

The Saratoga

Special

Sara



LONGINES®

1:07.92

Rocket Man

Top sprinter Imperial Hint breaks Spa 6-furlong record in Vanderbilt repeat

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IN JIM DANDY
CHANNEL CAT TAKES
BOWLING GREEN
SUNDAY STAKES
PREVIEW



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Connie Bush

Boxed In. Who ordered the fruit salad?

here&there...at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

2: Jack Russells chewing on a bicycle tire on the backside Saturday morning.

501: Career wins for jump jockey Sam Twiston-Davies who rode Vosne Romanee to a second in the A.P. Smithwick

LICENSE PLATES OF THE DAY

LUVSAR, New York.
AFRME77, New York.
RDRSUP, New York.

NAMES OF THE DAY

All Clear, second race. The 4-year-old gelding is by Country Day out of Eye Opener.

Confessing, seventh race. Phoenix Thoroughbreds' 3-year-old is out of Accusation.

Nitrous, 11th race. Winchell Thoroughbreds' Amsterdam Stakes contender is out of Speedin-thruthecity.

YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP

An 11-year-old member of the Miami Valley Producers 4-H Club and his lamb were disqualified from first place in the junior livestock show at the Logan County Fair because the lamb tested positive for Lasix. The diuretic apparently makes muscles appear larger in animals. The lamb sold for \$3,925 at the fair's livestock auction and, so far, the kid can keep the money.

High five!

Only Tapit, Curlin and Candy Ride can top **Street Sense's** five Graded Stakes winners in America this year.



Be sure to inspect his **Senseational** Saratoga yearlings...

Darley



Susie Raisher

Good Dog. Ten-month-old Norah (a 14/10 on @dog_rates for sure) gets acquainted with crowds and noise at the track last week.

here&there...at Saratoga

SONG OF THE DAY

Big Yellow Taxi. Joni Mitchell's classic came to mind after Sean's column Paved Over in Saturday's Special (thank you, Will Phipps).

WORTH REPEATING

"That was a dad joke if I ever heard one."

The Special's Madeline Ellsworth to Tom Law Friday morning

"We've got one more, so we've got to try to keep going. This is history, here."

Bill Mott already looking ahead after winning back-to-back races Friday with No Lime and Topper T; the hat trick did not happen, but there's always another day

"Where's Sean, still in bed?"

Retired trainer Mike Hushion, making an appearance at the Morning Line Kitchen Saturday – and staying in character

"How does this thing work? It doesn't connect."

Racing fan Dick Knapp, trying to make sense of Joe Clancy's Trek Y26 (which has pedals and handlebars like other bikes – but a frame with a spring in the center)

"We take separate cars so I'll tell her you said hello when we get where we're going. It's marriage preservation."

Reader Eric Dudzinski, to The Special's Joe Clancy (who said to say hello to Dudzinski's wife Janice)

"We call it Heritage to annoy him, he thinks it sounds like a cemetery."

Bill Landes' Saratoga friends, who have a good time calling Hermitage Farm by the wrong name

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Saratoga Moments . . .

"I worked on the backstretch for Allen Jerkens and then I was a jockey's agent. One of my proudest days was when I had Jean-Luc Samyn's book in 2000. We won the Sword Dancer here on a horse called John's Call. Everybody involved had to campaign hard to get the horse to at least be on the also-eligible of the invite list. He did eventually get enough defections to be able to run. It was raining for two days and touch and go if they were going to leave the race on the turf, but because it was a Grade 1 they did. He came from last and only came around one horse and that was the horse on the lead at the eighth pole. He ran a brilliant race and Jean-Luc rode him brilliantly. Tom Voss was a dear friend and a really fine horse trainer, tops as far as I'm concerned. As soon as they hit the wire, I called my wife and said, 'I think we'll be celebrating tonight so don't worry about cooking dinner at home. We're going out.'"

– NYRA's **Ralph Theroux**

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here&there...at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"We came in and stabled there for 12 days and it was so cold we couldn't bathe him or anything."
Trainer Eric Guillot,
who brought Laoban from California to New York to run in 2016

"Like we're the only ones who ever thought of that . . ."
Trainer Stan Hough, about Sagamore Farm's plan to concentrate on quality over quantity in the barn

"Those were great days, weren't they? Joe Thomas, Joe Hickey, Allaire du Pont across the street . . ."
Owner and agent Mike Ryan, talking about the glory days of Windfields Farm and Chesapeake City, Md. horse country

"I read that article about Quick Call. One time, we were up there and he ran and won. Tommy Stokes and I were in the picture. That horse is still alive, wow."
Longtime reader Gordie Keys about 35-year-old Quick Call

"My son gave me one for my birthday and my daughter gave me one for my birthday. I called them and said, 'Don't you two ever talk?'"
Niall Brennan about how he wound up with two Jack Russell puppies

"Our Latin isn't too good."
The Special's Tom Law when asked why we didn't pick Soviet as name of the day (the 2-year-old colt is out of Ruthenia, which is Latin for Russian, evidently)



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I was just checking in to see what's going on at Saratoga. I missed being up there."

Trainer Charlie LoPresti on a phone message Thursday morning



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- 1. Imperial Hint:** Move over Speightstown and Spanish Riddle.
- 2. Guarana:** Unbeaten filly was perfect again in CCA Oaks.
- 3. Sistercharlie:** Make that TWO Dianas for the champ.
- 4. Golden Award:** Shuvee heroine part of strong start by Mott barn.
- 5. Tax:** The Travers gets another player after Jim Dandy score.
- 6. Highest Honors:** Tapit colt may have stamped Travers ticket.
- 7. Mominou:** Quick Toner filly paid \$61.50 in Caress. Who bet?
- 8. Channel Cat:** Enterprising ride, game horse pay off in Grade 2.
- 9. Mr Havercamp:** ON-bred scored like Gretzky in Forbidden Apple.
- 10. Break Even:** Six starts, six wins, many convinced witnesses.

On The Bubble: Basin, By Your Side, Zyramid, Pillar Mountain, Listing, My Italian Rabbi-Fierce Lady duel, Ruler Of The Nile, City Man, Winston C, Minit To Stardom, Borracho, Point Of Honor, Hofburg, Tacitus.

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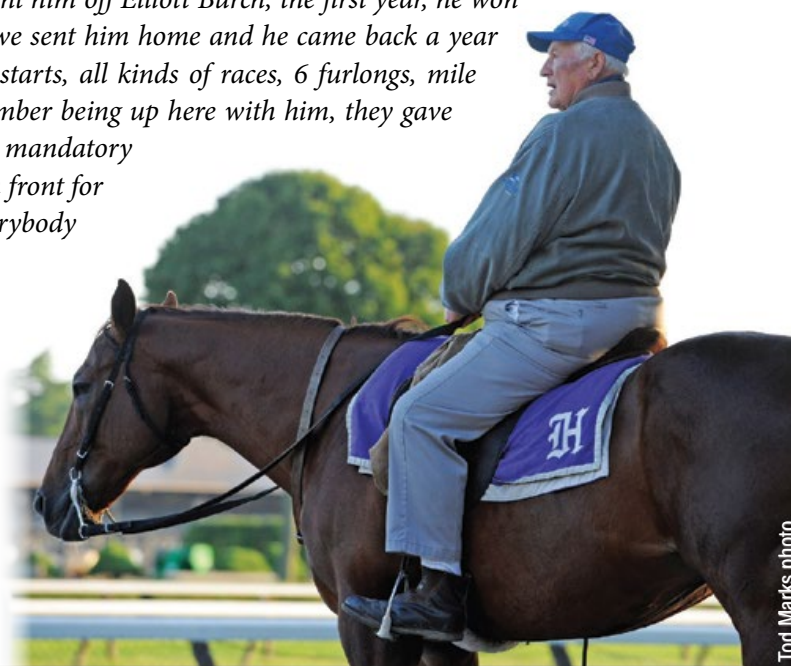
The Chief... Day 11

"Third Martini won a stake after he was at stud, at Hialeah, a mile and sixteenth, he stood at Hobeau, the guy used to get on him bareback, gallop over to where the mare was and then gallop him home, a guy named Gene. He was a nice horse, I bought him off Elliott Burch, the first year, he won one and broke down, he did something, we sent him home and he came back a year later, sound, and won 11 races from 22 starts, all kinds of races, 6 furlongs, mile and three sixteenths on the grass. I remember being up here with him, they gave him 126 pounds, when they still had that mandatory weight. He was so game, he was a head in front for the entire journey, he was dead game, everybody took a shot at him."

- Trainer Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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Tod Marks photo

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with Ian Wilkes

Peace and quiet can be tough to find at Saratoga Race Course during training hours. A few spots offer some respite from the occasional morning madness, often in barns tucked into corners of the grounds or off the beaten path to and from the main track or Oklahoma.

Ian Wilkes' string takes up residence in one such spot every year, at the southwestern corner of the main track grounds and the quiet turn of Clare Court. The small barn with the metal roof oozes history – Carl Nafzger trained Travers winners Street Sense and Unshaded there and John Nerud bedded down some of his lightning bolts there too.

“Allen Jerkens was in here too one year,” Wilkes said Friday. “That’s what he told me. He even had Onion in the stall on the end.”

Nowadays the stalls in Barn 6 house some potential history makers. The stalls are also home to runners bred by the late Marylou Whitney, one of Wilkes' main clients who passed away July 19. The Whitney runners remain in the care of Ian and Tracey Wilkes and their team and they'll eventually run for Whitney's estate.

“It’s going to be hard running one for the first time for Marylou,” Wilkes said. “She was a special lady. I could come up with all these kinds of words but they don’t do her justice. She had so many unique abilities and the horses always came first. She enjoyed the horses. It’s going to be sad, no two ways about it, but hopefully these boys and girls will do her proud.”

Wilkes took a few minutes Friday morning after training and between phone calls – ask to hear his ring tone sometime – to show and discuss the Saratoga string and some others with The Special's Tom Law and Catherine Galbraith.

Hometown Pride: Homebred 2-year-old colt by To Honor And Serve for Marylou Whitney Stables debuted here July 13. “He had his first race here and ran a respectable fifth. Just 5 1/2 furlongs, he wants further. That was too short for him but he got an education. He’s a half to Viva Majorca and Quick Quick Quick.”



Ian (left) and Tracey Wilkes flank jockey Julien Leparoux and owners Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson after a Saratoga win in 2017.

Tod Marks

Quick Quick Quick: The first runner entered for Estate of Marylou Whitney, 4-year-old Tiago filly is one of six for Wednesday's Shine Again Stakes. A maiden winner here in 2017, she finished fourth in the Saylorville Stakes last time at Prairie Meadows. “She’s going to come up and run in the Shine Again. She was down at Keeneland, just arrived.”

Blame The Cake: Wilkes gives Lothenbach Stables' New York-bred Blame colt a pat on the neck when he comes to the front of the stall. Second in debut here July 14 going 5 1/2 furlongs. “He ran really good in his first start. He’s out of Marie Antoinette. Like what they say, ‘let them eat cake.’ I don’t know much about it, Bob Lothenbach’s son was telling me about it. We actually tried to get Guillotine but that was already taken. Very good race first time, didn’t you boy?”

Feisty Bird: Whitney's homebred 2-year-old colt by Curlin is out of Tweeter, a half sister to Belmont, Travers and Champagne winner Birdstone and Kentucky Oaks winner Bird Town. Chestnut colt breezed 5 furlongs from the gate in 1:01.65 Saturday. “He needed to work out of the gate again to get OK’d. He’s not too far away.”

Bird Tycoon: Whitney's homebred 2-year-old by Graydar breezed a half in :49.09 the morning of the tour. She finished fifth in debut here July 12. “She ran a respectable fifth, just too short for her. We got a race in her and hopefully set her up for another race during the meet here. We’ll find a race for her going 6 1/2, 7 furlongs, that would suit this filly better. Today’s breeze was just a maintenance work.”

Heroic Officer: Another homebred by To Honor And Serve, 2-year-old filly relaxed in the back of her stall the morning of

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

See thisishorseracing.com for more.

the tour. She breezed 5 furlongs in 1:02 from the gate Saturday. “She hasn’t raced yet either. She’s going to work out of the gate. I was going to run her but took the entry out after Marylou passed away, so it’s been a while. I’m going to work her out of the gate, get her OK’d here. I decided not to enter, wanted to wait. I’ll run her on the dirt to start with.”

Originator: The 4-year-old filly by Artie Schiller gave the barn its first winner July 13 in 5 1/2-furlong turf allowance for Denholtz Stables, West Point Thoroughbreds and Head of Plains Partners. She finished second in last year’s Coronation Cup at Saratoga. “She won off the layoff for the guys. They were patient with her,

she’s come out of that race well and we’ll look for another race back, an allowance, two-other-than. She was off maybe 10 months. Kentucky Downs (in the Grade 3 Ladies Sprint Stakes Sept. 8) was the last time she ran.”

Champagne Anyone: Winner of the Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Oaks, she finished fourth last time in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks. Owned by seven partners that include Randall Bloch and Six Column Stables, Street Sense filly also finished fourth in the Kentucky Oaks. “She ran good in the Coaching Club, just maybe came up a tad short on me. I’ll come back in the Alabama with her. Hadn’t run since the Kentucky Oaks and maybe I was a little too light on her. I should have trained her a little more but we’ll be ready for the Alabama. We’ll give them a shot there.”

Bohemian Bourbon: Bourbon Lane Stable’s 3-year-old Midshipman filly finished third in Coronation Cup July 14. “She got some black type here for Mike McMahon and Jamie Hill. She’ll run back Aug. 11 (in the Galway). She won an off the turf race at Churchill and I ran her in one stake at Keeneland this spring on the grass. She’s probably better grass but she can run on the dirt.”

Bourbon Resolution: Bourbon Lane’s 4-year-old colt by New Year’s Day runs in today’s Grade 2 Nijinsky Stakes at Woodbine. He’s won three of 11, including the Grade 3 Ben Ali at Keeneland in April. Dark bay colt doesn’t pay visitors much attention, too intent on rubbing against a screw eye. “Hey boy. Stop rubbing your eye, don’t do that. It’s a mile and a half on the grass. Going that far for the first time, I want to see if he

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

can I run that distance. We'll find out. I was looking for a kinder spot. He ran in the Wise Dan last time, only got beat 4 lengths."

Bourbon Calling: Two-time winner for Bourbon Lane and Six Column Stables enjoys a few minutes on the vibrating plate at the end of the shedrow. Son of Dialed In goes in today's Grade 2 Amsterdam Stakes. "It's going to be tough. There's going to be plenty of speed in there. He ran big last time and I ran him out of condition at Churchill. I ran him because the purse was so good and I put him in for the tag, he ran good and didn't get taken for \$100,000. He's done well so we'll give him a shot and see if he's good enough."

Joe Bananas: "The pony. Tracey's ride. He was here last year, we gave him a break and he's back to it. He's a cool pony."

Frozen Hannah: Bella Cavello Stable's daughter of E Dubai sports 6-6-4 record from 26 starts and \$206,142 in earnings. "She's a claiming filly, 6-year-old who will run for \$25,000 on the grass. She won an off-the-turf grass race on the dirt at Indiana Grand last time."

Quick Entry: Whitney's homebred 3-year-old by Point Of Entry stays busy after training with his Jolly Ball. He finished ninth in 7-furlong allowance here July 13. "He plays with it, don't you buddy? Last time he disappointed, stumbled out of the gate. We need to find him a better spot."

Gentle Ruler: Morsches Stable's 4-year-old Colonel John filly ran win streak to four in Grade 3 Robert G. Dick Memorial at Delaware Park July 6. The wins came after 12 tries in the maiden ranks. "She's down in Kentucky but will be up for the Waya (Aug. 4). Took me a few times to practice. So I've got that in my back pocket now, I can tell my owners, 'just be patient.'"

Nessy: One of our favorites, Sierra Farm's 6-year-old Flower Alley gelding won the 2018 San Juan Capistrano and finished third in the Grade 3 Louisville Stakes May 18. "He won't come up here, he'll stay in Kentucky. Probably run at Ellis, not Kentucky Downs. He doesn't run good there. As Julien LeParoux explained to me, horses run down the hill. I never realized it and he said Nessy doesn't like to run down. We'll run him there and maybe take him to Woodbine for a race."

Big Dollar Bill: Last year's Birdstone Stakes winner continued comeback from layoff with second work July 24 at Skylight Training Center, a half in :48. "He's coming back, worked yesterday. He had an injury, needed some time off."

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Broken Record

Imperial Hint speeds to new mark in Gr. 1

BY JOE CLANCY

In the Saratoga Room after Imperial Hint won his second consecutive Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap and broke a historic track record at Saratoga Race Course Saturday, trainer Luis Carvajal Jr. took a call from owner Raymond Mamone.

Carvajal's side of the conversation summed up what the achievement meant.

"Congratulations, sir. He did it. You would have started crying if you would have been here. You aren't going to believe how people in the grandstand,

Continued On Page 12



Tod Marks

Imperial Hint reaches for the finish of Saturday's record-setting Vanderbilt score.

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Vanderbilt —

■ Continued from page 10

clubhouse and everywhere cheered for him. They were all cheering for Imperial Hint. I couldn't believe it. I have never heard anything like it. Even though last year he won this race, this year was different . . . All right, sir. Yes, me too. Yes, it is. He was so good. Oh, he was amazing. It's the greatest feeling ever. I'll give you a call tomorrow morning and let you know. Congratulations, a big hug and a kiss for you."

Carvajal, whose 10-horse string is based at New Jersey's Monmouth Park, punched off his phone and smiled.

"What a horse."

Indeed. The 6-year-old shredded five rivals including 1-2 favorite Mitole, stopping the clock in 1:07.92 while winning by 4 lengths for jockey Javier Castellano. Longshot Diamond Oops rallied for second with Mitole third while bidding for his eighth consecutive win. The time knocked off co-record holders Speightstown (who needed 1:08 to win the 2004 Vanderbilt) and Spanish Riddle (who set his mark in 1972). The feat was not lost on the Saratoga fans, who did indeed — as Carvajal told Mamone



Trainer Luis Carvajal Jr. (left) greets Imperial Hint after the win.

— shower the winner with cheers as he returned for the post-race ceremonies.

"When the horse was coming back and I heard all these people cheering for him, that was the best," said Carvajal. "It's unbelievable the people

were clapping and cheering for him. He has a lot of fans. That's a good feeling."

The Vanderbilt was Imperial Hint's first win since September and erased any hints of his regression from a spot among the country's best sprinters. In 2018, the Florida-bred son of Imperialism won three consecutive stakes including the Vanderbilt to rocket into the Breeders' Cup Sprint and Eclipse Award consideration. Third, beaten 5 lengths by Roy H at the Breeders' Cup, Imperial Hint opened 2019 with more disappointment — a dull third in the minor-league Pelican Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs in February and a just OK third behind X Y Jet in the Dubai Golden Shaheen in March.

Carvajal was mystified by the Tampa race, at first, then found some heat in a front leg — most likely from striking into himself.

"I was shocked when he lost, he'd worked so great — :45 and change, in hands, galloped out in :58. I'm going into the race knowing it's going to be a good race for him. Then when he dropped back and he couldn't follow them, I was shocked."

Rest set things right fairly quickly and Imperi-

Continued On Page 14

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Vanderbilt —

■ Continued from page 12

al Hint went to Dubai, where illness stopped him from even running in the 2017 Shaheen. Third this time around, Imperial Hint returned to Carvajal's New Jersey base – via a flight to Chicago via Germany and a long van ride. The trip would knock out a Clydesdale. Carvajal wanted to make sure his “little rocket” recovered fully, and sent him to Bruce Jackson's Fair Hill Equine Therapy Center for a break in early April. Imperial Hint didn't train, didn't even see a saddle. He got turned out, ate loads of grass, served as a roost for the local birds. By the time he went back to work, he'd changed.

“That horse came back from Fair Hill to my barn and I looked at him and he looked like a tank,” said Carvajal. “I was so happy the way he looked. After Dubai, coming back from Dubai is a long trip. He deserved that rest and they did a great job. (Trainer) Chad Summers told me about it and it was a great decision.”

Imperial Hint didn't have a published workout at Monmouth until June 15, when he went three-eighths in :34. He repeated that move two weeks later, went a half in :47 July 11 and finally five-eighths in 1:00.40 July 17. All four moves were bullets, and told Carvajal his horse was back. The Vanderbilt, and a showdown with Mitole, loomed.

The latter came into the Grade 1 off seven straight wins – two optional claimers and five stakes (three graded) – led by the Met Mile June 8 for trainer Steve Asmussen. The public bet him early and often as the others drifted to above 3-1. Third choice at almost 6-1, Imperial Hint broke fast from post three, with a slight bobble and a jink to his right. Off from the inside, Mitole brushed briefly with Strike Power and engaged that rival before the first furlong as Imperial Hint let them go.

The first quarter took :21.77 seconds – Strike Power outside of Mitole – with Castellano content to stay outside and 2 lengths back. Until he wasn't. The jockey didn't move, didn't ask, didn't do much of anything. Imperial Hint just moved alongside, three wide, like a Maserati passing two Subarus.



Tod Marks

Imperial Hint has earned \$2 million.

Castellano looked over his left shoulder, and probably smiled. Firenze Fire and Diamond Oops were back there, but they weren't gaining. Imperial Hint led by 2 lengths at the quarter pole (the half-mile split was :44.21), more at the eighth pole (:55.82) and never felt the whip. And for the first time in history, a Saratoga Race Course clock stopped before reaching 1:08 in a 6-furlong race.

“I tried to wait, I wanted to keep track of those two horses, I said, ‘Perfect,’” Castellano said of his stalking trip. “I've got the perfect spot, let me wait a little longer. Today, he wanted to run, he passed those horses like nothing. It's all about being a good horse. He listens, he's a laid-back horse. He's old, he always listens. In the turn, I ask him a little just to keep track of those two horses, he just gave it to me, like, ‘Hey yo, I'm here.’ When you ask him, he gives it to you really quick. So much power.”

Imperial Hint won for the 13th time in 22 starts, passed \$2 million career earnings and won his third Grade 1 stakes. For Carvajal, who worked at Saratoga for Angel Penna Jr. in the 1990s and was a longtime assistant to Bob Durso in New Jersey and Florida, he's the horse of a lifetime.

“It never crossed my mind that something like this would happen,” he said of his role riding the likes of Auntie Mame, Via Borghese and Perfect Arc. “I was trying to keep working with horses, to keep riding them in the mornings. I learned a lot, but becoming a trainer was not something I really thought about back then. A horse like this? No, never.”

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Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 16

and everything worked out good after that,” Ortiz said.

Longshot Mihos tracked in third while Peter Pan winner Global Campaign slid outside in fourth. Laughing Fox settled along the rail in fifth. Tacitus trailed but it had been anything but copacetic for the Belmont runner-up.

War Of Will, with Gaffalione leaning back like he was trying to hold on to the pole in the morning, pulled his way through a half-mile in :48.80. Tax continued to lope along in third with Global Campaign on his outside. Jose Ortiz maneuvered Tacitus through the inside of Mihos and Laughing Fox but was still well off the rail. Into the far turn, War Of Will led Global Campaign on the outside, Tax in the middle and Tacitus on the rail. After three quarters of a mile in 1:12.43, Tax rolled to and past War Of Will who offered little, Global Campaign tried to hang tough from the outside and Tacitus somehow slid back to last as Mihos and Laughing Fox tried to rally wide.

Turning for home, Tax dispatched Global Campaign to his outside, then War Of Will to his inside while Tacitus made another move, diving between a gap between Tax and War Of Will. Tacitus got there but couldn't muster another move, flattening out in the final strides as Tax continued his cadence to the wire. Ortiz pumped his whip from his right hand and then slashed his whip into his right shoulder like he was swinging nunchucks in a back-alley fight.

Tax finished 9 furlongs in 1:49.28, providing Gargan with the biggest victory of his career.

“To win the Jim Dandy, growing up here at Saratoga, I've been here my whole life, it's pretty special,” Gargan said, while going back to the box seats to look for his phone, lost in the melee of a Grade 2 stakes

win at Saratoga. “It hasn't hit yet. You're so excited you haven't realized what you've accomplished, it'll come in a day or two.”

Owners Randy Hill and Dean Reeves didn't need a day or two.

“This is my dream year are you kidding me? I've been in this game for 22 years, trying to get to the Derby and I get two in the Derby. I win the Blue Grass for a million dollars, I win the Withers, and now the Jim Dandy. The Jim Dandy,” Hill said. “You know what it teaches you about the game, the horse doesn't know what he costs. Now, today, I don't remember the bad times.”

Reeves, who won the 2013 Breeders' Cup Classic and \$5.6 million with Mucho Macho Man, believes in being diverse. He breeds some horses, buys yearlings, partners on racing prospects and, yeah, sometimes claims one hoping for a miracle.

“Man, it's just unbelievable, you just don't know sometimes if you can pick off these big races and here we are with a \$50,000 claimer and this horse is getting better,” Reeves said. “It says you can find that horse anywhere and it doesn't take a lot of money. You have to spend a lot of money to get the numbers but that horse, that graded stakes winner can come from anywhere. That's the uniqueness of this game, anybody can go out there and pay \$10,000, \$20,000 for a horse and they can win, they can be successful. That's what makes this sport special.”



Tod Marks

Danny Gargan waits for Tax to return to the winner's circle.

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Early Pounce

Channel Cat goes all the way in grass marathon for Pletcher

BY TOM LAW

Todd Pletcher leaned back in his office chair late Wednesday morning, took a bit of a break from discussing the members of his Saratoga string and specifically Calumet Farm's homebred Channel Cat to brag on the colt's sire.

Pletcher knows that subject well. He trained English Channel to 13 wins, \$5,319,028 in earnings, six Grade 1s that include a dominating score in the boggiest Breeders' Cup Turf in history and ultimately an Eclipse Award as champion turf male in 2007.

"He's starting to gather a little momentum and appreciation that he deserves," Pletcher said. "He's not

BOWLING GREEN STAKES RECAP

commercially the most popular horse but it's nice to see some breeders are considering sending mares to him."

Breeders appreciate that versatility and they like the determination the Smart Strike stallion puts in his offspring even more.

"That's what makes them good, they like to fight," Pletcher said.

The fans from the paid crowd of 34,517 that stuck around for the three stakes – not hitting the exit with coolers and folding chairs in tow even before 5 p.m. – saw that versatility and determination when Channel Cat

Continued On Page 19



Tod Marks

Channel Cat digs in to win Saturday's Bowling Green.



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Bowling Green —

■ Continued from page 18

took down 11 opponents to win the Grade 2 Bowling Green Stakes.

Channel Cat did all the work early and fended off late runs from five opponents late to win his first graded stakes in the 11-furlong turf event. Luis Saez rode Channel Cat, who also became the fourth graded stakes winner in 2019 for his sire along with Channel Maker, Just Howard and Mitchell Road.

“He’s like a lot of English Channels, he continues to improve as he gets older,” Pletcher said. “He doesn’t mind a little cut in the ground so he’s a versatile horse. He showed today he’s got a versatile running style. There’s still good things to come.

“They’re tough personalities and can be a little tricky to ride. You have to finesse them a little bit, they can have some high head carriages and you get in their mouth too much. When he got to that cozy lead and pricked his ears I thought we had a chance.”

Channel Cat broke with most of the field in the Bowling Green before pulling Saez to the front when the field made the short run into the far turn over the inner turf course. Channel Maker, dead-heat winner of last year’s Bowling Green, tracked in second ahead of the strung-out field that included Chilean import Ya Primo, Sadler’s Joy, Zulu Alpha, Arklow and Focus Group.

Channel Cat turned into the stretch the first time, head high and 2 lengths in front of Channel Maker, running with his head even higher, and passed the quarter over the course labeled firm in :24.66. Channel Cat opened up by 3 lengths past the finish and continued to relax through the half in :49.87.

Junior Alvarado made the first move on the leader after the field hit the backstretch, pushing longshot Argonne past Zulu Alpha, Ya Primo and Channel Maker to take second. Argonne got as close as Channel Cat’s flank and within a half but never closer while the field rounded the far turn the final time.

Channel Cat came off the inside turning for home and opened -a hole at the inside for Ya Primo while Argonne retreated and Arkow

and Channel Maker tried to mount a challenge. Ya Primo shot through on the inside, took a brief lead before Channel Cat found more. They dueled inside the sixteenth pole and Channel Cat edged clear again to win by a half-length over Ya Primo. Two heads and two necks separated Arklow, Channel Maker, Zulu Alpha and Sadler’s Joy.

“He’s a game horse,” Saez said. “He fought and took the lead and when they came to him in the stretch he kept fighting. I know a couple horses had a little speed, but he put me in that position. I knew he had a shot to win the race. I saw them coming, but he responded and got to the wire first.”

Channel Cat, who finished in 2:14.43, won for the first time in four starts this year. He finished third, beaten three-quarters of a length by Hunter O’Riley, last time in the Grade 1 United Nations at Monmouth Park after off-the-board finishes at Belmont Park in the Grade 3 Fort Marcy and Grade 1 Manhattan.

Channel Cat won two stakes as a 3-year-old last year, the Dueling Grounds Derby at Kentucky Downs going 1 5/16 miles over the rolling course Sept. 12 and the Bald Eagle Derby on yielding ground 17 days later at Laurel Park.

Pletcher said he wouldn’t have minded even more give to the turf, a nod to Channel Cat’s versatility and proven record on soft ground.

“Feargal Lynch rode him that day at Laurel and he’s ridden in Europe a lot and said he’s never seen anything like that,” Pletcher said. “So we knew he could handle anything. Today it’s got some cut to it, but it was in good condition, he handled it fine and kept finding a little more in the end.”



Tod Marks

Todd Pletcher waits for Channel Cat.



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) 1 1/16 Miles |
|---|--|

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

| | |
|---|--|
| Runs Sat., Sept. 14 \$200,000 Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up | Closes Aug. 31 (\$200 nomination fee) 1 1/16 Miles |
|---|--|

OPEN MIND (Listed)

| | |
|---|--|
| Runs Sat., Sept. 14 \$125,000 Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up | Closes Aug. 31 (\$125 nomination fee) 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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Smoke Break

Clements celebrate debut win with Castleton Lyons homebred

A win at Saratoga Race Course is often an excuse to break the rules. That's what Christophe Clement is banking on to convince his wife that he deserves one of the cigars they received for winning the second race Saturday.

"I suspended smoking years ago and he stopped smoking," Valerie Clement teased her husband while opening the box of cigars. "The only thing sometimes is a cigar. Now they gave me a gigantic box."

Castleton Lyons' homebred first-time starter Lexintonia earned the Clements the smokes after winning the 6-furlong maiden for fillies and mares under Joel Rosario.

"Joel was very happy and said she was very professional," Christophe Clement said of the Malibu Moon filly. "He was always in control, which is great."

Clement saw potential in the filly out of the Bernstein mare Antonia Autumn, a half sister to three-time Eclipse Award winner Gio Ponti, since she started training as a 2-year-old.

"We had her last year, she had an injury and we sent her back to the farm," he said. "She came back to us this year and always trained forwardly. We liked her, she's been training with another horse, Tomato Bill."

Tomato Bill, a 2-year-old son of

SATURDAY'S RACING RECAP

More Than Ready, finished second to By Your Side in the Grade 3 Sanford Stakes July 13.

Lexintonia also provided Clement with his third win of the meet.

"Now I can just go home and enjoy it, smoke one of the cigars with my wife," he said.

The second was named the John Cansdale Memorial Purse, a tribute to the former executive director of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board.

Cansdale, who served that post from 2003 to 2005 and a member of the New York Bar since 1989, died unexpectedly in Florida this past October at the age of 54.

"Racing never had a better friend or stronger advocate," said Jeff Hyman, a close friend of Cansdale who helped arrange the tribute race with NYRA. "So this race seemed a fitting way to remember him. Also he was a Saratoga resident for a number of years before and during his Racing and Wagering Board tenure."

Bill Cansdale, John's brother, and Hyman were among the two dozen or so friends and family in the winner's circle for the ceremonial picture with Rosario.



Tod Marks

Lexintonia wins the second under Joel Rosario.

"When fortune shined on John, he made sure it shined on everybody," Bill Cansdale said. "He was a very generous man."

— Catherine Galbraith and Terry Hill

- Adam Rice didn't just come to Saratoga from Presque Isle Downs for a Friday night dinner with his sister and brother-in-law. That certainly was an added bonus, but the highlight of the trip for Rice was when Shekky Shebaz won the third.

Jose Ortiz, who is married to the owner and trainer's sister Taylor, rode Shekky Shebaz. Adam, Taylor, their mother Gail and aunt Linda, who sent out Psychic Energy to finish fifth in the race, joined Shekky Shebaz and Ortiz in the winner's circle.

"I texted Jose's agent (Jimmy Riccio) a few weeks ago because the rac-

es at Presque Isle weren't going for him," Adam Rice said. "I didn't want to drop him too low there, because everybody over there knows him. So I said, 'let's try the turf.'"

Shekky Shebaz's previous 13 starts were on Presque Isle's all-weather surface. He broke sharp in the 5 1/2-furlong claimer and stayed on through the stretch to win by 1 3/4 lengths.

"I entered him for turf here twice last year. First, I scratched because it was supposed to rain and I figured they'd come off the turf," Rice said. "I entered him back again, shipped him over here, and 10 minutes before the walkover they called it off the turf."

Rice acquired the son of Cape Blanco for \$5,000 at the 2016 Keeneland September yearling sale.

Continued On Page 21



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\$250,000 G-3 Virginia Derby on Saturday, August 31

Owner/Trainer Participation Incentives



Saturday —

■ Continued from page 20

“I have to credit my uncle Bryan Rice,” Adam Rice said. “He and I were in the back ring at Keeneland and we happened to see him and loved the way he walked, I still love it to this day.”

Rice looked forward to another trip to Saratoga with Shekky Shebaz.

“I’ll probably be back in a few weeks in the same race,” said Rice. “I guess we snuck one under the radar this time, next time we might not be so lucky.”

Rice’s mom Gail was thrilled to be on hand. She’s in from Ocala to help out with Taylor and Jose’s children Leilani and Derek. Rice explained where Shekky Shebaz got his name, from memories of watching The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air with Adam as a kid.

“Will Smith in The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” she said. “He has a skit in one of the shows where somebody says, what’s your name? He goes, ‘Shekky, Shekky Shebaz.’ These kids remember all those things from those shows.”

— Ben Gowans

• Robert and Blythe Clay savored Shoplifted’s victory in the fourth.

“It’s nice to get back in the winner’s circle,” said Robert Clay, former owner of Three Chimneys Farm. “We’ve been in here a lot over the years, but we haven’t been here for a couple years. It’s the best.”

The Clays’ Grandview Equine owns Shoplifted in partnership with Cheyenne Stable and LNJ Foxwoods. The victory was the first for the partnership group, which is trying to develop colts into successful racehorses and stallions. Their buying team includes Alex Solis, Jason Litt, Madison Scott and Gatewood Bell.

“Both partners are longtime friends and customers of mine at Three Chimneys,” Clay said. “We came up with this idea to buy colts and put three people together. It just worked.”

The partnership tried to buy Shoplifted as a yearling at the 2018 Keeneland September sale, but wound up the underbidders to Zayat Stable’s final bid of \$525,000. When the Into Mischief colt showed up at the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream 2-year-olds in training sale, the partnership brought him home for \$800,000.

“Our team liked him so much that we went crazy,” Clay said with a hearty laugh. “We loved him. We went to buy 20 and we only had 17 bought, so we had a little money left. That’s the bottom line. He’s a lovely colt. He’s got a great pedigree, fantastic family. He’s a stallion prospect if he’s good. He was almost an obvious horse.”

Trained by Steve Asmussen, Shoplifted came into his debut with a bullet 5-furlong breeze in :59.80 July 14. He went off as the 3-5 favorite and won by 4 1/2 lengths under Ricardo Santana Jr.

“I’ve never raced colts before, I’ve only raced fillies, so it’s a novelty for me,” Clay said. “I’ve always been buying into 2-year-old colts. We bought into Chief’s Crown and won the Hopeful. They were already sort of made. We’re trying to make one.”

— Brandon Valvo

• Chris Progno never got a break in Saratoga. The Finger Lakes-based trainer of about 25 horses always seemed to run second, third or fourth

Continued On Page 22

Andrew J. Mollica, Esq.

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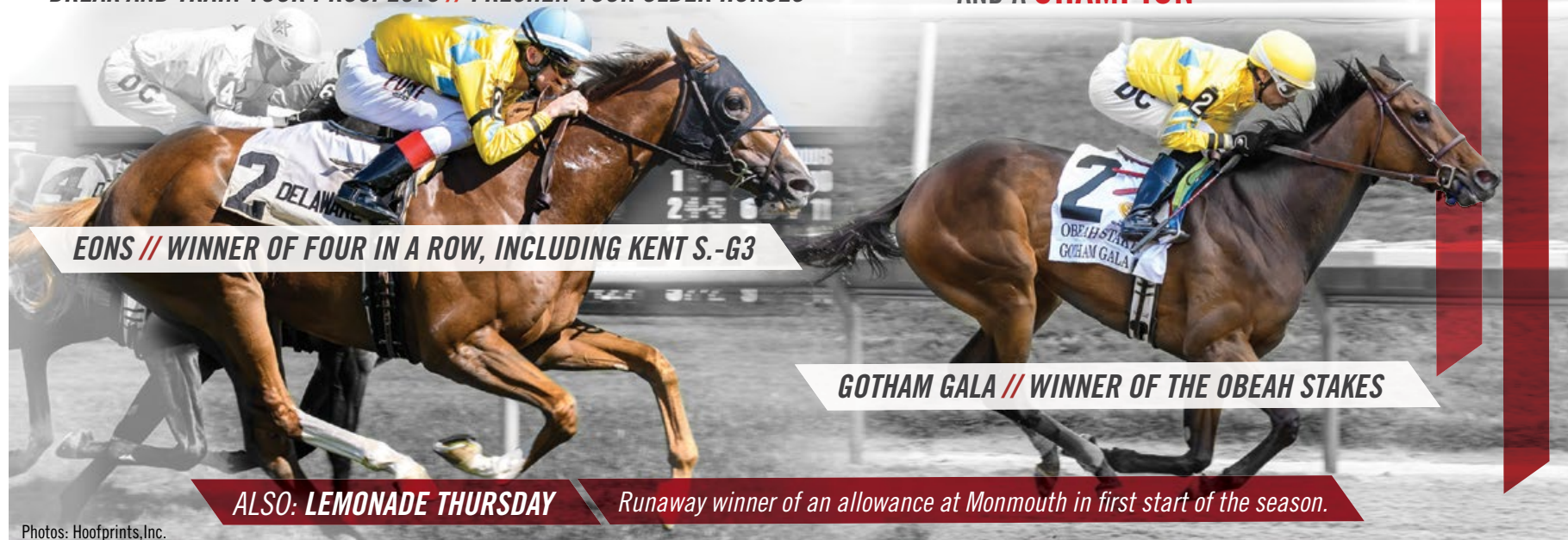
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Runaway winner of an allowance at Monmouth in first start of the season.

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 21

when he shipped in, including two starts with Crackerjack Jones in 2016 when third in the John Morrissey and second in the Evan Shipman. The 47-year-old conditioner broke through when New Girl In Town won the sixth for owners and breeders Chester and Mary Broman.

“I’d have to say this is the highlight of my career so far. I’ve had some stakes wins, I’ve won at Aqueduct, Finger Lakes, Presque Isle, Suffolk Downs, but this is pretty special,” Progno said. “(Crackerjack Jones) came up here and ran in the Morrissey, got a horrible trip, we got beat in a photo finish, came back and ran second to Royal Posse in the Evan Shipman. I’ve been knocking on the door, but just couldn’t get it done. I’m really happy for Mary and Chester Broman. They’ve really supported me well. I’m ecstatic, this is amazing.”

Progno’s father, John, trained at Finger Lakes his entire career and the Bromans were longtime supporters. When Chris took over the stable in 2008, the Bromans stuck with him.

The Bromans sent homebred New Girl In Town to Progno as a 2-year-old. The daughter of Boys At Tosconova won her debut at Finger Lakes in September 2017. She finished third in a stakes and second in an allowance to cap her freshman season.

New Girl In Town won two straight allowances at 3 before losing by a nostril to Crashing Connie, and possibly costing her the Finger Lakes filly of the year title. New Girl In Town was fifth in the New York Oaks last July. She returned this year at 4 with a win in a state-bred allowance and a second to Victorias Fire in an open allowance. Out of options, Progno shipped to Saratoga.

“She had one condition, but the three-state bred at Finger Lakes has not been going,” Progno said. “When I saw Victorias Fire ran here at Saratoga, I knew there was no shot that race was going to go. The way I looked at it, my filly was training phenomenal and I’m going to be sitting in the barn not being able to do anything with her.”

New Girl In Town improved to 7-for-14 with the three-quarter-length victory under Luis Reyes.

“A lot of these horses from New York are non-winners of two life, they broke their maiden. Yes, you have Chad Brown and all the big trainers and if they have potential stakes horses, they’re tough to beat, but my filly knows how to win,” Progno said. “She’s proved she knows how to get to the winner’s circle and a lot of these horses haven’t proved that. When we’re at a smaller racetrack like Finger Lakes, we’re able to take advantage of the softer company, the smaller purses and these horses learn to get a big heart and learn how to run.”



Tod Marks

Adam Rice greets Shekky Shebaz and Jose Ortiz after the third.



Tod Marks

New Girl In Town edges past Cash Offer in the sixth.

Progno hopes for more Saratoga success after his first win.

“I just got a couple nice 2-year-olds and I’m hoping to possibly get them here near the end of this meet,” he said. “They’re doing really well. I got another filly for Chester Broman, Investment Invite, that I feel is as good as New Girl In Town. She’s got to go long and races just aren’t going, so you’re going to see her here shortly. That filly is just as good as this filly, so I think there’s good things to come for us here in the next few weeks.”

— Brandon Valvo

• Trainer Mike Maker sent out Are You Kitten Me, a first-time-starter by Kitten’s Joy bred by his longtime clients Ken and Sarah Ramsey to win the seventh.

The catch? The Ramseys sold Are You Kitten Me at the OBS April 2-year-olds in training sale. The buyer for \$42,000? Mike Maker, agent.

“I just know nobody else liked him,” Maker said of the price.

Are You Kitten proved the crowd at the OBS April sale wrong by winning the 1 1/16-mile turf maiden for 2-year-olds. Jose Ortiz rode the colt for Peter Proscia’s Paradise Farms Corp., Terry Raymond, Jana Wagner and Jeff Gardella.

“Michael and his crew did a great job,” Proscia said. “My stable and our partners have won races here before but this is the first time we have won with a first-time-starter. It’s very exciting.”

Are You Kitten Me and Ortiz raced close to the pace early, dropped back a few spots around the far turn, rallied inside of Sul Moon in the stretch and won by a head.

“He was in a race in Kentucky last weekend, they canceled races due to heat,” Maker said. “They brought the race back and we got excluded. The other impressive thing about this is he just walked off the van late (Friday) morning.”

— Ben Gowans

Saratoga Leaders

| TRAINERS | 1ST |
|----------------|-----|
| Chad Brown | 11 |
| Bill Mott | 7 |
| James Bond | 4 |
| Steve Asmussen | 4 |
| Danny Gargan | 4 |
| Mike Maker | 4 |
| Linda Rice | 4 |
| Jason Servis | 4 |
| Todd Pletcher | 4 |

| JOCKEYS | 1ST |
|---------------------|-----|
| Jose Ortiz | 18 |
| Luis Saez | 14 |
| Javier Castellano | 13 |
| Irado Ortiz Jr. | 10 |
| Joel Rosario | 10 |
| Jose Lezcano | 8 |
| Junior Alvarado | 7 |
| Ricardo Santana Jr. | 7 |

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SARATOGA RESULTS

Saturday July 27.

FIRST \$48,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---------------|--------|--------|---------|
| 10 | South West Bay (GB) | I. Ortiz, Jr. | \$6.10 | \$3.60 | \$3.10 |
| 3 | Teachable Moment | J. Castellano | | \$3.80 | \$2.80 |
| 12 | Hurricane Hill | J. Lezcano | | | \$13.20 |

B Gelding 2016, by Slade Power (IRE) - Summer In February (GB) by Sixties Icon (GB)

Owner: Day, Vivienne. Trainer: Wesley Ward.
Breeder: Chasemore Farm (GB).

Late Scratches: Swick, Hurricane Jake, Revenio, Binary, High Rider
Claimed: Teachable Moment claimed by Bone, Robert D. for \$40,000, Mo Fun claimed by Schera, Matthew for \$40,000, Knockout Punch claimed by M and M Racing (Mike Sisk) for \$40,000 Time: 1:03.48
Exacta (10-3), \$12.20; Superfecta (10-3-12-7), \$163.40; Trifecta (10-3-12), \$140.25

SECOND \$90,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 6 | Lexintonia | J. Rosario | \$8.60 | \$4.90 | \$3.40 |
| 1 | Rapido Gatta | J. Castellano | | \$3.90 | \$2.80 |
| 7 | Quasar | M. Franco | | | \$3.40 |

B Filly 2016, by Malibu Moon - Antonia Autumn by Bernstein
Owner: Castleton Lyons. Trainer: Christophe Clement.
Breeder: Castleton Lyons (KY). Time: 1:10.38
Daily Double (10-6), \$18.30; Exacta (6-1), \$18.70; Quinella (1-6), \$9.60; Superfecta (6-1-7-3), \$18.25; Trifecta (6-1-7), \$40.12

THIRD \$52,000, CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YAO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|---------|--------|--------|
| 7 | Shekky Shebaz | J. Ortiz | \$15.20 | \$7.10 | \$5.10 |
| 2 | Frisky Magician | J. Lezcano | | \$4.20 | \$3.40 |
| 9 | Royal Asset | M. Franco | | | \$5.70 |

B Gelding 2015, by Cape Blanco (IRE) - Rose Ransom by Red Ransom
Owner: Rice, Adam. Trainer: Adam Rice.
Breeder: Ashford Stud, Tammy Barnes & Dr. Bernard Vertuca (KY).
Late Scratches: Orpheus (ARG), Blue Belt, Bolita Boyz, Aristocratic
Claimed: Frisky Magician claimed by Schnoor, Jr., Jacob for \$25,000, Royal Asset claimed by Manzo, Wendy for \$25,000, Psychic Energy claimed by Kantarmaci Racing LLC for \$25,000, Spectrolite claimed by Grady, Brad for \$25,000 Time: 1:02.09
Daily Double (6-7), \$41.50; Exacta (7-2), \$31.75; Superfecta (7-2-9-5), \$144.15; Trifecta (7-2-9), \$100.75; Pic 3 (10-6-7), \$121.75

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

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Shoplifted | R. Santana, Jr. | \$3.40 | \$2.40 | \$2.10 |
| 5 | Kowalski | J. Rosario | | \$3.30 | \$2.50 |
| 7 | Complexifier | L. Saez | | | \$3.10 |

B Colt 2017, by Into Mischief - Shopit by Yes It's True
Owner: Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stables, LLC and LNJ Foxwoods.
Trainer: Steven Asmussen. Breeder: Machmer Hall, Carrie Brogden & Craig Brogden (KY). Late Scratches: Little Harbour Time: 1:03.99
Daily Double (7-1), \$18.80; Exacta (1-5), \$5.40; Quinella (1-5), \$3.35; Superfecta (1-5-7-8), \$4.97; Trifecta (1-5-7), \$8.90; Consolation Double (7-6), \$7.50; Pic 3 (6-7-1), \$79.25; (6-7-6), \$33.25

FIFTH \$95,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 7 | Emaraaty (GB) | J. Castellano | \$8.20 | \$5.20 | \$3.50 |
| 2 | Frontier Market | I. Ortiz, Jr. | | \$4.00 | \$2.70 |
| 10 | Dream Friend | L. Saez | | | \$3.60 |

Dk B/ Br Colt 2015, by Dubawi (IRE) - Zee Zee Top (GB) by Zafonic
Owner: Shadwell Stable. Trainer: Chad Brown.
Breeder: Meon Valley Stud (GB). Late Scratches: Turco Bravo (CHI), Control Group. Time: 1:42.14
Daily Double (1-7), \$6.30; Exacta (7-2), \$13.90; Superfecta (7-2-10-4), \$13.17; Superfecta (7-2-10-9), \$7.12; Trifecta (7-2-10), \$28.75; Pic 3 (7-1-7), \$52.25; (7-6-7), \$24.30; Pic 4 (6-7-1/6-7), \$138.75; Pic 5 (4/9/10/13/15/16-6-7-1/6-7), \$623.25

SIXTH \$80,000, NY-BRED ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

| | | | | | |
|----|------------------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 11 | New Girl in Town | L. Reyes | \$47.40 | \$18.40 | \$9.30 |
| 6 | Cash Offer | L. Saez | | \$6.90 | \$4.70 |
| 9 | More Mischief | J. Castellano | | | \$3.40 |

Dk B/ Br Filly 2015, by Boys At Tosconova - Newbie by Bernardini
Owner: Chester and Mary Broman, Sr.. Trainer: Christopher Prognos.
Breeder: Chester Broman & Mary R. Broman (NY).
Late Scratches: Moon Heist Time: 1:11.19
Daily Double (7-11), \$133.75; Exacta (11-6), \$160.00; Superfecta (11-6-9-7), \$609.85; Trifecta (11-6-9), \$486.00; Pic 3 (1-7-11), \$199.50

SEVENTH \$90,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 1 1/16M

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 6 | Are You Kitten Me | J. Ortiz | \$12.20 | \$6.00 | \$3.60 |
| 1 | Sul Moon | J. Alvarado | | \$14.80 | \$8.70 |
| 11 | Eagerly | J. Velazquez | | | \$3.40 |

B Colt 2017, by Kitten's Joy - Perfect Agility by Perfect Soul (IRE)
Owner: Paradise Farms Corp., Raymond, Terry, Wagner, Jana and Gardella, Jeff. Trainer: Michael Maker.
Breeder: Kenneth L. Ramsey & Sarah K. Ramsey (KY).
Late Scratches: Ghost of the Mambo, Economic Policy Time: 1:44.33
Daily Double (11-6), \$234.00; Exacta (6-1), \$85.75; Superfecta (6-1-11-9), \$819.80; Trifecta (6-1-11), \$205.25; Pic 3 (7-11-6), \$1,181.50; Pic 4 (1/6-7-11-6), \$836.50

EIGHTH \$92,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|---------|--------|--------|
| 4 | Chateau | J. Lezcano | \$12.40 | \$6.40 | \$4.80 |
| 3 | Puttheglassdown | J. Ortiz | | \$7.30 | \$4.90 |
| 7 | Frosted Grace | L. Saez | | | \$6.10 |

Dk B/ Br G 2015, by Flat Out - Distinct Sparkle by With Distinction
Owner: Dubb, Michael. Trainer: Jason Servis. Breeder: Preston Stables LLC (KY). Late Scratches: Ventus, Dark N Cloudy Time: 1:10.56
Daily Double (6-4), \$47.75; Exacta (4-3), \$46.75; Superfecta (4-3-7-6), \$104.30; Trifecta (4-3-7), \$156.75; Pic 3 (11-6-4), \$1,026.50

NINTH \$350,000, STAKES - ALFRED G. VANDERBILT H., 3 & UP, 6F

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 3 | Imperial Hint | J. Castellano | \$13.60 | \$6.20 | \$3.40 |
| 6 | Diamond Oops | J. Leparoux | | \$15.20 | \$5.30 |
| 1 | Mitole | R. Santana, Jr. | | | \$2.10 |

Dk B/ Br Horse 2013, by Imperialism - Royal Hint by Lahint
Owner: Mamone, Raymond. Trainer: Luis Carvajal, Jr.
Breeder: Shade Tree Thoroughbreds Inc (FL).
Late Scratches: Mr. Crow. Time: 1:07.92
Daily Double (4-3), \$48.50; Exacta (3-6), \$122.75; Superfecta (3-6-1-4), \$71.55; Trifecta (3-6-1), \$132.50; Pic 3 (6-4-3), \$254.50

TENTH \$250,000, STAKES - BOWLING GREEN S., 4 & UP, 1 3/8M

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
| 10 | Channel Cat | L. Saez | \$29.20 | \$11.60 | \$7.40 |
| 3 | Ya Primo (CHI) | J. Ortiz | | \$5.80 | \$4.50 |
| 1 | Arklow | F. Geroux | | | \$3.60 |

Ch Colt 2015, by English Channel - Carnival Kitten by Kitten's Joy
Owner: Calumet Farm. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Calumet Farm (KY). Late Scratches: Bigger Picture
Time: 2:14.43
Daily Double (3-10), \$116.50; Exacta (10-3), \$94.50; Superfecta (10-3-1-5), \$154.15; Trifecta (10-3-1), \$331.75; Pic 3 (4-3-10), \$696.50

ELEVENTH \$600,000, STAKES - JIM DANDY S., 3 YO, 1 1/8M

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------|--------|--------|
| 2 | Tax | I. Ortiz, Jr. | \$11.00 | \$4.30 | \$2.90 |
| 5 | Tacitus | J. Ortiz | | \$2.80 | \$2.30 |
| 4 | Global Campaign | L. Saez | | | \$3.20 |

Dk B/ Br Gelding 2016, by Arch - Toll by Giant's Causeway
Owner: R. A. Hill Stable, Reeves Thoroughbred Racing, Lynch, Hugh and Corms Racing Stable. Trainer: Danny Gargan. Breeder: Claiborne Farm & Adele B. Dilschneider (KY). Time: 1:49.28
Daily Double (10-2), \$70.75; Exacta (2-5), \$13.40; Superfecta (2-5-4-1), \$18.60; Trifecta (2-5-4), \$24.00; Pic 3 (3-10-2), \$864.00; Grand Slam (3/4/7-1/3/5/6-1/3/10-2), \$102.50



TWELFTH \$48,000, CLAIMING \$30,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|--------|---------|
| 5 Surge Pricing | J. Castellano | \$6.00 | \$3.60 | \$2.80 |
| 12 Letterman | J. Alvarado | | \$4.10 | \$3.50 |
| 3 Fotis | B. Hernandez | | | \$12.00 |

Ch Gelding 2016, by Animal Kingdom - Lady of Akita by Fantastic Light
 Owner: Klaravich Stables, Inc.. Trainer: Chad Brown.

Breeder: Runnymede Farm Inc. & Peter J. Callahan (KY). Late Scratches: Hijacker, Raphael, Danny California, No Mo Promises, Clyde's Runner, River Knight Claimed: Surge Pricing claimed by Kenneally, Eddie for \$30,000. Time: 1:37.09

Daily Double (2-5), \$16.00; Exacta (5-12), \$11.20; Superfecta (5-12-3-2), \$219.65; Trifecta (5-12-3), \$180.00; Pic 3 (10-2-5), \$208.00; Pic 4 (3-10-2-5/7/9/13/14/15/16), \$1,160.25; Pic 5 ((XCOUNTRY)6-1/5/11-2-10-5), \$1,117.00; Pic 5 (4-3-10-2-5/7/9/13/14/15/16), \$10,854.00; Pic 6 (6-4-3-10-2-5/7/9/13/14/15/16), \$1,939.00; Pic 6 (6-4-3-10-2-5/7/9/13/14/15/16), \$133,832.00

Attendance: 34,517. On Track Handle: \$6,252,113. All-Sources Handle: \$29,243,727.83
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Top Rank

Unbeaten Super Comet takes step up for Casse in 3-year-old sprint stakes

BY TOM LAW

Mark Casse likes to rank the horses who start every winter and spring from his training center in Florida or those who prep elsewhere and come to his care. The rankings help gauge where they should go after their early lessons at Casse Training Center not far off State Road 200 in Ocala.

The draft eventually heads off in several directions, to the Canadian Hall of Fame trainer's barn at Woodbine, Kentucky strings at Churchill Downs and Keeneland, Belmont Park, south to Palm Meadows or Gulfstream Park. Those in need of more work stay home.

The best often go to Kentucky. That's where eventual Preakness winner War Of Will started. Same for Belmont Stakes winner Sir Winston, along with Dream Maker, Strike Silver, Souper Jackpot and others. Super Comet

AMSTERDAM STAKES PREVIEW

ranked at or near the top and makes his belated stakes debut in today's Grade 2 Amsterdam at Saratoga Race Course.

"He's fast, should be pretty good," Casse said before the meet, outlining his prospects for the meet in the Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour. "He was definitely one that got a late start. Last year as a 2-year-old we thought he was one of the best, maybe the best 2-year-old we had. He had some little injuries, one right after the other and it's taken him awhile, but he's good now."

The 8-1 co-fourth choice on the morning line for the \$200,000 Amsterdam showed how good with a maiden win at Churchill

Continued On Page 27

Shancelot is favored in today's Amsterdam Stakes.

Tod Marks

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Retiree: Marinda



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Amsterdam —

■ Continued from page 26

Downs June 2.

Gamblers certainly weren't privy to Casse's rankings as Super Comet made his debut at 9-1 going 7 furlongs. He broke slowly, raced in mid-pack and looked like anything but a winner until he made a four-wide trip around the far turn on the way to a 3/4-length victory.

"If you want to watch an impressive race you should watch when he broke his maiden," Casse said after Super Comet jogged in the fog around the sloppy main track Friday. "He got away bad, rushed up and was really wide. I'd like to see what kind of Thoro-Graph number he got."

Super Comet came back 19 days later and won again.

He put in a more workmanlike effort that day, grinding out a 1-length score going 6 1/2 furlongs. He beat big fields both times — 11 and 10 opponents, respectively — and will face another large cast with 11 other 3-year-olds in the 6 1/2-furlong Amsterdam.

Casse also sends out Strike Silver, fourth in the Grade 1 Woody Stephens last time. Second by a neck here in last year's Grade 3 Sanford on Opening Weekend, Strike Silver returned to the main track in the Woody Stephens after four starts on the grass. Super Comet drew post 3 and Strike Silver will go from post 10.

"That's the only thing, I wish we could have reversed it, that Super Comet drew outside and let Strike Silver be down toward the rail," Casse

said. "You worry if you get outrun inside, although the way he ran first time out hopefully means he can handle it."

Casse trains both colts for John Oxley. They purchased Strike Silver for \$275,000 at the 2017 OBS October yearling sale. Super Comet represents several generations and layers of Oxley's Fawn Leap Farm breeding program.

Super Comet is the third foal out of the Grade 3-placed Sky Mesa mare Sky Dreamer, who was trained by Casse to a record of 2-4-2 in 12 starts with \$176,065 earned. She's out of the unraced Monarchos mare To Dream About, the second foal produced by champion and Breeders' Cup Distaff winner Beautiful Pleasure. Oxley also campaigned Sky Mesa, Kentucky Derby winner Monarchos and Beautiful Pleasure.

Shancelot, the 3-1 favorite on the early line for the Amsterdam, drew the outside post. The son of Shanghai Bobby also brings a 2-for-2 record and an eye-catching workout of 6 furlongs in 1:11.10 at Saratoga last week for trainer Jorge Navarro.

The next two choices on the morning line come out of the Woody Stephens. Honest Mischief, the 7-2 second choice for Chad Brown, finished sixth and 3 lengths behind Hog Creek Hustle as the 2-1 favorite that day. Nitrous, the 4-1 third choice for Steve Asmussen, just missed by a neck when second in the 7-furlong Woody Stephens.

The Big S, Achilles Warrior, Classy John, Wendell Fong, Garter And Tie, Bourbon Calling and Lemniscate complete the field for the final stakes of the third week of the 2019 meet.



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Sunday, July 28.

1ST (1:00PM). \$78,000, MSW, 2 YO, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Three Jokers | J. Rosario | J. Terranova II | 6-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Macho Boy | M. Franco | G. Contessa | 4-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Stanhope | D. Davis | C. McGaughey III | 3-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Cleon Jones | J. Vargas, Jr. | J. Englehart | 5-2 |
| 5 | 5 | Fifty Cents | L. Saez | A. Delgado | 8-1 |
| 6 | 6 | Sir Ludlow | B. Hernandez | T. Hamm | 12-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Brian's Last Song | J. Ortiz | T. Pletcher | 4-1 |

2ND (1:34PM). \$32,000, CLM \$14,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|----|----|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Stink Man | J. Rosario | M. Kantarmaci | 12-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Air On Fire | I. Ortiz, Jr. | J. Servis | 8-5 |
| 3 | 3 | All Clear | J. Ortiz | G. Sciacca | 20-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Dooley | M. Franco | D. Donk | 8-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Take It to Scale | J. Alvarado | C. Englehart | 12-1 |
| 6 | 6 | Local Edition | K. Carmouche | R. Schosberg | 15-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Desert Lights | B. Hernandez | G. Gullo | 5-1 |
| 8 | 8 | Laser Loop | L. Saez | R. Diodoro | 7-2 |
| 9 | 9 | Proximate to Power | R. Santana, Jr. | E. Davis | 15-1 |
| 10 | 10 | Remstin | E. Cancel | G. Contessa | 15-1 |

3RD (2:06PM). \$60,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Yes and Yes | D. Davis | P. Gleaves | 12-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Our Last Buck | J. Lezcano | G. Weaver | 3-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Fooh | J. Velazquez | W. Ward | 8-5 |
| 4 | 4 | Our Stormin Norman | T. Gaffalione | M. Casse | 8-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Macca Tree | K. Carmouche | A. Quartarolo | 8-1 |
| 6 | 6 | Tenure | J. Rosario | C. Clement | 5-2 |
| 7 | 7 | Lundqvist | L. Saez | J. Terranova II | 15-1 |

4TH (2:39PM). \$80,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 7F

Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------|-----------------|------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Kazmania | K. Carmouche | E. Jones | 4-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Bebe Banker | R. Santana, Jr. | J. Ferraro | 12-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Bustin Hoffman | I. Ortiz, Jr. | G. Gullo | 10-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Ventus | J. Martinez | J. Parker | 12-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Runningwscissors | J. Ortiz | T. Amoss | 8-5 |
| 6 | 6 | Daddy Knows | J. Lezcano | L. Rice | 2-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Kerry Boy | B. Hernandez | G. Goodwin | 8-1 |

5TH (3:12PM). \$48,000, CLM \$30,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|----|----|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Burn the Boats | J. Vargas, Jr. | L. McKanas | 15-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Proquestor | B. Hernandez | E. Caramori | 20-1 |
| 3 | 3 | The Sinner Is You | J. Alvarado | J. Englehart | 15-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Sport | R. Santana, Jr. | H. Bond | 9-5 |
| 5 | 5 | Clyde's Runner | J. Lezcano | T. Bush | 7-2 |
| 6 | 6 | Danny California | J. Rosario | J. Abreu | 8-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Quality Choice | I. Ortiz, Jr. | M. Nevin | 8-1 |
| 8 | 8 | River Knight | R. Maragh | E. Pringle | 15-1 |
| 9 | 9 | MTO Raphael | L. Saez | N. Zito | 5-2 |
| 10 | 10 | Mo Gee | L. Saez | J. Sharp | 3-1 |

6TH (3:46PM). \$65,000, CLM \$40,000-\$35,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|---------------|-------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | American Lincoln | E. Cancel | A. Williams | 12-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Cowboy Rhythm | L. Saez | R. Diodoro | 9-2 |
| 3 | 3 | Candy Promises | K. Carmouche | D. Duggan | 5-2 |
| 4 | 4 | Starship Zeus | J. Rosario | C. Baker | 8-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Zulu | E. Jaramillo | J. Navarro | 7-2 |
| 6 | 6 | Turco Bravo (CHI) | J. Castellano | D. Cannizzo | 3-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Super Dude | I. Ortiz, Jr. | G. Contessa | 6-1 |

7TH (4:21PM). \$90,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 6, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|----|----|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Confessing | R. Santana, Jr. | S. Asmussen | 7-2 |
| 2 | 2 | Elle M'a Souri (FR) | J. Leparoux | C. DeVaux | 12-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Pat Pat Pat | R. Maragh | R. Legall | 30-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Queen Medb (IRE) | I. Ortiz, Jr. | C. Brown | 5-2 |
| 5 | 5 | Magical Time | J. Alvarado | J. Englehart | 10-1 |
| 6 | 6 | New and Improved | J. Castellano | C. Brown | 4-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Paint It Green | T. Gaffalione | N. Zito | 15-1 |
| 8 | 8 | Shurakaa | J. Lezcano | K. McLaughlin | 10-1 |
| 9 | 9 | Aymara | J. Ortiz | W. Mott | 8-1 |
| 10 | 10 | Global Exchange | L. Saez | J. Toner | 8-1 |
| 11 | AE | Prosperity | J. Rosario | H. Motion | 6-1 |

8TH (4:55PM). \$78,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|---------------|--------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Nasty Affair | I. Ortiz, Jr. | L. Rice | 8-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Pendolino | M. Franco | T. Hills | 8-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Lady Macho | R. Maragh | B. Levine | 7-2 |
| 4 | 4 | Queenofeverything | D. Davis | H. Bond | 6-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Fight On Lucy | B. Hernandez | P. Kelly | 15-1 |
| 6 | 6 | Irish Banker | L. Saez | E. Davis | 12-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Amos | J. Ortiz | K. Danner | 4-1 |
| 8 | 8 | Blame It On Mom | J. Rosario | B. Levine | 5-2 |
| 9 | 9 | Gilda Marie | J. Alvarado | C. Englehart | 15-1 |

9TH (5:29PM). \$75,000, STR \$50,000, 4 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Pic 4, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------|
| 1 | MTO | Missle Bomb | K. Carmouche | J. Toscano, Jr. | 8-5 |
| 2 | 2 | Fixed Point | L. Saez | P. Serpe | 9-2 |
| 3 | 3 | So Conflated | J. Ortiz | J. Englehart | 7-2 |
| 4 | 4 | End Play | I. Ortiz, Jr. | J. Servis | 6-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Pagliacci | J. Lezcano | L. Rice | 3-1 |
| 6 | 6 | Corot | D. Davis | T. Morley | 6-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Gemonteer | T. Gaffalione | J. Antonucci | 12-1 |
| 8 | 8 | Macho Blue | J. Alvarado | M. Kantarmaci | 15-1 |
| 9 | 9 | Discretionary Marq | K. Carmouche | R. Falcone, Jr. | 8-1 |
| 10 | 10 | Maniacal | J. Castellano | G. DiPrima | 10-1 |

10TH (6:04PM). \$92,000, AOC \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 3/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | Bridaled Temper | J. Leparoux | M. Casse | 6-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Purely Lucky | K. Carmouche | L. Gyarmati | 30-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Dyna Passer | J. Ortiz | T. Albertrani | 4-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Repatriated Gem (GB) | T. Gaffalione | M. Stidham | 8-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Romantic Pursuit | D. Davis | K. McLaughlin | 10-1 |
| 6 | 6 | Cap de Creus | M. Franco | T. Pletcher | 12-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Night of England (GB) | J. Castellano | C. Brown | 5-2 |
| 8 | 8 | So Charming | J. Velazquez | M. Matz | 8-1 |
| 9 | 9 | Giant Zinger | R. Maragh | W. Mott | 7-2 |

11TH (6:38PM). \$200,000, STK - THE AMSTERDAM, 3 YO, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

| | | | | | |
|----|----|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------|
| 1 | 1 | The Big S | M. Franco | R. Handal | 30-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Achilles Warrior | J. Bravo | M. Hennig | 15-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Super Comet | S. Bridgmohan | M. Casse | 8-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Classy John | L. Saez | D. Stewart | 30-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Honest Mischief | J. Castellano | C. Brown | 7-2 |
| 6 | 6 | Nitrous | R. Santana, Jr. | S. Asmussen | 4-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Wendell Fong | J. Vargas, Jr. | J. Englehart | 8-1 |
| 8 | 8 | Garter and Tie | T. Gaffalione | R. Nicks | 10-1 |
| 9 | 9 | Bourbon Calling | J. Leparoux | I. Wilkes | 30-1 |
| 10 | 10 | Strike Silver | I. Ortiz, Jr. | M. Casse | 10-1 |
| 11 | 11 | Lemniscate | J. Ortiz | K. McPeck | 20-1 |
| 12 | 12 | Shancelot | E. Jaramillo | J. Navarro | 3-1 |

12TH (7:11PM). \$48,000, MCL \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | Heartstrings | J. Lezcano | C. DeVaux | 12-1 |
| 2 | 2 | Here Comes Meg | T. Gaffalione | S. Klesaris | 15-1 |
| 3 | 3 | Traci's Girl | L. Saez | C. Baker | 8-1 |
| 4 | 4 | Abby Normal | J. Ortiz | D. Donk | 6-1 |
| 5 | 5 | Deja Raconte | K. Carmouche | D. Gargan | 9-2 |
| 6 | 6 | Vinda Machine | M. Franco | G. Weaver | 20-1 |
| 7 | 7 | Fusi | J. Rosario | B. Cox | 5-2 |
| 8 | 8 | Taniell's Candy | J. Leparoux | B. Lynch | 8-1 |
| 9 | 9 | Finlee | H. Harkie | M. Coffey | 30-1 |
| 10 | 10 | Youth Gone Wild | B. Hernandez | R. Ubillo | 12-1 |
| 11 | 11 | E Z Lorelle | J. Alvarado | O. Noda | 15-1 |
| 12 | 12 | Freudycatfever | R. Santana, Jr. | H. Bond | 10-1 |

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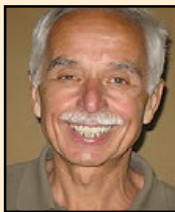
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**Charles
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**Tom
Law**



**Rob
Whitlock**



**Todd
Shimkus**

Race #

| Race # | John Shapazian | Charles Bedard | Tom Law | Rob Whitlock | Todd Shimkus |
|--------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | Brian's Last Song Stanhope Fifty Cents | Cleon Jones Three Jokers Macho Boy | Stanhope Brian's Last Song Cleon Jones | Cleon Jones Three Jokers Macho Boy | Brian's Last Song Three Jokers Stanhope |
| 2 | Air On Fire Laser Loop Desert Lights | Desert Lights Air On Fire Laser Loop | Air On Fire Laser Loop Proximate To Power | Air On Fire Laser Loop Local Edition | Air On Fire All Clear Stink Man |
| 3 | Tenure Fooch Macca Tree | Our Last Buck Yes And Yes Tenure | Fooch Our Last Buck Tenure | Tenure Our Stormin Norman Lundqvist | Tenure Fooch Macca Tree |
| 4 | Runningwscissors Daddy Knows Kazmania | Runningwscissors Daddy Knows Kerry Boy | Runningwscissors Daddy Knows Bebe Banker | Runningwscissors Bustin Hoffman Daddy Knows | Daddy Knows Bustin Hoffman Kazmania |
| 5 | Sport Mo Gee Quality Choice | Sport Mo Gee Clyde's Runner | Mo Gee Sport Quality Choice | Mo Gee Quality Choice Danny California | Quality Choice Sport Danny California |
| 6 | Candy Promises Turco Bravo Cowboy Rhythm | Zulu Turco Bravo Starship Zeus | Turco Bravo Candy Promises Cowboy Rhythm | Candy Promises Starship Zeus Turco Bravo | Super Dude Starship Zeus Turco Bravo |
| 7 | Confessing Queen Medb New And Improved | Aymara Elle M'a Souri Queen Medb | Queen Medb New And Improved Shurakaa | Aymara Global Exchange Queen Medb | Queen Medb Confessing New And Improved |
| 8 | Blame It On Mom Queenofeverything Gilda Marie | Blame It On Mom Pendolino Lady Macho | Blame It On Mom Amos Lady Macho | Amos Blame It On Mom Pendolino | Nasty Affair Lady Macho Blame It On Mom |
| 9 | So Conflated Fixed Point Maniacal | Macho Blue Missle Bomb Pagliacci | Pagliacci Corot So Conflated | End Play Pagliacci Discretionary Marq | Pagliacci End Play So Conflated |
| 10 | Night Of England Dyna Passer Giant Zinger | Giant Zinger Bridaled Temper Night Of England | Night Of England Giant Zinger Dyna Passer | Giant Zinger Night Of England Romantic Pursuit | Dyna Passer Night Of England Giant Zinger |
| 11 | Shancelot Honest Mischief Super Comet | Nitrous Garter And Tie Honest Mischief | Super Comet Nitrous Honest Mischief | Strike Silver Nitrous Wendell Fong | Honest Mischief Super Comet Bourbon Calling |
| 12 | Deja Raconte Fusi Abby Normal | Youth Gone Wild Abby Normal Fusi | Fusi Freudycatfever Deja Raconte | Deja Raconte Abby Normal Fusi | Abby Normal Fusi Freudycatfever |
| 2019 Records | 35/119 | 25/119 | 28/119 | 28/119 | 25/100* |

Our fifth handicapper will be a special guest each day.

Guest Handicapper: Today's guest handicapper is Todd Shimkus, president of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce. Prior to taking that post in 2019, Shimkus served as president of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Saturday, Dave Hudson picked three winners. The guest total does not include Wednesday, when The Special's regular handicappers picks appear at thisishorseracing.com.

Top Guest Handicapper for 2019: Jude Feld with four wins.

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Horse Identification

through the Digital Tattoo will begin January 1, 2020 for first-time starters as lip tattoos will be discontinued. The Digital Tattoo consists of digital photographs of the horse at racing age matched to verification through the horse's papers. The "Horse ID" pictures are accessible through a scan of the microchip. Every horse making its first start in 2020, regardless of age, is required to be microchipped in order to receive its Digital Tattoo.

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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. Enjoy.

Promises Fulfilled

Amsterdam 2018

BY JOE CLANCY

Hip 921 at the 2016 Keeneland September Sale would have drawn Dale Romans' attention anyway. He'd trained the colt's sire, Shackleford, to win the 2011 Preakness, but it took a bit of a nudge from the team at Select Sales to really take note.

"You've got to look at this Shackleford colt," Romans remembered Carrie Brogden telling him. "He's a pretty horse. You need to see him."

Romans saw the chestnut and his general lack of size and maturity, but found a few things to like too and bid from the back ring.

"He was very immature, he's a late May foal, but he had all the right lines and he looked a lot like his father," Romans said last week. "I don't know how much further I'd have gone on him, but for that kind of money, we rolled the dice on him."

Romans landed the colt on a bid of \$37,000, as the hammer fell just after J.J. Crupi tried to bid from his spot in the back ring as well. Brogden's partner Andrew Cary was with Crupi.

"He asked if the horse was OK," Cary said. "I was like, 'He's fine. He's just small.' He tried to get in at the last minute but they wouldn't take the bid. He might have brought quite a bit more if Dale and J.J. had hooked up a little bit. But that's the nature of the sales sometimes."

The colt has done nothing but reward Romans and owner Bob Baron for their faith – and timing – ever since. Hip 921 became Promises Fulfilled, a Grade 1 winner of \$1.4 million

"He's done nothing but pay us back," Romans said. The rewards came early as Promises Fulfilled



Tod Marks
Promises Fulfilled streaks home
in last year's Amsterdam.

won his first two starts in Kentucky as a 2-year-old, then finished third in a stakes at Churchill Downs. The loss did more to convince Romans of the horse's quality than the wins.

"I thought he was a good horse breezing and he won his first two starts, but I still wasn't sold a hundred percent," the trainer said. "When we ran him at Churchill in the Jockey Club he was getting out real bad and just wasn't right, but he still ran third against those horses. I knew he was a good horse then."

As a 3-year-old last year, Promises Fulfilled won the Fountain of Youth in March to grab a spot in the Kentucky Derby – where he led early and faded 15th behind Justify. Romans ordered

a return to sprints and Promises Fulfilled fully arrived over the summer at Saratoga. He made easy work of the Grade 3 Amsterdam, sitting just off fast fractions and winning by 3 1/2 lengths in 1:15.18 for 6 1/2 furlongs.

"It's so exciting. We were up there yelling and screaming like a bunch of idiots the way you're supposed to. It was fun," said Baron afterward. "I feel good for the horse, he's just a neat horse and I just like to see the horse win. It was great for the family."

Four weeks later, Promises Fulfilled won again – this time going 7 furlongs in the Grade 1 Allen

Continued On Page 33

Promises Fulfilled —

■ Continued from page 32

Jerkens. In front the whole way, he set the pace of :22.66, :44.34, 1:08.44 and kept going in a 1 1/4-length win in 1:21.44. He backed up that form with another graded win, in Keeneland's Stoll Keenon Ogden Phoenix Stakes over older horses Whitmore and Limousine Liberal.

This year, he's been to Dubai (fourth in the Golden Shaheen), Churchill (third in the Churchill Downs Sprint) and Belmont twice (fourth in the Met Mile and a win in the Grade 2 John Nerud). The Forego late in the meet is on the agenda, though Romans was tempted by another big target.

"He has speed with endurance and I'm still not sold that he can't win going long," he said. "There hasn't been a need to just yet, but don't think the thought didn't cross my mind to maybe put him in the Whitney and just let him ding-dong out there and see how that speed would hold."

Bred by David Jacobs from the Marquetry mare Marquee Delivery, Promises Fulfilled would not go down without a fight.

"He's got a will to win that you can't pay for and you can't see," Romans said. "He'll try."

Back in 2016, Cary regularly saw the future Grade 1 winner at Kentucky's Crowning Point Farm leading up to the sale and liked the young horse's development.

"It doesn't surprise me he turned out to be a good

horse," he said. "You never expect a Grade 1 winner, but I always really liked him. I saw him every few weeks when he was growing up. He was in the second crop of Shackleford and it was hard to know where to place him. It was hard to know what kind of interest people were going to have. We had him in Book 2 and in hindsight it might have been a little early. He might have shown better later in the sale."

Romans isn't complaining. He landed a good horse at what turned out to be a bargain price, and extended a partnership with one of the best he's ever trained.

"He's cool. Laid back, easy to deal with," Romans said. "His signature thing is his little short ears and they're just like his father's. I love the second generation like this. I like watching them run, I like training them and even if I don't have them I like keeping track of the Kittens Joys and the Shacklefords and a bunch of those horses we trained that are standing at stud."



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Enabled

OMG did you see Enable's race?!?

I received that text from Sue Sensor at 11:06 Saturday morning.

I had actually missed the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot and when I read the text, I wasn't sure what to think. My first thought was, well, the great mare won but that thought faded fast, just a shiver across my conscience. My second thought was, oh God, I hope nothing happened, that thought stuck.

I guess I was still shell shocked, still reeling from a breakdown and a death on the turf course minutes before. About halfway through routine turf works on a bucolic morning in Saratoga, it happened right in front of us. Bay horse. Rhythm and motion went to stifling and staggering. Gone. I've seen it before, all of us have, but still it rocks you. Part of you is shaken and part of you is taken, like a sand wedge into your soul. Bryan Walls hit the siren, made sure there was stoppage and then staggered out of the clocker's stand, shaken and taken. Walls walked around in circles, like men do, when they're rocked.

Damn this sport.

I offered some words, some solace, to Walls, who has seen it before too. Then looked over my left shoulder to the track, hoping for a miracle and knew it wasn't coming. I suddenly had no interest in turf works, no interest in trying to find the next horse to try to buy or bet. I waited for a minute or two, not wanting to turn my back on the fallen but wanting to run from the fire. I didn't stay long. I would have felt like an accomplice if I had stayed any longer, but I didn't feel any better by leaving. Turning the steering wheel of the golf cart and weaving through parked cars, I drifted away, at least I was alone with my conflict. I took a deep breath, looking for solace that I had tried to offer Walls. It didn't come. I parked under a tree to gather resolve. Everybody who was there was doing the same thing, in our own cocoons of confusion, conflict.

Turf works resumed, a pair of horses in red saddle towels rolled past the quarter pole, I could hear them but I did not look up. I walked the other way, slinging my backpack over my shoulder and headed for the East Avenue gate. I made a right and walked to the office, past racing fans pulling coolers, carrying chairs and grabbing Specials from the paper box, flowing in for an early run at the Saturday opener. Back at the office, my brother Joe and Tom Law offered an upbeat hello, until I told them what had happened. They felt like accomplices, or perhaps, that's just what I thought they felt. I hung my backpack on the door handle, threw my hat in the corner and slid my phone across my desk.

My phone lit up and I read the text message on the screen.

OMG did you see Enable's race?!?

Needing something good and dreading something

bad, I started to go on Twitter, then Racing Post, then decided to fire up Xpressbet and hit the replay button before I found out what had happened in the fourth race at Ascot on this confounding morning of buzz and brutality.

Eleven horses shot from the starting gate and floated atop lush green grass, bounding toward Swinley Bottom. Frankie Dettori cajoled Enable from her close, wide perch to a covered spot in front of just three rivals, the magical compromise of a brilliant jockey and a buoyant horse. Emerging from Swinley Bottom, an Aidan O'Brien trio led at a punishing pace as Crystal Ocean waited, bridging the perfect gap between the overzealousness of the leader and the venomous kick of Enable. Making another right turn, not like our turns, they're like long, sweeping Picasso brushes at Ascot, Crystal Ocean eased to the faltering pacesetters.

For a moment, a fleeting moment, James Doyle thought he had the King George in his pocket, he hadn't moved on the £1.8 million earner and there was nothing but green grass and blue sky in front of him. Dettori, knowing there was one horse to beat, didn't allow for breathing room, pouncing like a cat off a roof, going earlier than ideal but definitive as ever. And that's when Crystal Ocean and Enable did what Thoroughbreds do, laying it on the line, refusing to be denied, pinning their ears, slugging it out for the simple reason that that's what race horses do. Enable, the girl against the boys, gradually and relentlessly wrestled a nose, then a head and by the finish a hard-earned neck over the game of foes, Crystal Ocean, a winner in any other year.

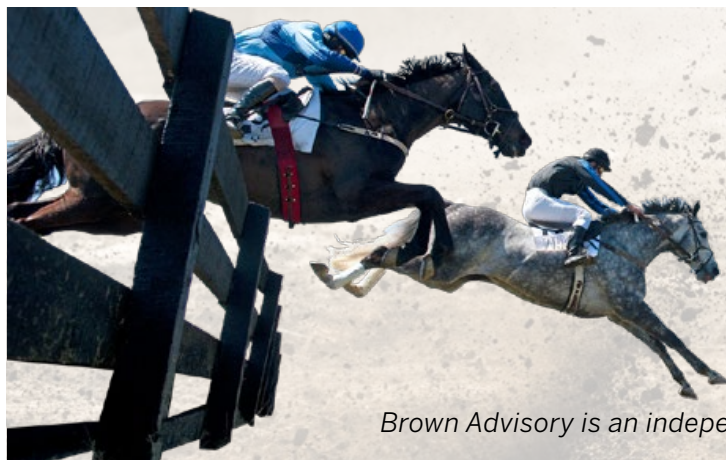
OMG did you see Enable's race?!?

Her second King George, her ninth Group 1 stakes, her 12th win in 13 starts – her world. I slid my laptop across the table and felt better about a sport that takes such an exacting toll on horse and human. For a moment, I was mesmerized, satisfied, justified. But, only for a moment.



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