



LIFETIME STAKES WINNERS

2019 G1 winners on DIRT incl.



OMAHA BEACH

Arkansas Derby (G1)



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Preakness S. (G1)

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Danzig - Starry Dreamer

WAR FRONT



Tod Marks

Boo. Freewheeler scares himself while checking the infield monitors after winning Friday's sixth race

for Irad Ortiz Jr. and trainer Todd Pletcher.

here&there...at Saratoga

NAMES OF THE DAY

Break Even, third race. The undefeated 3-year-old filly, a Klein Racing homebred, is out of Exotic Wager.

Height, fifth race. Owned by Jump Sucker Stable, Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, the 2-year-old colt is out of Ascent.

Soviet, seventh race. The 2-year-old filly, who races for Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stable and LNJ Foxwoods, is out of Ruthenia (which is an ancient word for the area of the world now considered Russia).

No Word, eighth race. Wertheimer and Frere's 2-year-old colt, who makes his debut going 1 1/16 miles on the turf, is by Silent Name out of Listen A. P.

Brucia La Terra, **ninth race**. She was in last year, but the song "Brucia La Terra" translated to Burn The Earth in English and is from The Godfather movie. The Maryland-bred is by El Padrino (The Godfather in Italian) out of Happy Refrain.

NAME OF THE DAY (Palindrome Edition)

Hallawallah, ninth race. Al Rashid Stable's 3-year-old filly's name is the same forward and backward.

LICENSE PLATE OF THE DAY

(we've given up trying to weed out repeats) DLYDBL, New York.

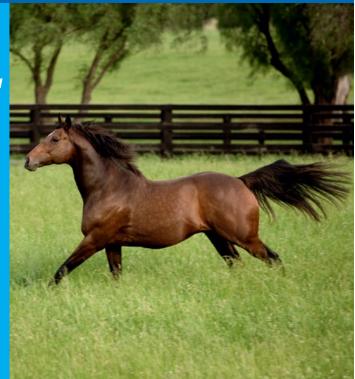
THEY'VE GOT THE GREEN LIGHT

Hard Spun has big-race prospects this fall

Unbeaten G2 winner **Green Light Go** heads for the G1 Hopeful.

Million-dollar Saratoga Derby winner A Thread of Blue aims to do it again in the \$1m Jockey Club Derby.

Hard Spun's third Stakes winner at The Spa, Lucullan, points towards the \$1m G1 Woodbine Mile.



REMEMBER THE FUTURE: more Hard Spuns selling soon...

Darley



here&there...at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Million gallons of water needed to fill the irrigation pond that is part of the Fair Hill race course rebuild in Maryland.

WORTH REPEATING

"I have to stop measuring every trip to Saratoga against that one."

Owner Peter Berglar, on the 2012 Prioress win by Emma's Encore (his first trip to the Spa)

"About eight of us were crowded around the TV at Airdrie with Mr. Jones to watch Indian Pride's win."

Airdrie Stud's Kristine Cullen,

after the homebred aired in her debut Wednesday

"Their old courtyard layout with lap-pool was an agreeable working environment for me, after the daily grind on the road. I got to know the night desk clerk there, who interestingly, was named Caroline. She told me that Phila Street was a Grecian female name, and that it should be pronounced Pie-la."

Reader Bill Orzell, who used to stay at the Saratoga Downtowner hotel, after reading a History Lesson entry in Here & There this week

"I've been told sometimes that I'm irreverent, and irrelevant, too."

The Special's Terry Hill, starting to describe a story he submitted

"Nap time now?"

Trainer Ian Wilkes to The Special's Tom Law, finishing up his first interview Friday at about 6:30 a.m.

"Bring 'em on."

West Point Thoroughbreds' Joey Migliore after Decorated Invader breezed Friday morning

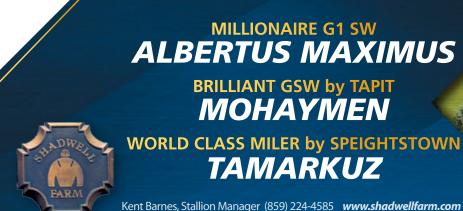
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's good for your soul."

Photographer Susie Raisher, convincing someone to visit the first Dog Adoption Day at Saratoga Race Course (she was correct)



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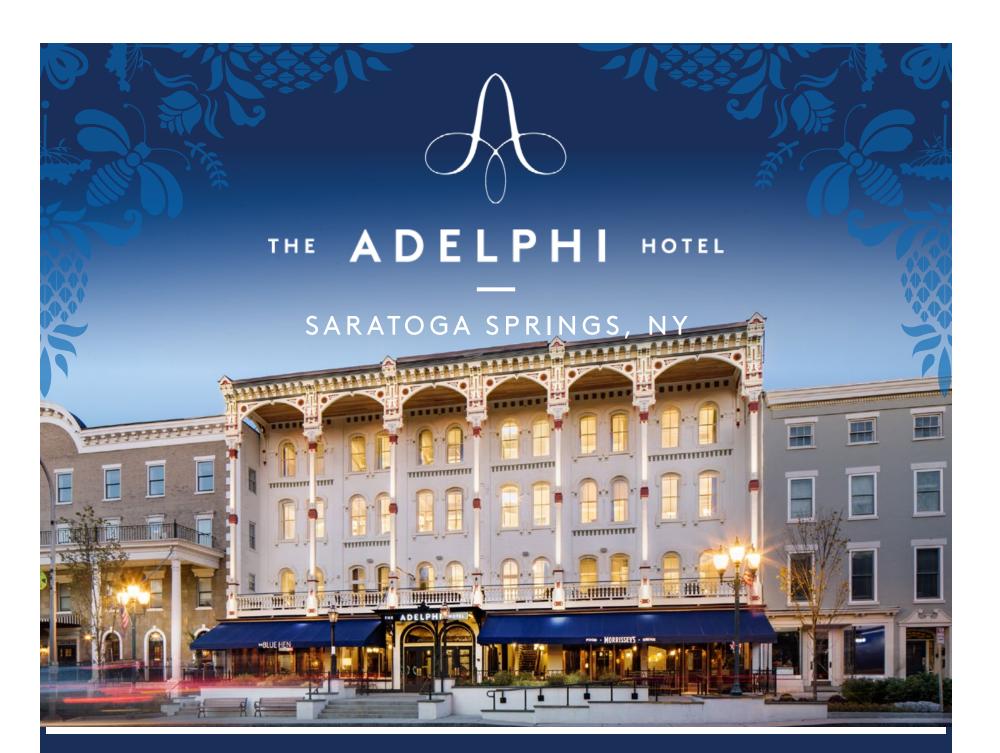
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Saratoga Moments . . .

"All of them. I didn't always come up with Woody (Stephens). I used to have to stay at Belmont with the horses. I drove up when Forty Niner won the Travers (1988). The Sword Dancer (with Awad in 1997). But I would have to say running Hessonite here (in 2011, 2012 and 2013). I'm not sure which one (stakes), but one of those that she won has to be my favorite memory."

- Trainer David Donk



here&there...at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"She's good. She's happy. She doesn't think she lost that race."

Erma Scott about the big mare, Elate

"I don't do no computer."

Scott, when told The Special could be read on the computer this week

"I was tempted but who would have written about it?

Trainer Ken McPeek, after tapping the gas as The Special's Sean Clancy walked across East Avenue (he was joking, we think)

"Hopefully I have a dirt horse. I hope I don't screw it up and make a grass horse out of him. I get my hopes up for a dirt horse."

Trainer Jimmy Toner on Mischief Afoot, a 2-year-old colt by Into Mischief who makes debut in Saturday's seventh at 7 furlongs on the main track

Trainer Ian Wilkes to Toner being interviewed by The Special's Tom Law: "Don't give him all the straight answers."

Toner: "No. no. Never do."

HALL OF FAME SNORER

One more from trainer Dallas Stewart about the late Randy Romero: "He was a bad snorer. I didn't know. We were working the sales at Keeneland, he loved to look at the babies. He said, 'My wife tells me I snore real bad.' We go get those breathing strips. Well, he starts snoring, dude, you've never heard anybody snore like this. It's 1 o'clock in the morning, I'm like, 'I've got two options, drive back to Louisville where I live or try to get another room.' I went down to the desk, and the guy starts laughing, I said, 'Man, I know it's 200 a night, can you give me a break?' He said, 'Yeah, I'll let you have it for 50.' I said, 'I'll take it.' I went back to Randy's room in the morning and he said, 'Man, I slept good. How you feel?' I said, 'You won't believe what I had to do.' He said, 'It'll be all right, let's go.' '



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At 2: Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf (G1)

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- **1. Got Stormy:** Even Fourstardave didn't do what she did.
 - Bred by Mt. Joy Stables, Pope McLean, Marc McLean & Pope McLean Jr.
- **2.** Midnight Bisou: Now that's a proper horse race. Elate is 2B.
- **3. Code Of Honor:** Answered any doubts in Travers triumph.
- **4. Covfefe:** Because that Test slugfest was as good as it gets.
- 5. Imperial Hint: Move over Speightstown and Spanish Riddle.
- **McKinzie:** He can do it all, giving Baffert his first Whitney win.
- **Shancelot:** After the Amsterdam, make that Sir Shancelot.
- **8. Guarana:** Unbeaten filly was perfect again in CCA Oaks.
- **Sistercharlie:** Make that TWO Dianas for the champ.
- 10. Dunbar Road: Loved the mud in Alabama romp.

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The Chief ... Day 32

"Back then, nobody worried whether a horse liked the turf or not, they just figured any horse would like the turf. When they brought those horses over from England, they never ran on the dirt and all the offspring would run on the dirt. We didn't have any turf, one race every day at Hialeah, then Santa Anita got it. They never ran anything on it in New York other than steeplechase and hurdle races. They had the straightaway chute. Nowadays, the public would

longs or a mile and three eighths. They didn't have the chutes. Morris Dixon had a horse who held the record for both. Little Augustine Catalano rode him, he

love it because they could see it on TV. At Belmont, you had to run seven fur-

weighed about 98 pounds."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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LEXINGTON, KY

NOMINATE

with Bill Mott

The one you have been waiting for, the one we have been waiting for, the Bill Mott Stable Tour. In an annual tradition, Sean Clancy walked with the Hall of Famer, opening up screens, leaning over runners to meet Mott's 30 horses stabled on the Oklahoma training track Friday morning.

The tour started with the same three words as last year, "This is Round."

Round: The lead pony scoured the corner of his outside stall for the leaves of his alfalfa hay. The 8-year-old son of Arch and the Seeking The Gold A true Bill Mott stable star - the one and only Round. mare Enth won once in nine starts for Claiborne

Farm and Adele Dilschneider. Now Mott rides him every day. "Hey, come here. You've got to ride him, if you get on him early in the morning, he knows you're going to ride him all day. If you wait until 9:30, he knows he's got limited time to screw up."

Lucky Dime: Daughter of Creative Cause is a half-sister to Forego winner Mitole is on the also-eligible list for Sunday's eighth race. "Hey, girl. She had a race, she was third. She's improved, she's been working good. She might have to go to Belmont now to run. I can't believe she drew the also-eligible. She's pretty nice."

Sprawl: Owned and bred by Claiborne and Dilschneider, the 2-year-old colt finished third in his debut here. "This is Sprawl, he finished third in his only start, came running. He's a City Zip. He'll either go to Belmont to run a mile or Churchill. No gate speed, you'd think being a City Zip he would have some gate speed. He showed promise."

Blamed: Owned by Cleber Massey, the daughter of Blame has won two stakes since joining Mott from Sunland Park. She hasn't run since winning the Royal Delta Stakes in February. "She was off a good 90 days, she's back galloping. She won't run until fall. Her shoulders were bruised up which is kind of unusual. We gave her 60 days out and 30 days of Aquatred and turnout. She's back, moving better than ever. We did a bone scan, usually you see the bone bruising in their ankles and she had some in her ankles but she had more in her shoulders, the bottom of the humerus. We were icing her, but you're not going to change much if it's in up in her shoulders. Fortunately, with the new technology, you can say, 'Boy, that's unusual.'

Mitchell Road: Half-sister to Kentucky Derby winner Country House won four in a row before finishing fifth in the Diana here. The 4-year-old filly startles as Mott walks to her stall.



"You're still excited from your work. She just worked at 10. Half to a Derby winner, she's a Grade 3 winner, she's helped her value. Not real big, but boy she likes to run. She's got speed, doesn't rate real well. She'll go to Kentucky Downs. I don't know about her running style up and down those hills, she pulls."

Tactical Move: Godolphin homebred daughter of First Defense and Game Face worked twice from the gate during the meet. "She hasn't run, I was breezing her, I had to stop, I had to paint her shins, she's back going. I thought I might be running her at the end of this meet but we had a little bit of a hiccup."

Frank's Rockette: The daughter of Into Mischief is flaked out with her head resting in a pile of thick straw near the front of the stall. She runs in the Spinaway Sunday, "This is Frank. You better get ready, girl, you better get ready. She's got a nice pillow. She's a winner at Churchill, second here in the (Adirondack), she had a rough trip, she got slammed, (Luis Saez) got seven days, I guess that proves something happened."

Elate: Mott unsnaps the screen, swings it open and stares silently. The big mare stares back. "Don't need to say much here. Looking at all the options, Beldame, Jockey Club, Spinster: Right now, I'm thinking Spinster, possibly. Initially, I wasn't thinking that way, but it's a Grade 1, 500 (thousand-dollar purse). I don't think we're really ducking anybody, but I want to save enough horse for the Breeders' Cup. Hopefully we can make the Breeders' Cup this year. If she does well, I think we're inclined to go to the Classic. I don't necessarily want her next race to be a war."

Golden Award: Winner of the Shuvee here, she was eased in the Personal Ensign. Mott clucks to the bay filly and she walks straight to him like it had been rehearsed. "For some reason she didn't finish the Personal Ensign. She's back on

Every day at Saratoga, The Special presents an exclusive Stable Tour with a Saratoga trainer.

the track training and seems to be fine. She's galloped four days, we don't see anything. I don't know. It's really hard to tell. I don't know. It doesn't appear to be any soundness issue that I can pick up on, she seems to be moving as good or better than ever. We had scoped her immediately when she came back from the race, she seemed to be fine. I don't know."

Krampus: William Schettine's homebred son of Shakespeare owns five wins from 16 starts. "An overachiever. Broke his maiden for numbers, won a starter and kind of went up the ladder, he's Sean Clancy a Grade 3 winner, he continues to be an overachiever. It's not that easy to find the right conditions. He ran in a Grade 1 last time, those ones

just seem to be a little better than him. Probably didn't like the firm turf, his feet were stinging him after the race. He's OK now."

Red Knight: Another veteran, the New York-bred was second in the off-the-turf John's Call. "Grouchy old man. You'd probably like to ride him over the jumps. Probably a Grade 3 type, runs very good in those types of races. The water might be a little deep in the Grade 1s, that being said, he's a very nice horse. He's a lot of fun to have."

Will Take Charge-Easy Limit filly: Owned and bred by Mrs. J. V. Shields Jr., the unraced 2-year-old arrived this week. "She's only been in Saratoga for two days. She's an attractive horse and goes good on the track. She was at Belmont for a week or two and we just brought her up here."

Lake Avenue: Godolphin hombred is by Tapit out of Seventh Street. "Come on, come on, don't be antisocial. She acts like she's OK. She was close to being ready to run and got sick, I had a bunch of babies get sick. Actually, it was kind of scary, leading up to the Travers, the Personal Ensign, the Sword Dancer, I've got horses in those races and I've got horses surrounding those horses who are sick. The older horses' immune systems are better than a babies'."

Empire Maker-Revealed filly: Gainesway's unraced 2-year-old stands rock still as she gets her teeth floated. "She reminds me of Royal Delta."

Valletta: Unraced Juddmonte homebred daughter of Into Mischief looks across the barn apron like she's waiting for the opening act. "She sees something new every day. She was sick, just coming back."

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Tiesto: The Tiznow colt, a half to Grade 1 stakes winner Promises Fulfilled, graduated from the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall mixed sale in 2017. "He's a different type, he's a big, leggy type, a little narrow behind, has worked well, goes very well on the turf."

Tacitus: Travers runner-up beckons for another meal. Mott scratches his left ear with his right hand. "He'll let you touch him with one hand, not two. If I put my second hand up there, he'll try to take my arm off. They were kind of playing cat and mouse (in the Travers) the first part of it, I can't make any big excuses. He broke really well, everybody said the rail was deep that day, but he was actually out in the 2 or 3 path all the way down the backside, he was not right on the rail. It may have appeared that he was on the rail, but if you watch the head-on, he was not right on the rail. It's better to be committed either way, I think Jose (Ortiz) broke and was going to give the other horse an opportunity to go on and clear him but he stayed out. It might have been better for both of us if he cleared him. I was glad to see that he was able to be up in the race. Races don't always develop the way they look on paper. He gets extra feed, he eats five times a day, most eat three or four, just depending on how they're eating. I started doing it in Florida because he looked a little lean, we'll give him a quart or two more when he finishes his 11 o'clock feed. We don't usually feed them as much as they'll eat. I worked for a guy named Bob Irwin, he was an ex-Van Berg guy. I was galloping horses for him and I had one of my own, he came by and saw my feed tub, I had it filled up to here. He shook his head and said, 'Son, a horse is a little bit like a pig, if you keep them just a little bit hungry, they'll do a lot better for you.' Don't give them more than what they want, if you can give them an amount they'll eat but keep them wanting just a little bit more, then they'll eat better. If you put too much in front of them, they'll just lose interest. I guess it's a matter of teasing them into it. If you don't get him out early. he'll get pissed off. He gets a little anxious, he's great around the stall, but he doesn't want to wait to be last. I think we'll go to the Jockey Club Gold Cup."

Empress Amelia: Bred by Alexander-Groves Thoroughbreds, the 2-year-old filly is by Empire Maker out of stakes winner Amelia. "She was a pretty big project at the starting gate. I've been at the gate every time she's gone over there and we got her through it. She had an incident the second time we had her over there, I think we have her figured out. She's broken from the gate now."

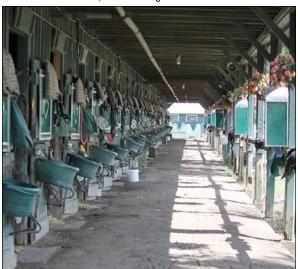
Channel Maker: Ontario-bred 5-year-old has earned more than \$2 million, winning five stakes, including the Grade 1 Man o' War and Joe Hirsch Turf Classic. "Overachiever. You just can't overachieve every time."

Mr Jaggers: Owned and bred by Pam and Martin Wygod, the son of Twirling Candy finished third in his debut here. "He's in Saturday. Nice colt. He showed quite a bit from the very beginning, could be pretty nice."

Breithorn: Juddmonte homebred was entered for Saturday but will be scratched after getting sick. "As soon as the overnight came out, he had a fever of 102. He's pretty nice, we like him. I'm not sure he was ready to win first out, I thought he could hit the board. I like to go ahead and get that race into him. We'll have to wait. He's on antibiotics."

Yoshida: The favorite in today's Woodward. "Good timing, training good, he ran good last year at this time, in the same race over the same racetrack."

Tide Of The Sea: A big stamp of a horse, the Juddmonte homebred finished third as the favorite in a three-turn turf race here. "Here's another one for you. He's not the typical English Channel. Look at him. He's a big, angular horse, he's that type of horse. He's not meant to do too much this year, he probably lacks a little speed to be a brilliant horse but over time he's going to get better, he'll develop. He'll run through his conditions in some of those marathons. He's only had four races, he's had a win and two thirds, he's in the game."



Sean Clancy

Down the shedrow. . .

Durkin's Call: Purchased from Mike Trombetta, the New York-bred won the Gander Stakes in his debut for Mott and hasn't hit the board in his next four starts. "Won a small New York-bred stake for us and hasn't run good since. I don't know what's wrong with him, he trains as good as he can train. We bought him, he won by 7 or 8 and that's it. I don't understand it. We even tried the grass the other day."

Scottish Jig: A winner of three races in England before joining Mott, Juddmonte runner won her American debut, finished third in the River Memories and seventh in the Ballston Spa. "I ran her in the Ballston Spa, hmmm, it could have been a little over her head. She won going a mile-and-a-quarter at Belmont, she doesn't want to go further than that, but probably needs every bit of a mile-and-a-sixteenth. She's a full-sister to (Grade 1 winner) Seek Again. It's amazing, three weeks ago, her hair was terrible and she blossomed. We ran her, she was doing good, she was laying second, we don't have a good excuse."

Mucho: Son of Blame hasn't finished worse than fourth in seven starts, including a second in last year's Hopeful. "Mucho. Mucho. This was last year's hopeful for the Hopeful. He was third here the other day. He had a quarter crack, we missed time for that and then he was sick so he missed more time. He could have been a little short, he had a couple of works in him, I just said, 'I need to get started.' He ran good. He's scheduled to run on the 8th of September in a 3-year-old turf race down at Belmont. It seems like 6 furlongs is it, we've tried to stretch him out."

Seismic Wave: Juddmonte homebred is the 5-2 second choice in today's Saranac. "Hey, papa. He's in Saturday. We tried him in the longer races, we're thinking that maybe it was a distance thing, maybe he needs to be shortened back up. He's out of a mare by Anabaa who was champion sprinter."

Mott checked a horse being shod on the wash rack and walked back to his office, then thought about the rest of his Saratoga string on the other side of town at the harness rack with his assistant/ son Riley.

"Of course Riley has got a bunch of babies over there. He's got Acre. Height, he's in Saturday, I thought his debut was OK, he looks physically like he's matured since then, he doesn't look as babyish. He's got Sul Moon over there, he and Mr Jaggers had good debuts, they're in Saturday. We've had several 2-year-olds have good debuts, some of them didn't win but they ran good."



Taking Over Off Spa win, Tom's d'Etat returns to Grade 1 level

Brandon Meier and Tom's d'Etat put in some work on the Clare Court track early Friday morning.

WOODWARD STAKES PREVIEW

BY TOM LAW

Darkness just yielded to daybreak when Tom's d'Etat and exercise rider Brandon Meier stepped out of the shedrow into the cool yet humid air of the Saratoga Race Course backstretch just before 6 Friday morning.

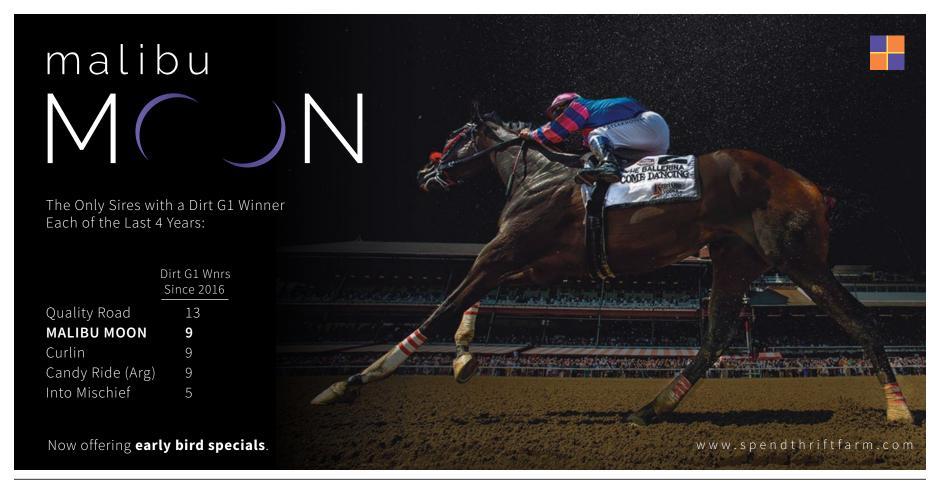
Trainer Al Stall Jr. kept close tabs on the scene on the short trek from his barn to Clare Court, while Melanie Giddings walked alongside the 6-year-old son of Smart Strike. Stall preferred a light amount of activity on the half-mile Clare Court track, keeping things simple the day before Tom's d'Etat returns to Grade 1 company in today's \$750,000 Woodward Stakes.

Stall pegged 5:50 as the ideal time, figuring it would be a respite between sets of other trainers using the narrow oval named for the former track superintendent husband-wife duo of T. J. and Anne Clare.

Despite stabling nearer to Nelson Avenue than East, Tom's d'Etat used the Oklahoma Training Track plenty during the 29 days between his victory in the Alydar Stakes and the Woodward, Stall and his team incorporating different paths to and from that spot on the grounds, but that wasn't on the training chart Friday.

"When you get closer and get the nerves you get,

Continued On Page 12



Tod Marks



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Woodward —

■ Continued from page 10

you want to get in and get out," Stall said before Tom's d'Etat left the barn. "That hour walk is not going to happen today. He was out for that yesterday though. He was gone from probably 7:30 to 8:30, out in the beautiful sunshine."

Tom's d'Etat took off on a light jog after he walked through the gap on the northern end of the Clare Court track. Stall watched from the outside rail when the multiple stakes winner owned by Gayle Benson's G M B Racing went past the first time, crossed over the surface and onto the road not far from a spacious area under tall pine trees that provided shade to runners associated with names like Belmont, Calumet, Sanford, du Pont, Jerkens, Nerud and Nafzger.

"That's him, throwing his head around," Stall said while Tom's d'Etat jogged past. "For 6 years old, that's him saying, 'I'm playful.'

"He's moving well, just cruising along. He'll break into his gallop on the other side. I'm just guestimating.

There's one pole here, just one. Way down at the end. I'm all ears so I'm trying to listen to the old-school guys. Bobby Ribaudo said they measured it and said it's right at a half (mile). So I treat it as a half. So that's a half then another half of a half, so a three-quarter jog, then he'll go basically two laps. So three-quarter jog and a mile gallop."

Meier, the son of legendary Chicago area jockey Randall Meier and a former jockey himself with 269 victories, gave Tom's d'Etat his cue to gallop. They cruised around Clare Court twice, the only horse on the track and at nowhere near the pace some seem to take these days, before walking off the Nelson Avenue gap across from the Receiving Barn.

Giddings met Tom's d'Etat coming off and stayed close while they walked along the road, past the old carriage horse barn that now houses Gary Gullo's string and south toward Ian Wilkes' barn where Allen Jerkens had Onion when he upset Secretariat in the 1973 Whitney.

Stall hopes for an upset in the Woodward, although it would be

Continued On Page 14



Tod Marks

Yoshida looks to repeat in the Woodward for trainer Bill Mott.



For more information call Dan Kahn • 631-566-1110 • <u>DK@PrivateJetProfessionals.com</u>



Woodward —

■ Continued from page 12

nowhere near the magnitude of that giant killing. Tom's d'Etat enters as fourth choice at 4-1 on the morning line behind 5-2 favorite Yoshida and the co-7-2 second choices Vino Rosso and Preservationist. Like Onion, Tom's d'Etat favors Saratoga's main track and brings a 3-for-3 record to the table today.

A \$330,000 Keeneland September purchase, Tom's d'Etat won a Saratoga maiden in 2016, returned the next summer and won an optional claimer and then outsted eight others at even money in the Alydar. He tries to run his record to 4-for-4 today.

"He runs great on the main track," said Stall, who actually kept his horse off that surface for the most part between Saratoga starts. "We had the time to do some different things. Oklahoma is Oklahoma. It's not like you're losing anything by going over there and training. We were able to get him out of his stall, under tack, for between 50 and 60 minutes on a daily basis since his last race. Obviously not every day, but a lot.

"It's not like he needed it, but it's certainly good for a horse. He's done a little better since the last race. Prob-



Tod Marks

Mr. Buff exits a Saratoga win for John Kimmel.

ably picked up some weight, which most horses might not do."

Stall breezed Tom's d'Etat twice between the Alydar and Woodward, both times a half-mile on the Oklahoma. Meier was aboard for both works – :50.24 the morning of the Alabama and :50.48 the morning after Travers Day. He'll bid for his first Grade 1 win in his second try at the top level. Stall called the first try – in the sloppy mess of the Pegasus World Cup – a "total disaster," but Tom's d'Etat rebounded with placings in Grade 2 stakes at Churchill Downs.

Tom's d'Etat stopped in a grassy spot near the first gap he walked through. Giddings hand fed some grass – just as she'd done the morning before Travers Day when Tom's d'Etat walked off the Oklahoma track near the starting gate, and the horse went for a pick or two himself before being led home.

"Hey Mel, I think it's OK for a bath," Stall said to Giddings. "It feels a little humid almost. The air will lighten up in an hour or so, you know how it does. It will lift. He'll get a little bath, that won't hurt him at all. He'll enjoy it."

Stall figures Tom's d'Etat enjoys the cooler temperatures of late, especially during today's lead up to the Woodward and its 6 p.m. post time. He also hopes Friday morning's smooth

training session can be a sign of what's to come.

"Knock on wood, maybe he's destined to do something," Stall said. "The traffic worked out well. Things need to go your way in this game, don't think they don't. You can have the horse, you can have everything and things just don't go your way. It can happen."

Tom's d'Etat faces eight opponents in one of New York's most historic races run at Belmont prior to 2006 and won by the likes of Kelso, Buckpasser, Damascus, Forego, Seattle Slew, Affirmed, Spectacular Bid, Alysheba, Easy Goer, Holy Bull and Cigar.

The first four past the finish after McKinzie from the Grade 1 Whitney Stakes – Yoshida, Vino Rosso, Preservationist and Forewarned – are back for another try in



Tod Marks

Vino Rosso eyes his second Grade 1 score of 2019.

the Woodward along with Evan Shipman winner Mr. Buff, Monmouth Cup runner-up Bal Harbour, California shipper Mongolian Groom and Alydar runner-up Wooderson.

Yoshida closed last year's meet with a victory in the Woodward, coming from well back to win by 2 lengths over Gunnevera to earn a trip to the Breeders' Cup Classic. He finished fourth in the Classic to end 2018 and then finished sixth in three straight stakes – the Pegasus World Cup Turf, Dubai World Cup and Stephen Foster – for Bill Mott. He returned to form in the Whitney, finishing second best to McKinzie after a wide trip on the far turn.

Joel Rosario, who rode Tom's d'Etat to his victory in the Alydar, sticks with Yoshida for the Woodward. Irad Ortiz Jr. gets on Stall's horse, who breaks from the outside post.

"Joel did an unbelievably good job saving (Tom's d'Etat) last time," Stall said. "Unfortunately he can't ride him. He saved a whole lot of gas in the tank from what I saw. He never turned his stick up, tapped him once then he jogged him from about the sixteenth pole home. Looking around. As far as what direction he

might go after that race you wouldn't think he'd go backward."

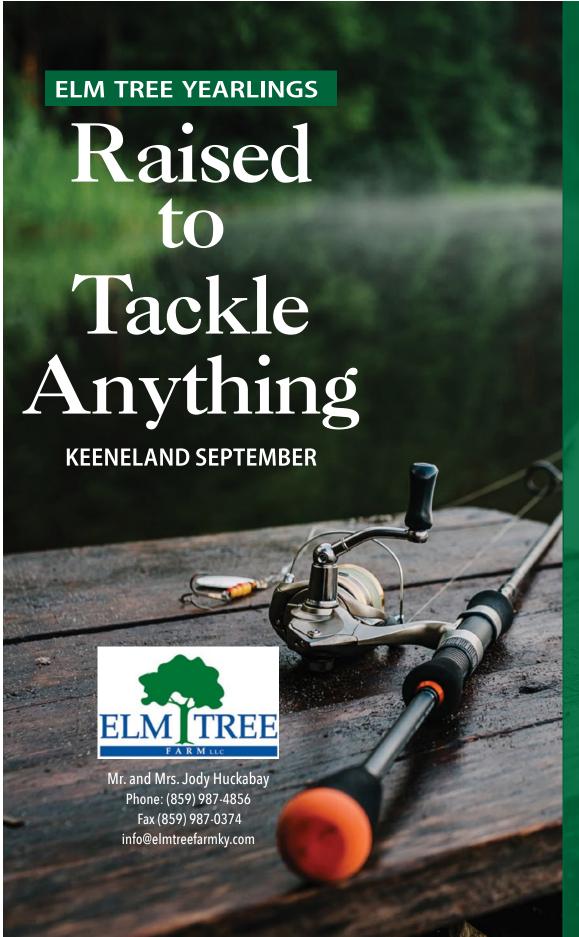
Vino Rosso and Preservationist try to reverse any trend in that direction after losing the Whitney following breakthrough wins in their previous starts.

Vino Rosso, ninth in the Kentucky Derby and fourth in the Belmont last year, won the Grade 1 Gold Cup at Santa Anita two starts back for Todd Pletcher before finishing 6 1/2 lengths back in the Whitney.

The 4-year-old son of Curlin breezed once since, firing a bullet in :58.60 under regular rider John Velazquez in company with Noble Indy on the main track the day before the Travers.

Preservationist won the Grade 2 Suburban going 10 furlongs, defeating Catholic Boy and Pavel before finishing 7 3/4 lengths behind McKinzie in the Whitney. Jimmy Jerkens worked the 6-year-old son of Arch three times after the Whitney, including a 3-furlong tightener on the Oklahoma in :36.66 Thursday.

The Woodward anchors the final Saturday card of the 2019 Saratoga meet and goes as the last of four stakes and the 11th on a 12-race card that starts at 12:30 p.m.



BOOK ONE • Barn 20

Monday, 9/9

11 c. MEDAGLIA D'ORO – Overheard

2nd foal out of multiple GSW OVERHEARD (\$548,656); family of Champion CHRIS EVERT and G1 SW CONFESSIONAL

Tuesday, 9/10

250 c. FLATTER - Bashful Bertie

1/2 brother to 3-time G1 SW BEACH PATROL (\$2,532,945); out of full sister to GSW/stakes producer ALLAMERICAN BERTIE

366 f. HONOR CODE – Doubled

Out of a juvenile SW Exchange Rate mare, 1/2 sister to two Graded horses, including Pocahontas S.-G2 SW DANCINGINHERDREAMS

Wednesday, 9/11

516 c. SPEIGHTSTOWN – Maggy's Melody

Out of a young Unbridled's Song 1/2 sister to Champion/multiple Classic winner and champion-siring AFLEET ALEX (\$2,765,800)

545 f. NYQUIST - Miss Inclined

From the first crop of Champion/Classic winner NYQUIST out of SP 1/2 sister to GSW RUSH BAY and Graded stakes producer Stormy B.

BOOK TWO • Barn 35

Friday, 9/13

634 c. NOT THIS TIME - Soho Star

643 c. GHOSTZAPPER – Spring Party

707 c. BROKEN VOW – Winning Saga

780 c. FROSTED – Dashing Debby

783 f. PIONEEROF THE NILE – Devious Intent

932 c. LIAM'S MAP – Mystic Mama

SARAICA SARAIC

Tod Marks

Already a stakes winner on turf at Saratoga, Break Even tries dirt in the Grade 2 Prioress.



Dirt Return

Klein's unbeaten Break Even heads back to the main track

BY TOM LAW

Richard Klein figured if things didn't work out for his homebred Break Even when she made her turf debut in last month's Coronation Cup that she could always return to the dirt.

She'd won five in a row on the dirt and made it six straight in the Coronation Cup, never challenged on the way to a 1-length victory over eventual Galway Stakes winner Eyeinthesky. Break Even went back to trainer Brad Cox's main string at Churchill Downs after the Coronation Cup before another trip to Saratoga. And she's back on the dirt for today's Grade 2 Prioress.

"She's done a lot of traveling," said Cox's New York-based assistant

PRIORESS STAKES PREVIEW

Dustin Dugas. "She shipped up for the Jersey Girl, then went back to Kentucky, then shipped up here for the Coronation Cup, then back to Kentucky and now she's back up here for this one."

Break Even added to her frequent flyer total coming on the same flight that brought Owendale for last weekend's Travers. The daughter of Country Day came early enough to breeze on the main track, where she'll run the 6 furlongs of today's Prioress against five other 3-year-old fillies.

Break Even went in :49.66 under Dugas the morning of the Travers.

Continued On Page 18





Prioress —

■ Continued from page 16

Dugas took the filly to the Oklahoma for most of her other training leading up to today's Prioress, a race that carries special meaning to Klein and his family. She went with a set of three other Cox trainees just after 7:30 a.m. and putting in an easy gallop.

"When she's here in New York I get on her," Dugas said. "She's a nice filly, a really nice filly. Special. We'll see about (today). She's going to have to run this time, it's a nice group of horses for sure. She's been doing good. Fingers crossed. Hopefully we can get some racing luck."

Klein, who bred Break Even out of his winning Saint Ballado mare Exotic Wager, looks to add another Prioress trophy to his family's collection.

The Kleins, Richard and his late parents Royal Charlotte tries to get back on track after her first loss in the Test. Bertram and Elaine, campaigned 1998 Prioress winner Hurricane Bertie. She won multiple graded stakes and 14 races overall for the family and Richard Klein counts her among their best.

"My mother and I started in 1987, then my father wanted to get in," Klein said. "In 1998 we merged everything together in the spring. My wife came up with those lime green silks, she wanted bright silks. At the track back then they didn't have



big screen TVs and you couldn't see your silks. ... Now everybody knows our lime green silks.

"Everything really took off and we won two stakes races July 3 that year at Belmont. We won with Hurricane Bertie, that's when the Prioress was there. We won the race before that, the Astoria, with a horse named Round Robin."

The Prioress, run at Belmont until Emma's En-

core won a memorable edition for the late Allen Jerkens in 2012 at Saratoga, starts a four-pack of stakes on the final Saturday card of the 2019 meeting.

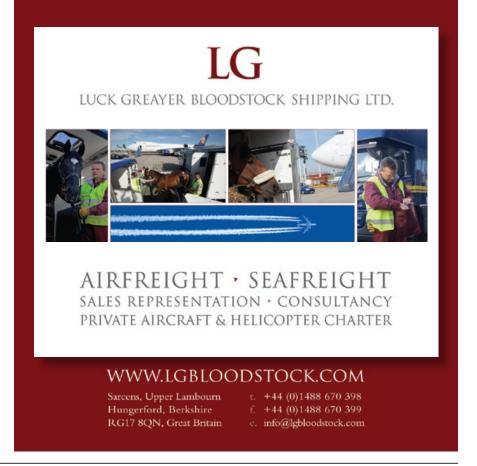
Carded as the third race with a post time of 1:36, the Prioress also attracted unbeaten Risky Mandate and graded stakes winner Royal Charlotte.

Trainer Tom Amoss sends out Ghost Hollow Farm's homebred Risky Mandate. The daughter of Strong Mandate won a 6 1/2-furlong maiden special weight at Churchill Downs June 22 and a 7-furlong allowance here July 24. She's the 3-1 second choice on the line with Iose Ortiz named behind the 1-2 Break Even and Shaun Bridgmohan.

Royal Charlotte looks to bounce back from a distant sixth behind Break Even's stablemate Covfefe and Risky Mandate's stablemate Serengenti Empress in the Prioress. She won the Grade 3 Victory Ride in her prior start to run her record to 4-for-4 for trainer Chad Brown.

The other three Prioress entrants are longshots – South Of France, winner of last fall's Tepin Stakes and second in an optional claimer here Aug. 11 for trainer Todd Pletcher: Break Curfew, making her first start off a \$75,000 claim for Steve Asmussen and owner Toby Sheets; and Kept True, the winner of her last two against state-bred company for Leah Gyarmati.





Tod Marks



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— NY-BREDS START WITH AN ADVANTAGE —





Tod Marks

Violet Blue (at Belmont in 2017) stretches out in the Glens Falls.

Out Of Options

Toner stable sends out longshot Violet Blue in Grade 2 turf test

BY TOM LAW

Jimmy Toner and Austin Trites walked down the road away from their barn on the backstretch toward the Morning Line Kitchen, alongside two horses headed for their morning exercise Friday.

Trites, Toner's assistant and on the shank of the second horse in the set, spotted one of The Saratoga Special's golf carts and its occupants and offered an item from a makeshift editorial wish list if you will.

"Let's hope you put this one on the cover in a few days," Trites said, pointing to the 5-year-old Americain mare Violet Blue who runs in today's Grade 2 Glens Falls.

The cover probably won't happen. Not because The Special doesn't think Violet Blue can outrun her 20-1 price on the morning line, but since the \$250,000 Glens Falls finds itself in the shadows of today's Grade 1 Woodward.

FAB FIVE

Such is life these days in the pub-

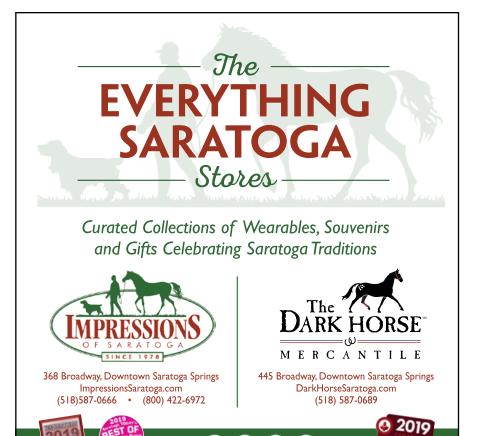
GLENS FALLS STAKES PREVIEW

lishing and racing world, with stacks of major stakes relegated to undercard events on strong weekend cards that pull the wagon for the rest of the week's racing.

None of that probably matters to Toner, who the day before said he simply felt fortunate just to be able to run Mike Ryan's mare even though she probably fits better in an allowance race.

"It's a matter of there's no place else to run," Toner said Thursday while he watched two other fillies loosen up under the pine trees inside Clare Court. "She's doing great. She might just be in a notch above what she is. What do you do? Sit on them for another month, six weeks? Had there been something within two or three weeks you could wait, but there's nothing."

Continued On Page 22



20

Maryland-bred Greats.

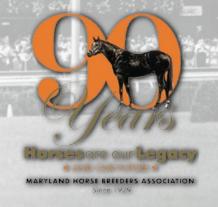
Cigar.

Today's Grade 1 Woodward was won twice by the great all-time leading Maryland-bred **CIGAR** (1995 and 1996) who was crowned *Horse of the Year* both those years. The Hall of Famer retired in 1996 with earnings just shy of \$10 million



Safely Kept. This Hall of Famer won the Grade 2

Prioress in 1989, when it was run in July at Belmont Park. Just two weeks later she won Saratoga's Grade 1 Test Stakes. Two more stakes wins and a narrow defeat in the Breeders' Cup Sprint earned her the Eclipse award for Champion Sprinter that year.



Look for Maryland-breds in the winner's circle at race tracks all over the world.

Watch for them at the yearling sales this fall.

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Glens Falls —

■ Continued from page 20

Toner tried to run Violet Blue back in a similar condition to her last start – a two-other-than optional going long on the grass but either the race wasn't in the condition book or it didn't fill. She finished a close third in her Aug. 1 race, a half-length behind the winner and fellow Glens Falls entrant Empressof The Nile. She also finished third in the same condition in her 2019 debut at Aqueduct April 11.

Toner faced a similar situation with Violet Blue last year, when she finished second in an optional claimer midway through the meet then ran in three straight stakes and failed to hit the board.

"She runs good but I'm trying to keep her in that condition to try and get through it," Toner said. "Every time you can't run back in it, you wind up in this predicament again."

Another member of the field looking to return to form is Godolphin Racing's Lady Montdore, who used an allowance win last August as a prep for her victory in the Glens Falls.

The 5-year-old Medaglia d'Oro mare didn't disgrace from there, finishing third in the Grade 1 Flower Bowl Invitational before a seventh as the favorite in the Grade 3 Long Island.

Trained by Tom Albertrani, Lady Montdore didn't threaten in her two starts this season in the Grade 2 Sheepshead Bay and Grade 2 New York, both going long on the grass at Belmont Park.

"We're just trying to get her back on the right track," said Dan Stupp, Albertrani's assistant. "She seems to really like Saratoga. She's done really well since we've shipped her up here. We shipped her up here a little early to train before the meet.

"She's showing us that she's doing OK in the mornings. Some horses just really like it up here. We always have a few every year that really thrive. Whatever it is about the surroundings - it's a little more quiet and a different vibe than Belmont."

Chad Brown, the meet's leading trainer with 39 wins through Friday, sends out the two favorites in 2-1 choice Santa Monica and 5-2 second pick Fools Gold. They exit the same race, the Fasig-Tipton Waya on the Whitney Day undercard.



Tod Marks

Trained by Chad Brown, Santa Monica is favored at 2-1 in the Glens Falls.

Santa Monica finished third in the 12-furlong Waya after a troubled trip while Fools Gold benefitted from a better journey on the way to victory.

Three others are entered in the body of the race – European import Mrs. Sippy and stakes-placed Empressof The Nile for trainer Graham Motion, Night Of England for Brown and Waya runner-up Get Explicit for Woodbine-based Barbara Minshall. Indy Union is entered for the main track only.

> - Additional reporting by Catherine Galbraith



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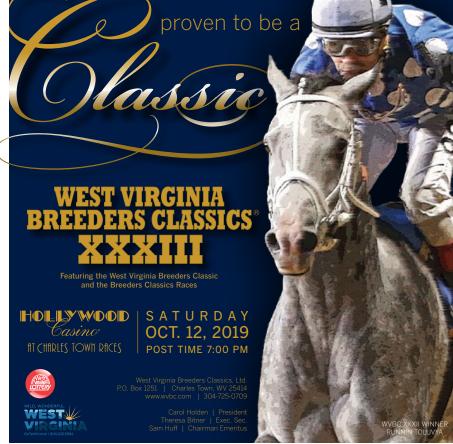
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House Horse

Bond runner Rinaldi steps up in Grade 3

BY CATHERINE GALBRAITH

Rinaldi and trainer Jim Bond represent the home team in today's \$200,000 Saranac Stakes at Saratoga Race Course.

Bred by Barry Ostrager and foaled at his Questroyal North in Stillwater, the son of Posse sold as a weanling at the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga October mixed sale. He then moved to Jim and Tina Bond's Song Hill Thoroughbreds in southern Saratoga County before eventually joining the trainer's string in his private barn on Gridley Street in Saratoga Springs. Rinaldi trained in the offseason on the Oklahoma Training Track before and after the last two Saratoga meets.

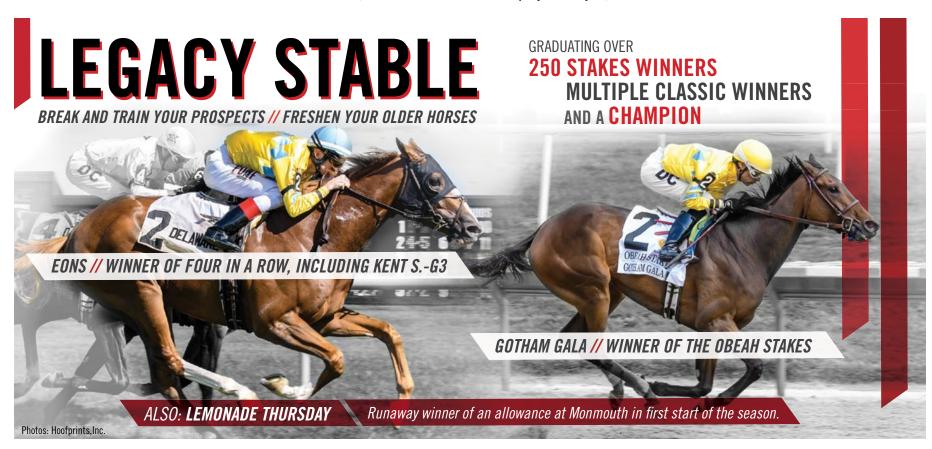
Rinaldi stays local for his biggest test in the Grade 3 Saranac, putting his 2-for-3 record against five other 3-year-olds in the 1 1/16-mile grass stakes.

Continued On Page 25



Tod Marks

Rinaldi, a winner in New York-bred company here July 24, tackles the Grade 3 Saranac.



BRAD STAUFFER 803-640-1454 // RON STEVENS 803-640-5009 // BASED AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS AIKEN TRAINING TRACK // LEGACYAIKEN@AOL.COM

Saranac —

■ Continued from page 24

"He's a cool dude," said Bond. "He's got the right mental stability to do it. We feel really good that we don't have to go to another racecourse with him because this is home. We're on this track, all last year and this year. This is just another day. He stays in the same barn, in the same stall.

"He enjoys it here. He ran very well over the inner course last time (a win in the Cab Calloway division of the New York Stallion Series) so hopefully he'll do it again. Our fingers are crossed he will. There are a lot of positives and you need to be positive with 3-year-olds because they're all still learning to a degree."

A half brother to the Bond-trained Hot And Spicy, Rinaldi is out of the Tale Of The Cat mare Dynamite Cocktail. Bond saw potential in the colt at the 2016 Saratoga fall mixed sale and bought him for \$5,000.

"We were in the right spot at the right time. His sister (Hot And Spicy) was named because she was spicy. She was a nice filly. They really were built the same, but the only thing I would say is that he seems to me to be more of a distance horse than she was. She was probably just a good miler. She beat Lexie Lou up in Canada (in the Fury Stakes) and Lexie Lou was Horse of the Year in Canada."

Rinaldi already passed half-sister in earnings - \$173,640 to \$130,714 - and Bond sees the Saranac as the next logical step. Rinaldi breezed a half-mile in :49.15 on the Oklahoma Training Track dirt course last Friday, a move good enough to

convince Bond to take a shot in the Saranac.

Rinaldi stretches out a bit more in the Saranac, after winning the Spectacular Bid division of the Stallion Series at 7 furlongs at Belmont June 24 and the 1-mile Cab Calloway July 24.

'We just had him on the track with the pony," Bond said Thursday morning watching training near Clare Court. "He's classy. We stood him this morning at the gate and he's iust a good boy. He feels good but he's controllable. He's just showing us he's ready to get back in the game. It's good spacing, five weeks, which is what I've been looking for to run him back.

"It's definitely a step up. The distance doesn't concern me, weight does. He's going to carry a high weight (124 pounds), but he's just doing really well. When you win two stakes you blow a lot of conditions when you are a 3-year-old so there's not a lot of options. This was the best option. We looked around the country. I really don't want to run against older horses, state-bred because they're pretty salty. But it's a good field and he's deserving of the chance."

Luis Saez rode Rinaldi in his first three starts, but will get a leg up on rival Power Player today. Jose Ortiz gets aboard the 5-1 fifth choice again today.

Trainer Chad Brown sends out the 2-1 favorite Good Governance, a winner going 1 mile on the grass in his debut here Aug. 4. Seismic Wave, the 5-2 second choice for Bill Mott, cuts back in distance after finishing 10th in the inaugural Saratoga Derby Invitational at 1 3/16 miles last time out.

Global Access and Tracksmith complete the field.



Tod Marks



2019 September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 13 - SEPTEMBER 29

POCAHONTAS (GII)

2019 "Win and You're In Juvenile Fillies Division" 2020 Kentucky Oaks Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 14 \$200,000 Fillies, Two Years Old Closes Aug. 31 (\$200 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles

IROQUOIS (GIII)

2019 "Win and You're In Juvenile Division" 2020 Kentucky Derby Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 14 \$200.000 Two Year Olds

Closes Aug. 31 (\$200 nomination fee)

11/16 Miles

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 14 \$200,000

Closes Aug. 31 (\$200 nomination fee)

Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

1 1/16 Miles

OPEN MIND (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 14 \$125,000

Closes Aug. 31 (\$125 nomination fee)

Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up

6 Furlongs

DOGWOOD (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 21 \$125,000 Fillies, Three Years Old

Closes Sept. 7 (\$125 nomination fee)

7 Furlongs

ACK ACK (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 28 \$150,000 Three Year Olds & Up Closes Sept. 14 (\$150 nomination fee)

1 Mile

LUKAS CLASSIC (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 28 \$250,000 Three Year Olds & Up

Closes Sept. 14 (\$250 nomination fee)

1 1/8 Mile

JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 28 \$125,000 Three Year Olds

Closes Sept. 14 (\$125 nomination fee) 1 1/8 Miles Turf

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Dan Bork Stakes Coordinator: 502.638.3806 • dan.bork@kyderby.com

Fax: 502.636.4479



SARATOGA ENTRIES

Saturday, August 31.

Saturday, August 31.			/I Ex
1ST (12:30PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO		RF)	1
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic		l Thorses 5 d	2
1 1King's Honor (IRE)			3
2 2Myamanoi			4
3 3Scanno			5
4Structor			6
5Eternal Summer			7
6Sul Moon			8
7 7Hard Sting			9
B 8Pow Wow Prince	R. Santana, Jr	N. Casse10-1	10
2ND (1:03PM). \$52,000, CLM \$40,0			8T
xacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta,	PIC 3, PIC 4, Daily Doub	D Clasusa 6.1	Ex
1Yes and Yes	D. Davis	P. Gleaves 0-1	1 2
No Regrets			3
3Valmont			
4Quintarelli			4
MTOBears Mafia			5
6Honey Won't			6
7Brockmoninoff			7
8Running Violence			8
9Quest for Fire	L. Saez	C. Summers 12-1	9
RD (1:36PM). \$250,000, STK - THE		6F	9T
xacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Da	IIY DOUDIE	T Diotobor 00 1	Ex
1South of France	J. Veiazquez	1. Pietcilei	1 2
2Risky Mandate			
3Break Even			3
4Break Curfew			4
5Royal Charlotte			5
6Kept True	I. Ortiz, Jr	L. Gyarmati 15-1	6 7
TH (2:09PM). \$95,000, AOC \$62,50	00, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F	(TURF)	8
xacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta,	Pic 3, Daily Double	,	9
1Fully Vested	J. Lezcano	T. Albertrani 3-1	10
2Axtell	J. Alvarado	K. Boniface12-1	11
MTOFuel the Bern			
4Fig Jelly			10
5Pagliacci	J. Ortiz	L. Rice	Ex
MTORunaway Lute	I Castellano	G. Contessa 7-2	1
	J. VasiciniiV		2
7 Smooth R			
	D. Davis	R. Reid, Jr 15-1	
8Mustaaqeem (AUS)	D. Davis L. Saez	R. Reid, Jr	3
8Mustaaqeem (AUS)	D. Davis L. Saez	R. Reid, Jr	3
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8Mustaaqeem (AUS) 9Stolen Pistol TH (2:42PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO	D. Davis L. Saez J. Rosario , 7F	R. Reid, Jr	3 4 5 6
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8Mustaaqeem (AUS)9Stolen Pistol	D. Davis	R. Reid, Jr	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 Ex 1 2 3 4
S	D. Davis	R. Reid, Jr	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 Ex 1 2 3 4 5 6
S	D. Davis	R. Reid, Jr	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 Ex 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
S	D. Davis		3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 Ex 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
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S	D. Davis	R. Reid, Jr	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 Ex 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
7	D. Davis	R. Reid, Jr	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 Ex 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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7TH (3:48PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO, 7				
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily	Double			
1 1Necker Island	. L. Saez			
2 2Breithorn				
3 3Three Technique				
4 4 Extreme Force				
6 6Mischief Afoot				
7 7Soviet	. J. Velazquez	T. I	Pletcher	6-1
8 8Always Misbehaving	. I. Ortiz, Jr	D.	Gargan	8-1
9 9Kowalski 10 10Tapage				
10 101apage	. J. Alvalauu	K.	wicLaugiiiii	0-1
8TH (4:21PM). \$90,000, MSW, 2 YO,				
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5	, Dally Doubl	e S	Klesaris	5-1
2 2Policy Option				
3 3Mr Jaggers	. J. Alvarado	W.	Mott	2-1
4 4No Word				
5 5	. J. Rosario	G.	Arnold, II	15-1
6 6Tapaloof 7 7Shamrocket				
8 8Lord Byron				
9 9City Guy				
9TH (4:54PM). \$92,000, ALW, 3 YO'S Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4				
1 1	. R. Santana.	Jr S.	Asmussen	4-1
2 2Proximity Bias				
3 3Arrifana				
4 4Goodbye Brockley	. E. Cancel	P. 3	Serpe	30-1
5 5Dating Game	. J. Lezcano .	IVI. ⊔	Hennig	20-1 20-1
7 7My Roxy Girl				
8 8Our Circle of Love				
9 9Untaken	.D. Davis	C.	Caiazzo	15-1
10 10Brucia La Terra	. J. Alvarado	B.	Tagg	12-1
11 11Take Charge Aubrey	. M. Franco	В.	Levine	8-1
10TH (5:27PM). \$250,000, STK - THE	GLENS FALL	S, 3 & UP, F & N	M , 1 3/8M (INN	ER TURF)
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily	Double		-	
11 Empressof the Nile				
2 2Fools Gold	. J. Castellan) Ç.	Brown	5-2
3 3Violet Blue				
5 5Mrs. Sippy				
6 MTOIndy Union				
7 7Lady Montdore	. K. Carmouc	he T. <i>i</i>	Albertrani	12-1
8 8Night of England (GB)	. L. Saez	<u>C</u> .	Brown	12-1
9 9Get Explicit	. R. Santana,	Jr B.	Minshall	5-1
11TH (6:00PM). \$750,000, STK - THE W	/OODWARD I	PRESENTED BY N	IYRA BETS. 3&l	JP. 1 1/8M
Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Doub	le			
1 1Mr. Buff				
2 2Bal Harbour				
3 3Vino Rosso 4 4Mongolian Groom				
5 5Preservationist				
6 6Forewarned				
7 7	. J. Rosario	W.	Mott	5-2
8 8Wooderson				
9 9Tom's d'Etat	. ι. Urτιz, Jr	A.	Stall, Jr	4-1



SARATOGA ENTRIES

12TH (6:33PM). \$90,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, T	rifecta, Superfecta			
11	Somes Sound	J. Alvarado	J. Jerkens	12-1
2 2	New Frontier	I. Ortiz, Jr	M. Maker	12-1
3 3	Going for Gold	R. Santana, Jr	A. Quartarolo	15-1
4 4	Tolerant	L. Saez	K. McLaughlin	4-1
5 5	Airtouch	J. Velazquez	T. Pletcher	3-1
6 6	Up and Onward	J. Lezcano	M. Hennig	15-1
7 7	Fantastry (BRZ)	J. Ortiz	K. McPeek	12-1
8 8	Free Enterprise	J. Castellano	C. Brown	7-5
9 9	Jake Rocks	M. Franco	W. Bartlett	20-1

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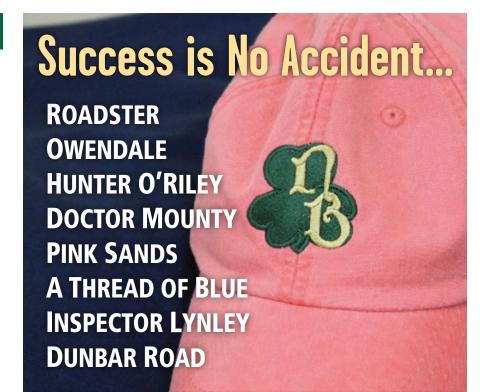
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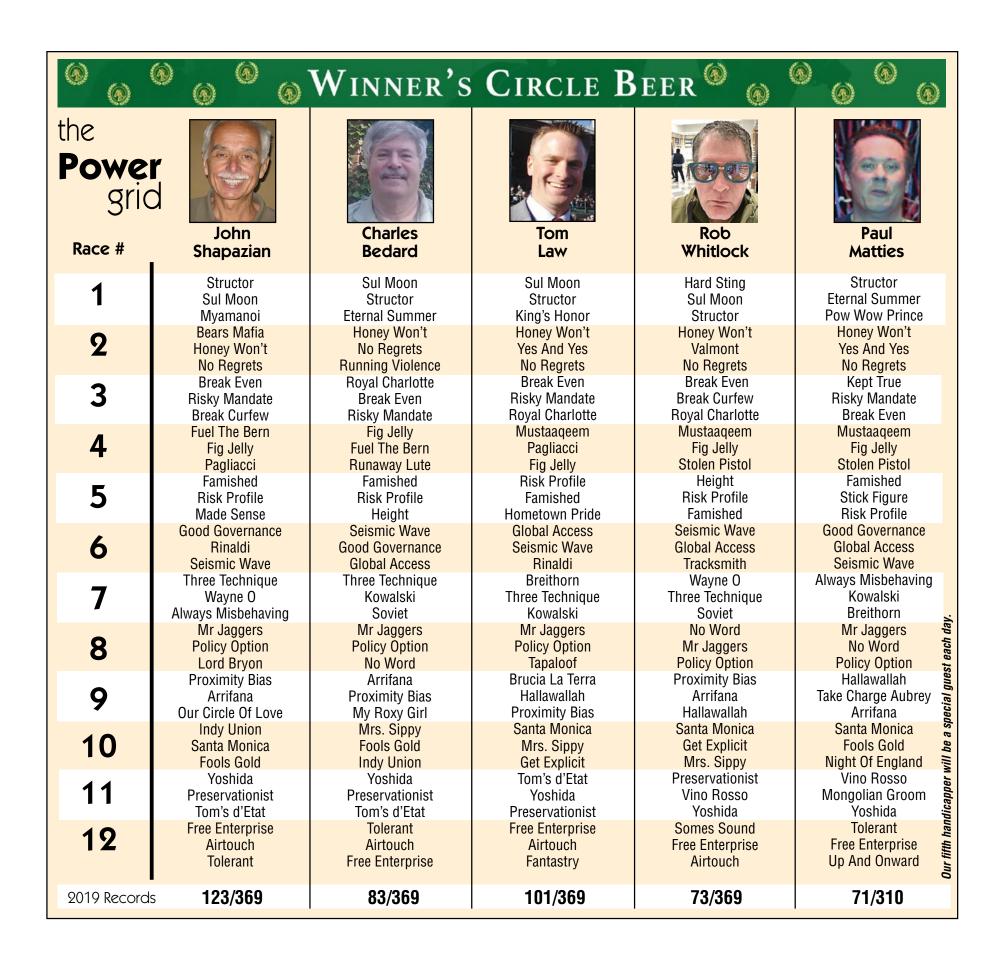


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Guest Handicapper

Today's guest handicapper is Paul Matties, an Eclipse Award-winning handicapper who has been a professional gambler for more than 25 years. He won the 2016 National Handicapping Contest and is a frequent participant and winner of handicapping tournaments from coast to coast. Friday, Dawn Lupul picked two winners.

• The guest win total does not include Wednesdays, when only The Special's regular handicappers' picks appear at thisishorseracing.com.

Top Guest Handicappers of 2019: Joe Burke and Scott Coles with five wins.

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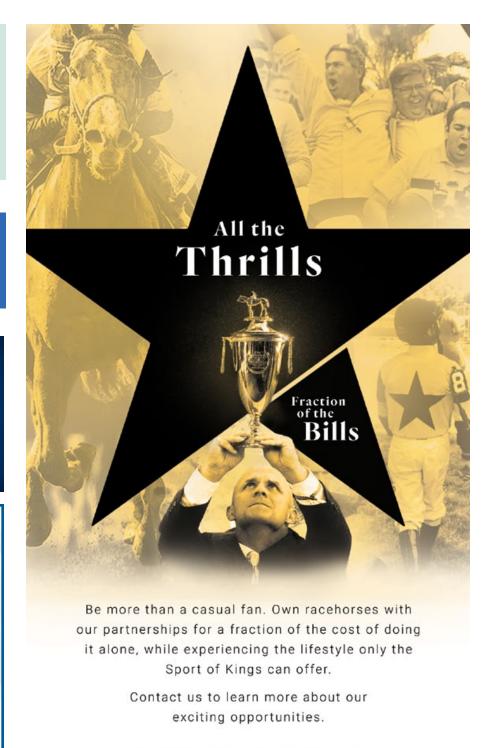
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Step Up

Recent claimer Shekky Shebaz wires field in turf sprint stakes

BY BRANDON VALVO

Jose Ortiz stood in the winner's circle after Friday's Lucky Coin Stakes, a bright spot in the yellow and pink silks of Michael Dubb as the setting sun draped the enclosure in the shadow of the clubhouse. Ortiz's daughter Leilani stood to his right, reaching up and grabbing her father's pinky, which fit snugly in the palm of the 2-year-old's hand. Ortiz's wife Taylor and her mother stood to his left and the quartet stared at in the infield board.

They watched the replay that showed Shekky Shebaz break on top, cruise around the bend unpestered and kick away in the stretch to win the \$97,000 stakes by 1 3/4 lengths.

LUCKY COIN STAKES RECAP

Ortiz's brother-in-law Adam Rice bought Shekky Shebaz for \$5,000 at the 2016 Keeneland September yearling sale.

"He thought he was his best horse," Ortiz said of the son of Cape Blanco's trainer and owner. "Two years ago, he thought he was his best 2-year-old. He's got a good eye for babies. He picked this one, he liked him, he did good with him."

Shekky Shebaz won on debut for Rice, taking a Presque Isle Downs maiden special by 6 1/2 lengths under Jeremy Rose June 26, 2017. A fort-

Continued On Page 31



Not quite fast enough to run out from under his slipping saddle, Shekky Shebaz streaks toward the finish in Friday's feature.

Two Saratoga turf winners this week.

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- Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard

Lucky Coin —

■ Continued from page 30

night later, Shekky Shebaz RNA'd for \$72,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July horses of racing age sale.

Rice made the buyback look wise after Shekky Shebaz connected in his second start at Presque Isle Aug. 6, taking an optional claimer by 2 3/4 lengths. Although he raced for a \$62,500 tag, nobody bit. Ortiz got a leg up for the first time in Shekky Shebaz's third start in allowance company as the New York-based jockey took a dark-day trip to the western Pennsylvania track.

"I went for Adam Mondays and Tuesdays," Ortiz said. "Leilani was kind of small and her grandpa is there and her two uncles. We try to get together and see the family as much as we can and sometimes, we go up there and if the horse was running, I would tell Adam I would go."

Shekky Shebaz finished second in that start and was again runner-up in his final start as a freshman in the Fitz Dixon, Jr. Memorial Juvenile Stakes Oct. 5, 2017. As Rice continued to campaign Shekky Shebaz at Presque Isle at 3, Ortiz kept riding. They finished second twice last summer.

When Rice finally brought Shekky Shebaz to Saratoga to run in a claiming race July 27, Ortiz got the call. Shekky Shebaz made his first start on the turf after competing solely on the synthetic



Tod Marks

Shekky Shebaz (right) pulls away in the stretch of Friday's Lucky Coin Stakes.

Tapeta at Presque Isle in his first 13 starts. Something clicked. Shekky Shebaz broke on the lead and kicked away to a 1 3/4-length victory. In doing so, he posted strong figures, raised eyes and opened wallets.

No one claimed the gelding for his \$25,000 tag, but Adam Rice's phone rang. Michael Dubb, Madaket Stable and Bethlehem Stable partnered to buy the horse and transferred him to trainer Jason Servis.

"He ran huge. The number that he popped up first time on the turf, it caught the attention of some owners and trainers," Ortiz said. "My brother-in-

law being a little guy, the horse cost him \$5,000, he made over \$130,000 with him, and got offered some kind of money for him. It's a tough decision to not sell."

Although happy for Rice and the new connections, Ortiz was dismayed to think his time with Shekky Shebaz was likely over as he is not a first-call rider for Servis like his brother, Irad Ortiz Jr. and Jose Lezcano. However, when the Lucky Coin figured to include Disco Partner and Final Frontier, Jose Ortiz held onto the mount.

Continued On Page 32

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Lucky Coin —

■ Continued from page 31

"I'm very happy that I got to stay on him," Ortiz said. "Since I don't ride for Servis much, I was a little – not afraid – but I was thinking, 'I'm probably off.' Since Irad had Disco Partner and Jose had Final Frontier, they let me stay on."

Ortiz also expected the horse to be even sharper in the Lucky Coin than he was in his claiming win. Shekky Shebaz broke in stride in the 5 1/2-furlong turf stakes and assumed the lead up the backstretch. He ran the opening quarter-mile in :22.40 as Strike Power, Final Frontier, and Square Shooter chased. Disco Partner, the 7-year-old earner of nearly \$1.5 million, dropped to the back of the field.

"I knew he is a very good horse out of the gate and with Jason, I was expecting him to break a little bit quicker, which he did," Ortiz said. "He put me there very easy and from the halfmile pole, I just let him get comfortable and roll. "He's very fast. You feel like a winner every step of the way. When he got out of the gate, he came out like a shot and he takes you all the way to the quarter pole. He leans out a bit always, but that's just him."

Shekky Shebaz opened a 1 1/2-length advantage around the turn en route to winning by 1 3/4 over Final Frontier in 1:01.18. Disco Partner rallied past Square Shooter for third.

Ortiz walked back to the jockeys' room with Leilani still clutching his finger and reflected on Rice's sale of the horse and Shekky Shebaz's new connections.

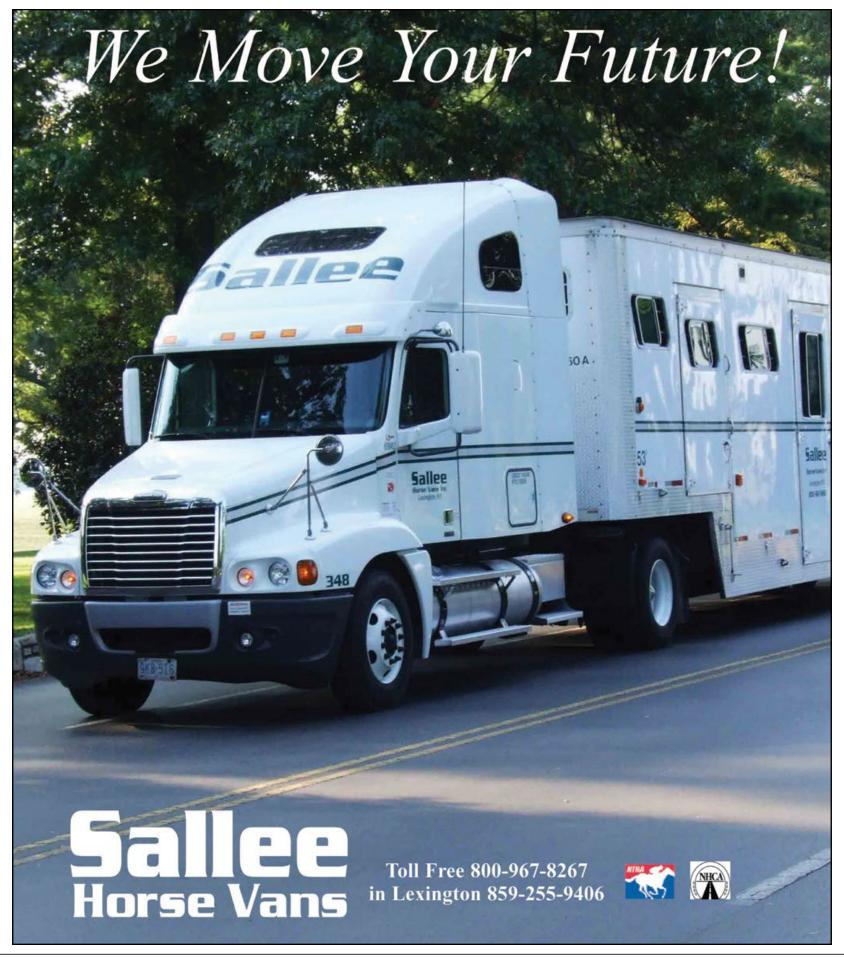
"(Adam) did the right thing and . . . I hope they do well with him," he said. "That's good. When you sell one, you don't want them to be bad. You sell them, hope they do good and maybe they come back for some horses in the future."

Ortiz also won Friday's finale in gate-to-wire fashion as Short Pour stayed the mile on the turf for owner Alan Brodsky and trainer Mark Hennig. Ortiz's 55 victories give him a five-win advantage over his brother with three days remaining.



Jose Ortiz and Shekky Shebaz return with a stakes win.

32 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019



Question

When Saratoga is over, what do I do?

Answer

I look at horses.

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Tod Marks

Freewheeler gears down with an easy win in Friday's sixth race.

Backed Up

Freewheeler rolls to debut score for NK Racing, Pletcher stable

NK Racing's Nancy Favreau and Kathy Psoinos put their trust in Jason Litt and Alex Solis and their team at Solis/Litt Bloodstock.

They approved the endorsement to go to \$430,000 to buy a New Yorkbred colt by City Zip at the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream 2-year-olds in training sale and the bloodstock agent's suggestion to turn him over to trainer Todd Pletcher.

Freewheeler delivered on his endorsements in the sixth race Friday at Saratoga Race Course, breaking his maiden against fellow state-breds at 5 1/2 furlongs on the grass. Ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr., Freewheeler won in 1:02.89.

"We go by Alex's advice," Favreau said. "We have a lot of trust and faith in Alex and Jason. We've been doing business with them for a long time and it pays off. Todd was mostly again with Alex's advice."

Favreau and Psoinos co-owned Competitive Edge, a debut winner

FRIDAY RACING RECAP

in July 2014 at Saratoga. They added Michael Tabor as a partner after his 10 1/4-length win for Pletcher and Competitive Edge won the Grade 1 Hopeful in his next start. The son of Super Saver won two more stakes as a 3-year-old and earned \$519,280 before being retired to stand at Coolmore's Ashford Stud.

"We're married and this is our business," Psoinos. "We've been doing this for about six years. Decisive Edge was our first horse and Competitive Edge was our second. It's unbelievable, awesome. There's no better feeling."

- Catherine Galbraith

• Michelle Nevin had a hard time finding the right spots for Wonderful Light this year.

Continued On Page 35

Friday —

■ Continued from page 34

"We've had to ship him around a bit this year," she said. "He's based at Belmont, but we sent him to Monmouth for a stakes, then Laurel, where he won an optional claimer and then luckily this one opened up for us here."

Three races, three tracks, three states and two wins after the fourth, an optional claimer at 6 furlongs on the main track.

John Velazquez rated Wonderful Light behind frontrunners Classic Rock and eventual runner-up Vici early, rallied around the turn and took over outside the eighth pole. Owned by Samantha Siegel's Jay Em Ess Stable, the 5-year-old son of Tiz Wonderful won by 2 lengths in 1:09.62. He added the Saratoga victory to his win last time out at Laurel and improved to 5-for-11 with \$250,455 in earnings.

Wonderful Light went off as the 7-5 favorite and provided Nevin's fifth victory at the meet.

- Terry Hill

• Dr. Renee Nodine walked out of the winner's circle after Remain Anonymous won the seventh and answered a phone call with, "Oh my God, I'm in heaven."

The veterinarian and her husband, the farrier Alex Levengood, own

Saratoga Leaders TRAINERS 1ST Chad Brown39 Todd Pletcher......16 Steve Asmussen13 Christophe Clement......13 Jason Servis13 Jeremiah Englehart12 Danny Gargan11 Linda Rice.....11 Mark Casse9 Mike Maker9 Bill Mott9 Graham Motion......8 JOCKEYS 1ST Jose Ortiz......55 Irad Ortiz Jr.50 Javier Castellano35 Luis Saez......34 Joel Rosario......30 Junior Alvarado......21 Jose Lezcano21 John Velazguez17 Manny Franco16 Ricardo Santana Jr.....16 Kendrick Carmouche.....14

Horseshoe Valley Equine Center, a small breeding operation outside of Hershey, Pa. Remain Anonymous is out of the Tiznow mare Secret Witness, who Nodine said provided the foundation for Horseshoe Valley's

Tyler Gaffalione12

Through Friday

Continued On Page 36



Tod Marks

Wonderful Light (left) pulls away to win Friday's fourth race.

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15 GRIDLEY ST. (BACKSIDE OF THE TRACK)



Friday —

■ Continued from page 35

breeding program.

"We just started breeding with two or three of our own broodmares," said Nodine. "It's the seventh or eighth out of this mare. We bought her pregnant. We love her."

Remain Anonymous provided the couple with their first Saratoga win with a 3 1/4-length score in her debut going 5 1/2 furlongs on the turf. Mike Trombetta trains the 2-year-old daughter of Tapiture.

"This is my dream come true," Nodine said. "It's a dream to come here much less win. We have no idea, we just ask Mike. He said he would bring her up her in the middle of August just to see and we were like 'OK.'

Trombetta prepped Remain Anonvmous at his Laurel Park barn before shipping her to upstate New York.

"She had been working real good there, training really well," Trombetta said. "We brought her up here to give her a couple works on the track and get her familiar with everything. She's really took to it. She's got a lot of class.

"I expected her to run really good and possibly even win. My biggest worry was 5 1/2 (furlongs) might be a little short but she was able to get it done."

- Catherine Galbraith

• Alan Brodsky figured he'd be game for a big drink regardless of Short Pour's performance in the finale. He said so much on social media Thursday, commenting that "if we run really good or really bad it will be a long pour tomorrow night."

Short Pour gave Brodsky, trainer Mark Hennig and jockey Jose Ortiz reason to celebrate with a 1 3/4-length win in the nightcap, a 1-mile allowance on the grass for state-breds.

Ortiz rode the daughter of The Factor to a close third coming from off the pace here July 31 in a 5 1/2-furlong turf allowance. They led from the start Friday.

"Iose Ortiz just said I appreciate you keeping me on her because he thought she was the best horse," Hennig said. "She's run well in her last two races, just had horrible racing luck. She stretched out a little bit and didn't encounter as much traffic."

Hennig watched from the clubhouse and admitted to being nervous when Short Pour broke awkwardly from post 6 in the field of seven. Things turned around for Short Pour when Ortiz quickly recovered and put her in front.

"She's had a couple really rough trips in a row," Hennig said. "Really bad luck. She didn't break well (Friday) and it was her first time really stretching out like that. It seemed like she was a little keen early and was on the bridle.

"She's been running shorter. We want to keep her at a mile, seven-eighths. She'll move onto the next condition, the next allowance condition."

- Catherine Galbraith



Tod Marks

Remain Anonymous (left) draws off in the seventh for trainer Mike Trombetta.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019

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SARATOGA RESULTS

Friday August 30.

FIRST \$78,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 & UP, 7F

Financialstability J. Ortiz \$3.10 \$2.30 \$6.80 J. Rosario 8 Freaky Styley \$2.70 \$2.10 5 Luna's in Charge J. Castellano

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2015, by Midnight Lute - Missyoulikecrazy by Lion Heart Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc.. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Eaton & Thorne, Inc (NY). Time: 1:22.70

Exacta (7-8), \$6.90; Superfecta (7-8-5-4), \$3.67; Trifecta (7-8-5), \$8.05

SECOND \$34,000, CLAIMING \$12,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Cowboy Rhythm \$3.60 \$2.90 \$2.20 L. Saez 8 Kahramani R. Maragh \$7.60 \$4.20 Peter's Project J. Ortiz \$2.80

Gr/ro Gelding 2012, by Tapit - West Coast Swing by Gone West Owner: Shaby, Selman, Tremblay, Norman, Rosette, Robert and Verri, Richard. Trainer: Robertino Diodoro. Breeder: WinStar Farm, LLC (KY). Claimed: Cowboy Rhythm claimed by Brewster, Clark O. for \$12,500 Time: 1:51.18

Daily Double (7-4), \$7.50; Exacta (4-8), \$14.80; Quinella (4-8), \$10.30; Superfecta (4-8-2-5), \$18.85; Trifecta (4-8-2), \$19.12

THIRD \$48,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 & UP. 5 1/2F

Wild William L. Saez \$7.90 \$4.10 \$3.10 6 Exchange Fever R. Santana, Jr. \$5.00 \$3.90 3 Clear the Ramp D. Davis \$7.10

Dk B/ Br Colt 2015, by Freud - Shadowy Waters by Wild Again Owner: Phoenix Stable, Inc. and Edwards, Maureen.

Trainer: H. J. Bond. Breeder: Bruce Grossman (NY).

Late Scratches: Later Cat, Fusilli. Time: 1:02.63

Daily Double (4-4), \$8.20; Exacta (4-6), \$21.90; Superfecta (4-6-3-1), \$151.25; Trifecta (4-6-3), \$104.87; Pic 3 (7-4-4), \$31.50

FOURTH \$98,000, AOC \$100,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 6F

Wonderful Light \$2.70 \$2.10 1 J. Velazquez \$4.80 5 Vici \$3.30 \$2.30 J. Rosario Earned Success I. Ortiz. Jr. \$2.70 Dk B/ Br Horse 2014, by Tiz Wonderful - By the Light by Malibu Moon Owner: Jay Em Ess Stable. Trainer: Michelle Nevin.

Breeder: Samantha Siegel (KY). Late Scratches: Smooth B. Time: 1:09.62 Daily Double (4-1), \$14.00; Exacta (1-5), \$7.10; Quinella (1-5), \$4.40; Superfecta (1-5-2-6), \$3.62; Trifecta (1-5-2), \$11.10; Pic 3 (4-4-1), \$20.10

FIFTH \$75,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$40,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 1M

Arch of Troy \$11.20 \$5.60 \$3.50 I. Ortiz, Jr. 3 Bramble Queen J. Lezcano \$10.20 \$6.40 Wish Upon R. Maragh \$6.30 B Mare 2014, by Archarcharch - American Flier by Quiet American

Owner: Dubb, Michael and Bethlehem Stables LLC.

Trainer: Jason Servis. Breeder: Endeavor Farm & Mark Toothaker (KY). Late Scratches: Daria's Angel. Time: 1:35.28

Daily Double (1-4), \$16.40; Exacta (4-3), \$43.25; Superfecta (4-3-6-2), \$120.80; Trifecta (4-3-6), \$123.62; Pic 3 (4-1-4), \$55.50; Pic 4 (4-4-1/4-4), \$56.62; Pic 5 (7-4-4-1/4-4), \$264.50

SIXTH \$78,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO. 5 1/2F

4 Freewheeler I. Ortiz, Jr. \$12.00 \$6.60 \$3.00 2 Dante's Fire M. Franco \$28.60 \$9.30 8 First Deputy J. Ortiz

Ch Colt 2017, by City Zip - Zia Zia Zia by Dehere

Owner: NK Racing. Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Breeder: John Lauriello (NY). Late Scratches: Dangerous Edge, Lady's Golden Guy, Imperio D, Boom Boom Kaboom, Brickyard, Portfolio Hedge. Time: 1:02.89

Daily Double (4-4), \$25.00; Exacta (4-2), \$161.75; Superfecta (4-2-8-7), \$181.55; Trifecta (4-2-8), \$215.75; Consolation Double (4-5), \$4.90; Pic 3 (1-4-4), \$57.25; (1-4-5), \$12.40

SEVENTH \$90,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F

10 Remain Anonymous J. Rosario \$4.50 \$7.80 \$5.20 Sixth Street L. Saez \$9.70 \$7.10 2 Kansas Kis D. Davis \$10.20

B Filly 2017, by Tapiture - Secret Witness by Tiznow

Owner: Levengood, Alexander, R., Trainer: Michael Trombetta.

Breeder: Horseshoe Valley Equine Center, LLC (PA). Late Scratches: Along the Way, Share Your Spirit, Maedean

Time: 1:04.75. Daily Double (4-10), \$48.25; Exacta (10-1), \$50.00; Superfecta (10-1-2-8), \$498.25; Trifecta (10-1-2), \$356.00; Pic 3 (4-4-10), \$272.00; (4-5-10), \$39.25

EIGHTH \$80,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

7 Niko's Dream J. Alvarado \$7.10 \$3.70 \$2.80 11 Hit a Provisional J. Ortiz \$4.60 \$5.70 I. Ortiz, Jr. \$9.90 10 Barrel of Destiny Ch Filly 2016, by Central Banker - Adriatic Dream by Wild Desert Owner: Sackatoga Stable. Trainer: Barclay Tagg. Time: 1:36.44 Breeder: Nick Peros (NY). Late Scratches: Nasty Affair, Cathy Naz Daily Double (10-7), \$23.30; Exacta (7-11), \$18.70; Superfecta (7-11-10-6), \$132.80; Trifecta (7-11-10), \$89.75; Pic 3 (4-10-7), \$209.75

NINTH \$70,000, CLAIMING \$50,000-\$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

2 Leitone (CHI) J. Lezcano \$10.40 \$6.20 \$4.00 5 Mills M. Franco \$21.40 \$8.90 3 Supreme Aura J. Rosario \$3.80 B Horse 2014, by Dunkirk - Queen Zanobia (CHI) by The Mighty Tiger Owner: M and A Racing LTD. Trainer: Jason Servis. Breeder: Haras Sumaya (CHI). Late Scratches: Candy Promises Claimed: Supreme Aura claimed by Brown, Ronald A. for \$50,000, Tour de Force claimed by Flying P Stable for \$50,000. Time: 1:50 Daily Double (7-2), \$17.00; Exacta (2-5), \$105.25; Superfecta (2-5-3-1), \$97.05; Trifecta (2-5-3), \$224.00; Pic 3 (10-7-2), \$111.25

TENTH \$100,000, STAKES - LUCKY COIN S., 4 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

6 Shekky Shebaz \$3.80 \$2.30 J. Ortiz \$7.50 5 Final Frontier J. Lezcano \$3.20 \$2.20 3 Disco Partner I. Ortiz, Jr. \$2.10 B Gelding 2015, by Cape Blanco (IRE) - Rose Ransom by Red Ransom

Owner: Dubb, Michael, Madaket Stables and Bethlehem Stables. Trainer: Jason Servis. Breeder: Ashford Stud, Tammy Barnes & Dr.Ber-

nard Vertuca (KY). Time: 1:01.18 Late Scratches: Fig Jelly, Mustaageem (AUS), Lonhtwist, Fixed Point Daily Double (2-6), \$24.00; Exacta (6-5), \$9.70; Superfecta (6-5-3-

7), \$2.87; Trifecta (6-5-3), \$6.80; Pic 3 (7-2-6), \$50.25; Grand Slam (1/2/10-1/5/7/10/11-2/3/5-6), \$133.00

ELEVENTH \$80.000. NY-BRED ALLOWANCE. 3 YO'S & UP. 1M

\$2.80 10 Short Pour J. Ortiz \$9.30 \$4.40 8 Star of the East M. Franco \$3.90 \$2.70 Awesome Alana J. Castellano \$3.60 B Filly 2016, by The Factor - Hard Buns by Rock Hard Ten

Owner: Brodsky, Alan. Trainer: Mark Hennig.

Breeder: Fleming Thoroughbred Farm & WilliamMatthews Family Tru (NY). Late Scratches: Aquariva, Bustin Scones, Tempers Way, My First Gal, Not About the Nail. Time: 1:34.70

Daily Double (6-10), \$16.20; Exacta (10-8), \$17.30; Superfecta (10-8-4-6), \$13.90; Trifecta (10-8-4), \$36.00; Consolation Double (6-7), \$3.60; Pic 3 (2-6-10), \$93.50; (2-6-7), \$19.60; Pic 4 (1/5/7-2-6-10), \$129.75; Pic 5 (10-1/5/7-2-6-10), \$2,793.50; (4-10-1/5/7-2-6-10), \$5,335.30

Paid Attendance: 22.153 On Track Handle: \$3,539,334 All Sources Handle: \$19,765,435.80

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SARATOGA MEMORIES

PRESENTED BY KEENELAND

Saratoga Memories, presented by Keeneland, is an ongoing series that looks back at some of the top moments from Keeneland Sales graduates among Saratoga's best racing.

Every horse starts somewhere, even Saratoga superstars. Keeneland Sales helps The Special look back at some memorable graded stakes winners – and Keeneland graduates – at the Spa. We'll re-connect and dig up some memories.

Emma's Encore

Prioress Stakes 2012

BY JOE CLANCY

Emma's Encore, who won the 2012 Prioress at Saratoga Race Course, has foals by Giant's Causeway, American Pharoah and Pioneerof The Nile, and she's in foal to Justify. As owner Peter Berglar put it, she's "getting all chances."

The same could be said for her racing career.

A \$2,000 Keeneland September purchase in 2010, Emma's Encore lost her first three starts – on the dirt at Hoosier Park, on the turf at Kentucky Downs, on the synthetic at Keeneland. By February of her 3-year-old season in 2012, she was in Florida with Hall of Famer Allen Jerkens. Her third trainer ran her for a \$50,000 claiming tag and she showed signs of promise with a third at Gulfstream Park. She graduated one start later, blitzing fellow Florida-breds by 4 3/4 lengths.

And she was on her way.

For owners Brenda Mercer and Berglar (who bought in after that maiden win), Emma's Encore went on to win the Grade 3 Victory Ride at Belmont Park and became a Grade 1 winner in that Prioress score in August.

Berglar, who watched alongside Jerkens as Emma's Encore arrived in time (barely) in the Prioress, called it magical.

Deeply involved in German racing/breeding, his family had purchased Kentucky's Stonereath Farm a year earlier. Then farm manager Jamie Corbett had purchased Emma's Encore at the sale for Mercer and recommended the filly to Berglar. A few months later, Berglar was standing next to Jerkens in the paddock chute watching the filly win a Grade 1.

"Those kinds of days don't come often enough," he said. "That was my first year here, the first year after we bought the farm, the first time I had been to Saratoga. Sometimes you just don't know how you get so lucky."



Asked what he knew of Jerkens before the Emma's Encore adventure, Berglar didn't hesitate: "Absolutely nothing."

He read up, however, and shadowed the trainer at Saratoga. On race day, Berglar was holding a shank.

"It was incredible," he said. "You could spend all day with him just listening to him. He had so many stories to tell – understanding of the animals, the horsemanship. It was great to be around him, to listen to him, to have the experience with him and have that fleeting moment with him on the racetrack."

The Prioress win by Emma's Encore was the final Grade 1 win in Jerkens' career, which started in 1951 and rose to the highest levels of the game. He won an Eclipse Award in 1973. In 1975, at 45, he became youngest trainer inducted to the Hall of Fame. He upset the mighty Kelso with

Beau Purple, beat Triple Crown winner Secretariat with Onion and Prove Out, trained champion Sky Beauty and dozens of other greats.

The 2012 Prioress fit in there somewhere.

Emma's Encore let the speed go early and was last of six through early splits of :22.14 and :44.64. In the stretch, Agave Kiss finally started to waver and yielded to Judy The Beauty. Outside them all, Junior Alvarado had Emma's Encore rolling. She drew even in the last step, and only the photo-finish camera could make the call.

Maybe it was the angle, or the moment, but Jerkens was sure she got there. He high-fived, cried, talked about getting her silks "on the jockeys" reserved for Grade 1 winners by the Wright Street gate. Halfway up the track toward the winner's circle, he paused while watching the replay.

Continued On Page 41

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019

Emma's Encore —

■ Continued from page 40

"She did win?" he asked.

"She didn't win?" he asked again.

Then her number flashed on the board and all was right with the world.

"All rrrright," said Jerkens, who had turned to a bitless hackamore bridle while training the dark bay filly because of sores in her mouth. The change helped turn Emma's Encore into a Grade 1 winner. That training wisdom was not lost on Berglar, and still isn't.

"He lived for the sport, for his horses," the owner said. "It was really special to be part of it."

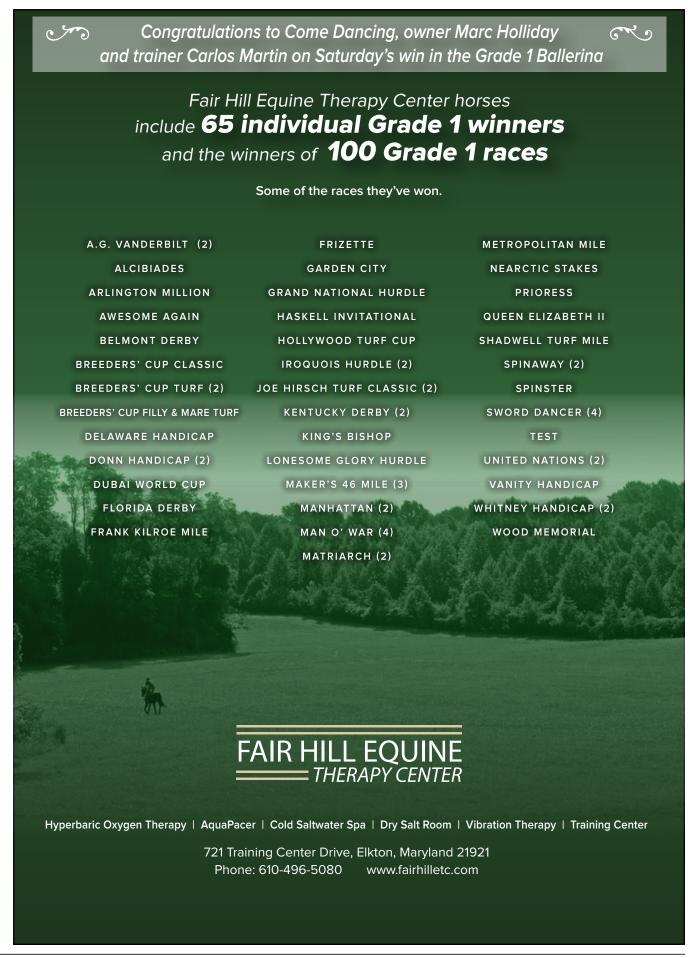
Émma's Encore lost the final six starts of her career and joined Berglar's broodmare band. She has yet to reproduce herself, but her foals have sold well and include a \$420,000 Giant's Causeway colt sold at Keeneland September last year and a \$325,000 American Pharoah sold sold at Keeneland November last year. Berglar expects to sell a Pioneerof The Nile filly at Keeneland November this year.

"She doesn't owe use anything," said Berglar. "She was fantastic as a racehorse and she has let down into a nice broodmare, but she still has an attitude. She is the boss of the field. Every good racehorse, especially fillies, they know they're special and they act accordingly."

Jerkens passed away in 2015, leaving behind a wide swath of racing memories with his family and friends. Berglar feels lucky to be included.

"It was great to meet somebody like him, besides having a horse with him," he said. "I consider myself very fortunate to have had the ability to spend time with him. I cherish those memories."





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Curlin

Woodward Stakes 2008

BY JOE CLANCY

The name conjures power, success, major wins on big stages all over the world, a bankroll of more than \$10 million, a spot in racing's Hall of Fame and now a robust stallion career full of strong results on the racetrack and in the sales ring.

Curlin.

At Saratoga Race Course, he won the Woodward Stakes on the final weekend of the 2008 season – a signature moment in a career full of them. He won the Dubai World Cup, Breeders' Cup Classic, Jockey Club Gold Cup (twice), Preakness, Stephen Foster.

Before all that, back in his early days at Kentucky's Fares Farm, he sounded like a bit of a jerk.

"He was cheeky, a handful, and was kind of a tough guy to be around," said Shannon White, who helped raise the chestnut colt for his breeder. "He didn't quite establish himself as a future star."

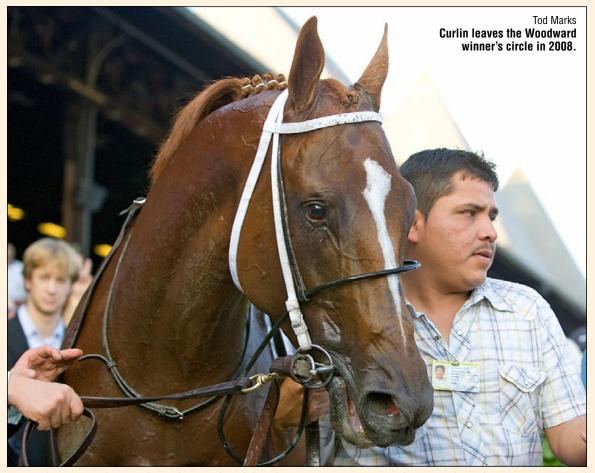
White laughed when she said that, and even more when she talked about prepping Curlin for the yearling sale.

"He'd let the walking machine go around him, the gate would come along and he'd just stand there and let it go," she said of Curlin's brief time in a free walker. "He was kind of lazy. He slept all the time, all the time. He was obstinate, ornery and difficult."

But there was way more to the tale. Curlin, then just the 2004 Smart Strike-Sherriff's Deputy colt, was probably thinking far beyond that walking machine, Fares Farm, even White and all her rules and responsibilities.

"Now, I think he was telling us something even then," White said. "He knew something about himself that we didn't. He was destined for big things."

Curlin went to Keeneland September and drew a \$57,000 bid by trainer and sales pro Kenny



McPeek. Unraced at 2, the colt won his debut by 12 3/4 lengths for Midnight Cry Farm and former McPeek assistant Helen Pitts. Moved to Steve Asmussen after Stonestreet Farm, Padua Stable and George Bolton bought in, Curlin won the Rebel and the Arkansas Derby in his next two starts. In the fourth start of his life, he finished third in the Kentucky Derby. That 3-year-old campaign went on to include wins in the Preakness, Jockey Club Gold Cup and Breeders' Cup Classic en route to Horse of the Year.

His 4-year-old season in 2008 might have been even better with two wins in Dubai, a handicap prep and the World Cup, to open. Curlin returned to the United States and won the Foster, then finished second on the turf in the Grade 1 Man o' War.

Next came the Woodward. By now owned solely by Jess Jackson and Barbara Banke's Stonestreet, Curlin started at shorter than 2-5 and dominated six rivals.

Afterward, Asmussen thanked a raucous Saratoga Saturday crowd.

"You want people to respect him, just respect him. He's that good and you love that about him. That's what he can do to people and for people," Asmussen told The Special in 2008. "Since Mr. Jackson announced that he was going to run here, the appreciation that came out was special. People were excited, the fans, the people that work here. They were excited for the right reason – to watch him run."

And that's what he did.

Continued On Page 43

42 THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019

Curlin —

■ Continued from page 42

Curlin added the Jockey Club Gold Cup in his next start. His career ended with a loss, fourth in the Breeders' Cup Classic, but it didn't matter. He wound up Horse of the Year, again, and retired to stud. From afar, White went along for the ride – all the while taking care of Curlin's dam.

A daughter of Deputy Minister, Sherriff's Deputy was also bred by Fares. She never raced, but her dam Barbarika won seven races (including two graded stakes) and earned \$347,253. Sherriff's Deputy was 20 years old when Curlin was born. Her first three foals were Texas-breds - four-time winner Deputy, three-time winner Secret Wedge, winless Ms Deep Cover – as Curlin and Robby Albarado reach the finish of the 2008 Woodward. the Houston-based Nijad Fares supported that state's breeding program and maintained a ranch there complete with llamas, alpacas, wire fencing and all the other trappings of Texas farm life.

When that farm was sold, Sherriff's Deputy and a handful of others joined the other Fares Thoroughbreds in Kentucky. Her first Kentucky foal, a 2003 Wild Zone colt, brought \$60,000 at Keeneland September.

"He was stunning, and let us know the mare had the capacity to produce good-looking offspring," White said. "She had an old slab fracture in her



knee . . . so was not at the top of the roster. She was sound, it had healed, but it was something she dealt with."

While White and Fares considered the next mate for the mare, they turned to Smart Strike. He was affordable, he fit her pedigree, he simply "seemed to work.'

The combination produced Curlin, who set a standard Sherriff's Deputy couldn't duplicate. Late in her broodmare career, she was high-risk with a spotty produce record. A Saint Liam filly sold for \$600,000 as a weanling in 2007. Named Deputy

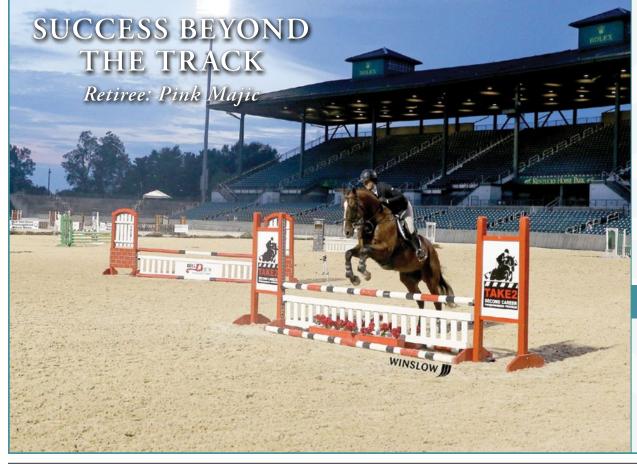
Saint, she never raced and brought \$5,000 last fall while carrying an American Freedom foal. A 2009 full-brother to Curlin, Deputy Striker, won three races.

"The phone rang off the hook about her for a while," said White, who credited Dr. Kristina Lu with helping Sherriff's Deputy. "She was a very strong-willed and regal mare to be around. She was a neat, neat mare and you could feel it when you were around her."

Her last foal was born in 2012, not long before Sherriff's Deputy was euthanized after the mare showed signs of age and X-rays diagnosed a fused vertebrae. That 2012 foal, a Distorted Humor filly named Flirting Away, never raced but had a Macho Uno filly in 2018 and sold last year at Keeneland November to Japan's KI Tod Marks Farm for \$350,000.

All these years later, White sees Sherrif's Deputy in the sons and daughters of Curlin - the likes of Exaggerator, Keen Ice, Good Magic, Stellar Wind, Palace Malice, Curalina, Vino Rosso and more. They've earned in excess of \$70 million. Their sire stands for \$175,000 at Hill 'n' Dale Farm in Kentucky.

"When I see the good horses by Curlin, they're the mare, they're absolutely the embodiment of her," said White. "Curlin got his grittiness and toughness from her. With all due respect to Smart Strike, she gave him something and he's giving it to the horses he sires."





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cupotcoffee —

BY SEAN CLANCY

It's 8:32 Friday night. Issue 33. Column 33.

I just drank a double espresso cold brew from High Brew Coffee. Fifty calories. 130-150 mg of caffeine.

I might need another.

Graphic designer Todd Koch warns me about the Death Wish Cold Brew that I have just pulled out of the fridge.

"I had to stop drinking those," Koch says, shaking his head.

Koch rides a Triumph Bonneville, a hot-rod motorcycle named after the salt flats in northwestern Utah, to work every day. Koch's bar for intensity would be high. I take his word for it, putting the thin can back into the mini fridge. I'll wait, see if the first jolt jolts and I get inspired.

I look around the office. The kids are back at school, it's the die-hards, the lifers, now. Two more issues. We see the runway, now to land the plane.

It's been a long and challenging meet, certainly, the most challenging of the recent ones. We lost Marylou Whitney, Carmen Barrera and Randy Romero. Sea Hero, too. Heat cancelled one card. Rain cancelled most of another and threatened many more. At times, it felt like we had roused the racing gods from a nap and were paying for the intrusion.

Longer than it's ever been, we will have been here two months, that's hard on the tourists, hard on the locals, hard on the track, hard on the town. We never wanted to be here two months, never expected to be here two months. It is long. The first few weeks were surreal, like a soft opening of a new restaurant. Saratoga is not meant to have a soft opening. It's meant to be urgent, vibrant, fleeting, come in with a bang and go out with a bang. This year, it has felt more arduous than anything else. Sure, a few days felt urgent and vibrant, but not many.

It's the conversations I enjoy the most and will miss the most, the ones along the rail in the morning before the day begins to tighten its grip. But this

One to Go



summer, it seems like all of the conversations end with a long, downward-trending rant about what's wrong with the sport. Chad Brown's domination, too many races, the Labor Board, workman's compensation, the dead rail, the shrinking foal crop, rough riding, questionable stewards' calls, unsound horses, the lack of opportunities, the disconnect between horsemen and management, the cheaters, the list goes on and on. Nothing ever gets accomplished in these rants, but we always wind up there. Saratoga used to feel like a respite, a time to revel in what is good in racing, not wallow in what is wrong.

Earlier today, I spent an hour, 22 minutes and 33 seconds on Bill Mott's Stable Tour. It's a long and enlightening conversation. I feel lucky to be invited into Elate's stall, to marvel at the brute and brawn of an old friend. I feel lucky to be invited into Channel Maker's domain, just to respect the high-headed overachiever. I feel lucky to be invited into Hemracing, would I have ever been able to walk around the locker room, the dugout, the diamond with Joe Torre? That's what it's like for me and I hope it is of baseball and horse racing. conveyed to you.

It is my favorite conversation. Well, having it, Wish is still in the fridge.

typing it out is my least favorite. I'm 1:4 at dictation. If the interview is a minute long, it takes me four minutes to type it. I know, I know, it's some kind of mental block, looking at the screen for the words instead of allowing my fingers to be free. An hour, 22 minutes and 33 seconds, that took me over four hours, all afternoon to be exact. Joe and Tom scoff.

As I finish transcribing the conversation, Mott and I are far off the subject of today's horses for the Stable Tour. We're talking about his old pony, Solenzano, how he died of cush-

ing's disease, about how Mott runs horses he knows are slow while most people wouldn't run them knowing they would sully their percentages and, sure enough, we're talking about baseball. Far better than a rant about field size. Mott threw out the first pitch at the Yankees' game after Drosselmeyer won the Belmont, he shows me the photo in his office, then shows me the day Singleton won the big race in Detroit in 1979.

"My brother played baseball, I got the job as the bat boy. I played midgets, I could catch but I didn't have any control. I went to the ranch when I was 12, the racetrack when I was 14, that messed up any thoughts about baseball," Mott said. "Well, I wish horse racing were as popular now as it was when we had just baseball and horse racing. Now, you have so many things that they televise and show. People are gambling but aren't coming to the races. You lock's shoeing session, just to appreciate the fine art would like to see every Saturday like Travers Saturof a horse's hoof. If I loved baseball like I love horse day. That picture of Singleton. That was 1979. The stands are filled. In Detroit."

And there we go, dreaming about the glory days

It's 10:27. Column 33 is finished. The Death





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