

FREE



The

SARATOGA *Special*



Year 9 • No. 31

SARATOGA'S DAY AT THE RACES • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

Hey Guys

*Rachel Alexandra
headlines the Woodward*

Inside

- ♦ Interactif wins
With Anticipation
- ♦ Today's entries and
handcapping

Tod Marks Photo

*Claiborne
Farm at*

Keeneland September



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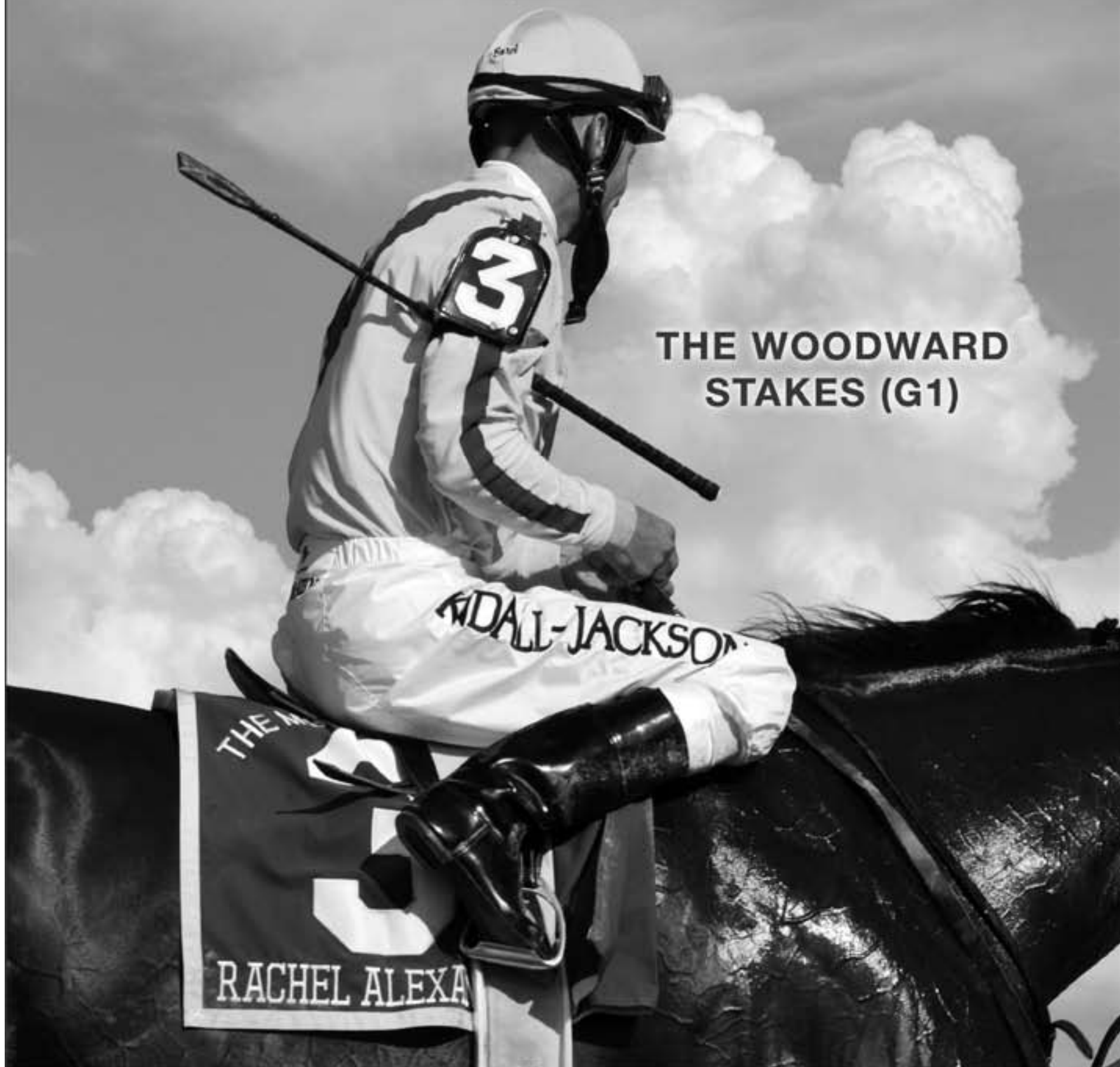
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STAKES (G1)**


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Published Wednesday through Sunday
during the racing season.
Every day of Sales Week Aug. 10-16.

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

Here & There at Saratoga



Tod Marks

Headed South. A group of geese got ahead of the curve on the move back down to Belmont.

Worth Repeating

"That's funny."

**Trainer Steve Asmussen, when asked if he
had anything entered that he liked Saturday**

"She'll stay here. If you like it now, you should see it next week."

**Asmussen, about Rachel Alexandra's
fall plans and about the atmosphere at Saratoga**

"She's got such stamina, I figured she was going to stay, she wasn't going
to quit, somebody was going to have to run her over."

Trainer Dale Romans, about Thursday stakes winner Tapitsfly

"Cottage 3. Belmont Park."

**Trainer Mitch Friedman, with
another change of address for The Special**

"I hit."

**Trainer Dale Romans, about his last bet
(made more than two years ago)**

"Got a live one here."

**Trainer Jonathan Sheppard, leading
10-year-old Mixed Up after a gallop Thursday morning**

"When I go to sleep on Monday, I think I'm going to wake up on Wednesday."

Mike Balfe, on resting up once the meet ends

"Get outside if you can."

Weather forecast on 91.3 FM at 5:37 Friday morning

"So far, so good."

**Trainer Dallas Stewart, while riding
next to Macho Again Friday morning**

"What else am I going to do? Five kids is enough."

**Jockey Jorge Chavez, who has five children,
about being at the track early Friday morning**

"I don't know anything, but they like hearing that kind of thing."

**Exercise rider Simon Harris, after giving
his opinions about a filly to trainer John Terranova**

By the Numbers

7:09: Time Jane Motion ate her first doughnut Friday morning after swearing off them Thursday

5: Sons of Dynaformer in the 1 3/8-mile maiden turf race Sunday.

5: Rail draws by a Steve Asmussen-trained horse in a graded 2-year-old stakes at Saratoga (Hot Dixie Chick drew the 1 hole in the Spinaway Sunday).

License Plates of the Day

TRPLCRWN, New York
DRBY133 is actually DBRY133 (it was a typo by the Arkansas DMV)

Name of the Day

Redding Colliery, eighth race. The son of Mineshaft pays homage to the 1923 Scottish mine disaster which killed 40 men.

Weather

Today: Mainly sunny. High 80.

Tonight: Clear skies. Low 53.

Sunday: Plenty of sun. High 77, low 56.

Monday: Few showers. Highs 76, low 59.

Tuesday: Driving Weather.

Quote of the Morning

"The Good Lord put horse racing on this earth to keep men and women extremely humble, and so they could tell a whole lot of stories."

**Words of wisdom from a Friday afternoon call to
The Special office by a racing fan from Montreal**



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Rachel's Right

Super filly looks ready to battle older horses

BY SEAN CLANCY

Bill Mott stopped his pony along the outside rail of the Oklahoma training track Friday morning. The Hall of Fame trainer had something to say to future Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen.

"Man, that filly looked good in the paddock," Mott said. "I watched her walk around there and was like . . . 'whoa.' She's carrying weight, her hair looks great."

"She's putting in the work," Asmussen said. "Being so much quieter here, the training track, horses do really well up here. Not that it translates to a win."

WOODWARD STAKES PREVIEW

"No, nothing's that simple," Mott said. "She's still got to go around there but you couldn't ask for her to look any better. At this time of year and the fact that she ran this winter, pretty impressive."

Rachel Alexandra, who impressed Hall of Famers while schooling in the paddock Thursday, takes on her next challenge in today's Grade I Woodward.

She's whipped 3-year-old fillies, she's trounced 3-year-old colts. Now, she's going after older horses in the 56th running of the \$750,000 stakes going 9 furlongs.

She's 1-2 on the morning line.

"It's exciting. She looks beautiful, she schooled great," Asmussen said as he walked back to his barn Friday morning. "Tall task. It's a little more out of the box, there's no comparisons; there's no 'he ran against her,' the other races you could get some kind of line.

They don't even have similar races on similar race-tracks."

Owned by Jess Jackson's Stonestreet Stables and Harold McCormick, Rachel Alexandra began her eight-stakes win streak back in November when she finished her 2-year-old season by dominating the Grade II Golden Rod at Churchill Downs. The daughter of Medaglia d'Oro won the Martha Washington in February, the Fair Grounds Oaks in March, the Fantasy in April, the Kentucky Oaks – and Preakness – in May, the Mother Goose in June and the Haskell in August. In there somewhere she transferred from Hal Wiggins to Asmussen. She's won 10 of her 13 starts and nearly \$2.5 million.

"I'm excited to run her, it's fun to run the fast ones. She's tremendous," Asmussen said. "When Jess purchased her, it was to see. Just like Curlin, considering running him in the Arc, Jess isn't going to pass away wondering 'what if' is he? I imagine when somebody's accomplished all that he has in his life, you don't do what he's done by not thinking out of the box."

Jackson put his money up to buy Rachel Alexandra and has set out to climb mountains with the ballet dancer of a filly. She's trained all meet at Saratoga, coaxing fans to come out in the dark to see her Monday morning breezes. She shipped to Monmouth to wallop Belmont winner (and eventual Travers winner) Summer Bird and Munnings. She came back like she went to Stewart's for a coffee.

Before the Kentucky Oaks in May, Rachel Alexan-

See **FILLY** page 6 ►



Dave Harmon

Rachel Alexandra shines over the Woodward field.

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Get Rachel

Seven veterans try to find way to knock off racing's superstar

BY JOE CLANCY

Robby Albarado has been that guy before. The hunted. The target. The jockey on the favorite. The man with the horse to beat.

"I never worried about anybody else, I only focused on what I was going to do," he said. "I've ridden Mineshaft, Curlin and they were like that. You try to do your thing and not worry about anybody else. Good horses like that, you can do things with them that you can't do with other horses. You can make a couple of runs with horses like that. You can get out of jams."

Today, Albarado and six other jockeys ride against Calvin Borel and Rachel Alexandra in the Grade I Woodward. The \$750,000 race drew seven older horses (three of them Grade I winners) and one super filly. Heavily favored, Rachel Alexandra faces older males for the first time and tries to become the first 3-year-old filly to win the Woodward yet casts a long shadow on the 1 1/8-mile race. She rides an eight-race winning streak, carries two wins against colts on her resume, gets eight pounds from each rival and is 1-2 on the morning line.

And those are just facts. Aura counts for something, too.

"She's the best filly I've seen, there's just something about her," said Albarado, who rides Stephen Foster winner Macho Again. "There's consistency in this dominance she has, it's scary."

"I've watched her train a few times and I saw her work the other day," said Kieran McLaughlin, who trains Asiatic Boy. "It's so effortless. She's a great filly."

Proven veterans who average six lifetime wins and \$1.2 million in career earnings, the seven rivals didn't show up for second money – even if their task is arduous.

Filly —

■ Continued from page 7

galloped like she was being chased; every day was a struggle between exercise rider and horse. At Saratoga, she's fallen into a routine, a rhythm that would make Miles Davis proud.

"We're at Saratoga, it's beautiful, what a great place to be in the summer with the cool weather we've had lately. I think she's carrying very good weight, her coat looks good, circumstances allow for it," Asmussen said. "Oklahoma allows that a lot. I love the Oklahoma track mainly because of that; no grandstand, trees, a long walk home, it allows for it, that's one of the reasons we love it here."

Consider Asmussen content with Rachel Alexandra's health and preparation, but he's been to too many gun fights to think she doesn't have to be ready to

WOODWARD STAKES PREVIEW

Last year's Belmont Stakes winner Da' Tara breaks from the rail for Robert LaPenta and Nick Zito. Last of seven in the Albert The Great, he hammered out a half-mile in 47 seconds eight days ago at Oklahoma. Jose Lezcano rides the 4-year-old. Coupled with Da' Tara, Cool Coal Man powered away with the Albert The Great, his third win of 2009. John Velazquez gets the return call, while breaking from post four – one outside the favorite.

Bullsbay returns for trainer Graham Motion after a career race in the Whitney here four weeks ago. He breaks from post three for Jeremy Rose. West Point Thoroughbreds' Macho Again chased Bullsbay home in the Whitney and will try to run past everyone late from post five for Albarado and trainer Dallas Stewart. Edmund Gann's It's A Bird (Julien Leparoux) faded to seventh in the Grade II Suburban, his last foray to New York, but owns 10 lifetime wins and will try to give trainer Marty Wolfson his second Saratoga Grade I in a week from post six. McLaughlin scratched Asiatic Boy from the Whitney with a fever but has gotten two solid runner-up efforts in graded stakes from the 6-year-old, who raced overseas until this spring. Alan Garcia has the mount from post seven. Darley Stable's Past The Point (Edgar Prado) finished second to Curlin in last year's Woodward and exits an optional claiming win here Aug. 6, his first start since February.

Despite their credentials, the Gang of Seven will have to find a way to beat her highness.

"I hate going into a race thinking you can't win," said McLaughlin. "First of all, she's a great filly. Second, we're all

See **WOODWARD** page 7 ►

lock and load against seven rivals who have won stakes such as the Belmont, Whitney, Stephen Foster and Oaklawn Park Handicap. In all, her seven competitors own 44 victories for more than \$8.5 million. Last year, Asmussen won the Woodward with Curlin who had to run hard to knock off Past The Point, who returns – a year older and off an impressive allowance score earlier in the meet – to take on Rachel Alexandra.

"I definitely think it's tougher, when you get into an older group, how's that saying go, 'I may not be as fast as I once was, but once I was as fast as I ever was.' However that goes, you'll look back on everybody in there and see a crazy-good race," Asmussen said. "It's as simple as last year, if Past The Point runs the same race as he did last year, coming off a win and a crazy-good work, she's got to be as good as Curlin to beat him and I know what a tall order that is. But, she's a blessing. What a blessing. She's happy and confident."



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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 8

giving her eight pounds. I don't know if we can beat her. She has to have a rough trip and a rough day and it's still going to be tough."

McLaughlin regularly looks at Ragozin speed figures on horses and rattles off Rachel Alexandra's string of zeros and Asiatic Boy's run of fours. On paper, he needs to improve. She needs to regress.

Not that McLaughlin will concede.



Tod Marks

Past The Point finished second in 2008.

"I don't know how we're going to shock the world, but we're not going to ride to be second," McLaughlin said. "We're going to try to win the race."

Trip and tactics will matter, at least to everyone else. Rachel Alexandra usually makes her luck with a long stride and the acceleration to avoid traffic issues. Albarado and Velazquez figure to be behind her early, but would appreciate a little company for the filly.

"I'm not changing my strategy," Albarado said. "I'm going to be last, hoping they soften her up enough up front where I can make a nice run. If I try to move early, it's going to compromise my finish. He's just not that kind of horse."

Cool Coal Man gives Velazquez more options than Macho Again's big kick, but the jockey still sees himself having to come get Rachel Alexandra.

"I will be behind her because I don't have the speed to be close up," he said. "She's going to be very tough to catch. She's been in front, she's been behind, slow pace, fast pace, she handles it. How do you beat her? Maybe she'll break bad and she'll get all bundled up in there and have nowhere to go. Not that you can ride for that."

Velazquez has battled Rachel Alexandra early three times: in the Preakness, only to finish fifth aboard Big Drama; in the Mother Goose, where he wound up nearly 20 lengths behind with Malibu Prayer; and in the Haskell, only to be overwhelmed late while riding Munings.

"Three times she beat me, with three different horses," said the jockey. "If

See **WOODWARD** page 8 ►



Tod Marks

Bullsbay returns to try to duplicate his Whitney score.

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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 11

she runs the way she did in the Haskell, look out.”

Velazquez singled out Past The Point as the Woodward starter with enough speed to keep pace with Rachel Alexandra early. Trained by Eoin Harty, the 5-year-old gave Curlin a scare at 40-1 in the 2008 Woodward after setting the pace. The son of Indian Charlie owns two wins and two seconds in four Saratoga starts.

“We’re going to give it a go,” said Brian Ange, Harty’s assistant. “He tries real hard, he’s versatile enough where he can go wherever you want him to. If they’re walking like they were last year, he can be in front and make them come after him. If they’re just going crazy up front he can be second, third, fourth, whatever.”

Past The Point flashed through a 5-furlong work in 58 3/5 seconds Monday at Saratoga, showing his readiness for battle.

“He is a really nice horse,” said Ange. “She’s never faced older horses before and the older horses have never faced her. She’s going to have to work at it and for her to be a star she’s going to have to earn it. Nobody’s going to give it to her. If she does win, you’d have to think about Horse of the Year and say she’s that good. But I want to win, I don’t want to give her anything.”

Sent off at 18-1, Bullsbay upset the Whitney by surging around the final turn and taking control to earn his first Grade I and the slot as second choice in the Woodward’s morning line at 6-1. Motion thought of the Woodward shortly after the Whitney, and stayed on target even after Rachel Alexandra’s plans were made official.

“I’m running my horse because he’s doing really well and I don’t want to wait another month to run



Tod Marks

Asiatic Boy and Rob Massey skip over the Saratoga track during a recent morning workout.

him,” said the trainer. “He’s also just run the race of his life on this racetrack. How can I not run him?”

The key to beating Rachel Alexandra lies in sticking to the script, Motion said. Bullsbay does not run near the pace and won’t start today.

“I can’t play her game, he doesn’t want to do that and I don’t want to blow our race by trying to beat her,” Motion said. “Settling and laying off helped him

the last time but face it, he’s got to beat three or four other good horses in addition to her. He’s got to come back and run his race from the Whitney.”

Whether that’s good enough remains to be seen. Motion and the others in the race respect Rachel Alexandra’s record, her ability and her impact on racing.

“Imagine the pressure on them, just in running,” Motion said. “She makes it a special race and winning would be very humbling. To me, it’s more about what we all got into this for originally. ‘My horse is faster than your horse’ used to be why we did this and we get away from that in this day and age because it’s easy to avoid each other. We’re all here, it’s a Grade I, at Saratoga, the end of the meet.”

So let’s race.



Dave Harmon

Cool Coal Man heads for the finish line with a win in the Albert The Great Stakes.



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Kowboy Up

Jones ships crack sprinter to Spa for attempt at 7-furlong Grade I

BY SEAN CLANCY

Larry Jones, riding long and looking like he outgrew his pony, lobbed Kodiak Kowboy a circuit of the Saratoga main track Friday morning.

The scene played out as always; Jones shipping a stakes horse into the stakes barn, zipping up his chaps, hanging his white cowboy hat on a nail, putting on his helmet and taking a horse for an easy gallop at Saratoga.



Larry Jones

On the final week-end of the meet, Jones goes after the Grade I Forego with favorite Kodiak Kowboy.

Fox Hill Farm and Vinery's 4-year-old colt stretches out to his favorite distance, 7 furlongs, fresh off a third in the Grade II Vanderbilt going 6 furlongs earlier in the meet. The compact son of Posse won the Grade I Carter at the distance in April and sports a 2-for-4 mark at Saratoga, including a dramatic head victory in the Amsterdam last season. Gabriel Saez has the

FOREGO STAKES PREVIEW

return call.

"He's as honest as they come, very seldom does he run a bad race and if he does you can go back on his PPs and find a reason for it," Jones said after cooling out the Kentucky-bred. "He's a neat horse, I really think he loves it here, I can get him off the trailer here and he's different, like, 'Oh, I'm back.' He knows where he is, he gallops better here, like he's got more energy here, something lights his fire when he gets here. He's been quite the joy."

Kodiak Kowboy puts to rest the worry about stressing 2-year-olds early. He won the Bashford Manor and the Saratoga Special at 2. He swept the Amsterdam and the Sport Page at 3. He picked up the Carter and the Donald LeVine at 4. Jones keeps it simple.

"I just do what we've always done with him, he doesn't have to have a lot of training," Jones said. "I've been light with him, we took probably two or three extra days after the Vanderbilt, just because he did act like he was a little tired and when you ship that far and run, you kind of expect it. I didn't



Connie Bush

Kodiak Kowboy soaks up some sun at the stakes barn Friday.

panic. I decided fairly early that I'd only put one work into him. We worked him in the dark the other day, he came by me at the three-eighths pole, I was galloping another horse, I know he was rolling, hell, I couldn't see him for long."

Clockers caught him in 1:02 for 5 furlongs.

It could be a bittersweet moment for Jones. The 53-year-old trainer will retire

at the end of the year after fazing out his 100-plus horse stable. He realizes this could be his last chance at a Grade I stakes at Saratoga.

"I'll miss them but I think I'll really miss them after awhile, don't get me wrong but right now all I can think about doing is getting some rest, kick back and make my phone quit ringing,

See **FOREGO** page 13



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Today's Free Race Analysis

RACE # 3 Saratoga, September 5, 2009

Gold D'Oro has just missed in three of her last four and was well clear of the 3rd-place finisher Joyous in her last start Aug 9. She tops the charting and seems more than ready to graduate, so we'll make her the HF 15a. **Etincelle** turned in a strong effort in her second start and first turf route when 3rd with this kind Aug 16. She may have more room for improvement than the top choice and would hardly be a surprise. **Catigo** was 5th in her U.S. debut with this kind Aug 16. She may have needed the outing and could move forward several lengths with recency for a top turf barn. **Toocleverforwords** is from a patient barn and could be coming up to a top effort after checking in 4th with this kind in her second start Aug 9. She may offer some value at the windows, too. **Cruisin'nthebridle** was no factor with this kind Aug 9, but she did stumble at the break. She was a close 3rd with similar at Churchill July 2 and might deserve another chance. **Joyous** was no match for our top choice, but has been 3rd in two straight and could impact the exotics of *Today's Racing Digest*

Today's Free Fractional Charting by Today's Racing Digest (Projected times at each point of call for today's race)

	NAME- BY ORDER OF FINISH	1/4	1/2	3/4	FINISH	LF	TRK, DATE & RCS BK
	(Avg This Level)	:24.3	:48.6	01:13.0	01:50.0		
1	Gold D'oro	<u>23.4</u>	<u>47.1</u>	<u>01:13.0</u>	<u>01:50.5</u>	37.5	SAR-08/09/09-1
2	Etincelle	24.5	49.3	01:13.7	01:50.7	37	SAR-08/16/09-1
3	Choice Play	25.9	50.5	01:14.3	01:51.0	36.7	SAR-08/16/09-1
4	Catigo	25.4	49.8	01:14.0	01:51.1	37.1	SAR-08/16/09-1
5	Joyous	24.4	48.5	01:13.9	01:51.1	37.2	SAR-08/09/09-1
6	Toocleverforwords	24	48.3	01:13.4	01:51.2	37.8	SAR-08/09/09-1
7	Cruisin'nthebridle	25.4	50.2	01:14.7	01:51.3	36.6	CD-07/02/09-2
8	Life's Precious	27	53.4	01:16.4	01:51.8	<u>35.4</u>	BEL-06/26/09-2
9	Corporate Star	24.2	48.5	<u>01:13.0</u>	01:52.2	39.2	SAR-08/16/09-1

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Forego —

■ Continued from page 14

just get a little time,” Jones said. “To be on the competition line of fire every day, I would like to go out and train and not feel like I have to prove myself every time that gate opens. Maybe it’s just me but I feel like every horse I have to prove once again whether I can train or not.”

Jones built his stable the hard way; working side by side with his family and help and gradually growing too big for Ellis Park and the country life of Kentucky. Hard Spun, Old Fashioned, Wildcat Bettie B, Honest Man, Proud Spell and the ill-fated Eight Belles helped rocket Jones to the top of the sport. He quickly realized he needed to step back down.

“Last year we won 25 percent of our races and our stable made a lot of money and our owners made money but all I could concentrate on was those 75 of them that weren’t winning because the owners would be calling saying, ‘why didn’t my horse win?’” Jones said. “The higher percentage you win, the more they expect to win. I just said, ‘Hell, I don’t need this.’ Nobody’s more competitive than me and maybe I’m too competitive. I just don’t take losing well, I know it’s part of the game.”

Jones plans to go trail riding at the 5,000-acre Fair Hill Natural Resources Area. He’ll go to the yearling sales this fall, buy some horses for he and his wife Cindy to train. He’ll break them, get them going, if he wants to train them at 2 he will, if he wants to wait, he’ll wait.

“They have races for 3- and 4-year-olds,” Jones said. “I’m going take some time off, get to know my grandchildren.”

• • •

Spendthrift Farm’s My Pal Charlie (Robby Albarado) could be a clean trip away from entering the Forego on a three-race win streak, but instead rides a seven-race losing streak.

The Al Stall trainee hit the gate at the start of the Churchill Downs Stakes but rallied from eighth to finish second, stumbled badly at the break of the Grade I Met Mile at Belmont Park only to range up turning for home and finish fourth and in his last start he was in tight during the 9-furlong Cornhusker at Prairie Meadows and finished third. Stall hopes for an uneventful trip this time.

“He’s just had no racing luck in his last three. I’m not sure if he’s becoming one of those horses that just finds trouble in every race but I’ve forgotten the last time he’s had a clean trip,” Stall said. “He’s had trouble at the gate in his last few but he’s never had an issue with it before. He stands in the gate like a champion in the morning, so I don’t know what it is.”

My Pal Charlie won the Grade II Super Derby in September 2008 to highlight a sophomore season that included three wins from nine starts and earnings of \$581,653. The Super Derby was at 9 furlongs, but this season My Pal Charlie’s biggest runs have come around one turn. Stall backed off after the Cornhusker and My Pal Charlie shows a string of steady breezes over Keenel-



Tod Marks

Gold Trippi (left) and Pyro (right) return for the Forego.

and’s Polytrack as he aims for his first Grade I win.

“This year it seems these long one-turn races have been his thing, so we’re excited. I love his post (10); it should allow us to settle in and then get first run on the closers,” Stall said. “He’s been training great since we gave him a little freshening and I couldn’t be happier with how he’s doing. Hopefully we can break away from there clean and then finally see what we can do.”

Pyro (John Velazquez) made his first start for Godolphin Stable in the James Marvin on Opening Day and closed late to just miss to Forego rival Gold Trippi. The 4-year-old was an early Kentucky

Derby favorite last year, when trained by Steve Asmussen, but flattened out after his win in the Louisiana Derby in March. Godolphin purchased Pyro from breeder Ron Winchell and took control shortly after the Breeders’ Cup in October. Rick Mettee, U.S. assistant to Saeed bin Suroor, is optimistic Pyro, who drew the rail, can improve.

“He’s come on from his last race and he’s got a good 2 1/2-furlong run in him. Hopefully he’s fitter this time and he should really come into this in good shape,” Mettee said. “Obviously he’s going to need to run faster than he

See **FOREGO** page 14 ►



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Forego —

■ Continued from page 15

did in his last race to beat the Kodiak Kowboys of the world. It's a much bigger field, and from the 1 hole you never know what kind of trip you're going to pull."

Repole Stable's state-bred Driven By Success (Ramon Dominguez) put a big scare into everyone in the Met Mile. The Bruce Levine trainee made all the running and led inside the eighth pole before wilting to finish third, beaten just 1 1/2 lengths. Driven By Success squandered a 3-length lead in deep stretch to today's rival Law Enforcement in the local John Morrissey against state-breds Aug. 6 and Levine knows the front will be crowded.

"There's going to be plenty of speed and it seems like in these big fields it favors closers a bit because everyone wants to get position early," Levine said. "He's not a rank horse by any means, but he just seems to run better when he's on the lead so I don't want to take that away from him. He showed in the Met Mile that he fits with these kind of horses so we're expecting another good run from him."

Multitude (Alan Garcia) is another state-bred that will ensure a fast pace

for owner/breeder Flying Zee Stable. The gelded son of Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus looked good winning an optional claimer over state-breds Aug. 10 for Carlos Martin but the waters get deeper. Multitude pressed a 43 4/5 half-mile before drawing off by 7 3/4 lengths. Martin is excited the 4-year-old is finally starting to put together consecutive races, after just six career starts.

"We've had to go through a lot with this horse, as you can see by all his layoff lines, but finally we've got him right and he's in the best form of his career," Martin said. "Even though it's a big jump a lot of the horses in the race might be on the downside a little bit, while we're still up the upswing, so it's the right time to take a chance. He just ran brilliant over the track and he loves this place, so why not?"

Mark Hennig is thinking the same with Camelia Casby's Law Enforcement (Kent Desormeaux), who ran down Driven By Success late in the Morrissey after lagging 14 lengths off the pace. The 4-year-old son of Posse has come into his own since Desormeaux jumped aboard four starts back and has been able to coax a pair of furious stretch runs out of Law Enforcement in his last two.

"It takes someone with a lot of patience to sit back there and trust that

the horse is going to make a run. I was looking at his form, and he's been 14 lengths out of it in his last two starts and won both of them," Hennig said. "It's a big step up but he's good right now, so it's time to take those horses on at seven-eighths on a track he seems to like. We always felt like he was a graded stakes horse when he was 2, but we just hit a few bumps in the road that kept us from getting there."

Kevin Bogart, Neil Haymes and Mark Gorman's Peace Chant (Julien Leparoux) is an interesting invader for California-based Doug O'Neill. The 6-year-old son of Breeders' Cup Mile winner War Chant out of Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Safely Kept is winless in eight starts on synthetic surfaces and turf, but carries a 4-for-6 record on dirt. O'Neill

claimed Peace Chant for \$62,500 two starts back from Stonestreet Stable and Richard Mandella and the move immediately paid dividends when Peace Chant won the Phoenix Gold Cup on the main track at Turf Paradise in February, his last start.

Ready's Echo (Calvin Borel), who adds blinkers and looks for his first career stakes score; Riley Tucker (Edgar Prado), a close fifth in the Met Mile; Gold Trippi (Cornelio Velasquez), the upset winner of the James Marvin earlier in the meet; True Quality (Javier Castellano), who defeated Fabulous Strike in the Grade II General George at 7 furlongs in February and Keep Laughing (Rajiv Maragh), a winner of two of three starts at the distance round out the field.

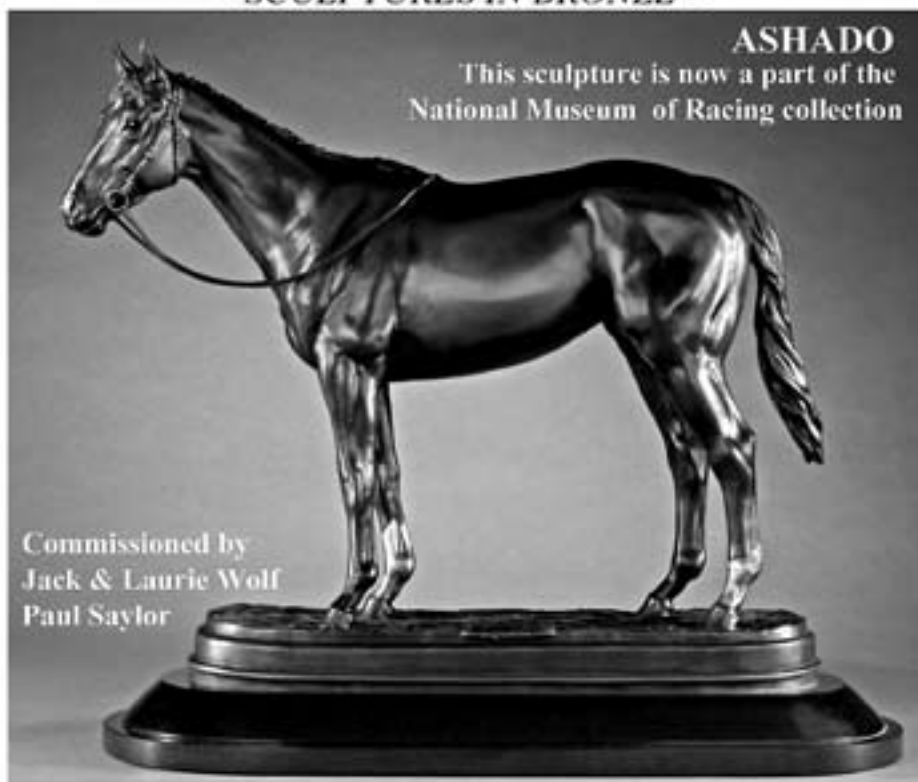


Tod Marks

Law Enforcement exits a stakes win over the track for trainer Mark Hennig.

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the Power grid



John Panagot



Brian Nadeau



Pete Fornatale



Gaile Fitzgerald



John Shapazian

Race #	John Panagot	Brian Nadeau	Pete Fornatale	Gaile Fitzgerald	John Shapazian
1	Kaper Lake Base Commander D' Wild Affair	Kaper Lake Base Commander Starforaday	Americanrevolution Kaper Lake Base Commander	Kaper Lake Base Commander Americanrevolution	Base Commander Kaper Lake Americanrevolution
2	In Just We Trust El Primero Devonshire	El Primero In Just We Trust Keeneland Breeze	Devonshire In Just We Trust El Primero	In Just We Trust Keeneland Breeze Devonshire	In Just We Trust El Primero Callide Valley
3	Gold d'Oro Etincelle Choice Play	Corporate Star Etincelle Gold d'Oro	Gold d'Oro Etincelle Toocleverforwords	Gold d'Oro Etincelle Cruisin'nthebridle	Gold d'Oro Etincelle Catigo
4	Our Golden Dream Mother Russia Exclusive Scheme	Our Golden Dream Ms Stilleto Freedom Rings	Akilina Our Golden Dream Soave	Our Golden Dream Mother Russia Exclusive Scheme	Our Golden Dream Ms Stilleto Mother Russia
5	Trippo Stately Victor Extraextraordinary	Stately Victor Mesa Vista Buffalo Runner	Stately Victor Buffalo Runner King Kitten	Stately Victor Buffalo Runner Extraextraordinary	Stately Victor King Kitten Hybrid
6	New Yawker Wild Way Auteur	New Yawker Sawtooth Mountain Auteur	New Yawker Auteur Sawtooth Mountain	Sawtooth Mountain Auteur New Yawker	Auteur New Yawker Rice Entry
7	Hockley Gun Rock City Wolf	Hockley City Wolf Alex Le Great	Gun Rock Hockley Alex Le Great	Hockley Rule Gun Rock	Hockley Gun Rock Alex Le Great
8	Sean Avery Redding Colliery B Z Warrior	Map Of The World Sean Avery Hamazing Destiny	Sean Avery Redding Colliery B Z Warrior	Sean Avery Jet Set Vinny Hamazing Destiny	Sean Avery B Z Warrior Mike From Queens
9	Kodiak Kowboy My Pal Charlie Driven By Success	My Pal Charlie Kodiak Kowboy Pyro	Kodiak Kowboy Pyro Driven By Success	Kodiak Kowboy Pyro My Pal Charlie	Kodiak Kowboy My Pal Charlie Riley Tucker
10	Bullsbay Rachel Alexandra Macho Again	Bullsbay Rachel Alexandra Macho Again	Rachel Alexandra Bullsbay Asiatic Boy	Rachel Alexandra Bullsbay Macho Again	Rachel Alexandra Cool Coal Man Macho Again
11	Andiron Extra Zip North Country	Ground Frost Extra Zip North Country	Andiron North Country Whitley	Good Prospect Kinsella Extra Zip	Andiron Extra Zip Perfect Easter
12	Gentle Ride Little Miss Julien Spring Elusion	Ready Formycloseup Gentle Ride Spring Elusion	Ready Formycloseup Belonged To Sy Rice Entry	Rice Entry Stayawaystella Scherer Entry	Rice Entry Miss Redoubled Spring Elusion

To Date:

81/283

60/283

48/283

76/283

83/283

SATURDAY'S DETAILED ANALYSIS

BY BRIAN NADEAU

RACE 1: KAPER LAKE got the better of BASE COMMANDER here earlier in the meet and might do the same. The former makes his first start on the main since claimed by Rice and should be a factor from just off the pace. The latter also will be in the mix the entire way but let's make him put back-to-back efforts together. STARFORADAY has the right style that will make him a stretch danger if they go too fast early.

RACE 2: EL PRIMERO took a ton of money in his debut here one week ago and spun his wheels over the sloppy going behind a runaway winner. Might be the right price play in a wide-open affair. IN JUST WE TRUST broke slow and then endured a wide trip earlier in the meet. Expect much better. KEENELAND BREEZE cost \$1.5 million and will take a ton of money, but it's best to tab this barn's second time starters.

RACE 3: One more try for CORPORATE STAR, who pressed the pace last time but needs to be reserved and make a late run. ETINCELLE adds blinkers off a useful local bow and should sit a dream trip from the rail. GOLD D'ORO is another miss who looked good earlier in the meet and would be no surprise. If on dirt: Joyous, Choice Play, Gold d'Oro.

RACE 4: OUR GOLDEN DREAM looks poised to sit a good trip behind the speed and enters off a fine fourth in an open company stakes that was won by undefeated BC champ Maram. MS STILLETO also might relish the anticipated quick splits and seems to be coming up to a big run. FREEDOM RINGS adds blinkers in an effort to coax more early speed. If on dirt: Karakorum Fugitive, Eager Emma, Mother Russia.

RACE 5: STATELY VICTOR makes his turf debut and is out of a Grade I winner that won over this course as well. MESA VISTA ran much improved behind a couple nice prospects when switched to turf and gets

bonus points for some two-turn experience. The same goes for BUFFALO RUNNER, who ran third going a route here, his first start on turf. If on dirt: King Kitten, Stately Victor, Bwana Brave.

RACE 6: NEW YAWKER was fourth in a four-way photo against similar and gets the call based on consistency. SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN takes the plunge for Pletcher. AUTEUR rates a long look but drew horribly and will be an underlay. If on dirt: Copper Cascade, Wild Way, Smart Enuf.

RACE 7: HOCKLEY chased Dublin, my pick for the Hopeful, home earlier in the meet and should appreciate the stretch to 7 furlongs. CITY WOLF is a half-brother to Ghostzapper; that's got to mean something. ALEX LE GREAT scratched out of a sloppy affair one week ago and looks well meant.

RACE 8: MAP OF THE WORLD exits one of the toughest allowance races you'll ever see and he had trouble to boot. Legit threat today with smooth sailing. SEAN AVERY freaked earlier in the meet when he made his first start in more than a year; threat right back but he faces other speed as well as winners for the first time. HAMAZING DESTINY drew the parking lot but showed tremendous potential earlier in the year.

RACE 9: Sticking with MY PAL CHARLIE, who I loved in the Met Mile and ran huge to finish a troubled fourth. There's plenty of speed signed on and he should get first run on KODIAK KOWBOY, who prepped beautifully in the Vanderbilt earlier in the meet. Rates a formidable stretch danger, as always. PYRO ran big off the bench Opening Day and is another that will be rolling late. Ignore the Godolphin boys at your own risk these days.

RACE 10: Let's be honest, Rachel Alexandra is a complete freak, a certain Hall of Famer and one of the best runners we've seen over the past few

decades. She's a legit 2-5 to win this race and towers over the competition. But with all that being said, the fact that she's in the starting gate means you'll get tremendous value on everyone else in the field. Which means you're going to get 6-1 on BULLSBAY when he should be in the 5-2 area. And anyone who saw his Whitney knows he very well, could be getting good at the right time and might just love this track. And there's a distinct possibility he gets the same pace scenario. So with a few things going in his favor, not to mention an overlaid price, I'll tab him for the major upset. RACHEL ALEXANDRA has done everything she can against her own age group and it's exciting to see her take on this new challenge. She's better than everyone here, can run on or just off the pace and even gets eight pounds from her older male rivals. The fear is that she's going to face a lot of pressure from her outside for the first 5 furlongs and then will have to brace for a few solid late challengers. If you don't want to get cute and try to beat her I suggest sitting back and enjoying a true racing superstar. MACHO AGAIN is the workingman's horse; he gets little respect but at the end of the day there he is throwing a major scare at you in the stretch.

RACE 11: GROUND FROST will probably get overlooked in the wagering because he's been coming out of jump races but he was a competent turf performer when in Bobby Frankel's barn. Should have plenty of pace to run into and that Dominguez guy isn't too bad either. EXTRA ZIP is in career form and rates the one to deny. NORTH COUNTRY deserves a look for a barn that deserves a win before we all go home. If on dirt: Rodman, Pressure Point, Maria's Charm

RACE 12: READY FORMYCLOSEUP cuts back and should have plenty of speed to chase. GENTLE RIDE will take them as far as she can at underlaid odds. SPRING ELUSION might wake up on the weeds. If on dirt: Spring Elusion, Day Trippi, Belonged To Sy.

SATURDAY'S SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, September 5. Post Time 1 p.m. Entries with program number, post position, jockey, trainer, and morning-line odds.

1ST (POST TIME 1:00) 6 1/2 FURLONGS 3&UP STARTER HANDICAP PURSE: \$57,500

1	1	Fast Draw	Bridgmohan S X...	Lukas D Wayne	20-1
2	2	Kaper Lake	Dominguez R A....	Rice Linda	3-1
3	3	Base Commander.....	Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	7-2
4	4	D' Wild Affair	Castellano J J.....	Orseno Joseph	12-1
5	5	Woodacre	Lezcano J	Callejas Bernardo ..	20-1
6	6	Check It Twice	Prado E S	Jacobson David.....	5-1
7	7	Starforaday	Maragh R	Contessa Gary C.....	6-1
8	8	Hold On Smokey	Chang T.....	Kiely Joyce	15-1
9	9	Americanrevolution ...	Albarado R J	Romans Dale.....	7-2

2ND (1:31) 7 FURLONGS 2YO MAIDEN PURSE: \$55,000

1	1	Captain Stone.....	Bridgmohan S X...	Arnold George R.....	15-1
2	2	El Primero	Desormeaux K J...	Contessa Gary C.....	3-1
3	3	In Just We Trust	Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	7-2
4	4	Northern Giant.....	Theriot H J II	Lukas D Wayne	20-1
5	5	Ice Box	Lezcano J	Zito Nicholas P	15-1
6	6	Devonshire	Camejo O	Grusmark Karl M.....	6-1
7	7	Gravitas	Prado E S	Toner James J	12-1
8	8	Volition	Maragh R	Albertrani Thomas..	12-1
9	9	Keeneland Breeze	Garcia Alan.....	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	5-1
10	10	Callide Valley	Leparoux J R.....	Kenneally Eddie	8-1
11	11	Westshore	Albarado R J	Baker James E.....	20-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (2-4) Pick 4 Races (2-5), Daily Double

3RD (2:02) 1 1/8 MILES (TURF) F&M 3&UP MAIDEN PURSE: \$51,000

1	1	Etincelle.....	Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	3-1
2	2	Choice Play	Leparoux J R.....	Wilkes Ian R.....	10-1
3	3	Toocleverforwords ...	Prado E S	McGaughey III C R...	6-1
4	4	Cruisin'nthebridle.....	Dominguez R A....	Maker Michael J.....	8-1
5	5	Life's Precious	Studart M.....	Contessa Gary C.....	30-1
6	6	Corporate Star.....	Velasquez C.....	Fout P Douglas.....	20-1
7	7	Gold d'Oro.....	Desormeaux K J...	Mott William I.....	5-2
8	8	Joyous	Castellano J J.....	Arnold George R II ..	6-1
9	9	Catigo	Maragh R	Clement Christophe...	5-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (3-5), Daily Double

4TH (2:33) PEERLESS SPRINGS S. 1 MILE (INNER TURF) FILLIES 3YO NY BRED PURSE: \$70,000

1	1	Eager Emma	Leparoux J R.....	Zito Nicholas P	20-1
2	2	Akilina	Maragh R	Clement Christophe..	12-1
3	3	Exclusive Scheme	Castellano J J.....	Badgett William Jr..	12-1
4	4	Our Golden Dream ...	Garcia Alan.....	Bush Thomas M.....	7-2
5	5	Elegant Bess.....	Velazquez J R.....	Serpe Philip M.....	20-1
6	6	Ms Stilleto	Prado E S	Schettino Dominick..	6-1
7	7	Mother Russia.....	Dominguez R A....	Rice Linda	4-1
8	8	Soave	Desormeaux K J...	Bush Thomas M.....	5-1
9	9	Freedom Rings.....	Velasquez C.....	Donk David.....	6-1
10	10	Karakorum Fugitive ...	Lezcano J	Jerkens James A.....	6-1

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (4-6), Daily Double

5TH (3:05) 1 1/16 MILES (TURF) 2YO MAIDEN PURSE: \$51,000

1	1	Stately Victor.....	Albarado R J	Maker Michael J.....	5-2
2	2	Cypress Point.....	Maragh R	Trombetta Mike J....	20-1
3	3	Hybrid	Luzzi M J	McPeek Ken	12-1
4	4	Mesa Vista.....	Velasquez C.....	Lukas D Wayne	8-1
5	5	King Kitten.....	Leparoux J R.....	Ward Wesley A.....	3-1
6	6	Bwana Brave	Dominguez R A....	Donk David.....	10-1
7	7	Extraextraordinary ...	Desormeaux K J...	Zito Nicholas P	12-1
8	8	Dixie Summer's.....	Delgado G R.....	Bizelia Anthony J....	30-1
9	9	Buffalo Runner	Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	7-2
10	10	Worried Man	Bridgmohan S X...	Hennig Mark.....	12-1
11	AE	Grand Piano Man	Castellano J J.....	Weaver George.....	8-1
12	AE	Billions Boy	Maragh R	Kimmel John C.....	5-1
13	AE	Crystal Moment.....	Desormeaux K J...	Mott William I.....	8-1
14	AE	Trippo	Leparoux J R.....	Alexander Frank A....	8-1
15	AE	Chairman Now.....	Garcia Alan.....	Violette, Jr. R A.....	6-1
16	AE	Mint Maker	Luzzi M J	Contessa Gary C.....	20-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 Races (5-7), Daily Double

6TH (3:37) 1 1/16 MILES (INNER TURF) 3&UP CLAIMING (\$35,000) PURSE: \$30,000

1	7	All Verses	Velasquez C.....	Rice Linda	6-1
1A	11	Suite Ernie B.....	Dominguez R A....	Rice Linda	6-1
2	1	Last Noble	Maragh R	Badgett William Jr..	20-1
3	2	Copper Cascade	Lezcano J	Hennig Mark.....	10-1
4	3	New Yawker.....	Luzzi M J	Weaver George.....	5-1
5	4	Elder Skatesman	Theriot H J II	Allyn William F.....	30-1
6	5	Wild Way	Albarado R J	Hills Timothy A.....	8-1
7	6	Sawtooth Mountain ...	Castellano J J.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	4-1
8	8	Key Victory	Espinoza J L.....	Carroll Del W II.....	20-1
9	9	Smart Enuf	Velazquez J R.....	Donk David.....	12-1
10	10	White Holiday.....	Garcia Alan.....	Ryerson James T....	12-1
11	12	Auteur	Desormeaux K J...	Mott William I.....	3-1

A-Coupled: All Verses and Suite Ernie B
Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 Races (6-8), Daily Double

7TH (4:09) 7 FURLONGS 2YO MAIDEN PURSE: \$55,000

1	1	Krypton	Garcia Alan.....	McLaughlin Kiaran..	12-1
2	2	City Wolf.....	Prado E S	Frankel Robert.....	6-1
3	3	Alex Le Great	Rose J	Klesaris Steve.....	10-1
4	4	London Town	Theriot H J II	Stewart Dallas	15-1
5	5	Hockley	Desormeaux K J...	Harty Eoin	5-2
6	6	Ed's Big Bet	Borel C H.....	Ward John T Jr.....	15-1
7	7	Citrus Kid	Maragh R	Contessa Gary C.....	20-1
8	8	Rule.....	Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	6-1
9	9	Hero's Empire.....	Leparoux J R.....	Zito Nicholas P	15-1
10	10	Gun Rock	Dominguez R A....	Tagg Barclay.....	5-1
11	11	Magic Bullet	Velasquez C.....	Lukas D Wayne	15-1
12	12	Solid Steel	Luzzi M J	Benzel Seth	20-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 (7-9) Pick 6 (7-12). Daily Double

8TH (4:42) 6 1/2 FURLONGS 3&UP ALLOWANCE PURSE: \$59,800

1	10	Glittermans Cartel	Luzzi M J.....	McPeek Ken	15-1
1A	AE	Fitzaslew.....	Desormeaux K J...	McPeek Ken	15-1
2	1	Antitrust	Leparoux J R.....	Wilkes Ian R.....	15-1
3	2	Sean Avery	Dominguez R A....	Hushion Michael E ..	9-2
4	3	B Z Warrior.....	Castellano J J.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	8-1
5	4	Map of the World	Albarado R J	Stall Albert M Jr	12-1
6	5	Mike From Queens ...	Velasquez C.....	Levine Bruce N	12-1
7	6	Beresford	Espinoza J L.....	Turner, Jr. W H	50-1
8	7	Redding Colliery.....	Maragh R	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	12-1
9	8	Sangre Frio.....	Prado E S	Harty Eoin	8-1
10	9	Inkado	Velazquez J R.....	Nihei Michelle.....	15-1
11	11	Presto Change O	Garcia Alan.....	Jerkens James A.....	6-1
12	12	Mesa Sunrise	Desormeaux K J...	Mott William I.....	8-1
13	13	Jet Set Vinny	Lezcano J	Gambolati Cam.....	8-1
14	14	Hamazing Destiny	Theriot H J II	Lukas D Wayne	15-1
15	AE	All the Bases.....	Velasquez C.....	Jerkens H Allen	20-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 (8-10), Grand Slam (8-11) Daily Double

9TH (5:15) FOREGO S. (G1) 7 FURLONGS 3&UP PURSE: \$300,000

1	1	Pyro	Velazquez J R.....	bin Suroor Saeed	4-1
2	2	Kodiak Kowboy	Saez G	Jones J Larry	5-2
3	3	Ready's Echo	Borel C H.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	12-1
4	4	Peace Chant	Leparoux J R.....	O'Neill Doug	8-1
5	5	Riley Tucker.....	Prado E S	Baffert Bob	12-1
6	6	Gold Trippi.....	Velasquez C.....	Hough Stanley M....	20-1
7	7	Driven by Success.....	Dominguez R A....	Levine Bruce N	10-1
8	8	Multitude	Garcia Alan.....	Martin Carlos F.....	30-1
9	9	Law Enforcement	Desormeaux K J...	Hennig Mark.....	12-1
10	10	My Pal Charlie	Albarado R J	Stall Albert M Jr	6-1
11	11	True Quality	Castellano J J.....	Sedlacek Roy.....	15-1
12	12	Keep Laughing	Maragh R	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Pick 3 (9-11), Pick 4 (9-12) Daily Double

10TH (5:52)WOODWARD S. (G1) 1 1/8 MILES 3&UP PURSE: \$750,000

1	1	Da' Tara	Lezcano J	Zito Nicholas P	12-1
1A	4	Cool Coal Man.....	Velazquez J R.....	Zito Nicholas P	12-1
2	2	Bullsbay	Rose J	Motion H Graham.....	6-1
3	3	Rachel Alexandra.....	Borel C H.....	Asmussen Steve.....	1-2
4	5	Macho Again	Albarado R J	Stewart Dallas	8-1
5	6	It's a Bird	Leparoux J R.....	Wolfson Martin D ..	10-1
6	7	Asiatic Boy (ARG).....	Garcia Alan.....	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	10-1
7	8	Past the Point.....	Prado E S	Harty Eoin	15-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Pick 3 (10-12), Daily Double

11TH (6:25) 1 MILE (INNER TURF) 3&UP ALLOWANCE PURSE: \$53,000

1	AE	Good Prospect	Garcia Alan.....	Rice Linda	4-1
1A	AE	Sigmondo.....	Velasquez C.....	Rice Linda	4-1
2	1	Ground Frost.....	Dominguez R A....	Voss Thomas H.....	8-1
3	2	Warn	Theriot H J II	Werner Ronny	12-1
4	3	North Country	Maragh R	Duggan David P	9-2
5	4	Perfect Easter	Albarado R J	Nicks Ralph E.....	8-1
6	5	Whitley	Coa E M	Arnold George R.....	12-1
7	6	Maria's Charm	Borel C H.....	Nafzger Carl A	8-1
8	7	Pressure Point.....	Leparoux J R.....	Maker Michael J.....	12-1
9	8	Rodman	Prado E S	Hushion Michael ...	12-1
10	9	Extra Zip	Chavez J F	Toscano John T Jr...	3-1
11	10	Kinsella.....	Velazquez J R.....	Pletcher Todd A.....	4-1
12	AE	Evolutionist	Castellano J J.....	Mott William I.....	5-1
13	AE	Andiron	Garcia Alan.....	McLaughlin Kiaran ..	7-2
14	AE	Xodo.....	Borel C H.....	Ribaudo Robert J....	20-1
15	AE	Midnite Silver	Castellano J J.....	Domino Carl J	15-1

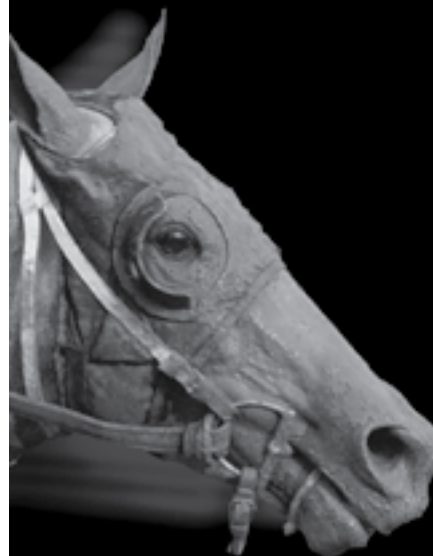
Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10), Daily Double

12TH (6:55) 5 1/2 FURLONGS (TURF) F&M 3&UP CLAIMING (\$35,000) PURSE: \$29,000

1	6	Gentle Ride.....	Velasquez C.....	Rice Linda	3-1
1A	13	Pals First Lady.....	Garcia Alan.....	Rice Linda	3-1
2	7	Miss Redoubled	Albarado R J	Scherer Merrill R.....	8-1
2B	MT0	Day Trippi	Bridgmohan S X...	Scherer Merrill R.....	8-1
3	1	Spring Elusion.....	Desormeaux K J...	Kimmel John C.....	8-1
4	2	Belonged to Sy	Leparoux J R.....	Clement Christophe...	6-1
5	3	Little Miss Julien	Velazquez J R.....	Ward Wesley A.....	10-1
6	4	Judge's Pride.....	Gracia J A.....	DiPrima Gregory	30-1
7	5	Lady Wynne	Morales S.....	Galluscio Dominic..	50-1
8	8	Imandra.....	Luzzi M J.....	Badgett William Jr..	12-1
9	9	Ready Formycloseup..	Maragh R	Tagg Barclay.....	7-2
10	10	Stayawaystella.....	Dominguez R A....	Hennig Mark.....	12-1
11	11	Serve Too	Joyce J	Bailes W Robert	15-1
12	12	Has Squoken	Chavez J F	Contessa Gary C.....	20-1
13	AE	Sinister Deance	Morales S.....	Reiff Eugene.....	30-1
14	AE	Private Battle	Maragh R	Levine Bruce N	8-1

Exacta, Trifecta, Super (.10) Wagers

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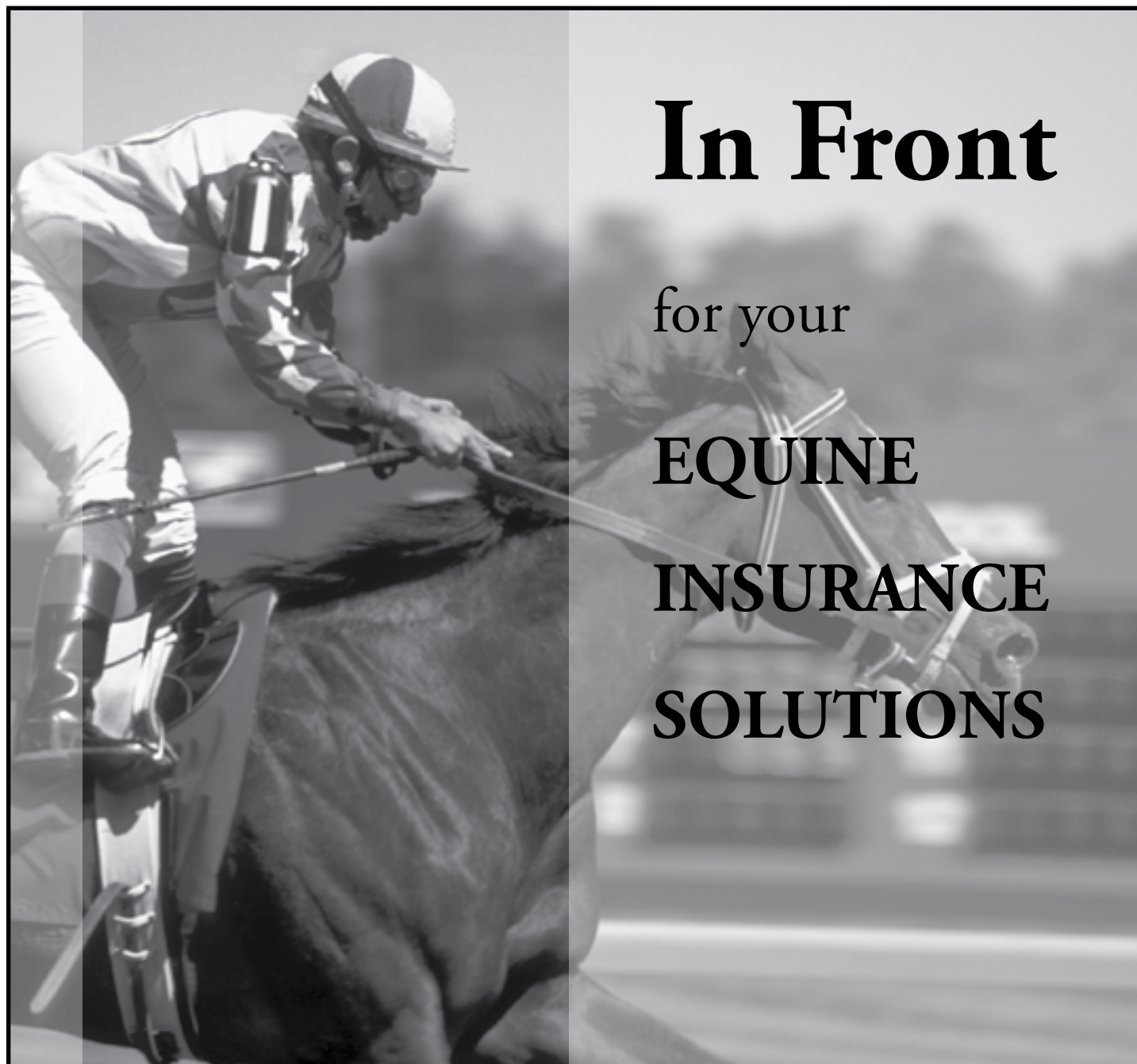


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F/A-292 (709)

Saratoga Leaders

Through September 4

Jockeys

Ramon Dominguez	40
Alan Garcia.....	37
Rajiv Maragh.....	29
Julien Leparoux	27
John Velazquez	24
Javier Castellano	22
Kent Desormeaux.....	21
Edgar Prado	21
Robby Albarado	16
Jose Lezcano	13
Cornelio Velasquez.....	10
Mike Luzzi.....	8
Jesus Castanon.....	7
Jorge Chavez.....	7
Shaun Bridgmohan	6
Eibar Coa.....	6
Jeremy Rose	5
Jamie Theriot	5

Trainers

Todd Pletcher.....	18
Linda Rice.....	18
Bill Mott	12
Steve Asmussen	11
Barclay Tagg	11
George Weaver.....	10
Gary Contessa.....	9
Tony Dutrow.....	9
Mike Hushion.....	9
Mike Maker	9
Kieran McLaughlin	9
Saeed bin Suroor	7
Graham Motion.....	7
Nick Zito.....	7
D. Wayne Lukas	6
Wesley Ward	6



Tod Marks

**Linda Rice, with two winners on Friday,
tied the training race again.**

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Turf Todd

Pletcher gets Interactif on lawn, upsets stakes

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Turf, 2-year-olds and Todd Pletcher. It doesn't flow quite as smoothly as Tinkers to Evers to Chance.

WITH
ANTICIPATION
RECAP

Saratoga's six-time champion trainer has built his revered stable due in large part to the success of his juvenile dirt runners over the years. Maybe that's why Interactif paid an overlooked \$33.60 when he ran off with Friday's \$109,500 With Anticipation Stakes.

Interactif, an Alain and Gerard Wertheimer homebred son of Broken Vow, entered the Grade III With Anticipation looking to jump start a career that had reached a crossroads after he was soundly beaten in the Sanford here on the main track July 30. The effort left Pletcher looking for answers. He found them after he worked Interactif over the Oklahoma turf course Aug. 28.

"We felt that maybe he was just missing that little something on the dirt that was holding him back," Pletcher said. "We worked him over the grass the

other day he really worked well. We knew right away we had found what was missing."

Interactif (Kent Desormeaux) broke alertly in the field of nine juveniles and settled in third behind loose leader Mississippi Hippie, who led Red Rally through comfortable fractions. Zapsater and favored Jung Man Scott led a closeknit pack that was anchored by stretch-running Paddy O'Prado. Mississippi Hippie led the field to the far turn when Desormeaux made an aggressive move aboard Interactif, swinging wide and taking command as they wrapped midway around the turn.

From there it was just a matter of how far. Interactif widened at will when straightened away and pulled clear for a 4 1/4-length win over Jung Man Scott (Ramon Dominguez) and Paddy O'Prado (Robby Albarado).

"That was a big effort for a horse making his first start on turf and first start over a distance of ground," Desormeaux said. "I just wanted to find a comfortable spot out there and let him relax. They backed it up pretty good up front and I was able to get engaged and pick up the catbird's seat. Around the turn he just put forth an explosive turn

See **WITH ANTICIPATION** page 23 ►



Tod Marks

Interactif returns to the winner's circle with Kent Desormeaux on Friday.

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Shadwell Estate Co.	9	46	5	11
Zayat Stables	9	44	6	18
John Ferguson Bloodstock	7	72	4	13
Demi O'Byrne, agt.	5	26	4	6
B. Wayne Hughes	5	23	1	7

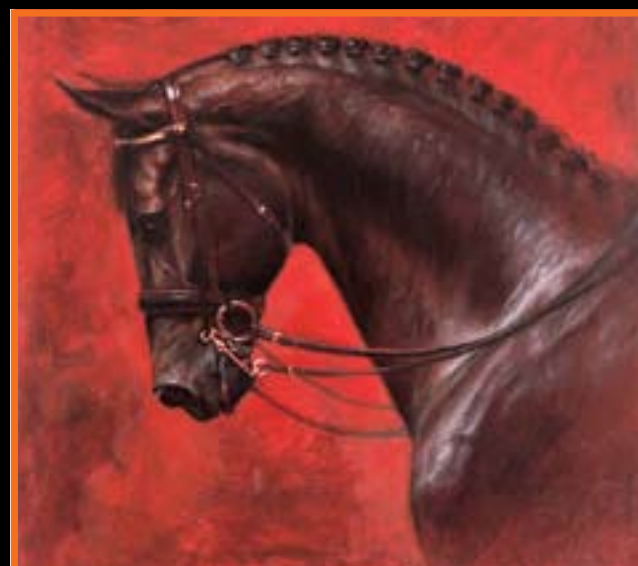
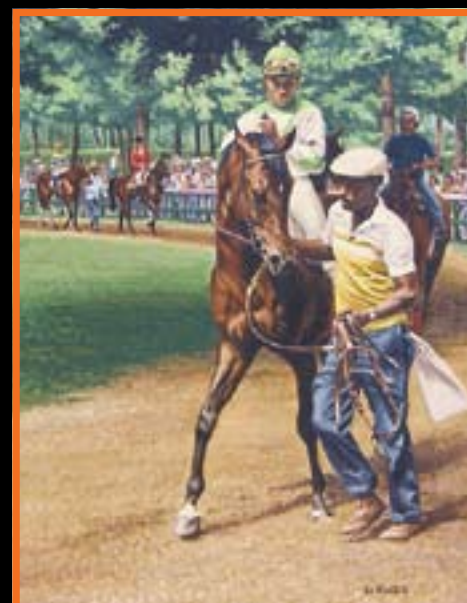
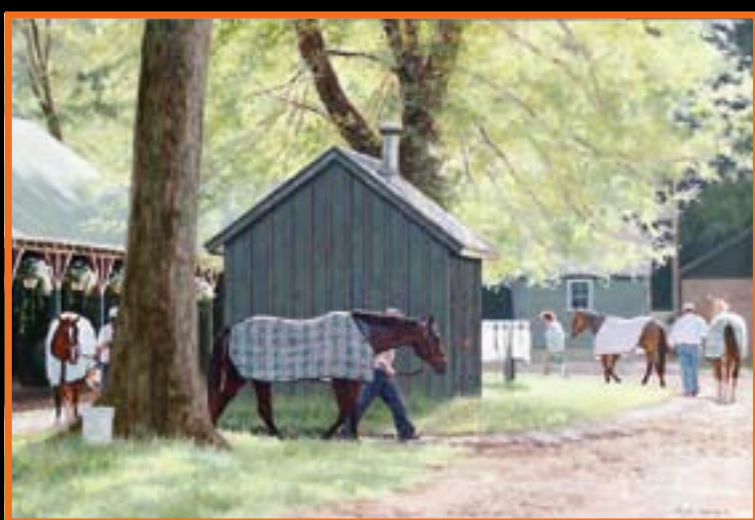
Compiled from The Blood-Horse MarketWatch, June 09. Racing stats through June 5, 2009.

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With Anticipation —

■ Continued from page 20

of foot and that made my job that much easier.”

Interactif started out on the typical career path for Pletcher's juveniles when he took his debut sprinting 5 furlongs on the dirt at Monmouth Park July 5. The manual says stakes for start number two and Pletcher aimed at the Grade II Sanford. Interactif pressed the pace in second but backed out of it soon thereafter and finished eighth of nine.

With Interactif's prospects on the main track dimmed and a pedigree tilted toward distance, Pletcher began thinking turf and two turns. The morning move over the Oklahoma track only enhanced the belief. The With Anticipation, which just five weeks ago wasn't even on the radar, was suddenly a flashing beacon. Pletcher felt confident that Interactif, who had never been past 6 furlongs in his two career starts, would appreciate the added distance and the clubhouse turn, which can often cause problems for inexperienced juveniles.

“Certainly we thought running long would agree with him based on his pedigree and the two-turn thing can be a little overrated with these 2-year-olds sometimes because they train around two turns every day of their life,” Pletcher said. “With that being said, you still have to hope that everyone negotiates that first turn well, especially if you're outside, because you can be parked really wide. Kent was able to tuck him into a nice spot and when the fractions were a little slow he was able to creep



Tod Marks

Interactif pulls away from the field to claim the With Anticipation Stakes on Friday.

up approaching the far turn.”

You don't win training titles, set and then break single-season earnings records in consecutive years and train multiple champions by thinking with

blinkers on. Pletcher thought of his horse, changed plans and got a stakes win.

“He's been promising all along but we felt that he just wasn't quite there on

the dirt,” Pletcher said. “He showed a big kick the other day on the grass and then followed that up with a big performance out there. Needless to say I think we'll keep him on turf for a while.”

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Rose, Motion continue roll

Leamington takes turf stakes on lead

BY BRIAN NADEAU

Jeremy Rose knew he'd be making a few trips to Saratoga from Delaware Park during the 36-day meet. He just never figured the 299-mile journey would be so enjoyable.

VOODOO DANCER RECAP

The jockey continued a memorable summer in Saratoga Springs for main client Graham Motion by guiding Leamington to a gate-to-wire score in the \$83,250 Voodoo Dancer Stakes over the inner turf course Friday. The win was Rose's fifth score for Motion from just nine starters, and added to stakes tallies aboard Bullsbay in the Grade I Whitney and Sumo in the Pleasant Colony.

"Graham has given me a heck of an opportunity this summer and has put me on all my winners, so I'm happy just to be able to return the favor," Rose said. "I knew I would be up here to ride some, but I certainly didn't think I was going to win this many. I thought I had some live horses but up here you don't know how live you really are because it's so tough. I'm ecstatic."

Hickory Tree Stable's Leamington, a 4-year-old daughter of Pleasant Tap, as-

See **VOODOO DANCER** page 25 ►



Leamington leads the field into the clubhouse turn before going on to win the Voodoo Dancer Stakes Friday.

Tod Marks

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Voodoo Dancer —

■ Continued from page 24

sumed command immediately in the 1 1/16-mile Voodoo Dancer and set a measured half-mile in 48.65 over third choice My Baby Baby while well-regarded runners Belle Allure, Savoir Bien and Indescribable raced in midpack in the field of nine. Leamington led the field to the far turn and began to edge clear of My Baby Baby. The winner cut the corner with the lead, spurted to a 3-length advantage in midstretch and had plenty in reserve to score by 1 1/4 lengths over Belle Allure (Ramon Dominguez) and Eissoai (Goncalino Almeida).

"I had never been on her before but Graham just told me to get her relaxed," Rose said. "I was very happy to be out front, with the pace we had. I looked at the race on paper and thought that only the 1-horse (Remarkable Remy) could go but Javier (Castellano) took her back from the gate and we were left nice and relaxed on the lead. I got to slow her down a little bit and she cut the corner, sped away and it was game over."

For Motion, the race was a carbon copy of Silver Reunion's wire-to-wire score in the grassy Riskaverse Stakes Thursday. The Voodoo Dancer was the trainer's seventh win and fifth stakes of the meet. The fact that it came with Leamington was a bit of a surprise.

Purchased by Hickory Tree's owner Jim Treptow at the 2008 Tattersalls July mixed sale, Leamington came to Motion late last summer after running eight times in Europe for trainer Mark Johnston. She broke her maiden



Tod Marks

Leamington crosses under the wire to win the Voodoo Dancer.

at Wolverhampton in January 2008 in her fifth start, won a minor handicap at Southwell a month later and then ran two more times without winning before heading to the sale.

Motion took his time with Leamington and started her for the first time in April going long on the grass at Keeneland, where she ran a credible second to eventual stakes winner Winter View in a second-level allowance. After another second at the same level at Churchill Downs in May Leamington broke

through there in an allowance June 7 with a half-length win. The long process was complete.

"It took a little while, and I think sometimes it takes horses coming out of that sale a little more time to adapt to American racing," Motion said. "She wasn't exceptional when we first got her but the more we started working her the more she got to be quite impressive. I thought off of her last race she was capable of doing something, but I wasn't sure if that was winning a stakes race at

Saratoga."

For Rose, the good fortune may not be over. He has a return engagement in today's Grade I Woodward on Bullsbay, who looks to slay superstar filly Rachel Alexandra. Rose walked back to the jocks' room, gave away four pairs of goggles, signed programs, posed for pictures and thought of the past five weeks.

"I sure hope I can keep it going. For me to come up here and win these kinds of races it's huge for my career and huge for my confidence," Rose said. "And to be able to win them for Graham makes it that much more special. He's been great to me, has backed me every step of the way for the past few years. He's one of the most loyal people I ride for and it's worked out great."

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FRIDAY'S SARATOGA RESULTS

Friday, September 4.

1ST. 7 FURLONGS. 3&UP. F&M. ALW. PURSE \$59,800.

2	Acronym	Garcia Alan	10.80	4.40	3.40
1A	Life At Ten	Dominguez R A		2.70	2.10
8	Mother Ruth	Maragh R			2.70

Finish Time: 1:22.11

Trainer: Bobby Frankel. Owner: Juddmonte Farm.

B. f. 3. Empire Maker-Averti, Known Fact.

Bred by Juddmonte Farm (Ky).

\$2 Exacta (2-1) Paid \$31.60; \$2 Trifecta (2-1-8) Paid \$81.50

2ND. 6 1/2 FURLONGS. 3&UP. MCL. PURSE \$28,000.

5	Justin	Bridgmohan S X	8.20	4.30	2.60
8	Futuristic	Dominguez R A		3.40	2.50
4	Wanted Alive	Velasquez C			2.80

Finish Time: 1:16.46

Trainer: Steve Asmussen. Owner: Zayat Stable.

Dk. B. or Br. c. 3. Speightstown-Love At Noon, Afternoon Deelites.

Bred by WinStar Farm (Ky).

\$2 Exacta (5-8) Paid \$27.60; \$2 Quinella (5-8) Paid \$12.60;

\$2 Trifecta (5-8-4) Paid \$85.00; \$2 Daily Double (2-5) Paid \$55.50;

\$2 Superfecta (5-8-4-2) Paid \$379.40

3RD. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. THE WITH ANTICIPATION. 2YO. PURSE \$109,500.

8	Interactif	Desormeaux K J	33.60	12.00	5.70
7	Jung Man Scott	Dominguez R A		5.20	3.00
3	Paddy O'Prado	Albarado R J			2.70

Finish Time: 1:41.41

Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Owner: Wertheimer and Frere.

B. c. 2. Broken Vow-Broad Pennant, Broad Brush.

Bred by Wertheimer and Frere (Ky).

\$2 Exacta (8-7) Paid \$152.50; \$2 Trifecta (8-7-3) Paid \$667.00;

\$2 Pick 3 (2-5-8) 3 Correct Paid \$683.00; \$2 Daily Double (5-8) Paid \$174.50

4TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. 2YO. FILLIES. NY BREDS. MSW. PURSE \$48,400.

5	Lovely Lil	Garcia Alan	12.20	6.30	4.00
6	By M K	Migliore R		32.60	14.80
11	Australis Princess	Leparoux J R			2.50

Finish Time: 1:03.79

Trainer: Mike Hushion. Owner: Barry Schwartz.

B. f. 2. Tiznow-How About Now, Pentelicus.

Bred by Stonewall Farm (NY).

\$2 Exacta (5-6) Paid \$296.50; \$2 Quinella (5-6) Paid \$159.50;

\$2 Trifecta (5-6-11) Paid \$1,357.00;

\$2 Pick 3 (5-8-5) 3 Correct Paid \$1,057.00;

\$2 Daily Double (8-5) Paid \$223.50;

\$2 Superfecta (5-6-11-9) Paid \$9,782.00

5TH. 1-MILE. TURF. 3&UP. CLM. PURSE \$44,000.

5	Classic Campaign	Prado E S	13.60	6.30	4.40
2	I'm Only Laughing	Lezcano J		5.30	3.30
9	Tiger Woodman	Dominguez R A			4.50

Finish Time: 1:36.04

Trainer: Bill Mott. Owner: Kinsman Stable.

Ch. g. 7. Rahy-Crystal Symphony, Red Ransom.

Bred by Kinsman Farm (Ky).

\$2 Exacta (5-2) Paid \$79.50; \$2 Trifecta (5-2-9) Paid \$416.50;

\$2 Pick 3 (8-5-5) 3 Correct Paid \$1,555.00;

\$2 Pick 4 (5-8-5-5) 4 Correct Paid \$5,842.00;

\$2 Daily Double (5-5) Paid \$86.00

6TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. 2YO. F&M. NY BREDS. MSW. PURSE \$45,000.

3	Gitchee Goomie	Garcia Alan	5.40	5.50	3.40
3X	In Te Domine	Leparoux J R	5.40	5.50	3.40
1A	Bretton Woods	Castellano J J			3.30

Finish Time: 1:43.08

Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: Patsy Symons.

B. f. 2. City Zip-Riotous Miss, Brief Ruckus.

Bred by Barry Ostrager (NY).

\$2 Exacta (3-1) Paid \$23.40; \$2 Trifecta (3-1-10) Paid \$209.00;

\$2 Pick 3 (5-5-3) 3 Correct Paid \$253.00; \$2 Daily Double (5-3) Paid \$49.80

7TH. 1 1/16 MILES. TURF. THE VODOO DANCER. 3&UP. F&M. PURSE \$83,250.

5	Leamington	Rose J	15.40	8.20	6.20
6	Belle Allure (IRE)	Dominguez R A		5.00	3.70
4	Eissoai (BRZ)	Almeida G F			12.80

Finish time: 1:41.00

Trainer: Graham Motion. Owner: Hickory Tree Stable.

B. f. 4. Pleasant Tap-Muneefa, Storm Cat.

Bred by Gainsborough Farm (Ky).

\$2 Exacta (5-6) Paid \$76.00; \$2 Trifecta (5-6-4) Paid \$1,098.00;

\$2 Daily Double (3-5) Paid \$59.50;

\$2 Pick 3 (5-3-5) 3 Correct Paid \$409.00;

\$2 Superfecta (5-6-4-7) Paid \$4,708.00

8TH. 5 1/2 FURLONGS. TURF. 3&UP. F&M. NY BREDS. CLM. PURSE \$31,000.

1	Thoroughly Holy	Garcia Alan	4.90	3.50	2.70
7	Linsalata (IRE)	Dominguez R A		6.40	4.30
2	Catty Madeline	Leparoux J R			4.00

Finish Time: 1:02.15

Trainer: Linda Rice. Owner: Big Z Thoroughbred Racing.

Ch. f. 3. Holy Bull-Kisbey, Thunder Gulch.

Bred by Adena Springs (Fla).

\$2 Exacta (1-7) Paid \$28.20; \$2 Trifecta (1-7-2) Paid \$107.50;

\$2 Grand Slam (2/5/9-1/3-4/5/6-1) Paid \$47.60;

\$2 Pick 3 (3-5-1) 3 Correct Paid \$160.00; \$2 Daily Double (5-1) Paid \$46.60

9TH. 1 3/8 MILES. TURF. 3&UP. NY BREDS. AOC. PURSE \$61,000.

7	Tobruk	Maragh R	15.20	7.10	5.10
5	Here Comes Art	Castellano J J		10.40	9.90
3	Gamblin Fever	Espinoza J L			10.00

Finish Time: 2:15.15

Trainer: Gary Sciacca. Owner: Philip Marcantonio.

Ch. g. 5. Out Of Place-Kristening, Kris S.

Bred by Philip Marcantonio.

\$2 Exacta (7-5) Paid \$182.00; \$2 Trifecta (7-5-3) Paid \$2,525.00;

\$2 Superfecta (7-5-3-6) Paid \$11,109.00;

\$2 Daily Double (1-7) Paid \$42.80;

\$2 Pick 3 (5-1-7) 3 Correct Paid \$384.00;

\$2 Pick 4 (3-5-1-7) 4 Correct Paid \$1,385.00;

\$2 Pick 6 (5-5-3-5-1-7) 5 Correct Paid \$475.00;

\$2 Pick 6 (5-5-3-5-1-7) 6 Correct Paid \$88,747.00

Track: fast. Turf: firm.

Saratoga Attendance: 16,32.5 Mutuel Pool: \$2,826,623.

Friday's Claims

5TH RACE: Valtrus by Bruce Brown for Bruce Lunsford;

8TH RACE: Thoroughly Holy by Greg DiPrima for Angelo DeFilippis, Iberian Gate by Linda Rice for Barry Ostrager.

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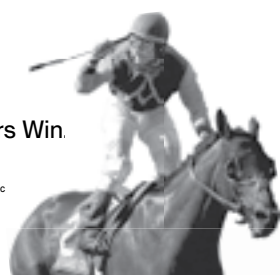


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Sitting on 18

Rice doubles up to knot Pletcher, again, for lead in trainer standings

BY COLIN BEAURY

Todd Pletcher won the With Anticipation Stakes with Interactif for his 18th winner of the meet to take a two-win advantage over Linda Rice.

At 3:39 on the twilight card, Pletcher seemed to have a comfortable lead.

By 6:26, that lead had disappeared. The trainers were tied at 18.

Rice saddled her 17th winner when Gitchee Goomie (Alan Garcia) won the sixth, a 1 1/16-mile maiden for New York-bred fillies on the turf. Patsy Symons' 2-year-old daughter of City Zip poked her head in front of Nurse Dolce rounding the final turn, and Garcia urged Gitchee Goomie down the lane to win by a length over stablemate In Te Domine (Julien Leparoux) and Bretton Woods (Javier Castellano).

Gitchee Goomie had the look of a promising youngster in her first start, much like her sire, who Rice trained to victories in the Sanford, Saratoga Special and Hopeful Stakes in 2000.

"It's really special for me to train the City Zips. Her father was a tremendous horse for me and my career. I've gotten the opportunity to train quite a few

of his offspring, and as far as I'm concerned I wish I could train more," Rice said. "They run short, long, dirt, turf; he's just a great stallion."

Gitchee Goomie, Rice's most recent City Zip filly to hit the track, brought Rice within one win of Pletcher.

"She's shown a lot of promise in her workouts. I had her in earlier in the meet and it was rained off," Rice said. "I would have liked to start her at 5 1/2 furlongs at first, but I was pretty sure from her workouts that she would get the distance. Not that I would have chosen to run her long the first time out, but that's kind of how it turned out with the weather. She really didn't come into the race as well as I would have liked. She was coughing all week, and I was concerned that maybe she wasn't at her best today. She's just that good of a filly."

Rice walked out of the winner's circle, exchanged a few high fives and hugs, signed an autograph and began to prepare for the eighth, a 5 1/2-furlong claimer for fillies and mares on the turf. Big Z Thoroughbred Racing's Thoroughly Holy (Garcia) carried the Rice

FRIDAY RACING RECAP



Tod Marks

Gitchee Goomie (right) defeats In Te Domine in Friday's sixth race.

banner when the gate cracked and the daughter of Holy Bull didn't disappoint. She broke sharply, took the lead after 3 furlongs and held on by 1 3/4 lengths over Linsalata (Ramon Dominguez) and Catty Madeline (Leparoux). Greg DiPrima claimed the winner for owner Angelo DeFilippis.

Garcia brought home his fourth win-

ner of the card, and in the process helped notch Rice and Pletcher, with just three days of racing.

"I'm relieved I can go home tonight and at least be even again, so it helps. I can only do so much on the results. My crew and I are working really hard, and I work hard in entering the right horses

See **FRIDAY** page 30 ►

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Awad	Oh Say
Bankbook	One Golf Sierra
Bishop Northcraft	One Tuff Oop
Bishop's Other Boy	Opening Verse
Bowman's Band	Ops Smile
Call Again	Oratory
Carnivalay	Our Emblem
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\$125K Maryland Million Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur.

\$125K Maryland Million Turf Three-year-olds & up, 1½ mi., turf

\$100K Maryland Million Lassie Fillies, 2-year-olds, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Nursery Two-year-olds, 6 fur.

\$100K Maryland Million Oaks Fillies, 3-year-olds, 1 mi.

\$100K Maryland Million Turf Sprint A handicap for 3-year-olds & up, 5½ fur., turf

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Friday —

■ Continued from page 28

in the right spots,” Rice said. “I pray they use the races that I want to go. Frankly, the entries didn’t turn out that well for me on Monday. A bunch of the races that I was excited about weren’t used, but it’s in the cards; we’ll see.”

• Shaun Bridgmohan and Justin were reacquainted in the second, a maiden claimer at 6 1/2 furlongs. The jockey rode the Steve Asmussen trainee in his debut at Churchill Downs last November, and Zayat Stable’s son of Speightstown finished fifth. Making his fourth start Friday, the colt angled out to win by a hard-fought length over Futuristic (Dominguez) and Wanted Alive (Cornelio Velasquez).

Justin was purchased for \$700,000 as a yearling in 2007, and broke his maiden Friday for a \$50,000 claiming tag.

“He’s always tried. He tried hard the whole time when I rode him in his first time out,” Bridgmohan said. “He ran real hard today. He broke sharply and I was able to ease him off the pace a little bit. He sat in there pretty nicely, and when I turned for home and wheeled him out, he did what he needed to do.”

• In 1996, How About Now won the Schuylerville Stakes at Saratoga for Barry Schwartz and trainer Mike Hushion.

Thirteen years later, her 2-year-old daughter Lovely Lil shined at the Spa in her debut, a 5 1/2-furlong sprint for state-bred maiden fillies. Lovely Lil broke sec-

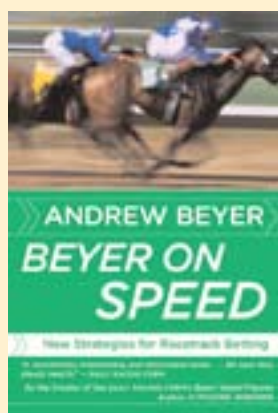
See **FRIDAY** page 31 ►



Tobruk (left) catches Here Comes Art at the wire in Friday’s ninth race.

Tod Marks

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—Andy Serling,
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Friday —

■ Continued from page 30

ond under Garcia, and pressed pacesetter Musicsetsmefree until they rounded the turn before cruising to a 7-length win. By M K (Richard Migliore) beat Australis Princess (Leparoux) for second.

Lovely Lil, a daughter of Tiznow, brought back memories of her talented dam.

“She looks a lot like her mother, and she obviously likes Saratoga a lot like her mother,” Hushion said. “When I first started working for Barry Schwartz it was huge up here to win the Schuylerville, and it’s always fun when you’ve trained the family. (Lovely Lil) didn’t really wake up until her last few works. She was very timid; she isn’t like her mother in that sense, but she obviously likes Saratoga a lot like her mother.”

Lovely Lil overwhelmed 11 rivals, a tall order for a filly making her first start

“I was glad that she broke on top; for a first-time starter to have to pick her way through six or seven horses was not something I felt good about,” Hushion said. “The only thing I told Alan was to get her out of the gate sharply. I was surprised that she ran away like that. I wish I could have told the 100 people that asked me this morning to bet.”

• Kinsman Stable’s 7-year-old gelding Classic Campaign (Edgar Prado) won the fifth, a mile claimer on the inner turf, for trainer Bill Mott. The son of Rahy prevailed by a neck over I’m Only Laughing (Jose Lezcano) and Tiger Woodman (Dominguez). Classic



Tod Marks

Trainer Bill Mott congratulates Classic Campaign after the 7-year-old won the fifth.

Campaign improved to 9-for-42, and won for the first time since November 28. He also won for the second time at Saratoga, and has been with Mott for his entire, lengthy career.

“He’s been a lot of fun to have in the barn. He’s gone from being challenging as a young horse to an old campaigner,” Mott said. “We’ve seen him go up, and we’ve seen him come back down to the claiming ranks. He’s still fun though. He’s kind of part of the family. He’s raced at a lot of different tracks at this point.”



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Training Up

Former assistants in major stables, Nihei, Phipps make progression

BY COLIN BEAURY

"It's sort of like NBA tryouts – you are going from high school or college to the big time," Michelle Nihei said as she explained the transformation that takes place from being an assistant to being a trainer.

She speaks from experience. Nihei, an assistant to Todd Pletcher for four years, quickly saw the stark differences when she started her own operation. As did Will Phipps, former assistant to Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott. Phipps has been on his own for a year, ample time to embrace the challenges and obstacles of being the boss. While the two took different paths to get here, both epitomize the effort that takes place in trying to succeed in a competitive industry.

Nihei grew up in Calgary and attended the University of Saskatchewan before migrating to Kentucky for graduate studies. After earning a PhD in Neuroscience, Nihei did extensive junior faculty work at Johns Hopkins University before deciding she needed a change. In 2001, she stepped out of the laboratory and onto the racetrack.

"I walked onto the backside at

Keeneland with a helmet and a stick and said, 'anybody need an exercise rider?' " she said.

Eight years later, she still calls the barn her office.

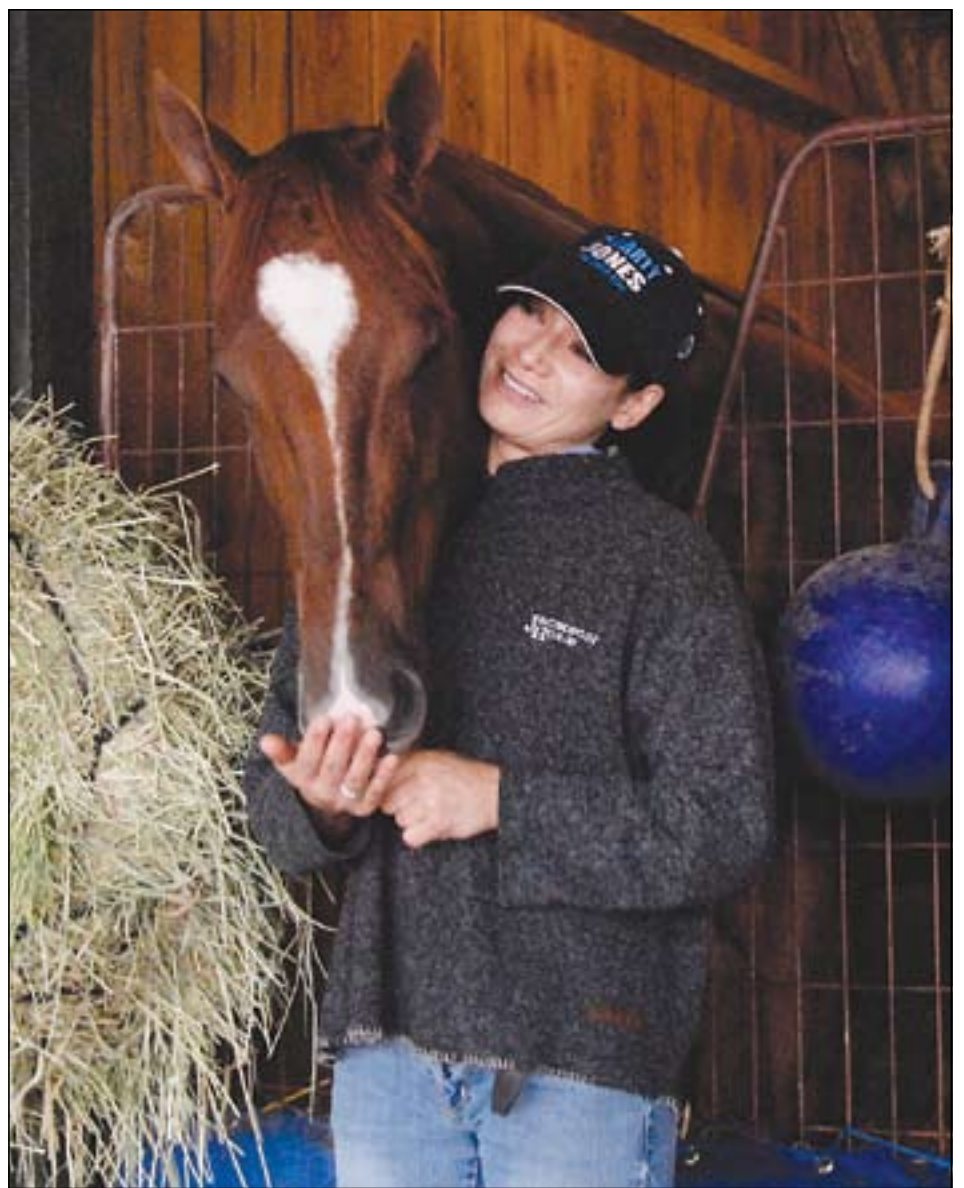
"The most compelling reason to stay in the game is a love for the horses," Nihei said. "If you don't love them you shouldn't be doing this."

Nihei began working for Pletcher in 2003 on a day when she galloped champion filly Ashado. She also exercised horses for Dallas Stewart and Rusty Arnold, but received most of her education working for Pletcher.

"Todd was a huge influence, and there were a lot of other people who mentored me," Nihei said. She assisted Pletcher when he won four consecutive Eclipse Awards as the nation's outstanding trainer. Nihei stayed with Pletcher until November 2007 when she decided it was time to jump into the deep waters of being a trainer. She's the first to admit the transition has been difficult.

"You don't really ever know how tough it's going to be until you're right in the middle of it," Nihei said. "I've de-

See **TRAINERS** page 33 ►



Connie Bush

Trainer Michelle Nihei worked for Eclipse Award winning trainer Todd Pletcher.



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### Saratoga Events Schedule

Monday, August 3 – Handicapping Tournament at Saratoga

Monday, August 3 – 14th Annual TGC Saratoga Post Time Dinner Party at The Wishing Well Restaurant, Saratoga Springs

Tuesday, August 4 – Golf Tournament at McGregor Links CC, Saratoga Springs

Thursday-Sunday, August 13-16, PGA Golf Championship Pool

Tuesday, August 25 (Travers Week) – Golf Tournament at Country Club of Troy, Troy, NY

Saturday, August 29 – Handicapping Tournament at Saratoga Racecourse  
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# Trainers —

■ Continued from page 32

veloped an enormous amount of respect for anybody who's survived in this game for a long period of time."

Phipps is from Springfield, Illinois where he was raised in a family of sailors. His introduction to horses occurred while visiting a friend during a weekend away from boarding school.

"We were riding four-wheelers, and we went down a hill over this bridge and it had a paddock on the other side," Phipps said. "I spent the weekend in the barn helping his mom, and she put me on my first jumper. It was all over from there."

Phipps worked with foxhunters and jump horses and tried many different angles in the business before he came to the flat track.

"One summer I went to work for Tom Voss, and he put me on my first steeple-chaser," Phipps said, "I was in awe of what they did, but I could never make weight so I rode as an amateur. I went into farm managing and pinhooking. I tried it all."

Phipps wanted to "learn how to be a better horseman," so he went to one of the best, Mott. Phipps intended to make an eventual return to working with jump horses when he started working for Mott but that never happened. Phipps spent five years learning the nuances of training horses at the highest level, and along the way received a crash course on how to succeed in the business.

"I learned to take your time and let the horses tell you what they want to do," Phipps said. "Every morning going stall to stall and checking on your horses. You have to check on them every day and really pay attention."

After five years of picking the brain of a Hall of Famer, Phipps became confident that he could succeed on his own. In the fall of 2008, with encouragement from mentor and friend Dr. Jim Prendergast, Phipps became a trainer. Much like Nihei, he admits the transition has been a challenge.

"I think working for yourself is a treat, but going out there and doing your own thing is not easy at all," Phipps said. "Most every day I get up feeling lucky that I can do this. Fail or succeed, I'm trying and going after something



Connie Bush

Trainer Will Phipps and Cops Fever, his first Saratoga winner.

I wanted to do for a long time. Being a good trainer means being a good manager and a good business person; and that can be hard."

Nihei and Phipps, long-time assistants, are quite new to the training profession, but both seem poised to be competitive in the near future wherever their horses run.

Nihei is spending her first summer at the highly competitive Saratoga meet, and will ship her horses to Kentucky and Florida for the rest of the year.

"I've chosen some pretty tough spots; this is the toughest one," Nihei said. "Keeneland is tough, Gulfstream is tough, but our stock is improving and we're getting to the right spots."

Phipps' maiden voyage to Saratoga as a trainer has been memorable thus far. He saddled his first winner here Aug. 15 when Cops Fever won the final race of the day. Phipps remembers what it took to get to this level, so there was little time for celebration following the win.

"I went to bed after dinner and got up and started over the next day," Phipps said. "Bill Mott always said, 'If you want to go hoot with the owls in the evening, then you can't soar with the eagles in the morning.'"

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# It takes a racetrack

Last fall, shortly after hearing the good news I was pregnant, I explained to my doctor I'd be moving to Florida as my husband's veterinary practice relocates for the winter.

I wanted to make sure the transfer of medical information would go smoothly. But as I explained how the November through April stint in Florida is an annual racetrack routine, my doctor's congratulatory smile faded to a look of vague concern. "Transferring your prenatal care to Florida shouldn't be a problem," she said, "but have you considered what kind of life that will be for a child?"

"Winters in Palm Beach?" I snapped. "I can think of worse fates."

My doctor dropped the subject, sensing she'd offended me. But it was neither the first nor last time I'd face judgment on the snowbird/racetracker life. Reactions range from envy ("I would love to spend winters in Florida!") to condescension ("Just wait 'til you kids are in school. Then you'll stop moving every year.") to outright criticism ("how can you uproot a child like that?").



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## GUEST COLUMN

By Caroline Burke

But with three months of motherhood behind me, I can safely say the racetrack world is not as unstable as some civilians might think. In fact, I've come to realize my child has as welcoming, caring and nurturing support system at the racetrack as she would anywhere else on earth, even if we do move twice (or more) a year.

When I was in labor, it was my racetracker friends that took care of my dogs and house. They threw a shower, and made sure I had everything I needed for the baby.

Once she arrived, my racetrack friends brought me lunch, cooked dinners, and cleaned up afterward. They held the baby when I needed a break, and babysat when my husband and I needed a night out. My racetrack friends carried the diaper bag when I went to the track. They set me up with boxes and golfcarts, and made a trip to the races easier than it ever was pre-child. They rocked the baby when she was tired, and never complained when I left a party early to put her to bed. In the rain, my racetrack friends held an umbrella over the baby, and in the hot sun they kept her smiling in the shade.

Some people may see racetrackers as gypsies or carnies, a freakish band of roving itinerants who have no real base, no consistency. But the reality is more like a loosely knit extended family, a group of people tied together by this particular industry and the lifestyle it dictates. I know when I leave for Florida this winter my racetracker friends will be there, helping with the baby with anything and supporting my husband and me through everything.

What kind of life is that for a child? Not a bad one I think.

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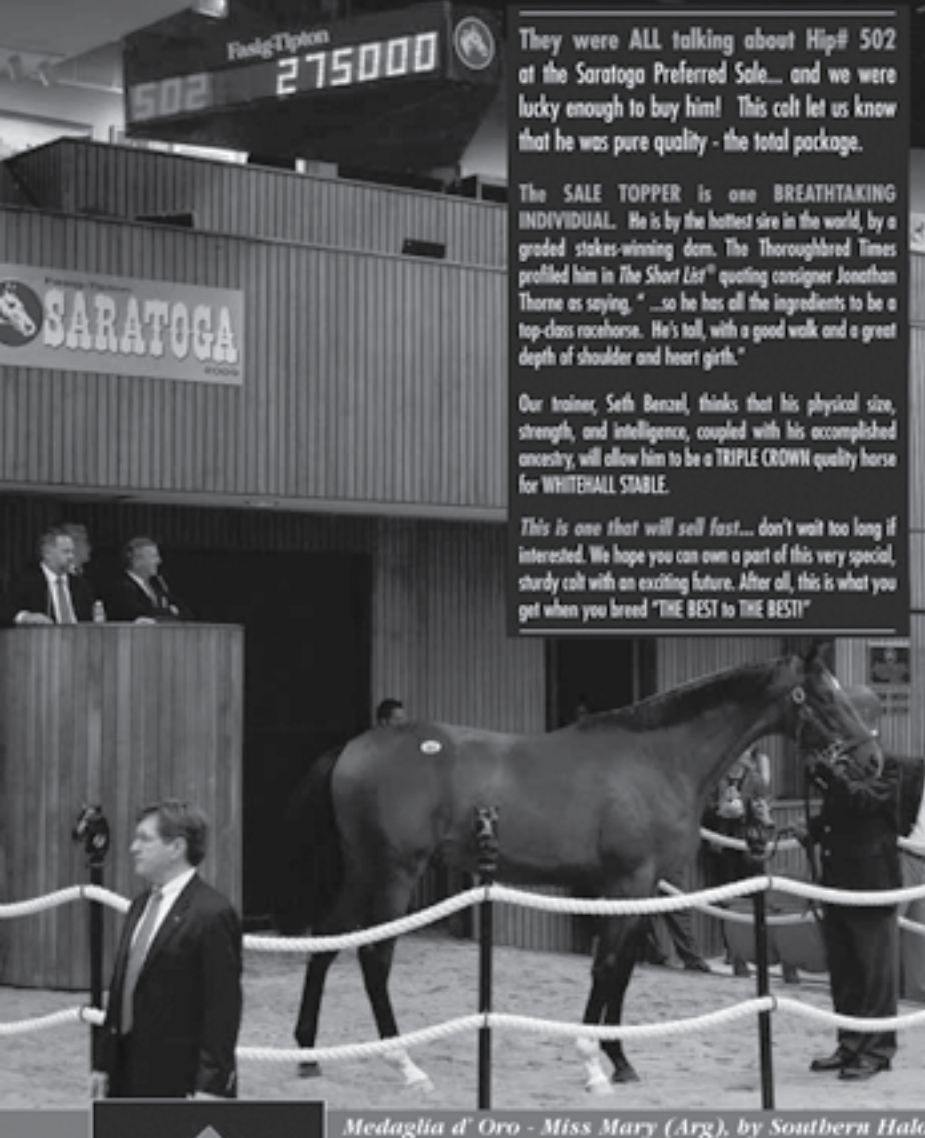
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# Trainers for life

## CUP OF COFFEE

By  
Sean Clancy



Some people envy Steve Asmussen. Others pity him. Some congratulate Larry Jones. Others console him. Some days Asmussen wants to be Jones. Other days, Jones wants to be Asmussen.

The two trainers should sweep the Grade I stakes today. Asmussen trains Rachel Alexandra, the greatest airplane in the game; she challenges older males in the Woodward. She should win. Jones trains Kodiak Kowboy, tough as a knot of wood; he takes on 11 rivals in a wild scrap of a Forego. He should win.

For about 45 minutes, Jones and Asmussen will be peers; trying to win a Grade I stakes at Saratoga. One has his whole career in front of him – if he can last. The other had his whole career in front of him – but knew he couldn't last.

Jones, 53, will retire at the end of the year. Asmussen, 43, will try to continue to keep his nationwide circus act of keeping horses, employees and owners happy and in order. At the end of a the year, Jones will turn off his cell phone. Asmussen will be adding minutes to his plan.

Jones knew he couldn't keep it going as his stable grew to numbers that would keep a bookkeeper in business. For a man who likes to gallop his own horses, he had somehow switched into the front office rather than the dugout. There were horses that came and went that he didn't even know. That wasn't going to fly with Jones. He was stressed. For an easy-going cowboy, this was not his goal. He decided to do something about it, rejecting any 2-year-olds for 2009 and giving his owners warning that he was done at the end of the year.

"We were on such a hectic pace last year we decided that we didn't want it to be our complete lifestyle, chasing our tails the whole time," Jones said. "There's more to life, or it is to me, than seeing how many races we could win or how much earnings we can rack up. I didn't get to enjoy a lot of it last year because we were pushing so hard."

Tell that to Asmussen.

He's closing in on his 2,000th starter of the year, he's in charge of Rachel Alexandra, the most dynamic horse this sport has seen, well, since Asmussen trained Curlin. He gets calls every day to take new horses. He changed his cell phone after Rachel Alexandra walked into his barn. He has battalions of horses spread out from Texas to New York. He looks tired on a good day.

"People ask me all the time, how do you win so many races? Win so many races? Do you know how many races I lose? That's how you win that many, you lose that many," Asmussen said

this spring. "We've got great help and (owners) keep sending us great horses. Our job is to figure out who to wait on. Somebody will call and tell you about the horse they've got and ask you to take it, I get off the phone and think, 'I can't believe that, of course I'll take it.' It's fortune and it'll turn as quick as it came. Believe me."

Asmussen is wise enough to capitalize on a good thing. If you're the flavor of the month, stay open all night. Jones tried to stay open all night; taking on the task of steering Rick Porter's new project at Fair Hill, running a barn at Delaware Park, getting bigger owners and training better horses. It nearly killed him.

Training horses is the ultimate deal with the devil. Most trainers are fans of the horse first. The sport, second. Their occupation third.

Growing up Asmussen, there was nothing else. Dad trained. Brother rode. Mom braided. Yeah, braided.

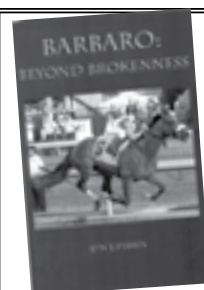
"When they brought Dash For Cash to parade at Ruidoso Downs, my mom braided him and I held him. I'll never forget that for as long as I live, he was it for me," Asmussen said. "You can't imagine, I must have told 4 million people from the time I was 13 to 20 that I actually touched him. He was gold, he was gold to me."

Now, Asmussen has gold in his hands again with Rachel Alexandra. Be sure there are days that Asmussen thinks none of the stress, hassle and frustration is worth it. But what if you quit, downsize or retire the year (the day) before Rachel Alexandra was to walk in your barn? That's the ultimate catch 22 of being a horse trainer. Mark Reid retired, Smarty Jones walked into John Servis' barn. Ken McPeck took a hiatus, Curlin and Einstein walked into Helen Pitts' barn.

Jones will take the risk.

"I have a lot of respect for Todd Pletcher and Steve Asmussen and their business sense, I don't have that business side of my mind," Jones said. "Hopefully we all can handle horses, but man, my hat's off to them for being able to do both. I just couldn't do it any more."

The over/under on Asmussen is 10 years.



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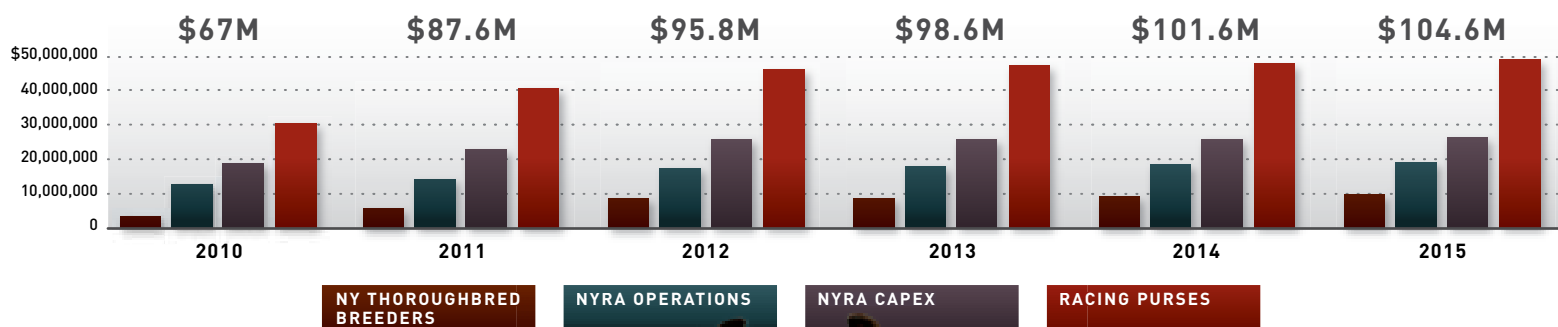
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