

FREE

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SARATOGA'S DAILY NEWSPAPER ON THOROUGHBRED RACING

Sunday, September 2, 2007



Lawyer Ron runs away with Saturday's Woodward.

Dave Harmon

Lawyer Ron rules in Gr. I Woodward

BY JOE CLANCY

See the photo on yesterday's cover? Head bowed, foretop split in two like a biker's 90-mile-an-hour haircut, veins bulging, muscles rippling, mouth open despite a drop noseband.

That's Lawyer Ron.

And he's king of the 2007 older horse division after blitzing through Saturday's \$500,000 Woodward, his second Grade I score of Saratoga. He won for the fourth time in six starts this year, and simply decimated seven foes while adding the Woodward to his track-record setting Whitney score five weeks earlier. Hines Racing's 4-year-old colt, trained by Todd Pletcher and ridden by John Velazquez, won by 8 1/4 lengths over Sun King with Diamond Stripes third in 1:48.60 for the 1 1/8 miles.

Sent off at 3-5, the son of Langfuhr didn't bounce from his record-setting run in the Whitney, didn't get pinned down on the rail, didn't do anything other than run his race which is better than anyone else's right now.

"He's a lot of horse," Pletcher said simply. "Any time you

run a big race like he did last time you're always concerned about it – five weeks, six weeks, six months, whatever it is. You hope he can do the same, but he gave us every indication based on what he was doing in the morning that he was ready."

Uh, see the photo.

Lawyer Ron looked plenty ready as the days unfolded after the July 28 Whitney, cranking out the gallops while tugging at the seemingly ever-present draw reins. Designed to pull a horse's head down and help an exercise rider reel in a strong horse, they loop through the bit and back to the girth instead of simply attaching to the bit. Pletcher gave them full credit.

"They have made the biggest difference in him," the trainer said. "Galloping him in the draw reins has been a big plus. He's one of those tough, durable, high-energy horses. The key has been trying to harness that enthusiasm."

Velazquez didn't need to do much of that Saturday. Lawyer Ron broke well and let Wanderin Boy take control of

See **WOODWARD** page 4 ►

INSIDE

- Midnight Lute rolls home in Forego
- Cornelio Velazquez up by 4 in jockey race
- Fillies set to tangle in today's Spinaway
- Entries/Handicapping

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Tod Marks

ONE LAST MORNING. The meet finishes up this weekend, and *The Special* closes shop for another year. Thanks for the news – and the mist.

Worth Repeating

“I can honestly say I don’t feel any pressure.”

Todd Pletcher, before running assistant Seth Benzel’s Cobre in the sixth race Saturday, Cobre finished fourth.

“Just don’t tell them you know me.”

Photographer/restaurant Dave Harmon, when told *The Special* staff was coming late to the Stadium Cafe Saturday night (if we finished the paper in time)

“I don’t see you much out at the track – you must be the smart one.”

Linda Kosak, to *The Special*’s Jamie Santo as he hunched over a computer Saturday night

Names of the Day

Who Fu, Sunday, fifth race. Brevity is the soul of wit; being fun to say oughta count for something, too. All in all, a good tag for a daughter of Fusaichi Pegasus and Pas Who.

Try To Remember, Monday’s seventh. Deep in December, it’s nice to remember. A “Fantasticks” finish.

Weather

Sunday: Mainly sunny. High near 80. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday night: Clear. Low in the mid 50s.

Monday: Mainly sunny. Warm. High in the mid 80s. A bit windy.

Tuesday: Depends where you’ve gone.

Names of the Day – Early Exit Edition

It Ends Now is on the meet’s penultimate card, as is Final Refrain, Fly and No More Flags.

Name of the Day – Code Enforcement Edition

Sunday’s second is a tribute to legality, with Judge William, Good Law and Rollers (which as fans of The Blues Brothers know is slang for a squad car) all on the docket.

Take A Number

8: Cameras aimed at High Finance in the paddock before the Forego. And that’s not counting those aimed by owners.

6: Autographs signed by trainer Todd Pletcher between the winner’s circle and the Saratoga trustees’ room after the Woodward.

5: States in which trainer Graham Motion started horses Saturday – Pennsylvania (Presque Isle Downs), Ohio (Thistledown), Delaware (Delaware Park), New Jersey (Monmouth Park) and New York (Saratoga).

5: Horses Pablo Frago is named on for Monday’s card.

1: Can of Bud Light handed to Allen Jerkens on his way out of the paddock for the Woodward.

35: Trainers with a single win at the meeting (after Saturday).

10: Jockeys with a single win at the meeting.

The SARATOGA Special

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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 1

the pace through a first quarter in 23.31 seconds and a half in 46.42. Lawyer Ron parked easily to the outside and just off the leader, waited for a cue. He took the lead for good after 6 furlongs in 1:10.45 and rolled home without ever feeling Velazquez's whip. Nobody else made an impact. Sun King moved from last to pass everyone but the winner for second. Diamond Stripes stayed on for third. Corinthian revved up on the outside around the turn, but flattened out to finish fourth.

"He was as good or better than the last time," Velazquez said. "We had the perfect trip, he was cruising but he was a little closer than last time, that was the only thing. I held him together all the way to the quarter pole, made him switch (leads) and away we go."

Despite his morning appearances, Lawyer Ron is a lamb on raceday — even waiting patiently during a brief delay at the gate while Political Force was backed out and reloaded.

"He's very easy, very easy. He's a little delicate with his mouth that's about it, after that you can put him wherever you want," said the jockey. "He waited in the gate, he went to sleep. I said, 'Daddy, don't fall asleep,' and I gave him a little slap, he put his head up and waited. I try to give him a little chance down the backside, but he got on the bridle right away so I just sat against him without taking too much hold. I didn't do much, he was on cruise control. He's my kind of horse."

Lawyer Ron came to Pletcher's barn last year and in his first start for the barn finished ninth in the Breeders' Cup Classic. The chestnut took three months to make his next start, winning an allowance race at Gulfstream Park Feb. 11. Next came a win in the Grade II Oaklawn Handicap in April and two small (as it turned out) speed bumps when third in the Met Mile behind Corinthian and Political Force at Belmont in May and second in the Salvator Mile at Monmouth Park in June.

Saratoga has been a dream for the homebred, who made off with the Whitney by nearly 5 lengths while breaking the track record for 1 1/8 miles. He set no record Saturday, but didn't have to as he vanquished five Whitney foes plus Corinthian and Political Force.

Lawyer Ron provided two of Pletcher's 12 wins (through Saturday) at the meet, a total far off his usual pace but not so bad when you consider the races he won and the horses he won them with. Among his 12 wins (so far), Pletcher took the Whitney, the Woodward, the Sanford and the Ballston Spa. He leads all trainers in earnings for the meet and is far from done. He aims Passion for a wide-open Spinaway, takes a two-prong attack with Mysterious Peintre and Distorted Reality in the Saranac on Sunday and has 4-5 shot Ready's Image in Monday's Hopeful.

"Everyone was saying we had a down meet which we did, especially by our standards but when you really break it down our good horses were running well," he said. "It was the middle-tier horses and the maidens that weren't."

See **WOODWARD** page 5 ►



Tod Marks

Blacksmith Ray Amato puts a hind shoe on Lawyer Ron Saturday morning.

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

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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 4

The key horses have been running well. The Wait A Whiles and the Lawyer Rons and Ready's Image. Even Octave (third in the Alabama) ran well and Indian Vale (third in the Personal Ensign) and Unbridled Belle (second in the Personal Ensign) — they didn't win, but they still ran well and that let us know we were doing the right thing."

Saratoga training success often depends on 2-year-olds, and Pletcher's didn't come through as they have in the past. Instead, the meet's freshmen stars seemed to come from other trainers — Bill Mott, Bob Baffert, Patrick Biancone, Steve Asmussen and others.

"I tell everybody when we come up here, our success greatly depends on how our maiden 2-year-olds run and this has been a tough crop," Pletcher said. "We've had some disappointments. Maybe they're just not good, maybe we just didn't have them ready, we'll know more soon, but they didn't run that well."

Lawyer Ron did. He improved to 12-for-24 lifetime and boosted his career bankroll past \$2.6 million. He became the seventh horse to earn \$1 million this year, after Street Sense, Curlin, Lava Man, Hard Spun, Rags To Riches and Nobiz Like Shobiz. The fall, and another try at the Breeders' Cup, awaits.

For now, Pletcher will worry about the near future.

"Oh, he'll be bouncing around the shed tomorrow morning," the trainer said. "Whatever that is that lets them do that, he's got it. He's had it since I've had him — that's just him."

Get your camera ready.

Additional reporting by Sean Clancy.



Tod Marks

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9/2 SUN

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9/3 MON

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Sixth Man

Bridgmohan subs home a Grade I with Midnight Lute for Baffert

BY BRIAN NADEAU

For Shaun Bridgmohan the plan was to watch the two afternoon Grade I's, the Forego and the Woodward, and then prepare for the 11th race. Maybe enjoy a few quiet, peaceful moments with his son Alexander while his peers went to work.

And then Clerk of Scales Tim Kelly told Bridgmohan that trainer Bob Baffert wanted him to ride Midnight Lute in the Forego if Edgar Prado, who was injured after the seventh, couldn't go. When it was made official that Prado wouldn't ride, Bridgmohan grabbed his lunchbox and hard hat, clocked back in, and went to work. Overtime has never been so rewarding.

Midnight Lute (\$7.20) broke alertly under Bridgmohan and the pair turned the Grade I into a personal showcase, romping over Benny The Bull by 2 1/4 lengths; it could have been plenty more.

The Forego brought together a strong cast of sprinter/milers looking to make their marks on the elite of the division. High Finance entered as the favorite, having won the Grade II Tom Fool at

FOREGO STAKES RECAP

Belmont to celebrate the Fourth of July. Midnight Lute entered as a bit of an unknown off a disappointing fourth in Keeneland's Grade II Commonwealth April 14. Earlier this year he tried Santa Anita's Strub Series for 4-year-olds with mixed results.

Baffert shipped Midnight Lute to Saratoga after being unsatisfied with Del Mar's newly installed Polytrack. Riding the crest of the Baffert tidal wave (the trainer has now won with five of his eight Saratoga starters) Midnight Lute now rests on the shores as a Grade I winner.

For Bridgmohan there was little time to get acquainted with the 4-year-old son of Real Quiet, owned by Mike Pegram, Karl Watson, and Paul Weitman; only enough to strap on the red and gold Pegram colors and head to the paddock.

"I just went out there (in the paddock) and went off of what Bob told me; that he's such a great big horse that he needs to get a clean break from there and it would work out good for me," Bridgmohan said. "Today he broke pretty



Tod Marks

Shaun Bridgmohan pumps his fist as Midnight Lute crosses the finish line in the Forego.

clean and that was the key; once he did, my job was pretty easy after that."

High Finance broke first under John Velazquez, and Attila's Storm soon joined the fray from his inside. Bridgmohan and Midnight Lute got away unscathed from the eight hole and surveyed the scene from outside of the leaders.

Praying For Cash made it a three-way battle for the lead, albeit in a 22.86-second quarter-mile (tepid for Grade I horses), and Bridgmohan and Midnight Lute licked their chops in fourth. Entering the turn, Praying For Cash relented

and High Finance went bankrupt, leaving only Attila's Storm to carry on the torch. Midnight Lute began to howl and poked his head in front after a half-mile in 45.24.

And as soon as the race was on it was over. Midnight Lute began to draw away from Attila's Storm as they came out of the turn, while Bridgmohan had yet to even ask for any run.

They rolled past the eighth-pole with a 5-length lead while Benny The

See **FOREGO** page 8 ►



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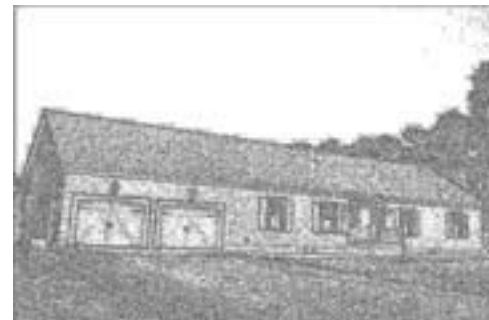
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Forego —

■ Continued from page 6

Bull moved to second and offered futile chase. Attila's Storm battled hard to finish third. High Finance and Praying For Cash felt the grunts of their early efforts and checked in a disappointing eighth and ninth, respectively. Not that Bridgmohan noticed.

"He just dragged me up there to the turn and once he got there he just accelerated. He did everything professional out there," Bridgmohan said. "I was loving the position I had, especially down the backside when Johnny was able to clear me and I didn't have nobody on the outside of me. It made me sit a little bit longer and I was in the driver's seat from there. Approaching the quarter-pole he had his ears forward and was just waiting for a command and once we straightened up and I asked him to go about his business he just went on and did it."

For Baffert it was just another spectacular performance by a horse that wasn't even supposed to be here some three weeks ago. In the twilight of the summer, the trainer has made all the right moves, and more importantly, all the right phone calls.

"I saw Edgar go down and I was worried about him at first because it looked like he was really hurt," Baffert said. "I started looking at my program and said 'let's see who we've got here.' Then I called Ron Anderson (Garrett Gomez's agent). He's a friend of mine and he's going to give me a straight answer. He didn't know what happened (to Prado). He said 'let me call you back' and he called and said Shaun was the best guy available. He's a good rider and he did a good job."

With time of the essence Baffert couldn't afford to give Bridgmohan a lengthy description of the ins and outs of Midnight Lute. True to his laid-back California style, the confident signal-caller drew a play in the sand and let Bridgmohan get open after they hiked the ball.

"He's doing great; just ride him," Baffert told the



Tod Marks

Midnight Lute checks out the people while getting hosed off after the Forego.

jockey. "The main thing is to get him out of the gate. He's big, he doesn't fit, and he doesn't relax in there. Then he hops when he comes out."

Baffert also said helping the horse relax was important.

"I told him to get him relaxed and just let him come out the way he comes out. Just sit on him and you'll have a fun ride," the trainer said. "You can just cruise there and then go. He's got a long stride

and he'll just eat them up in the stretch. And that's what he did."

Bridgmohan guided Midnight Lute back to the winner's circle like a customer returning a pricey sports car after a test drive.

"What'd I say? Is he a ride or what?" Baffert asked.

Yeah, he's all horsepower.

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Tod Marks
Bethpage Black draws off for a longshot win in Saturday's seventh for trainer Gary Contessa.

A Hole in One

Bethpage Black comes up aces in 7th

BY BRIAN NADEAU

A long time ago Bethpage Black (\$83.50) was a respectable New York-bred grass horse. The 5-year-old shook off more than 13 months of rest and rust Saturday to revisit yesteryear when he shocked a field of state-bred turfers to take the seventh race for trainer Gary Contessa and Kent Desormeaux.

"This horse worked a mile in 1:41 at Aqueduct on August 19, which is almost unheard of. He got his last quarter in 24 that day. To let him go off at this price is just ridiculous," Contessa said. "He was trained by Michael Brice last year, so I don't really know what his issue was. I got this horse about three months ago and he never had an issue at all, so maybe he was just burnt out or whatever. I had him with my assistant Kim Laudati at Aqueduct and she gets all the credit for this one. She made me look good. I grabbed Kent in the paddock and told him there were no fitness issues here; we entered him to win."

Eighth in the early going, Desormeaux slowly advanced Bethpage Black as the field approached the top of the stretch and the pair ran to daylight late to score by a length over Admiral Bird, with favored Yankee Thunder a neck back in third. Owned by Robert Giammarino and Cory Teleisha, Bethpage Black had not visited the winner's circle since September 2005.

• Tobruk's (\$27.60) last two starts at the Spa have been tough on trainer Gary Sciacca. In his first try this meet (Aug. 3) the gelding was unprepared for the start and lost all chance when he broke last of 12. His second (Aug. 15) was much the same, as a stumbling break left him last of nine. Things finally went a little smoother in Saturday's fifth, a state-bred maiden on the inner turf, when Tobruk broke with his field and closed late to catch Howdyamissthisone by a half-length.

SATURDAY RACING RECAP

"He finally got a clean trip out there. The last two times he broke bad out of the gate. The first time they probably should have refunded the money on him," Sciacca said. "I did a lot of schooling with him but he always wants to act up. The last time he jumped up and I just said 'Look at this here!' The horse trains well and he does everything well but the horse just has issues at the gate. I brought him to the gate every single day (since then); just stood him there. And he was like a puppy. Today he came out breaking from there and he finally broke through – it was great."

Rafael Bejarano had Tobruk in fifth early and they still found themselves 3 lengths behind Howdyamissthisone with only a furlong remaining. The leader shortened stride as Tobruk reached for the ground to collar home late for the score. Owned and bred by Phillip Marcantonio, Tobruk won for the first time in 13 starts.

• Ever A Friend (\$7.80) was up late to win the opener, an allowance/optional claimer on the Mellon Turf, for trainer Christophe Clement. Garrett Gomez had the son of Crafty Friend lagging off the blistering pace set by favored Southern Prince. After a half-mile in 44.10 seconds, Gomez began to move Ever A Friend up on the rail and the pair were in cruise control late to defeat Southern Prince by 2 1/4 lengths in a quick 1:01.66 for the 5 1/2 furlongs. Owned by Michael Rankowitz and Susan Karches, Ever A Friend won for the third time in 13 lifetime starts.

• Saada caught two impressive juveniles when he made his debut here Aug. 11, finishing fourth, beaten more than 10 lengths by The Leopard and Immortal Eyes. Saturday he made his second

See **SATURDAY** page 10 ►



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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 9

start a winning one when he wore down Golden Weekend late to take the second by a half-length for trainer Bill Mott and Desormeaux. A 2-year-old son of 1995 Kentucky Derby winner Thunder Gulch, Saada brought home the 15th win of the meet for owner Zayat Stables.

• Alan Garcia got some pretty simple instructions from trainer Bobby Frankel in the paddock prior to the third race — hug the rail and save all the ground in the allowance/optional claimer. Garcia followed the Hall of Famer's instructions perfectly and the result was a late-charging score aboard Owners Manual (\$15.80).

Garcia has been aboard Owners Manual in his last two starts; including a fourth-place finish here in the Glow Stakes Aug. 4 on the turf. That day Garcia had the son of Belong To Me close to a moderate pace and the result was a lack of stretch punch in the lane. Saturday Garcia reverted to the tactics that enabled the duo to rally to victory in an allowance race at Belmont July 7. Sitting in seventh position early as the field clicked off a half-mile in 45.50 Garcia had Owners Manual tucked in on the rail. As the field turned for home he tipped the colt four-wide and set sail for the leaders. Rolling down the center of the track they were able to hold a fast-closing Vitruvius by a half-length for owner's Louis Lazzinnaro and Hollow Farms.

See **SATURDAY** page 11 ►



Karakorum Elektra surges toward the finish in Saturday's eighth race, trainer Linda Rice's second win of the day.

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 10

"The plan today was to let him break and then come from off the pace; that's what Bobby wanted," Garcia said. "The last time I rode him I asked him a little bit and he doesn't want to do that. He's a much different horse on the dirt; he just didn't care for the turf last time. We had a good pace in there today and I just tried to save ground along the rail. When I asked him to kick he gave it to me and broke again. It sure is a good way to start the last weekend of the meet up here."

• Sam's Passion (\$5.50) joined War Pass as a 2-year-old to watch in the Nick Zito barn after he wired the fourth, a freshman sprint, under Garrett Gomez. Owned by Jachlen Farm, the well-bred son of Seeking The Gold had the misfortune of catching Hopeful starter and \$4.6 million yearling Maimonides in his first start here Aug. 8. Racing greenly, he battled on to finish second that day, 11 1/2 lengths behind the winner. Saturday Gomez used slightly different tactics as he sent Sam's Passion to the front immediately and the pair gamely held off the late charges of Hyrule and Vacation to score by a neck, in a three-horse photo.

• It seemed like the track was abuzz with some inside information prior to the sixth, a state-bred turf sprint for maidens. It was rumored that Hussonfirst (\$4.60) was a good thing for trainer Linda Rice. As it turned out the wise guys were correct as Hussonfirst wore down Ode To Revolution late to win by 1 1/4 lengths for leading jockey Cornelio Velasquez. Owned by Trackmen Golf Club Stable, Hussonfirst was purchased for \$80,000 at the Saratoga August New York-bred sale.

• Another turf sprint put Rice back in the winner's circle after the eighth and vaulted her into a tie for second in the trainer standings. Karakorum Elektra



Tobruk (center with white blinkers and shadow roll) bides his time early in Saturday's fifth race.

Tod Marks

(\$4.70) gave Garcia his second on the day when he guided the state-bred daughter of Freud to a 1 1/4-length victory over Flying Sappho, who closed out a healthy \$98 exacta.

Owned by Karakorum Farm, Karakorum Elektra had previously finished second to stablemate Ahvee's Destiny here Aug. 12. With two days left in the meet Rice has 12 winners, joining Contessa, Rick Dutrow and Todd Pletcher.

• Mott and Desormeaux took the nightcap, a maiden turf affair, with Equitable (\$4.60) for Pin Oak Stable. A 3-year-old homebred son of A.P. Indy, Equitable atoned for a close fourth here Aug. 11. In deep stretch

it looked again like Equitable would have to settle for second-money, as the game Stalingrad re-broke to take a tight lead into the final strides. Desormeaux, riding for a jockey title, urged Equitable for all he had and the pair won the head-bob by a desperate nose. The win – Desormeaux's 39th – brings him within four of meet leader Cornelio Velasquez with only two days and 21 races remaining.

• Jockey Edgar Prado was taken to Albany Medical Center after falling from Admiral Bird at the conclusion of Saturday's seventh race. There was no official announcement, but he was being treated for an ankle injury.

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Saturday's Saratoga Results

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

10	Ever a Friend	Gomez G K	7.80	3.40	2.70
1	Southern Prince	Hill C		4.20	3.10
5	Count On Pal	Rojas R I			7.80

Finish Time:1:01.66
Trainer: Christophe Clement. Owner: Michael Rankowitz & Susan Karches.
Gr./Ro.g.4 Crafty Friend-Never Is A Promise, Capote.
Bred by Liberation Farm & Oratis Thoroughbreds (KY).
\$2 Exacta 10-1 Paid \$29.60; \$2 Trifecta 10-1-5 Paid \$284.00

2ND. 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

8	Saada	Desormeaux K J	8.30	4.50	4.20
3	Golden Weekend	Prado E S		4.50	4.10
4	Sir Jock	Guidry M			8.70

Finish Time: 1:18.25
Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Zayat Stables.
Dk.B./Br.c.2 Thunder Gulch-Wicked Mama, Devil's Bag.
Bred by Overbrook Farm (KY).
\$2 Exacta 8-3 Paid \$33.80; \$2 Quinella 3-8 Paid \$14.20; \$2 Trifecta 8-3-4 Paid \$213.00; \$2 Daily Double (10-8) Paid \$35.60

3RD. 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. AOC 50,000. PURSE \$69,000.

1	Owners Manual	Garcia Alan	15.80	6.70	5.10
4	Vitruvius	Desormeaux K J		4.70	3.50
5	Leo (GB)	Prado E S			4.10

Finish Time: 1:23.97
Trainer: Bobby Frankel. Owner: Louis Lazzinnaro & Hollow Farms.
Dk.B./Br.c.3 Belong to ME-Mamaison Miss, Mamaison.
Bred by John Greely III (KY).
\$2 Exacta 1-4 Paid \$56.50; \$2 Trifecta 1-4-5 Paid \$367.50

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

1A	Sam's Passion	Gomez G K	5.50	3.30	2.50
7	Hyrule	Desormeaux K J		6.70	5.00
2	Vacation	Velazquez J R			4.20

Finish Time: 1:17.90
Trainer: Nick Zito. Owner: Jachlen Farm.
Ch.c.2 Seeking the Gold-Fob, The Prime Minister.
Bred by Claiborne Farm (KY).
\$2 Exacta 1-7 Paid \$44.00; \$2 Quinella 1-7 Paid \$26.20; \$2 Trifecta 1-7-2 Paid \$201.50; \$2 Pick 3 (8-1-1) 3 Correct Paid \$288.50

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

7	Tobruk	Bejarano R	27.60	10.20	6.20
4	Howdyamissthisone	Velasquez C		3.80	3.00
5	Town Doc	Rojas R I			8.20

Finish Time: 1:42.25
Trainer: Gary Sciacca. Owner: Philip Marcantonio.
Ch.g.3 Out of Place-Kristening, Kris S.
Bred by Philip Marcantonio (NY).
\$2 Exacta 7-4 Paid \$113.50; \$2 Trifecta 7-4-5 Paid \$1,233.00; \$2 Pick 3 (1-1-7) 3 Correct Paid \$1,125.00; \$2 Pick 4 (8-1-1-7) 4 Correct Paid \$4,105.00

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

1	Hussonfirst	Velasquez C	4.60	3.50	2.60
10	Ode to Revolution	Garcia Alan		8.60	5.30
2	Russian Sage	Prado E S			3.80

Finish Time: 1:03.21
Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: Trackmen Golf Club Stable.
Ch.c.2 Hussonet-Bo Bo's Sister, Talc.
Bred by M. Andrea Odenback & Tammy Jacobs (NY).
\$2 Exacta 1-10 Paid \$47.40; \$2 Trifecta 1-10-2 Paid \$257.50; \$2 Pick 3 (1-7-1) 3 Correct Paid \$322.50

7TH. 1 MILE. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. AOC 30,000. PURSE \$64,000.

9	Bethpage Black	Desormeaux K J	83.50	25.20	9.90
10	Admiral Bird	Prado E S		4.50	3.00
14	Yankee Thunder	Gomez G K			2.90

Finish Time: 1:35.40
Trainer: Gary Contessa. Owner: Cory Teleisha & Robert Giammarino.

Dk.B./Br.g.5 Private Terms-Intimate Moments, Benefice.
Bred by Warnerton Farm (NY).
\$2 Exacta 9-10 Paid \$518.00; \$2 Trifecta 9-10-14 Paid \$2,564.00; \$2 Daily Double (1-9) Paid \$273.00; \$2 Pick 3 (7-1-9) 3 Correct Paid \$5,532.00

8TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW. PURSE \$61,000.

1A	Karakorum Elektra	Garcia Alan	4.70	3.10	2.40
2	Flying Sappho	Morales P		20.00	12.00
8	Twistaway	Bridgmohan S X			9.10

Finish Time: 1:02.50
Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: Karakorum Farm.
B.f.3 Freud-Puddin Time, Double Negative.
Bred by SHHS (NY).
\$2 Exacta 1-2 Paid \$98.00; \$2 Trifecta 1-2-8 Paid \$1,154.00; \$2 Pick 3 (1-9-1) 3 Correct Paid \$959.00

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

8	Midnight Lute	Bridgmohan S X	7.20	4.60	3.70
4	Benny the Bull	Guidry M		8.80	5.80
7	Attila's Storm	Bejarano R			4.90

Finish Time: 1:21.06
Trainer: Bob Baffert. Owner: Michael Pegram, Karl Watson & Paul Weitman.
Dk.B./Br.c.4 Real Quiet-Candytuft, Dehere.
Bred by Tom Evans, Macon Wilmil Equines & Marjac Farms (KY).
\$2 Exacta 8-4 Paid \$59.00; \$2 Trifecta 8-4-7 Paid \$341.50; \$2 Pick 3 (9-1-8) 3 Correct Paid \$1,760.00; \$2 Superfecta 8-4-7-5 Paid \$6,880.00

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

1	Lawyer Ron	Velazquez J R	3.50	2.60	2.10
4	Sun King	Garcia Alan		7.70	4.70
2	Diamond Stripes	Luzzi M J			3.50

Finish Time: 1:48.60
Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Owner: Hines Racing.
Ch.c.4 Langfuhr-Donation, Lord Avie.
Bred by James Hines Jr (KY).
\$2 Exacta 1-4 Paid \$38.40; \$2 Trifecta 1-4-2 Paid \$162.00; \$2 Superfecta 1-4-2-5 Paid \$757.00; \$2 Grand Slam (9/10/14-1/2/8-4/7/8-1) Paid \$33.40

11TH. 1 3/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

7	Equitable	Desormeaux K J	4.60	3.10	2.60
3	Stalingrad	Hill C		16.20	8.00
4	Schoolboy (GER)	Garcia Alan			5.30

Finish Time: 1:53.74
Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Pin Oak Stable.
Ch.c.3 A.P. Indy-Equilibrate, Gone West.
Bred by Pin Oak Stud (KY).
\$2 Exacta 7-3 Paid \$70.50; \$2 Trifecta 7-3-4 Paid \$463.50; \$2 Superfecta 7-3-4-11 Paid \$5,234.00; \$2 Daily Double (1-7) Paid \$8.20; \$2 Pick 3 (8-1-7) 3 Correct Paid \$31.60; \$2 Pick 4 (1-8-1-7) 4 Correct Paid \$107.00; \$2 Pick 6 (1-9-1-8-1-7) 6 Correct Paid \$20,736.00, 5 Correct Paid \$30.20

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RACE 2: Third choice won.
RACE 3: Second selection finished, well, second.
RACE 4: Sam's Passion gave us a lovely \$5.50 winner.
RACE 5: Top pick finished third, second choice scratched.
RACE 6: Top pick scratched.
RACE 7: Top pick finished second.
RACE 8: Ditto.
RACE 9: Midnight Lute deputized when our top pick scratched and brought home a \$7.20 win.
RACE 10: Second selection won.
RACE 11: Equitable was an economical \$4.60 winner.
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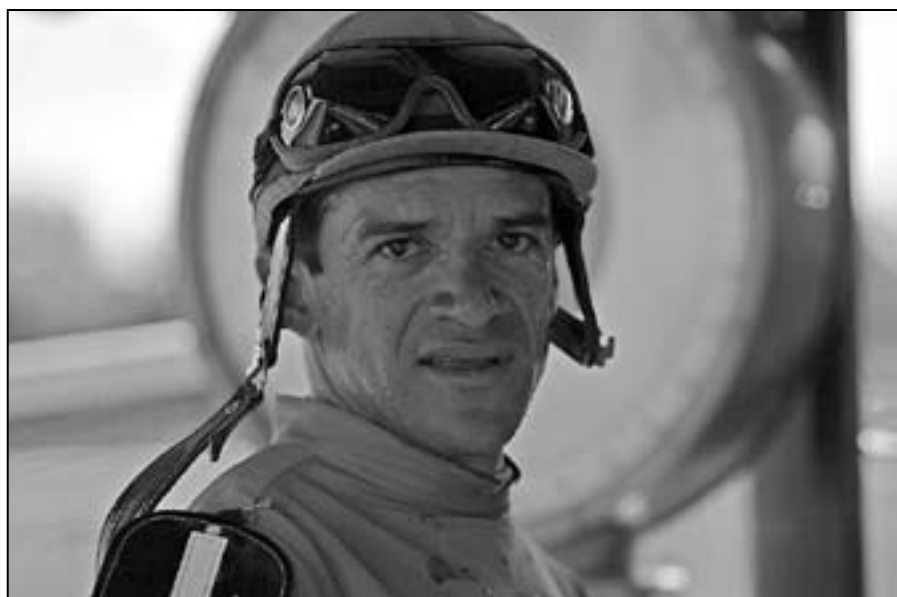


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Jockeys

Cornelio Velasquez	43	Raul Rojas	3
Kent Desormeaux	39	Jean-Luc Samyn	3
Ramon Dominguez	28	Jose Bracetty	2
Garrett Gomez	28	Eddie Castro	2
Edgar Prado	27	Danielle Hodsdon	2
Javier Castellano	21	Mike Luzzi	2
Rafael Bejarano	20	Robby Albarado	1
John Velazquez	20	Roberto Alvarado	1
Alan Garcia	18	Norberto Arroyo Jr	1
Eibar Coa	17	Jorge Chavez	1
Shaun Bridgmohan	11	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	23	Gary Gullo	2
Gary Contessa	12	Leah Gyarmati	2
Richard Dutrow	12	Eoin Harty	2
Todd Pletcher	12	Mike Hernandez	2
Linda Rice	12	Roger Horgan	2
Tom Bush	9	Atreo Persaud	2
Steve Asmussen	8	Tim Ritvo	2
Kiaran McLaughlin	8	Gary Sciacca	2
Christophe Clement	7	Jonathan Sheppard	2
Barclay Tagg	7	Al Stall Jr	2
Stan Hough	6	Dallas Stewart	2
Tony Dutrow	6	Mike Trombetta	2
Bobby Frankel	6	John Ward	2
Rick Schosberg	6	Ronny Werner	2
George Weaver	6	Frank Alexander	1
Nick Zito	6	William Allyn	1
Bob Baffert	5	Enrique Arroyo	1
Patrick Biancone	5	Bobby Barbara	1
Saeed bin Suroor	5	James Bond	1
Dominic Galluscio	5	Jane Cibelli	1
John Kimmel	5	John Destefano Jr	1
Graham Motion	5	Gregory DiPrima	1
Rick Violette	5	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	Howie Teshner	1
Tom Albertrani	2	Jimmy Toner	1
Rusty Arnold	2	Tom Voss	1
Billy Badgett	2	Wesley Ward	1
Glenn DiSanto	2	Donna Wormser	1
Debra Divitto	2		
Chris Englehart	2		



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Fillies, to go

Ten entered in Grade I shootout

BY SEAN CLANCY

Two racing days to go, two Grade I stakes still on the buffet table. Sunday's Grade I offering is the Spinaway. Ten 2-year-old fillies take aim at the only Grade I stakes for their class at Saratoga. Todd Pletcher and Steve Asmussen stood at the rail of the Oklahoma training track and analyzed the race.

At least briefly.

"It's tough," Asmussen said, before walking around the bend to see a horse gallop. Pletcher took a more detailed approach, borrowing a *Form* and scanning the 10 runners for the \$250,000 stakes.

"Like always, it's a competitive race," Pletcher said from atop his pony. "Irish Smoke was impressive first time out. More Happy's 2-for-2. . . the one thing I do like is our filly got an outside post."

Pletcher unleashes Passion, fresh off a third in the Adirondack. The daughter of Came Home broke from the 2 hole in the middle leg of Saratoga's three stakes for juvenile fillies. She shuffled back behind the runaway speed of More Happy before rallying to finish third, beaten 1 1/2 lengths.

"She was stuck down inside most of the way," Pletcher said. "She showed some courage considering that."

SPINAWAY STAKES PREVIEW

Passion broke her maiden in her career debut, streaking over Arlington Park's Polytrack to win by 7 1/2 lengths. Pletcher sent her to Saratoga for the Adirondack. She's had one work since then, a half-mile in 49 seconds Aug. 27.

"We sent her to Arlington for the Polytrack," Pletcher said. "She came out of the Keeneland 2-year-old sale and worked really well there. We trained her there and felt like keeping her on the Polytrack was the best move. She's handled the dirt fine. I thought she would handle the dirt, you never know before you try it but it's not like she's got a turf pedigree. She's come back good and trained well. We looked at the Matron, and all things being equal, we'd rather run in a Grade I as opposed to a Grade II."

The two fillies Pletcher mentioned in his brief synopsis leap from different blocks. More Happy exits the Adirondack where Irish Smoke comes out of a dynamic victory in her debut here Aug. 2.

More Happy shot to the lead in the 6 1/2-furlong Adirondack, opening up nearly 5 lengths in the stretch before lasting by three-quarters of a length over Spinaway starters A To The Croft, Pas-



Tod Marks

Passion steps into the paddock for the Adirondack, where she finished third. She's one of the contenders in Sunday's Grade I Spinaway.

sion, Yonagucci and Phantom Income.

Trained by Bob Baffert, More Happy won her debut over Del Mar's Polytrack before shipping east. A \$1 million 2-year-old purchase, More Happy should jump to the lead and try to last the extra half-furlong. Rafael Bejarano gets the return assignment.

Irish Smoke attracted plenty of window action when making her debut a month ago at Saratoga. Trained by Patrick Biancone, the daughter of Smoke Glacken cost \$285,000 in March and made it look like a good investment when coming from off the pace in her

debut to score by a comfortable 2 1/4 lengths with Julien Leparoux, who will ride her again today.

"She's well, she has trained very well and we're happy with her. We brought her back to Keeneland (after her last win) because she's used to it and it's a very safe surface and we didn't want to have any hiccups coming into a big race like this," Biancone said. "She does spot experience but she showed a lot of maturity the first time. A lot of these horses who come from the 2-year-

See **SPINAWAY** page 19 ►

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Spinaway —

■ Continued from page 18

old sales mature well. It's a tough one tomorrow, you know? A Grade I at 7 furlongs. But she has showed a lot of promise and she did it the right way the first time. She's in good health and we hope for the best."

Ken McPeck liked A To The Croft before the Adirondack and loved her afterward. Nothing came easy for the daughter of Menifee in her second start. She broke from the rail, was bumped at the start, then shuffled like an iPod before finishing a fast-closing second to More Happy. Kent Desormeaux keeps the ride.

"There are some fast horses in there, she's going to be coming late, she needs a clean trip," McPeck said. "I was real pleased, it was a little frustrating she had such a bad trip, but it happens. Nothing I can do about that, it's Kent Desormeaux's job."

McPeck came to Saratoga with eyes on the Adirondack and Spinaway. But his brain is on the fall races where the distance stretches.

"We're still not cranked for this, I'd like to see her run good and then she'll come back in the Alcibiades, if she competes at a high level there, she'll go to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile," McPeck said.

"At this stage, she's doing pretty much everything she's doing on raw talent, we haven't cranked her up and you don't need to. I'm not big on 2-year-old races anyway, but she's all class. I'm hoping she runs third or better, comes out of it good, then go to Keeneland and try to win my third Alcibiades."

Asmussen drew the outside post with Blitzing, who finished a close third in the opening week's Schuylerville. A daughter of Montbrook, she came from



Tod Marks
More Happy is unbeaten and comes off a win in the Adirondack.



Tod Marks
Phantom Income represents trainer Rick Violette in Sunday's Spinaway.

just off the pace in her career debut at Churchill and sat off the pace again from an outside post in the Schuylerville. Shaun Bridgmohan takes the call.

Every race produces excuses but no Adirondack starter had an excuse like Phantom Income.

She reared up and came out the gate like a champagne cork, jockey Eibar Coa lost his irons and she was declared a non-starter. Trainer Rick Violette obviously thinks she's no worse for the debacle and entered her right back. She breezed a mild half-mile in 51 seconds Tuesday.

Two-time winners at Calder, Yonagucci and Salty Wave, take their shots against Saratoga's best. Salty Wave won her first two starts by open lengths before a debacle of the grass. Manuel

Criollo ships her north and gets the call from meet leader Cornelio Velasquez.

Yonagucci won her first two runs at Calder before coming north for the Adirondack where she faded to fifth. Trained by Manny Azpurua and ridden by Calder-based Jeffrey Sanchez, Yonagucci took the JJ's Dream in her second start over a sloppy track.

Morakami upset a maiden Aug. 5 for trainer Rusty Arnold and comes off a quick breeze when she went a half-mile in 46 4/5 Monday. Edgar Prado rides from the rail.

Richard Dutrow claimed Predat for \$50,000 from Asmussen in June, won a \$75,000 maiden claimer here Aug. 3. Dutrow also entered her in the Sorority at Monmouth. Garrett Gomez is named at Saratoga.

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"On the Backside" by Juli Kirk

Brother Act

Blazing Dynamo aims to repeat Saratoga turf tally for Toner barn

BY BRIAN NADEAU

SARANAC STAKES PREVIEW

Six years ago trainer Jimmy Toner stood in Saratoga's winner's circle, having watched a sophomore son of Dynaformer storm from off the pace to capture the Saranac Stakes. Toner looks for a repeat performance when he saddles Blazing Fury's full brother, Blazing Dynamo, in Sunday's Grade III Saranac.

Run over the Mellon Turf Course at 1 3/16 miles, the centennial edition of the \$100,000 stakes brings together 11 3-year-olds, each brimming with potential but without a graded-stakes score.

Owned by Ronald and Patricia Nicholson, Blazing Dynamo – second choice on the morning line – came into his own this year at Belmont Park, where he broke his maiden and won a first-level allowance June 22 over fellow Saranac rivals Ambassador and Pays To Dream. Elder brother Blazing Fury came into the 2001 Saranac after breaking his maiden at Belmont and running second in an allowance earlier at the Spa.

"The horses are somewhat similar," Toner said. "All Blazing Fury did was break his maiden and run in an allowance race here, then he won the Saranac; so basically they're on the same path."

As a younger horse Blazing Fury proved to be a difficult sort, and he was eventually gelded. After his Saranac win he went on to finish fourth (against older horses) in a pair of prestigious Grade I events later in the season: the Turf Classic Invitational and Breeders' Cup Turf, both at Belmont. While Blazing Dynamo has some big shoes to fill, Toner is excited about his future.

"He has a much better disposition than his brother; he could be a nasty sort. It was one of the reasons we had to geld him. This guy here is starting to come into his own. In Florida earlier in the year and last year he was somewhat immature but he's starting to develop in his last few starts," Toner said. "With this family, the farther they go the better. He showed his affinity for a mile and a quarter when he won a non-winners of one. He's still not seasoned enough,

but he'll be fine. Next year, when he gets more mature, the farther he goes the better. The Dynaformers have some capacity for distance so this horse should get better as he gets older."

Toner shot for the moon last time, sending Blazing Dynamo to Colonial Downs for the Grade II, \$1 million Virginia Derby. The hefty purse was a carrot Toner just couldn't refuse. Blazing Dynamo ran a solid race, checking in fifth, though beaten only 6 1/2 lengths by Red Giant, who would be nosed out of the Grade I Secretariat in his next start. Sitting close to a dawdling pace under Kent Desormeaux (who was aboard for both wins and has the return call Sunday) Blazing Dynamo battled hard through the lane but found the waters a bit too deep.

"He went to Virginia and ran a solid race. Those horses were just a little bit better than him, plus the trip and the heat was tough; he just wasn't quite ready for that, but he ran well," Toner said. "I just got a little bit ahead of myself with him last time, shipping him down to Virginia. It was a mile and a quarter and I thought I'd take a shot. Plus the money – it was a million dollars. It's a lot of money. He needs pace, so we would like to see some in there so we can rate him. Otherwise, he's the type of horse that he gets up in there and it's not what he wants."

Todd Pletcher starts an uncoupled entry of Mysterious Peintre and Distorted Reality. A French import, Mysterious Peintre finished ninth as the favorite in the \$82,000 Glow Stakes here Aug. 4, his second American start. Garrett Gomez picks up the mount on a colt looking for his first win in the United States after scoring twice in his native land earlier this year. Prior to the Glow he was fourth in the Grade III Colonial Turf Cup, beaten only 4 1/4 lengths by the accomplished Summer Doldrums and Strike A Deal.

"The French horse, everything went wrong the first time we ran him. He



Tod Marks

Pays To Dream is a contender in Sunday's Saranac.

seemed like a horse who was a little bit unfocused, I worked him a couple of times with blinkers and I thought he responded pretty well," Pletcher said. "We ran him and he got away a step slow and then he got too rank and fresh, pulled too hard. I'm thinking blinkers off this time, he should settle a little more. I like him, he's an easy horse to train. He's a real good-doing horse, if anything, he's a little chunky. He might just be a little bit quirky, though."

Glancing at the past performances, the pace of Sunday's Saranac is tricky to discern. With little speed signed on, Distorted Reality could find himself in front for John Velazquez. Easily the most accomplished member of the field, Distorted Reality won the \$106,000 Lexington two starts ago at Belmont, and finished third last time in the Grade II Hall of Fame, beaten only three-quarters of a length by division heavyweights Nobiz Like Shobiz and Marcavelly.

"He's about as consistent as they get. He just goes over there and he's either good enough or he's not, he'll put in a good race," Pletcher said. "Being on the same weekend as the Kent (a \$500,000 Grade III at Delaware Park), you've got Summer Doldrums and Nobiz Like Shobiz going there – that makes a difference. We were pretty much committed to the Saranac because I already knew the others were going to Delaware. I thought Summer Doldrums might run here, it was nice when he opted to go there. Without them and (Alan) Goldberg's horse (Strike A Deal), it's obviously an easier spot."

Ambassador hails from the Fair Hill, Md., barn of trainer Bernardo Callegas

and rates a long look in the Saranac. Leading rider Cornelio Velasquez picks up the mount on the son of Acatenango, who has come to hand quickly this year for Callegas.

Second in his turf debut (at more than 45-1) May 5 at Belmont, Ambassador scored by 3 lengths in his next start. Second to Blazing Dynamo by 3 3/4 lengths in the following outing, he returned to take an allowance race at Belmont July 14. In the Hall of Fame he closed late to finish fourth, beaten a length for the win, while finishing only a neck behind Distorted Reality.

Pays To Dream won the Glow after a late rally under Javier Castellano for trainer David Donk. The victory improved the son of High Yield to 3-for-3 at a mile and 4-for-6 lifetime, both on the turf. He has come up wanting in both attempts over a mile, however, including a distant third behind Blazing Dynamo and Ambassador in that June 22 Belmont allowance. Castellano has the return call.

Diamond Fever is perfect in three turf starts for trainer Michael Matz, but he finds the competition much stiffer here. The son of Seeking The Gold won the \$59,000 Stanton Stakes at Delaware in his last start on July 21 and regular rider Jose Caraballo comes in to take the call.

Senor Enrico (Alan Garcia) for trainer Leroy Jolley, Mission Approved (Eibar Coa) for Gary Contessa, Chaluitwincane (Rafael Bejarano) for Nerio Vargas, La Neige (Ramon Dominguez) for Rick Dutrow, and Giant Chieftan (Edgar Prado) for Stan Hough round out the Saranac field.



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Sunday's Saratoga Entries

Sunday, Sept. 2. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 50,000. PURSE \$63,000.

1	1	Brown Eyed Belle	Coa E M	Contessa Gary	7-2
1A	9	Higher Incentive	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	7-2
2	2	Now More Than Ever	Desormeaux K J	Jacobson David	6-1
3	3	Stag Dancer	Bejarano R	Dutrow Tony	9-2
4	4	Brassy Boots	Luzzi M J	Kazamias Peter	8-1
5	5	Graeme Central	Gomez G K	Violette Rick	15-1
6	6	Zippy Missy	Bridgmohan S X	Asmussen Steve	8-1
7	7	Bodgit's Jewel	Velasquez C	Bond James	5-1
8	8	Ahvee's Destiny	Garcia Alan	Rice Linda	3-1
9	MTO	Two Turn Halo	Prado E S	Levine Bruce	7-2

A-Coupled: Brown Eyed Belle and Higher Incentive
Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

2ND (1:32) 6 FURLONGS. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	Judge William	Gomez G K	Gregory Seth	15-1
2	2	Missinglislewis	Leparoux J R	Hushion Mike	10-1
3	3	Norlou	Velasquez C	Clement Christophe	10-1
4	4	Wishful Tomcat	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	9-2
5	5	Good Law	Velazquez J R	Dutrow Richard	7-2
6	6	Alexandros	Castellano J J	Carroll II Del	6-1
7	7	Winloc's Saint Ray	Bridgmohan S X	Miceli Michael	20-1
8	8	Rollers	Prado E S	Tagg Barclay	2-1
9	9	On With It	Geroux F	Biancone Patrick	10-1

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

3RD (2:04) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$68,000.

1	1	Upscale Storm	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	15-1
2	2	Stilled	Coa E M	Tagg Barclay	5-2
3	3	Cat Charmer	Gomez G K	Motion Graham	7-2
4	4	Bunny Junction	Garcia Alan	Terranova II John	20-1
5	5	Queen Joanne	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	3-1
6	6	Lorelei Legend	Castellano J J	Frankel Bobby	8-1
7	7	Queens Full	Prado E S	Clement Christophe	4-1
8	8	Waquoit's Love	Velasquez C	Hills Tim	10-1
9	MTO	Lost Etiquette	No rider	Reynolds Pat	2-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

4TH (2:36) 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. CLAIMING 25,000. PURSE \$25,000.

1	1	Dade County	Bejarano R	Weaver George	5-1
2	2	Gone Prospecting	Dominguez R A	Martin Carlos	12-1
3	3	It Ends Now	Garcia Alan	Allen Randy	8-1
4	4	Dontess	Bridgmohan S X	Tesher Howie	8-1
5	5	Minister's Appeal	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	3-1
6	6	Secret Stocks	Castellano J J	Hough Stan	8-1
7	7	Full of Rage	Rojas R I	Gyarmati Leah	20-1
8	8	Estimator	Velasquez C	Hernandez Mike	9-2
9	9	Wild Quake	Prado E S	Dutrow Tony	4-1

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

5TH (3:08) 1 3/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

1	1	Mollie's Brush	Dominguez R A	Motion Graham	10-1
1A	MTO	Indescribable	Dominguez R A	Motion Graham	10-1
2	2	Final Refrain	Leparoux J R	Stall Jr Al	3-1
3	3	Deliciously Wicked	Rojas R I	Sciacca Gary	20-1
4	4	Inda	Coa E M	McGaughey Shug	4-1
5	5	Miss Fervor	Garcia Alan	Albertrani Tom	15-1
6	6	Quiet Alice	Prado E S	Arnold Rusty	7-2
7	7	Who Fu	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	8-1
8	8	A. P. Test	Castellano J J	Kelly Pat	5-1
9	9	Silver Ransom	Velasquez C	Sheppard Jonathan	12-1
10	MTO	Fly	Garcia Alan	Toner Jimmy	12-1

A-Coupled: Mollie's Brush and Indescribable
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (5-7)

6TH (3:40) 6 1/2 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$62,000.

1	2	Banner Day	Castellano J J	Arnold Rusty	5-1
1A	6	Highest Class	Bejarano R	Howard Neil	5-1
2	10	Moon de French	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	7-2
2B	12	Sunday Holiday	Desormeaux K J	Mott Bill	7-2
3	1	Cape Cod Bay	Gomez G K	Stewart Dallas	10-1
4	3	Wickenden	Coa E M	Sciacca Gary	20-1
5	4	Ma Rainey	Dominguez R A	Stall Jr Al	15-1
6	5	Color Me Up	Velasquez C	Lukas Wayne	15-1
7	7	Lucky Copy	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	5-1
8	8	Tenacious	Prado E S	Bond James	8-1
9	9	Esther Got Even	Garcia Alan	Zito Nick	10-1
10	11	Hopehopehope	Leparoux J R	Biancone Patrick	3-1

A-Coupled: Banner Day and Highest Class
B-Coupled: Moon de French and Sunday Holiday
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (6-8), Pick 6 (6-11), Daily Double

7TH (4:12) 1 1/8 MILES. 3&UP. NY BRED. ALW/OPT CLM 30,000. PURSE \$64,000.

1	1	Stud Muffin	Bejarano R	Galluscio Dominic	7-2
1A	7	Lethimthinkhesboss	Desormeaux K J	Galluscio Dominic	7-2
2	5	Wild Vicar	Coa E M	Contessa Gary	6-1
2B	10	Log Jam	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	6-1
3	9	Hangingbyathread	Prado E S	Serpe Phil	9-2
3X	AE	French Transition	Garcia Alan	Serpe Phil	9-2
4	2	Seeking the Money	Rojas R I	Everett Scott	20-1
5	3	Questioning	Gomez G K	Lerman Roy	5-1
6	4	Sideways Glance	Velasquez C	Englehart Chris	8-1
7	6	Optimistic Steve	Luzzi M J	Zito Nick	8-1
8	8	Drizzly	Velazquez J R	Quick Patrick	6-1
9	11	Delta Sea	Chavez J F	Ferraro James	15-1
10	12	Children's Annex	Leparoux J R	Bush Tom	12-1

A-Coupled: Stud Muffin and Lethimthinkhesboss
B-Coupled: Wild Vicar and Log Jam
C-Coupled: Hangingbyathread and French Transition
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (7-9), Grand Slam (7-10)

8TH (4:44) IRISH ACTRESS. 1 MILE. TURF. FILLIES. 3YO. NY BRED. PURSE \$80,000.

1	1	Tishmeister	Prado E S	Ritvo Tim	9-2
2	2	Jesse's Justice	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	3-1
3	3	Street Sass	Gomez G K	Weaver George	10-1
4	4	Don't Mind Me	Dominguez R A	Galluscio Dominic	6-1
5	5	Western Sweep	Bejarano R	Martin Carlos	10-1
6	6	Becky's Flute	Chavez J F	Jerkens Allen	15-1
7	7	Jocassee	Coa E M	Contessa Gary	4-1
8	8	Acquired Cat	Velasquez C	Alexander Frank	8-1
9	9	Guts Game	Desormeaux K J	Duggan David	20-1
10	10	Michele the Great	Castellano J J	Donk David	12-1
11	AE	Cute Cognac	Coa E M	Tagg Barclay	5-1
12	MTO	Laurentide Ice	Desormeaux K J	Hennig Mark	4-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 4 (8-11)

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

1	1	Mysterious Peintre (FR)	Gomez G K	Pletcher Todd	8-1
2	2	Senor Enrico	Garcia Alan	Jolley Leroy	30-1
3	3	Mission Approved	Coa E M	Contessa Gary	20-1
4	4	Chaluiwitcane	Bejarano R	Vargas Nerio	12-1
5	5	Pays to Dream	Castellano J J	Donk David	8-1
6	6	La Neige (GB)	Dominguez R A	Dutrow Richard	8-1
7	7	Distorted Reality	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	5-2
8	8	Diamond Fever	Caraballo J C	Matz Michael	8-1
9	9	Ambassador (GER)	Velasquez C	Callejas Bernardo	6-1
10	10	Blazing Dynamo	Desormeaux K J	Toner Jimmy	9-2
11	11	Giant Chieftan	Prado E S	Hough Stan	20-1

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

10TH (5:49) THE SPINAWAY (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. PURSE \$250,000.

1	1	Morakami	Prado E S	Arnold Rusty	12-1
2	2	Salty Wave	Velasquez C	Criollo Manuel	20-1
3	3	A to the Croft	Desormeaux K J	McPeck Ken	6-1
4	4	Predate	Gomez G K	Dutrow Richard	10-1
5	5	Yonagucci	Sanchez J	Azpuru Manny	20-1
6	6	Irish Smoke	Leparoux J R	Biancone Patrick	5-2
7	7	More Happy	Bejarano R	Baffert Bob	5-1
8	8	Phantom Income	Coa E M	Violette Rick	8-1
9	9	Passion	Velazquez J R	Pletcher Todd	8-1
10	10	Blitzing	Bridgmohan S X	Asmussen Steve	9-2

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

11TH (6:20) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$57,000.

1	7	Crusader's Code	Desormeaux K J	Tesher Howie	3-1
1A	AE	G T Gaitor	Rojas R I	Tesher Howie	3-1
2	1	Jetastik	Dominguez R A	Contessa Gary	5-1
3	2	No More Flags	Bracetty J A	Hertler John	30-1
4	3	Guessing Game	Prado E S	Martin Frank	20-1
5	4	Money Oriented	Velazquez J R	O'Brien Colum	4-1
6	5	Parachute Jump	Castellano J J	Clement Christophe	6-1
7	6	Knownowthisistrue	Leparoux J R	Reinacher Jr Rob	6-1
8	8	Sarah Sunshine	Luzzi M J	Carroll II Del	15-1
9	9	Inflential	Garcia Alan	Rice Linda	8-1
10	10	Mother Cat	Velasquez C	Chin Peter	8-1
11	AE	Winter Prayer	Gomez O	Candlin John	50-1

A-Coupled: Crusader's Code and G T Gaitor
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Sunday's Detailed Analysis

RACE 1: These turf sprints seem to be won on the lead so look no further than BROWN EYED BELLE, who breaks from the rail and makes her turf debut for Gary Contessa. Turf-too-dirt isn't really Gary's angle, but at 5 1/2 panels it might not matter. ZIPPY MISSY also makes her turf debut and she may be closest to the top choice early. BRASSY BOOTS could be in a good spot turning for home.

RACE 2: The heck with the tote-and-paddock check, let's get ON WITH IT in this spot. This guy's dam, Rosie O'Greta (trained by Linda Rice), was one of my all-time favorites – but this isn't a sentimental play as the gal could run. She's the only filly ever to win Belmont's Tremont and she is also a half-sister to monster Surf Cat, as well as throwing a first-out winner out west. ROLLERS has been working in company with Big Truck, who aired in his first start for Barclay Tagg; would be no surprise. GOOD LAW has a license to be a fast 2-year-old for win-early connections.

RACE 3: CAT CHARMER made a good account of herself when facing winners for the first time, so she gets a tepid nod. Her closing style fits the profile for these longer turf races as well. QUEEN JOANNE was impressive breaking her maiden Aug. 2, but the waters get deeper. STILLED was ultra-game in losing to heavily favored Clifton Bay downstate, but fear she'll have to run hard on the lead today.

RACE 4: George Weaver has been winning with everything of late, and now rolls out one of his specialties – a horse (DADE COUNTY) returning off of more than 180 days off. WILD QUAKE might get enough speed to set up his rally. ESTIMATOR drops and gets blinkers; wake-up time?

RACE 5: A. P. TEST calls multiple Grade I-winner Riskaverse kin, and that's good enough for this spot. Two useful efforts to start her career should have her primed for her best. INDA ran too-good-to-lose last out, but you haven't exactly been able to set your watch by her either. Don't expect a price on FINAL REFRAIN, as everyone saw the nightmare trip Aug. 12. The problem is that with her deep-closing style, you might get that trip once again, at a much shorter number than 12-1.

RACE 6: OK, might want to dust off the tote-and-paddock check here, as this one is wide open. Want a bomb, do ya? Not often William Clifton and trainer Jimmy Bond spend \$300,000 for a horse, so I've got to believe TENACIOUS is a runner. Seeing Edgar Prado aboard increases my confidence even more; any sort of tote action and we might have something. BANNER DAY ran well in her debut for a good 2-year-old outfit. Either half of Bill Mott's entry of MOON DE FRENCH or SUNDAY HOLIDAY would be no surprise.

RACE 7: Need to be inside in these 9-furlong races on the main, and STUD MUFFIN qualifies from the wood. He'll need to improve off his last dirt score two back, but he's only 3, so it's not out of the question. OPTIMISTIC STEVE was nothing of the sort after sitting a perfect trip earlier in the meet. He has to be able to do better, right? SIDEWAYS GLANCE might get brave on the lead.

RACE 8: We need to go with a fresh new face in here so let's try JESSE'S JUSTICE. It's been an off meet for Todd Pletcher, but he looks to have a classy turfer on his hands here. TISHMEISTER showed a new dimension last time, stalking and pouncing to score. At 2-for-15 she isn't exactly a win machine. Allen Jerkens is a genius, so BECKY'S FLUTE is just fine by me.

RACE 9: If you missed the wedding, don't go to the funeral, right? Well, the problem is PAYS TO DREAM was more than 9-1 last time, meaning he's got to be another good price here. He better be, as I'm not sure a mile and three sixteenths is his game. However, he's extremely talented for expert turf connections. DISTORTED REALITY seems to be a grinder and that might play to his advantage here. Faced "Nobiz" and Marcavelly last time, and there's no one like that in here. The same goes for AMBASSADOR, who was only a neck behind Distorted last time. Might be better suited for this distance as well.

RACE 10: The feeling here is that Kenny McPeck has a very special 2-year-old filly on his hands in A TO THE CROFT. She's going to win the Spinaway, and she's going to be a fair price to boot . . . what more can you ask for? PASSION followed the top one in the Adirondack and should be closing again. Here's your "get out of the meet on top" exacta. IRISH SMOKE was visually impressive in her facile debut score, but she's wading in the deep end of the pool here.

RACE 11: Linda Rice can't seem to do any wrong on the Spa turf, and her firster INFLUENTIAL meets no one special in here. CRUSADER'S CODE is a bounce candidate, but even if she does it might be enough to score in this spot. MOTHER CAT stretches out and won't have to improve much to factor.

– Brian Nadeau



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Race

1	Ahvee's Destiny Bodgit's Jewel Brassy Boots	Brown Eyed Belle Now More Than Ever Ahvee's Destine	Brown Eyed Belle Zippy Missy Brassy Boots	Zippy Missy Bodgit's Jewel Stag Dancer
2	Rollers Good Law Alexandros	Rollers Wishful Tomcat Missinglisalewis	On With It Rollers Good Law	Judge William Norlou On With It
3	Cat Charmer Queen Joanne Stilled	Cat Charmer Stilled Queen Joanne	Cat Charmer Queen Joanne Stilled	Waquoit's Love Queen Joanne Stilled
4	Estimator Full Of Rage Dade County	It Ends Now Dade County Estimator	Dade County Wild Quake Estimator	Dontess Gone Prospecting Wild Quake
5	Final Refrain Quiet Alice Mollie's Brush	A. P. Test Quiet Alice Mollie's Brush	A. P. Test Inda Final Refrain	A. P. Test Silver Ransom Inda
6	Banner Day Lucky Copy Hopehopehope	Lucky Copy Banner Day Hopehopehope	Tenacious Banner Day Mott entry	Lucky Copy Cape Cod Bay Tenacious
7	Galluscio entry Questioning Hangingbyathread	Sideways Glance Stud Muffin Questioning	Stud Muffin Optimistic Steve Sideways Glance	Stud Muffin Sideways Glance Wild Vicar
8	Jesse's Justice Becky's Flute Michele The Great	Tishmeister Don't Mind Me Street Sass	Jessie's Justice Tishmeister Becky's Flute	Jocasse Street Sass Acquired Cat
9	Blazing Dynamo Ambassador Diamond Fever	Distorted Reality Chaluiwitcane Ambassador	Pays To Dream Distorted Reality Ambassador	Blazing Dynamo Mission Approved Pays To Dream
10	A To The Croft Irish Smoke More Happy	Phantom Income More Happy Irish Smoke	A To The Croft Passion Irish Smoke	A To The Croft Salty Wave Blitzing
11	Parachute Jump Influential Teshar entry	Influential Parachute Jump Crusader's Code	Influential Crusader's Code Mother Cat	Mother Cat Knownowthisistrue No More Flags
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Closing Fast

Weaver barn cranks up victories in final days

BY DAVID KOSAK

It's not how you start, it's how you finish. Stay the course; wait for things to develop. Trainer George Weaver and his barn couldn't agree more. After starting slowly at Saratoga, the Weaver barn is vigorously drawing away in the stretch. Weaver horses have won six times in the last 11 racing days – a run that put Weaver in a tie for 10th in the trainer standings.

Through Saturday, Weaver had won six races from 41 starts with nine seconds and four thirds. Considering he was 0-for-18 at one point, that's a nice rally. Victory No. 1 came Sunday, Aug. 19 with Dogwood Stable's Pulla Fast One.



George Weaver

Besides frequent trips to the winner's circle, nothing changed for the trainer. Even when times were tough, he didn't waiver from what he's always done.

"Well it's frustrating and you want to win. We had some good seconds and some very nice performances (in the beginning)," he said. "But we've been doing this long enough that you don't really get wrapped up into it too much. You

hear people make comments and people like Indian Charlie write about it, but it's kind of funny."

Weaver learned this patience from his years under hall of fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas. He also spent several years working as an assistant to fellow Lukas assistant, Todd Pletcher. Like all trainers, Weaver knows how to win, but he also knows how to wait out the tough times and trust in his gameplan.

"The first win felt great, but you try not to get too wrapped up in the slow times because they happen," Weaver said. "You don't want to deviate from what you know how to do. You don't want a losing streak to change what you're doing because that's when you get yourself in trouble. You start making decisions out of frustration. We try to do right by the horses and pick out appropriate spots for them. Hopefully we can keep it up, but if we get slow again, that's OK, we'll just keep doing what we know how to do."

It's easy to make such a statement when you're winning, but for the Weaver barn it's a philosophy.



Tod Marks

Pulla Fast One gave the George Weaver barn its first victory of the meet Sunday, Aug. 19.

"This barn is always a happy barn. George just does a great job no matter what's going on," exercise rider Allison Logan said. "This barn has always been a good place to work. Everyone enjoys it even if it's frustrating when you're doing everything you can and the horses aren't winning. Any time we get a win up here it's good. I don't know why we got the turnaround, but we're all excited about it."

When things aren't going well and the winner's circle becomes a distant memory, frustration and second-guessing are expected. Losing makes everything long and tedious. Winning, of course, cures all ills.

"Winning makes it a little easier to get up every day; you're able to get past where you're tired and exhausted," Weaver's wife and assistant Cindy Hutter said. "It definitely helps to win, especially with the owners here; you just want to do so well for them. All year long the owners wait for Saratoga. They want to win here."

Like rolling with the punches of losing, trainers must maintain an even keel when the winning starts.

"You start to get disappointed if you're second," she said. "I feel like how Todd (Pletcher) would feel when he doesn't win. It's really nice to win; it makes it feel like maybe all of that hard work is finally paying off."

In the end, it comes down to placing horses where they belong. If the right horse is in the right spot at the right time, winning comes naturally.

"You have to be competitive. Obviously in the last week or so, we've had our horses in the right spots and did well," Weaver said. "Going into the meet we had a couple live horses and I thought we could get off the duck early on, but the races didn't go our way. After the first three weeks without a win I was start-

ing to realize that it was possible we might not win a race here."

That's all changed. Six wins, and a top 10 finish are possibly on the horizon – now it's a successful Saratoga for Weaver and his barn.

"This is a very tough place to win, so if you can have a good showing, everyone recognizes it," said Weaver. "Winning's not an easy thing to do up here. You try to keep an open mind and listen to your horses. It's important not to get frazzled and to stick to your program."

Around the barn, the wins make a big difference.

"It's pretty nice to win at Saratoga. It was a little disappointing at the beginning because we were running some horses that we liked, but they didn't finish well," said exercise rider Dennis Chavez. "Now things are going well. We aren't running any better horses, we've just found better spots for our horses. We keep doing the same things every day. It just feels good to win races. The first half of the meet was tough, but now everyone is smiling and they're happy."

As for recognition, it's pretty difficult to avoid the new attention. Public handicappers suddenly start typing "the red- (or even white-) hot George Weaver."

As for the timing, it couldn't be better.

"In some respects it's drawn a lot of attention to us. The fact that we've reeled off six wins in the last week and a half, we've been noticed more than if we'd won slow," said Weaver. "It's better than having the wins spread out or winning early and then tailing off. The last week and a half has been timed very well because it's when most of the people are around. It feels great to have it happen the way it's happened."

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Monday's Saratoga Entries

Monday, Sept. 3. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (1:00) 6 FURLONGS. 3&UP. CLAIMING 25,000. PURSE \$27,000.

1	4	Bazooka Bob	.....	Fragoso P	.....	Odintz Jeff	.....	6-1
1A	6	Karakorum Thunder	.....	Luzzi M J	.....	Odintz Jeff	.....	6-1
2	1	Raw Cat	.....	Coa E M	.....	Violette Rick	.....	4-1
3	2	September Hero	.....	Rose J	.....	Wolferseder John	.....	20-1
4	3	Joe On the Go	.....	Samyn J L	.....	Badgett Billy	.....	12-1
5	5	Tuffy Gold	.....	Bracetty J A	.....	Kelly Pat	.....	15-1
6	7	Yes It's the Truth	.....	Prado E S	.....	Asmussen Steve	.....	3-1
7	8	Execeleration	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	Contessa Gary	.....	6-1
8	9	Coach Kent	.....	Chavez J F	.....	Russo Frank	.....	6-1
9	10	Royal Electrician	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	D'Alessandro Ralph	.....	9-2

A-Coupled: Bazooka Bob and Karakorum Thunder
Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double

2ND (1:32) 6 FURLONGS. FILLIES. 2YO. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	1	City of Lights	.....	Rose J	.....	Dutrow Tony	.....	6-1
2	2	Princess Marly	.....	Fragoso P	.....	Galluscio Dominic	.....	20-1
3	3	Winning Punch	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	Kimmel John	.....	3-1
4	4	Golden Vista	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Bush Tom	.....	10-1
5	5	Jovanna	.....	Bejarano R	.....	Dutrow Richard	.....	5-1
6	6	Upper Level	.....	Prado E S	.....	Contessa Gary	.....	7-2
7	7	Fairy Godmother	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	Martin Carlos	.....	8-1
8	8	Reversible Error	.....	Coa E M	.....	Grusmark Karl	.....	10-1
9	9	Supporter	.....	Velasquez C	.....	Hernandez Mike	.....	8-1

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

3RD (2:04) 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. NY BRED. MSW. PURSE \$56,000.

1	3	Soldier of Rome	.....	Gomez O	.....	Candlin John	.....	30-1
1A	9	Look Now	.....	Gomez O	.....	Candlin John	.....	30-1
2	4	Body Blows	.....	Coa E M	.....	Sciacca Gary	.....	12-1
2B	12	Pano's Love	.....	Fragoso P	.....	Sciacca Gary	.....	12-1
3	1	Ormsby's Flag	.....	Bracetty J A	.....	Allyn William	.....	30-1
4	2	Aly's Tough	.....	Velasquez C	.....	DiSanto Glenn	.....	5-2
5	5	Marty the Clocker	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Galluscio Dominic	.....	12-1
6	6	True Rock N Roll	.....	Chavez J F	.....	Streicher Kenneth	.....	15-1
7	7	Kid Doc	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	O'Brien Colum	.....	3-1
8	8	Legal Tender	.....	Bejarano R	.....	Samaniego Beatrice	.....	7-2
9	10	Our Wonder Cat	.....	Luzzi M J	.....	Rice Linda	.....	8-1
10	11	Strong Speed	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	Donk David	.....	8-1
11	MTO	Golden Caesar	.....	No rider	.....	Kelly Pat	.....	4-1

A-Coupled: Soldier of Rome and Look Now

B-Coupled: Body Blows and Pano's Love

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (3-5)

4TH (2:36) 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$67,000.

1	4	Shone	.....	Luzzi M J	.....	Zito Nick	.....	5-1
1A	7	Advanced Signs	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Zito Nick	.....	5-1
2	1	Elusive Value	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	McLaughlin Kieran	.....	6-1
3	2	Steve's Double	.....	Velasquez C	.....	Werner Ronny	.....	10-1
4	3	Greater Fool	.....	Gomez G K	.....	Violette Rick	.....	7-2
5	5	Mr. Rowdy	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	Asmussen Steve	.....	8-1
6	6	Laser	.....	Samyn J L	.....	Jolley Leroy	.....	30-1
7	8	Marital Asset	.....	Bejarano R	.....	Hennig Mark	.....	12-1
8	9	Bb Livermore	.....	Coa E M	.....	Tagg Barclay	.....	6-1
9	10	Temecula Creek	.....	Prado E S	.....	Frankel Bobby	.....	3-1

A-Coupled: Shone and Advanced Signs

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

5TH (3:08) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 2YO. MSW. PURSE \$63,000.

1	1	Big Brown	.....	Prado E S	.....	Reynolds Pat	.....	10-1
2	2	Globalization	.....	Gomez G K	.....	Violette Rick	.....	7-2
3	3	Incalzando	.....	Luzzi M J	.....	Russo Sal	.....	12-1
4	4	Hidden Glance	.....	Velasquez C	.....	Howard Neil	.....	3-1
5	5	Doctor Cal	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	Mott Bill	.....	5-1
6	6	Wotan	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	McGaughey Shug	.....	6-1
7	7	Why Can't I	.....	Coa E M	.....	Ritvo Timo	.....	15-1
8	8	Valadour	.....	Samyn J L	.....	Sanders Jamie	.....	20-1
9	9	Motor Patrol	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Horgan Roger	.....	10-1
10	10	Trust N Dustan	.....	Bejarano R	.....	Hough Stan	.....	8-1
11	AE	Born to Glory	.....	Chavez J F	.....	Scheff Olan	.....	30-1

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

6TH (3:41) 1 1/8 MILES. TURF. 4&UP. CLAIMING 35,000. PURSE \$46,000.

1	1	Mad Bob Cat	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	Contessa Gary	.....	6-1
1A	MTO	Angelic Aura	.....	No rider	.....	Contessa Gary	.....	6-1
2	5	Dynaglider	.....	Prado E S	.....	Serpe Phil	.....	4-1
2B	6	Provincetown	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Martin Carlos	.....	4-1
3	2	Grand (IRE)	.....	Velasquez C	.....	Romans Dale	.....	7-2
4	3	Exton	.....	Fragoso P	.....	DiSanto Glenn	.....	15-1
5	4	The Shaughraun	.....	Chavez J F	.....	Lalman Dennis	.....	20-1
6	7	Copyco	.....	Samyn J L	.....	DiPrima Gregory	.....	50-1
7	8	Ruggles Road	.....	Bracetty J A	.....	Shevy Michael	.....	50-1
8	9	Ground Hero	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	Weaver George	.....	3-1
9	10	Military Major	.....	Bejarano R	.....	Reynolds Pat	.....	5-1
10	11	Luke's Flash	.....	Rose J	.....	Matties Gregg	.....	20-1
11	12	Grosvenor Square (IRE)	.....	Coa E M	.....	Sciacca Gary	.....	12-1
12	MTO	Monopoly Pricing	.....	Coa E M	.....	Violette Rick	.....	5-2

A-Coupled: Mad Bob Cat and Angelic Aura

B-Coupled: Dynaglider and Provincetown

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

7TH (4:14) THE WEEKEND MADNESS. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. FILLIES. 3YO. PURSE \$80,000.

1	1	Limoncella	.....	Luzzi M J	.....	Martin Carlos	.....	30-1
2	2	Tears I Cry	.....	Velasquez C	.....	Bush Tom	.....	6-1
3	3	Olivine	.....	Samyn J L	.....	Donk David	.....	15-1
4	4	Unspoken Word	.....	Bejarano R	.....	Reynolds Pat	.....	10-1
5	5	Classic Neel	.....	Coa E M	.....	McLaughlin Kieran	.....	3-1
6	6	Lady Digby	.....	Gomez G K	.....	Motion Graham	.....	12-1
7	7	Dinner Break	.....	Prado E S	.....	Hennig Mark	.....	12-1
8	8	Star Dixie	.....	Chavez J F	.....	Hough Stan	.....	15-1
9	9	Ruban Bleu	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	Mott Bill	.....	5-1
10	10	Sans Reward (IRE)	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Dollase Wally	.....	20-1
11	11	Try to Remember	.....	Rose J	.....	Motion Graham	.....	15-1
12	12	Tanguista (FR)	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	Clement Christophe	.....	4-1
13	AE	Party Girl (FR)	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Pugh Peter	.....	8-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 4 (7-10)

8TH (4:47) THE GLENS FALLS (GR. III). 1 3/8 MILES. TURF. F&M. 3&UP. PURSE \$100,000.

1	1	Hostess	.....	Prado E S	.....	Bond James	.....	10-1
2	2	Mabadi	.....	Coa E M	.....	Contessa Gary	.....	15-1
3	3	Makderah (IRE)	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	McLaughlin Kieran	.....	5-2
4	4	Pictavia (IRE)	.....	Gomez G K	.....	bin Suroor Saeed	.....	6-1
5	5	Rosinka (IRE)	.....	Rose J	.....	Motion Graham	.....	4-1
6	6	Safari Queen (ARG)	.....	Desormeaux K J	.....	Pletcher Todd	.....	7-2
7	7	Mauralakana (FR)	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Biancone Patrick	.....	12-1
8	8	Barancella (FR)	.....	Velasquez C	.....	Frankel Bobby	.....	6-1
9	9	Mary Louhana (GB)	.....	Samyn J L	.....	Delzangles Mikel	.....	20-1

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

9TH (5:20) THE HOPEFUL (GR. I). 7 FURLONGS. 2YO. PURSE \$250,000.

1	1	Majestic Warrior	.....	Gomez G K	.....	Mott Bill	.....	6-1
2	2	Maimonides	.....	Bejarano R	.....	Baffert Bob	.....	7-5
3	3	Georgetown	.....	Leparoux J R	.....	Stewart Dallas	.....	15-1
4	4	Ready's Image	.....	Velazquez J R	.....	Pletcher Todd	.....	4-5

No show wagering. Exacta, Trifecta, Daily Double.

10TH (5:52) 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. ALLOWANCE. PURSE \$68,000.

1	1	Biggerbadderbetter	Desormeaux K J	McPeck Ken	5-1
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Footnotes

Steeplechase stakes mare Footlights rides sire Pleasant Tap to success

BY FRANCES KARON

PEDIGREE ANALYSIS

We wanted to dedicate one column to the steeplechasers on display at Saratoga each summer, and what better one to shine the way than Footlights, the Rags To Riches of North American hurdling?

One can't help but feel that steeplechase racing in the United States is viewed in similar fashion as the proverbial red-headed stepchild outside of the Mid-Atlantic region; whether that is due to a lack of understanding or familiarity or something entirely different is anybody's guess. Surely there is no lack of excitement in watching horses hurtle themselves at obstacles at full speed, the epitome of athleticism. England's Cheltenham Festival generates a buzz that defies accurate description every year. Keeneland sets aside one race per year, the Grade I Royal Chase. Saratoga more generously stages seven such events, going so far as to make the Grade I New York Turf Writers Cup on the final Thursday the day's feature.

Arcadia Stable's Footlights has been in action over fences since 2004, arriving at Saratoga with three wins (plus

two on the flat) – one a stakes against other mares – but she has come alive in the last month. She went 2-for-2 at the meet, beating males for the first time in an optional claimer opening week at 22-1, and came back in Thursday's Turf Writers as the distant third choice. Stretching from 2 1/16 to 2 3/8 miles, the Pleasant Tap mare ran all over the boys, crushing them by 11 1/2 lengths.

Footlights was a \$35,000 Keeneland September sales yearling, half-sister to two minor stakes horses. Her year-younger half-sister went on to become a stakes winner of more than \$290,000. Their dam, Magnificent Baby (by Northern Baby), was an unplaced daughter of Grade I Vanity Handicap winner Magnificent Lindy, who produced one filly to carry on her line from three foals.

Footlights is the only member of her female family under the first three dams to win at a distance of greater than 1 1/4 miles. The stamina influence comes through Pleasant Tap's broodmare sire Stage Door Johnny, who won the 1968 Belmont. Footlights is one of several of her kind by Pleasant Tap; his sons P. C. Plod



Tod Marks

Footlights gets set to touch down over a fence in the Turf Writers.

and Rosaker won stakes over hurdles in North America and Ireland, respectively, while Pro Dancer is a dual Listed winner over the higher steeplechase fences, also in Ireland. All but Footlights have first or second damsires from the stout Nijinsky line (she is 3x4 to the full-brothers His Majesty and Graustark).

Pleasant Tap has been a pleasant change from the surfeit of Mr. Prospector and Northern Dancer blood so prevalent in racing. He is far and away the best stallion son of Pleasant Colony and his success bodes well for fellow

Lane's End resident Pleasantly Perfect, whose first foals are weanlings. Unlike his sire, who was tall but lanky and light-framed, Pleasant Tap is a 16.2-hand mass of solid muscle and bone. He was precocious enough to break his maiden in California's Sunny Slope Stakes at 2, won the Grade II Malibu over 7 furlongs at 3 and placed third in the Kentucky Derby. He won a sprint allowance at 4 but registered a second in the Breeders' Cup Sprint and thirds

See **PEDIGREE** page 27 ►



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Pedigree —

■ Continued from page 26

in a few graded stakes, including the Santa Anita Handicap. He matured into a multiple Grade I-winning champion at 5, worse than second just once in 10 starts, winning the Jockey Club Gold Cup and Suburban Handicaps over 10 furlongs. He found only A.P. Indy too good for him in the Breeders' Cup Classic, a year and 4 furlongs after placing in the Sprint rendition. His three-parts brother Go For Gin won the 1994 Kentucky Derby, and they trace directly to the great mare La Troienne.

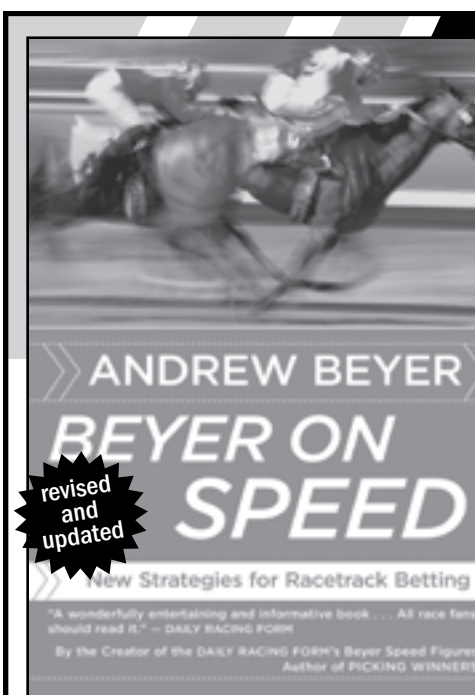
For years, though he fluctuated between \$5,000 and \$25,000, Pleasant Tap mainly plied his trade at the lower end of the totem pole until breeders began recently to take notice of the quality of his progeny. David Junior was champion 3-year-old in England in 2005; Premium Tap, who was sold to Saudi Arabian interests earlier this year, was a top handicapper in the U.S.; Tap Dance City was a Japan Cup winner; Tap To Music won the Gazelle; Tiago, the Santa Anita Derby. Pleasant Tap has been holding steady

at \$15,000 and at long last has gained commercial acceptance with high-priced yearlings at 2007 summer sales.

Farms rarely advertise winners over fences by their sires unless the stallions are specified under the National Hunt banner in Europe, yet these horses develop cult followings.

One of the best-loved hurdlers in recent memory was Istabraq, a half-brother to English Derby winner Secretoby Sadler's Wells out of a Secretariat mare. Whenever he won at Cheltenham the postcode in the Gloucestershire town might as well have been Irish for all the racing fanatics who crossed the Channel to celebrate their hero. Still, these horses are paid short shrift in the black-type department; not even the mighty Istabraq, winner of 14 Group I steeplechases and some \$2 million for trainer Aidan O'Brien, appears in more than italics on a catalogue page.

Magnificent Baby has a Proud Citizen filly on offer at Keeneland later this month, and though the yearling is now a half-sister to a Grade I stakes winner her page won't reflect the feat as it didn't her previous stakes win. Footlights has won 7 races and in the neighborhood of \$270,000 . . . more than a footnote.



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Tod Marks

But it's still time to go...

A Day in the Life

BY BRIAN NADEAU

"I read the news today, oh boy . . . About a lucky man who made the grade."

Well, only you can tell us if we "made the grade," but, speaking for myself, I sure do feel lucky. For the past six weeks we have brought you 32 issues of *The Saratoga Special*, a walking, living, breathing array of songs and melodies from a melting pot of artists, each taking a crack at bringing you their versions of Saratoga. We didn't make Siro's or the 'Shoe, and we might never play Royal Albert Hall, but I'd like to think somewhere along the way we made a difference.

The band came together in a hurry, if only because we had too.

Sean Clancy playing Paul McCartney; shaking hands, building sales, writing line after never-ending line that keeps you coming back for more and wondering where he comes up with these things in the first place. Smiling day in and day out even though he got three hours of sleep last night, four the night before that, and isn't sure if it's Thursday or Friday.

Joe Clancy meshing the talents of Brian Epstein and George Martin into one; handling advertisers, newspaper layout, and distribution all with a steady hand behind the scenes. You know; the one who doesn't get to get out as much as he would like in the afternoons, but taps his foot along the side of the stage while watching his creation from afar.

Jamie Santo keeping the tempo like Ringo, fixing the punctuation and spelling errors, making sure everyone is in tune

and playing together. Making sense of a bunch of scrambled lyrics and somehow molding them into a song that flows from start to finish.

I'll lump David Kosak and myself together, solid supporting acts who can come up with our own "Taxman" or "Here Comes the Sun" when necessary (or mandatory). Picking up a riff or two at the hand of a polished and professional front man who has been playing to sold-out shows for years.

We never hit that wall that was "Let it Be." Never let Yoko in to break up the band – maybe because we didn't have a John. We never had to work together by working apart. All things considered, the ride was as smooth as could be expected for what we had to accomplish in the time we had to accomplish it. "Revolver" wasn't made in a day, but we gave you 36 pages yesterday after starting at zero that morning. Travers Day set the bar at an almost unreachable, unattainable, unimaginable 56 pages. Try making the "White Album" in a 12-hour session.

The Spa has come and gone, all too quickly for sure – at least in my opinion. The tour has ended and we'll all head our separate ways after that last note is struck. Some bloody fingers and broken strings notwithstanding, it was one heck of a ride. I'd like to think we left all of you with some memories that will stretch into the future, and help the legacy that is Saratoga live on. We'll be back to do it again next year – feel free to count the days down one by one. I know I will.

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Growing up in Saratoga

BY JOE CLANCY

"I miss your boys." I hear that three, four, five times a day – on the backside, downtown, in the box area, on the sidewalk, all over Saratoga.

Me too. The boys – Ryan (14), Jack (11) and Nolan (6) – went home just before Travers and it's been a long 10 days for everyone involved. They started school, one joined the cross-country team, one asked a girl to the dance, another got lots of "good-behavior tickets" during the first week.

Just so you know they aren't complete angels – they all stressed out their mother a bit.

But they are still talking about Saratoga. I will remember the 2007 season as the year my kids grew up. Not sure my wife, Sam, and I had anything to do with it but it happened. Poof, they're young people not little kids anymore.

Ryan was employee of the week the first few days – making deliveries, keeping paper racks stocked, working the box area and making sure we didn't do anything too stupid (like give out a paper that was missing its middle section). He also got lunch orders, picked up a golf cart, cleaned the office, went to Kinko's, delivered the mail and told funny stories.

If you sat in the boxes this summer, chances are you saw Ryan. He was the polite (mostly), serious kid in the khaki pants and blue shirt. Probably had ink on his face somewhere. He saw Bill Parcells every day (never did ask what T.O. was really like), and spent his afternoons with Joe Vernon, Don Nichols, the West Point crew and a host of others. One night we were walking out of a restaurant on Broadway and heard "Clancy, hey Clancy." Trainer Billy Badgett's son flagged down Ryan and they talked about their day. I didn't know they had even met. Artist Michael Geraghty bought an ad toward the end of the meet, "because Ryan worked so hard at it." Before he paid the bill, Geraghty wanted to be sure Ryan got a commission – don't worry, it's coming.

Ryan's brother Jack joined the team about a week into the meet, and took the network another step forward – while also giving college intern David Kosak a break. Jack smiles more than Ryan and charmed his share of Saratogians. He got to the point of waking himself up at 5 a.m. to meet Uncle Sean and make the golf-cart rounds – handing papers to trainers, jockeys, agents and anyone else along the way. Most days, Jack collected a few dollars in tips while handing out papers in the boxes – and headed to the Carvel stand for a root beer float. He called it lunch. Halfway through the meet, I was walking between the clubhouse and the jocks' room and I saw two kids huddled over a video camera. One of them was Jack. He was "shooting bumpers" with Craig Levitus (son of television producer Mitch). Nice work,

guys. See you in the movies.

Far younger than his brothers, Nolan won't be carrying stacks of newspapers any time soon but he can talk his way through pretty much any situation. He woke up early, refused to yield to sleepiness and tagged along with whomever was taking him places – his brothers, his mother, Uncle Sean, me, Tony Reinstedler, David the intern. Nolan went to the "horse race museum," the track, the neighbors' pool, Sacandaga Lake, the carousel, the grocery store, the backside, the paddock, the picnic tables, the Saratoga Sleigh, NYRA's corporate offices . . . pretty much anywhere an adult went. And smiled about it, at least until the afternoon "I'm not tired!" stages.

I grew up with horses, so racetracks and barns were natural places to be. As an adult, I'm disconnected from much of that (we live on a half-acre) but that didn't stop the two oldest boys from getting Saratoga jobs as hotwalkers. Ryan spent two weeks with the Tom Voss barn – and once held graded stakes winners Dreadnaught and Always First for a bath (at the same time). Ryan hated to miss the stable's steeplechase win by Planets Aligned and will keep an eye on the entries for another Voss horse nicknamed "el grande bambino" I think it's a 2-year-old.

Not to be outdone, Jack signed up at Tony Reinstedler's barn as a hotwalker, shedrow raker and – eventually – assistant trainer. Jack accompanied Triple Nine Fine to the track most mornings and once quipped that the horse was "out there somewhere running around in a circle" while galloping at Oklahoma. Sounds like a true racetracker.

I once had a professor tell me "all writing is about people" and the statement applies to more than writing. Life is about people and my boys met new people and experienced new things at Saratoga this summer. Thanks for sharing.

. . .

I don't have daughters, though a few people asked me if I did when two young girls took up the slack for the Clancy boys late in the meet. With Ryan, Jack and Nolan at home, Jane Motion and her cousin, Gessie Hackney, handled distribution duties in the box area late in the meet and were no less professional, efficient or ink-stained. Jane is the daughter of trainer Graham Motion and his wife, Anita.

Thanks for the help girls, couldn't have done it without you.



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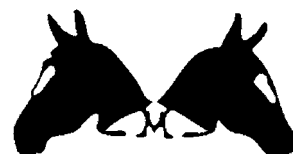


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Over and Out

Fine time to get writer's block. Last issue. Last page. Last gasp. I turned up the stick a mile ago and the wire hangs here somewhere. Forget the wire, how about a soft landing, anywhere to get off this ride.

Looking for a crescendo to six weeks of writing, racing, selling, socializing and hustling. I've handed off the Woodward recap to my brother, who finally gets to write something after six weeks of solitary confinement in the office.

The Forego rests securely with Brian Nadeau, who became a writer this meet. Summer intern David Kosak finished his final story before going back to school. Editor Jamie Santo adventures through another safari of words and ideas for Volume 7, Issue 32. And here I am trying to put six weeks into 800 words. This will be the longest 800 words of the season. This is the seventh time I've been here – trying to produce the leaving-town column. Good night, good bye, see you next year.

I hate writing this one. Freedom flees when it's the last column of the year, writing starts feeling contrived. Words stutter instead of flow. See, daily publishing means you've got another shot tomorrow to do better. Tonight, it hangs in the air, nothing to replace it come Monday.

That might be part of the problem or maybe it has nothing to do with it – sometimes writing's only fun when it's over.

Not that I haven't sat here trying to stretch a slim idea into a healthy column before. I think it's what we did the entire first year. At the end of 2001, our first, we weren't sure we'd really be back. We were in debt, every relationship we had – from wives to brothers – were strained and most of the racetrack

CUP OF COFFEE

By Sean Clancy



didn't know we were here. That was the one that gutted us. We can weather debt and relationship bumps but it was the brush-off that stung. We couldn't get horsemen to pick up the paper.

Charlie Boden, Toadie, Mark Hennig, Doc Richardson, Lisa Lewis, Kip Elser, the Tom Voss stable and a few other key readers got us through that first year.

Back then, we had to drive the paper on a disk to the printer, dial-up Internet was still an option and the people were leery about two brothers with a background in steeplechasing trying to charge a buck for a newspaper. We didn't get many bucks but we made it through the first year, with a "Surely, it can't get any worse," attitude toward our project.

We're just closing out our seventh year as I type this. Street Sense has replaced Point Given as the big horse around town, Bill Mott is back at the top like

he never left and the paper has its foothold. To be exact, we've carved 227 notches that have become a niche. This is the 227th time I've sat down to write this column, the 227th time my brother has made a check list and started arranging ads and editorial copy that somehow turns into a newspaper by morning.

That first year, we weren't sure we were coming back. Now, it's not an option. We've created this monster, and we'll be coming back for our eighth year next summer. It looks like our 250th edition will land sometime during Travers Week. We'll give any advertiser who's been here for all seven years a discount for the celebratory edition. Chime Bell Farm, Fasig-Tipton, Gainesway, Claiborne, Keeneland, Breeders' Cup, Japan Racing Association, National Steeplechase Association, Lyrical Ballad, Pin Oak, Lavin/Longfield and maybe a few others I can't recall, you get the prize.

Every year, we come to Saratoga to write while horsemen come to compete and fans come to revel in the sport's best offering. As we know, Saratoga is where the sport thrives.

For me, it was on the final Saturday of the meet when the sport came into focus.

Andrew Lakeman, paralyzed from a summer fall, gets pushed into the paddock for the Woodward. Edgar Prado was somewhere in Albany, foot in a machine, getting X-rays on his ankle. The sport doesn't always play like a game and the game doesn't always play like a sport. But, in the end, it's all we've got so tie on and enjoy it.

I hate re-using an ending but it's worked six years running – see you next year.

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Marciano	Unbridled Jet
Marine Brass	Valley Crossing
McKendree	Waquoit
Meadow Monster	Wayne County (Ire)
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\$200K Maryland Million Turf Three-year-olds & up, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., turf

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

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

\$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 $\frac{1}{8}$ mi., turf

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

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

\$100K Maryland Million Turf Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 5 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 14, 2006, 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 14, 2006. 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 14, 2006. 6 fur. This is a Sweepstakes.

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