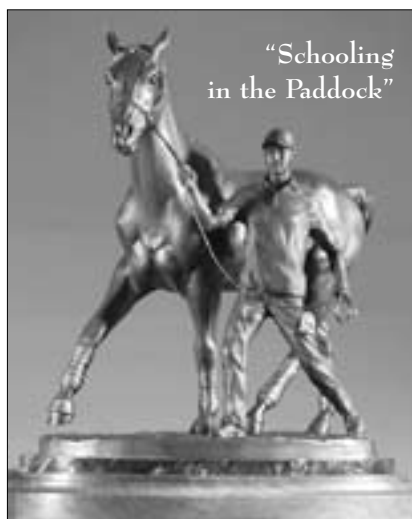
Iracane reveled in the post-race excitement as he rode the wave that crested at the door of the trustees' room. He thought back to the waist-high colt who wobbled like a spinning dreidel coming to a stop, then pictured the grown-up version who just delivered Iracane's biggest win on the track.

"Everyone involved with this horse that helped me out has really liked him from the minute he was born, they thought he was a really good horse. I leaned on Todd, who I have been friends with for a long time, and gave him this colt and he really liked him too," Iracane said. "Everything has just worked out perfect. Here we are in the winner's circle at Saratoga. That's about as good as it gets."

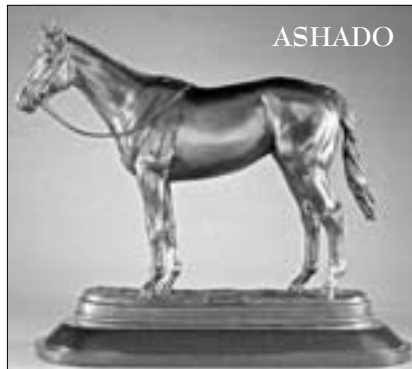


Tod Marks

The contenders fanned out in the stretch of the With Anticipation; (from left) Uncle T Seven, Herr Mozart, Bittel Road and Skipadate.



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Surfer Girl

World traveler Cocoa Beach adds new continent to her success string

BY JOHN PANAGOT

North America – check.

Cocoa Beach notched a victory on her third continent Friday after toying with the field in the \$91,950 Love Sign Stakes. Making her first American start, Godolphin's filly added to her scores in Chile and the United Arab Emirates and improved her career mark to seven wins from nine starts.

Breaking from the outside in a seven-horse field, Ramon Dominguez managed to steer the Chilean-bred inward to a more convenient spot. Racing in the three path, Dominguez sat comfortably aboard Cocoa Beach down the backstretch. When the rider mildly asked for run at the eighth-pole, she responded to spurt clear.

"I hit her a couple of times, very easy," Dominguez said. "She got going right away and did it very easily. She did a great job. I really like her a lot."

Though Godolphin's Rick Mettee said Cocoa Beach had a knack for breaking slowly while racing in Dubai, the 4-year-old managed to overcome that problem with a professional performance, finishing the 1 1/8 miles in 1:51.50.

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

"I was relieved to see her break and then tuck in today," Mettee said. "We didn't want to be too wide going into the first turn. It's tough to tell what the time means because there have been so few two-turn races at the meet. But she looked good out there today."

Cocoa Beach passed both Striking Tomisue (Channing Hill) and Peach Flambe (Alan Garcia) with relative ease in the stretch. The daughter of Doneraile Court hadn't started since finishing third in the Grade II UAE Derby in March, but showed no signs of rust. While Cocoa Beach delighted Mettee, he knows Friday's stakes was a learning experience for his team's filly and realizes she still has a way to go.

"She was supposed to win this race but you never know quite how they're going to handle things when they have been off for a little while. It was nice to see her be able to eat dirt a little bit and then make a run. This is a good starting-off point. Things get a little tricky from here but it's good to get this one behind us."



Tod Marks

Ramon Dominguez looks for competition aboard Cocoa Beach in Friday's third, the Love Sign.

• John Kimmel quadrupled his 2008 Saratoga win total, hitting a three-bagger to finish a perfect 3-for-3 on the final Friday card.

Doughdaddy got the party started in the fifth, taking the 6-furlong maiden claimer in his first career start.

The 2-year-old son of Hook And Ladder raced calmly three-wide until Eibar Coa asked for run in the upper

stretch. The juvenile responded in game fashion, outdueling Early Response (Mike Luzzi) in deep stretch to win by 2 3/4 lengths.

Owned by Chester and Mary Broman, Doughdaddy formed an entry with fellow Broman homebred Paramedic (Kent Desormeaux), who finished third.

See **FRIDAY** page 30 ►



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New



Kays And Jays (inside) edges Just Livin A Dream in the fourth – and Shaun Bridgmohan makes sure.

Tod Marks

Friday Recap –

■ Continued from page 28

“He gave a pretty good effort for a first-time starter,” Kimmel said. “I thought Mr. Broman’s other part of the entry was going to be tough. But this horse has been keeping up with the better horses in the barn. He has a huge scar on his knee – huge. As a yearling, he ran through a fence. So he’s got an ugly scar but he was pretty impressive.”

- Kimmel and the Bromans were at it again in the next race, as Close Encounter (Edgar Prado) got up in the final strides to nail Smokin Hero (John Velazquez) at the wire.

Breaking from the outside post, the gray son of Friends Lake sat off Smokin Hero’s warm pace of 22.45 and 45.96 seconds, then crept up on the leader’s outside flank. Close Encounter used the entire stretch to wear down the favorite before prevailing in the final strides. Runner-up Smokin Hero finished well clear of Haynesfield (Shaun Bridgmohan) in third.

- Kimmel completed his hat trick in the eighth with Timber Reserve, who entered the optional claimer off a demanding, if unsuccessful, effort in the Grade I Whitney.

The 4-year-old son of Forest Camp didn’t need much encouragement Friday. Timber Reserve rated wide early in the 9-furlong affair and coasted home after Desormeaux simply hit him on the shoulder.

Kimmel’s triple gave him four for the meet, not to mention a pleasant surprise.

“I didn’t think I had a shot at all three,” he said. “I knew they all had a shot, though. We’ve been a little unlucky with races getting rained off and races not going. But every once in a while, things don’t go as they’re planned. This horse has always showed a lot of talent, I’m glad that he got a good trip.”

See **FRIDAY** page 32 ►

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Susie Cronin, Jaime Corum, Werner Rentsch,
Kathy Partridge, Louise W. King,
Louise Peterson plus 30 more wonderful artists.





Jess Not Jesse rolls to the finish line to win Friday's second for trainer Linda Rice.

Tod Marks

Friday Recap —

■ Continued from page 30

Favored Extreme Supreme (Cornelio Velasquez) got up for second, 1 1/4 lengths ahead of Sam P. (Velasquez) in third.

• Stop the presses — Linda Rice won a Saratoga turf sprint.

The trainer sent out Jess Not Jesse (Garcia) in Friday's second, a 5 1/2-furlong maiden dash, and the son of Minardi rewarded his trainer with yet another sprint score.

Making his debut, Jess Not Jesse came from off the pace to collar Mesa Sunrise (Desormeaux) in deep stretch and go onto capture the \$62,000 purse.

Owned and bred by Robert Koones, Jess Not Jesse is a half-brother to five multiple winners, and Koones is justly proud of the winning bloodlines.

"We had the dam and we raced her here," he said. "She won her first two races, then we put her on the grass and she finished second. Then she broke her ankle and we've been breeding her ever since. She has done really well with her babies. There's a half brother racing in Philadelphia, he just ran second last week. But she's a nice mare, and he was nice today."

The story behind the colt's name is simple and charming.

"My son's name is Jesse; he's 14 and he doesn't like to be called Jesse, because it's a female name," Koones said. "We call him Jess, so 'Jess Not Jesse.' "

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Diamond	Rakeen
Disco Rico	Raykour (Ire)
Domestic Dispute	Regal American
Dover Ridge	Rinka Das
Dr. Best	Rock Slide
Dumyat	Root Boy
Eastern Echo	Rouse the Louse
Eastover Court	Rubiyat
Firestar	Same Day Delivery
Go for Gin	Second Childhood
Great Notion	Secret Firm
Green Alligator	Secret Odds
Hay Halo	Seeking Daylight
Haymaker	Shelter Half
Horatius	Smart Alec
Hurricane State	Smarten
In Case	Smart Guy
Itaka	Smelly
Ivory Frontier (Ire)	Sticks and Bricks
Jane's Dilemma	Storm Broker
Jazz Club	Strelka
Knight of Ireland	Swear by Dixie
Larrupin'	Tamayaz
Lion Hearted	Thirty Eight Paces
Lord Concorde	Touch 'n' Fly (Ire)
Louis Quatorze	Trevor
Makin Money	Trim Account
Malibu Moon	Two Punch
Marciano	Unbridled Jet
Marine Brass	Valley Crossing
McKendree	Waquoit
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2

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6.00

5.30

7

DH-Titan of Industry

Leparoux J R

3.20

3.20

2.50

4

Shekinah

Albarado R J

7.50

Finish Time: 1:41.60

Trainer (2): Todd Pletcher. Owner (2): WinStar Farm.
Ch. c. 3 Distorted Humor-Madame Red, Forest Wildcat.
Bred by WinStar Farm (KY).

Trainer (7): Mike Maker. Owner (7): Ken and Sarah Ramsey.
Ch. g. 3 Giant's Causeway-Lilac's Star, Deputy Minister.
Bred by George Brunacini & Bona Terra Farm (KY).

\$2 Exacta 2-7 Paid \$29.60; \$2 Quinella 7-8 Paid \$19.00; \$2 Trifecta 2-7-4
Paid \$235.00; \$2 Trifecta 7-2-4 Paid \$135.00; \$2 Superfecta 2-7-4-1 Paid
\$1,302.00; \$2 Superfecta 7-2-4-1 Paid \$932.00

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7

Jess Not Jesse

Garcia Alan

13.80

6.50

5.00

8

Mesa Sunrise

Desormeaux K J

4.10

3.20

1A

Wicked Rich

Coa E M

5.10

Finish Time: 1:01.79

Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: Robert Koones.
Dk.B./Br. c. 2 Minardi-Alex Hollywood, Cormorant.
Bred by Robert Koones (KY).

\$2 Exacta 7-8 Paid \$49.00; \$2 Quinella 7-8 Paid \$21.80; \$2 Trifecta 7-8-1
Paid \$279.00; \$2 Daily Double (2-7) Paid \$71.00; \$2 Daily Double (7-7)
Paid \$22.20

3RD. THE LOVE SIGN. 1 1/8 MILES. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$91,950.

7

Cocoa Beach (CHI)

Dominguez R A

3.20

2.70

2.30

4

Striking Tomisue

Hill C

12.20

7.00

1

Peach Flambe

Garcia Alan

5.10

Finish Time: 1:51.50

Trainer: Saeed bin Suroor. Owner: Godolphin Racing.
Dk.B./Br. f. 4 Doneraile Court-Visionera (CHI), Edgy Diplomat.
Bred by Haras La Obra (CHI).

\$2 Exacta 7-4 Paid \$51.00; \$2 Trifecta 7-4-1 Paid \$246.00; \$2 Pick 3
(2-7-7) 3 Correct Paid \$144.50; \$2 Pick 3 (7-7-7) 3 Correct Paid \$41.40;
\$2 Daily Double (7-7) Paid \$25.20

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

2

Kays and Jays

Bridgmohan S X

8.80

4.60

3.40

1

Just Livin a Dream

Maragh R

8.20

5.10

4

Striking Dancer

Albarado R J

3.30

Finish Time: 1:02.23

Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Zayat Stables.
B. f. 2 Macho Uno-Lovin Spoonful, Dixieland Band.
Bred by Milan Kosanovich (KY).

\$2 Exacta 2-1 Paid \$62.50; \$2 Quinella 1-2 Paid \$40.40; \$2 Trifecta 2-1-4
Paid \$257.50; \$2 Pick 3 (7-7-2) 3 Correct Paid \$126.50; \$2 Daily Double
(7-2) Paid \$18.00

5TH. 6 FURLONGS. 2YO. NY BRED. MDN CLM 50,000. PURSE \$32,000.

1A

Doughdaddy

Coa E M

4.70

2.60

3.00

11

Early Response

Luzzi M J

3.80

3.00

1

Paramedic

Desormeaux K J

4.70

2.60

3.00

Finish Time: 1:13.27

Trainer: John Kimmel. Owner: Chester and Mary Broman.
B. c. 2 Hook and Ladder-Moneymakinmamma, In Excess (IRE).
Bred by Chester and Mary Broman (NY).

\$2 Exacta 1-11 Paid \$14.00; \$2 Trifecta 1-11-2 Paid \$40.60; \$2 Pick 3
(7-2-1) 3 Correct Paid \$35.40; \$2 Pick 4 (7-7-2-1) 4 Correct Paid;
\$2 Daily Double (2-1) Paid \$29.40

6TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

9

Close Encounter

Prado E S

9.40

4.10

2.90

8

Smokin Hero

Velazquez J R

2.70

2.10

4

Haynesfield

Bridgmohan S X

3.30

Finish Time: 1:04.91

Trainer: John Kimmel. Owner: Chester and Mary Broman.
Gr./Ro. c. 2 Friends Lake-Inca Sun, Conquistador Cielo.
Bred by Chester and Mary Broman (NY).

\$2 Exacta 9-8 Paid \$19.80; \$2 Trifecta 9-8-4 Paid \$80.50; \$2 Pick 3
(2-1-9) 3 Correct Paid \$136.00; \$2 Daily Double (1-9) Paid \$17.00;
\$2 Consolation Pick 3 (2-1-2) Paid \$26.20; \$2 Superfecta 9-8-4-7 Paid
\$240.40; \$2 Consolation Double (1-2) Paid \$4.20

7TH. THE WITH ANTICIPATION. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 2YO. PURSE \$82,400.

2

Bittel Road

Velazquez J R

4.20

2.60

2.50

8

Skipadate

Bridgmohan S X

3.20

2.60

5

Herr Mozart

Maragh R

4.80

Finish Time: 1:42.30

Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Owner: James Scatuorchio & John Iracane.
Dk.B./Br. c. 2 Stormy Atlantic-Sultry Sal, Sultry Song.
Bred by John Iracane (KY).

\$2 Exacta 2-8 Paid \$15.40; \$2 Trifecta 2-8-5 Paid \$75.00; \$2 Daily Double
(9-2) Paid \$21.80; \$2 Pick 3 (1-9-2) 3 Correct Paid \$49.00; \$2 Consolation
Pick 3 (1-2-2) Paid \$9.90; \$2 Superfecta 2-8-5-3 Paid \$384.00

8TH. 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. AOC 75,000. PURSE \$72,000.

7

Timber Reserve

Desormeaux K J

7.40

3.40

2.50

3

Extreme Supreme

Velasquez C

2.40

2.10

2

Sam P.

Velazquez J R

2.50

Finish Time: 1:50.17

Trainer: John Kimmel. Owner: Circle E Racing,
Caesar Kimmel & Philip Solondz.
Dk.B./Br. c. 4 Forest Camp-Fountain Square, Danzig Connection.
Bred by Mike Harris & Westwind Farms (KY).

\$2 Exacta 7-3 Paid \$20.80; \$2 Trifecta 7-3-2 Paid \$41.80; \$2 Grand
Slam (1,11-4,8,9-2,5,8-7) Paid \$14.80; \$2 Pick 3 (9-2-7) 3 Correct Paid
\$116.50; \$2 Daily Double (2-7) Paid \$21.60

9TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. STR ALW. PURSE \$66,000.

4

Stormy Mirage

Garcia Alan

14.00

6.00

4.00

6

Big Jerome

Prado E S

3.10

2.60

9

Evade

Albarado R J

4.30

Finish Time: 1:42.20

Trainer: Allen Iwinski. Owner: The Mirage Ranch.
Gr./Ro. c. 3 Distant View-Siberian Mirage, Siberian Express.
Bred by The Mirage Ranch (KY).

\$2 Exacta 4-6 Paid \$48.60; \$2 Trifecta 4-6-9 Paid \$214.00; \$2 Superfecta
4-6-9-1 Paid \$1,893.00; \$2 Daily Double (7-4) Paid \$73.00; \$2 Pick 3
(2-7-4) 3 Correct Paid \$207.50; \$2 Pick 4 (9-2-7-4) 4 Correct Paid
\$851.00; \$2 Pick 6 (2-1-9-2-7-4) 6 Correct Paid \$16,448.00, 5 Correct
Paid \$160.00

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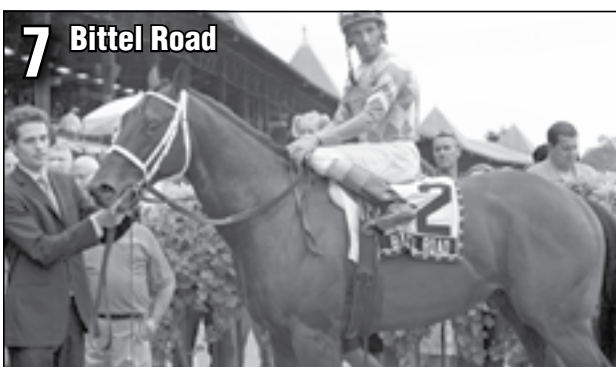
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Stats Men

Museum volunteers collect data on Saratoga race meets to 1920

BY MIKE KANE

Just before noon on Tuesday, Aug. 19, Joe Peck finished what he started – a request that turned out to be a two-year project recording six decades of competition at Saratoga Race Course.

Peck, a Saratoga Springs native and a volunteer in the library at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame since 2002, handles research assignments and answers questions from the public and the media. Not long after he became a volunteer, he was involved in the research to list the winningest jockeys in the history of America's oldest track.

During the summer of 2006, Peck began work on a day-by-day recap of Saratoga racing since the track was reopened in 1946. The track was closed during the 1943, 1944 and 1945 seasons because of travel restrictions during World War II.

The idea for the research came after the museum received an inquiry from the New York Racing Association about a record for victories in a Saratoga season by an apprentice rider. That summer, Julien Leparoux rode 28 winners,

which was believed to be a record.

However, since there was no Saratoga racing database to turn to and NYRA does not publish trainer and jockey stats prior to 1958 in its media guide, it was impossible to determine whether Leparoux was the most successful apprentice in Saratoga history.

Thanks to Peck and fellow volunteers Jim Sweet and Bill Cavanagh, that has changed. Using the museum's collection of Daily Racing Form chart books, Peck, Sweet and Cavanagh have recorded the results of every day of racing at Saratoga between 1920 and 1980. The 58 seasons are hand written on 14 legal pads. Much of the data has been input into spreadsheets by museum staff member Cebe McConkey.

Finishing the research for the seasons 1920 through 1980 was the initial goal. Actually, the final season Peck dealt with was 1970, not 1980. The museum does not have a chart book for the 1970 season, but was able to obtain copies of the charts for that year from the Keeneland Library.

The research project is likely to continue; the museum has chart books from 1853, making it possible to look



Tod Marks

Julien Leparoux did indeed set a record for apprentice jockeys in 2006 – the research confirms it.

at the Saratoga seasons prior to 1920. If charts for seasons after 1980s are available, data from those years will also be compiled.

For Peck, 65, the project was much more than reporting on names and numbers from old books.

"It was a lot of fun," Peck said. "The period I did, from 1946 on, especially, the 1950s and 1960s, I remembered from my youth being at the track on those days. It was sort of like reliving history. My family owned a house on

Jefferson Street and every summer my mother and father rented the upstairs bedrooms to people who worked at the racetrack. So, the goings on of the racetrack every summer were sort of part of my life."

While much number-crunching remains, Cavanagh has compiled a list of the top five jockeys and trainers for each year. It is now correct to say that Leparoux is the most successful apprentice

See **DATA** page 37 ►



Photos by Tod Marks

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Data —

■ Continued from page 36

since 1920. The research project showed that Leparoux broke the apprentice record of 23 victories by Silvio Coucci, the leading rider at Saratoga in 1932.

Besides recording the winning horses and their connections, Peck, Sweet and Cavanagh found many other facts that may have been forgotten over time. Among them was the discovery by Cavanagh that Saratoga Race Course was closed on Friday, Aug. 10, 1923. Cavanagh searched for the reason and found the answer in the Aug. 11 edition of the Saratogian in the Saratoga Springs Public Library: the funeral of U.S. President Warren Harding in Marion, Ohio. However, the Saratogian reported that the yearling sale was held as scheduled the evening of Harding's funeral.

The first page of Sweet's research in 1930 shows the 2-year-old Jamestown winning the Flash Stakes on Opening Day, Wednesday, July 30 and the United States Hotel Stakes three days later, Saturday, Aug. 2. Jamestown also won the Saratoga Special Aug. 9, the Grand Union Hotel Stakes Aug. 23 and finished second by a half-length to Epithet in the Hopeful Aug. 30.

Peck began his volunteer work with the museum after retiring from New York's Division of Criminal Justice Services, where he was the Chief of Operations in the Civil Identification Bureau. By the time Peck and his wife, Kathryn, left for their winter home in Florida in the fall of 2006, he had recorded about a dozen seasons of Saratoga racing.

When he returned to his task in late spring 2007, Sweet had joined the project team. A 36-year-old Cambridge resident, Sweet is a sales representative for Graybar Electric. Sweet heard about Peck's work at a luncheon for volunteers and asked if he could help. His work began with first race of the 1930 season, July 30. Escutcheon, ridden by Hall of Fame jockey Linus McAtee, won the opener.

While they were helping out at a museum event in August 2007, Sweet told Cavanagh that he was enjoying the research. Cavanagh asked to participate and was assigned the 1920s. He also did some of the years in the late 1930s and the three seasons in the 1940s prior to the wartime closing.

Cavanagh, 72, is in his second year as a volunteer at the museum. He is retired from Avionics, a division of ITT, where he was the manager of Information Systems. He and his wife, Maureen, and their son, Kevin, moved to Saratoga Springs in February 2005.

One of the impressive statistics that Cavanagh discovered was jockey Laverne Fator's 37 victories during the 27-day season in 1921. Cavanagh noted that the Hall of Fame jockey's total was

not surpassed until 1959 when Manny Ycaza won 41 races in a 24-day meet.

In 1922, trainer Sam Hildreth won 20 races during the 27-day race meet. Hildreth's total was equaled by Bill Mott during the 34-day meeting in 1996 and by Todd Pletcher in the 36-day season of 1998. Mott moved past Hildreth with 22 winners in 2001, a 36-day meet, while Pletcher has moved past them all with 35 in the 36-day meets of 2003 and 2004.

Racing journalist Mike Kane is the communications officer of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame.

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The agony of an inch

In sports, no agony stings like losing when you thought you were winning. Robby Albarado has stomached that ache since last Saturday's Travers. The jockey had guided Mambo In Seattle to a head advantage over Colonel John in the \$1 million classic. The duo hit the wire together, Albarado stood up and waved his whip in celebration.

He lost.

Albarado's wife, Kimber, summed it up for him.

"Now, you know how that guy who lost to Michael Phelps feels," she told him the night after the Travers.

Milorad Cavic was inches away from dethroning Michael Phelps in the 100-meter butterfly. The Serbian stretched to the wall and Phelps rocked one more stroke and nailed Cavic by .01 seconds. Knife the guy.

Sports Illustrated displays the frame-by-desperate-frame finish. It's hard to call. Just like the Travers photo was hard to call. They say it was the closest photo finish (that wasn't a deadheat) since Meadow Star and Lite Light in the 1991 Mother Goose.

That doesn't do anything to balm the pain for Albarado. Nor does the commercial trade of selling the photo finish around the track. The painted jockey hurts too. The Travers Canoe, yeah, he's got to look at that WinStar-painted dinghy for the next year.

"It's tough, I thought I won it, Gomez is right here at my shoulder, I'm in front of him everywhere but the nose at the wire. Literally he was behind me," Albarado said. "I don't care what a jockey says, it's always going to hurt, every time I think about the Travers. You can take 10 races during the year and the Travers is one of them, the Triple Crown races, the Jockey Club Gold Cup . . . those kinds of races. People always ask, 'Have you won the Travers?' 'No, I got beat two years in a row.'"

Both times for Neil Howard. Last year, Grasshopper overachieved and nearly upset Street Sense. This year, Mambo In Seattle nearly reached boil on the perfect day. Albarado rode both of them well, no complaints, but both of them lost.

"The horse is going to be a great horse, he's a top horse this year but he's only going to get better," Albarado said. "My favorite story of the whole meet was the one in *The Special* about Neil Howard, that's what disappointed me most because I wanted to win so bad for that guy, he's better than all of us about it."

Howard didn't have the chance to win the Molly Pitcher the next day (like Albarado did) and the trainer certainly doesn't get the chance to feel the healing power of Curlin, Albarado's ride in today's Woodward.

Albarado has ridden Curlin since he joined Steve Asmussen's barn last spring. The 2007 Horse of the Year has put about \$900,000 in Albarado's bank account, winning the Arkansas Derby, Preakness, Jockey Club Gold Cup,

CUP OF COFFEE

By
Sean Clancy



Breeders' Cup Classic, Dubai World Cup and Stephen Foster.

"I'm always excited to ride him, he's a breath of fresh air. I'll get tensed up and nervous, obviously, if you're not nervous you're not ready," Albarado said after the last race Friday. "I always get nervous when he runs, because of who he is, I want to keep his streak going, undefeated for the rest of the year. When the gates open, everything changes, your nerves go away, get him a good trip and let him show me what he can do."



Albarado

Curlin lost for the first time in his last six starts when failing to reel in Red Rocks while making his turf debut in the Man O' War July 12. Curlin finished second, splitting two Breeders' Cup Turf winners, as Better Talk Now finished third.

"He was blowing a bit, a little confused," Albarado said. "He didn't know where he was, but he was like that the whole race, he had his head real high, at no point did he grab the bridle the way he normally does. At no point, did he say, 'Here I am.' Everything he did, I had to ask, it just wasn't him."

Curlin usually gets stronger with each furlong and instead was mortal for the first time since last summer's Haskell.

"It's a real bad feeling," Albarado said. "At the half-mile pole, you're on a 1-9 shot, not only being a 1-9 shot, but being Curlin, he's set the bar so high and everybody's expecting him to win every time he runs, which I am too, if it was any other horse you wouldn't have been so disappointed, you would have been excited, second to Red Rocks, I was bummed he didn't win."

And happy the plan of going to the Arc de Triomphe was scrapped with the failed experiment.

Albarado figures, in time, Curlin would make a good grass horse, but for now, he's happy to ride him in the \$500,000 Woodward.

"His greatness excels when he's on the dirt. From my standpoint, he feels totally different," Albarado said. "On the dirt, when you ask him, he rocks you back in the saddle chasing good horses. He runs by them like they're nobodies. And they're quality horses, but that's him. It's a great feeling."

Certainly a better one than the 2008 Travers.

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