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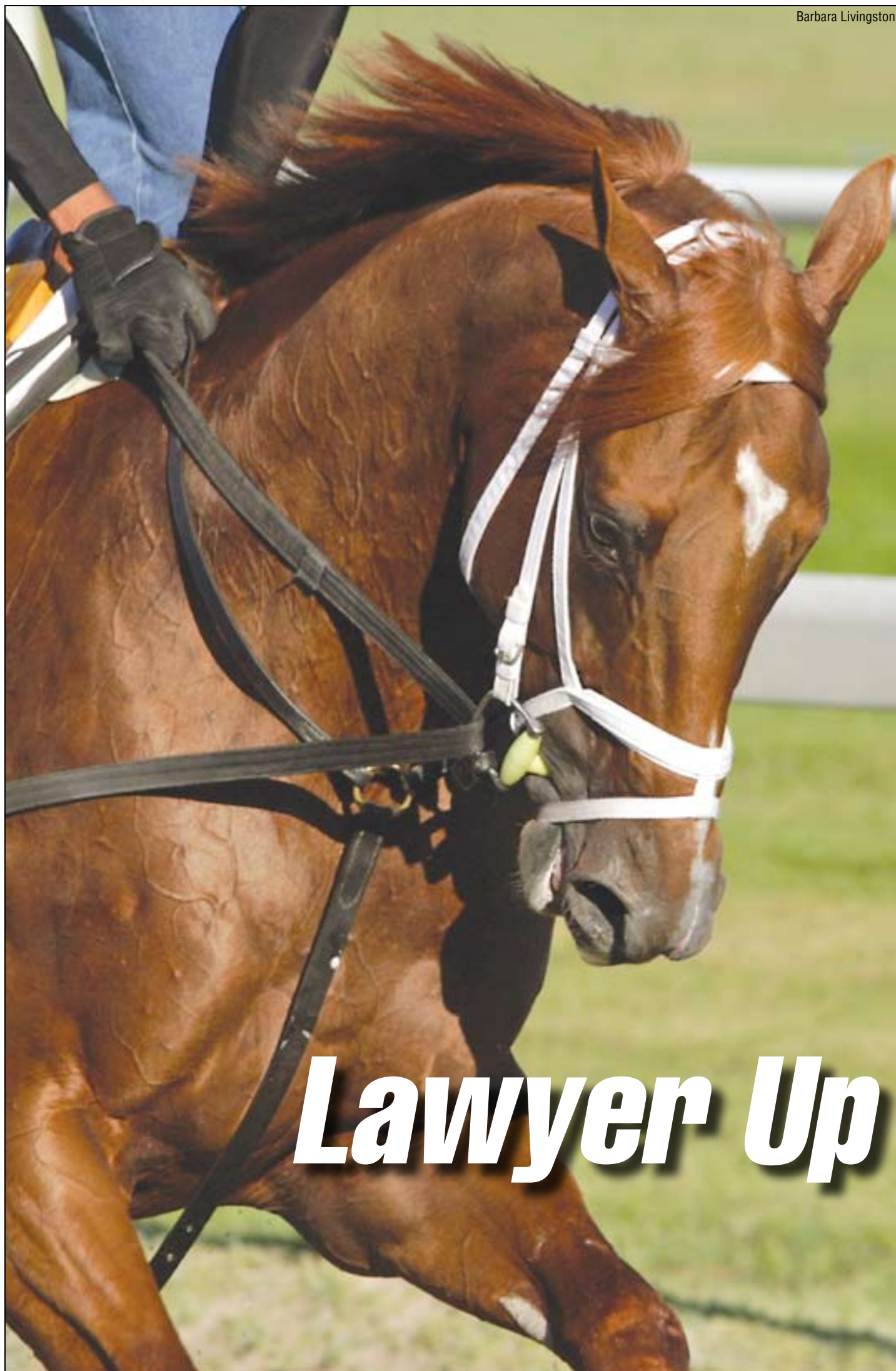
The SARATOGA Special



Year 7 • No. 31

SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Saturday, September 1, 2007



Barbara Livingston

Lawyer Up

WOODWARD PREVIEW

Lawyer Ron on target after 5 weeks

BY SEAN CLANCY

Immediately after Lawyer Ron set a track record in the Whitney Handicap here opening weekend, Todd Pletcher knew where he was going next. He never hesitated when asked about the next assignment – the \$500,000 Woodward.

Today is the Woodward where Lawyer Ron and jockey John Velazquez take on seven rivals – five of which he trounced in the Whitney. Pletcher is faced with answering one question. Will Lawyer Ron bounce from his career best effort? Pletcher deserves the question, as he's the one who perpetuates to the bounce theory, relying somewhat on speed numbers to determine where to go next and how much time a horse needs between races. This time, he thinks five weeks is enough time to keep Lawyer Ron on track.

"Any time you're coming off a performance like that, you're always worried about how much time you give them," Pletcher said. "It was a track-record performance at Saratoga. The obvious thing is he likes the track, ran well at the same distance and it's another Grade I opportunity. The thing about him is he can bounce a little bit and still win. I don't think he's got to set another track record to win."

Watching Lawyer Ron train, it's hard to see any signs of fatigue or lethargy coming from his 1:46 ³/₅ Whitney effort. Fifteen days after his Grade I score, the son of Langfuhr drilled 5 furlongs in 59 ³/₅ seconds. A week later, he went the same distance in 1:02. On Aug. 26, he rolled through a half-mile in 49 ²/₅. He goes to the track every morning like he means it. Draw reins pull his head down but he's always looking for more to do in the morning. Nothing's changed since the Whitney.

"He's trained well. To me, he's one of those horses that thrives on action, he's a high-energy horse. Some horses thrive on closer action. If you look back at his PPs, when (Bob) Holthus had him, he consistently ran well in races fairly close together," Pletcher said. "And it's not like you're coming back in three weeks; he's had the whole meet to get ready for this. He ran a minus 2 on the Ragozin Sheets, about as fast as a horse has ever



Todd Pletcher

See **WOODWARD** page 4 ►



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SEASON INQUIRIES TO BERNIE SAMS
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Tod Marks

SUNRISE SADDLES. Four Todd Pletcher Thoroughbreds await riders early Friday morning on the Oklahoma side.

Worth Repeating

"He's probably the only person who's more impressed with Circus than Funny Cide."

Paul Wasserman about his son, Nolan, who met both "ponies" on his visit to Saratoga

"My heart wouldn't let me."

Hall of Fame jockey Angel Cordero, on why he didn't try steeplechasing

"They don't understand Spanish. They don't understand English. Winston's talking Jamaican and I'm Dominican. What do you expect?"

Fernando Abreu, assistant to Allen Jerkens, on the language barrier in the barn Friday morning

"OK, I've got as much steeplechasing knowledge as I can handle."

Trainer Todd Pletcher, after a conversation that ranged from Cheltenham to the New York Turf Writers with *The Special's* Sean Clancy

Take A Number

110: Belmont Fall condition books in the racing office

License Plates of the Day

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Names of the Day

A good day for names. Well done, everyone. Keep up the good work.

And A Gentleman, second race. Of course, the 2-year-old colt is by Officer.

Web Gem, second race. Another 2-year-old colt. He is out of Chasing September and if you are chasing September in baseball you need a few Web Gems. Go Phillies.

Vacation, fourth race. The 2-year-old colt is out Country Hideaway.

Rule Seventy Six, sixth race. It's a line from the movie *Wedding Crashers*, "Rule 76: No excuses. Play like a champion!" The 2-year-old colt is out of Screen Happy.

Second Marriage, eighth race. We've probably used this one before, but it's too good to pass up. The 3-year-old filly is a daughter of Not For Love and Impulse Shopper.

Weather

Today: Mainly sunny. High 76. Winds 10-20 mph.

Tonight: Clear. Low near 45. Winds 10-15 mph.

Sunday: Sunshine. High in the upper 70s and low in the mid 50s.

Monday: Plenty of sun. High in the mid 80s and low in the low 60s.

Tuesday: Sun and clouds. High in the upper 70s and lows in the mid 50s.

The SARATOGA Special

71 Lincoln Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Phone: (518) 490-1175

or (302) 545-7713

Fax: (518) 490-6520

E-mail: sean@st-publishing.com

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The Staff

Editors/Publishers: Sean Clancy, Joe Clancy

Copy Chief: Jamie Santo

Writers/Contributors: Alysse Jacobs, Karen Johnson, David Kosak, Jim Mulvihill, Brian Nadeau, Katherine Sarasohn, Rebecca Walton

Art Director: Kevin Titter

Racing Analysts: Pete Fornatale, Alan Mann, Frank Scatoni

Photographers: Dave Harmon, Tod Marks, Barbara Livingston

Distribution: Barry Watson

Menial Tasks Division: Ryan Clancy, Jack Clancy, Nolan Clancy

ST Publishing Inc. Home Office

364 Fair Hill Drive, Suite F

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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 1

run. But, you watch him and see how he comes back, he's obviously come back strong and is ready to go."

Pletcher doesn't do anything too imaginative to avoid a possible bounce, other than trying to ease a horse back into his training after a peak effort. But Lawyer Ron doesn't do anything halfheartedly.

"To a certain point, what I'll try to do is give them an easy week or 10 days after the race," Pletcher said. "That's what I do with a lot of mine, walk three days, jog one or two days, short gallops for four or five days, that sort of thing. He's going to do a lot on his own, he's going to go out there and drag you around no matter what."

Pletcher also sends out Magna Graduate, sixth in the Whitney. Earner of more than \$2.2 million, the 5-year-old won a pair of Grade III stakes, the Razorback and the Excelsior, earlier in the year, then finished a closing second to Flashy Bull in the Stephen Foster before running evenly in the Whitney. Garrett Gomez returns for the ride.

"His race was probably better than it looked, he got stuck inside which he doesn't really like, had to check a little bit at the eighth-pole, so I think his effort was a little better than it looked," Pletcher said. "He got a 4 or 5. It wasn't bad, fairly consistent to what he usually does. With him, I talked to the owners about possibly going to the Mass Cap or some other options but he needs a Grade I win to solidify his stallion value



Tod Marks

Wanderin Boy zips into the stretch in the Whitney earlier in the meet. He could be on the lead again today.

so that was the deciding factor."

The only two rivals who don't know what it feels like to chase Lawyer Ron in track-record time hail from the Jerkens family. Allen Jerkens shoots with Political Force while his son Jimmy reloads the flammable Corinthian. Both horses exit the June 20 Suburban — one soars out and the other stumbles out of the

Grade I stakes at Belmont Park.

Political Force pulled off a mild upset in the 1 1/4-mile stakes, rallying from just off the pace to win by 1 1/4 length over Fairbanks and Malibu Moonshine. Sent off the favorite, Corinthian bungled it, finishing last of six.

Political Force has always been a model of consistency through a 15-

race career. By Unbridled's Song out of the top mare Glitter Woman, Political Force performed his worst at Saratoga last summer, failing in four consecutive allowance races. Still, he's never been worse than fourth in his career and since leaving the Spa last year, he's won

See **WOODWARD** page 6 ►

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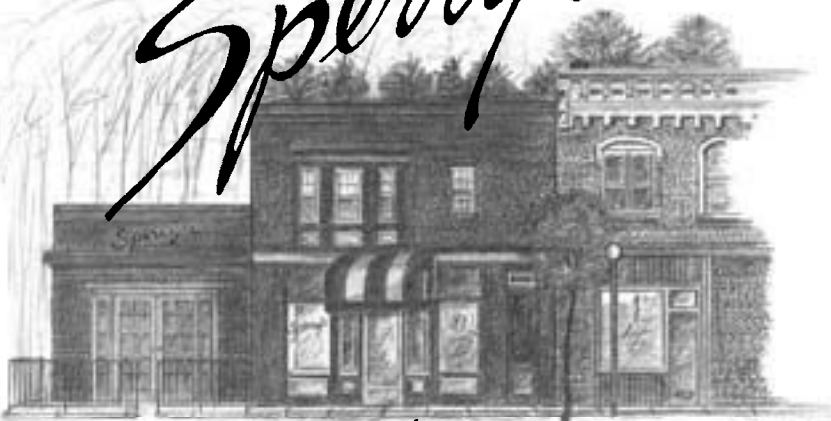
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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 4

three of six. Cornelio Velasquez rides.

"We've done everything we could do to get him to come into the race right, you never know until you get there, the proof is in the eating," Jerkens said, as he followed Political Force home from a 3-furlong blow-out Friday morning. "We didn't want to run him back too many times, we wanted something for the fall, so we skipped the Whitney. He ran three times in Florida and he ran three times at Belmont, if he runs good here then you can think about the (Jockey Club) Gold Cup."

In typical Jerkens fashion, Political Force has put in the miles in preparation for the Woodward. Since the Suburban, he's worked four times including an 8-furlong lung opener Sunday.

"He worked a good mile, I thought. It's different if they haven't been out in two months, then you do a little more with them. If they're running every three weeks, it's different," Jerkens said. "Some horses do the same if you work them hard or don't work them hard, they just overcome it. You never know if you're doing it right, all you can do is try to do the best you can. He just went in 36 and 2, from the quarter-pole to the mile pole, they always go a little faster on the straightaway. We've done all we can do."

Jimmy Jerkens might be on the other side of the stable area from his Hall of Fame dad but he's paddling the same water — hoping he's done all he can do for Corinthian. The 4-year-old colt by Pulpit is 3-for-5 this year, taking an allowance race, the Gulfstream Park Handicap and the Met Mile. His other two races were disasters as the favorite in the Excelsior and the Suburban. That's him — one day brilliant, the next inexplicable. Kent Desormeaux, 1-for-2 on him, will try to figure it out in the Woodward.



Tod Marks

Political Force, shown here after winning the Suburban, could be a force in the Woodward.

"His last race was horrible, that's for sure," Jerkens said. "I'd like him to do something to make up for that. Has to run real good tomorrow to get back into the picture. I really don't know why (he ran badly). He lost some ground, he went out straight and then came back in. He lost more ground than I thought when I saw it the first time. I don't know, maybe he just doesn't want to go quite that far."

Corinthian tried 1 1/4 miles for the first time in the Suburban and faded in the worst performance of his career. The good news, he often follows a bad race with a breakout race.

"We missed a little blowout with him right close to the race, but I'd hate to think that could make that big of a difference. It's not like he wasn't running or in shape. He had run the month before that and the month before that and the month before that," Jerkens said. "He came back a little crampy, like his muscles might have seized up on him . . . maybe a reaction to the Lasix or something. You never know how they're going to react to the Lasix, not that we give him a lot, but sometimes if they're not hydrated enough it can cramp them up. I'm sure Lasix is beneficial, but I think that's why there's so much inconsistency in form now. You never know how they're going to react to it."

Corinthian handled Political Force, Lawyer Ron and Sun King in the Met Mile May 28. Desormeaux parked Corinthian wide before running down Lawyer Ron and holding off Political Force to win by three-quarters of a length for his fifth career score and first Grade I triumph.

"He got lucky because the rail was slow. He was in a perfect spot because he was drawing people up inside where the going was bad, yet Kent was able to herd the horses outside of him out a little bit," Jerkens said. "He kept heading them farther out. The rail was

bad — Belmont gets like that once in a while."

Corinthian usually stalks the lead, which should work perfectly for Desormeaux. The lone speed, Wanderin Boy, breaks one door over to his outside.

"I like that we have a dyed-in-the-wool front runner in there, it makes it easy," Jerkens said. "Jockeys don't have to be indecisive and ask 'well, do I go or don't I?' You know he'll be on the lead and then they can just get comfortable in behind him. I don't want to tell our jock much, he knows."

Spotting experience all around, Diamond Stripes lines up for his third consecutive Grade I attempt for trainer Richard Dutrow and jockey Edgar Prado. A 4-year-old gelded son of Notebook, Diamond Stripes won his first four starts before a decent third in the Stephen Foster and an even third in the Whitney.

Nick Zito entered his pair of consistent handicap horses, Sun King and Wanderin Boy. In a year's time, Sun King went from nearly taking down Invasor in the 2006 Whitney to beating one horse in the 2007 renewal. Zito takes the blinkers off the 5-year-old and puts Alan Garcia aboard. Wanderin Boy did the legwork for Lawyer Ron's track record, leading most of the way before finishing second. The 6-year-old son of Seeking The Gold, still seeks his first Grade I victory, after three runner-up finishes in the top tier. Rafael Bejarano gets the return call.

Millionaire Brass Hat returns from a disappointing effort in the Whitney. The 6-year-old gelding was never in contention that day, winding up eighth of 11. Trainer Buff Bradley put three solid 5-furlong drills into Brass Hat since the Whitney. Bradley wheeled Brass Hat into the Whitney, 20 days after setting a track record in his return from an injury. This time, he gets five weeks, but so do Lawyer Ron, Wanderin Boy, Diamond Stripes, Magna Graduate and Sun King.



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Stakes Analysis — The Woodward

The Special's Alan Mann gives detailed analysis of major stakes at Saratoga. The idea of these previews is to go through and make comments horse-by-horse and try to come up with a loose value line to guide the betting. Some horses get dismissed rather quickly, but this exercise can really help illuminate contenders and knock off vulnerable favorites.

The WOODWARD. Grade I. 1 1/8 miles. Grade I. Purse: \$500,000.

The Picks: Lawyer Ron, Magna Graduate, Wanderin Boy.

LAWYER RON: His record-setting performance in the Whitney had the skeptics scurrying to the replay screens with their stopwatches and the figure makers scratching their heads and splitting their variants in search of an explanation. But it was all legit — a breakout effort that he's long hinted he had in him. Now Todd Pletcher wheels him back under the same conditions, against many of the same opponents, and with a far-better post. The 4-year-old son of Langfuhr may not set another record today, but I'd bet he'll complete the Whitney-Woodward double at his 2-1 morning line.

DIAMOND STRIPES: Never finished out of the money, but has come up a bit short in his two Grade I tries. The son of Notebook followed Lawyer Ron's move around the turn in the Whitney and proved no match in the stretch. However, the Richard Dutrow trainee is making just his seventh career start and clearly has the most upside potential in the field. At 6-1 I'd be willing to wager that he can step it up today.

MAGNA GRADUATE: Seemed to have found a groove with two excellent efforts leading into the Whitney, but disappointed finishing sixth. He was pinned down on the inside all the way in the big field and he had to steady between horses late as well. This 5-year-old son of Honor Grades has bounced back from worse efforts than that, and has worked well since. He was the 4-1 favorite in the Whitney, and would be well worth a wager north of 6-1 here.

SUN KING: Still looking to regain his form of last year, and Nick Zito takes the blinkers off in an effort to wake him up. He was virtually eliminated at the start of the Whitney when he was pinched back. The son of Charismatic continues to train well; we know he has it in him, but I'd demand at least 20-1 to get on board.

CORINTHIAN: An enigma this year for trainer Jimmy Jerkens, he's been either very good or very bad. His most recent effort, sixth in the Suburban Handicap as the 3-2 choice, falls squarely in the latter category, but he defeated Lawyer Ron in the Met Mile prior to that. Hard to say what he'll do today over a track on which he lost at 3-5 in his only prior try. The ability is certainly there, but we'd need around 7-1 to roll the dice on the son of Pulpit coming up "very good" today.

WANDERIN BOY: Surprised at long odds when he set the pace and held on well enough to disappoint many exacta bettors in the Whitney. The son of Seeking The Gold looks to be the main speed again today, and if his Whitney effort heralds a return to his form of spring 2006, he could certainly hang on for at least a minor share once again. At 10-1, I'd be willing to bet that he'll be wanderin' over to the winner's circle

POLITICAL FORCE: This gray fellow has blossomed at age 4 for Allen Jerkens. The son of Unbridled's Song comes off three consecutive excellent efforts in graded stakes at Belmont, most recently his Grade I win in the mile and a quarter Suburban. However, he's never won a true two-turn race, and is winless in six tries over this track. Those are the main questions, as there's no doubting his sharp form at this time. Take a shot at 10-1.

BRASS HAT: Couldn't follow up on his record setting comeback at Churchill in July, showing little in the Whitney. It's certainly fair to surmise that

he bounced that day in his second race off his lengthy layoff. Trainer William Bradley ships the Prized gelding back up to New York after a series of drills at Churchill. Certainly capable of getting involved off his career best tries, so watch the board and consider taking a flyer at 25-1.

— Alan Mann

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He's Fine

Special care helps Corinthian stay on course for another Grade I try

BY JOE CLANCY

Got a tough job? No matter what you do for a living, it can't be anything like Tuba Elliott's day at the office today.

Elliott works for trainer Jimmy Jerkens and holds the big responsibility of keeping Corinthian together at the monitoring barn.

"Like nothing I ever see before," Elliott said when asked about the experience. "I have to go in the stall with him. I have to stay inside with him – he's just so strong, really so strong."

Sporting gray dreadlocks and a Caribbean accent that would make a hummingbird relax, Elliott used to work with Virginia Rapids, a horse trained by Jerkens' father Allen and one known for behavior issues. A winner of more than \$700,000, Corinthian goes one step better (or worse).

"He make Virginia look like child's play – I'm serious," said Elliott, a veteran of more than 20 years on the race-track. "Especially now, when he run in the Met Mile I think he was strong. Now he's like a lion, like a lion I tell you."

Not that Elliott or anyone else around Corinthian is complaining. Owned by Centennial Farm, the 4-year-old goes after his second Grade I win of the year in today's Woodward – a 1 1/8-mile test with a \$500,000 purse and a rock-solid field of eight. The 54-year-old stakes will be run as the 10th on an 11-race card that also features the Grade I Forego.

Jerkens frets about his horse, a son of Pulpit who has won half his 10 lifetime starts. Two races ago, he won the Metropolitan Mile over three of today's foes, and he tries to duplicate that effort today.

"He's very tough over there in that detention barn," said Jerkens. "You have to hold him out of the stall sometimes and you can't keep him in the stall other times. Tuba babysits him over there for six hours – the horse wears on the help and it wears on him too, but he's a pretty good horse. We just try to manage him. It's torture is what it is, but he's good and I'm hoping he runs good. He's training good."

Bred by Gracefield Equine and Hargus Sexton, Corinthian cost \$385,000 as a yearling in 2004. The next year, Centennial spent \$110,000 to buy the



Alyse Jacobs

Grade I winner Corinthian (left) and his little brother Vitruvius clown around Friday.

horse's half-brother from the same breeders. Named Vitruvius, the 3-year-old son of E Dubai is unbeaten in two starts (both this year) for Jerkens and is the 8-5 favorite for today's third race.

Like many brothers, Corinthian and Vitruvius are different and similar at the same time. They occupy stalls 17 and 18 in the Jerkens barn at Oklahoma and spent Friday morning eagerly watching the backside commotion as horses, vans, cars, trucks and people came and went. Feeding time was approaching and they were both hungry. They have the same "hey, what's that?" look and the same

"give me some" whinny.

But it ends there.

Corinthian: chestnut with a squiggly blaze that looks like it was produced by a balloon filled with white paint. Vitruvius: bay with a hint of a star.

Corinthian: shavings. Vitruvius: straw.

Corinthian: yoke screen. Vitruvius: webbing and single runner.

Corinthian: goofy, tongue-wagging head shake while begging for carrots. Vitruvius: not going to stoop to that nonsense.

See **CORINTHIAN** page 9 ►

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Corinthian —

■ Continued from page 8

Corinthian: pawing, digging, stall-walking (remember, it was feeding time and there were horses out on the path waiting to load onto a van). Vitruvius: standing around, munching hay and keeping an eye on things.

Jerkens considers the horses individuals, though he naturally compares them.

"I didn't really think anything of it, other than I thought it was interesting to hear they were buying a half-brother to Corinthian," said the trainer. "They don't look anything alike. All the horses get treated the same basically, but you learn about each one."

Vitruvius has not picked up any of his brother's bad habits.

"They're both anxious, not bad to where they have to get out at a certain time or anything like that," said Jerkens. "They both were hard to keep flesh on. They stayed very light when they were young, which a lot of horses do as 2-year-olds and into their 3-year-old years. Vitruvius is finally starting to get some bulk to him now."

And Vitruvius doesn't stress Elliott, who said: "The brother is very calm, but he has his time too — just not as much."

Corinthian, on the other hand, is a full-time job.

"I remember when he was a baby, one morning we were leaving for the track and his two front feet were over my head — and I'm 6' 1" and a half. I pat him and I say 'Boy, bless you,' because he could hurt me if he wanted to," said



Tod Marks

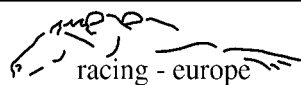
Corinthian streaks home with a win in the Met Mile at Belmont.

Elliott. "One morning I had the shank in his mouth after he worked and he knocked me right down. I dropped everything and he was free. I say 'Don't go nowhere' to him and he stayed right there. He looked at me, didn't go anywhere. He waited for me to pick up the shank again."

"He's not really mean, he's playing — I've been working here three years and he's a special horse. I love him. People tell me to be careful. I'm careful, but I know him. It's a good thing he can't speak man, because he would have a lot to say."

Sallee Horse Vans

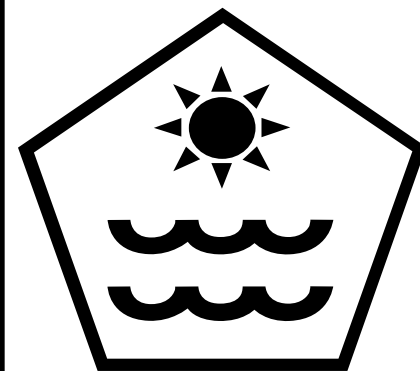
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Flying Finish

Late-season sprint stakes creates friendly foes, grand opportunity

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Terry Finley sat in Kieran McLaughlin's office early Friday morning, reading over the *Daily Racing Form* page on today's Grade I, \$250,000 Forego Stakes.

Finley, of West Point Thoroughbreds, had just watched his charge High Finance put in some final preparations for trainer Rick Violette. And McLaughlin was thinking about his Forego runner Praying For Cash.

A visitor leaned in and asked McLaughlin, "Can you beat this guy tomorrow?"

Like any 21st century trainer, McLaughlin has learned to juggle a cell phone, a condition book, a laptop – and owners.

Playing a one-man see-saw, he deftly handled his response: "I don't know, I certainly think he has the horse to beat in there."

McLaughlin and Finley have partnered to race at the game's highest level this year with Flashy Bull and Lear's Princess, but today, they are adversaries. McLaughlin sends out Praying For Cash, with an eye on High Finance.

Owned by Randy Hartley, Dean De Renzo and Bobby Hurley (of Duke bas-

FOREGO STAKES PREVIEW

ketball fame), Praying For Cash enters the Forego off arguably the best performance of his career. The 4-year-old son of Songandaprayer was sent to McLaughlin earlier this spring and made his first start for the barn July 13 in an allowance/optional claiming race at Belmont Park. Under Garrett Gomez, Praying For Cash went to the front immediately and widened while in hand, cruising by 5 1/4 lengths, running the 6 1/2 furlongs in 1:15.24. The nine-month layoff made the race even more impressive.

"He always trained that way in the mornings," McLaughlin said. "We had him up at Saratoga (prior to the Belmont start) with my brother (Neal) and he was doing great."

Shortly after the Belmont score, McLaughlin mapped out a plan to get Praying For Cash to the Forego.

"He likes his races spaced out and the Forego was our main goal," McLaughlin said. "He has come up to the race great; we really haven't missed a beat with him."

McLaughlin also trains Like Now, who drew the rail, but will scratch in



Tod Marks

Chatain could give Lazy F Ranch a victory in the Forego while wearing Forego's silks.

favor of an allowance race. That leaves Praying For Cash as the inside horse. Jockey Kent Desormeaux may have to use Praying For Cash's speed to secure position and not get run over as the field heads down the backstretch.

"The draw isn't ideal, that's for sure," McLaughlin said. "I don't really know what will happen. We just have to break and see from there. He has a lot of speed and Kent will have to find a position with him."

Unlike Praying For Cash, High Finance drew favorably toward the out-

side which will allow jockey John Velazquez to see the rest of the field. High Finance has come into his own in his last two starts, a pair of Belmont scores; an allowance and the Grade II Tom Fool July 4.

While High Finance showed signs of brilliance early in his career, Violette often found it difficult to get the son of Talk Is Money to maintain that level. Impressive allowance romps were sandwiched around stakes disappointments.

See **FOREGO** page 12 ►



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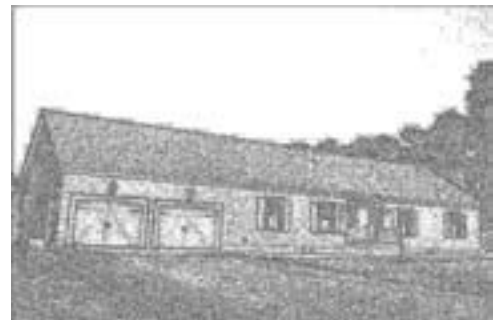
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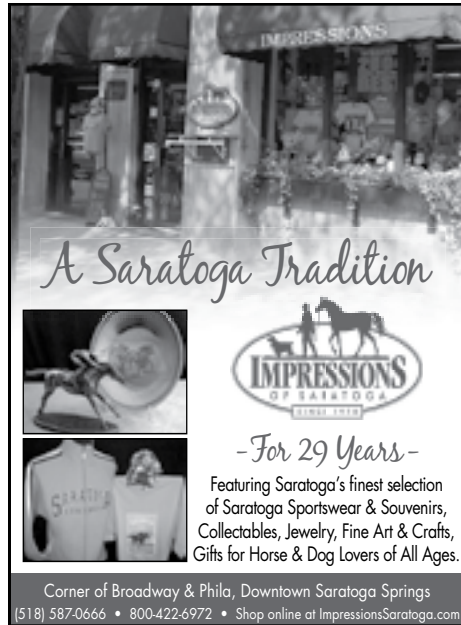
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Forego —

■ Continued from page 10

High Finance blitzed allowance foes in a 1-mile Belmont race May 27 and the horse produced another top effort in the Tom Fool July 4. Dueling with the fleet and heavily favored Commentator while down on the inside, High Finance put that rival away turning for home and drew off to a 2 3/4-length score.

"It's been a little frustrating that at first we weren't able to get him to run big races back-to-back, but obviously his last two races were very impressive," Violette said. "I think a bit of it is maturity and also it took us a little time to figure it out, but he needs time between his races."



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Like McLaughlin, Violette circled the Forego early.

"After the Tom Fool we marked the Forego down and, knock on wood, he hasn't had any issues along the way. We pointed for this race and he is coming up to it perfectly," Violette said. "He's doing great, I wouldn't change a thing. I think the post helps us. It allows John to gauge things off the break and go from there."

Chatain poses a major threat in the Forego, provided he starts. Plagued by foot issues much of the year, he impressively won an allowance race here Aug. 6, his first start in more than three months. Trained by Angel Penna Jr. for Forego's owner Lazy F Ranch, Chatain has been fitted with a special shoe in which he trained Friday morning. Leading rider Cornelio Velasquez has the mount.

"He galloped good today (Friday) with the shoe on," Penna said. "Right now it's up in the air. I can't say he's 100 percent if he will run or not, we'll know more this afternoon and in the morning. If he can't go it's too bad; he's a really nice horse."

Bob Baffert has won four races at the meet, all with 2-year-olds. In the Forego,

he sends out 4-year-old Midnight Lute, with Edgar Prado. Off since a disappointing run as the heavy favorite in Keeneland's Grade II Commonwealth in April, Midnight Lute could sit a perfect trip. With Praying For Cash and High Finance assuring an honest pace, Prado could be in the right position turning for home. From there it will up to Midnight Lute to prove he is Grade I caliber. Earlier this spring he traded paint with Brother Derek and Awesome Gem in Santa Anita's Strub Series.

The second-, third-, and fourth-place finishers from the July 28 Alfred G. Vanderbilt return.

Attila's Storm leads the contingent, after running a game second to Diabolical. Trained by Rick Schosberg, Attila's Storm ended a four-month layoff in that race and ran one of his best races in the Vanderbilt; he dueled on the lead with Commentator, put that rival away turning for home, and fought favored Diabolical to the wire before losing by a half-length. With Rafael Bejarano aboard, Attila's Storm should help ensure a quick pace.

Simon Pure looms an interesting longshot for trainer Steve Asmussen and Garrett Gomez. Third in the Vanderbilt



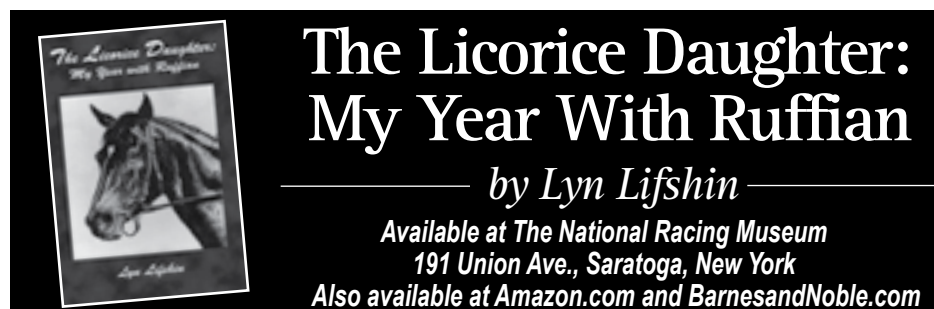
Alyse Jacobs

Simon Pure could be a player in the Forego.

(beaten 1 3/4 lengths by Attila's Storm), he looks to be rounding into form after a winter and spring freshening. Look for him late.

Benny The Bull rounds out the Vanderbilt triumvirate. Fourth (a neck behind Simon Pure), he makes his second start for trainer Rick Dutrow but is winless in three attempts at 7 furlongs. Mark Guidry, aboard for Benny The Bull's previous two wins, comes in for the mount.

Awesome Twist (Mike Luzzi) for trainer John Kimmel, How's Your Halo (Alan Garcia) for Brian Prichard, and Executive Search (Channing Hill) for Rodrigo Ubilo round out the field.



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Stakes Analysis — The Forego

The Special's Alan Mann gives detailed analysis of major stakes at Saratoga. The idea of these previews is to go through and make comments horse-by-horse and try to come up with a loose value line to guide the betting. Some horses get dismissed rather quickly, but this exercise can really help illuminate contenders and knock off vulnerable favorites.

The Forego. Grade I. 7 furlongs. 3&Up. Purse: \$250,000.
The Picks: Chatain, Attila's Storm, High Finance.

LIKE NOW: Took an allowance race here early in the meet against just three rivals, including Wednesday winner Southern Missile, and has worked very well since. That was his first win since last year's Gotham, an effort which prompted Kiaran McLaughlin to put him on the Triple Crown Trail. But despite his subsequent second to Showing Up in the Lexington (on the then-speed favoring Keeneland track) he's never run back to that effort at Aqueduct. He'll have to do so and more, especially from the rail with some serious speed outside. Like 30-1.

PRAYING FOR CASH: No, you're not seeing double. This 4-year-old is also trained by McLaughlin, and also recently got his first win since last year while facing just three others. This son of Songandandaprayer, however, did so with a career-best effort. He's also shown an ability to rate and close that he'll surely need to display here. Praying for 20-1.

AWESOME TWIST: Proved to be ill-suited for 9-furlong Whitney, and turns back to the distance at which he closed for second to High Finance in the Tom Fool. He needs a fast pace, and though he figures to get one, it may not be quite as sizzling without Commentator. Certainly fits toward the bottom of tickets, but as far as a win bet goes, 25-1 would be awesome.

BENNY THE BULL: Hinted at ability during an inconsistent 3-year-old season in 2006. But this son of the \$2,500 sire Lucky Lionel has come charging hard this year for Richard Dutrow and posted two giant speed figures in spring victories. Certainly wasn't disgraced running fourth in the Vanderbilt here, but he won't often get a better setup than he did that day, with a lightning pace to run at and a rail-hugging trip. The seventh furlong here is a question mark too and I wouldn't bet to win at anything less than 12-1.

HOW'S YOUR HALO: Put in some fine efforts last year, including a close second in a Calder stakes. He's yet to run back to that effort, with only a sloppy-track win from four starts this year. The son of Halo could add some

more speed to the equation on the expected fast track, but we'd need at least 50-1 to bet that he'd hang on.

SIMON PURE: Son of Silver Deputy is 2-for-2 at the distance — an in-hand romp in a Churchill allowance two races back, as well as a similar heat last year here at the Spa. Finished OK for third in the shorter Vanderbilt, and should only benefit from the extra furlong today. He's a consistent mid-pack closer who should get a pace to run at, and looks like a must-use in exotics. For the win spot, Simon says 15-1.

ATTILA'S STORM: Emulated the likely race favorite by taking it right to the speedy Commentator, and not only surviving, but going on to run huge. His gritty second to Diabolical in the 6-panel Vanderbilt may not quite be the equal of High Finance's dazzling Tom Fool (at today's distance) but it was his first race since March. He's run quite well second off the layoff, including wins in the Fall Highweight Handicap in 2005 and the Grade III Toboggan last year and he's trained by the hot Richard Schosberg. Son of Forest Wildcat may prefer 6 furlongs, but he'd be worth a shot at 6-1.

MIDNIGHT LUTE: Idle since a disappointing effort in the Grade II Commonwealth on the Poly at Keeneland, and we know how much Bob Baffert loves the synthetic surfaces. But the trainer is loving it here, and so apparently is the horse, as shown by his blistering half-mile work Monday. The 4-year old son of Real Quiet likes the distance and should be coming late if he gets the pace he needs. Value at 5-1.

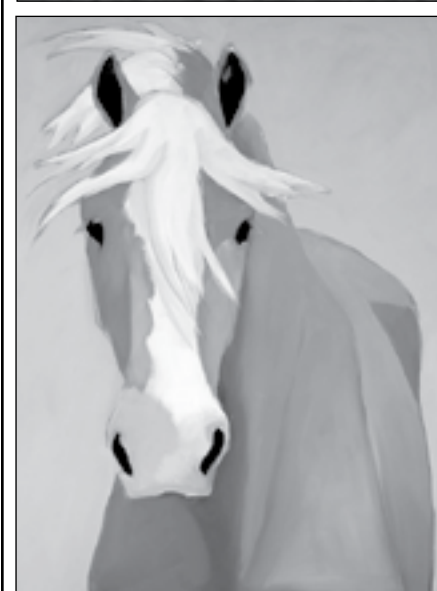
CHATAIN: Scored a stylish win under a confident ride by Cornelio Velasquez Aug. 6. The meet's leading rider kept a little in the tank for this engagement, easing the son of Forest Wildcat up near the wire. The effort marked his return to one-turn races, at which he's lost only to Showing Up in four tries. If it's also a harbinger of a return to the form of his game win in the Hal's Hope, he could be a big factor in the final yards. His 5-1 morning line seems like a fair bet.

HIGH FINANCE: Has had nearly two months to recover from his two huge efforts at Belmont, most recently his win in the Tom Fool. Despite dropping back a bit on the turn after battling the speed that day, he unleashed a powerful kick once he changed leads in the stretch and motored away from the field. He loves the downstate strip, but he won at 7 furlongs here last year. He'll have Attila's Storm to contend with but has the edge over that rival with three wins at the distance. I'd help finance your wagers at 5-2.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH: Hasn't been able to handle entry-level allowance company of late, but it's at least worth noting that this will be his fourth start of the meeting. I'll look for something north of 100 to 1.

— Alan Mann

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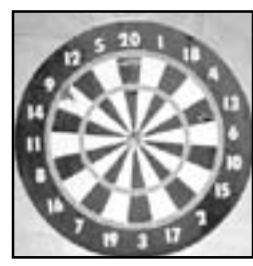
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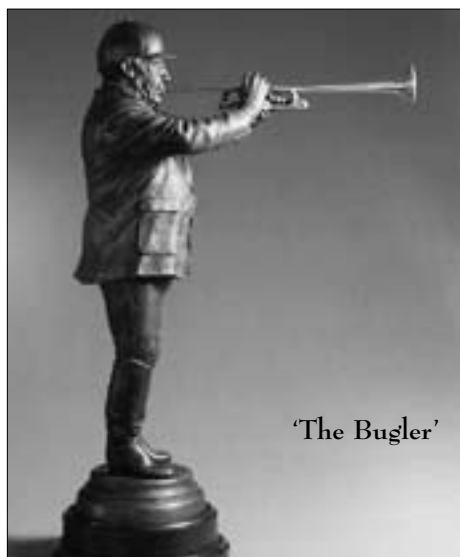


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3	Brilliant Son Vitruvius Americanus	Americanus Starbase Vitruvius	Brilliant Son Americanus Vitruvius	Leo Mint Slewlep My Golden Opinion
4	Zito entry Tizbig A New Day	A Diehl Anewday Tizbig	Monsieur Pepp Zito entry Anewday	Anewday Zito entry Monsieur Pepp
5	Town Doc Senor Musician Stepaside	Senior Musician Howdyamissthisone Dubliner	Howdyamissthisone Dubliner Senor Musician	Howdyamissthisone Stepaside Sir Cryptomite
6	Diamond Tough Marscaponi Cobre	Hussonfirst Russian Sage Diamond Tough	Rice entry Cobre Friendly Freud	Ode To Revolution One Diamond Rule Seventy Six
7	Admiral Bird Chasing The Crown Irving's Doers	Admiral Bird Chasing the Crown Irving Doers	Admiral Bird Platinum Couple Irving's Doers	Good Going Darl Chasing The Crown Bethpage Black
8	Flying Sappho Duchess Of Rokeby Breezing	Off Sweets Duchess Of Rokeby Heavenly Anna	Zip Of Fools Breezing Panicking Petunia	Sweet Victory Twistaway Panicking Petunia
9	Chatain Midnight Lute High Finance	Chatain Attila's Storm High Finance	Awesome Twist High Finance Midnight Lute	Attila's Storm Awesome Twist Praying For Cash
10	Diamond Stripes Lawyer Ron Political Force	Lawyer Ron Magna Graduate Wanderin Boy	Diamond Stripes Lawyer Ron Political Force	Corinthian Political Force Lawyer Ron
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3	3	Sinkwich	Velasquez C	Alexander Frank	12-1
4	4	Chief Operator	Prado E S	Albertrani Tom	6-1
5	5	Count On Pal	Rojas R I	Russo Frank	12-1
6	6	Delta Storm	Desormeaux K J...	Reinacher Jr Rob	8-1
7	7	Defrizz	Samyn J L	Freeman Mike	30-1
8	8	Sweet Grass Creek	Luzzi M J	Toscano Jr John	20-1
9	9	Our Friend Harvey	Garcia Alan	Hills Timo	15-1
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Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

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

1	7	Pick Off	Velazquez J R	Zito Nick	5-2
1A	9	Web Gem	Gomez G K	Zito Nick	5-2
2	1	Honour Above Self	Chavez J F	Jerkens Allen	15-1
3	2	Golden Weekend	Prado E S	Martin Carlos	6-1
4	3	Sir Jock	Guidry M	Romans Dale	10-1
5	4	And a Gentleman	Garcia Alan	Toner Jimmy	8-1
6	5	Lord and T.	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne	20-1
7	6	Aqab	Luzzi M J	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	5-1
8	8	Saada	Desormeaux K J...	Mott Bill	2-1

A-Coupled: Pick Off and Web Gem

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

3RD (2:04) 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$69,000.

1	1	Owners Manual	Garcia Alan	Frankel Bobby	5-1
2	2	Mint Slewlep	Hill C	Bailes Robert	20-1
3	3	Brilliant Son	Bejarano R	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	9-2
4	4	Vitruvius	Desormeaux K J...	Jerkens Jimmy	8-5
5	5	Leo (GB)	Prado E S	bin Suroor Saeed ..	12-1
6	6	Americanus	Velazquez J R	Contessa Gary	4-1
7	7	My Golden Opinion	Guidry M	Harty Eoin	8-1
8	8	Starbase	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne	10-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

4TH (2:36) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	1	Truth Rules	Garcia Alan	Zito Nick	7-2
1A	5	Sam's Passion	Gomez G K	Zito Nick	7-2
2	2	Vacation	Velazquez J R	McGaughey Shug ..	9-2
3	3	Anewday	Bejarano R	Matz Michael	3-1
4	4	Winged Warrior	Hill C	Clement Christophe ..	15-1
5	6	Sweet Sugar	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne	15-1
6	7	A Diehl	Bridgmohan S X...	Arnold Rusty	8-1
7	8	Hyrule	Desormeaux K J...	Mott Bill	8-1
8	9	Tizbig	Chavez J F	Jerkens Allen	10-1
9	10	Monsieur Pepp	Prado E S	Biancone Patrick	5-1

A-Coupled: Truth Rules and Sam's Passion

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

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

1	1	Stepaside	Luzzi M J	Voss Tom	15-1
2	2	Senor Musician	Garcia Alan	Ritvo Tim	4-1
3	3	You Sure	Chavez J F	Baker Charlton	10-1
4	4	Howdyamissthisone ..	Velasquez C	Serey Jua	7-2
5	5	Town Doc	Rojas R I	Cedano Heriberto ..	12-1
6	6	Jelly Roll Rumble	Gomez G K	Duggan David	6-1
7	7	Tobruk	Guidry M	Sciacca Gary	12-1
8	8	Dubliner	Prado E S	Donk David	5-2
9	9	Sir Cryptomite	Hill C	Schettino Dominick ..	50-1
10	10	Distinctive Sandy	Velazquez J R	Albertrani Tom	10-1
11	AE	Victory Assured	Desormeaux K J...	Hennig Mark	10-1
12	AE	Dr. D. F. C.	Hill C	Ubillo Rodrigo	12-1
13	AE	Love Mert	Bejarano R	Gyarmati Leah	20-1
14	AE	Bulle Rock	Bracetty J A	Bowers John	50-1
15	MTO	Fiddlers Warrior	Desormeaux K J...	Contessa Gary	5-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (5-7)

6TH (3:40) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	4	Hussonfirst	Velasquez C	Rice Linda	3-1
1A	AE	Grey Expression	Bejarano R	Rice Linda	3-1
2	1	Russian Sage	Prado E S	Ritvo Tim	10-1
3	2	Rule Seventy Six	Bejarano R	Duggan David	12-1
4	3	Diamond Tough	Gomez G K	Ward Wesley	9-2
5	5	Marscaponi	Bridgmohan S X...	Cedano Heriberto ..	15-1
6	6	Cobre	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	5-1
7	7	One Diamond	Rojas R I	Galluscio Dominic ..	8-1
8	8	Friendly Freud	Desormeaux K J...	Contessa Gary	4-1
9	9	Thanks Dad	Chavez J F	Schettino Dominick ..	20-1
10	10	Ode to Revolution	Garcia Alan	Hills Tim	12-1
11	AE	Another Gulch	Garcia Alan	Bush Tom	6-1
12	AE	Strategic Battle	Chavez J F	Rowland Paul	15-1
13	AE	Schifty's Big Al	Hill C	Lecesse Michael	20-1
14	MTO	Rollers	Prado E S	Tagg Barclay	2-1

A-Coupled: Hussonfirst and Grey Expression

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

7TH (4:12) 1 MILE. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 30,000. PURSE \$64,000.

1	1	Drinkwater	Guidry M	Barbara Robert	15-1
2	2	Chasing the Crown	Velazquez J R	Ward Wesley	3-1
3	3	Platinum Couple	Bridgmohan S X...	Lostritto Joseph	12-1
4	4	Good Going Darl	Velasquez C	Stoklosa Richard	8-1
5	5	Irving's Doers	Garcia Alan	Bush Tom	10-1
6	6	My Apology	Bejarano R	Dutrow Richard	8-1
7	7	Drizzly	Rojas R I	Quick Patrick	20-1
8	8	Moon Ala Mode	Hill C	Hushion Mike	6-1
9	9	Bethpage Black	Desormeaux K J...	Contessa Gary	20-1
10	10	Admiral Bird	Prado E S	Clement Christophe ..	2-1
11	AE	Texas Elegance	Bejarano R	Hough Stan	4-1
12	AE	Mister McGath	Bracetty J A	O'Brien Keith	20-1
13	AE	Couth	Velasquez C	Hernandez Mike	15-1
14	AE	Yankee Thunder	Gomez G K	Frankel Bobby	5-2
15	AE	Prince Raffie	Guidry M	Turetsky Judy	20-1
16	MTO	Seeking the Money	No rider	Everett Scott	8-1

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

8TH (4:44) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$61,000.

1	10	Off Sweets	Velasquez C	Rice Linda	3-1
1A	AE	Karakorum Elektra	Garcia Alan	Rice Linda	3-1
2	1	Flying Sappho	Morales P	O'Brien Keith	15-1
3	2	Panicking Petunia	Luzzi M J	Carroll II Del	8-1
4	3	Duchess of Rokeby ..	Chavez J F	Jerkens Allen	8-1
5	4	Breezing	Samyn J L	Clement Christophe ..	6-1
6	5	Sweet Victory	Bracetty J A	Kelly Pat	30-1
7	6	Zip of Fools	Gomez G K	Pugh Peter	15-1
8	7	Twistaway	Garcia Alan	Terranova II John ..	10-1
9	8	Precious Too	Hill C	Bailes Robert	20-1
10	9	Second Marriage	Velazquez J R	Contessa Gary	8-1
11	11	Heavenly Anna	Bejarano R	Galluscio Dominic ..	5-1
12	12	Positive Charge	Guidry M	Pregman Jr John	12-1
13	AE	Siempre Verde	Rojas R I	Aquilino Joe	20-1
14	MTO	Regal Playtime	Guidry M	Reynolds Pat	4-1

A-Coupled: Off Sweets and Karakorum Elektra

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 4 (8-11)

9TH (5:16) THE FOREGO (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. PURSE \$250,000.

1	1	Like Now	Bravo J	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	15-1
2	2	Praying for Cash	Desormeaux K J...	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	12-1
3	3	Awesome Twist	Luzzi M J	Kimmel John	8-1
4	4	Benny the Bull	Guidry M	Dutrow Richard	10-1
5	5	How's Your Halo	Garcia Alan	Prichard Brian	30-1
6	6	Simon Pure	Gomez G K	Asmussen Steve	12-1
7	7	Attila's Storm	Bejarano R	Schosberg Rick	6-1
8	8	Midnight Lute	Prado E S	Baffert Bob	6-1
9	9	Chatain	Velasquez C	Penna Angel	5-1
10	10	High Finance	Velazquez J R	Violette Rick	2-1
11	11	Executive Search	Hill C	Ubillo Rodrigo	50-1

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

10TH (5:49) THE WOODWARD (GR. I). 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. PURSE \$500,000.

1	1	Lawyer Ron	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	2-1
2	2	Diamond Stripes	Prado E S	Dutrow Richard	4-1
3	3	Magna Graduate	Gomez G K	Pletcher Todd	5-1
4	4	Sun King	Garcia Alan	Zito Nick	15-1
5	5	Corinthian	Desormeaux K J...	Jerkens Jimmy	9-2
6	6	Wanderin Boy	Bejarano R	Zito Nick	6-1
7	7	Political Force	Velasquez C	Jerkens Allen	10-1
8	8	Brass Hat	Martinez W	Bradley William	15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

11TH (6:20) 1 3/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

1	8	Baletti	Bridgmohan S X...	Violette Rick	15-1
1A	AE	Hostile Takeover	Bridgmohan S X...	Violette Rick	15-1
2	1	Senor Squall	Chavez J F	Romans Dale	20-1
3	2	Stalingrad	Hill C	Hushion Mike	20-1
4	3	Schoolboy (GER)	Garcia Alan	Callejas Bernardo ..	12-1
5	4	Inquisitive	Velazquez J R	McGaughey Shug ..	10-1
6	5	Youbethecan	Gomez G K	Dollase Wally	15-1
7	6	Equitable	Desormeaux K J...	Mott Bill	2-1
8	7	Pure Revenge	Guidry M	Tagg Barclay	15-1
9	9	Grand Strike	Bejarano R	Motion Graham	6-1
10	10	Dynaski	Luzzi M J	Bond James	10-1
11	11	Kaishu	Geroux F	Biancone Patrick ..	12-1
12	12	Uncle Indy	Velasquez C	Penna Angel	5-1
13	AE	Riz Sauvage	Rojas R I	Quick Patrick	20-1
14	AE	Nationbuilder	Prado E S	Sheppard Jonathan ..	12-1
15	AE	Terror On Track	Gomez G K	McPeek Ken	9-2

A-Coupled: Baletti and Hostile Takeover

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

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Saturday's Detailed Analysis

RACE 1: EVER A FRIEND has gotten in trouble in his last two. There's no guarantee he'll avoid it this time (breaking from a wide post) but he is improving on form and figures and might warrant a bet in a race that will hopefully have an honest pace. REDEFINED finished ahead of the top one last time and could threaten. He had an easier trip that day so he goes underneath. I'm guessing SOUTHERN PRINCE will have more company on the front end and could be compromised but does have the right post; I could see saving with him.

RACE 2: The Nick Zito entry of PICK OFF and WEB GEM each have angles, besides the *Baseball Tonight* names. The former might appreciate the added distance and the latter could carry his speed farther after being bet to favoritism for the debut. AND A GENTLEMAN probably wasn't expected to win first-out and is another who ought to enjoy the extra distance. SAADA owns the best figure of the ones who've run and goes for top connections.

RACE 3: BRILLIANT SON ran a big one early in the meet, a figure that got some validation when Grand Champion came back to win. The 4-year-old has run well in longer sprints before and has a big chance. VITRUVIUS is super-talented but also surrounded by question marks; I'll be checking him in the tote and paddock almost like a first-time starter. AMERICANUS owns some big numbers and was second in a Grade II over the surface last time.

RACE 4: This is a split of the second race and I see it the same way, with the Zito entry on top. SAM'S PASSION was second to the ultra-impressive Maimonides and TRUTH RULES has an intriguing pedigree. TIZBIG has a couple of nice looking works and the master can have them ready. ANEWDAY is a million-dollar baby with the pedigree to go along with the price tag.

RACE 5: TOWN DOC showed speed in his first turf start last time and that could be a good sign. This barn had backers' hearts racing with a 40-1 shot on the lead turning for home Thursday. SENOR MUSICIAN has run second in each of his two Empire-bred turf routes and has a chance to break through here. Tom Voss has only had one firster winner in the last five years but that was Rowdy, who broke her maiden right here at Saratoga. Check the board for signs of life with STEPASIDE.

RACE 6: Wesley Ward is a firster specialist and he sends out DIAMOND TOUGH, whose pedigree suggests he should be precocious and might like the turf. MARSCAPONI is one I'll have a long look at as I've been trying to get this barn home all meet and the worktab looks OK. Seth Benzel, one of Todd Pletcher's assistants, owns COBRE. I don't know if that will help him win but it's an angle in a race that handicapped properly without the aid of the tote and paddock.

RACE 7: ADMIRAL BIRD was just a head from making this condition to Banrock, who's a pretty good one, and has a great shot to get the win in his third race of the form cycle. Tough to use the top one without CHASING THE CROWN, who finished right behind him last time; he'll be on the tickets as well. IRVING'S DOERS might need the race but has some form that suggests he can compete.

RACE 8: FLYING SAPPHO has done her best work turf sprinting and could improve on the cutback in her second start of the meet. DUCHESS OF ROKEYBY improved in her first turf start and that win was validated when the runner-up came back to win. BREEZING tries turf for the first time and has a pedigree that suggests she might like it.

RACE 9: CHATAIN impressed earlier in the meet and has some big races to run back to from this winter in Florida. Like so many Bob Baffert runners, MIDNIGHT LUTE appears to hate the synthetic stuff. A big chance to rebound for this outfit in a race where there should be enough pace to set up his run. HIGH FINANCE has run holes in the wind in his last two and has been pointing for this. He's got a massive chance with the only real concern being the price.

RACE 10: DIAMOND STRIPES ran well last time in a race where nobody was getting to LAWYER RON. Could have room for a little more improvement and perhaps my third pick will come back to the pack a bit. As for Lawyer Ron, I have no real knock but I do feel that some regression to the mean might be in order and I can't imagine he'll be any price. POLITICAL FORCE is just three-quarters of a length from being on a two-race Grade I win streak. I respect this talented dude and he should be a solid price; only his local mark and the layoff keep me from putting him higher but he'll be on some tickets.

RACE 11: EQUITABLE disappointed at short odds last time but had trouble and has a good chance to make amends. YOUTHETHECAN has some turf in the pedigree and goes out for a very shrewd outfit, which I especially like on the weeds. GRAND STRIKE has a win in the form book over the top one and could be expected to improve again for another barn I love on turf.

— Pete Fornatale

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A Now Horse

Biancone 2-year-old shines in a turf stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

Patrick Biancone knew he wasn't doing the right thing when he fired up Nownownow for a Keeneland 2-year-old debut. The bay colt nearly pulled it off, closing 4 lengths in the last call to finish second. That effort was so promising, Biancone ran Nownownow two more times at Churchill Downs where he finished second and fourth.

After that, Biancone and owner Fabien Ouaki (Fab Oak Stable) – who owns Nownownow's sire Whywhywhy (say that 10 times fast) – decided to give Nownownow a chance and point for the With Anticipation Stakes at Saratoga.

Nownownow relished the 10-week break and the switch to turf, rolling home in the \$83,250 stakes to draw off by 3 lengths over the Zayat Stable's entry of Zee Zee and Sherine. Julien Leparoux dropped Nownownow well off the pace, lagging in seventh before sneaking up the rail and splitting the Zayat pair



Tod Marks

Nownownow (right) pulls away in the stretch of Friday's feature, the P.G. Johnson/With Anticipation.

to finish the 1 1/16 over firm turf in 1:41.26.

After the race, Biancone leaned on the clubhouse railing, smoked a cigarette and explained the nature of horse racing today.

"We ran him early because we try to promote Whywhywhy, my owner owns a big piece of the horse and he nearly won first time out, then he was very unlucky the second time and then you know what happens when you miss your race, you try one more time and you mess up a little bit. If he wasn't by Whywhywhy and we were trying to win something early, he would never have run until now."

Having said that, Biancone recognizes that Nownownow nearly won his debut at Keeneland, just running out of ground going 4 1/2 furlongs over the Polytrack.

"One more jump and he wins at Keeneland," Biancone said. "We've known for a long time that he's a good horse, there was no question about that, but now we've found the right surface and the right distance. He didn't want to sprint, he ran 4 1/2 and then 5 furlongs, he wants to come from way back. He needed two turns. He's a nice horse, we just had to wait for his day."

Friday was certainly his day. The racing office combined the With Anticipation and the P.G. Johnson (its counterpart for fillies) and ended up with a competitive field of nine. Zee Zee and Sherine would have finished one-two in the Johnson, instead they were inhaled by Nownownow. The fillies wound up second, third, fifth

See **FRIDAY STAKES** page 21 ►

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Friday stakes —

■ Continued from page 20

and eighth.

"I had a lot of horse going all the way around," Leparoux said. "I got a really good trip. I was all the way on the inside and turning into the straight I got a little shot to go on the outside of Kent (Desormeaux aboard Zee Zee) and when I made the move we got close so I decided to go inside and I got away inside, so I got lucky too. Speed was playing good today but my horse was not too far back; maybe 3 or 4 lengths and I had plenty of horse. His experience helped him today. He really liked the turf. I rode him at 4 1/2 and 5 furlongs and every time he was coming but a little bit late."

Sent off as the 6-1 fifth choice in the nine-horse field, Nownownow entered as the only horse in the race without any turf experience. Well, other than two breezes this summer over the Oklahoma turf, including a bullet work Aug. 13. He went a half-mile that day in 47 1/5 seconds.

"I was not surprised. My client won this race with Stream Cat two years ago, and he said 'we won it before, I like this race, let's try to win it again,'" Biancone said. "He's out of a French mother, it's all grass. His brother (Kaishu, by Spinning World) runs on Saturday, he's just a horse. He doesn't go on the dirt. He doesn't go on the Polytrack. He only goes on the turf. The mare produced one nice stakes horse in France. She's not a bad mare, from the old Niarchos family. That's never bad."



Patrick Biancone

Biancone has been impressed with Whywhywhy's offspring thus far. A winner of the Sanford at Saratoga, Whywhywhy's first crop are 2-year-olds this year. A son of Mr. Greeley, Whywhywhy sired maiden runner-up Night-nightnight, who finished second in a photo Sunday for Biancone. The trainer runs the highly regarded Hopehope Sunday.

"I think Whywhywhy's going to be like his father," Biancone said. "If you breed a turf mare, he'll give you a turf horse. If you breed a dirt mare, he'll give you a dirt horse. If you breed a sprinter mare, he'll give you a sprinter. I've got three good ones which is surprising from a sire that stands for \$7,500 and didn't get a lot of mares his first year."

Biancone will point Nownownow for the new Breeders' Cup race for turf juveniles.

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Cocktail Hour

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Twilight Friday got off to an exciting start when Sunset Cocktail (\$61) arrived on the scene late to win a blanket in the first, an allowance/optional claimer for state-breds. Trained by Derek Ryan and ridden by Eibar Coa, Sunset Cocktail entered off a disappointing run under these conditions Aug. 6. Sitting well off the early pace, Coa had Sunset Cocktail moving turning for home and they made the last move the winning move to get up over Strong Presence by a neck. Owned by Tom Cullen and Daniel McKillop, Sunset Cocktail won for the fourth time in 11 starts.

- Friendslikethese (\$8.10) proved the right first-time starter (there were five) in the second, a state-bred maiden-claimer. Ridden by Edgar Prado for trainer Rick Dutrow and Gerson Racing, Friendslikethese showed a series of 5-furlong gate works from Dutrow's home base, Aqueduct. Prado had Friendslikethese stalking in fourth before engaging the leaders turning for home. Challenging fellow-firster Fighter Ace in mid-stretch, they edged clear late to score by a half-length.

- Beau Dare, owned by Walts David Stable, made the third her own race within a race, rocketing to the



Tod Marks

Sunset Cocktail (8) gets up just in time to win Friday's opener, the start of a twilight card.

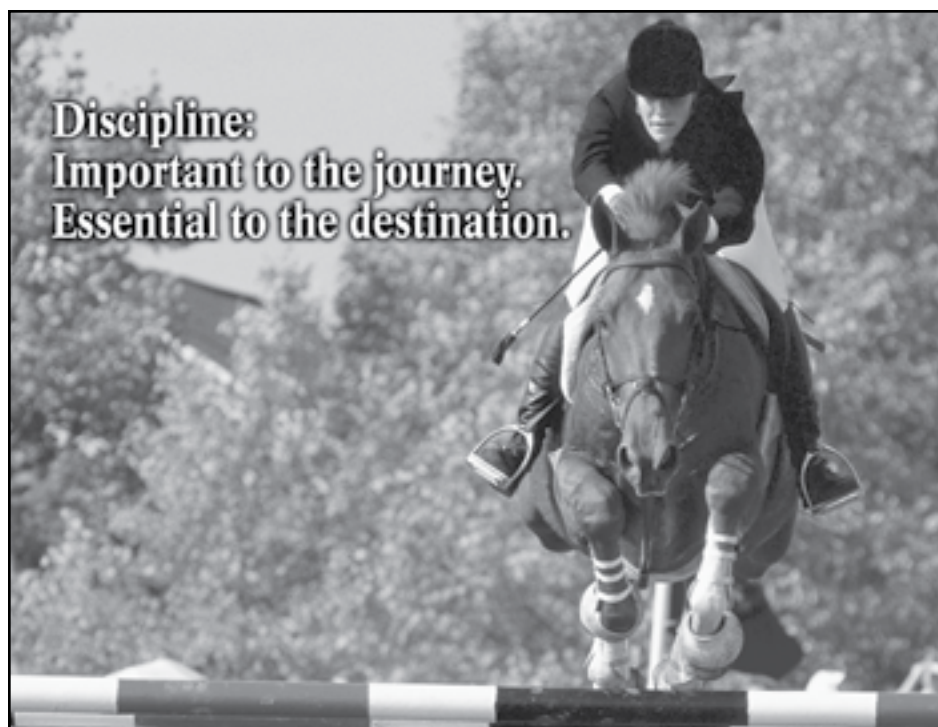
lead under Ramon Dominguez and never looking back, scoring by 4 1/2 lengths over Sweet Ransom. Trained by Bruce Levine, Beau Dare had mixed results from two previous turf outings this year; a second and a sixth. Friday Dominguez left little to chance when he assumed command through a wicked half-mile in 44.35 seconds with Sweet Ransom and Zaynab giving futile chase. The final time over the 5 1/2 furlongs was 1:01.47, just 2/5 off the track record.

"It really didn't surprise me that she showed that much early speed. We ran her at Belmont and she ran really well, then the last time she wasn't 100 percent," Levine said. "We were going to enter her in a mile race and it didn't end up going, and I was happy. The 5 1/2 race came up today and I said to the owner 'let's try

that.' I thought all along she wanted to sprint; she's fast. She turned the corner since her last start and in the last week speed seems to be really playing well on these turf sprints."

- Prior to Opening Day, Ramon Dominguez was content as a big fish in a small pond, riding at his home-base of Delaware Park where his exploits have become legendary. And then his agent Steve Rushing called with an idea. Why not head north to Saratoga and ride the meet? Why not indeed? With three racing days left, Dominguez finds himself in third place in arguably the toughest and deepest jockey colony ever assembled, having ridden 28 winners.

See **FRIDAY** page 24 ►



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

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

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Hurricane Annie (right) streaks toward the finish in Friday's fifth, the first of two wins on the day for trainer Linda Rice.

Dave Harmon

Friday —

■ Continued from page 22

"I couldn't be any more pleased with the way things have gone. It was a very last-minute decision, literally. I was going to stay at Delaware to ride but my agent suggested it to me and he has great judgment and I never questioned the decision," Dominguez said. "In the beginning of the meet we won a few races and we were happy, then towards the middle of the meet things went pretty slow so I was hoping things would pick up and the last couple of weeks have been pretty good. I was really planning on taking it day-by-day and I think my agent had a number in mind and I'm pretty sure we surpassed it."

• Miss Blarney Stone (\$9.20) was the latest in a long list of riding gems by Dominguez. The 4-year-old Dynaformer-filly broke alertly in the seventh, a state-bred allowance on the inner turf, and Dominguez was content to find a stalking position close to the leaders that is until the leaders never appeared. Sensing the lead was there for the taking Dominguez let Miss Blarney Stone dictate the pace and the result was a convincing gate-to-wire victory by 1 1/2 lengths for trainer Tom Bush and Sugar Maple Farm and Lewis Rapaport.

"It seems like that turf course is pretty biased out there today; really playing to speed. I really wasn't planning on being on the front end, but she came away from there and the decision was made for me when no one else went," Dominguez said. "She went to the lead

and did her thing and she came back to me and it felt like she was pretty comfortable. She had a lot left at the end."

• Linda Rice continued a hot meet when she saddled Hurricane Annie (\$23.80) to a wire-to-wire score in the fifth, a \$35,000 claimer for fillies and mares on the inner turf. With the course playing kindly to early speed leading jockey Cornelio Velasquez put Hurricane Annie on the front and she never looked back, holding off favored Survived by three-quarters of a length. Off since two unsuccessful efforts at Charles Town over the winter, Hurricane Annie made her turf debut a winning one for F E Que Stable.

"Last fall we sent her down there and she was fast, she had a lot of speed," Rice said. "This year we decided to work her on the turf and she loves it, so we saw the race on the grass and I thought this would work well. This was the best place I could find for her."

• Rice scored a training double in the twilight nightcap when Arcanite (\$17.20) broke through the maiden ranks in her ninth try, her first with Alan Garcia aboard. Owned by Sunset Stables, Arcanite was coming off a close second July 13 at Belmont behind Mt. Orient, who scored here Thursday. Settling in seventh position for Garcia, Arcanite gobbled up the ground in deep stretch to score by a half-length over the hard-charging Renown. The victory was Rice's 10th of the meet and vaulted her into fifth place, joining Bill Mott, Rick Dutrow, Gary Contessa, and Todd

See **FRIDAY** page 25 ►

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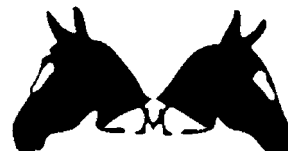


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Dave Harmon

Friendslikethese (7) wins Friday's second over Fighter Ace.

Friday —

■ Continued from page 24

Pletcher as the only trainers to have 10 or more wins.

"Coming up here we're always trying to beat our last best number; that always seems to work," Rice said. "The first few weeks things just didn't go right — Silver Timber had a bad trip and was disqualified; one filly flipped over at the gate and was scratched. A lot of things didn't go right the first couple of weeks but things sure are going the right way now."

• Intuition Magic (\$18) showed why dropping from maiden-special-weight to maiden claimers is the biggest drop in the game with an easy 6 1/4 length score under Kent Desormeaux in the fourth. Owned and trained by Wesley Ward, Intuition Magic had flashed speed and stopped in his first four lifetime attempts while racing on both turf and dirt. Friday Desormeaux wasted little time using Intuition Magic's early zip, putting the 3-year-old in front immedi-

ately. Turning home they sprinted clear and widened while being ridden out.

• If there was ever a doubt Bill Mott has sewed up his ninth training title when Namaste's Wish (\$19.60) upset the sixth, a maiden affair for freshman turf fillies.

Namaste's Wish was a \$600,000 yearling purchase across the street at last year's Fasig-Tipton sale by Charlotte Weber's Live Oak Plantation. The daughter of Pulpit was a major disappointment in a pair of main track starts earlier this summer. Friday she hit the Spa's turf course and found a new home, scoring by 1 3/4 lengths for Desormeaux. The win was the 21st for Mott and 36th for Desormeaux, bringing him within six of Velasquez with three cards remaining.

Friday's claims. First race: Fighting Speedy (\$35,000), by Jacobson Racing Stable, David Jacobson trainer; What's Your Point (\$35,000), by Sullivan Lane Stable, Rick Dutrow trainer. Third race: Secret Brook (\$50,000), by Pont Street Stable, Del Carroll trainer. Fifth race: Survived (\$35,000), by Winning Move Stable, Gary Contessa trainer; Optimist Girl (\$35,000), by Maggi Moss, Steve Asmussen trainer.



Dave Harmon

Arcanite wins the last to polish off a double for trainer Linda Rice.

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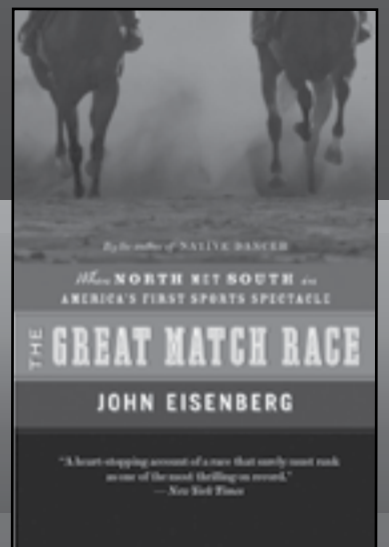
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Friday's Saratoga Results

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

1ST. 6 1/2 FURLONGS. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. AOC 35,000. PURSE \$63,000

8	Sunset Cocktail	Coa E M	61.00	19.80	10.00
2B	Strong Presence	Castellano J J		6.70	4.30
5	Fighting Speedy	Velazquez J R			5.90

Finish Time: 1:18.53

Trainer: Derek Ryan. Owner: Daniel McKillop and Tom Cullen.

B.f.3 Precise End-Ms. Hawaii, Mr. Greeley.

Bred by Sez Who Thoroughbreds (NY).

\$2 Exacta 8-2 Paid \$342.50; \$2 Trifecta 8-2-5 Paid \$2,196.00

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

7	Friendslikethese	Prado E S	8.10	5.20	5.00
2	Fighter Ace	Dominguez R A		17.60	10.80
3	Thunder Buddy	Coa E M			8.40

Finish Time: 1:13.08

Trainer: Richard Dutrow. Owner: Gerson Racing.

B.c.2 Rage-She Goes Along, Dixie Brass.

Bred by Stefan Tufano (NY).

\$2 Exacta 7-2 Paid \$97.50; \$2 Quinella 2-7 Paid \$63.50; \$2 Trifecta 7-2-3 Paid \$633.00; \$2 Daily Double (8-7) Paid \$301.50

3RD. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. AOC 50,000. PURSE \$69,000.

1	Beau Dare	Dominguez R A	12.60	7.60	4.10
2	Sweet Ransom	Desormeaux K J		4.30	3.00
6	Egypt Lane	Prado E S			2.70

Finish Time: 1:01.47

Trainer: Bruce Levine. Owner: Walts David Stable.

B.f.4 Military-Gen Corp Purposes, Beau Genius.

Bred by Mike Walts (KY).

\$2 Exacta 1-2 Paid \$43.60; \$2 Trifecta 1-2-6 Paid \$135.00

4TH. 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. MDN CLM 65,000. PURSE \$36,000.

6	Intuition Magic	Desormeaux K J	18.00	9.10	5.00
8	Sound Doctrine	Gomez G K		7.00	4.30
5	Mike's Dream Team	Velazquez J R			2.60

Finish Time: 1:10.73

Trainer: Wesley Ward. Owner: Wesley Ward.

B.c.3 Awesome Again-Reinfree, Unbridled.

Bred by Adena Springs (ONT).

\$2 Exacta 6-8 Paid \$113.00; \$2 Quinella 6-8 Paid \$53.00;
\$2 Trifecta 6-8-5 Paid \$369.00; \$2 Pick 3 (7-1-6) 3 Correct Paid \$625.00

5TH. 1 MILE. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. CLM 35,000. PURSE \$34,000.

9	Hurricane Annie	Velasquez C	23.80	10.00	6.30
5	Survived	Samyn J L		4.50	3.20
6	Optimist Girl (ARG)	Dominguez R A			4.70

Finish Time: 1:35.60

Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: F E Que Stable.

Ch.m.5 Stormy Atlantic-Great Trick, Clever Trick.

Bred by Arthur Appleton (FL).

\$2 Exacta 9-5 Paid \$130.50; \$2 Trifecta 9-5-6 Paid \$915.00;
\$2 Pick 3 (1-6-9) 3 Correct Paid \$2,807.00; \$2 Pick 4 (7-1-6-9) 4 Correct Paid \$11,116.00; \$2 Superfecta 9-5-6-10 Paid \$8,926.00

6TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

6	Namaste's Wish	Desormeaux K J	19.60	7.20	4.90
8	Boston Cat	Leparoux J R		3.40	2.70
2	Gipsy Lore	Luzzi M J			4.10

Finish Time: 1:42.40

Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Live Oak Plantation.

B.f.2 Pulpit- Copelan's Bid Gal, Copelan.

Bred by Glory Days Breeding (KY).

\$2 Exacta 6-8 Paid \$67.50; \$2 Trifecta 6-8-2 Paid \$336.00;
\$2 Pick 3 (6-9-6) 3 Correct Paid \$1,631.00

7TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW. PURSE \$62,000.

11	Miss Blarney Stone	Dominguez R A	9.20	5.30	3.30
2	Cordilleran Ice	Garcia Alan		24.40	11.40
6	Daring Dreamer	Coa E M			3.70

Finish Time: 1:42.77

Trainer: Tom Bush. Owner: Sugar Maple Farm and H. Lewis Rapaport.

Dk.B./Br.f.4 Dynaformer-Bedside Manner, Dr. Blum.

Bred by Howard Kaskel & H. Lewis Rapaport (NY).

\$2 Exacta 11-2 Paid \$300.50; \$2 Trifecta 11-2-6 Paid \$1,332.00;
\$2 Daily Double (6-11) Paid \$138.50; \$2 Pick 3 (9-6-11) 3 Correct Paid \$2,046.00; \$2 Superfecta 11-2-6-7 Paid \$12,127.00

8TH. THE P.G. JOHNSON/WITH ANTICIPATION. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 2YO. PURSE \$83,250.

4	Nownownow	Leparoux J R	14.60	5.70	4.70
1A	Zee Zee	Desormeaux K J		3.10	3.90
1	Sherine	Garcia Alan		3.10	3.90

Finish Time: 1:41.26

Trainer: Patrick Biancone. Owner: Fab Oak Stable.

B.c.2 Whywhywhy-Here and Now (FR), Exit to Nowhere.

Bred by Fab Oak Stable (KY).

\$2 Exacta 4-1 Paid \$54.50; \$2 Trifecta 4-1-2 Paid \$437.50;
\$2 Grand Slam (5/6/9-2/6/8-2/6/11-4) Paid \$74.50

9TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. MDN CLM 45,000. PURSE \$26,000.

8	Arcanite	Garcia Alan	17.20	7.60	5.60
4	Renown	Dominguez R A		10.40	5.80
5	Star Studded	Velasquez C			4.60

Finish Time: 1:43.61

Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: Sunset Stables.

B.g.3 Malabar Gold-Face Turner, Alwuhush.

Bred by Highclere (KY).

\$2 Exacta 8-4 Paid \$202.00; \$2 Trifecta 8-4-5 Paid \$831.00
\$2 Superfecta 8-4-5-7 Paid \$1,832.00
\$2 Daily Double (4-8) Paid \$124.50;
\$2 Pick 3 (11-4-8) 3 Correct Paid \$567.00;
\$2 Pick 4 (6-11-4-8) 4 Correct Paid \$9,823.00; \$2 Pick 6 (6-9-6-11-4-8) 5 Correct Paid \$11,125.00;
\$2 Consolation Pick 3 (4-4-2) Paid \$69.50;
\$2 Consolation Double (4-2) Paid \$12.80

Track: Fast; Turf: Firm
Attendance: 18,166; Handle: \$3,025,005

How We Did

RACE 1: If you arrived late, we can't say that you missed much.

RACE 2: Second selection scratched.

RACE 3: Top pick finished third, third pick finished second.

RACE 4: Second selection finished third.

RACE 5: Second selection finished, well, second.

RACE 6: Top pick finished second, second pick finished third.

RACE 7: Second choice was third.

RACE 8: Our top pick managed to finish both second and third (being an entry, after all) but couldn't win.

RACE 9: Third choice ran third.

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2 Friendslikethese



3 Beau Dare



4 Intuition Magic



5 Hurricane Annie



6 Namaste's Wish



7 Miss Blarney Stone



8 Nownownow



9 Arcanite

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All The Winners

Jockeys

Cornelio Velasquez	42	Raul Rojas	3
Kent Desormeaux	36	Jean-Luc Samyn	3
Ramon Dominguez	28	Jose Bracetty	2
Edgar Prado	27	Eddie Castro	2
Garrett Gomez	26	Danielle Hodsdon	2
Javier Castellano	21	Mike Luzzi	2
Rafael Bejarano	19	Robby Albarado	1
John Velazquez	19	Roberto Alvarado	1
Eibar Coa	17	Norberto Arroyo Jr	1
Alan Garcia	16	Jorge Chavez	1
Shaun Bridgmohan	10	Fernando Jara	1
Julien Leparoux	10	Carlos Marquez Jr	1
Calvin Borel	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	21	Chris Englehart	2
Richard Dutrow	12	Gary Gullo	2
Gary Contessa	11	Leah Gyarmati	2
Todd Pletcher	11	Eoin Harty	2
Linda Rice	10	Mike Hernandez	2
Tom Bush	9	Roger Horgan	2
Steve Asmussen	8	Atreo Persaud	2
Kieran McLaughlin	8	Tim Ritvo	2
Barclay Tagg	7	Jonathan Sheppard	2
Christophe Clement	6	Al Stall Jr	2
Stan Hough	6	Dallas Stewart	2
Tony Dutrow	6	Mike Trombetta	2
Rick Schosberg	6	John Ward	2
George Weaver	6	Ronny Werner	2
Patrick Biancone	5	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
Bob Baffert	4	Scott Everett	1
Bruce Levine	4	Jack Fisher	1
Shug McGaughey	4	Doug Fout	1
Carl Nafzger	4	John Hertler	1
Scott Schwartz	4	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
Wayne Lukas	3	Pat Reynolds	1
Carlos Martin	3	Robert Ribaud	1
Michael Matz	3	Tim Ritchey	1
Ken McPeck	3	Derek Ryan	1
Angel Penna	3	James Ryerson	1
Dale Romans	3	Dominick Schettino	1
Phil Serpe	3	Gary Sciacca	1
Tom Albertrani	2	Howie Teshler	1
Rusty Arnold	2	Jimmy Toner	1
Billy Badgett	2	Tom Voss	1
Glenn DiSanto	2	Wesley Ward	1
Debra Divitto	2	Donna Wormser	1



Kent Desormeaux – six back with three days to go.

Tod Marks

Where Are They Now?

The 2006 Forego **Pomeroy**



Tod Marks

The Special takes a look back at the Saratoga stakes winners of last year, and what's happened in their lives since they found glory at the Spa.

"Don't call it a comeback, I've been here for years." Pomeroy and L.L. Cool J understood each other. After all, the son of Boundary had been hitting the Saratoga track since 2003, when he was runner-up in the Special. With wins in the 2004 Vanderbilt and 2005 King's Bishop, letting him go off at 6-1 in the Forego might have been shortsighted. Then again, he was 5, had a severe bone chip removed from his left-front ankle the year before, and had just one prep in 2006. But there was to be no stopping him this day. David Hutson – the man who brought him back to the races and "would rather own a Breeders' Cup Sprint winner than a Breeders' Cup Classic winner" – had a chance at his dream. Alas, the Sprint didn't go as planned, as Pomeroy clipped heels and finished a distant ninth. But he came out fine and now spends his days at CloverLeaf Farms II in Reddick, Fla., where he stands for \$12,500.



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It's Academic

Royal Academy adds class to Juror

BY FRANCES KARON

Godolphin Stables' 4-year-old colt Juror won a 1 1/16-mile turf allowance for New York-breds Sunday in his North American debut. The lightly raced gray was making only his sixth appearance, marking his second win.

The \$180,000 yearling didn't turn many heads in his tenure at Sir Michael Stoute's Freemason Lodge; Juror's first race at 2 was in a seller at Sandown, where nobody took the bait.

He reappeared to win over the all-weather track at Wolverhampton at 3 before being sidelined by surgery to remove bone chips in a knee. Returning to action in October, he was a non-threatening fifth in a handicap and was sold two weeks later for 55,000 guineas. He raced twice in Dubai for his new owner, Sheikh Hamdan, finishing second once, leading up to his recent win at Saratoga for Saeed bin Suroor.

Juror is a son of one of the most commercially underappreciated stallions at stud today. Royal Academy commanded a relatively low covering fee of \$15,000 as a proven sire in 2007.

Yet as an untested yearling he was the valedictorian of his class, selling for a sale-topping \$3.5 million in 1988 after bidding for him at Keeneland that

PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

July was spectacularly interrupted by a blackout.

Royal Academy's hefty price tag as a yearling had as much to do with his pedigree as his good looks. He was catalogued as half-brother to Grade II winners Terlingua and Pancho Villa, Listed winner Alydaniel and a full-brother to graded-placed Encino. Terlingua's son Storm Cat had retired to stud in 1987, when Royal Academy was born.

Trained by the master Vincent O'Brien at Ballydoyle, Royal Academy didn't immediately justify the expense, though he won his first outing, a race at The Curragh in Ireland named the Late Developers Maiden, by 10 lengths before disappointing in a Group I stakes in England. At 3 he alternated firsts and seconds, winning a Group III in Ireland, placing in the English 2,000 Guineas, first in the Group I July Cup at Newmarket, second in another Group I in England and traveling to Belmont for his swan song in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

He had won at 6 and 7 furlongs; the only time he had stretched out as far as a mile, in the Guineas, he weakened near the end to lose by a quarter of a length. Ridden in all six races prior to



Dave Harmon

Juror is a son of Royal Academy and Paper Princess, who hit the board in 23 of 32 starts and won seven races.

the Breeders' Cup by John Reid, he was teamed up with the inimitable Lester Piggott, who came out of retirement 12 days prior.

Piggott and Royal Academy defeated Itsallgreetome by a neck, provoking Piggott to tell the Racing Post later that "no moment in (his) career had ever tasted sweeter."

If Piggott were to collect his sweet moments – spending time in prison for tax evasion would not be one of them – he'd need a jumbo-sized Halloween pumpkin. Many good memories re-

volved around Nijinsky II, indubitably one of Europe's greatest Thoroughbreds, and Royal Academy was one of that stallion's leading sons. Standing initially at Coolmore in Ireland before moving to the Kentucky offshoot of Ashford, his first and second crop contained Irish champions; so did his fifth and seventh crops (his fourth had a champion in Germany). His Hong Kong champion Bullish Luck is one of that island's best-ever racehorses. Among his other prog-

See **PEDIGREE** page 32 ►

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SMOOTH AIR

Third in Florida Stallion Dr. Fager Stakes at Calder on August 11

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MASSEUSE

Dance Smartly Stakes (Gr. 2) winner at Woodbine July 22.

Owner: Henry Elser and Nicholson Family.

Trainer: Jimmy Toner.

MARSH SIDE

Second in Northern Dancer Breeders' Cup Turf Stakes (Gr. 2) at Woodbine July 22.

Owner: R.S. Evans.

Trainer: Michael Dickinson.

C P WEST

Second in Jim Dandy Stakes (Gr. 2) at Saratoga July 29.

Owner: Robert LaPenta.

Trainer: Nick Zito.

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Where Are They Now?

The 2006 Woodward **Premium Tap**



Tod Marks

The Special takes a look back at the Saratoga stakes winners of last year, and what's happened in their lives since they found glory at the Spa.

Some like it hot. Hope Premium Tap is included in that group. The Woodward winner – who went on to devastate the field in November's Clark Handicap – was purchased at the end of the year by King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and will likely spend the rest of his career campaigning in the Middle East. In his first race for his new owner, the son of Pleasant Tap took the 1 1/2-mile Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Cup, Saudi Arabia's most prestigious race, then finished a game second after dueling Invasor in the \$6-million Dubai World Cup. Trainer John Kimmel expected his charge to return Stateside for another go at the Breeders' Cup, but was informed in April that the 5-year-old would stay in Saudi Arabia, where he would probably be pointed for defense of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Cup. Kimmel told *The Blood-Horse* that he doesn't know who will train the horse or if he even will start again this year.

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Pedigree —

■ Continued from page 30

eny were fillies who won the French and Irish 1,000 Guineas, a Guineas winner in Australia, a German Derby winner and Val Royal, who emulated his sire with a win in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

A number of Royal Academy's 2,081 foals of racing age have breathed life into their sire this year. On his own merits, he has 145 stakes winners (7 percent to foals), 15 in 2007. His eight Group or Graded winners this season include Molengao and Naughty Rafaela (conceived from his stints in Brazil), Oprah Winney and Art Master.

His son Val Royal is the sire of English and Irish 2,000 Guineas winner Cockney Rebel and Grade II 2 Honeymoon Handicap winner Valbenny, both from his first foals. Ihtiram, an Australian-based son, is credited with the speedy Austra-

lian filly Miss Andretti, winner of four Group Is in her native country and of the Group II King's Stand in June at Royal Ascot, over the boys.

As a broodmare sire, superstar filly Finsceal Beo has won the English and Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Juror's dam, Paper Princess, was a hard-knocking race-mare who hit the board in 23 out of 32 starts; among her seven wins were two Listed races. She is a half-sister, by Flying Paster, to the bob-tailed Sea Cadet, winner of the Donn, Meadowlands Cup and Gulfstream Park Handicaps who died three months into his stallion career, and to Grade II winner On Target. Verne Winchell, a.k.a. the Donut King, had raced all five mares in Juror's direct female line, going back to the 1959 filly Donut Queen. (She is not related to Winchell's good 1959 colt Donut King, who won the 1961 Champagne.)

The sole black-type horse under Paper Princess to date is a stakes-placed grandson. The 21-year-old mare has a 2007 colt by Lion Heart and was bred to Breeders' Cup Mile winner Artie Schiller for 2008.



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Missing and Hitting

CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy



It started happening last week, "How many more do you have to go?"

Down to one. Thirty-one editions have come and gone. One more to go and then it's scatter march to places far and wide. Goodbye Saratoga. Hello real life.

Parts I'll miss, parts I won't.

I'll miss the fans and friends of *The Saratoga Special*. I won't miss agonizing over producing something worthy of the fans and friends of *The Saratoga Special*.

I'll miss Mitch Levitus. I won't miss when I'm out of questions and my guest is out of English and Levitus is telling me I still have two more minutes to go on the OTB show.

I'll miss filling my tank of gas once a month. I won't miss the stop signs of Saratoga.

I'll miss Gina Toner's Italian dinners. I won't miss missing most of them while eating pizza at my desk.

I'll miss Cornelio Velasquez's work ethic. I won't miss Jamie Santo's endless line of Cornelio impersonations that get worse by the day.

I'll miss the solitude of my studio apartment on Ludlow. I won't miss the madness of our office/house on Lincoln Avenue.

I'll miss my golf cart. I won't miss the rattle of the top as it bumps down the horse path.

I'll miss this column. I won't miss trying to come up with an idea for this column.

I'll miss the *New York Post* Showdown. I won't miss the feeling of doom when I bet an even-money shot and he's off the bridle halfway down the back.

I'll miss the constant tips on horses running that afternoon. I won't miss being asked for tips on horses running that afternoon.

I'll miss the Morning Line Kitchen. I won't miss the papers blowing off the picnic tables at the Morning Line Kitchen.

I'll miss typing. I won't miss the typos.

I'll miss the Here and There page. I won't miss when my brother Joe says, "That's all we've got for Here and There?"

I'll miss Ron Anderson's thoroughness. I won't miss his thoroughness of looking for mistakes in *The Saratoga Special*.

I'll miss filling the paper rack at the Morning Line Kitchen at 5:30. I won't miss seeing the paper rack empty at 10:30.

I'll miss the racing. I won't miss being asked about who's going to get the franchise.

I'll miss Doc Richardson, Brant Laue, Brian the Clocker, Bob Giordano and Bill Higgins. I won't miss the guard who stops me to see my badge every day, every race as I walk into the paddock.

I'll miss the deadlines. I won't miss the six pack of Cokes I drink every day to get through those deadlines.

I'll miss the blank slate every morning. I won't miss filling that blank slate every night.

I'll miss Neil Howard calling me "Jump Rider" every morning. I won't miss how my jump rider back feels after 12 hours hunched over a computer.

I'll miss the sunrise. I won't miss the NPR station

that wakes me up at 5:02 every morning.

I'll miss the last bastion of racetrack etiquette that is Saratoga. I won't miss my dry-cleaning bill.

I'll miss the racing channel. I won't miss The Wizard.

I'll miss the trees. I won't miss the dust.

I'll miss horses like Sharp Susan, Street Sense, Lady Joanne, Silver Tree, Revved Up, Footlights, T. D. Vance and Mixed Up. I won't miss the sickening demise of Massoud and Indian Flare.

I'll miss the people who still want to pay a dollar for a copy of the paper. I won't miss the people who still owe us money (you know who you are).

I'll miss when someone says, 'Great Cup of Coffee.' I won't miss when they say, 'I didn't get what you meant in the Cup of Coffee.'

I'll miss trying to solve the triple in the last. I won't miss being utterly fooled by a field of turf horses in the last.

I'll miss the stakes barn. I won't miss the security barn.

I'll miss the little guys. I won't miss when Darley wins a New York-bred race over all the little guys.

I'll miss Funny Cide, Cheese, Circus, John's Call and the row of ponies behind the Morning Line Kitchen. I won't miss seeing them get a spur in the side on a hot day.

I'll miss the long turf races. I won't miss the turf sprints (at least all of them).

I'll miss the Spring Street salad with grilled chicken and feta. I won't miss hearing about all the great restaurants in Saratoga.

I'll miss the Paper Lady. I won't miss the Paper Lady calling to tell me the papers aren't on the porch.

I'll miss the porch, the town, the people and the horses. I won't miss the pressure – at least for a while.

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2852 c Indian Charlie Turquoise Bead
2863 c More Than Ready Violet Hill

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