



The *Saratoga*
Special



In This Corner

Raging Bull meets Got Stormy in Fourstardave rematch

Tod Marks



(Dubawi (IRE) - Loveisallyouneed (IRE), by Sadler's Wells)

DEMARCHELIER (GB)

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BILL OPPENHEIM, BloodHorse Daily 8/17

LEADING SECOND-CROP SIRES

Stallion	GSW	BTW	Sire
Night of Thunder (IRE)	7	13	Dubawi (IRE)
American Pharoah	6	10	Pioneerof the Nile
Constitution	5	6	Tapit
Summer Front	3	4	War Front
Make Believe (GB)	3	4	Makfi (GB) – son of Dubawi (IRE)

**among N. American & European sires as of 8/17*



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Oklahomahhh.

Tod Marks

here&there...in racing

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NAMES OF THE DAY

Foliage, first race. The Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider homebred 2-year-old colt is out of Greenery.

Beach Front, second race. The 4-year-old gelding is out of Catalina Island.

Fast Getaway, third race. Chester and Mary Broman's homebred 5-year-old gelding is by Into Mischief out of Stolen Star.

Thorn, fifth race. The 2-year-old colt, bred and owned by LRE Racing and trainer Bill Mott, is out of Modern Rose.

Arithmetic, seventh race. The 3-year-old colt, bred by Stone Farm, is by Algorithms.

LICENSE PLATES OF THE DAY

TIZDLAW, New York. Thanks Connie Bush. And it's on a Tesla.

CHROMIE, New York. Also, thanks Connie Bush.

HRSHOE, New York.

BY THE NUMBERS

4: Consecutive wins in the Diana for trainer Chad Brown, whose wins came with Dacita, Lady Eli and Sistercharlie (two). He runs two in the 2020 version.

5: Times trainer Graham Motion has finished second in the Diana Stakes – 2018 with Ultra Brat (by a nose to Sistercharlie), 2017 with Quidura (by a head to Lady Eli), 2011 with Aruna (to Zagora), 2010 with Shared Account (by a head to Proviso) and 2006 with Sweet Talker (by a head to Angara). He's back for more with Mean Mary Sunday.

15.4375: Miles Snap Decision has covered in his seven consecutive wins over hurdles.

27: Racing dates scheduled for the Belmont Park fall meet, which will include 38 stakes worth \$5.58 million from Sept. 18 to Nov. 1.

WORTH REPEATING

"Been doing it too long to get too high. I know you can get humbled really quick."

Trainer David Donk,
about moving on from big three-win day Sunday

"He makes me order the pizza."

Exercise rider Lauren Mendenhall about
boyfriend Elvin Caraballo's (usual) lack of conversation

"She's won at Churchill before, Manny (Franco) is there and he can ride her and it just bought us a couple of weeks."

Trainer Graham Motion, on the decision to bypass
this weekend's Del Mar Oaks in favor of the Edgewood
Stakes Sept. 4 with Grade 1 winner Sharing

"I just think it's a magical place and ya'll do a wonderful job with your paper."

Elm Tree Farm's Jody Huckabay,
on Saratoga (and The Special)

"He's just like me: big, fast, strong and horny."

Trainer about a recent ship-in

"I'll get to work on it."

Longtimer reader John Fahey about his postcard to Saratoga

The Saratoga Special

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No Visitors. Two-time defending Diana winner Sistercharlie gets her game face on for Sunday's Grade 1. Tod Marks

The Chief

"They say Monmouth Park doesn't suit come-from-behind horses, but my guess is somebody's going to come from behind there someday."

– *Trainer H. Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015,*



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WORTH REPEATING

"Please don't leave me alone with him for the jump race again."

NYRA racing analyst Anthony Stabile, who handled the steeplechase analysis for The Special's Tom Law Wednesday with Andy Serling

"I picked Snap Decision for you."

Serling to The Special's Tom Law, arriving on the Talking Horses set Thursday, after nailing the Wednesday winner

"We've just come back from Pimlico with some horses and some of them are youngsters and they're wondering what just happened. One just said, 'I don't like that big city.'"

Jump jockey Sean McDermott, pausing a phone interview to sort out a horse Friday morning

"You look at all of the string and all the horses looked good in the stakes barn at Saratoga. All have shiny coats, all have dapples and all are eating well, you wonder what makes one have a bigger engine than the others or be that good."

McDermott, comparing Snap Decision to other horses

"My neck doesn't work the best, it's a bit creaky from some injuries, so the big screen is the best place to look."

McDermott, on peeking at Saratoga's infield screen for competition

"He's getting a lot of free dinners and free beers out of this. I don't know what else to do for him."

McDermott, about Snap Decision's regular jockey Willie McCarthy who is out with an injury

"He gets to enjoy Saratoga, we have to go back to work."

Trainer Kate Dalton, after leaving Belisarius with trainer Peter Pugh and going back home to South Carolina

"They were like, 'Whoa.'"

Miles Clancy, 11, describing his fellow actors' response when Eagle Poise joined an outside virtual Shakespeare camp

"It didn't really sink in until that night. It wasn't a nice experience, I was just so pleased we could help someone, you felt like you really accomplished something."

Steeplechase jockey Tom Garner, about helping to rescue a family in a flashflood

"Exactly. Thus the question."

Peter Thomas Fornatale, while putting together a Derby podcast, when asked who else was running beyond Travers winner Tiz The Law

"I like to see him there and doing well. I used to get on him in the morning for Shug and he was a pretty cool horse to be around. He was never lucky enough, he wasn't good enough to win at the stakes level on the flat but I'm happy he's been able to get a (stakes) win as a jumper. I'm always paying attention to him and always rooting for him."

Jockey Jose Ortiz on Snap Decision

POETRY CORNER

THE FRONT-RUNNERS

The Kentucky Oaks
Is going to be a humdinger folks
Two fillies have shown bright
Doing everything right
Between Skydiver and Gamine, a duel
To see who rules
Could be a race for the ages
Written on the front pages

– *Peter Finley*

POSTCARD TO SARATOGA

Dear Saratoga,

John Prine always said that paradise lay in Muhlenberg County, down by the Green River. But as a racing fan, paradise lays in Saratoga County, just south of the Hudson, for eight weeks every year.

I've only been to Saratoga once, in 2009. Invited guests of the Clancys, sort of. Waking up every morning at 5 a.m. as the sun was coming up, and walking the half-mile from our rental house over to the backside for the morning works and a cup of coffee from The Morning Line...that was paradise for me. If the Ryman Auditorium is the Mother Church, well, this was a damn close second.

Up close (and sometimes personal) with many of my heroes: Johnny Velazquez, Graham Motion, Edgar Prado, Bill Mott; it's a long list. The occasional tout looking for a tip, excited owners, nervous trainers, jockeys looking to pick up a mount, both serious and casual fans; it was a motley crew in the best of the word's meaning. I got to see Quality Road, my early Derby horse who got injured after winning the Fountain of Youth and Florida Derby, put in his final work before the Travers (unfortunately, he went on to finish third). Afterward I'd ride shotgun in Sean's golf cart, delivering the Special to the barns of countless more heroes, this time the men and women who work so hard behind the scenes, just soaking it all in, before heading back home to get ready for racing. The Saratoga backside in the morning is something every racing fan should experience.

I was planning to finally make the return trip this year. A good friend of mine, Randy Gervais, a former jockey from New Orleans and a great friend of Dallas Stewart's, sadly passed away last year. Every year Randy and his wife, Laurie, spent a week to 10 days vacationing in Saratoga, and it was always the highlight of the year for him. A few of us friends were going to go up this year to honor him, to remember him while having that coffee on the backstretch, to share our stories and just hang out for a few days, halfway to Heaven, in Paradise. Tragically, the pandemic hit and so now we'll have to postpone our trip until 2021. But we'll get there, Randy, and while we're there we'll make sure to cash a large bet on a live Dallas Stewart longshot for you. Rest in peace, our friend.

Bob Buika is an amateur musicologist and racing enthusiast. He's also supplied The Special with home-made music for 20 years (actually way back when Sean was listening to the Grateful Dead on a tape deck in a Honda Civic)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's experience. Everything is experience. I found out when I was 28 how dumb I was when I was 18. When I was 38 I found out how dumb I was at 28. And it continues on. Doesn't matter what you do in life.

Experience. That's the thing in this sport."

Trainer David Donk, also a part-time philosopher apparently



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With David Donk

The husband-and-wife team of David and Fay Donk has been busy at the 2020 Saratoga Race Course meeting.

Their horses have made 51 starts heading into today's Fourstardave Day card, where they run three more. That number is eighth most of any trainer at the meet and David Donk ranks 15th with five victories, including a memorable three-win day last Sunday with Sky Kitten, Winning Factor and Jc's Shooting Star.

Donk, a former assistant to legendary Hall of Famer Woody Stephens who went out on his own on the NYRA circuit in the early 1990s, knows not to rest on the laurels of a big day.

"That was a lot of fun," Donk said. "But at the end of the day the sun comes up tomorrow and it's another day and we're back to work."

Bedded down in his usual spot on the far turn of the main track with shedrow fans humming on warm days and nights, Donk's string runs the gamut from maidens to veterans, turf sprinters to dirt routers. He's light on 2-year-olds here in Saratoga – they came in late due to the Covid-19 pandemic – but hopes to make some noise with young horses down the road.

"I'm behind on all my 2-year-olds," Donk said. "I brought them in late. A little bit was on purpose. I had a lot of older horses, and my clientele weren't too early with their 2-year-olds. I thought it was important to concentrate to get the older horses going and racing. For cash flow for everybody."

"Most of my 2-year-olds aren't early although the last couple years I've won some 2-year-old races up here. It's been good to me. I have a couple that are getting close, I don't think they make the end of the meet though. Not until we get back to Belmont."

Hands on and attentive to detail, Donk started the tour holding one for the blacksmith, checking out his shedrow between phone calls with clients and watching a late set train Thursday morning with The Special's Tom Law.



Jake Rocks: Joseph Bucci's 4-year-old New Year's Day colt finished close fourth in allowance turf sprint July 26 and runs back in similar spot in today's third. He's won one of 14 and earned \$73,825. "I really liked his race last fall when I got him on the grass, broke his maiden (Nov. 21, 2019 at Aqueduct). He went to Florida for the winter, was off the grass maybe a couple times, came back. Didn't run as well first time as well as I thought he would, came back here at the beginning of the meet, pretty good race going 5 1/2 and got running late. I'd like to run him going a little farther than 5 1/2 but I could say that about most of my sprinters. Here you are kind of stuck, it's one-turn 5 1/2 or two-turn mile. It was a good race last time and I think he's a horse that would benefit from being gelded. That could happen after this. He belongs."

Winston's Chance: Multiple stakes winner for breeder Sherry Washburn's Char-Allie Stable and Kathy Haers, 7-year-old Roaring Fever New York-bred gelding finished third in last year's Evan Shipman at Saratoga for former trainer Debra Breed. He's made three starts for Donk, including a win two back in optional at Belmont July 10. Entered in today's eighth, a 9-furlong open-company optional. "Really cool horse. We've known Sherry Washburn most of our lives, myself and Fay at Finger Lakes. She sent us this horse very early in the year to get him ready for the spring and then the pandemic hit and they left him with us, didn't take him home, waited to run. The first time I ran him probably made a big mistake running him long instead of short one time. I thought I screwed him up. He's been a nice horse for them, a stakes winner. He came back at Belmont in that two-other-than, 40 optional condition, ran really well, loves the mud. I stepped him up to wide open 50 here, it was a big race last time. He ran hard, Todd's horse came and got me. He's in a tough spot but at the same time he always shows up, pretty cool horse, 7 years old. He's a really fun horse to be around."

Michael Trombetta Jr.
**Trainer David Donk is having
a strong Saratoga meet.**

Catorat: Final runner for the barn today, 4-year-old Courageous Cat gelding goes for \$40,000 tag in the finale at 1 1/16 miles on the grass. Owned by Ochre House Stable and Boston Boyz Racing, he's 1-2-1 in five starts. "Has run well in that condition. Real high-strung horse. Eric (Cancel) has done a good job with him. He was way too wound up at Belmont in his first start off a long layoff and he was a lot better the other day last time out here. He gets running late. It's a competitive race, typical Saratoga, Chad's dropping one in so it won't be easy. But he belongs there."

Bielefeld: Thomas Thienel's homebred 3-year-old Mission Impazible gelding makes fifth start in Sunday's fourth, state-bred maiden claimer at 1 1/16 miles on the grass. "I'll run him back over the grass. He's run a couple times on the dirt, he's useful. Kind of one-paced, needs to quicken up a little bit."

Mz Seb Pat: A two-time starter at the meet – fourth and sixth in allowance races – she's won one of 13 for Youngs Racing Stable. Four-year-old daughter of Mission Impazible was a \$24,000 RNA at the 2017 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. "Useful filly. She needs a little farther than 5 1/2, too. She didn't run a bad race last time, not beaten very far, got going late. Three quarters or seven eighths suits most of these horses a lot better than the 5 1/2. She'll run back at the end of the meet."

Kreesie: Gerald and Susan Kresa's 5-year-old stakes-winning Cosmonaut mare makes third straight appearance in the tour. A stakes winner at 3, she's won four of 22 and earned \$334,699. Fourth last time out Aug. 5 in off-the-turf 9-furlong optional. "She was in the two-other-than condition last time and it came off the grass. A beaten fourth. She's definitely turf and runs back next week in a two-other-than I think with Jose (Ortiz). She's very competitive there and it doesn't mean I wouldn't wheel her back in a week in the Yaddo, depends on how many are in there. When they're fit run them. We only have grass until Thanksgiving. We better take it, I'm not going to Florida."

Beyond Brown: Patricia Generazio's 3-year-old homebred Big Brown filly finished second in maiden claimer Aug. 5. She's finished second twice and third twice in nine starts. "One-paced filly but at that level she's competitive. Will get to make one more start here."

Riken: A winner of a starter allowance at Belmont July 5, he finished fifth in state-bred 6-furlong allowance Aug. 2 after showing leading through splits of :22.57 and :45.10. "All

Continued On Page 8



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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 6

speed. He's a quick horse. Didn't work out well last time. As I've told Luis (Cardenas), the bug boy rides him, 'some days it's going to be in our favor and some days it's not.' He'll run back here next week, three quarters. He's one style, will probably be on the lead. He needs a track that favors him a little bit. Not to get hooked up too fast, too quick, too early, although you've got to be pretty quick to go with him. We'll give him another chance in the condition, otherwise he's going to need to find easier company."

Saratoga Treasure: Fifth in the Grade 3 Intercontinental at Belmont June 6 in first start of 2020, she finished third in Hessonite June 26 and 10th in Caress here Aug. 1. Generazio's homebred 5-year-old by Treasure Beach has five wins in 19 starts and \$324,803 in earnings. "Really cool filly, won a stake last fall (Autumn Days at Aqueduct). Very, very limited where to run her. I'd like to run her in an allowance race, we haven't had any such thing so I'm forced to run in open company. She probably wants farther than 5 1/2, too. She'll run back next week in the Smart And Fancy. The main reason is if she's in New York I have no other option."

Vici: Grade 3-placed 5-year-old War Front gelding was claimed for \$62,500 in April 2019. Hasn't won in eight starts since for Donk and Big Hands Stables but placed five times. Finished fifth for same tag July 29 in 5 1/2-furlong optional. "He's a pretty cool horse, will run back in same condition next week. Same thing, 5 1/2 on the turf, he runs well if it

comes off. It was a tough race last time, speed was good that day and he was maybe a little too far off the pace. He'll run back next time with a chance to run well."

Elegant Zip: Multiple stakes-placed 4-year-old New York-bred Run Away And Hide filly finished sixth in state-bred optional sprinting on the grass Thursday after a third in same condition July 25. She's won two of 17 with eight placings for \$249,164 for co-owners Donk, Sean Carney, Mike McMahon and Copper Beech Stables. "Tougher race than last time. I didn't think the race would fill. She ran a really good race at 5 1/2 when she was third, not beaten very far."

Operative: Homebred for Jay Lieberman, Tim Mawhinney and Carol Beglin broke his maiden for \$40,000 tag July 24 and finished third in 1 1/16-mile starter allowance on the grass Aug. 13. "Did it the right way breaking his maiden and got a great ride from Jose (Ortiz). Came back in a starter allowance, a pretty tough starter, he really jumped up his Beyer number that day. Got a good ride, Manny (Franco) was on him. He's got some conditions, a little bit on the improve and was a horse that was really green. He'll make another start here."

Henni Penny: Bob Spiegel's homebred 3-year-old Twirling Candy filly has a win, a second and two thirds in seven starts. Seventh and fifth in turf-sprint allowance races at the meet July 24 and Aug. 14. "She's run in an a-other-than the last two or three times, a little too tough for her. A little short for her. She needs a little easier company. She won't run again until we get back to Belmont."

Continued On Page 10



Tod Marks

Jc's Shooting Star has been a part of the Donk stable tour for years.

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FULL SCHEDULE

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Cosmic Kitten: Homebred for longtime clients John Behrendt and Charles Marquis is back at Belmont, where she's up to breezing 3 furlongs. Worked that distance Friday in :37.21. Two-year-old Sky Mesa filly is a full sister to Sky Kitten. "They liked her in Ocala. She's done OK. I haven't had her very long. I like her physically. Mentally she needs to put it together a little bit. She can run a little bit, she's OK."

Lilly Simone: Spiegel's homebred 2-year-old filly by Hard Spun out of the Speightstown mare Steamy is half sister to graded stakes winner and \$801,734-earner Vision Perfect. She's also downstate and breezed a bullet 3 furlongs in :36.06 Friday at Belmont. "I've got a few for Bob that are decent. She's OK. I've got a decent group and when I get on top of them a bit more to get them ready to run I'll have a better idea. I don't get too high on too many of them."



Tod Marks

David Donk sports a Saratoga Special hat when he really wants to get to the winner's circle.

Sky Kitten: Homebred for Behrendt and Marquis started the three-win day taking Sunday's fourth, a 1 1/16-mile turf claimer for a \$40,000 tag. Three-year-old Sky Mesa filly finished fourth in similar spot July 29. "Sky Kitten ran a decent race last time, she just hadn't gone forward like I thought she would. She's been a bit of disappointment. She got a really good trip. Had Manny (Franco) back aboard, he'd only ridden her once before when she had broken her maiden as a 2-year-old in a very slow dirt race. He gave her a great ride, good trip, really strong finish. She seemed to respond to him. It was a much better effort. Not a stellar field but got the job done."

Sterling Beauty: Equine Info Exchange's 4-year-old New York-bred Central Banker filly finished eighth in same race with Sky Kitten. Third in the Statue of Liberty division of the New York Stallion Series here last summer, she's won one of 13 with four thirds. Ninth in a starter allowance at Saratoga

July 31 before her run Sunday. "I thought with a drop in class she would be competitive there. She had a terrible break. She jumped in the air at the break, got her head turned and was way behind the field. She lost all chance. Ended up not running bad, only beaten 7 lengths."

Winning Factor: Bucci sent 4-year-old The Factor colt to Donk after he wintered in Florida, making six starts at Gulfstream for Herbert Miller. He's won three in a row after running down odds-on favorite La Hara in 1-mile turf allowance Sunday. "Real easy horse to train. I wasn't sure what to do next with him, didn't have a lot of options and this race came up. I knew it wasn't coming up with a lot of horses, had it on the radar and it was time to test him. Bobby Barbara used to train for Joe and when he retired I took two or three horses. Joe spends the winters in Florida, loves to see his horses run in Florida. They went to Florida. That was good, I had no intention of going there. I'm fortunate to get horses that came back from Florida. He bought this horse as a 2-year-old, paid a decent price for him (\$150,000). He's had his issues, had surgeries, I don't know about all of them oddly enough. Pretty simple horse to be around. I made one minor adjustment since I've had him. Really pleased with how well he's done and how he's going forward. And now after the race I can still tell you I don't know how good he is."

Jc's Shooting Star: Shooting Star Stable's 8-year-old stakes winner finished off the big three-win day in her 6-furlong optional for a \$40,000 tag. She's 8-9-11 in 55 starts and earned \$758,239. "She's a mare I've had since she was 2 and she's 8 now. She's danced a lot of dances and her best dances are behind her. A little drop in company and even though she's an old dog against young ones ... looked like a lot of pace on paper and she's a one-run type. She got a really good pace, circled wide and really came running. Big effort."

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Big Game

Murphy's stroke takes on Brown foursome, Got Stormy in Gr. 1



Emmaus wins at Keeneland last fall.

Coady Photo

BY SEAN CLANCY

Conor Murphy knows what he faces in his first foray to Saratoga. The Kentucky-based trainer ventures north with Emmaus in the Grade 1 Fourstardave, the feature on today's 10-race card. The Irish-bred gelding faces eight rivals, including a four-strong arsenal from Chad Brown in the 1-mile stakes

"I try to stay away from Saratoga," Murphy said from his home in Louisville Friday. "I love watching it, but I wouldn't be too keen on running there. It's just tough."

As it should be, the Fourstardave is tough.

Brown entered four Grade/Group 1 winners. Raging Bull, a \$1.1 million earner, breaks from the inside in his ninth consecutive Grade 1 stakes. Breeders' Cup Mile winner Uni makes the second start of her 6-year-old campaign. Valid Point, winner of the Grade 1 Secretariat last year, tries to rebound from an eighth in the Poker. Without Parole, winner of the Group 1 St. James's Palace Stakes at Royal As-

FOURSTARDAVE STAKES PREVIEW

cot last summer, seeks his first North American win. And the \$400,000 stakes goes beyond Brown's arsenal. Got Stormy tries to defend her crown in the Fourstardave. Halladay owns five wins for Todd Pletcher. Bill Mott punches with longshots Casa Creed and Chewing Gum.

Yeah, it's tough.

Murphy aimed Emmaus, a five-time winner of \$254,965, to the Fourstardave after the son of Invincible Spirit finished fifth, beaten just a length in the Grade 1 Maker's Mark Mile at Keeneland July 10. Raging Bull finished third and Without Parole finished fourth that day.

"I've always felt just a two-turn one mile was his best. He's won a couple of allowances going a mile and a sixteenth but when he gets into that stakes company, it stretches him

Continued On Page 13



Michael Trombetta Jr.
Emmaus eyes a visitor at Saratoga.

Fourstardave —

■ Continued from page 12

a little,” Murphy said. “The mile at Keeneland is the best he’s traveled in any of his races since I’ve had him. He was in his comfort zone, he wasn’t doing too much, he wasn’t rushed off his feet, he ran a big race, look, if you’re getting beaten less than a length by Raging Bull and Without Parole, we feel like he deserves another crack at it anyway. This is a good horse, it was either this or wait for Kentucky Downs.”

Emmaus arrived to Mark O’Dwyer, assistant to Jack Siston, Tuesday and has settled into his routine at Saratoga. The 6-year-old breaks from post 3 with Jose Lezcano aboard for the first time.

A winner of three races and rated a heady 107 on the British handicapping system, Emmaus attracted a final bid of 190,000 Guineas (about \$235,000) at Tattersalls Horses in Training Sale in 2018.

“He was on my list but he wasn’t high on my list, looking at his form, heavy ground seemed to be his pref-

erence and being rated as high as he was, I thought he would go for more than he did,” Murphy said. “He still cost a good bit of money but I thought he would make double that. When I saw him, he’s an absolutely beautiful looking horse. For a horse who won on heavy ground, he’s actually a very fluent mover so we took a shot.”

Murphy doesn’t mind shipping and sent Emmaus to Belmont Park for his North American debut last April. Therapist wrestled a neck decision over Emmaus in the Elusive Quality going 7 furlongs on yielding turf. Murphy aimed higher in his next start, venturing to Woodbine for the Grade 2 Connaught Cup where Emmaus ran hard to lose a neck decision to El Tormenta. Murphy tried Woodbine twice more with a fourth in the Grade 2 King Edward and a sixth, beaten just 4 ½ lengths by El Tormenta in the Grade 1 Woodbine Mile. Murphy doesn’t hedge when it comes to challenges.

“If I think a horse is good enough to win somewhere, I’ll go. More often than not, it doesn’t work out but there’s no point in guessing and won-

Continued On Page 14



Tod Marks

Without Parole strolls the walking ring outside trainer Chad Brown’s barn Thursday.

Only 3 sprinters last decade won 3 G1s in a single year.

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2020 Derby Week & September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 27

THE CHAMPIONS DAY MARATHON OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Tues., Sept. 1
\$115,000
Three Years Old & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(No nomination fee)
1 1/2 Miles, Dirt

UNBRIDLED SIDNEY

Runs Wed., Sept. 2
\$150,000
Fillies & Mares,
Three Year Olds & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(\$150 nomination fee)
5 1/2 Furlongs, Turf

POCAHONTAS (GIII)

"WIN AND YOU'RE IN BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE FILLIES DIVISION"

Runs Thurs., Sept. 3
\$200,000
Fillies, Two Years Old

Closes Aug. 15
(\$200 nomination fee)
1 Mile, Dirt

OPENING VERSE OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Thurs., Sept. 3
\$115,000
Three Years Old & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(No nomination fee)
1 Mile, Turf

KENTUCKY OAKS DAY

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS (GI)

Runs Fri., Sept. 4
\$1,250,000
Second closing
Fillies, Three Years Old

Closes Aug. 15
(\$500 nomination fee)
1 1/8 Miles, Dirt

EDGEWOOD (GII)

Runs Fri., Sept. 4
\$300,000
Fillies, Three Year Olds

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
1 Mile, Turf

EIGHT BELLES (GII)

Runs Fri., Sept. 4
\$300,000
Fillies, Three Year Olds

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
7 Furlongs, Dirt

LA TROIENNE (GI)

Runs Fri., Sept. 4
\$500,000
Fillies & Mares,
Four Year Olds & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

ALYSHEBA (GII)

Runs Fri., Sept. 4
\$400,000
Four Year Olds & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Mile, Dirt

TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT (GII)

Runs Fri., Sept. 4
\$250,000
Three Year Olds & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(\$250 nomination fee)
5 1/2 Furlongs, Turf

KENTUCKY DERBY DAY

OLD FORESTER BOURBON TURF CLASSIC (GI)

Runs Sat., Sept. 5
\$1,000,000
Second Closing
Four Year Olds & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(\$500 nomination fee)
1 1/8 Miles, Turf

IROQUOIS (GIII)

"WIN AND YOU'RE IN BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE DIVISION"

Runs Sat., Sept. 5
\$200,000
Two Year Olds

Closes Aug. 15
(\$200 nomination fee)
1 Mile, Dirt

PAT DAY MILE (GII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 5
\$500,000
Three Year Olds

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
1 Mile, Dirt

DERBY CITY DISTAFF (GI)

Runs Sat., Sept. 5
\$500,000
Fillies & Mares,
Four Year Olds & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
7 Furlongs, Dirt

AMERICAN TURF (GII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 5
\$500,000
Three Year Olds

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
1 1/16 Miles, Turf

LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE (GII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 5
\$500,000
Fillies & Mares,
Four Year Olds & Up

Closes Aug. 15
(\$300 nomination fee)
1 Mile, Turf

ACK ACK (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 26
\$100,000
Three Year Olds & Up

Closes Sept. 12
(\$100 nomination fee)
1 Mile, Dirt

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Ben Huffman, Racing Secretary
Dan Bork, Asst. Racing Secretary, Stakes Coordinator

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Fourstardave —

Continued from page 13

dering what if, just go for it and see what happens," Murphy said. "The prime example last year was when El Tormenta just beat us in the Connaught at Woodbine. We were in two minds about whether to go to the Woodbine Mile and we ended up going and running well but El Tormenta won and I remember thinking if we hadn't had run we would have been home kicking ourselves. You have to roll the dice and take your chance."

This is coming from a guy who cashed a \$1.5 million ticket from a \$75 bet at the Cheltenham Festival in 2012.

"If it pays off, great, if it doesn't, there will be another day. I bought him originally thinking he was a Woodbine Mile horse. That's what we geared towards last year," Murphy said. "I found out that 7 furlongs and even a one-turn mile was taking him out of his comfort zone when they go that fast. Especially when the ground is on the fast side, they go fast and they don't stop."

Emmaus came back to win a three-other-than allowance at Keeneland and finish eighth in the Grade 3 River City at Churchill Downs to close his

2019 campaign. This year, he won a money allowance at Fair Grounds in February before finishing fifth in the Grade 2 Wise Dan in June and fifth in the Maker's Mark. In nine starts for Murphy and M and J Thoroughbreds, Emmaus has registered two wins in two allowance races and has been beaten a total of 12 lengths in seven stakes tries. The Maker's Mark at the Fourstardave distance was probably his best.

"We were delighted. The one thing about him is he can get intimidated. When Raging Bull moved up to his outside, you could see it took him a little time to switch his leads, it might have put him off a little bit but that's the nature of the game, he ran all the way to the line," Murphy said. "We're on their home turf Saturday which will make it even tougher. As long as he can run a solid race and do his best, that's all we can ask."

Born in Ireland and working for jump trainer Nicky Henderson in England when he hit the life-changing five-horse accumulator, Murphy moved to America to set up shop as a trainer in 2012. He's won 59 races for over \$2.5 million, including Grade 2 winner Dimension and Grade 1 placed Great Wide Open, both purchased as older horses in England be-

Continued On Page 16



Tod Marks

Breeders' Cup Mile winner Uni is part of a deep Fourstardave field.

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Approved credentials will be valid at both Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton.

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SEPTEMBER

SUN. 13 - FRI. 25

Fourstardave —

■ Continued from page 14

fore coming here.

“You get less opportunity when people think all you buy are turf horses, but it’s something I enjoy doing and we’ll keep doing it while we can,” Murphy said. “It’s worked for a few of them, we’ve been disappointed by a few. You like to know that the horse can run a bit rather than buying yearlings, if you have unlimited funds, it’s great to buy yearlings too, but that’s not the case here.”

With 12 horses at the Skylight Training Center in Goshen, Kentucky and 3-year-old twins, Jack and Sophie, at home with his wife, Julia, Murphy keeps his perspective

“It’s been tough going a lot of the time, but most people are in the same boat bar the top few people. I suppose I never realized until I went out on my own, the (emphasis on) win percentage, it’s so different here than at home. I won’t deny, my win percentage isn’t good enough for a lot of owners to send me horses,” Murphy said. “I’m lucky to have good owners, the ones I have, and we’ll keep knocking away. I’ve always said before I was training that I would prefer quality over quantity, but obviously when you have quality you’re running in better races and it’s harder to win. I’m married with kids which is the best thing to happen, I can’t complain at all.”



Halladay, class clown of the Fourstardave.

Susie Raisher

As for watching Riverside Theatre, a chaser returning from fracturing his pelvis, nail Abertas Run in the Ryanair Chase at Cheltenham and change Murphy’s life, well, he has perspective on that as well.

“I can tell you, I’ve never seen that many fig-

ures before and I can safely say I haven’t seen that many figures since,” Murphy said. “It was incredible. Unbelievable. I suppose surreal is the way to explain it, it’s the only explanation. Look, I was very lucky.”

Maybe Emmaus will make him lucky again.



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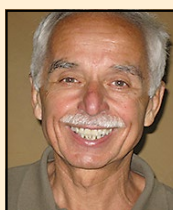
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Saratoga Race Course – Saturday, August 22

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**Rob
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Race #

1	After Five Honorable Takeaway	After Five Foliage Honorable	Honorable Foliage Takeaway	After Five Honorable My Sea Cottage
2	Airtouch Macho Jack Beach Front	Airtouch Macho Jack Kilmarnock	Airtouch Beach Front Macho Jack	Airtouch Macho Jack Beach Front
3	French Reef Fast Getaway Cryogenic	Fast Getaway French Reef Jake Rocks	Fast Getaway Montauk Daddy Jake Rocks	Cryogenic American Mandate French Reef
4	Thebigfundamental Heavy Roller Super Dude	Thebigfundamental Super Dude Heavy Roller	Super Dude Heavy Roller Hammerin Aamer	Thebigfundamental Heavy Roller Super Dude
5	Whatmakessammyrun Winfromwithin Sifting Sands	Lease Sifting Sands Snow's Island	Mo Mischief Sifting Sands Lease	Lease Nautilus Sifting Sands
6	Shenandoah River Central Exit Love Me Tomorrow	Oak Creek Canyon Shenandoah River Love Me Tomorrow	Love Me Tomorrow Central Exit Happy Hill Lil	Central Exit Love Me Tomorrow Oak Creek Canyon
7	Lonesome Fugitive Maker entry Assiduously	Lonesome Fugitive Maker entry Kingmeister	Chase Tracker Lonesome Fugitive Plot The Dots	Assiduously Kingmeister Plot The Dots
8	Pletcher entry Growth Engine Sea Foam	Pletcher entry Sea Foam Growth Empire	Pletcher entry Its All Relevant Winston's Chance	Blewitt Growth Engine Winston's Chance
9	Uni Halladay Raging Bull	Raging Bull Uni Emmaus	Raging Bull Without Parole Emmaus	Raging Bull Uni Without Parole
10	Rakeez Letterman Battalion	Rakeez Letterman Battalion	Rakeez Battalion Catorat	Rakeez Battalion Catorat
2020 Records	92/272	82/272	72/272	63/272

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Winning them Over

Mean Mary streaks into Sunday's Diana off four straight wins



Maggie Kimmitt

Mean Mary and Elvin Caraballo breeze at Fair Hill Training Center Aug. 15.

BY JOE CLANCY

A couple years ago, Elvin Caraballo worked in Graham Motion's 2-year-old barn at Fair Hill Training Center and watched exercise riders, grooms – heck, everybody – wrestle with a dark bay filly. She'd lean against the barn wall and freeze, with a rider on her back. When people on the ground tried to help, she'd lunge in full attack mode. If the people got mad, she got madder.

Her name – Mean Mary – didn't help.

"I do not want to get on that filly," Caraballo told himself.

Now he gets on her every day, the regular rider for a multiple graded stakes winner and contender in Sunday's Grade 1 Diana at Saratoga Race

DIANA STAKES PREVIEW

Course. Undefeated in three starts this year, Alex Campbell Jr.'s homebred gets the sternest test of her short career against five rivals including champion and two-time Diana winner Sistercharlie, 18-time winner Starship Jubilee, Grade 1 winner Rushing Fall, Italian Group 2 winner Call Me Love and Grade 2 winner Secret Message. First run in 1939, the Diana is the eighth of nine races with a 5:18 p.m. post time.

If she sticks to the theme of her first three starts this year, Mean Mary might be in front at 5:18:03. The daughter of Scat Daddy doesn't necessarily break in front, but she gets there soon enough

and has thus far made it stand up through every point of call – winning the Grade 3 La Prevoyante by 5 lengths in January and the Grade 3 Orchid in March by a length at Gulfstream Park and doing it again by 5 1/4 in the Grade 2 New York at Belmont Park in June.

The three wins came at ever-decreasing distances – 1 1/2 miles, 1 3/8 miles and 1 1/4 miles – and she shortens up again in the 1 1/8-mile Diana. Motion had longer options, the Waya Aug. 8, Glens Falls Sept. 5 or even Sword Dancer against males Aug. 29, but picked the Diana with a look to the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Keeneland.

"Mr. Campbell is from Lexington, it would

Continued On Page 21

Diana —

■ Continued from page 20

mean a lot to him to have a runner,” Motion said. “She seems like she belongs there, but the race is a mile-and-three-sixteenths. Normally it’s a mile-and-a-quarter which would suit her better. The Diana just makes sense to try and find out if she can compete at that level at the shorter distance. We have to find that out.”

Motion didn’t peg Mean Mary as a marathoner from the outset, and only chose the La Prevoyante because there weren’t many other options. She went to the front, pricked her ears, let Luis Saez sit against her with a long hold and galloped the field into the ground. She went faster early in the Orchid, nearly wiped out a goose on the clubhouse turn, and ruled again. At Belmont in June, she broke from the outside, powered to the front, pushed those ears forward and was never headed.

“That’s just her,” Motion said of the running style. “She doesn’t have to be on the lead. Going those longer distances, she ends up on the lead because there’s no pace. She just gallops, it’s just galloping for her. She gets out there and forgets there’s anyone else there. I think she enjoys it.”

She didn’t enjoy her early days in the barn. She didn’t like people. They

weren’t so fond of her. She wasted energy, frustrated riders, even made the blacksmith worry. “I don’t like it when they give them names like Mean This or Mean That,” said Mark Pino.

Though she arrived with the name, she earned it at Fair Hill. And then things started to change, with some help from a mentor. The Motion team turned her out with retired champion Main Sequence after training. First suggested by the trainer’s wife Anita and assistant Cat Magee, the idea was to blow off steam, expend excess energy and maybe learn something. So Pino pulled her hind shoes, and to the paddock she went.

“She was so cantankerous that we were just, ‘Let’s just leave her out all day,’ ” Motion said. “We would kick her out after training and she’d just stay out with him. It mellowed her. She was much more amenable after that.”

Mean Mary made her debut in September on the dirt at Laurel Park, then won her next start (on the turf) at Keeneland in October. Second at Aqueduct in November, she went to Florida and won in allowance company at Gulfstream in December to start a four-race winning streak.

Caraballo got aboard this spring, and wasn’t sure what to expect.

“One morning I showed up and it said Mean Mary next to my name,”

Continued On Page 22



Tod Marks

Rushing Fall looks to go one better than her second in last year’s Diana.

In his first start after a 9-month layoff, 4-time SW IMPRIMIS finishes first by 2 1/4 lengths in Saratoga’s Troy S.-G3.



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Diana —

■ Continued from page 21

he said. “I was like, ‘Don’t do this to me.’ I was panicking. I saw what she can do.”

But Mean Mary isn’t so mean anymore. She still goes to and from the track with the lead pony, still has an edge, but she’s a dream ride.

“She’s been good to me,” said Caraballo, the brother of former jockey Jose. “Lately, she’s been really good and I was kind of worried. Is she maturing? Or is something wrong?”

Mean Mary and Caraballo worked 5 furlongs in 1:02.80 at Fair Hill last Saturday – eating up the Tapeta track with long strides – after standing for 10 minutes or so with the lead pony. She worked alone, and Motion talked his rider through it via radio.

“When I get to breeze her I’m always nervous because it feels like you’re walking,” Caraballo said. “I started out a little bit slow, then Graham said to let her pick it up a little bit and I (smooch/chirp noise) and she was there. You can feel it when she picks it up. She’s so smooth. She’s a



Tod Marks

Call Me Love represents the Christophe Clement barn.

really nice filly.”

She’ll have to be Sunday.

• • •

Peter Brant’s Sistercharlie won the Diana in 2018 en route to an Eclipse Award as female turf champion, and backed up that victory with another last summer. She’s one of eight two-time winners of the race and can

become the first to win three. John Velazquez rides the 6-year-old mare, third in the Ballston Spa here July 25, for trainer Chad Brown.

Blue Heaven Farm’s Starship Jubilee won the Ballston Spa, her fourth win in as many starts this year for trainer Kevin Attard. Claimed for \$16,000 in 2017, the 7-year-old daughter of Indy Wind has won 15

times since including eight graded stakes. Jose Ortiz takes the riding call as Javier Castellano opts for Rushing Fall.

Trained by Brown for eFive Racing Thoroughbreds, Rushing Fall seeks her third win in as many starts this year. The 5-year-old More Than Ready mare opened with scores in the Grade 3 Beaugay at Belmont Park in June and the Grade 1 Jenny Wiley at Keeneland in July. She was second in last year’s Diana, one of just three losses in a 13-start career.

R Unicorn Stable’s Call Me Love finished second, a neck behind Starship Jubilee, in the Ballston Spa and gets another sixteenth of a mile to work with for trainer Christophe Clement. The 4-year-old English-bred daughter of Sea The Stars eyes her sixth win, and will be ridden by Joel Rosario.

Racing for Madaket Stable, Heider Family Stable, ERJ Racing, Elayne Stable Five and Steven Bouchey, Secret Message was fourth in last year’s Diana and opened 2020 with a Grade 3 win at Churchill Downs. She was third in the Perfect Sting here, and returns in nine days. Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the riding call for the Motion barn.

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This Mary's not so mean

For the record, Mary Venezie is not mean, and she wasn't exactly flattered when her boss Alex Campbell Jr. named a horse after her.

"I hated it at first," said Campbell's Kentucky-based assistant and the inspiration for the name of homebred Mean Mary. "It made me feel so bad that he thought I was mean. She ran at Keeneland, where normally everybody is so nice and friendly to me, last year and all I heard was 'Oh, it's mean Mary' and 'Look out, here comes mean Mary.'"

Mean Mary won that day at Keeneland, her maiden breaker on the turf last fall, and won again two starts later at Gulfstream Park to start a four-race winning streak that now leads up to Sunday's Grade 1 Diana on the turf at Saratoga.

The 4-year-old daughter of Scat Daddy and Campbell's Grade 1-winning Dynaformer mare Karlovy Vary, won the La Prevoyante and Orchid (both Grade 3) at Gulfstream Park in January and March, then tacked on the Grade 2 New York at Belmont in June to swiftly become a player in the female turf division.



Joe Labozzetta/NYRA

Mean Mary and Luis Saez return after winning the New York at Belmont Park.

She might even get a chance to run in the Breeders' Cup.

And Venezie is so proud.

"I'm the one," she said. "Now I don't care, you

can call me Mean Mary any time. I love it, love it, love it. I'm OK with it now."

Venezie had plans to see the Diana in person, via an RV trip with her sister from Pennsylvania, but will watch from home due to the coronavirus quarantine restrictions. Campbell, 92, is in Florida and will also have to cope with watching his newest stable star on television.

Mean Mary isn't the first horse named for Not So Mean Mary. Vivacious Venezie (a 2014 foal by Tapit and out of Prof. McGonagall) never raced, but got a laugh too.

"It was a total surprise then too and I loved that, but Mean Mary was just out of the blue," Venezie said. "Normally, I'm around when they're talking horse names, but for whatever reason I wasn't and they got me."

And she's never been mean to Campbell?

"There might have been a time – maybe once, maybe twice – that I might have bossed him around a little bit but it was probably for his own good," Venezie said. "But I'm not mean."

– Joe Clancy



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Quick Goodnight

Golden Pal evokes memories of dam in Skidmore triumph

BY TOM LAW

Golden Pal zipped past the three-sixteenths pole, Irad Ortiz Jr. looked over his left shoulder at the in-field screen and the only matter in doubt in Friday's Skidmore Stakes was the margin of victory and the final time.

Both were impressive for Randall Lowe's home-bred Uncle Mo colt, who diced his five opponents

Continued On Page 25



Chelsea Durand/NYRA

Golden Pal coasts to victory in Friday's Skidmore.



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Recap —

■ Continued from page 24

over the Skidmore's 5 1/2 furlongs to win by 3 1/2 geared-down lengths in 1:00.88. The victory evoked memories of Golden Pal's dam, Lowe's Lady Shipman winning the Coronation Cup by 3 1/4 lengths in 1:00.85 and the Smart And Fancy by 2 3/4 lengths in 1:00.46 over the same course in 2015 on the way to a runner-up finish in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint as a 3-year-old.

Tyler Gaffalione got the closest look to Golden Pal, who led a 1-2 finish for trainer Wesley Ward, after he rode Fauci to a second-place finish.

"He's pretty quick. He's a nice horse," Gaffalione said. "We knew early on. I rode him in his first start and he's a really fast horse, but it seems like he's starting to get the mental side of it now."

Golden Pal went to the post at 2-5 in his first start since finishing second by a neck in the Group 2 Norfolk Stakes at Royal Ascot. He broke like the first picnic-table seeker on Travers Day in a normal season at Saratoga Race Course and Ortiz found himself ahead by 1 1/2 lengths after a sharp opening quarter in :21.99.

Golden Pal continued on the lead around the turn and into the lane, past the half in :44.37 and widening his advantage to 4 lengths with a furlong to run. Ortiz gathered him up late as Fauci held a clear second by 4 lengths from Sky's Not Falling with Ward's third runner, Sunny Isle Beach, fourth.

Mike Trombetta, who sent out Sky's Not Falling in his turf debut off a third in a small stakes at Colonial Downs, watched the warmup on a TV monitor from the first floor of the clubhouse and conceded Golden Pal would be tough.

"I'm not sure I can beat the six with anything," Trombetta said.

Trombetta proved equally impressed with a furlong to run, commenting that Golden Pal was "geared down going 55 and change" while he watched from the apron.

"That is what you call a good one," Trombetta said. "Probably your Breeders' Cup winner."

Ward hopes so.

He watched from his home base at Keeneland in Lexington, where the



Tod Marks

Stan The Man prevails in Thursday's Tale Of The Cat.

Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint will be run Nov. 6. He liked what he saw from the colt he had enough confidence in to bring to Royal Ascot as a maiden.

"He's something special this guy. We just got a little peek at it," Ward said. "From everything we've seen here, they're coming into his home-court like Michael Jordan in the United Center in the Breeders' Cup this year. He's a very, very nice colt."

Ward said he would likely train Golden Pal up to the Juvenile Turf Sprint, which he won last year with Four Wheel Drive and finished second in 2018 with Chelsea Cloisters.

- Trainer Jonathan Thomas picked up his first win of the meet when Noble Emotion came off a near 10-month layoff to win Friday's eighth, a 5 1/2-furlong state-bred allowance on the grass. Owned by Mike Ryan, the 3-year-old Noble Mission gelding hadn't been out since finishing ninth in the Awad Stakes in late October at Belmont Park.

- The battle for leading trainer continues to be tight heading into the sixth weekend and Day 28 with Chad Brown holding a one-win lead over Todd Pletcher after both came away with victories Friday. Pletcher tied it up at 20-20 with a victory by Shadwell Stable's Ashiham in the second, a 9-furlong maiden special weight. Brown went back up one four races later when Klaravich Stable's Duopo-

ly won his second straight in the sixth, a 1 1/16-mile allowance on the grass.

Thursday: Mr. Versatile

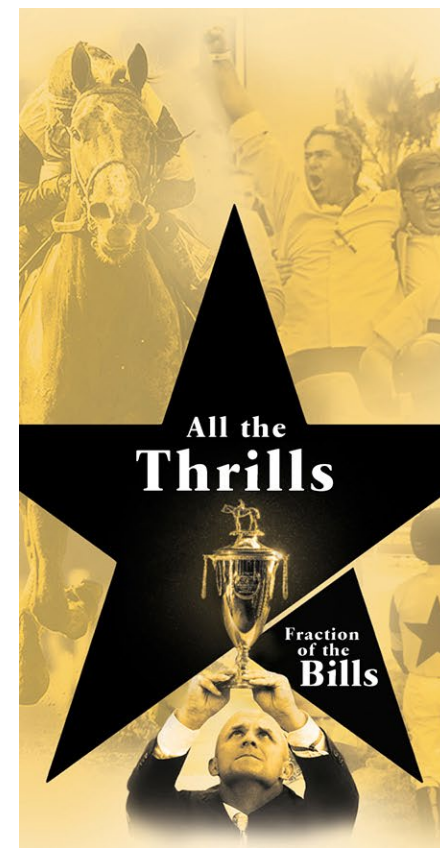
John Terranova toyed with the idea of taking blinkers off Stan The Man lately but resisted after the gelding put in a strong comeback performance finishing second to Firenze Fire in the Grade 2 True North Stakes in late June.

He finally did for Thursday's featured \$82,450 Tale Of The Cat and the 6-year-old Broken Vow gelding showed he could handle that adjustment with an off-the-pace victory over four foes in the 6-furlong restricted stakes.

"After seeing his last race and a couple of early works up here, he wants to look around a little more," said Terranova, who added the Tale Of The Cat to Funny Guy's victory in the John Morrissey earlier in the meet. "He likes a target and likes to see other horses. He worked so well last week without blinkers, I said, 'Let's just take them off and we'll start here and maybe it'll be a new dimension for him.' He's an older horse, a 6-year-old, smart horse now and well-seasoned and versatile, so we thought, 'Why not?'"

Stan The Man, owned by Lone Lake Stable, improved to 1-for-4 on the season in the Tale Of The Cat. He started the season with a pair of wintertime off-the-board losses at Aque-

Continued On Page 26



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Recap —

■ Continued from page 25

duct — a fifth going two turns in the Jazil Stakes and a sixth in the 1-mile Stymie Stakes.

The cutback to one-turn sprints did the trick, both in the True North and the Tale Of The Cat, which Stan The Man won in 1:09.47 under Joel Rosario.

“He had a couple of races earlier in the year where we were scratching our heads and weren’t sure what the issues were,” Terranova said. “We started to do something different and cut him back to sprinting, where he was successful before early on. He’s a versatile type. We can do just about anything with him, so this looked like the right spot conditions-wise up here.”

- Eddie Kenneally, a Saratoga regular who stayed home in Kentucky this summer, shipped Lead Guitar from his Churchill Downs base to win Thursday’s eighth. Jim and Susan Hill’s 4-year-old Maclean’s Music filly, facing state-breds for the first time



Tod Marks

Abiding Star scores Wednesday for trainer Ned Allard.

since breaking her maiden late last August for George Weaver, won the 5 1/2-furlong turf optional by a neck over Fetching as the 6-5 favorite.

Wednesday: Star Power

It is not uncommon for connections to receive congratulatory phone calls and messages almost immediately after winning a race at Saratoga. Let’s face it, when you run at Saratoga

the world is watching.

It is far less likely, however, that one of those calls would be placed by a 97-year-old, who was training horses until two years ago.

That was the scenario Wednesday as Ned Allard’s Abiding Star won the fifth, a 1 1/16-mile \$40,000 claimer on the turf. Five minutes after the race, Allard’s phone rang.

“George Handy called to congrat-

ulate me,” Allard said. “He’s still going strong.”

Handy, who lives with his son in North Carolina, trained horses for more than 70 years — yes, 7-0 — and was a mainstay on the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Florida circuits. Allard, 74, started helping Handy out in the late 1950s when he was barely a teenager and worked for him until he went out on his own in 1971.

“George watched the race on TV and called right after the race. It was pretty neat,” said Allard, who did not make the trip from his Delaware Park base due to Covid-related travel restrictions. “I’ve known him more than 60 years.”

Allard was a force on the New England scene for 25 years — once winning 28 stakes races in a year — before moving to the Mid-Atlantic in the late 1990s. He has been shipping horses to Saratoga since 1978, and Abiding Star marked his 71st starter and fifth win (with nine seconds and eight thirds). Nothing will ever surpass his first winner, when he sent out Mom’s Command to take the 1985 Alabama Stakes after she had swept the New York Filly Triple Tiara.

Continued On Page 27

One Horse

Buyers and sellers remember some names from Keeneland September sales of years past.



W E



SEPTEMBER

SUN. 13 - FRI. 25

YOU, 2000 & SOLDAT, 2009

Jody Huckabay, Elm Tree Farm

“For me, the most memorable one would have to be the filly You we tried to sell for Dolph Morrison (in 2000). She was by You And I, and he had a \$10,000 stud fee maybe. We bought her back. We couldn’t get anybody interested in her and the rest is history. She is one of the best distaffers we ever sent off the farm. Dolph was not afraid to run one, ever. Hal Wiggins was training her and she won for maiden 50 (thousand) in a hand ride, then they came back and sold her for a fair amount of money. She won five Grade 1 stakes. Just incredible. He was not a fashionable sire at the time and the mare was, if you will, suspect on paper. She was correct, she was clean, we liked what we saw at the farm, she just wasn’t the flavor of the month. It wasn’t anybody’s fault or any reflection on the sale or her or anything else. We go to the sale to sell, but we can’t just let them go. I tell all the crew that works for us, you treat them all the same. All of them. Because you never know where the next great one is coming from. If you could corner the market, it would have been done by now. It’s a wonderful game.

“As for one we sold, Soldat stands out. He was from the first crop of War Front. He was one you could just see he was going to be a runner. He never turned a hair, marched out every time. He sold himself without us having to do a whole lot. Those are fun too. We’ve sold a lot of good horses at the September Sale.”

For Edmund Gann and trainer Bobby Frankel, You won the Adirondack and Test at Saratoga among a standout career with nine wins, eight seconds and \$2.1 million earned. Purchased by Harvey Clarke for \$180,000, Soldat won graded stakes on turf and dirt, ran in the 2011 Kentucky Derby, earned \$622,760 and became a sire.

Recap —

■ Continued from page 26

“Only three other horses have done that,” Allard said, sounding like a proud father 35 years later. “She was a very special filly.”

After winning two races at Saratoga in 1988, including Fuller’s Folly in the Seneca Handicap, Allard went through a 30-year drought that he snapped when Always Sunshine took the 2018 Tale Of The Cat Stakes. Abiding Star, a 7-year-old gelding making his 45th start, made sure he didn’t have to wait three decades for his next Saratoga victory.

Saddled for Allard by Rudy Rodriguez and sent to the front by Jose Ortiz, Abiding Star, who ran in the 2016 Preakness Stakes, led every step of the way through modest fractions of :24.43, :48.34 and 1:11.77. Sent off at 6-1, he won with ease, beating 3-2 favorite Financial System by 2 1/4 lengths.

“He’s a little one-dimensional,” Allard said. “He likes to be on a nice easy lead. When that happens, he can be tough to catch.”

Allard was especially pleased to win for 40-year client Gil Campbell, who bred the son of Uncle Mo and races under the Stonehedge LLC moniker.

“I’m tickled,” said Allard, who has 2,717 wins and almost \$40 million in purses. “And Gil was very happy to win the race. Saratoga is a very special place. When you can win there, it makes you feel really good.”

— Paul Halloran



Tod Marks

Tobys Heart scores in the Bolton Landing Wednesday.

- Tobys Heart ran to her 3-5 odds for the same connections that won stakes at Saratoga with Heart To Heart in 2014 and 2017 in the featured \$85,000 Bolton Landing for 2-year-old fillies on the grass. Owned by Terry Hamilton and her trainer Brian Lynch, the daughter of Jack Milton won by 1 1/4 lengths under Jose Ortiz for her second win in as many starts.

Tobys Heart won her debut at Churchill Downs June 4 going 5 1/2 furlongs on the grass – the same distance of the Bolton Landing – and Ortiz paid attention.

“I tried to ride her pretty much like she ran first time out,” he said. “She broke a bit slow that day and she didn’t break any faster today. She broke a little slow out of the gate, but I think it’s OK for her, she’s a come-from-behind sprinter.”

Lynch, another Saratoga regular in recent years but sticking to his current base in Kentucky, sent Heart To Heart out to victories in the 2014 Better Talk Now Stakes and the Grade 2 Bernard Baruch in 2017.

- Gregg Matties sent out his first winner of the year – and first Saratoga winner since 2012 – when first-time starter Stimulus Check won Wednesday’s second race for New York-bred 2-year-old fillies. Bred and owned by Matties Racing Stable, the 2-year-old Tapture filly won by 4 3/4 lengths over Jill’s A Hot Mess as the 5-1 fourth choice in the field of six. Matties’ last winner at Saratoga was Pete’s Parlay at 28-1 in a \$20,000 claimer on the main track July 28, 2012.



Tod Marks

Stimulus Check scores for trainer Gregg Matties.

“After Phil worked for us on the track, I let him pick out some yearlings at the sales. We have trusted his opinion ever since. He has a good eye for a horse, knows pedigrees, and his integrity is beyond reproach.”

— BILL MOTT, TRAINER

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Wise Choice

Garner makes winning pick aboard Rashaan in Grade 1 jump race



BY TOM LAW

Tom Garner could have flipped a coin.

He'd been aboard Rashaan and Redicean back home at trainer Leslie Young's farm in Unionville, Pa., and aboard both in their most recent starts. They both got into Thursday's Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup relatively light – Rashaan with 144 pounds and Redicean with 142 – but were considered outsiders to the 160-pound co-highweights and Grade 1 winners Moscato and Optimus Prime.

Garner, a 29-year-old Englishman who works with Young and her assistants Brianne Slater and Jordan Thompson, weighed the decision on which to ride in the 2 3/8-mile Turf Writers. And from the sounds of things it took more than a little self-convincing.

"When I got off Redicean after the Smithwick I said, '2 1/2 (miles), he wins,' " Garner, clapping his

NEW YORK TURF WRITERS CUP RECAP

hands, said of the Smithwick's early leader who finished fourth behind Turf Writers foes Moscato, Optimus Prime and Gibralfaro. "I used him too early. I tried using his stamina rather than his speed, he just kept galloping. I said this trip might suit Redicean more, but actually it was six of one, half-dozen of the other."

Garner opted for the half-dozen in the form of Rashaan, an 8-year-old Irish-bred who won nine jump races in his native country before coming to the U.S. last year. Rashaan hadn't run since finishing third, beaten 13 lengths by Moscato, in the Grade 3 Temple Gwathmey in mid-June at Middleburg but Garner saw enough at home to feel he made the right decision.

"I had the choice and I knew his form from home," Garner said. "This horse was training so well at home. I just gambled and said, 'I'm confident.' "

Garner, involved in a scary incident last week in Unionville where he and a friend helped save a family caught in car swept away by flood waters, made the correct call as Rashaan not only got the better of his stablemate by 2 lengths but the other four runners in the best field of jumpers assembled in the altered 2020 steeplechase season.

"He's not easy at all," Garner said after Rashaan won at 8-1 over Redicean with second choice Moscato another 3 3/4 lengths back in third. "He's got all the ability in the world, but he only does it when he wants to do it. It's only on his terms. Training him at home, if he doesn't want to train

Continued On Page 29

Turf Writers —

■ Continued from page 28

in the morning, he won't go anywhere. He's a real tricky one."

Young, who trains the gelding for owners Mike Hankin, Charlie Noell and Charlie Fenwick's Bruton Street-US, chalked up some of the quirkiness to Rashaan's intelligence. She called steeplechasing newest Grade 1 winner a "thinker." Bred by The Aga Khan, Rashaan's name actually translates to thinker, or counselor, in Arabic.

Young considered bringing Rashaan to Saratoga early in the meet for the Grade 1 A.P. Smithwick Memorial — he certainly could have justified a run in the 2 1/16-mile hurdle stakes after his run in Middleburg — but she worried about multiple starts at the racetrack setting for the gelding who enjoys his nightly turnout. And she also worried about landing a rider since only nine jockeys were cleared to ride in Saratoga due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and restrictions in place by the New York Racing Association.

"We have other jockeys that could come but with the restrictions they can't get over," Young said, referring to European riders who occasionally make the trip for top summertime jump races. "Bruton Street was very good with it and I said, 'Listen, he's a thinker.' . . . With him you come to Saratoga, to the track, once. He's smart. He was checking it all

out and I just thought the distance would be better for him.

"Normally, if there's a crowd, sometimes with the jumpers they boil over a little because they're not used to it. Rashaan lives out every night. Coming up last night was a big deal for him to not have his turnout."

Garner took the early initiative and put Rashaan on the lead over the quick first jump, around the far turn the first time and over the first jump in the stretch until Pravalaguna, a mare trained by Jack Fisher for Bruton Street, took over past the finish line. She led over the third, fourth and fifth fences to and through the backstretch with Rashaan and Gibralfaro giving chase just ahead of Redicean, Moscato and 8-5 favorite Optimus Prime.

Pravalaguna opened up a bit to lead by 1 1/2 lengths into the stretch the second time while Gerard Galligan and Redicean slipped through a slot at the inside into second just ahead of Rashaan briefly with the favorites still at the back. Garner gave Rashaan a couple pats on his neck and rubbed his mane as he took the second position back approaching the seventh fence. Rashaan moved within a length of the leader around the clubhouse turn the last time and approaching the penultimate fence.

Rashaan took over after Pravalaguna made a bit of a mistake at the last fence and dropped back. Garner stayed quiet on Rashaan around the turn while Gibralfaro and Sean McDermott, who had dropped back to last at one point halfway through the race, tried to get back into it while three wide

and to the outside of Moscato, Redicean and Optimus Prime. Darren Nagle tried to come between horses around the turn but any opening that was there closed and Optimus Prime dropped back. Rashaan and Redicean spurted away from the other three into the stretch and through the wing and after three cracks of his whip right handed the former edged away near the finish.

"The team did a great job with him," Garner said. "I ride him every day. He's a happy horse and he really enjoyed his work. I came here hopeful rather than confident, I actually thought the better horse was Redicean and thought I'd made the wrong choice but he put his best foot forward. He's got so much ability and when he wants to do it, there's not a lot that will get by him."

Rashaan won in 4:34.20 for his 14th win in 46 starts. Redicean improved on his third behind Snap Decision in the David Semmes Memorial at Great Meadow and fourth in the Smithwick to be a clear second, 3 3/4 lengths in front of Moscato. Gibralfaro finished 2 3/4 lengths back in fourth with Optimus Prime fifth and Pravalaguna sixth.

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Seven

Snap Decision does it again in facile novice hurdle score

BY JOE CLANCY

If a horse could do a touchdown dance, Snap Decision would have made like Billy “White Shoes” Johnson after Wednesday’s M.G. Walsh Memorial novice hurdle stakes at Saratoga.

Carrying 165 pounds, at least 12 more than seven rivals, he tracked the pace and took over at will in the stretch before easing away to win by 5 ¼ lengths while geared (way) down by Sean McDermott. It was the seventh consecutive win for the Bruton Street-US colorbearer, who actually lost his first two hurdle starts last spring. It’s been nothing but wins since however as the 6-year-old son of Hard Spun won a Monmouth Park

M.G. WALSH STAKES RECAP

maiden last July, a Saratoga allowance, Belmont Park novice stakes, Far Hills novice stakes and all three starts this year to reach \$263,400 over jumps after a 2-for-18 flat career for Phipps Stable and Shug McGaughey.

Now trained by Jack Fisher, Snap Decision opened a limited 2020 schedule with a win in open company June 27, then went back to the novice ranks (non-winners before March 1, 2019) in Saratoga’s Jonathan Kiser July 22. He won that, but had to dig in late to get past Galway Kid. Fisher and Bruton Street opted for the Walsh over

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Tod Marks

Snap Decision gallops – literally – in Wednesday’s M.G. Walsh, his second win of the meet.

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Walsh —

■ Continued from page 30

Thursday's New York Turf Writers Cup mainly because they had other horses to run (Bruton Street's Rashaan won the Grade 1), and got rewarded.

Snap Decision actually jumped the first fence in front, then came back to McDermott as Duc de Meran cleared. Inside, on hold, a little keen, the 4-5 favorite settled into a rhythm on the first trip up the backside. Galway Kid raced alongside and made it tight at the sixth fence — Snap Decision's only real untidy jump. Fourth with a lap to go, he got off the inside, flew the seventh and went to work. Duc de Meran led over the eighth and ninth, but was soon passed by Galway Kid, who assumed command into the final turn. With no urging, Snap Decision matched that move. Exiting the turn, Darren Nagle asked Galway Kid for more as McDermott asked for nothing, and looked over his right shoulder. He did it again just before the eighth pole and had an even longer look at the infield screen in mid-stretch, the lead as safe as the Capitol Building on Inauguration Day.

"We rode him a little closer, but the ground was also slower from that heavy downpour (just before the race)," said McDermott, who inherited the ride when Willie McCarthy was injured in a fall June 13. "When I first rode him, I thought he'd be better over 2 ½ miles. He'd probably be even better over 3. He's got a turn of foot and he also stays. That gear is there at the end. I was in fourth gear and I didn't need to go to fifth."

Where Snap Decision goes with those gears next remains to be seen. The 2020 steeplechase season will be limited to a handful of meets (and no stakes races) this fall, so he's finished in America until next year. As it always does with a good American steeplechaser, an English or Irish trip will get chattered about.

"Good horses will win races no matter where they go and he's a good horse," McDermott said. "Obviously, preparation and little luck go a long way. You'd just want to match him to race courses that would suit him. Punchestown, Leopardstown, Aintree, they'd all be right up his street. He's very talented and he'd be more than capable."

All that is true, but there are still plenty of races to win on this side of the Atlantic in 2021. As for streaks, Fisher's Good Night Shirt won seven in a row in 2007-09, but six were Grade 1 stakes. Will Farish's Thrice Worthy won nine consecutive jump races in the 1980s for Jonathan Sheppard.

McDermott pointed to his horse while crossing the finish line Wednesday, but deflected even more credit a few days later. Snap Decision was McCarthy's ride until he went down at Middleburg.

"I've only sat on Snap Decision three times (the three races), so I have very little to do with his preparation," the jockey said. "All credit must go to everybody at Jack's and to Willie for doing all the early work. It's bitter-sweet for Willie I know, because he'd like to be riding. We're good friends. We all know the game, we've all been hurt. We get caught up in this bubble of racing, and life is so much bigger.

It is only a sport. There are more important things. You have to take it as it comes, there's no sense in getting too depressed about it."

Belisarius is fine, really

After three fences in Wednesday's M.G. Walsh novice stakes, Belisarius went lame behind and was pulled up by jockey Berne Dalton. It looked terrible, tragic even. And then it wasn't.

"He is completely fine, it appears," said trainer Kate Dalton Friday. "He just got struck into (by another horse) and stung and didn't put his leg down for a sixteenth of a mile. No, I've never seen that. From where I was standing, watching it on the ground, I could see his head go up so I assumed something went wrong behind."

Blame Zanzi Win for the striking — right front hoof to right hind leg — but all seems fine now. Belisarius was examined by veterinarians Wednesday, and again Thursday, and actually trained on the main track Thursday morning and again Friday. The 9-year-old will stay in Saratoga with trainer Peter Pugh, and will need to breeze in 10 days to get off the vet list.

"You know, you never stop learning in this game," said Dalton. "We'll



Tod Marks

Belisarius.

just be very happy that it wasn't anything worse and be happy that the horse is fine."

Owned by Gary Barber, Brous Stable and Wachtel Stable, Belisarius would mostly like to forget the whole incident.

"He was mad yesterday, and standing in back of his stall," Dalton said. "He was just sulking, he looked really grumpy. We brought the tack out to go for a ride and he perked right up and off he went to the track. And life was all good after that."

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2020 Virginia Horse Racing Schedule

Sept. 18 - Oct. 17: Harness Racing at Shenandoah Downs
 Oct. 4 - Foxfield Fall Races
 Oct. 10 - Middleburg Fall Races
 Oct. 24 - International Gold Cup Races

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Looking Ahead

Round Table tackles variety of racing issues

The Jockey Club hosted its 68th Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing Sunday. Traditionally held in Saratoga, the annual forum was presented virtually this year and included Jockey Club Chairman Stuart Janney III, Equibase's Jason Wilson, United States Tennis Association's Katrina Adams, Maryland Jockey Club's Sal Sinatra, trainers Mark Casse, John Gosden and Jessica Harrington, sportscaster Bob Costas and three-time Tour de France winner Greg LeMond.

To view the entire program, see jockeyclub.com. Some highlights from the transcripts:

Janney: "I thought I would wear my coat and tie to at least give you a sense of past Round Tables."

Adams: "When you have the same mindset sitting around the table talking about the same things, you can get lost in what truly is important in making sure that you are addressing the challenges that you and other sports are having right now."



"And when you look around the table and ask yourselves, 'Are we diverse as far as race or ethnicity?' And if you're not, try to figure out how you can be a little more inclusive."

"Your sport and all sports are really struggling in this environment in these industries today in trying to figure out how we can get better, how we can grow, and how we can look like America."

Sinatra: "As a former computer programmer, I consider race conditions, or the types of races offered, to be the foundation of a day at the races. The claiming race is the most frequently run race in the United States, and we have bastardized this category ad nauseum."

"Claiming races are, in a nutshell, races in which horses can be purchased before the race for the claiming price listed in the program. No other category has forced us to enact rules upon rules."

"This category has also coined such tasteless phrases as, 'Cut him in half and lose him,' and, 'Squeeze one more race out of him.' As an industry, we have created a business arena that is both detrimental to the horse and unsustainable to the owners."

"If you poll my peers, they will agree that claiming has basically eliminated smaller stables, and by smaller, I mean those with five to 15 horses. Instead, we have high-percentage, aggressive stables that dominate our races and claim the smaller guys out of business."

"Implementing a ratings system would have a myriad of benefits to American racing. Ratings would group horses of like abilities, creating a more competitive race, and ultimately a more interesting betting option for fans. Even horses with lesser abilities could find their level, and their owners could enjoy them without losing their investment."

Gosden: "...there is no doubt that if you go back in time, horses were bred very much to race, and they're under pretty spartan rules of good old-fashioned Darwinism, to the extent that if there was a flaw in a family, a breeder would try and eradicate it. If a filly for instance had a breathing problem, he would tend not to breed from her. If they were very soft-boned, very unsound, likewise. You look at old breeders like Elmendorf, you look at Fred Hooper. They bred very tough horses back at Claiborne back in the old days."

Harrington: "I think the other thing, it's become a beauty contest at the sales and the horses, if they're not correct, the agents and the people looking at them will take them off lists. And as we know, and John knows more than I do because I haven't been at it for very long, that a lot of owner-breeders will send you horses that they couldn't sell at the sales because they weren't correct, but yet they're very good race horses."

Continued On Page 33

The TRF Retirees visit Old Friends at Cabin Creek for a Meet and Greet!

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Round Table —

■ Continued from page 32

Casse: “Honestly, and I’m going to upset a lot of people when I say this, but probably the thing that has hurt our breed the most in the U.S. is the programs, the state programs. I think, you know, that there are stallions and mares that are being used as broodmares and stallions, that if we didn’t have a local program, they would never cut the mustard.”

“I think we worry too much now about the sales. Not long ago I went on a clenbuterol crusade. Clenbuterol is a drug that’s being used – not being used for the reason it’s meant to be. It’s being more for an anabolic steroid. And I was amazed of the response I got back from how many people were using it on their yearlings. It increases muscle mass, but more importantly, it decreases bone density. They’ll end up with tibia fractures, this and that. I’m like, ‘What is going on here?’ I think they’re stressing them too much prior to the sales. And Jessica is right. And John. Let the horses be horses.”

Gosden: “It’s their strength, their weakness, their movement, their mental maturity. I think it’s the whole point of my training, a lot it is entirely feel. You can’t sort of quantify it, and the most stupid thing you can ever do with a horse is start pushing too soon. If you don’t wait for them to come then you’ll usually ruin them.”

“The handicap system is what we use here in France and Ireland. A lot of trainers allow themselves to be controlled too much by the system, so they try and get the horse in at the lowest rating and then creep up rather than necessarily let the horse express itself and go on. Having said that, it has a certain egalitarianism to it. But at the same time, you know, the claiming system does work to a degree. You know, there is a rationale to it. Obviously it doesn’t work in Europe because you’re allowed to claim after the race which makes the whole thing a complete joke.”

“I will, probably from my American background, if I have a horse who is a really bad bleeder and I’m coming to a major workout 10 days before the race, I may well administer Lasix to that horse 10 days ahead of the race.”

Casse: “I do believe – John may disagree with this – I do believe that dirt probably stresses horses a little more than turf. We scope every horse after it runs and after it works, so we have a pretty good idea. I know that horses bleed worse on dirt. I’ve been a pro-Lasix guy for a long time. I’m not as strong on it as I used to be. My concerns have always been, you know, there’s different people out there that think, ‘OK, we’re going to give Lasix at 48 hours,’ they may not give them anything to eat and drink for 48 hours. That is my concern. What are they going to do instead of it, so that’s always been a concern. My concern is more – and John alluded to do this somewhat – there are a lot bigger problems out there in the U.S. than Lasix, and it has to be fixed. I’m personally so fed up with it. I question how long I want to continue to even train.”

“I hope they don’t stop there, because there are more bad apples out there. I think when they find the bad apples, they don’t need to be slapped on the hand; they need to be thrown out and be done with.”

Gosden: “Now I go to the sales, it’s not that I don’t so much know the families as I don’t know some of the these horses and what they achieved and how they achieved it. Then I think to myself, ‘Oh, I wonder what they were running on?’ And the moment you start questioning really the validity and the purity of the result, because then you hear about this training and what happened here and his horse is doing that, and you suddenly realize, ‘Hang on. This stallion was one of theirs, or the mare was.’ And you think, ‘How real is this that I’m looking at? These might have been reared properly, but what were they racing on?’ We’re not just talking about Bute and Lasix here. I think that becomes – it’s rather like a counterfeit coinage. It becomes a worry, the legitimacy of the whole thing, and I think it’s something that I hope American racing can get hold of and sort out. There is no doubt it does undermine the integrity of the sport.”

Costas: “I came to understand the sport and understand its problems, too. We’re not trying to soft pedal that. And there were times when on the air we addressed those issues. But in the context of the Triple Crown the

majesty of horse racing really comes home to you. That is worth preserving. That is worth caring about. But it can only be preserved if we take a clear-eyed look at the serious issues horse racing faces.”

LeMond: “What they do, the doctors seduce, they’re like, ‘Oh, your hormones are a little bit low; take this,’ and slowly they get people into a full drug program. Transparency is everything. I think that what I saw cycling, they kept putting Bands-Aids over one scandal to another. It just prolonged the pain. I think you’ve got to use this moment to try to clean house and really come up with ways that can prevent this happening.”

“Especially when you don’t have uniformity, it’s almost – sounds very difficult for what you guys are going through in terms of trying to really figure out how to eliminate it.”

“It’s not going to be easy. It’s a challenge. But I think if you want the sport to have legitimacy, even with the betting, people need to know that it’s not fixed.”

Janney: “The Jockey Club has two primary missions. One is to protect

the integrity of the breed, and the second is to grow the sport. These two missions are linked. The Jockey Club stewards believe that without integrity, the sport will never grow, and, in fact, it will die. It is with that belief that The Jockey Club undertook our investigation of cheating in racing in 2015. We had become convinced that cheating was a growing activity and it needed to be pursued with increased effectiveness.”

“With all that in mind, we hired 5 Stones intelligence, one of the world’s leading intelligence and investigative companies. In a short time, their team had proved to our satisfaction that our worst fears were correct. They worked closely with federal agencies, particularly the FBI, to ensure that criminals in racing are indicted and prosecuted for the serious crimes they have committed.”

“Racing owes a tremendous debt to the FBI and the Department of Justice. As all of you know, or should know, on March 6, 2020, 27 arrests were made of trainers, vets, and compounders. It’s reasonable to assume that more arrests are coming. I have no doubt that there are many arrests pending.”

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Founded in 2001, *The Saratoga Special* has covered plenty of great horses and people and we'll bring you some highlights during our 20th season.

It's Diana Weekend, even if it's a time warp where the Diana comes beyond the halfway point of the meet instead of near the beginning. The distaff turf stakes has always been a highlight, going all the way back to our second season – 2002 – when Hall of Famers Bobby Frankel and Jerry Bailey landed the Diana (then a Grade 2, shudder) and the Test on the same day. The Diana was good. The Test was epic, and instantly became an “I was there” moment. You nipped Carson Hollow in a race neither horse deserved to lose.

July 28-29, 2002. Living Right. Bailey, Frankel team up to sweep Saturday stakes. By Sean Clancy.

“The first one I win by a nose and everything went right. This one I win by a nose and a lot of things went wrong.”

Just another day in the charmed life of Bobby Frankel. He saddled Juddmonte Farm's *Tates Creek* to win the Grade 2 Diana Handicap. Two races later he saddled Edmund Gann's *You* (in the same stall) to win the Grade 1 test. Jerry Bailey rode both fillies; *Tates Creek* from her typical stalking position on the turf and *You* from out the back on the dirt. There's more room across this page than there was between the noses in the photos.

Epics.

Tates Creek sat just off *Babae* and *Snow Dance* in the 1 1/8-mile turf stakes, found a seam on the turn, opened a lead and then scrapped all the way to the wire with *Voodoo Dancer* and *Jose Santos*.

On the edge of the winner's circle, the photo finish callers watched the replay. With every stride they called it, “Inside, inside, inside, inside, oohhhh.” *Tates Creek* was the inside horse.

“She's a very agile filly, you can make a couple of moves on her to get position and hold it, that makes my job a lot easier,” Bailey said. “Picking my way through traffic with her wasn't a problem. The problem was, because I had kinda taken her out of her game, was she going to have as strong a finish? I know *Voodoo Dancer* and *Jose* know I'm one of the horses to beat and they're not going to give me anything easy. They're going to jump on me as soon as we turn for



Living Right

Bailey, Frankel team up to sweep Saturday stakes

BY SEAN CLANCY

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Frankel knew this all along. “She's very consistent, tough, just a competitor. She's winning the photos,” Frankel said. “I wouldn't have these horses if I didn't get them from Juddmonte to start with, they validated that I could train these kinds of horses.”



Top: Ted Marks. Right: Dave Harmon. *Voodoo Dancer* in the Diana. *You* (right) lights past Carson Hollow in the Test Stakes.

Two races later *You* and Carson Hollow validated all that is good in the horse.

Carson Hollow and John Velazquez blazed away on the lead while *You* scrambled around the back. She broke adequately but not sharply, her talent had put her in the race leaving the backside but Short Note backed into the path that Bailey had chosen on the rail. Hesitation ensued.

“When you're going down the backside, you can't loop the field,” Bailey said. “They're too good of horses to do that so you really have to play the hand that unfolds in front of you.”

Around the turn, that hand was about to fold for *You*.

“I was hoping she would have enough speed to lay just off Carson Sprinter,” Bailey said. “Then you have to deal with traffic, there was more traffic than I wanted.”

Spring Meadow and Jorge Chavez lost their line inside Bold World and Par Day. They veered for another lane and *You* sneaked through between Spring Meadow's left shoulder and the white of the rail.

■ See SWEEP, page 5



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Continued On Page 36

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1. **Tiz The Law:** Belmont? Check. Travers? Check. Next stop, Derby.
— Bred by Twin Creeks Farm
2. **Gamine:** California-based 3YO filly left no doubt in Test.
3. **Serengeti Empress:** Fought like a lioness in Ballerina triumph.
4. **Vexatious:** Vanquished champ in Grade 1 Personal Ensign.
5. **Improbable:** Beat quality group in Grade 1 Whitney.
6. **Volatile:** Speedster made it look easy in Vanderbilt.
7. **Swiss Skydiver:** 3YO filly got her G1 in Alabama; look out Ky. Oaks.
8. **Starship Jubilee:** Four in a row this year, and getting better?
9. **Snap Decision:** A jumper? Yeah a jumper. Sublime Walsh win.
10. **Golden Pal:** Blazing fast Skidmore win off second at Ascot.

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Best Of —

■ Continued from page 34

path that Bailey had chosen on the rail. Hesitation ensued. “When you’re going down the backside, you can’t loop the field,” Bailey said. “They’re too good of horses to do that so you really have to play the hand that unfolds in front of you.”

Around the turn, that hand was about to fold for You. “I was hoping to she would have enough speed to lay just off Carson Hollow but she’s just not that kind of sprinter,” Bailey said. “Then you have to deal with traffic, there was more traffic than I wanted.”

Spring Meadow and Jorge Chavez lost their line inside Bold World and Pat Day. They veered for another lane and You sneaked through between Spring Meadow’s left shoulder and the white of the rail.

“Chavez was trying to go out and Pat kept him in, so he was trying to dive down in and I’m already there,” Bailey said. “When they hit your butt like that, the public can’t see it, but it knocks them down. Most won’t go through there and you can tell about halfway through they won’t. With her she got stronger as she got up in there.”

Carson Hollow came off the rail and into the 2 path while You kept to her clinging trip on the rail. The duo went to the line in unison with both filly’s heads turned to each other like a staredown.

“You have to have a courageous horse to weave your way through,” Bailey said. “And then to be stuck on the



Tod Marks
Jerry Bailey and Bobby Frankel swept the graded stakes with Tates Creek and You.



fence, pinned down in there, to fight as hard as she did and the other filly came back again, she wasn’t through. It was a great race, I’m not sure I’d want to do it again.”

Announcer Tom Durkin came up with the line of the meet, “It’s a photo finish that doesn’t deserve a loser.”

You’s dark nose was hidden behind the towering head of Carson Hollow. The photo finish callers wouldn’t even try this one.

Velazquez and Bailey were just as lost.

“I asked Johnny if he thought he won, he said he didn’t know and I didn’t know,” Bailey said.

Finally the 2 flashed over the 1 on the board.

Bailey and Velazquez looked each other in the eye and shrugged.

“It’s tough because I’ve been on the other end,” Bailey said. “It’s tough to ride that good and the horse to run that good and not win.”

Not a problem for Bailey and Frankel on this day.

“She was unbelievable,” Frankel said of You. “She gets off a little flat-footed, gets herself in a great position, then all of a sudden has to back out of there and steady. He was asking her at the half-mile pole and she still comes flying up the rail again. Then to gut it out the way she did, I thought she was going to blow by that other filly but she hung in there.”

By the end of the day, Frankel had won two stakes, pocketed \$45,150 in commissions (at Saratoga alone), toasted both Tates Creek and You in the Saratoga Trustees Room and was heading back to the barn to see his stakes-winning fillies and watch Surya run in the John Mabee/Ramona Handicap at Del Mar.

Passing the jocks’ room, a fan said to Frankel, “You must be living right.”

He clasped his two hands together in the sign of prayer and gazed skyward. A videotape of You rattled between his palms.



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Missing It

I'll miss it. I won't miss it. The one-off, fill-the-space column became a tradition at The Special. Usually, late in the meet when Saratoga, summer, begins to fade away, when perspective is about all there is left to contemplate, to celebrate.

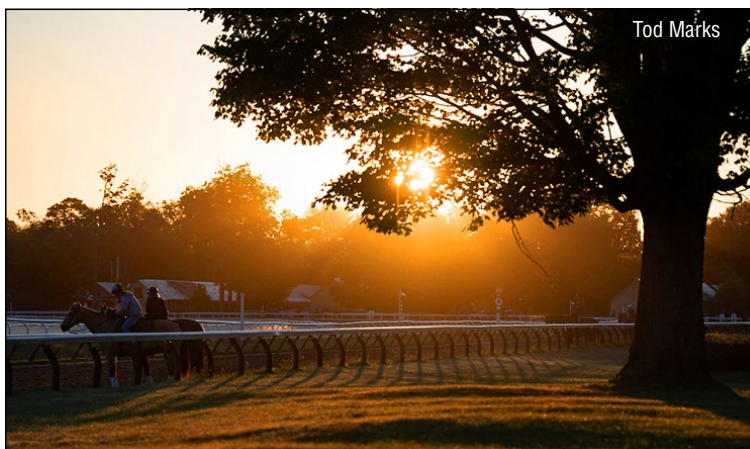
You know the drill, the good, the bad, the yin and the yang of Saratoga. I'll miss the first piece of pizza, I won't miss the third. I'll miss the hand rides on the turf, I won't miss the whip happy rides for nothing. I'll miss Tom Law's humor in the morning, I won't miss his haranguing late into the night.

But, alas, this year, there is nothing I'll miss and nothing I won't miss because a pandemic has broken my streak of Saratogas, dating back to 1989 for the whole meet and perhaps forever for at least a day or two. In a world of upheaval, it's a bit of personal turbulence. That's all. At least that's what I tell myself over and over.

So here goes, I'll miss, I won't miss turns to I miss, I miss, I miss, I miss...

I miss the mornings. I miss bundles of papers stacked high. I miss watching the stack dwindle to nothing each day. I miss the golf cart sitting under a tree, ready every morning. I miss Tom's basil, cucumbers and tomatoes from his side-of-the-house garden. I miss my brother Joe, for all the reasons, his steadiness at the wheel, his leadership, his guidance, even his stress. I miss his boys, bombing into the office, the original paperboys. I miss the chaos and spice of Spring Street Deli.

I miss the conversations, oh, so many conversations along the rail in the morning, the paddock in the afternoon and in the office late at night. I miss Rich Cristiano. I miss his boat. I miss his dad. I miss the Jim Dandy Bar after a jump race when the winning jockey buys a can of IPA and I wonder how I'll conjure up a column. I miss the bar with The Specials taped to the wall. I miss John the Bartender.



I miss the canoe. I miss Dennis and Lucy. I miss our box on a Saturday afternoon.

I miss the fundraisers, all of them, from the Travers Ball to the spaghetti dinner. I miss the revelers on East Avenue, gallivanting to the track hopeful and heading home, mostly down, but never out.

I miss the palpable change when July turns to August, when it's truly the August place to be. I miss Todd Pletcher's sweepers. I miss Jimmy Toner's pillows. I miss Pat Kelly and his bike. I miss Rob Massey's leather boots. I miss sales week, at least a little. I miss the Q & A with Boyd Browning Jr. I miss the free-walking sales topper.

I miss the interns, the enthusiasm for the task, for the sport. I miss thinking about how they'll grow and make the sport a better place. I miss parking in front of the office, sliding between an orange cone and a bike, leaving enough room for another member of the team. I miss the grocery bag next to my desk, full of nuts and berries, crackers and pretzels, the late night fuel. I miss that cold IPA from the office fridge, when the paper's at the printer, the interns have gone home and we take our first satisfied breath of the day that has been so short and so long all at the same time.

I miss Dad calling for a tip in the first. I miss my sister, Sheila, and Dad showing up late in the meet, pockets full of money. I miss the touts on the way into the track. I miss my old friend ringing his bell for the Salvation Army. I miss the kid playing the violin for tips.

I miss seeing the jumpers, big and broad, old and esteemed, walking under the trees. I miss the jockeys, the sincerity of Jose Ortiz, the precision of John Velazquez, the earnestness of Tyler Gaffalione, the quietness of Joel Rosario, the affableness of Javier Castellano, especially when he says, "Hey, Jock," to start a conversation, to start an interview.

I miss the red and white awnings. I miss the chipping white paint along the iron columns. I miss the bell. I miss Sal Russo. I miss Eddie Brown. I miss Harry Rice and all the valets. I miss Leah Gyarmati's dogs, even when they bark. I miss the solitude of Clare Court. I miss seeing Barclay Tagg on his pony. I miss the backstretch tour ladies, always smiling, always waving the flag for that magical place.

I miss the big screen TV, the nervousness of the groom, the exercise rider. I miss stalking the trainer who I think is going to win the stakes, from the paddock, through the crowd, to the apron or beyond. I miss walking down the steps with Bill Mott after another Grade 1 winner at the Spa. I miss the walk back to the office with the conversations in my recorder and story on my mind. I miss sliding off a sweat-soaked dress shirt and tie and slipping into my writing clothes for another shoulder-hunched, elbow-banging bleed.

I miss the deadline. Oh, man, do I miss that deadline, with the clock ticking, the press rumbling, men with their hands on their hips waiting for one more night of The Special to come to life.

Yeah, I miss it all. I miss it all.

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POINT OF HONOR

The Big Picture

with Tod Marks

Stormy Weather. In 2010, the Fourstardave was all about Get Stormy, who wired the field despite stumbling at the start. Mary Sullivan's homebred won four races at Saratoga for trainer Tom Bush. Get Stormy's daughter Got Stormy won the 2019 Fourstardave and tries to repeat today.

