

**FREE**

# The SARATOGA Special



Year 7 • No. 30

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Friday, August 31, 2007



Footlights (center) leads Mixed Up (right) and The Looper early in the Turf Writers.

Tod Marks

## INSIDE

- › High Appeal looks to remain unbeaten in today's stakes
- › Remembering P.G. Johnson
- › Entries and Handicapping
- › Thursday's racing recap

# Lady First

## Footlights KO's boys in Grade I steeplechase score

**BY JOE and SEAN CLANCY**

Andre Brewster was 12 years old the first time he came to Saratoga Race Course – a boy on a day away from summer camp – but he was with the right person.

“Mr. Ambrose Clark brought me here. I was at camp at Lake Oswego and he had a place near there. He brought me down for the day – it really hasn't changed much, you know?”

Not at all – Brewster said that in the winner's circle Thursday after his mare Footlights upset the Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup steeplechase stakes. Clark won it in 1950 with Gerrymander.

The lightest weight in the field at 133 pounds, Footlights took the lead on the backside the final time and kicked clear

of favorite Mixed Up (carrying 162) on the turn. Still galloping in the stretch, she leapt over the last like a fresh horse to win by 11 1/2 lengths over Underbidder with The Looper third in 4:33.01 for the 2 3/8 miles. Mixed Up advanced to second behind the winner on the final turn before fading to fifth, beaten nearly 20 lengths.

Clark was a legendary owner and trainer of horses, and won dozens of important steeplechases including the 1933 English Grand National with Kellsboro Jack (who actually raced in the name of his wife, Florence). Clark owned an estate in Cooperstown, a 400-acre farm in Westbury, Long Island known as Broad Hollow (where he hosted Thoroughbred races) and another estate in Aiken, S.C. Horses were his

See **TURF WRITERS** page 4 ►



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**FENCING.** With Footlights streaking away in the distance, the Turf Writers also-rans clear the last fence.



Dave Harmon

## Worth Repeating

“Channing Hill.”

**Name on the back of jump jockey Xavier Aizpuru's helmet cover Thursday when he won the New York Turf Writers Cup. Hill's having some meet.**

“Wow, look at those show prices. There were a few bridge-jumpers out there.”

**Trainer Kieran McLaughlin, after heavily favored Hesanoltsalt finished fourth in the five-horse fourth race, resulting in three healthy show prices.**

“We had nothin' and it cost \$200.”

**Rich Cristiano, on Saratoga dining prices**

“He came up on my stable mail the other day – I don't know why I put him there – but I've got to bet him, don't I?”

**Mike Balfe, before Bar City won Thursday's finale**

**Fan at the horse crossing:** “Are these the horses for the next race?”

**NYRA employee at the horse crossing:** “They better be or else we're in a lot of trouble.”

“That's the beauty of the sport, you take these chances, you have to make these split-second decisions, you go out with gameplans and, like every sport in the world, sometimes gameplans don't fall into place, then you have to make decisions. Sometimes you make the right ones, sometimes you make the wrong ones. Today, it worked.”

**Jockey Xavier Aizpuru, after winning the New York Turf Writers Cup**

## Word of the Day

**Tannoy:** A brand name of loudspeakers manufactured in England. The company was founded as Tulsemere Manufacturing Company in London in 1926. The name is derived from the abbreviation of tantalum alloy, which was used in the making of loudspeakers. In the United Kingdom, and in Saratoga (by U.K. natives at the track wondering if Tom Durkin said a certain thing “on the tannoy”) the term is often used generically to mean any loudspeaker system.

## Take A Number

**23:** Picnic tables staff reporter Brian Nadeau saw when walking into the track outside the Union Avenue entrance at noon Thursday.

**21:** Available picnic tables.

**0:** Falls in seven steeplechase races at the meet.

## Name of the Day

**Seeing Clearly, fifth race.** By Line In The Sand, out of Goggles. Unfortunately we're at the Spa and not the beach.

## Weather

**Today:** Partly sunny. Cooler with high in the mid 70s.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear. Cooler with low in the lower 50s.

**Saturday:** Sunny. High in the mid 70s. At night, clear with low in the mid 40s.

**Sunday:** Sunny. High in the upper 70s.

# The SARATOGA Special

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# Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 1

passion, and Brewster remembered the day at Saratoga well.

"He had winners all over the place," Brewster said. "He had a bookmaker with him in the box and would bet all the way around with changing odds. It was something to see."

Master of the Meadowbrook Hounds foxhunting club in the 1920s, Clark is honored with a National Steeplechase Association award given to an individual who has done the most to "promote, improve and encourage the growth and welfare of American steeplechasing."

Footlights might be a candidate if she keeps doing things like she's done at Saratoga this year.

Opening Week, the 7-year-old won a \$68,000 allowance hurdle at 22-1 for trainer Roger Horgan and jockey Xavier Aizpuru. Yesterday, she became a Grade I winner — knocking off six geldings and another mare in the \$160,800 race. She joined Life's Illusion (1975) as a female winner of the Turf Writers and improved to 5-for-13 over jumps with \$209,498 earned for Arcadia Stable (a long-standing partnership of Marylanders Brewster, Skip Cochran and Minnie Watriss).

And — other than the prophetic visit with Clark decades ago — it was all so unlikely.

"We were going to run her Wednesday and she got written out of the race," said Brewster. "And we were talking last night about whether to run or not because we were afraid of the ground. It's wonderful. What a great mare."

Saratoga's steeplechase program does not include restricted filly/mare races, and there is a limited schedule the rest of the year. Purchased out of flat trainer John Hennig's stable, Footlights has won stakes against her gender, and has tried open company with little success — until Saratoga 2007.

In the Turf Writers, she found a forward position among the group following early leader Preemptive



Tod Marks

Xavier Aizpuru looks for competition as Footlights draws off from the field in the stretch.

Strike. The latter opened 20 lengths on the field early, but jumped erratically and never found a rhythm. As the field passed the wire with 7 furlongs to run, Aizpuru moved Footlights into the three path and she responded by advancing to second behind the leader before the eighth fence. Preemptive Strike rattled that one, handing the baton to Footlights. Between fences on the backstretch, she assumed command and set sail for the finish. Mixed Up gave brief chase, but faltered and the others never threatened.

"She just felt so fantastic out there," Aizpuru said. "She was so comfortable, she jumped, things were going on around her and she never once changed anything, she was so focused and controlled about what she was doing. I was worried that I got to the front too early going to the second to last, but at that point, carrying 133 pounds, I said to myself, 'I've got to send

her home and make these others catch her.' From the second to last, that was the my one and only plan, if I get caught, I can hold my hands up and say, 'shoot me.'"

From the boxes, Brewster put his hand to his holster while riding along with Aizpuru.

"I was getting awfully excited and thought maybe it was a little soon but I knew she had a lot of stay to her and she was getting all that weight," said the owner. "He really used that to his advantage, it was a wonderful ride."

Horgan agreed.

"I guess weight is a big factor but jumping is the name of the game and Xav made all right decisions, when a guy is riding well, when they're in the groove . . . he's in the groove," Horgan said. "We came up

See **TURF WRITERS** page 6 ►



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

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Tod Marks

Owners Andre and Nancy Brewster wait for their mare to return to the winner's circle.

## Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 4

with a plan to make use of the weight when Xav came out it was like he had a bug in our ear listening to us, because he had exactly the same gameplan and he executed it with perfection. Jumping and weight wins it."

Without a change to the allowance conditions at the start of the meet, Footlights wouldn't even be in Saratoga. To attract bigger fields, steeplechase allowance conditions included filly and mare races, which made Footlights eligible for the non-winners-of-one other-than condition. Jack Fisher, who handed Footlights to Horgan for the summer, was about to turn out the rugged daughter of Pleasant Tap when he looked at the conditions and the weight allowances. Footlights carried 140 pounds in her allowance win, dropped seven pounds for the Turf Writers and left Saratoga as the only dual steeplechase winner.

"If she doesn't run here, she's got to wait until Far Hills (in October) and run against Sweet Shani, who ran well in the A.P. Smithwick, at equal weights. She's getting all this weight today, we're going to take a shot," Fisher said. "She's done everything right, she beat Divine Fortune who went on to crush them the next time. There's a time to take a shot and it's when you're getting the weight. Over the years, (timber champion) Saluter gave 30 pounds to a horse who was a maiden and he barely beat him. It's why (stakes horses) Good Night

Shirt is not here and it's why Paradise's Boss is not here, I hate giving away that much weight."

Footlights took full advantage of the weight spread but a horse doesn't win the Turf Writers by 11 1/2 lengths, simply because she's getting weight. She was the most rested of any horse in the race, coming off the July 26 allowance – and that helped. But the biggest factor . . . she jumped flawlessly, ran gamely and never flinched in a mistake-free performance.

"She's incredible, so game and so tough, she just didn't care about anyone or anything. All I cared about really was having a smooth trip and giving her some sort of shot at the end of the race to let her do her stuff, she knocked the socks off of me," Aizpuru said. "After the race, she was tired, she was in a tough race, but you could tell she was pretty pleased with herself. On the way back, I really wanted to take my time and give her a chance to get her breath back and kind of savor the moment. We got out on the dirt and I turned her to come back, she just picked up and took off. I think I was the first one back, that's what she wanted to do."

As he exited the Saratoga trustees room, Brewster reached into his coat pocket. Deliberately, he opened a leather billfold. Amid the credit cards, Maryland driver's license and other assorted items he pulled out a NYRA mutuel ticket – \$100 to win on Footlights and now worth \$900.

"Icing, just icing," he said while headed toward the window.

Ambrose Clark would have been proud.

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Itaka	Smarten
Ivory Frontier (Ire)	Smart Guy
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Saratoga Results

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<b>1ST. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&amp;UP. CLM 35,000. PURSE \$32,000.</b>					
1	Mt. Orient	Gomez G K	11.60	6.30	5.00
5	Delta Park	Dominguez R A		4.70	4.10
4	Good Looking Out	Rojas R I			11.40
Finish Time: 1:42.49					
Trainer: Georgre Weaver. Owner: Edgewood Farm. Dk.B./Br.g.3 Orientate-Bonnie Byerly, Dayjur. Bred by Longleaf Pine Farm (KY).					
\$2 Exacta 1-5 Paid \$46.80; \$2 Trifecta 1-5-4 Paid \$590.00; \$2 Superfecta 1-5-4-7 Paid \$1,704.00					
<b>2ND. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MDN CLM 100,000. PURSE \$41,000.</b>					
8	D J Lightning	Prado E S	9.00	4.40	3.90
3	Golden Leigh	Velasquez C		6.10	4.40
7	Elle Society	Bridgmohan S X			6.90
Finish Time: 1:04.58					
Trainer: Rick Violette. Owner: West Point Stable & Donald Brooks. Dk.B./Br.f.2 Doneraile Court-Cozy Lady, Grindstone. Bred by Ernie Kuehne (KY).					
\$2 Exacta 8-3 Paid \$36.40; \$2 Quinella 3-8 Paid \$21.40; \$2 Trifecta 8-3-7 Paid \$411.00; \$2 Daily Double (1-8) Paid \$41.80					
<b>3RD. 1 1/8 MILES. 4&amp;UP. AOC 100,000. PURSE \$77,420.</b>					
4	Sleek John	Coa E M	53.00	15.60	16.60
2	Nkosi Reigns	Gomez G K		7.10	17.60
5	Evening Attire	Velasquez C			11.40
Finish Time: 1:49.40					
Trainer: Gary Gullo. Owner: Amsterdam One Stable. Dk.B./Br.g.4 Straight Man-Sleek Tigress, Tactical Advantage. Bred by Mrs. Betty Tesiero (FL).					
\$2 Exacta 4-2 Paid \$277.50; \$2 Trifecta 4-2-5 Paid \$923.00					
<b>4TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.</b>					
7	Freakstein	Desormeaux K J	8.80	3.90	3.30
5	Psycho D J	Velasquez C		2.70	2.40
8	Magger Bags	Gomez G K			5.10
Finish Time: 1:04.70					
Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Zayat Stables. Dk.B./Br.f.2 Bernstein-Cometuseibella, Pentelicus. Bred by Douglas Arnold (KY).					
\$2 Exacta 7-5 Paid \$23.00; \$2 Quinella 5-7 Paid \$8.50; \$2 Trifecta 7-5-8 Paid \$147.00; \$2 Pick 3 (8-4-7) 3 Correct Paid \$2,290.00					
<b>5TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. NY BRED. MDN CLM 50,000. PURSE \$32,000.</b>					
9	Cape Cod Escape	Rojas R I	25.20	9.20	5.40
4	Farri H.	Desormeaux K J		3.70	2.80
5	Cruisewear	Prado E S			4.90
Finish Time: 1:07.69					
Trainer: Scott Schwartz. Owner: California Dreamin' Stables. B.f.2 American Chance-Quick Escape, Geiger Counter. Bred by Burning Daylight Farms (NY).					
\$2 Exacta 9-4 Paid \$116.50; \$2 Trifecta 9-4-5 Paid \$661.00; \$2 Pick 3 (4-7-9) 3 Correct Paid \$4,908.00; \$2 Pick 4 (8-4-7-9) 4 Correct Paid \$29,669.00; \$2 Superfecta 9-4-5-8 Paid \$6,394.00					
<b>6TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.</b>					
1	Indian Blessing	Bejarano R	3.70	3.10	2.90
2	Throbbin' Heart	Bridgmohan S X		8.80	7.00
6	Anachini	Prado E S			9.70
Finish Time: 1:03.26					
Trainer: Bob Baffert. Owner: Hal Earnhardt III. Dk.B./Br.f.2 Indian Charlie-Shameful, Flying Chevron. Bred by Hal & Parry Earnhardt (KY).					
\$2 Exacta 1-2 Paid \$31.80; \$2 Trifecta 1-2-6 Paid \$428.00; \$2 Pick 3 (7-9-1) 3 Correct Paid \$571.00					

<b>7TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3YO. CLM 60,000. PURSE \$45,000.</b>					
2	La Neige (GB)	Dominguez R A	5.30	3.30	2.60
6	Romp (ARG)	Bejarano R		7.90	5.10
8	I Ain't No Saint	Velasquez C			3.80
Finish Time: 1:40.93					
Trainer: Graham Motion. Owner: Namcook Stables. B.c.3 Royal Applause (GB)-Mint Royale (IRE), Cadeaux Genereux (GB). Bred by the Duchess of Sutherland (GB).					
\$2 Exacta 2-6 Paid \$41.20; \$2 Trifecta 2-6-8 Paid \$142.50; \$2 Daily Double (1-2) Paid \$8.60; \$2 Pick 3 (9-1-2) 3 Correct Paid \$247.50					
<b>8TH. THE NEW YORK TURF WRITERS CUP STEEPLECHASE (GR. I). 2 3/8 MILES. HURDLE. 4&amp;UP. PURSE \$160,800.</b>					
8	Footlights	Aizpuru X	18.00	7.80	5.70
7	Underbidder	Petty J		22.80	11.40
9	The Looper	Murphy Cyril			7.50
Finish Time: 4:33.01					
Trainer: Roger Horgan. Owner: Arcadia Stable. B.m.7 Pleasant Tap-Magnificent Baby, Northern Baby. Bred by Al and Joyce Meek (KY).					
\$2 Exacta 8-7 Paid \$390.50; \$2 Trifecta 8-7-9 Paid \$3,122.00; \$2 Grand Slam (4/5/9-1/2/6-2/6/8-8) Paid \$233.50					
<b>9TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. FILLIES. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.</b>					
1	Bar City	Garcia Alan	11.80	6.00	4.40
5	La Ransom	Desormeaux K J		4.00	3.20
2	Justinline	Rojas R I			10.40
Finish Time: 1:02.92					
Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: Obviously NY Stable. Ch.f.2 City Zip-Bar None, Major Impact. Bred by Gus Schoenborn Jr (NY).					
\$2 Exacta 1-5 Paid \$39.60; \$2 Trifecta 1-5-2 Paid \$502.00; \$2 Superfecta 1-5-2-12 Paid \$4,378.00; \$2 Daily Double (8-1) Paid \$126.50; \$2 Pick 3 (2-8-1) 3 Correct Paid \$433.00; \$2 Pick 4 (1-2-8-1) 4 Correct Paid \$1,018.00; \$2 Pick 6 (7-9-1-2-8-1) 6 Correct Paid \$196,746.00, 5 Correct Paid \$530.00					
<b>Track: Fast; Turf: Firm</b>					
<b>Attendance: 12,236; Handle: \$1,919,985</b>					

How We Did

RACE 1: Second selection finished second. Third choice scratched.

RACE 2: D J Lighting struck with a \$9.00 win. Third pick finished second.

RACE 3: Top pick finished second.

RACE 4: Ditto.

RACE 5: Second choice finished, well, second.

RACE 6: Third choice won.

RACE 7: La Neige was a cool \$5.30 winner. Second choice finished third.

RACE 8: Third pick scratched.

RACE 9: Bar City served up and \$11.80 win. La Ransom paid off the \$39.60 exacta.

SEASON TOTALS: 71 wins by top selection in 295 races.  
Average win payoff \$6.81.

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

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1 Mt. Orient



2 D J Lightning



3 Sleek John



4 Freakstein



5 Cape Cod Escape (outside)



6 Indian Blessing



7 La Neige



8 Footlights



9 Bar City



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# Riding High

Jockey Garcia announces presence by grabbing spot in Spa's top 10

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Alan Garcia saw Saratoga as a blank canvas; he determined not to judge his meeting by wins or losses, but by the quality of his riding. A quick perusal of the jockey standings and it's clear Garcia's making his mark, as the 21-year-old Peruvian finds himself firmly entrenched in the Top 10.

"It's been a really good summer up here. Coming in my expectations were to have a really good meet, no matter how many winners I ended up with, and we'll see what happens," Garcia said. "I have to thank my agent (Tony Micallef) for giving me the opportunity to ride so many good horses."

Garcia guided Bar City (\$11.80) to victory in Thursday's finale, a turf sprint for New York-bred maidens. Trained by Linda Rice for Obviously NY Stable, the daughter of City Zip was making her first start from an inside position and broke awkwardly. Showing poise for a young jockey, Garcia didn't panic and allowed Bar City to settle off the early leaders. Garcia set down Bar City as the field hit the eighth-pole and the duo ran off to score by 1 3/4 lengths

## THURSDAY RACING RECAP

over La Ransom, with Justinline a half-length back in third.

The victory marked the 15th of the meet for Garcia, who won his first race in Peru in 2002, and was the leading apprentice at The Meadowlands in 2003. While he has enjoyed a profitable relationship with trainer Kieran McLaughlin, Garcia has also scored for several other outfits at the meet.

"Obviously I've ridden a lot of good horses for Kieran; Shakis broke the course record the other day in the Bernard Baruch. But Nick Zito, Tom Bush, and a lot of other good guys have given me the opportunity to ride their horses," Garcia said. "I didn't have a number in mind (in terms of wins). I win one, I win two, it's OK, I just want to be happy because I know it's very tough up here and there are a lot of the best jockeys here. But this has been great so far."

- West Point Stables has enjoyed a fine Saratoga meet, with Dream Rush winning the Grade I Darley Test and Lear's Princess falling just short in the Grade I Alabama. With a big weekend



Dave Harmon

Alan Garcia comes back to the winner's circle aboard Bar City after Thursday's last.

on tap, which will see High Finance look to score his first Grade I in Saturday's Forego, things got off to a good start when D J Lightning (\$9) took the second for West Point and Donald Brooks. Trained by Rick Violette and ridden by Edgar Prado, D J Lightning was an easy 5 1/2 length winner of the \$100,000 maiden-claimant for 2-year-old fillies.

"Coming in I wasn't really sure about this horse; she would work good one day and not as good the next," Violette said. "It's one of the reasons why I spotted her against maiden claimers; I didn't want to send her over there and catch a champion and get her head handed to

See **THURSDAY** page 11 ►



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Dave Harmon

Cape Cod Escape (center) prevails under Raul Rojas in Thursday's fifth race.

## Thursday —

■ Continued from page 10

her. It's good to have owners like these who let me put the horses in the right spots."

• The public decided to give Hesanoltsalt one more try in the third, an allowance/optional claimer for older horses at 9 furlongs, sending the classy 4-year-old off at 3-5. Put under a drive down the backstretch by Rafael Bejarano, Hesanoltsalt struggled to keep up and checked in a disappointing fourth in the five-horse field. Trainer Gary Gullo reaped the benefits as his Sleek John (\$53) was up late to shock them all by a half-length. Previously trained by Eddie Plesa, Sleek John had made his first start for Gullo against much the same cast Aug. 10, finishing some 13 1/2 lengths behind Minister's Bid on a muddy track.

Eibar Coa had the 4-year-old Sleek John sitting in third as Nkosi Reigns took the field through an opening half-mile in 48.14 seconds. Bejarano gave hope to the weary as he finally reached the front with Hesanoltsalt turning for home but his early efforts proved too demanding and the duo backed out of it as a resurgent Nkosi Reigns battled on. Coa arrived on the scene just in time to get up late over the ultra-game Nkosi Reigns, with Evening Attire a nose back in third. The bridge-jumpers had their trunks on as Hesanoltsalt triggered some gaudy show prices; \$16.60, \$17.60, \$11.40.

"He ran big. I thought he ran very well; a little more aggressive today. I knew we were in a good position when I saw the early pace, and Rafael was asking his horse very early on. So, turning for home, I knew I had him beat," Gullo said. "Eddie Plesa did a great job with the horse and he improved a little bit from his last start."

• Scott Schwartz and California Dreamin' Stables have made a good partnership this summer. The duo got back to the winner's circle in the fifth, a maiden claimer for state-bred fillies, with Cape Cod Escape (\$25.20). Raul Rojas picked up his third winner of the meet after he guided the American Chance filly to a neck victory over Farri H.

"This is my fourth win with these guys; we are 4-for-5 at the meet. They just got in the game about six months ago — obviously they are out of California," Schwartz said. "We've just had some good luck buying horses. The unfortunate thing is that they have a lot of things going on and haven't been in to see any of the wins. It's a good phone call to make though."

• Not so long ago, Bob Baffert was in California struggling over the newly installed Polytrack surface. What a difference a racing surface can make. Baffert won his fourth of the meet, all with flashy 2-year-olds, when Indian Blessing (\$3.70) ran a field of freshman fillies off their feet, scoring by 5 1/4 lengths under Rafael Bejarano in the sixth.

See **THURSDAY** page 12 ►

**Reminder:** Horsemen's Meeting. Friday, Aug. 31. 11-12:30 (twilight post). At the Rail Pavilion at Saratoga Race Course.

• • •

**Correction:** Trainer Jonathan Sheppard mentioned the wrong English actor (as a co-breeder of Turf Writers winner Yaw) in an article in yesterday's *Special*. It was Albert Finney, not Michael Caine.



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# Thursday —

■ Continued from page 11

With the track offering blistering fractions the past several days it was no surprise to see Indian Blessing rip off a half in 44.37 with Bejarano motionless in the saddle.

Letting things out a notch as they straightened away in the lane, Indian Blessing opened up in an instant and won under only moderate encouragement. A homebred for Hal Earnhardt (who campaigned the speedy New York-bred Behaving Badly), Indian Blessing joins the Baffert team of Maimonides, More Happy, and J Be K as fast and precocious 2-year-olds. Bejarano, who will ride Maimonides in the Grade I Hopeful here on closing day, is now 7-for-12 over the past two years when he teams with Baffert.

"I'm just really happy and thankful to Bob for letting me ride these horses. I didn't want to get this horse beat today," Bejarano said. "She was comfortable for me out there and we broke good and I just let her run. She just kept going for me, she won real easy. I've rode four horses for Bob and I won with three, so that's cool, you know?"

• It seems like for the past several days we've been telling you George Weaver won another race to continue his white-hot streak. Well, we're here to tell you that George Weaver won another race to continue his white-hot streak. Edgewood Farm's Mt. Orient (\$11.60) took the opener, a \$35,000 conditioned claimer over the Mellon Turf Course.

Garrett Gomez put the son of sprint champion Orientate on the lead from the opening bell and he lulled them to sleep en route to a length and a half score. The win was Weaver's sixth in the last 11 days after an 0-for-19 start.

• Zayat Stables' purchased Freakstein (\$8.80) earlier in the year for \$700,000 at the Barrett's March 2-year-olds in training sale, and the daughter of Bernstein made a quick return on the investment after she held hot firster Psycho D J at bay through the lane to take the fourth, a freshman sprint for maiden fillies. Trained by Bill Mott, Freakstein broke on top under Kent Desormeaux and the pair was chased around the 5 1/2 furlongs the entire way by Psycho D J, for trainer Linda Rice. Desormeaux opened daylight as Freakstein streaked past the eighth-pole and she was 3 3/4 lengths ahead of Psycho D J.

The win was Mott's 20th of the meet, and it extended his lead in the trainer standings to nine over Gary Contessa, Rick Dutrow and Todd Pletcher. The win was number 14 for Zayat Stables, who long ago wrapped up the owner's title.

• La Neige (\$5.30) was a popular winner of the seventh, a \$60,000 claimer on the Mellon course, for trainer Graham Motion and jockey Ramon Dominguez. Chalk players never had an anxious moment as Dominguez sat patiently in seventh, waiting for the right moment to ask La Neige. Appearing from nowhere in mid-stretch Dominguez simply shook his hands and La Neige sprinted clear to an easy 5-length victory. (The winner



Tod Marks

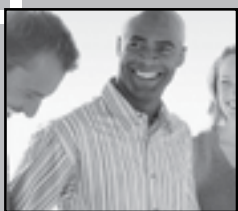
**La Neige draws off in the seventh for jockey Ramon Dominguez.**

was claimed by Sullivan Lane Stable and trainer Richard Dutrow). Romp passed them all late to key a \$41.20 exacta. The win put Dominguez in a three-way tie for third. The 30-year-old has quietly established himself as one of the most complete jockeys on the grounds.

Thursday's claims: Fifth race: Windy

Street (\$50,000) by Lowell Kinch, Robert Klesaris trainer; Flower Storm (\$50,000) by The Big Z Thoroughbred Racing. Linda Rice trainer. Seventh race: La Neige (\$60,000) by Sullivan Lane Stable, Richard Dutrow trainer; I Ain't No Saint (\$60,000) by Jacobson Racing Stable, David Jacobson trainer; Brazenly Bold (\$60,000) by Winning Move Stable, Gary Contessa trainer.

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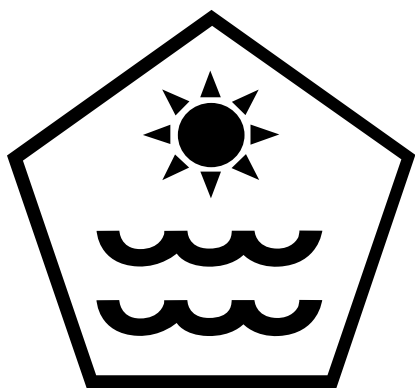


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## All The Winners

### Jockeys

Cornelio Velasquez .....	41	Raul Rojas .....	3
Kent Desormeaux .....	34	Jean-Luc Samyn .....	3
Ramon Dominguez .....	26	Jose Bracetty .....	2
Garrett Gomez .....	26	Eddie Castro .....	2
Edgar Prado .....	26	Danielle Hodsdon .....	2
Javier Castellano .....	21	Mike Luzzi .....	2
Rafael Bejarano .....	19	Robby Albarado .....	1
John Velazquez .....	19	Roberto Alvarado .....	1
Eibar Coa .....	16	Norberto Arroyo Jr .....	1
Alan Garcia .....	15	Jorge Chavez .....	1
Shaun Bridgmohan .....	10	Fernando Jara .....	1
Calvin Borel .....	9	Carlos Marquez Jr .....	1
Julien Leparoux .....	9	Matt McCarron .....	1
Channing Hill .....	6	Chip Miller .....	1
Xavier Aizpuru .....	3	Corey Nakatani .....	1
Mario Pino .....	3	Elvis Trujillo .....	1

### Trainers

Bill Mott .....	20	Gary Gullo .....	2
Gary Contessa .....	11	Leah Gyarmati .....	2
Richard Dutrow .....	11	Eoin Harty .....	2
Todd Pletcher .....	11	Mike Hernandez .....	2
Steve Asmussen .....	8	Roger Horgan .....	2
Tom Bush .....	8	Atreo Persaud .....	2
Kiaran McLaughlin .....	8	Tim Ritvo .....	2
Linda Rice .....	8	Jonathan Sheppard .....	2
Barclay Tagg .....	7	Al Stall Jr .....	2
Christophe Clement .....	6	Dallas Stewart .....	2
Stan Hough .....	6	Mike Trombetta .....	2
Tony Dutrow .....	6	John Ward .....	2
Rick Schosberg .....	6	Ronny Werner .....	2
George Weaver .....	6	Frank Alexander .....	1
Saeed bin Suroor .....	5	William Allyn .....	1
Bobby Frankel .....	5	Enrique Arroyo .....	1
Dominic Galluscio .....	5	Bobby Barbara .....	1
John Kimmel .....	5	James Bond .....	1
Graham Motion .....	5	Jane Cibelli .....	1
Rick Violette .....	5	John Destefano Jr .....	1
Nick Zito .....	5	Gregory DiPrima .....	1
Patrick Biancone .....	4	Scott Everett .....	1
Shug McGaughey .....	4	Jack Fisher .....	1
Carl Nafzger .....	4	Doug Fout .....	1
Scott Schwartz .....	4	John Hertler .....	1
Bob Baffert .....	3	David Jacobson .....	1
Charlton Baker .....	3	Leroy Jolley .....	1
Wally Dollase .....	3	Larry Jones .....	1
David Donk .....	3	Scott Lake .....	1
Mark Hennig .....	3	Michael Lauer .....	1
Tim Hills .....	3	Mike Miceli .....	1
Neil Howard .....	3	John Morrison .....	1
Mike Hushion .....	3	Colum O'Brien .....	1
Allen Jerkens .....	3	Doug O'Neill .....	1
Jimmy Jerkens .....	3	Jeff Odintz .....	1
Pat Kelly .....	3	Ambrose Pascucci .....	1
Steve Klesaris .....	3	Guadalupe Preciado .....	1
Bruce Levine .....	3	Pat Reynolds .....	1
Wayne Lukas .....	3	Robert Ribauda .....	1
Carlos Martin .....	3	Tim Ritchey .....	1
Michael Matz .....	3	James Ryerson .....	1
Ken McPeck .....	3	Dominick Schettino .....	1
Angel Penna .....	3	Gary Sciacca .....	1
Dale Romans .....	3	Howie Teshner .....	1
Phil Serpe .....	3	Jimmy Toner .....	1
Tom Albertrani .....	2	Tom Voss .....	1
Rusty Arnold .....	2	Donna Wormser .....	1
Billy Badgett .....	2		
Glenn DiSanto .....	2		
Debra Divitto .....	2		
Chris Englehart .....	2		

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# Double Billing

## Stakes combine to form freshmen free-for-all

BY BRIAN NADEAU

With Wednesday's turf stakes for freshman fillies failing to fill, and today's colt stakes at similar conditions looking light, NYRA decided to take a new approach — amalgamation. Thus, Saratoga presents today's P.G. Johnson/With Anticipation Stakes for 2-year-olds of all shapes, sizes, and genders, which will be run at 1 1/16 miles over the Mellon Turf Course.

Mike Trombetta sees today's stakes as the perfect opportunity to test the mettle of his talented 2-year-old High Appeal. Undeclared and unchallenged in two starts sprinting over Colonial Downs' turf course, he attempts to stretch his speed to two-turns.

"He's coming into it very well," Trombetta said. "We are looking to see if can be a solid two-turn horse at this level. He seems to be a horse that will take you quite a bit further."

High Appeal certainly has been quicker than everyone who has tested him. In his two Colonial starts, both at 5 1/2 furlongs, the son of Songandaprayer scored daylight gate-to-wire victories by a combined 13 3/4 lengths. Ramon Dominguez picks up the mount and will look to reserve some of High Appeal's speed for the stretch.

"He has won easy but he was also able to pick up an education as well as some money for his efforts," Trombetta said.

Owned by Harry and Tom Meyerhoff, High Appeal also gained a popular following at the windows. Sent off at 6-5 for both his lifetime starts, it's clear High Appeal has been held in high regard from the beginning.

P.G. JOHNSON/WITH ANTICIPATION PREVIEW

"I actually got this horse after Bud Delp passed on late last year," Trombetta said. "I saw him for the first time down at Ocala this February. From the moment I saw him I thought he was one of the most-forward of the 2-year-olds we had, which was about 30. I thought this was a horse who would prove to be ready to run the quickest of the ones we had down there."

Though it wasn't a Nostradamus-like prediction, High Appeal did make Trombetta look good. Breaking sharply under Julian Pimentel, High Appeal quickly left his seven rivals and scored by 7 3/4 lengths. It was much the same in his second start, the \$60,000 Chenery Stakes. This time he aired by 6 lengths, completing the 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:02 1/5 seconds, almost three seconds faster than his debut score.

"There weren't a lot of opportunities to run a 2-year-old on turf early in the season," Trombetta said. "With Sadler's Wells on the bottom of his pedigree I thought it would be a good idea to try him (on turf). I called the owner and he said it was OK, and here we are. He does train super on dirt, but there's no need to change something that has worked so well."

For Carry The Day, turf has been a revelation. Beaten by 15 1/2 lengths in his main-track debut at Belmont Park June 15, the son of With Approval took to the green in his next start and scored by a comfortable 2 1/2 lengths. Trained by Gary Contessa for William Coyro Jr., Carry The Day is a New York-bred, though he defeated open company in his turf win. Contessa is looking forward to taking on all comers.



Tod Marks

Trainer Mike Trombetta brings High Appeal into today's stakes.

"As 2-year-olds, I don't think it matters (when you have the girls facing the boys). I'm glad I have a colt, but I don't really think there is much difference at this time of the year," said Contessa, whose horse is actually a gelding (but the point is he's one of six males in the race). "I like my horse in there; he is a New York-bred who beat open company in his turf start. I think he is going to run really well."

In his last start, Carry The Day finished fifth, beaten 18 lengths in Monmouth Park's Continental Mile Stakes, a race that was taken off the turf. Contessa is quick to help fellow handicappers dismiss the poor

See **PREVIEW** page 19 ►

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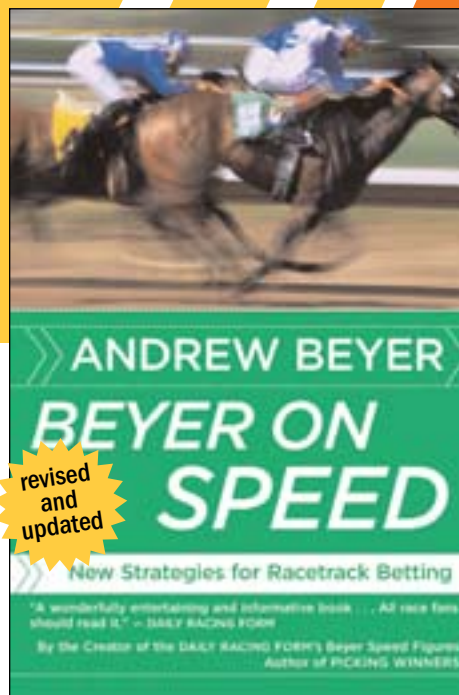
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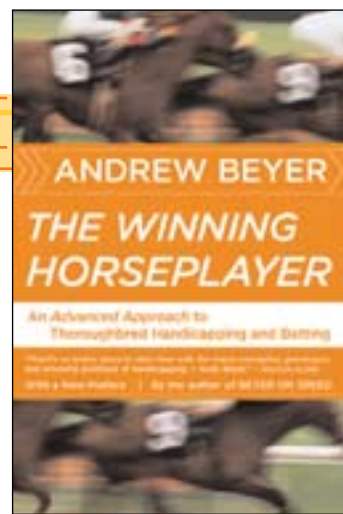
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# Preview —

■ Continued from page 18

effort. Garrett Gomez picks up the mount.

"This horse is night and day when on turf, definitely," Contessa said. "The only reason I ran him in that race at Monmouth was because he was there when it came off; otherwise I would have scratched. With that being said, I don't think the fact that he ran there set him back at all. He's training great and I think he has a big shot."

The powerful Zayat Stable sends out an entry that looks doubly live; Sherine (Alan Garcia) for trainer Tony Dutrow and Zee Zee (Kent Desormeaux) for leading trainer Bill Mott. Both fillies own wins over the Mellon Turf Course and should make things difficult for the others. The entry also contains a not-so-secret weapon: main-track-only entrant Z Humor, also a Mott trainee.

Sherine was beaten 11 lengths in her debut on the main track at Belmont then aired on the turf in her next start, wiring maidens by 6 1/2 lengths under Garcia. With the rail draw she could again find herself on the lead and might just show the boys her tail turning for home.

Zee Zee won her debut here Aug. 6 and though she was only a neck ahead at the wire the margin was quite deceiving. Desormeaux was extremely confident in the lane aboard the daughter of Exchange Rate, and Zee Zee rewarded him with a measured win. There was plenty more in the tank that day and Desormeaux was able to give his mount an education as he rated her off the early leaders and passed six horses in the last half-mile. That attribute could come in handy if a pace battle develops.

Pulla Fast One helped get George Weaver's late-season Spa surge started when he scored a half-length victory over the course Aug. 19. Weaver wheels the son of More Than Ready back on 12 days rest and Pulla Fast One looks to have a bright future for Dogwood Stable. Channing Hill, aboard for the maiden-breaker, has the return call.

Sea Chanter will try to get back on a winning note for trainer Todd Pletcher. The daughter of War Chant was a poorly kept secret when she won her debut at Belmont, drawing off by 6 3/4 lengths at 7-10. Sent to Colonial Downs for the \$60,000 Tippet Stakes, Sea Chanter finished a flat fourth at 1-5. Freshened since, she shot a bullet 5-furlong work at Belmont in preparation for today's assignment, which will be her first start

beyond 6 furlongs.

Barclay Tagg sends out the exciting debut winner Rebounded. The 2-year-old gelded son of Boundary made a favorable impression here Aug. 3. Stalking the pace in fourth under Eibar Coa, Rebounded moved swiftly to the lead as the field cut the corner and drew off to a 1 3/4-length score while racing greenly through the lane. Three promising works since the score suggest Rebounded will be a much more focused customer under Coa today, and that could be all the duo needs to score for owner Bonner Young and Gerald McManis.

Mott also sends out Caravel, who finished second behind Rebounded in his career debut. A son of the fleet Aljabr, Caravel is a Kinsman Farm (of George Steinbrenner fame) homebred who should move forward in his second career start. Racing on the pace in his debut, Caravel steadied in deep stretch, yet was beaten only 1 3/4 lengths. Edgar Prado will be aboard again.

Trainer Patrick Biancone sends out the maiden Nownownow, who has disappointed in his three prior starts over dirt and Polytrack. Though starting a maiden in a stakes is somewhat unorthodox, Biancone has turned the trick before, saddling Stream Cat to score in the 2005 With Anticipation as a maiden. Nownownow is an aptly named son of the Biancone-trained Whywhywhy. The former has never raced beyond 5 furlongs and looks to have a lot to do to match Stream Cat's impressive feat two years ago. Stable rider Julien Leparoux has the mount.

Biancone also starts Day Of Victory, who makes her first start since being transferred from Bob Holthus' barn. The daughter of Victory Gallop broke her maiden at first asking sprinting over the Ellis Park turf and picks up the services of Rafael Bejarano.

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# Thanks, Dad

BY KAREN JOHNSON

I remember the day early in 2005 when NYRA released its stakes schedule for the year and I saw a race named for my father during the Saratoga meet.

I eagerly called my sister, Kathy, and told her the news. After losing both our parents, within 11 weeks of each other in 2004, my only sibling is the first person I share awesome news with.

Today, Kathy and I will celebrate the third running of the P.G. Johnson Stakes. This year, there is an added bonus: With Anticipation, the gallant turf runner from several years ago, shares the race with my father. Perfect, I thought when the overnight came out and there was a 2-year-old grass race, honoring two distinguished white-haired veterans of the sport.

Most journalists would agree that writing about something you love and know well is probably the easiest copy to churn out. In the case of my father, I'm not so sure.

I don't think I will ever come close to knowing someone as well as my dad. But truth be told, I cannot even begin to honor his memory or capture his spirit in this space.

Around the racetrack, many knew him to be a superb horseman, outspoken, loyal, perfectionist, articulate and, from time to time, irascible. He was all of those things, but to me he was just an amazing father, who provided me with an endless supply of love.

Don't be mistaken – I didn't always get off easy. As a pre-teen I spent more time at his barn than school and Dad had me in a stall putting standing bandages on a horse.

Twenty minutes after I finished, the bandages had sunk around the horse's ankles.

Dad marched me back into the stall and said I had to do re-do the bandages.

"Why?" I whined. "I can't do it."

"You can and will," he said quietly as he ducked under the webbing and left me with a mess of cotton.

That was the no-nonsense approach he took when he wasn't old enough to obtain a trainer's license at 16 in Chicago. Ever-resourceful, P.G. figured a bit of fibbing about his birth date wasn't going to hurt, because he believed he would do a better job than most of the trainers of legal age. That can-do attitude landed him in the winner's circle after the 2002 Breeders' Cup Classic at Arlington Park with a 43-1 runner, Volponi, a horse he co-bred, co-owned and trained. At age 77, he became the oldest trainer to win a Breeders' Cup race.

Somewhere along the way, I gave him the nickname Palm Bear. Go figure. I was young and he never stopped buying me stuffed bears. One day at the barn, I witnessed not the warm and fuzzy bear I knew as Dad, but the type of bear you run the other way from if you see him in the woods.

A horse worked too fast. Upon returning to the barn, the exercise rider was properly cussed and as he was walking away, Dad launched his cigar like a missile at the rider's back. I don't think contact was made with the intended target, but everyone in the barn laughed at the red-faced rider, who muttered God knows what about my father.

Like any young child, who delights in bad behavior in adults, especially a parent, I gleefully reported the scene to my mother when we got home. Of course, it was told out of Dad's earshot.

"Goodness," my ever-practical mother said, "I hope it wasn't one of those expensive Cuban cigars."



Tod Marks

## Hall of Fame trainer P.G. Johnson

There wasn't much I could tell Mom about Dad that would surprise her.

Now, what is really fun about being P.G.'s daughter is hearing stories from his past, tales that I have either forgotten or never knew.

One morning during this meet, while walking past Mike Hernandez's barn I saw Alfredo Velazquez, a Philadelphia Park-based trainer who once worked for my father. After exchanging pleasantries, Velazquez

See **JOHNSON** page 21 ►

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Jeff Snyder Photos

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# Johnson —

■ Continued from page 20

told me that when he became a trainer he would often call my father for advice concerning horses that he was having problems with.

"It was amazing," Velazquez said. "He didn't even have to see the horse to know what was wrong. He was able to tell me what to do and it worked. He would call me a few days later, to see how the horse was."

The other day, my sister told me a story that had us in a fit of giggles. After winning the Breeders' Cup, my father took a wrong turn in the hotel and wound up in the ladies' room. There he

encountered two distinguished women of the turf, Virginia Kraft Payson and Josephine Abercrombie.

When Kathy asked our father if the women thought it was strange he was in the ladies' room, he said, "Oh no, not at all. We had a nice chat about the races."

I miss my chats with my father at his old stomping grounds, Barn 63 at Belmont Park and Barn 80 here. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of him. Today won't be any different.

Hall of Fame trainer P.G. Johnson, honored with a race in his name today, passed away in 2004. His daughter Karen is a long-time racing writer and spent Saratoga writing for *The Special*.

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### 1ST (2:45) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 35,000. PURSE \$63,000.

1	4	Itsnotthemoney	Desormeaux K J	Contessa Gary	7-2
1A	10	What's Your Point	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	7-2
2	7	Against the Grain	Velasquez C	Bush Tom	6-1
2B	8	Strong Presence	Arroyo N Jr	Bush Tom	6-1
3	1	Tiffany's Rodeo	Chavez J F	O'Brien Leo	20-1
4	2	Smokin Sarah	Bejarano R	Gyarmati Leah	5-2
5	3	Fighting Speedy	Velazquez J R	Gullo Gary	6-1
6	5	Seventeen Love	Garcia Alan	Hills Tim	3-1
7	6	Shoot the Bugler	Hill C	Aquilino Joe	20-1
8	9	Sunset Cocktail	Coa E M	Ryan Derek	15-1

A-Coupled: Itsnotthemoney and What's Your Point

B-Coupled: Against the Grain and Strong Presence

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### 2ND (3:17) 6 FURLONGS. 2YO. NY BRED. MDN CLM 50,000. PURSE \$32,000.

1	1	One Little Secret	Desormeaux K J	Ward Wesley	2-1
1A	9	Cannonball	Gomez G K	Ward Wesley	2-1
2	2	Fighter Ace	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	8-1
3	3	Thunder Buddy	Coa E M	Galluscio Dominic	8-1
4	4	Sir Sheffield	Velasquez C	Schosberg Rick	8-1
5	5	Sonoran Desert	Hill C	Sanders Jamie	6-1
6	6	Starship Dancer	Luzzi M J	Levine Bruce	15-1
7	7	Friendslikethese	Prado E S	Dutrow Richard	4-1
8	8	El Tamberito	Bejarano R	Dutrow Tony	9-2

A-Coupled: One Little Secret and Cannonball

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

### 3RD (3:49) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$69,000.

1	1	Beau Dare	Dominguez R A	Levine Bruce	4-1
2	2	Sweet Ransom	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	9-5
3	3	Zaynab (FR)	Leparoux J R	Clement Christophe	2-1
4	4	Secret Brook	Velasquez C	Divitto Debra	30-1
5	5	My Sister Diane	Velazquez J R	O'Brien Colum	15-1
6	6	Egypt Lane	Prado E S	Badgett Billy	5-1
7	7	Ok to Pay	Bridgmohan S X	Stoklosa Richard	10-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

### 4TH (4:21) 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. MDN CLM 65,000. PURSE \$36,000.

1	1	Runaway Banjo	Dominguez R A	Donk David	12-1
2	2	Fregata	Hill C	Domino Carl	15-1
3	3	Forte E Potenti	Rojas R I	Sciacca Gary	30-1
4	4	King Tallymon	Garcia Alan	Rice Linda	20-1
5	5	Mike's Dream Team	Velazquez J R	Dutrow Richard	2-1
6	6	Intuition Magic	Desormeaux K J	Ward Wesley	10-1
7	7	Coastal Flare	Bejarano R	Frankel Bobby	8-1
8	8	Sound Doctrine	Gomez G K	Hough Stan	6-1
9	9	Red Hot Poker	Leparoux J R	Kenneally Eddie	5-1
10	10	Eff Jaa Gee	Bridgmohan S X	Violette Rick	15-1
11	11	Storm of Thunder	Velasquez C	Hushion Mike	8-1

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

### 5TH (4:53) 1 MILE. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$34,000.

1	2	Stashed Away	Bejarano R	Ritvo Tim	5-1
1A	MTO	Mustang Cali	Velasquez C	Ritvo Tim	5-1
2	6	American Dream'a	Velazquez J R	Contessa Gary	10-1
2B	MTO	Tzipi	No rider	Contessa Gary	10-1
3	1	Missed the Tower	Arroyo N Jr	DiPrima Gregory	20-1
4	3	Seeing Clearly	Luzzi M J	Morrison John	20-1
5	4	Survived	Samyn J L	Jerkens Allen	2-1
6	5	Optimist Girl (ARG)	Dominguez R A	Jacobson David	6-1
7	7	Quiet Cay	Castellano J J	Sheppard Jonathan	12-1
8	8	Gilded Thread	Coa E M	Bush Tom	9-2
9	9	Hurricane Annie	Velasquez C	Rice Linda	20-1
10	10	Classic Marilyn	Chavez J F	Hertler John	10-1
11	AE	Fairytale Story	Prado E S	Serpe Phil	4-1
12	MTO	Ballymist	No rider	Kilstein Matthew	15-1

A-Coupled: Stashed Away and Mustang Cali;

B-Coupled: American Dream'a and Tzipi

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

## Friday's Saratoga Entries

### 6TH (5:25) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

1	3	Go Samantha Go	Prado E S	Romans Dale	15-1
1A	5	Dubai Angel	Velasquez C	Romans Dale	15-1
2	7	Gipsy Lore	Luzzi M J	Weaver George	6-1
2B	8	Miss Challenge	Bejarano R	Weaver George	6-1
3	1	Magnificent Truth	Garcia Alan	Hennig Mark	8-1
4	2	Valid Humor	Castellano J J	Hough Stan	3-1
5	4	Our Dreamette	Coa E M	Ritvo Tim	8-1
6	6	Namaste's Wish	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	5-1
7	9	Sankobasi	Dominguez R A	McLaughlin Kiaran	8-1
8	10	Boston Cat	Leparoux J R	Biancone Patrick	5-2
9	AE	Madam Bling	Prado E S	Toner Jimmy	12-1
10	AE	Return to Paradise	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	4-1
11	AE	Doctor Sparks	Chavez J F	Schettino Dominick	20-1
12	AE	Cape Cod Bay	Bridgmohan S X	Stewart Dallas	6-1
13	AE	Justoutofthebox	Carter T	Jerkens Allen	20-1

A-Coupled: Go Samantha Go and Dubai Angel

B-Coupled: Gipsy Lore and Miss Challenge

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

### 7TH (5:57) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$62,000.

1	AE	Our Montana Dream	Gomez O	Candlin John	10-1
1A	MTO	Kitty Nip	Gomez O	Candlin John	10-1
2	1	Cordilleran Ice	Garcia Alan	Hennig Mark	15-1
3	2	As Do I	Desormeaux K J	Contessa Gary	6-1
4	3	Dr. Jess Jr	Bridgmohan S X	Cedano Heriberto	15-1
5	4	Turning Leaves	Prado E S	Levine Bruce	6-1
6	5	Daring Dreamer	Coa E M	Tagg Barclay	4-1
7	6	Wynsome Wesley	Gomez G K	Violette Rick	10-1
8	7	Sax in the City	Leparoux J R	Martin Carlos	12-1
9	8	Storm Dixie	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	7-2
10	9	Miss Langfuhr	Samyn J L	Freeman Mike	50-1
11	10	Miss Blarney Stone	Dominguez R A	Bush Tom	3-1
12	AE	Odetta One	Bejarano R	Sciacca Gary	12-1
13	AE	Siempre Verde	Rojas R I	Aquilino Joe	30-1
14	AE	Small Potatoes	Velasquez C	Pregman Jr John	20-1

A-Coupled: Our Montana Dream and Kitty Nip

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (7-9)

### 8TH (6:30) THE P.G. JOHNSTON/WITH ANTICIPATION. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 2YO. PURSE \$80,000.

1	1	Sherine	Garcia Alan	Dutrow Tony	7-2
1A	4	Zee Zee	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	7-2
1X	MTO	Z Humor	No rider	Mott Bill	7-2
2	2	Carry the Day	Gomez G K	Contessa Gary	12-1
3	3	High Appeal	Dominguez R A	Trombetta Michael	3-1
4	5	Nownownow	Leparoux J R	Biancone Patrick	8-1
5	6	Pulla Fast One	Hill C	Weaver George	12-1
6	7	Sea Chanter	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	8-1
7	8	Caravel	Prado E S	Mott Bill	6-1
8	9	Rebounded	Coa E M	Tagg Barclay	5-1
9	10	Day of Victory	Bejarano R	Biancone Patrick	12-1

A-Coupled: Sherine and Zee Zee and Z Humor

Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

### 9TH (7:02) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. MDN CLM 45,000. PURSE \$26,000.

1	2	Pay in Kind	Castellano J J	Violette Rick	7-2
1A	AE	Absolute Return	Gomez G K	Violette Rick	7-2
2	4	Eat Em Alive	Coa E M	Sheppard Jonathan	15-1
2B	5	Scavenger	Rojas R I	Sheppard Jonathan	15-1
3	1	Brave Emperor	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	2-1
4	3	Renown	Dominguez R A	Jacobson David	10-1
5	6	Star Studded	Velasquez C	Alexander Frank	6-1
6	7	Mighty Gigantor	Hill C	Schettino Dominick	15-1
7	8	Tu Sandy	Velazquez J R	Barbara Robert	12-1
8	9	Arcanite	Garcia Alan	Rice Linda	6-1
9	10	Decisive Play	Leparoux J R	Clement Christophe	10-1
10	11	Love That Wicked	Bracetty J A	Sciacca Gary	50-1
11	AE	Lighthouse Point	Rojas R I	Carroll II Del	20-1
12	AE	Caught Stealing	Prado E S	Serpe Phil	4-1

A-Coupled: Pay in Kind and Absolute Return

B-Coupled: Eat Em Alive and Scavenger

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

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# The Power Grid



Pete Fornatale



Alan Mann



Brian Nadeau



Fickle Finger of Fate

Race #				
1	Smokin Sarah Against The Grain Seventeen Love	Seventeen Love Smokin Sarah What's Your Point	Smokin Sarah Seventeen Love Contessa entry	Sunset Cocktail Smokin Sarah Itsnotthemoney
2	Sir Sheffield Ward entry Friendslikethese	Sir Sheffield El Tamberito One Little Secret	Sir Sheffield Friendslikethese Fighter Ace	Thunder Buddy Starship Dancer El Tamberito
3	Zaynab My Sister Diane Sweet Ransom	Egypt Lane Zaynab Sweet Ransom	Zaynab Sweet Ransom Beau Dare	Egypt Lane Ok To Pay Beau Dare
4	Mike's Dream Team Sound Doctrine Storm Of Thunder	Red Hot Poker Mike's Dream Team Fregata	Fregata Mike's Dream Team King Tallymon	Red Hot Poker Runaway Banjo Eff Jaa Gee
5	Survived Quiet Cay American Dream'a	Stashed Away Survived Seeing Clearly	Survived Seeing Clearly Ritvo entry	Missed The Tower Hurricane Annie Classic Marilyn
6	Boston Cat Magnificent Truth Weaver entry	Boston Cat Weaver entry Our Dreamette	Boston Cat Sankobasi Namaste's Wish	Return To Paradise Valid Humor Namaste's Wish
7	Storm Dixie Daring Dreamer Miss Blarney Stone	Storm Dixie Daring Dreamer As Do I	Daring Dreamer Storm Dixie Miss Blarney Stone	Wynsome Wesley Cordilleran Ice Storm Dixie
8	High Appeal Zayat entry Caravel	Zayat entry Sea Chanter Rebounded	High Appeal Sea Chanter Zayat entry	Nownownow Caravel Day Of Victory
9	Brave Emperor Tu Sandy Caught Stealing	Brave Emperor Pay In Kind Star Studded	Caught Stealing Brave Emperor Star Studded	Brave Emperor Mighty Gigantor Arcanite
To Date:	56/258	58/258	70/258	33/258

## Detailed Analysis

**RACE 1:** SEVENTEEN LOVE rebounded from a disappointing try with a nice rail-skimming win here last month, holding off Rizzi's Twist, an authoritative winner of her next race. Looks tough in midafternoon opener for sharp Tim Hills barn. SMOKIN SARAH ran third behind a couple of solid state-breds while running third in a stakes and returns to allowance company. WHAT'S YOUR POINT has made hers with two straight wins while climbing the class ladder, and moves up again first time off the claim for Gary Contessa.

**RACE 2:** Watch the tote for some clues in this puzzling state-bred maiden claimer loaded with debut runners. SIR SHEFFIELD is by the second-year sire Outofthebox, thus far successful with debut runners, out of the razor sharp Rick Shosberg barn. EL TAMBERITO has some bullet works at Philly Park for trainer Tony Dutrow. ONE LITTLE SECRET, part of an entry for Wesley Ward, drops in for a tag after three well-bet tries in maiden special company.

**RACE 3:** EGYPT LANE has moved significantly up in class after switching barns (to William Badgett), jockeys (to Edgar Prado) and surfaces (to turf). Moves up again after a fast-closing win here; while a similar fast pace isn't assured, four solid works since her last indicate that she's held her form. ZAYNAB has been close, but hasn't won in his last eight, six of those as the favorite. She's the type I tend to keep from the top of my tickets, but she's generally good for a share. SWEET RANSOM is sharp for Bill Mott, but a cutback in distance demands odds higher than you're likely to see.

**RACE 4:** RED HOT POKER makes his monthly start (though he barely squeezes in August). He could squeeze out a win dropping for a tag after three solid tries in maiden-special company since switching to Julien Leparoux. MIKE'S DREAM TEAM showed good energy closing despite zig-zagging down the center of the track in a very green fourth from far behind; also drops for a tag. FREGATA rallied from the back of the pack as well, and did so after being left at the gate; could get share despite a big move up in class.

**RACE 5:** STASHED AWAY has returned after nine months on the shelf with two fine efforts despite traffic trouble in the stretch each time; third try of the form cycle from a good post today. SURVIVED drops sharply in class for Allen Jerkens; this filly was beaten less than 4 lengths by Grade I winner Rutherfordne in June. SEEING CLEARLY arguably had better form at Suffolk than did Dr Rico, a 31-1 surprise under these very same conditions Sunday.

**RACE 6:** BOSTON CAT was well-meant when she encountered trouble at the start, and was forced to angle extremely wide in the stretch before finishing with a flurry; stretch-out would seem to be an obvious help. George Weaver sends out a pair of first-timers in GIPSY LORE (by Giant's Causeway) and MISS CHALLENGE (by More Than Ready) both of whom have been working on the lawn and have the pedigree. OUR DREAMETTE has shown good speed in grass sprints and could be tough to catch if left alone on the lead.

**RACE 7:** STORM DIXIE actually did rather well to finish sixth, just 5 lengths back, in her last when solidly four-wide both turns; that race has produced two winners and two runners-up. She raced well prior in an overnight stakes and seems well-spotted here. DARING DREAMER has put in good efforts in each of her four grass starts, and, benefiting from an inside trip, checked in 2 lengths in front of the top choice last time out. AS DO I raced well enough in her first three starts for us to surmise that she just had a bad day when she faded to ninth in her last.

**RACE 8:** ZEE ZEE, by Exchange Rate (coupled with filly SHERENE) cruised past the field while four-wide on the turn in his debut under a highly confident Kent Desormeaux. SEA CHANTER is another filly taking on the boys; daughter of War Chant was out of the money at 3-10 at Colonial in her last try after winning her debut impressively at Belmont. REBOUNDED did so after stumbling and almost falling turning for home to win his debut for the sharp Barclay Tagg barn; looks to have a shot for at least a share, but so does nearly everyone else, so insist on value.

**RACE 9:** BRAVE EMPEROR drops in for a tag after an OK third in maiden specials, and gets the rail for Desormeaux and Mott; prospect of short price, but a dangerous combination to ignore. PAY IN KIND also takes a class drop and tries grass for the first time; direct descendent of the influential broodmare Glowing Tribute has green in her blood. STAR STUDDER has been finishing well at this level and begs inclusion towards the bottom of your tickets.

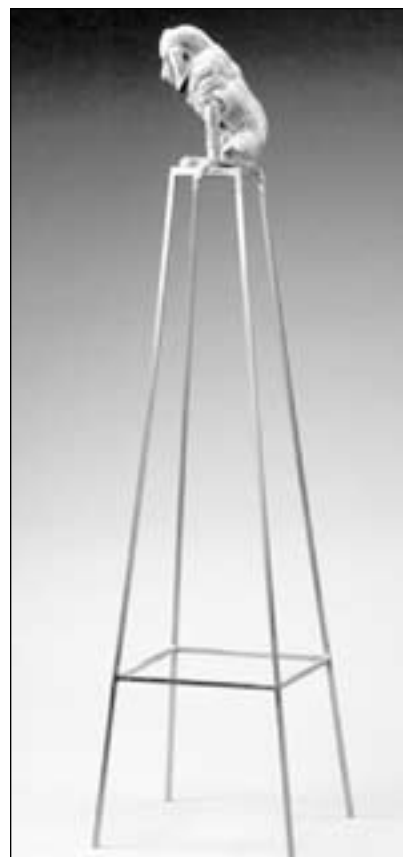
— Alan Mann

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# Hereditary Leader

## Machiavellian a prince among horses

BY FRANCES KARON

Shakis and Street Sense, two big winners on Travers Day representing Machiavellian, underscored the influence of the fortuitous purchase of a filly born a quarter of a century ago.

When Stavros Niarchos, through the British Bloodstock Agency, bought the bay Maryland-bred yearling filly by Halo at the now-defunct Keeneland July sale in 1983, he may have wondered for a moment if he had overspent. After all, Halo's yearling median was \$61,000, and this filly had cost \$825,000. Pleading temporary insanity, Niarchos named her Coup de Folie — "Act of Madness."

Coup de Folie was the first foal out of an unraced Hoist The Flag mare named Raise The Standard. Her granddam Natalma had been disqualified (to third) from her only stakes win, Saratoga's Spinaway, in 1959. When she sustained an injury the following year, E.P. Taylor bred her to his first-season stallion Nearctic in June, resulting in Northern Dancer. Natalma produced three more stakes winners, all of whom paled in comparison to their half-brother. Understandably, fillies from the family were valued and revered.



Tod Marks

Shakis (left) and Street Sense won major Saratoga stakes while representing Machiavellian.

In France, Coup de Folie became a Group III winner at 2 in the Prix d'Aumale. She placed third in the prestigious Prix Marcel Boussac that same year, and at 3 trained on to win a Listed event and place in her only North American start, a stakes race. With four wins in seven starts, she wasn't at the head of her class but had made a good showing of herself.

Niarchos raced Coup de Folie merely to pass the time until he could breed her. Once retired, Coup de Folie got right down to it. Her first foal, Machiavellian, is the focus of today's column, but her other contributions deserve an honorable mention: champion Coup de Genie (the "genius" intending to rectify, perhaps, the

naming of her mother), producer of four stakes winners including French highweight Denebola; Group I winner Exit To Nowhere; Group II winner Hydro Calido (a multiple stakes producer); Group III winner Ocean Of Wisdom; and the dams of Group winners Way Of Light and Admiral of the Fleet. Fourteen stakes winners descending from Coup de Folie have raced for the Niarchos family (including one in partnership) making her one of the cornerstones of their powerful empire.

Mr. Prospector's son Machiavellian was French champion 2-year-old, and his four wins included the

See **PEDIGREE** page 25 ►



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# Pedigree —

■ Continued from page 24

Prix Morny and Prix de la Salamandre (both of which were also won by his full sister Coup de Genie). At 3 he was second in the English 2,000 Guineas, but his biggest impact was to come as a sire.

Machiavellian fit perfectly into a niche at Dalham Hall in England. As one of few Mr. Prospectors in Europe, he would have naturally been short-listed for the best Northern Dancer-line mares in the vicinity. But the inbreeding factor was the ace up Machiavellian's sleeve; not only was he a close relative of Northern Dancer, his dam was inbred 3x3 to the mare Almahmoud, maternal granddam of Coup de Folie's sire Halo and dam Raise The Standard (and Northern Dancer). Breeders sent mares with Northern Dancer bloodlines in droves.

Machiavellian was a prince indeed; he tried his own hand at world domination, having manipulated 67 stakes winners, 49 with first or second dams from the male line of Northern Dancer, in a well-calculated career. Eleven of his 13 Group I winners and 13 of 15 Group IIs are bred on this pattern. Shadwell Farm's Shakis, trained by Kiaran McLaughlin to a win in the Grade II Bernard Baruch in 1:45 1/5 (thus dislodging Tentam's 9 furlong track record from 1973), has a second dam by Northern Dancer's son Vice Regent. Amazingly, 7-year-old Shakis was winning his first American stakes in the Baruch. Machiavellian, who died from laminitis in 2004, was known for his ability to get a mixed bag: Group I winners at 5 and 20 furlongs, and just about everything in between.

Street Cry was a good 2- and 3-year old in the United States and Un Worth Repeating

"Channing Hill."

Name on the back of jump jockey Xavier Aizpuru's helmet cover Thursday when he won the New York Turf Writers Cup. Hill's having some meet.

"Wow, look at those show prices. There was a few bridge-jumpers out there."

Trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, after heavily favored Hesanoltsalt finished fourth in the five-horse fourth race, resulting in three healthy show prices.

"We had nothin' and it cost \$200."  
Rich Cristiano, on Saratoga prices

"He came up on my stable mail the

other day — I don't know why I put him there — but I've got to bet him, don't I?"

Mike Balfe, moments before Bar City won Thursday's finale

Fan at the horse crossing: "Are these the horses for the next race?"

NYRA employee at the horse crossing: "They better be or else we're in a lot of trouble."

"That's the beauty of the sport, you take these chances, you have to make these split second decisions, you go out with game plans and, like every sport in the world, sometimes game plans don't fall into place, then you have to make decisions. Sometimes you make the right ones, sometimes you make the wrong ones. Today, it worked."

Jockey Xavier Aizpuru, after winning the New York Turf Writers Cup

By the Numbers

23: Picnic tables staff reporter Brian Nadeau saw when walking into the track outside the Union Avenue entrance at noon Thursday.

21: Available picnic tables.

0: Falls in seven steeplechase races at the meet

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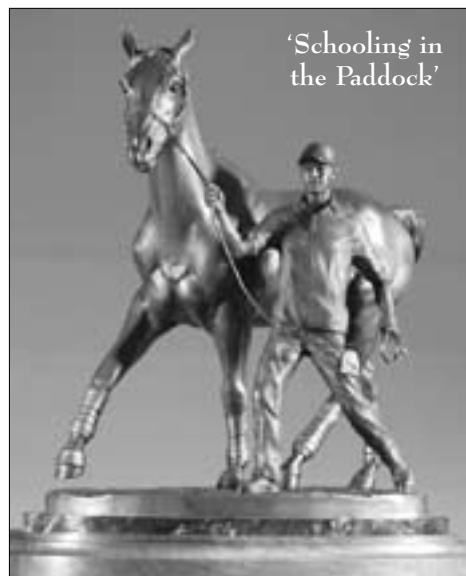
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# Saratoga: School is still in session

BY DAVID KOSAK

Most 20-year-olds have already moved into the dorms and are back at college. Waking up and dragging themselves to class across campus, they're griping as they scan a neatly organized syllabus placed on the desk in front of them. That's what I should be doing.

Instead, I'm 397 miles from my Maryland home. Plus, I haven't even attended class the first week. Towson University is still far in the distance; a final weekend away. My professors let me stay in Saratoga Springs for the entire meet; they gave me eight more days.

So for now, reality will have to wait until after Labor Day. For the next three days, it's early mornings, late nights, deadlines and the greatest race course in the country. It's the final stretch before I make it home. These are the closing days of a life-changing summer.

My love for horse racing is still young. It all began as I stood on the rail Thanksgiving Day almost two years ago at Charles Town. It was my first venture to a track. I bet the entire \$16 I had in my wallet to my parents' dismay on a girl's name. Jodi. I didn't know anything about the game, but I figured she'd be good luck. I left with a thicker wallet, \$86 thicker. I guess that's why my parents kept me away.

Eighteen months went by and my luck never left. The passion only needed time to mature; a way to be productive. Some people search their entire lives for

what I've found. I've found a way to make my passion full-time.

I'm working and having fun. I love writing about this game.

College started to fly by like Lawyer Ron in the Whitney. It was nearing the end of my sophomore year and I was already second guessing my major. Journalism? I was spending more time staring into the glossy screen on my computer than most of my friends spent awake. And my writing was getting stale; it was unmotivated.

Then came the assignment that turned things around. My professor and advisor, Jenny Atwater, gave me a chance to stumble across my future. She forced me to leave my computer and campus all together. She wanted me to go out and get a real story.

At first, my topic was homeless people in Baltimore City. It would've been challenging and interesting. Thankfully, someone else took the idea before me. So I had to think quick; I needed a topic.

Where did I go? I traveled the 5.8 miles from my dorm room to the clubhouse of Pimlico Race Course. The Preakness was in three weeks and I needed a story completed yesterday. Of course, I do my best work under pressure. It's part of the business. It was Sunday and my project was due Wednesday.

My dad wanted to come along and it turned out to be a great move. My parents like to be involved;



Alysse Jacobs

*The Special's* David Kosak, skipping the first week of classes.

they're my biggest encouragement. That afternoon my dad gave some good advice to a budding journalist.

"Don't be chicken, go get your story!"

I couldn't be nervous with my Dad there. So I spotted members of the gate crew and waited for an opening. They'd be able to help. As they walked off the track, I made my move. I met assistant starters Butch Hocker and Kevin Dzbynski. I just needed quotes, nothing more. But, I got a lot more.

New friends and eventually even an internship with *The Special*.

After completing my assignment, I did something unusual. I wrote for fun, just to write. I was intrigued by the gate crew and wanted to tell their story. As if

See **KOSAK** page 28 ►

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## **FALL 2007 SCHEDULE**

THE MEADOWLANDS .....	Friday, September 21
BELMONT PARK .....	Saturday, September 22
SHAWAN DOWNS .....	Saturday, September 29
FOXFIELD FALL .....	Sunday, September 30
VIRGINIA FALL .....	Saturday, October 6
VIRGINIA FALL .....	Sunday, October 7
PHILADELPHIA PARK .....	Monday, October 8
GENESEE VALLEY .....	Saturday, October 13
MORVEN PARK .....	Saturday, October 13
FAR HILLS .....	Saturday, October 20
INTERNATIONAL GOLD CUP .....	Saturday, October 20
AIKEN FALL .....	Saturday, October 27
S'CHASE AT CALLAWAY .....	Saturday, November 3
MONTPELIER .....	Saturday, November 3
PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP .....	Sunday, November 4
COLONIAL CUP .....	Sunday, November 18

Photo by Tod Marks

***Thank you NYRA and New York Horsemen for your continued commitment to steeplechase racing.***



# Kosak —

■ Continued from page 26

the guys hadn't done enough already, they invited me out for Preakness Day.

And that afternoon, I was introduced to Sean Clancy.

Nine and a half weeks later Sean

brought me to the Spa. I packed my new dress clothes, a tape recorder, pens and a computer. I filled up the gas tank and hit the New Jersey Turnpike. I was going north.

I arrived eight hours from home, like a wide-eyed 2-year-old. I was completely green and didn't know anyone. But I was here. I'd arrived at 71 Lincoln Avenue, my summer office and home.

In one word, it's been amazing. My dad called the other night to see how things were going. After listening to me ramble for several minutes, he stopped me and said,

"So son, you love it there?"

He already knew the answer.

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Tod Marks

SARATOGA? I SAID BETHLEHEM. Mary McGlothlin goes for a ride on the stable donkey at Saratoga Thursday.


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# It's SHAV-eee-ay ICE-peru

Xavier Aizpuru gnawed on chicken wings in the jocks' room kitchen last week, and complained about the way the condition book turned. The 32-year-old jump jockey was all set to ride Footlights in an allowance race and Sweet Shani in the New York Turf Writers Cup during closing week. Aizpuru knew both mares were live in their respective spots. He had engineered a hard-earned victory on Footlights during the first week and he nearly pulled off an impossible upset with Sweet Shani, arriving at the last with every chance before finishing third in the A.P. Smithwick.

A double to close out Aizpuru's meet seemed reasonable.

Then the allowance race didn't fill as planned, forcing Footlights into the Turf Writers. Aizpuru watched Wednesday's jump race – frustrating enough considering there were only seven chances to win at Saratoga this summer – and waited for the Turf Writers where he was set to ride Footlights. Steeplechase racing director Bill Gallo assigned her 133 pounds, 29 less than heavyweight Mixed Up.

By about 4:55 Thursday afternoon, Aizpuru loved the condition book and was giving Footlights a congratulatory slap for her stunning victory in the only Grade I steeplechase at Saratoga. Flat or jump, there is nothing like a win at Saratoga. Or in Aizpuru's case, three. He won three at the meet to lead all jump jockeys at Saratoga. His only anxious moment came when Rum Squall nearly toppled over in front of the stands last week (yeah, he's the one who reached down and gave his horse a pat after the mistake). The triple put Aizpuru atop the jump jockey standings. His three wins at Saratoga place him in the top 15 of all jockeys.

Not bad for an Englishman who, up to 2004, had only heard about Saratoga from a few colleagues who ventured this way for a working vacation.

## CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy



"Everybody's heard of Saratoga," Aizpuru said. "Some of the top jocks from home have come over when they've had a chance. If they're coming to America, this is always the place they want to ride, everybody knows about Saratoga, it's world renowned."

And frustrating as a flat tire.

Aizpuru came to Saratoga for the first time in 2004. He toiled a long way from winning three races. He managed a seventh aboard 14-1 Rate Base, came back to finish sixth on the same horse at 24-1, finished fourth on 32-1 Sir Howard and finally called it a meet when finishing a non-threatening sixth with 15-1 Chamaco.

"I was so excited about coming up here for the first time," Aizpuru said. "To be honest with you, I had a pretty terrible meet. I remember walking away from this place and turning to Rob Massey and saying, 'All I wanted to do is ride here – now, I can't wait to get out of this place.'"

Massey had talked Aizpuru into coming to America earlier that year. Massey knew the move. He had been on the same treadmill as Aizpuru, going nowhere in a deep British jockey colony before coming here and rediscovering his career. He came to Saratoga for the first time in 2000, winning with his first ride.

"I was going to quit and Rob called me up and said there was a good job over here," Aizpuru said. "At that point in England, I had a little bit of success early in my career, then the last year I was there, I was riding bad horses in bad races. You could have slipped my confidence under a snake's belly."

Steeplechase trainer Doug Fout interviewed Aizpuru and offered him a second-call assignment. Aizpuru decided that wasn't good enough and wound up in Janet Elliot's barn.

"Working for Janet, even though she's got a small string, she's so well-respected in the sport, that I thought if people just saw me riding for her, they'd think I was a decent enough rider," Aizpuru said. "She was the one who got me the ride on my first winner, Sailmaker for Jack Fisher. She hadn't seen me ride in a race but she saw what I had done around her barn in the morning. She thrust me forward and the horse won and it's snowballed from then."

Aizpuru won 13 races last year, good enough for fourth in the year-end standings. This year, he's been Fisher's go-to guy and has picked up business all over the sport, galloping for Graham Motion in the mornings. Three out of the seven jump races at the meet, the Flatterer Stakes for Jonathan Sheppard earlier in the summer and a big horse, Paradise's Boss returns for the fall – Aizpuru has arrived.

"In those three years I've been here, I've realized all you need is somebody to believe in you, to ride good horses and confidence. And confidence comes when you have the first two," Aizpuru said. "Now, I feel like I could go home to England and ride with the same confidence, but I'd have to go back and ride the same sub-standard of horses. Obviously, I'm staying. I'm very, very grateful to everybody over here that have helped me so much. It's given me back the belief in the whole sport."

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