

FREE



The SARATOGA *Special*



Year 8 • No. 32

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Sunday, August 31, 2008

Still on top

Champion Curlin takes the Woodward



Inside

- ♦ First Defence flies to Forego win
- ♦ Tagg wins two on undercard
- ♦ Spinaway, Saranac previews
- ♦ Sunday entries and handicapping

FINAL 2008 ISSUE



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achieved. That striving, that ambition is
an essential part of our newspapers, a
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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



Connie Bush

"The horses are cute, but this group rocks!"

Two girls get into the spirit of things in front of one of the day's live bands.

Worth Repeating

"My friend affectionately refers to you
people as 'The Citiots.' "

**OTB's Joe Spadaro, a local,
who can't wait to get his town back**

Dad on the telephone: "Good morning,
Nolan, what are you up to?"

Seven-year-old Nolan Clancy: "Oh,
nothing."

Dad: "Come on, you've got to be doing
something."

Nolan: "OK, I'm wrestling a giraffe.
Hold on, I've got to get the stepladder."

“
Getting
like that,
isn't it?”

Exercise rider
to a yawning writer
Saturday morning

"That almost gets me even for years of
bad Saratoga bets."

**South Carolina-based steeplechase
fan (and once-a-year Saratoga
visitor) Don Terrell, who cashed a
big ticket on Thursday's Turf Writers**

"Ready to catch a pigeon, whatever that
means."

**Exercise rider Barry Watson
about a horse in Saturday**

"Any time you can hear people applaud
for a horse, it's a good thing."

**NYRA executive Hal Handel,
as Curlin walked into
the paddock for the Woodward**

"We've got a fisherman in the crowd..."

**Trainer Steve Asmussen,
when a reporter asked Curlin's owner
Jess Jackson about Big Brown
at the Woodward interview session**

More Here and There on Page 4

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

19 Wins (and counting) collected this meet by the inhabitants of Barn 85 – trainers Doug Fout, Jonathan Sheppard, Tom Voss and Wesley Ward.

11:05 Time Robby Albarado drove past The Special's apartment on Ludlow Saturday morning on his way to the track to ride Curlin (and two other winners).

Names of the Day

Johnny Dan. The first Equicizer owned by trainer Steve Asmussen.

Collegiate, 10th race Sunday. Team Valor's freshman filly is out of La Sorbonne, which we hear is a good school.

Just A Warning, 11th race Monday. The 3-year-old colt is by Silver Deputy out of My White Corvette.

All The Way Home, first race Monday. Exit, stage left. . .

Weather

Sunday: Sunny skies. High 82. Winds NW 5-10 mph.
Sunday night: A mostly clear sky. Low 54. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.



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

Tuesday: Mix of sun and clouds. High in the upper 80s and low in the upper 50s. That's assuming you haven't already hit the Northway, of course.



Connie Bush

A young track record

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—Andy Serling

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—Dan Illman

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Here & There at Saratoga



And The Winner Is....

The Special's straw (well, hay) poll began back at Keeneland in April. Here is the final tally of trackgoers' presidential picks. (Good luck in November, Daffy.)

McCain (110)

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
Kieran 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

Obama (98)

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
Lorna Chavez
Kristen Lindsay
Mike Kaetzel

Undecided (18)

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

Neither (9)

Doc Danner
Doug Fout
Rich Cristiano
Richard DeStasio
Josh Cooper

Freddie Bond
Bob Frieze
Danielle Rosier
Norm Casse

Daffy Duck (3)

Chris O'Connor
Gus Brown
Brian Ange

Ross Perot

Dan Pride

Richard Nixon

Alan Brodsky

Independent

Barry Wiseman

Joe Biden

Mike Luzzi

Coupled Entry

Allan Lavin

Margaret Thatcher

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Done

Curlin takes care of business while dazzling Spa fans

BY SEAN CLANCY

Steve Asmussen gets lots of offers. Horses. Advice. Clients.

Between the winner's circle and the press conference behind the jocks' room after Saturday's Woodward, a fan stopped Asmussen and made him an offer.

"Steve, you need a beer?"

Asmussen laughed.

"No, but thank you," he said. "The offer is good enough. Thank you."

You get a lot of offers when you train reigning Horse of the Year Curlin and you bring him to where people love horses, Saratoga. Owned by Jess Jackson's Stonestreet Stables, Curlin made his long-anticipated Saratoga debut. And didn't disappoint.

Under Robby Albarado, Curlin left extravagance at home, going about his business like a desk clerk,



Dave Harmon

Clean Getaway. The Woodward field breaks from the gate.

reeling in game pacesetter Past The Point to win the Grade I stakes by 1 1/4 lengths. Wanderin Boy finished third after 1 1/8 miles in 1:49.34.

"You want people to respect him, just respect him. He's that good and you love that about him. That's what he can do to people and for people," Asmussen said after a race that began with ripples of applause in the paddock and ended with a crescendo in the stretch. "Since Mr. Jackson announced that he was going to run here, the appreciation that came out was

special. People were excited, the fans, the people that work here. They were excited for the right reason – to watch him run."

He came. He conquered.

Expected pacesetter Wanderin Boy broke sharply from the outside stall and cleared Out Of Control and Curlin to his inside, meeting Past The Point near the rail. Edgar Prado, aboard Past The Point for the first

See **WOODWARD** page 6 ►

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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 8

time, decided he had the most speed and sent the 40-1 shot to the lead. Curlin found himself stuck between second choice Divine Park and fourth choice Out Of Control, while completing a line of five across the track with A. P. Arrow and Loose Leaf on the inside. Albarado knew it would take more than Divine Park and Out Of Control to cause traffic snafus for Curlin, who has a concrete bumper. Get in his way and you'll pay.

Extricated, Curlin found a comfortable spot in fourth as Past The Point rolled down the backside, after a quarter-mile in 22.89 seconds and a half in 46.20. Julien Leparoux tracked in second aboard Wanderin Boy and Divine Park (Alan Garcia) chilled in third. Curlin galloped along in fourth as Cornelio Velasquez put A. P. Arrow into a drive to stay in contention. Completely out of contention, Out Of Control plummeted to the back.

Past The Point posted a 1:09.61 split for 6 furlongs and was still rolling as the field began to stretch out. Albarado asked Curlin leaving the backside and in a matter of strides, the chestnut flung Divine Park out of the way and set sail for Past The Point and Wanderin Boy.

Turning into the stretch, Curlin finally got past Wanderin Boy while Past The Point hung tough on the lead. Curlin slugged it out to finally collar Past The Point inside the eighth-pole. The 2007 Horse of the Year maintained a



Curlin hits the line wire with the 10th victory of his 14-start career.

Dave Harmon

comfortable advantage to the wire to win for the 10th time in his 14-race career and move past Skip Away on the all-time earnings list with \$9.7 million, a win away from dethroning all-time leader Cigar.

"It's Saratoga. If they get away from you at the quarter-pole, it's tough to get them no matter what race or what horse. We kind of figured that," Albarado said.

"Going that fast, it spreads the race out and everybody separates. He was comfortable, Curlin tugged on me, he chased a real nice horse, I'm not going to take anything away from the horse that was second, he ran a huge race, to sustain that late bid as fast as he was going, they were running down the backside."

Albarado knew on the backside that

the danger lay ahead. Past The Point, fresh out of an allowance earlier in the meet, was going fast but comfortable. Millionaire Wanderin Boy sat second and Met Mile winner Divine Park sat third. The rest, forget.

"I knew they were going fast but Curlin's pulling on me, the main threats

See **WOODWARD** page 8 ►



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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 10

are in front of me, I gave credit to all of them but I figured they've got to come back and I'm going to go to them like this," Albarado said. "Then I found myself a little farther back than I wanted to be, I had to spank big boy, and when I did, he put himself right back into it real quick. He ran as fast as he could to get by them, then he let himself up, like, 'I did enough to this point.' I'm not worried. If that horse got up to his side he would take off again. When he pulls up, he's not stressed, not blowing. Just another day's work."

Whether all our or not, Curlin put up another stellar performance and erased any lingering doubts about his defeat to Red Rocks on the turf at Belmont Park this summer.

The Woodward made Curlin undefeated, 4-for-4, this year on dirt. Head lowered, long stride devouring ground, this was the Curlin the 22,000 fans came out to see.

"I hit him a couple of times in the grass race but it had been a while since I had to really spank him and he responded, he goes right away. He takes off and attacks the horse in front of him. I made a long run with him," Albarado said. "It becomes a grind and he's the type of horse that can do that, he'll grind it out."

Albarado wasn't disappointed with Curlin's defeat in his turf debut, a second in the Man O' War. Curlin ran hard and ran well, but he just wasn't



Tod Marks

Curlin gets a well-deserved sponge bath after the Woodward.

the Curlin that Albarado has grown to expect since getting on him for the first time in the Rebel last spring. They won the Rebel, Arkansas Derby, Preakness, Jockey Club Gold Cup, Breeders' Cup Classic, Jaguar Trophy, Dubai World Cup, Stephen Foster and now the Woodward.

"It's great to get that feeling back, that tugging, because I didn't get that feel the last time," Albarado said. "It pumps me up, makes me swell up, makes me feel a buck eighty on his back. He had his head down, bowed,

pulling on me. On the grass, his head was up and he was reserved. He comes back, like nothing. Curlin just blows everything out of the water. The way he does things, how sound he is, so powerful, so demanding."

Asmussen was anxious as Curlin left the backside, then content as he turned for home.

"Robby knew what he had and does a great job," Asmussen said. "Curlin's going to have a strenuous next couple of months."

Not that Albarado knows where

that will take him. Like the fans, he's anxiously awaiting his travel papers.

In a post-race press conference, Jackson and Asmussen discussed Curlin's future and covered everything from the Jockey Club Gold Cup, the Breeders' Cup Classic, the Japan Cup, a stallion career — even a return to Saratoga in 2009.

Asmussen's eyes lit up on that one, no matter how far-fetched it might seem.

"He does have a happy fatherhood ahead of him at some point," said Jackson, moments after enticing his trainer with mention of a potential future start at the Spa. "The Breeders' Cup is down the road and we have to look at training or possibly running on that track (the new synthetic surface at Santa Anita). The perfect scenario would be to go to both of the best races which are the Gold Cup and the Breeders' Cup and then go maybe overseas."

Albarado would go for that.

"Steve and Scott (Blasi) are around him all the time, the whole team does an amazing job," Albarado said. "I'm wondering what they're going to do after the Jockey Club Gold Cup. He should stay for the next World Cup. Now that would be cool."

Asmussen just wants the ride to continue.

"He's always delivered, he's spoiled us with that, but we'll never take him for granted," Asmussen said. "I love the response he gets from the people. That makes it fun for me, exciting for me."

And for Saratoga.

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy.



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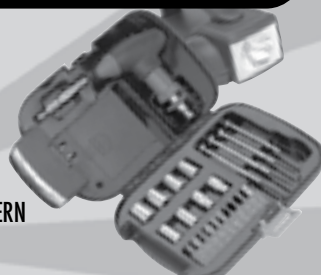
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Touchdown

First Defence delivers the big play

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Channing Hill picked up the overnight for Saturday's card and couldn't believe what he saw – his name listed next to First Defence in the Grade I Forego. With regular rider Javier Castellano out of town, the 21-year-old had picked up the ride of a lifetime. Literally.

Juddmonte Farm's First Defence carried Hill to the lead and they never looked back, drawing away through the stretch to notch the first Grade I win for horse and rider.

"I actually didn't know I was going to ride him until the overnights came out on Thursday," Hill said. "What a great thrill to ride a horse like this for these connections. I saw my name and just said 'Wow!'"

First Defence, a blue-blooded Juddmonte homebred, had his nine rivals saying the same thing same after turning the \$250,000 stakes into a public workout. Trained by Bobby Frankel, First Defence entered on the heels of a solid second to Shadwell Stable's Abraaj in the Grade II Alfred Vanderbilt here July 26.

Shadwell threw another crack sprinter at First Defence Saturday in the form

FOREGO STAKES RECAP

of Lucky Island, winner of the Grade II Tom Fool and undefeated in four starts this year.

Lucky Island (Alan Garcia) entered the starting gate as the 3-5 Forego favorite; seconds after the doors swung open, he might well have been the longest shot in the field. Lucky Island stumbled badly when the bell sounded and then got pinched between horses, spotting the field several lengths.

Meanwhile, First Defence broke effortlessly from the rail and went right after early pacesetter Eternal Star through a quarter mile in 22.53 seconds. Ferocious Fires and Greeley's Conquest followed the lead pair while Lucky Island played a desperate game of catch-up from the back.

First Defence hit the front through a half-mile in a testing 44.61 and began to shake free of Eternal Star, while Ferocious Fires and Greeley's Conquest continued to track intently. Lucky Island made a wide, sweeping move from the back of the pack to momentarily give the chalk players hope as the field entered the far turn.

Then First Defence squashed it like a bug on a windshield.



Dave Harmon

Channing Hill exults as First Defence crosses the finish line in Saturday's Forego.

Hill cut the corner and First Defence quickly drew off as he straightened away, finally stopping the clock at 1:21.55 for 7 furlongs. He crossed the wire 6 3/4 lengths in front of Greeley's Conquest (Jorge Chavez), who prevailed in a four-horse photo over Ferocious Fires (Cornelio Velasquez), Eternal Star and a gallant Lucky Island, who flattened out but lost nothing in defeat.

Though Hill had never ridden First Defence, he'd met him up close and personal in the Vanderbilt, finishing directly behind him aboard Sammarco.

With a rail draw and an abundance of speed to his outside, all Hill asked for in the Forego was an alert beginning and a clean trip. If Lucky Island came calling late, so be it. Hill had plenty to worry about before he got there.

"Sammarco ran a heck of a race that day in the Vanderbilt, so I knew First Defence had to be a runner to beat him that day," Hill said. "I was just trying to focus on the speed outside of me. He broke well and he put me in the perfect

See **FOREGO** page 14 ►

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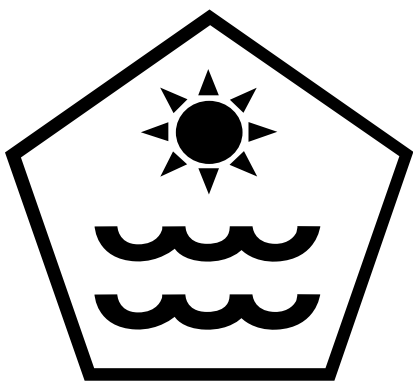
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Dave Harmon

First Defence draws away from the group in Saturday's Forego to give jockey Channing Hill his first Grade I victory.

Forego —

■ Continued from page 13

position. Today I didn't see the trouble Lucky Island had — I figured he would make a run at me late. I was lucky enough to be able to sit off of it just a little bit and put myself in a good spot on the turn. He took me there to the lead real nicely and at the three-eighths pole I figured someone was going to really have to start running to catch me. What a horse. He was out there going in 44 and it felt like he was going 47."

First Defence entered the Forego winless in three Saratoga starts, though two of his best races came over the track — a hard-fought second to Hard Spun in the 2007 King's Bishop and his recent second in the Vanderbilt. The 4-year-old lived up to his lofty pedigree Saturday, securing his first graded-stakes score on dirt after taking down the Grade III Jaipur over the Belmont Park turf in June.

By Unbridled's Song (winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile) and out of the Seattle Slew mare Honest Lady (a Juddmonte

homebred who won the Grade I Santa Monica and finished second facing males in the Met Mile and the Breeders' Cup Sprint), First Defence is a bluegrass blueblood.

Saturday's win cemented First Defence's status as one of the best sprinters in training and one of the most valuable horses in the world.

Hill's first career Grade I served as the perfect capper to a month that saw him celebrate his 21st birthday. Walking back to the jocks' room, he signed more autographs than LeBron James at a basketball camp and drew enough female admirers to make young Elvis jealous. Eventually, he reflected on his third summer riding at Saratoga.

"Things just keep getting better and better. Riding for these connections? You couldn't ask for more. I think it's the second horse I've ridden for them so far, so hopefully it could open the doors for a few more," Hill said. "It's the first Grade I race I've ever won anywhere, so it's just a huge thrill. To win any race at Saratoga is special, but to win a Grade I, for these people, it hasn't even set in yet. Talk to me about 9 o'clock tonight and I might start crying."

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Rolling Rematch

NY-bred beats 'Benny' to claim 2nd meet win

BY JOHN PANAGOT

Saturday's third race marked the rematch of Rollers and Benny The Waiter from July 26. That day, Benny The Waiter carried the lead on the speed-favoring track to go gate-to-wire.

Making his first start since October, Rollers was within striking distance but never made up ground on the winner and lost by 2 lengths. Since then, Rollers came back to win here Aug. 15.

Saturday, in a \$63,000 optional claimer for New York-breds, they bumped heads again. This time, Rollers rolled, in a big way. With John Velazquez aboard for the first time, the Stormy Atlantic 3-year-old sat off the fractions of 22.54 and 45.27 seconds set by Benny The Waiter (Eibar Coa). Turning for home, Benny The Waiter drifted slightly and took Rollers somewhat wide. It didn't affect the winner enough. Rollers dug down and drew off by 7 lengths.

Lael Stable paid \$500,000 for Rollers as a 2-year-old in training. The New York-bred has now finished in the exacta in five of six starts.



Dave Harmon

Rollers floats to the finish with an easy score in Saturday's third race for trainer Barclay Tagg.

"I saw him at Ocala at the sale and the Jacksons said 'If you like him, buy him,' and I liked him," trainer Barclay Tagg said. "He won his debut here, but then he didn't take to the Meadowlands track. He came back to run a good second at Belmont in October. After that he had a suspensory injury and we gave him time off and brought him back here. He loves it here. We've run him three times here and we usually don't do that. I don't know what will be next for him, there isn't much at Belmont for New York-breds like him, at least in the first condition book."

• In the eighth, Tagg scored again, this time with first-time-starter Hello Broadway, a half-brother to Wood Memorial winner Nobiz Like Shobiz.

The 2-year-old Elizabeth Valando homebred had to earn his debut win against a loaded field of 11 as a stubborn Imperial Council (Edgar Prado) matched strides with Hello Broadway (Coa) down the stretch. The two grazed in deep stretch, but it did not seem to affect Hello Broadway. The son of Broken Vow was a

See **SATURDAY RECAP** page 16 ►

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- *Belle Meade Plantation Stakes*. \$50,000 guaranteed. Hurdle/Steeplechase stakes, 4-year-olds and upward. 2 1/4 miles.

September 15

- *The Franklin-Simpson Stakes*. \$50,000 guaranteed. 3-year-olds and upward. 1 mile, turf.

September 22

- *The Pleasant Temper Stakes*. \$50,000 guaranteed. For fillies and mares, 3-year-olds and upward. 1 mile, turf.

For nomination/entry information and closing dates, call the racing office at (270) 586-7778, ext. 265.



Saturday Recap —

■ Continued from page 15

neck better.

“Barclay didn’t have to tell me anything,” Coa said. “I’ve been working him for the last couple of weeks, and I know him a lot. I knew he was going to run like he did today, I expected him too. Sometimes they are nice in the morning and are different in the afternoon. This one actually showed more heart than he showed in the morning anyway. So he is going to be good.”

Although Tagg knew his colt had talent, that doesn’t mean the Kentucky Derby-winning trainer wasn’t nervous.

“He’s been training beautifully,” Tagg said. “He’s been a little slow out of the gate but he wasn’t today. That’s always a worry. Everything’s always a worry.”

Seven lengths behind the duel was Ruler’s Vision (Jose Espinoza), a half-brother to 2007 juvenile champion, War Pass.

- Two-year-olds going two turns on the turf. It’s almost like taking a friend to Saratoga for the first time – they don’t know what they’re in for. Don’t call Western Fable (Prado) unprepared, he hit town, and the sixth race, like a veteran.

Making his second start, the Flying Zee Stables homebred ripped through the first quarter mile in 22.80 seconds. With a comfortable lead of 4 lengths through that quick quarter, Prado slowed the pace in his typical fashion to 47.86 and 1:12.64. From there, the others weren’t catching the Western Ex-



Tod Marks

Rock Lobster (2) flies home late to catch Ground Hero (right) in Saturday’s finale.

pression colt. Western Fable finished the 1 1/16 miles ahead of Triste Doble Q (Cornelio Velasquez) by 1 3/4 lengths. Benton Drive (Mike Luzzi) finished third.

Trainer Carlos Martin likes his New York-bred, whose dam, Old Emotions, has produced Flying Zee runners Sax In The City, Writingonthewall and What-everwillbwillb.

“I can’t believe that he ran off in 22 and change,” Martin said. “Edgar did a great job slowing down the second quarter. But still you don’t really see 2-year-olds go that fast. But mostly he was still composed when he finished. I’m very happy with him. He trains well but I

wasn’t too happy with the second work since he ran. But after that he worked a bullet. He’s from a really good mare we have, so it’s exciting.”

- Rock Lobster (Prado) came from off the pace to capture the finale, a \$35,000 open claimer.

The 5-year-old raced in the back of the pack while Mad Bob Cat (Luzzi) set a hot pace of 23.12 and 46.40 seconds in the 1 1/16 miles turf route. Ground Hero (Velasquez) sat off Mad Bob Cat’s lead throughout and took over at the sixteenth pole. And then came Rock Lobster. Getting last run, he nipped a game and stubborn Ground Hero by a nose.

Trained by Pat Reynolds, the son of Mt. Livermore improved to 2-for-3 at the Spa.

“Yeah, he likes Saratoga,” Reynolds said. “He’s got that late kick and he had a lot of gas at the end. We got lucky and found a way to get up. The great Prado did it for us.”

Reynolds has enjoyed a nice meet, collecting four wins from just 16 starts.

“All the horses came up here in good shape, and hopefully everyone’s going home in one piece,” said Reynolds. “No hurts, no nothing. We had a really good time. And we have a nice filly to go home with too, (Lake Placid winner) Backseat Rhythm.”

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Jockeys	Trainers				
Alan Garcia.....36	Kiaran McLaughlin.....16	David Donk.....3		Jonathan Buckley.....1	
John Velazquez.....33	Todd Pletcher.....15	Eoin Harty.....3		Bernardo Callejas.....1	
Edgar Prado.....32	Richard Dutrow Jr.....12	Stan Hough.....3		Dave Carroll.....1	
Ramon Dominguez.....27	Steve Asmussen.....10	Allen Jerkens.....3		James Corrao.....1	
Eibar Coa.....26	Bobby Frankel.....10	Pat Kelly.....3		Jimmy Day.....1	
Cornelio Velasquez.....23	Bobby Frankel.....10	Eddie Kenneally.....3		Wally Dollase.....1	
Julien Leparoux.....19	Barclay Tagg.....10	Carlos Martin.....3		Bob Dunham.....1	
Javier Castellano.....16	Gary Contessa.....9	John Morrison.....3		James Ferraro.....1	
Rajiv Maragh.....15	Linda Rice.....9	Graham Motion.....3		Elizabeth Gray.....1	
Robby Albarado.....14	Wesley Ward.....9	Angel Penna.....3		Tim Hills.....1	
Kent Desormeaux.....14	Tony Dutrow.....8	Rick Schosberg.....3	Tod Marks	Neil Howard.....1	
Shaun Bridgmohan.....12	Bruce Levine.....7	John Terranova II.....3		Allen Iwinski.....1	
Channing Hill.....11	Michael Maker.....7	Rick Violette.....3		Bruce Jackson.....1	
Mike Luzzi.....9	George Weaver.....7	Tom Voss.....3		David Jacobson.....1	
Jorge Chavez.....5	Chad Brown.....6	John Ward.....3		Steve Klesaris.....1	
Jose Espinoza.....5	David Duggan.....6	Billy Badgett.....2		Scott Lake.....1	
Richard Migliore.....5	Shug McGaughey.....6	Bobby Barbara.....2		Mike Lecsse.....1	
Sebastian Morales.....5	Saeed bin Suroor.....5	Bruce Brown.....2		Michael McDonald.....1	
Jeffrey Sanchez.....4	John Kimmel.....5	Tom Bush.....2		Jeff Odintz.....1	
Elvis Trujillo.....4	Wayne Lukas.....5	Mark Casse.....2		Paulino Ortiz.....1	
Garrett Gomez.....3	Ken McPeck.....5	John Fahey III.....2	Wesley Ward	Randi Persaud.....1	
Rafael Bejarano.....2	Jonathan Sheppard.....5	Doug Fout.....2	Bob Ribauda.....2	John Pregman Jr.....1	
Danielle Hodsdon.....2	Nick Zito.....5	Dominic Galluscio.....2	Tim Ritvo.....2	Peter Pugh.....1	
Rudy Rodriguez.....2	Bob Baffert.....4	Leah Gyarmati.....2	Gary Sciacca.....2	Patrick Quick.....1	
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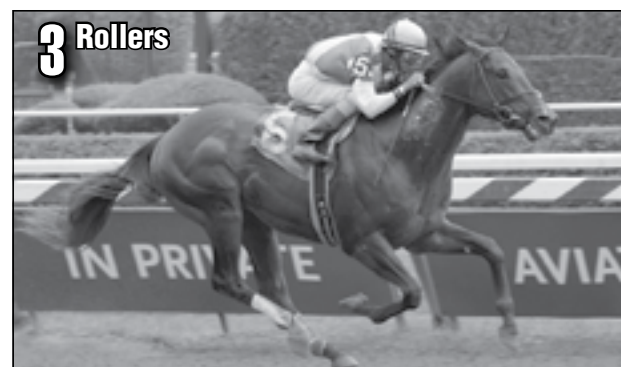
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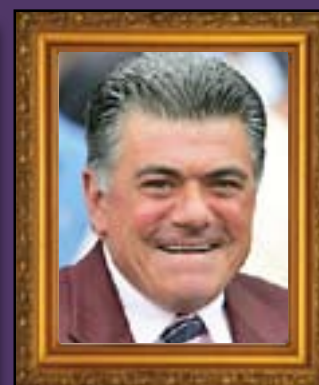
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Sunday, August 31. Post Time 1:00 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$33,000.

1	1	Ballston	Cardoso D	Aquilino Joe	30-1
2	2	Easter Guardian	Davis J A	Candlin John	30-1
3	3	Jets Only	Samyn J L	Domino Carl	15-1
4	4	Ya Think	Coa E M	Benzel Seth	3-1
5	5	Sacred Icon	Chavez J F	Zito Nick	5-1
6	6	Shaami	Garcia Alan	Maker Mike	4-1
7	7	Carry On the Dream	Espinoza J L	DiSanto Glenn	30-1
8	8	Stolen Greeting	Maragh R	DiPrima Greg	12-1
9	9	Unbreeleivable	Hill C	Pellegrino Ken	30-1
10	10	Here Comes Carrie	Velasquez C	Imperio Joseph	6-1
11	11	Monsooned Malabar	Velasquez J R	Contessa Gary	6-1
12	12	Ectoplasm	Luzzi M J	Galluscio Dominic	10-1

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

2ND (1:32) 6 FURLONGS. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	6	They're Late	Chavez J F	Zito Nick	9-5
1A	7	Just a Coincidence	Velasquez J R	Zito Nick	9-5
2	1	In Speight of It	Maragh R	Ritvo Tim	10-1
3	2	Ducane	Garcia Alan	Pletcher Todd	3-1
4	3	Tufao	Prado E S	Mott Bill	15-1
5	4	Majhood	Dominguez R A	McLaughlin Kiaran	5-1
6	5	Mr. Jolson	Dooley C D	Grusmark Karl	15-1
7	8	Luv Gov	Luzzi M J	Lukas Wayne	30-1
8	9	Big Flirt	Garcia J A	Ward Wesley	7-2

A-Coupled: They're Late and Just a Coincidence
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (2-4), Pick 4 (2-5), Daily Double

3RD (2:04) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 30,000. PURSE \$64,000.

1	2	Retribution	Castellano J J	Contessa Gary	3-1
1A	7	Solid Strike	Espinoza J L	Contessa Gary	3-1
1X	MTO	Tergesti	No rider	Contessa Gary	3-1
2	3	Good Prospect	Albarado R J	Gyarmati Leah	12-1
2B	8	Bethpage Black	Prado E S	Gyarmati Leah	12-1
3	9	Hangingbyathread	Velasquez J R	Martin Carlos	5-1
3C	MTO	French Transition	No rider	Serpe Phil	5-1
4	1	North Country	Desormeaux K J	Hertler John	9-2
5	4	Solvent	Dominguez R A	Weaver George	12-1
6	5	Typhoon Tycoon	Arboleda A	Fisher Linda	20-1
7	6	Grasberg	Hill C	Hushion Mike	4-1
8	10	Alexandros	Velasquez C	Carroll II Del	12-1
9	11	Sky Dragon	Garcia Alan	Cedano Heriberto	6-1
10	MTO	Will Never Bend	Espinoza J L	Kelly Pat	6-1

A-Coupled: Retribution and Solid Strike and Tergesti
B-Coupled: Good Prospect and Bethpage Black
C-Coupled: Hangingbyathread and French Transition
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5), Daily Double

4TH (2:36) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	4	River Fancy	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd	7-2
1A	7	There Are Rainbows	Dominguez R A	Pletcher Todd	7-2
2	1	Bambolina	Velasquez C	Kenneally Eddie	8-1
3	2	Scintillation	Coa E M	Werner Ronny	5-1
4	3	O Sabina	Maragh R	Ritvo Tim	15-1
5	5	Debbie H	Albarado R J	Romans Dale	6-1
6	6	Classofsixtythree	Hill C	Sciacca Gary	20-1
7	8	Americas Dreaming (IRE)	Prado E S	Toner Jimmy	5-2
8	9	Theatrical Madam	Castellano J J	Mott Bill	8-1
9	10	It's My Day	Espinoza J L	Reinacher Jr Rob	15-1
10	11	Got That Money	Garcia Alan	Ryerson James	15-1

A-Coupled: River Fancy and There Are Rainbows
Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick 3 (4-6), Daily Double

5TH (3:08) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$57,000.

1	1	Parade of Beauty	Berrios Cruz J	Oleanik Jacqueline	20-1
1A	12	Arpana	Arboleda A	Oleanik Jacqueline	20-1
2	2	Caterina's Term's	Hill C	Sciacca Gary	50-1
3	3	Guessing Game	Samyn J L	Martin Frank	12-1
4	4	Distinctive Doc	Garcia Alan	Cedano Heriberto	8-1
5	5	A. G.'s Princess	Vargas R	Allyn William	50-1
6	6	My Lovely Lark	Prado E S	Bond James	8-1
7	7	The Ag	Coa E M	Albertrani Tom	6-1
8	8	Love for a Price	Castellano J J	O'Brien Keith	5-2
9	9	Tom and Dicks Girl	Velasquez C	Jerkens Jimmy	4-1
10	10	Walkabout Winner	Velasquez J R	Benzel Seth	6-1
11	11	Magic Shop	Espinoza J L	Carroll II Del	15-1
12	MTO	Vladimira	Arboleda A	Ubillo Rodrigo	4-1

A-Coupled: Parade of Beauty and Arpana
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (5-7), Daily Double

6TH (3:41) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Tasha's Star	Albarado R J	McPeck Ken	12-1
2	2	National Gallery	Samyn J L	Lerman Roy	20-1
3	3	Pearl of Valor	Hill C	Stewart Dallas	12-1
4	4	Zaphyra	Desormeaux K J	Zito Nick	10-1
5	5	Bluegrass Princess	Luzzi M J	McLaughlin Kiaran	15-1
6	6	Song of Charm	Maragh R	Carroll David	20-1
7	7	Me Love	Castellano J J	Capuano Dale	6-1
8	8	Gold Indy	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd	6-1
9	9	Devotee	Coa E M	Albertrani Tom	12-1
10	10	Sweet Ariette	Garcia Alan	Harty Eoin	12-1
11	11	Amanwella	Dominguez R A	Motion Graham	4-1
12	12	Crema d'Oro	Velasquez C	Bush Tom	15-1
13	13	Critical	Prado E S	Dutrow Jr Richard	5-1

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

7TH (4:14) 6 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 75,000. PURSE \$67,000.

1	1	Indian Delight	Desormeaux K J	Duggan David	9-2
2	2	Secret Gypsy	Albarado R J	Werner Ronny	2-1
3	3	According to Plan	Coa E M	Tagg Barclay	4-1
4	4	Hold That Prospect	Maragh R	Contessa Gary	15-1
5	5	Overandabeauty	Luzzi M J	Zito Nick	12-1
6	6	Victorious Dream	Velasquez C	McDonald Michael	20-1
7	7	Shopit	Castellano J J	Jerkens Allen	15-1
8	8	A Rose for You	Garcia Alan	McLaughlin Kiaran	12-1
9	9	Dulcet Tone	Velasquez J R	Frankel Bobby	6-1
10	10	Starship Cruiser	Prado E S	Dutrow Jr Richard	12-1

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

8TH (4:48) THE CAVEAT COMPETOR. 1 MILE. TURF. FILLIES. 3YO. PURSE \$80,000.

1	6	Sea Chanter	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd	3-1
1A	MTO	Skylighter	Velasquez J R	Frankel Bobby	3-1
2	1	Ossun (FR)	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	6-1
3	2	Zubani	Dominguez R A	Trombetta Mike	20-1
4	3	Ready for Fortune	Prado E S	Contessa Gary	12-1
5	4	Remarkable Remy	Maragh R	Kimmel John	10-1
6	5	Stealin' Kisses	Castellano J J	Lukas Wayne	10-1
7	7	My Dinah	Espinoza J L	Feron Kathleen	20-1
8	8	Mousse Au Chocolat	Coa E M	Pletcher Todd	5-2
9	9	Blitzen Too	Garcia Alan	Clement Christophe	6-1
10	10	Meriwether Jessica	Luzzi M J	Rice Linda	12-1
11	AE	Receipt	Garcia Alan	McGaughey Shug	6-1
12	MTO	Manitoba Miss	No rider	Weaver George	6-1

A-Coupled: Sea Chanter and Skylighter
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3 (8-10), Pick 4 (8-11), Daily Double

9TH (5:22) THE SARANAC (GR. III). 1 3/16 MILES. TURF. 3YO. PURSE \$100,000.

1	1	Vacation	Prado E S	McGaughey Shug	8-1
2	2	Mr Maccool	Coa E M	Fawkes David	8-1
3	3	Nistle's Crunch	Albarado R J	McPeck Ken	3-1
4	4	Schopenhauer	Garcia Alan	Motion Graham	12-1
5	5	Ready's Echo	Velasquez J R	Pletcher Todd	5-2
6	6	Marlang	Dos Ramos R A	England Deborah	5-1
7	7	Shive's Success	Castellano J J	Arnold Rusty	20-1
8	8	Thou Swell	Dominguez R A	Weaver George	4-1

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

10TH (5:56) THE SPINAWAY (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. PURSE \$250,000.

1	1	Girlfrienontheside	Velasquez C	Dutrow Tony	15-1
2	2	Winning Brew	Espinoza J L	Vitale Francis	50-1
3	3	Casanova Move	Coa E M	Jerkens Jimmy	4-1
4	4	Jardin	Albarado R J	Asmussen Steve	5-1
5	5	Mine All Mine	Velasquez J R	Ward Wesley	7-2
6	6	Collegiate	Prado E S	Hennig Mark	5-1
7	7	August Rush	Garcia J A	Ward Wesley	12-1
8	8	Mani Bhavan	Garcia Alan	Klesaris Steve	5-2

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

11TH (6:30) 1 MILE. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. CLAIMING 40,000. PURSE \$46,000.

1	1	Whateverwillbwillb	Coa E M	Martin Carlos	8-1
2	2	Wundelia (CHI)	Rodriguez R R	Quick Patrick	30-1
3	3	Talented Princess	Dominguez R A	Walder Peter	5-1
4	4	Croesus	Prado E S	Dutrow Jr Richard	6-1
5	5	Fancy Footsteps	Garcia J A	Ward Wesley	4-1
6	6	Keltish Lass	Albarado R J	Stewart Dallas	12-1
7	7	Factual Number	Velasquez J R	Hushion Mike	7-2
8	8	Spirited Seacat	Desormeaux K J	Collazo Henry	15-1
9	9	Positive Prospect	Maragh R	DiPrima Greg	9-2
10	10	Vue de Chat	Castellano J J	Contessa Gary	12-1
11	AE	Just a Little Jet	Castellano J J	Domino Carl	5-1
12	AE	Blue Hill Bay	Coa E M	Everett Scott	20-1
13	AE	Jeux de Danse	Velasquez C	Reynolds Pat	5-2
14	AE	My Nina Rose	Chavez J F	Sciacca Gary	15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

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Pete Fornatale



Sean Clancy



Brian Nadeau



John Panagot

Race #	Pete Fornatale	Sean Clancy	Brian Nadeau	John Panagot
1	Shaami Ya Think Here Comes Carlie	Shaami Ya Think Sacred Icon	Ya Think Shaami Stolen Greeting	Shaami Ya Think Stolen Greeting
2	Just A Coincidence Mr. Jolson Big Flirt	Zito entry Big Flirt Ducane	Just A Coincidence Luv Gov Big Flirt	Big Flirt Just A Coincidence Majhood
3	Hangingbyathread North Country Sky Dragon	Hangingbyathread Retribution Alexandros	Retribution Grasberg Hangingbyathread	Sky Dragon Hangingbyathread Retribution
4	Scintillation Bambolina Americas Dreamin	Americas Dreaming Bambolina Pletcher entry	Debbie H Americas Dreaming Scintillation	Americas Dreaming Pletcher entry Debbie H
5	Love For A Price Walkabout Winner Tom And Dicks Girl	Walkabout Winner My Lovely Lark Love For A Price	Love For A Price The Ag Walkabout Winner	Love For A Price Guessing Game Walkabout Winner
6	Amanwella Me Love Critical	Me Love Tasha's Star Critical	Me Love Amanwella Tasha's Star	Amanwella Devotee National Gallery
7	Dulcet Tone Indian Delight Secret Gypsy	Secret Gypsy According To Plan Indian Delight	Indian Delight Secret Gypsy According To Plan	Secret Gypsy Shopit Indian Delight
8	Mousse Au Chocolat Sea Chanter Ossun	Sea Chanter Mousse Au Chocolat Remarkable Remy	Mousse Au Chocolat Sea Chanter Blitzen Too	Mousse Au Chocolat Stealin' Kisses Blitzen Too
9	Ready's Echo Vacation Schopenhauer	Ready's Echo Marlang Thou Swell	Nistle's Crunch Marlang Thou Swell	Marlang Thou Swell Nistle's Crunch
10	Mani Bhavan Mine All Mine Casanova Move	Mani Bhavan Casanova Storm Jardin	Collegiate Mani Bhavin Casanova Move	Mani Bhavan Casanova Move Collegiate
11	Positive Prospect Fancy Footsteps Talented Princess	Factual Number Positive Prospect Fancy Footsteps	Talented Princess Factual Number Fancy Footsteps	Jeux De Danse Positive Prospect Whateverwillbwillb
To Date:	70/296	76/296	75/296	92/296

SUNDAY'S DETAILED ANALYSIS

BY BRIAN NADEAU

RACE 1: YA THINK has run two big races since switching barns and should be able to work out a nice trip from close range. SHAAMI makes his first start since being claimed by a crafty outfit and would require only minimal approval to get the job done. STOLEN GREETING is an unknown quantity sprinting on the sod but merits respect off his past form.

RACE 2: JUST A COINCIDENCE chased Munnings – probable favorite in Monday's Grade I Hopeful – in his debut and seems to have found a good spot to break his maiden. LUV GOV showed speed last time after lagging behind in his two previous outings, a great sign he's putting it together; the blinkers go on and he could spice up your exacta at a nice price. BIG FLIRT was an expensive purchase and shows quick works for a deadly debut barn.

RACE 3: RETRIBUTION is sometimes slighted for his pop-and-stop style, but he's actually been a solid performer over the years – and this time they might not catch him. GRASBERG found trouble behind a few of these last out; just needs clear sailing to be a major factor. HANGINGBYATHREAD, third to the top choice last time, merits respect once again.

RACE 4: DEBBIE H finished a strong second when her unveiling was washed off the turf; she'll benefit from that trial run and should get to go on the green Sunday. AMERICAS DREAMING, nosed out by an Aiden O'Brien runner in her Irish debut, crosses the Atlantic for her second career start and should be respected if she takes some money on the board. SCINTILLATION was essentially eliminated at the start July 28 but still rallied powerfully for third.

RACE 5: We're sold on LOVE FOR A PRICE as the day's **best bet**. The Keith O'Brien charge ran big against a good-looking winner here and her late kick should seal the deal. THE AG ditches the blinkers after being too keyed-up returning from a long layoff. WALKABOUT WINNER made up more than 11 lengths after breaking second-to-last in November, her only career start.

RACE 6: I've been looking for value all meet, so let's all try to get out with a nice price on ME LOVE. Dale Capuano has started one runner at the meet and is only seven percent with first-time starters, yet he ships this miss up

from Laurel to tackle some Saratoga blue-bloods; seems mighty interesting. AMANWELLA must have been tipped all over town to be sent off at 9-5 last time, but she did run well and is a threat again. TASHA'S STAR sold for 30 times her sire's stud fee and Ken McPeck does good work with juveniles.

RACE 7: INDIAN DELIGHT probably moved up in the mud last time but she'll get plenty of pace to chase for a barn that's been living the dream this meet. SECRET GYPSY set a track record (since eclipsed) in her Spa debut last year and will be a short-price favorite on the class drop, but will face a ton of pressure and hasn't exactly been a tiger in the lane of late. ACCORDING TO PLAN returns from a November layoff for a barn quite adept at having them ready.

RACE 8: MOUSSE AU CHOCOLAT had zero chance after blowing the break as the favorite last time; she gets Lasix and a shot at redemption in her second U.S. start. SEA CHANTER didn't like the bog she encountered Aug. 9 but should be tighter this time around. BLITZEN TOO steps outside state-bred competition for the first time but is hardly out of her element.

RACE 9: NISTLE'S CRUNCH gets a slight nod in the Saranac based on his strong efforts this spring. Woodbine shippers have done well in this race and MARLANG comes from the Great White North with speed to spare. THOU SWELL goes out for a hot barn off a big run in the Hall of Fame.

RACE 10: We gave you Mani Bhavin at over 8-1 in the Adirondack but since she'll be about 7-5 in the Spinaway, the value lies elsewhere. COLLEGIATE ran well to be fourth while fighting trouble and the sloppy in the Schuylerville. MANI BHAVIN freaked in the Adirondack – much like she did in her maiden. A good chance she's a monster, but off short rest and a lifetime best it's worth trying to beat her at vastly underlaid odds. CASANOVA MOVE ran huge in her maiden-breaker here and doesn't need to advance much to get it done.

RACE 11: TALENTED PRINCESS invades with sneaky good form and should be flying late. I can't recall the last time Mike Hushion claimed one, so maybe that's a good sign for FACTUAL NUMBER. Wesley Ward has done little wrong this meet and FANCY FOOTSTEPS will be a factor from the opening bell.

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North Star

England, Marlang eye stakes score after van ride across border

BY JOHN PANAGOT

Marlang didn't come to Saratoga for the water. No, the Canadian-bred colt came for the excitement and firm ground he hopes to find in Sunday's Grade III Saranac, a 1 3/16-mile turf stakes for 3-year-olds.

Marlang pulled into town Thursday with trainer Deborah England, who brought the two-time stakes winner from her base at Woodbine fresh off a wire-to-wire win in the 12-furlong \$488,745 Breeders' Stakes Aug. 3.

The son of Langfuhr owns two stakes wins from just three turf attempts. His lone loss on the grass came over a soft track which he didn't seem to appreciate.

"He likes the firm turf . . . it's not going to rain, is it?" England asked. "His only bad – well, not *bad* – performance was on the soft turf, when he finished third. He came home really fast in the Breeders' – the last half was 46 and 3; the last quarter was in 23."

As the trainer watched Marlang headbutt his hay net Saturday morning, she spoke of his quirky character.

"He's always been good, but he's a hot horse," England said. "As a 2-year-old, it took awhile to settle him down. He's not a badly behaved horse, but from the paddock to the gate, he's difficult. He thinks the post parade is useless, he just wants to do it. He just wants it – he's all racehorse."

Racing excites him, whether he's running or not.

"We had a little issue with him listening to the races – it gets pretty loud (in the Saratoga stakes barn) and he got shook up," England said. "He's happy now though. He's just a lovely to be around."

Gustav Schickedanz's homebred takes the same path to Saratoga as 2005 Saranac winner Jambalaya, who also won the Breeders' before shipping south. England, who has one horse for the owner, is just excited to be a part of it.

"Gus said he was going to give me a horse to train," she said, "and a couple of years went by and I was like, 'Hey, where's my horse?' So he went out and found a yearling, and here he is."

SARANAC STAKES PREVIEW



Connie Bush

See **SARANAC** page 23 ►

Trainer Deborah England shares a moment with Marlang at the stakes barn Saturday.



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Saranac —

■ Continued from page 22

Marlang doesn't necessarily need to be on the lead Sunday, but his trainer's instructions will involve plenty of free rein.

"We don't argue with him, he'll be close to the lead," England said. "He's got a huge stride to him so you don't want to be too aggressive with him."

England has never won at Saratoga but did finish third in the 1997 Ballerina with Flashy N Smart. Regular rider Richard Dos Ramos, aboard for all seven of Marlang's starts, comes in for the mount.

Nistle's Crunch has sampled every conceivable racing surface, and owns a win on dirt, turf and Polytrack. Owned by Alien Farm, the son of Van Nistelrooy finished fifth to Big Brown in the Grade I Haskell earlier this month, but has flashed his best form traveling on the sod, finishing second to the impressive Sailor's Cap in the Grade III Colonial Turf Cup in June. Robby Albarado climbs aboard for the first time.

"He's doing good," Ken McPeck said, though the trainer admitted a little rain wouldn't hurt. "The last time was really soft turf and he really seemed to like the soft going, there's a chance that he could get some soft turf here."

Vacation hasn't been taking it easy during his 10-race career, but he hasn't exactly been the model worker either. The son of Dynaformer has found the board in eight of his starts, but the winner's circle just once, breaking his

"He's not a badly behaved horse, but from the paddock to the gate, he's difficult."

Trainer Deborah England

maiden in his turf debut at Gulfstream Park in February. But Vacation hasn't scored since, finishing fifth in his latest, the 9-furlong French Colonial at Belmont Park. Trainer Shug McGaughey expects more from the Phipps Stable homebred.

"So far he's been a bit of a disappointment," he said. "I know he's got the talent and he wants to run a distance of ground. I thought everything was set up good for him the last race, but he disappointed me. He popped a splint when he came out after the race, so I'm kind of hoping that's what was going on. But he's trained well up here and we'll see what happens."

McGaughey gives Edgar Prado the leg up.

Ready's Echo enters as the morning-line favorite despite never having tried the turf. Owned by Let's Go Stable, the colt has been freshened since finishing third in the Belmont Stakes. Ready's Echo has finished in the money in all five career starts with Todd Pletcher and John Velazquez.

"We worked him a couple times on the turf at Belmont and he seemed to handle it very well," Pletcher said. "He's run some nice races, obviously third in the Belmont. He's by More Than Ready out a Kingmambo mare, so we think

he'll handle the turf."

Graham Motion sends out Schopenhauer, who enters the Saranac (and Motion's barn) looking for his first win. The \$300,000 Keeneland graduate and son of Giant's Causeway, ran in England for trainer Luca Cumani. Schopenhauer made his career debut this May, hitting the board twice in three turf starts. Leading rider Alan Garcia takes the call.

Rusty Arnold saddles 20-1 longshot Shive's Success. The gray son of Grand Slam broke his maiden on the lawn at Churchill Downs this May, but has finished seventh in his two subsequent outings, including an entry-level turf allowance here Aug. 2. Javier Castellano rides for the first time.

George Weaver looks to continue his recent Saratoga success with Thou Swell, who enters off an impressive second in the Grade II Hall Of Fame Aug. 4. Jean-Luc Samyn piloted the son of Aptitude to the lead that day, and the bay colt resentfully gave it up in the stretch, finishing a half-length behind the winner. Ramon Dominguez picks up the mount.

Mr Maccool will scratch, as trainer David Fawkes opted to keep him at Delaware Park for Saturday's \$500,000 Kent Stakes. He finished third.

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High Stepper

Mani Bhavan returns as favorite for Grade I

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Confident, optimistic, but unsure. When you train a fast 2-year-old with just an open-length debut win on the past performance, the words mesh together like Tinker to Evers to Chance.

Steve Klesaris entered Mani Bhavan in the Grade II Adirondack here Aug. 13 with a healthy dose of all three. The daughter of Storm Boot was overlooked and underrated – and took the Adirondack by a resounding 7 lengths at more than 8-1. Sunday the hunter becomes the hunted when Mani Bhavan starts as the overwhelming favorite in Sunday's \$250,000 Spinaway Stakes, the first Grade I of the year for juvenile fillies.

SPINAWAY STAKES PREVIEW

Trained by Klesaris for Puglisi Racing and TYB Stable, Mani Bhavan has done little wrong in her two career starts. Prior to the Adirondack, she won her 5-furlong debut at Delaware Park July 12 in equally impressive fashion, wiring a six-horse field in hand by 9 1/4 lengths.

"I expected her to win her first race at Delaware Park, unless we met some exceptional filly. I knew when leading her over it would take a special filly to beat her," Klesaris said. "You never know who you're going to see first-out in a maiden race but she had shown me enough in her training to think she would win at first asking. She really blossomed in our program and kept getting better and better. But with that being said, she still surprised me with how easily she did things."

With few options, Klesaris sent Mani Bhavan to Saratoga for the 6 1/2-furlong Adirondack. The un-



Dave Harmon

Adirondack winner Mani Bhavan aims to improve to 3-for-3 in Sunday's Spinaway.

known quantity drew the outside post in the eight-horse field and it took just a few strides to answer all questions about her ability. She rocketed out of the gate under Alan Garcia, and easily went to the front through a half-mile in 46.10 seconds. Turning for home, Garcia snuck a confident peek back at the opposition vanishing in the distance. The meet's leading jockey hand rode her to the finish, completing an effort that shocked even her trainer.

"She ran huge that day. We felt all along she was a nice filly but to go from a maiden race to a Grade II is obviously a large step up in competition," Klesaris said. "She had shown me that kind of ability so we felt she deserved a shot in there. The way she won off was very impressive. We felt she would run well but that race, the way she did it, she really exceeded our expectations."


See **SPINAWAY** page 27 ►




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ARTISTS DISPLAYED

Top left to right, Kate Upton, Terry Lindsey,
Susie Cronin, Jaime Corum, Werner Rentsch,
Kathy Partridge, Louise W. King,
Louise Peterson plus 30 more wonderful artists.



Spinaway —

■ Continued from page 24

She wheels back in the 7-furlong Spinaway on 18 days rest. Though not ideal, Klesaris isn't worried about the assignment, which will go a long way in determining the pecking order of the East Coast's juvenile fillies. She again drew the outside post in the eight-horse field with Garcia aboard.

Call Klesaris pleasantly surprised now.

"Did I think two months later, after her debut, that I would have the horse to beat in the Grade I Spinaway? No, not at all. But I also knew she was a very nice filly," he said. "She came out of the Adirondack in great order and gave me all the signs to run here. The short rest isn't the ideal way to do things but it's also all in the individual horse. She came out of her last race beautifully and acted as if the race didn't do anything to her at all. I had to put the saddle back on her two days after the Adirondack because she was so ready to go. She hasn't missed an oat since and we're looking forward to the Spinaway."

Padua Stable's Jardin (Robby Albarado to ride) took the Schuylerville, the Opening Day feature, over a sloppy track July 23. Dismissed at more than 12-1 in the Grade III stakes, Jardin stalked the early leaders in third before taking charge and drawing off in the stretch and remaining perfect in two career starts. The waters get deeper Sunday, but Jardin has had plenty of time to recover and enters with four local breezes for trainer Steve Asmussen. The daughter of Montbrook has employed a stalk-and-pounce style in both starts and that should have her in a good position turning for home.

Collegiate entered as one of the major players in the Schuylerville based on an impressive maiden win at Belmont Park June 19, when the daughter of Saarland scored by 2 1/4 lengths while well within herself. Sent off at 5-2 in the Schuylerville for Mark Hennig, she encountered trouble early, steadying at the half-mile pole, and recovered to finish fourth behind Jardin. Edgar Prado, aboard for her first two starts, has the return call.

Purchased by Team Valor at Fasig-Tipton's Select sale for \$400,000, here last summer, Collegiate could fit in the 7-furlong Spinaway. Hennig put three works into her since the Schuylerville and enters confident she can be a factor.

"We're excited to get her stretched out a bit to 7 furlongs. Being a daughter of Saarland we always felt the longer the better and Edgar told us after she broke her maiden that she'll be that much better going longer," Hennig said. "I'm just hoping for a dry track and a trouble-free trip. She didn't get either of those in the Schuylerville."

Casanova Move (Eibar Coa) was one of the most impressive maiden winners of the meet, taking her Aug. 10 outing by 9 1/4 lengths for Jimmy Jerkens. Ned Evans' homebred finished third in her debut at Belmont July 16 before putting things together at the Spa. Getting Lasix for the first time, the daughter of Langfuhr sped to the early lead, hit the half-mile in 46.47 seconds, and drew clear in the lane while not being asked for her best. She makes her first start against winners and Jerkens looks forward to testing the best freshmen fillies on the grounds.

"Tomorrow is a good step up to see where she stands. She ran well here earlier in the meet and it's nice to have a big race over the track to give you a bit more confidence," Jerkens said. "We have liked her all along but we were a little surprised to see her this good as

the Langfuhrs usually don't run like this as 2-year-olds."


Wesley Ward starts two in the Spinaway, led by Mine All Mine, an easy wire-to-wire maiden winner here July 24. The daughter of Belong To Me took to a sloppy track and drew off over a well-regarded field to win for the first time in four lifetime starts. Prior to that score, Mine All Mine had faced males twice, including a sixth in the Grade III Kentucky Stakes at Churchill May 1. She picks up the services of John Velazquez and should be in the mix from the opening bell.

Ward also sends out August Rush (Julio Garcia), who won her debut here sprinting on the turf July 28. The daughter of Milwaukee Brew pressed the pace before taking charge, then holding on to a head victory. She makes her first start

on the dirt in the Spinaway. She shows two strong works over the main track, highlighted by a 47 2/5-second move Aug. 10 that ranked the third-fastest of 91 drills at the distance. August Rush has the look of an interesting newcomer at a distance that figures to be well within her scope.

Girlfrienontheside (Cornelio Velasquez) starts for Tony Dutrow, whose barn has been hot the entire meet, winning eight races from only 24 starts through Friday. The daughter of Indian Charlie was third, beaten 4 lengths, by Jardin in the Schuylerville. Prior to that effort she was a distant second behind Bold Union in the Astoria Stakes at Belmont.

Winning Brew (Jose Espinoza), a maiden winner at Penn National before finishing a well-beaten sixth in the Astoria for Francis Vitale rounds out the field.



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MONDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

Monday, September 1. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with, post position, jockey and weight (full entries not available).

1ST (1:00) 1 MILE. TURF. 3&UP. MDN CLM 45,000. PURSE \$31,000.

1	Repenthouse	Velasquez C	119
2	Put Him Back	Coa E M	119
3	Aptus	Prado E S	119
4	Kaptain	Garcia Alan	119
5	All the Way Home	Dominguez R A	119
6	Outoftheslammer	Hill C	119
7	D' Wildcard	Maragh R	119
8	Vorenus	Chavez J F	119
9	Bartletts	Bridgmohan S X	117
10	Counterspy	Velazquez J R	119
AE	Look Now	Chavez J F	120
MTO	Due to Get Even	Maragh R	119

2ND (1:32) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	Taxadame	Prado E S	119
2	By the Sky	Coa E M	119
3	A. P. Light	Espinoza J L	119
4	Alexandra's Halo	Hill C	119
5	Vintage Tough	Albarado R J	119
6	Pals First Lady	Garcia Alan	119
7	Tough But Fair	Maragh R	119
8	Gem for Hook	Desormeaux K J	119
9	Pay the Fare	Velazquez J R	119

3RD (2:04) 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 75,000. PURSE \$68,000.

1	Stealth Missile	Velasquez C	122
2	Discreet Treasure	Prado E S	117
3	Just Julian	Garcia Alan	120
4	Stevil	Velazquez J R	117
5	Premium Gold	Coa E M	119
6	Tend	Albarado R J	117
7	Nolan's Territory	Dominguez R A	117
A-Coupled: Stealth Missile and Nolan's Territory			

4TH (2:36) THE LUE DONVILLE. 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. NY BRED. PURSE \$80,000.

1	Stud Muffin	Velazquez J R	123
2	Chowder's First	Hill C	121
3	Stunt Man	Velasquez C	121
4	Johnie Bye Night	Coa E M	123
5	Tommasi	Maragh R	121
6	Rises the Phoenix	Alvarado N R	123
7	Dr. D. F. C.	Arboleda A	123

5TH (3:08) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	Mrs. Holden	Chavez J F	119
2	City Broad	Espinoza J L	119
3	Wicked Queen	Coa E M	122
4	Patti Tiff	Vargas R	115
5	Leader of the Lite	Velazquez J R	119
6	Mother Cat	Bridgmohan S X	122
7	Meese Rocks	Desormeaux K J	119
8	Miss Dolan's Rose	Cardoso D	119
9	Ofcr. Sheila T Rex	Velasquez C	119
10	Waste No Days	Arboleda A	119
11	Welcome to Wista	Hill C	119
12	Apocalyptical	Maragh R	119
AE	Intoxicatingbeauty	Velasquez C	119
AE	Sweet Bama Breeze	Garcia Alan	119
A-Coupled: Ofcr. Sheila T Rex and Sweet Bama Breeze			



Dave Oxford

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR. My T Bunny, a trotter owned by Saratoga Race Course announcer Tom Durkin, scores in Saturday night's fifth at Saratoga Raceway. My T Bunny was sent to the lead approaching the quarter-pole by driver Jim Morrill Jr. Before taking the job as NYRA announcer, Durkin was the track announcer at the Meadowlands and called such harness races as the Meadowlands Pace and the Hambletonian.

6TH (3:41) 1 MILE. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. STR ALW. PURSE \$66,000.

1	Whirling Agatha	Velasquez C	117
2	Ardnavagh (FR)	Coa E M	121
3	Milk Run	Espinoza J L	123
4	Higher Incentive	Prado E S	121
5	Panthera Tigre	Trujillo E	117
6	Cobblestone Way	Garcia Alan	117
7	Dressed to Win	Dominguez R A	121
8	Mega	Velazquez J R	117
9	Eightyfive S	Bridgmohan S X	119
10	Blue Hill Bay	Hill C	121
AE	My Nina Rose	Chavez J F	121
AE	Kitty Nip	Chavez J F	123
AE	Frozen Prospect	Garcia Alan	121
A-Coupled: Dressed to Win and Frozen Prospect			

7TH (4:14) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. ALLOW. PURSE \$61,000.

1	Iron Curtain	Velazquez J R	117
2	Yukon Gold Rush	Coa E M	117
3	In the Spotlight	Hill C	120
4	C. T. Phone Home	Albarado R J	114
5	Lyke a Hurricane	Prado E S	120
6	A Wild Minute	Gomez O	120
7	Karakorum Tornado	Espinoza J L	120
8	Don't Fooli Houli	Maragh R	122
9	Pano's Love	Velasquez C	122
10	Thunder Buddy	Coa E M	117
11	Bar City	Garcia Alan	114
12	Beyond Challenge	Dominguez R A	117
13	Jelly Roll Rumble	Bridgmohan S X	120
A-Coupled: Yukon Gold Rush and Thunder Buddy			
B-Coupled: C. T. Phone Home and Bar City			

8TH (4:48) THE GLENS FALLS (GR. III). 1 3/8 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$100,000.

1	Tejida	Albarado R J	116
2	Jade Queen	Velazquez J R	115
3	Dynaforce	Desormeaux K J	118
4	Hostess	Maragh R	119
5	Lamentation (GB)	Hill C	115
6	Palmilla	Prado E S	117
7	Dyna's Lassie	Coa E M	116

9TH (5:22) THE QUICK CALL. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. PURSE \$80,000.

1	Our Friend Harvey	Prado E S	123
2	Kingship	Bridgmohan S X	119
3	Salute the Count	Albarado R J	121
4	English Colony (GB)	Velasquez C	121
5	Hellvelyn (GB)	Velazquez J R	121
6	Rallying Cry	Desormeaux K J	119
7	True to Tradition	Coa E M	121
8	Silver Timber	Espinoza J L	121
9	Vicarino	Maragh R	121
10	Steel Light	Garcia Alan	121
11	Chasin Tiger	Hill C	121
12	Natural Seven	Dominguez R A	121
AE	Not Acclaim	Albarado R J	119
AE	Luigi P	Arboleda A	119
MTO	Mr. Umphrey	Hill C	121
MTO	Stormin Normandy	Hill C	123

10TH (5:56) THE HOPEFUL (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. 2YO. PURSE \$250,000.

1	Break Water Edison	Desormeaux K J	120
2	Desert Party	Prado E S	120
3	Cognito	Bridgmohan S X	120
4	Munnings	Velazquez J R	120
5	Vineyard Haven	Garcia Alan	120
6	Medaglia d'Onore	Hill C	120
7	Notonthesamepage	Trujillo E	120
8	Cribnote	Maragh R	119

11TH (6:30) 1 MILE. TURF. 3&UP. MDN CLM 45,000. PURSE \$31,000.

1	King Carter	Hill C	122
2	Masterofthehouse	Arboleda A	122
3	Rushing Stag	Maragh R	119
4	Just a Warning	Velasquez C	119
5	Buddha Power	Coa E M	122
6	Skywire	Prado E S	119
7	Gemology	Velazquez J R	122
8	To Tell the Truth	Albarado R J	119
9	Paisano Creek	Garcia Alan	119
10	Arch Hero	Dominguez R A	119
AE	Quite Apt	Espinoza J L	119
AE	Sir Jock	Albarado R J	119

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A Graceful Exit

The clerk at Stewart's late Friday night rang up my box of raisin bran, looked me in the eye and asked me a question.

"Can you do me a favor?"

I replied, with trepidation, "What's that?"

"Smile."

And, with that, it officially became time to go home. If you look too tired, too grumpy, too wrung out to buy a box of cereal at Stewart's – at midnight – you've got problems. I walked out smiling, so she got her point across.

The Special's eighth season closes with this edition in your hands and, as usual, it's been a ride. Up, out, down, in, wet, dry, hot, cold . . . we've been every which way in a meeting that's included its share of signature moments on the track, in the town and at the office. My meet started with the ceiling falling in on my (clean) clothes and ended with – well, it sort of ended with a lady at Stewart's telling me to smile. But there was more.



Tod Marks

Joe Green provided inspiration – without really knowing it.

THE OUTSIDE RAIL



By Joe Clancy

The 2008 Saratoga season will be remembered for the rain. Remember the rain? The other day someone said "it went from raining every five minutes to raining every five days." During the five-minute stage, Saratoga was bombarded by rain, hail, wind, darkness, wild temperature swings, rainbows, rivers in the streets, water coming *up* through manhole covers. The track washed away, NYRA canceled part of a card, the picnic areas flooded, the paddock turf was soft for weeks.

Beyond all the water, I will remember . . .

Daily visits to The Saratoga Sleigh to deliver papers and have coffee with Don and Cindy (can you write me into the sales contract?); a mid-meet trip to Saranac Lake that turned into a marathon drive through more lake towns than I could count (Tupper, Eaton, Long, Blue Mountain, Durant, Eagle, Indian, Speculator, Pleasant, Wells, Northampton and so on) which included a great night watching the Olympics at the Alpine Inn; the anticipation – and the delivery – of Curlin. . .

Lobster with the Grants and the Kellys. Thanks as always for a wonderful night. Sorry Evening Attire never got his race; watching 2-year-olds in the paddock and on the track in the morning; the steeplechase photo finishes; stacking the paper racks every day. . .

Watching, and hearing about, the Saratoga adventures of my children; getting Hall of Fame pep talks from Dean Richardson and Carl Nafzger; Ken McPeck talking about training steeplechasers (we'll see you out there); long walks through town and past Victorian homes with my wife, Sam. . .

Random people stopping by our office and telling us they enjoy the newspaper – that part still amazes me; a night at Peabody's with my brother (missed you Mark and Toady); saying good morning to Nancy Pelosi at the information booth; washing off the ink from my hands every morning; watching U.K. Racing; a handful of cashed tickets. . .

Talking to Stepside's owners and breeders after his first Saratoga win and smiling at how they must have felt when he won again a few weeks later; getting to know Look At Him at the Oklahoma Annex every morning and then talking myself out of betting him; waiting to watch "The White Man" work on the Oklahoma turf course; the day we ran pages 8 and 9 from the day before; the never-ending need to do laundry and find quarters; a staff that covered all the bases:

thanks Brian, Jamie, John, Melaina, Carl, Karen, Tod, Dave, Connie, Barry, Ryan, Jack, Nolan, Jon, Laura; the Big Horserace (don't even think about asking me to add up the votes); the Mets and Phillies slugging it out. . .

Alex Matz telling me how the King's Bishop would play out – a week before Visionaire got it done for Alex's dad, Michael; dinners at Sperry's, Dine, Beekman Street; Colonel John and Mambo In Seattle; learning about Patrick Minogue and getting a great note from his family; meeting Stymie's jockey Bobby Permane, talking about Joey Chitwood (and the stunt team) with Dave Harmon. . .

Oh, and the rain.

• • •

I wanted to write a story about Enrique "Kiki" Garcia who gallops tough-to-handle turf horse Grand Couturier for Bob Ribauda every morning. Never got there guys, sorry. Maybe after the third Sword Dancer in 2009. I wanted to cover more races.

I wanted to talk to Joe Green, who works for Tom Albertrani. Tod Marks took Green's photo recently and it struck me as something of a moment in time. Green, standing at the main-track gap with a shank draped over his shoulder, could be a groom from any era, waiting on a Thoroughbred from any era.

I've never exchanged more than a "good morning" with Green, but he made me think of Lonnie Fuller, a mentor from my days in the barn. Another classic groom, Lonnie worked for my father at Delaware Park, Timonium, Pimlico, the farm (a little) and wherever we had horses.

Lonnie taught me the right way to roll on a bandage, how to bank a stall, how to work harder than you ever have without getting (too) surly about it, how to buy a car stereo, how to (quietly) cash a big ticket, how to "make a hustle" without making the boss mad, how to ride in the back of a van in style, how to treat people, how to roll up a shank and hang it on a stall door just so, how to make a tough horse pay attention, how to order Thanksgiving dinner from the track kitchen at Laurel, how to accept watermelon served with a machete, how to make Saratoga stall "half-moons" at Timonium – and still lose the shed-row contest with dignity.

That was 25 years ago, some of it more, and now it makes me feel old. Lonnie went to Canada to work for Roger Attfield, came to my wedding reception in a white suit, spent another short stint with my dad and drifted away (he was good at that). He died several years ago, but I think of him often – especially at moments of great stress.

Lonnie would have loved this newspaper, the horses it covers, the people it meets and the effort it takes. But he would have told me to get back to work.

Saratoga, thanks for a great summer.

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Crossing the finish line, again

For the eighth year in a row, a blank page lies between the completion of Issue 32. This is the last page I'll write for this summer. Our 32nd deadline ticks to a close.

In the background, the Mets play another silent game of baseball on the muted TV – the one that runs 24 hours a day. Writers John Panagot and Brian Nadeau – tomorrow's Harvey Pack and Andy Beyer – handicap and discuss another Saratoga card. Graphic designer Carl Hott asks Joe if page 17 is color, puts the finishing touches on the Here and There page, while wondering how he ended up working on a horse-racing paper. Closer Melaina Phipps hovers over a page, red pencil in hand and at the ready. Editor Jamie Santo, a.k.a. Joey Chitwood, wades through the Forego recap. Joe, the gatekeeper, sends another page and tries to get us all to hurry. A case of beer awaits in the fridge, but only when every man on board has punched his time clock for the final time. I didn't say jumped ship.

We made it.

Not that we ever doubted it.

We doubted it the first summer, 2001, when we relied on dial-up Internet, scrounged for advertisers and counted very few readers. I remember a trainer handing the paper back to me the first year and saying he didn't want it. Not worth reading. Nothing but entries and results and a couple of photos. I still can't help but hold a grudge, even though the trainer has become an avid reader of *The Special*.

Joe and I have concluded that there must be more lucrative ways to spend your summer, but lucrative is relative. We relish the madness. Love the pressure. Crave the urgency. Are addicted to the challenge.

Like all of summer's heroes, Saratoga puts the ultimate love/hate spell over all of us. Pressure to succeed and fear to fail. For the horsemen who put on the show, there's nothing tougher than Saratoga. You love it for the majesty, you hate it for the exposure. Go 0-for-20 at Aqueduct and no one notices. Go 0-for-5 at Saratoga and you're in a slump, having a bad meet, lost your way.

For me, I got kicked around in the *New York Post* Showdown. Gained 10 pounds. Blew out my back. Lost \$100 on Mambo In Seattle in the Travers. Nearly got escorted off the grounds by a rabid security guard. Ink-stained my hands while distributing 600 papers every morning. Wrote some clunkers. Ate lobsters at Joe and Mary Grant's. Proved that man *can* live on pizza alone. Singlehandedly collected the Olympic Games Collector Series of Coca-Cola

■ CUP OF COFFEE

**By
Sean Clancy**



cans. Stood in awe of Curlin, Ginger Punch, Proud Spell, Dark Equation and so many others.

Yesterday, my parents' navy and light blue silks made it the Saratoga paddock for the first time since I was a seven-pound apprentice riding Riverdee, a maiden owned and trained by my father, at the Saratoga Open House in 1988. Dictina's Boy, a horse I bought in April, ran in the nightcap Saturday. Yeah, Curlin put on the show, promising 22,000 people something they'd never forget and delivering it. For me, it was the White Man (I can't call him Dictina, Dic or Boy and he's nearly white). Standing in the paddock with your wife, your brother, your co-workers, your buddies, you're meant to be taking it all in and soaking up the joys of ownership. Instead, I'm hoping the horse gets to the paddock dry and calm, hoping he saddles OK and gets to the gate without fussing. Hoping he doesn't embarrass me. Praying he comes back safe and sound. And wondering what in the world I was thinking, running a horse at Saratoga, swinging for a fence I can't even see. I stand there and think of the madness of owning a horse. I didn't want to tell people he was running, just in case something went wrong. Boy, I hate losing.

The White Man ran OK, finished seventh, beaten about 5 lengths. If you just watched him, it was an impressive performance, big long white stride bounding over the Saratoga turf. Yeah, six horses beat him – that's the rub of racing.

Your horse can run great, return from a five-month layoff and handle everything, but six others ran better. He looked like a jumper taking on the toughest of the tough – Rock Lobster, Ground Storm and other \$35,000 turf claimers.

That's OK. Next year, *The Special* will return, maybe the White Man too and if all goes well, my wife and I will have a new baby (she's due Dec. 18) and life will be never be the same. But, in a way it will be – 32 issues ready or not. For now, it's time to clean out the rentals, pack the cars, say goodbyes and head for home.

See you next summer.

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or Maryland Million Ltd. at 410.252.2100

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, September 25

\$300K Maryland Million Classic Three-year-olds & up, 1 $\frac{3}{16}$ mi.

\$200K Maryland Million Ladies Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., turf

\$200K Maryland Million Turf Three-year-olds & up, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., turf

\$150K Maryland Million Distaff A handicap for fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 7 fur.

\$150K Maryland Million Lassie Fillies, 2-year-olds, 7 fur.

\$150K Maryland Million Nursery Two-year-olds, 7 fur.

\$150K Maryland Million Oaks Fillies, 3-year-olds, 1 mi.

\$150K Maryland Million Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Turf Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ fur., turf

\$50K Maryland Million Handicap Three-year-olds & up who have started for a claiming price of \$15,000 or less since October 13, 2007, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi. This is a Sweepstakes.

\$50K Maryland Million Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of \$15,000 or less since October 13, 2007. 1 mi. This is a Sweepstakes.

\$30K Maryland Million Sprint Starter Handicap Three-year-olds & up who have started for a claiming price of \$7,500 or less since October 13, 2007. 6 fur. This is a Sweepstakes.

\$25,000 in Maryland Million Premium Awards offered at SHAWAN DOWNS, SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

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