





here&there...in racing

Presented by Shadwell Farm

NAMES OF THE DAY

Vineyard Sound, second race. The 4-year-old gelding is by Stormy Atlantic, and named for the strip of ocean between Naushon Island and Martha's Vineyard. Also the name of Martha's Vineyard's "finest all-male a capella group."

Complicit, fourth race. The 6-year-old mare is by Blame.

Lease, **seventh race**. Adele Dilschneider's homebred 2-year-old colt is by Lea and out of Custody.

Market Bubble, eighth race. Colts Neck Stable's 4-year-old is by Fed Biz.

Implied Volatility, 12th race. Another creative Fed Biz name, this one is a 4-year-old gelding.

BY THE NUMBERS

11: Times Phil Gleaves saw David Bowie in concert.

1: Starbucks card sent to The Special's office in Fair Hill from an anonymous reader in Melrose, Mass. Thanks very much, and here's to reading at the Holiday Inn next year.

WORTH REPEATING

"Hopefully we've got a few more bullets to go."

Trainer Tom Albertrani, who runs two in today's Grade 2 Glens Falls and four others over Closing Weekend

"Your track family is just as good as your blood family."

Eric Kordsmeier, one of 35 Sackatoga Stable partners in Tiz The Law, about the ownership group's camaraderie

"I'm undercover."

Melissa Cohen, former assistant to Rick Violette and now for Jonathan Thomas, making a rare Saratoga appearance

"No chance. A tall woman can't hide."

Trainer Phil Serpe to Cohen

"I guess God had other plans."

Sackatoga Stables partner Margaret Phillips, whose husband, Bruce, died of a heart attack three weeks after Tiz The Law, the horse he dreamed would take them to the Kentucky Derby, won the Champagne Stakes

"He'll have an angel on his shoulder."

Phillips, about Tiz The Law's run in the Kentucky Derby

"Don't worry, he didn't forget about you."

Riley Mott, assistant to his father Bill, to The Special's Tom Law waiting for the Stable Tour this week

"It hasn't been the same but at least we've got racing."

Trainer Phil Gleaves on Saratoga 2020

The Saratoga Saratoga

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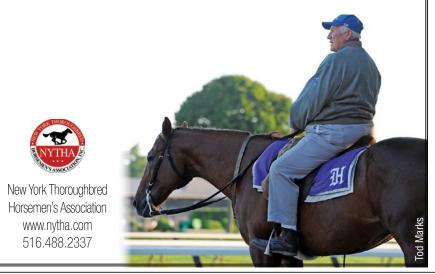
Starman. There's nothing like a winner, as Thin White Duke and his groom prove after Friday's Funny Cide Stakes.

The Chief

To Kevin Taylor, whose daughter was studying child psychology: "I know where she can start."

When told Kevin Costner was going to have a role in the Allen Jerkens life story: "Anybody could play me."

- Trainer H. Allen Jerkens, 1929-2015



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WORTH REPEATING

"I don't know if I would help you or hurt you."

Owner Dick Knapp after The Special's Tom Law suggested he assist in setting up Saturday's Fasg-Tipton Stable Tour with Bill Mott (mark it down, he helped)

"He's a magnet for nice people."

Barclay Tagg about Sackatoga Stable's Jack Knowlton

"We call her Queen Gamine."

Trainer Bob Baffert about Grade 1 winner Gamine

"We have to restock and try to get back here."

Baffert about the September sales

"Wet saddle blankets are the best thing for high-strung horses."

Trainer John Sherriffs

"You don't even hear it."

Churchill Downs starter Scott Jordan. on the new starting gate

"Thank you for making a strange summer at Saratoga seem almost normal with the great detail horse racing nuts can only get by reading The Special."

Owner Bill Lawrence, summing up 2020 perfectly (thanks for reading)

STALLION RACE

Leading stallions at the 2020 Saratoga meet (compiled by The Special using dutiful, if somewhat haphazard statistical analysis from free sources):

Verrazano5	Sire
	Verrazano5

"It was heartbreaking."

Jockey Joe Talamo about I'll Want Revenge scratching Derby morning

MISSING JACK MORENO

Jack Moreno, barn security for NYRA at Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course for more than 30 years, passed away over the winter. His friend, Saratogian Staci Snider, figured if he was watching down on this year's meet he might have some questions.

Dear Saratoga track fans, NYRA and the ones we love,

I am looking down on my Nelson Avenue barn and see the usual four-legged suspects, however what the heck is going on down there? Eight months ago when my feet were still planted on healthy American soil everything was on schedule for another fantastic meet in Saratoga 2020.

Where are the freaking spectators, crowds of drunken gamblers lining the fence batting their program in heavy cheer, the kids towering on parents shoulders just to catch a glimpse of these dynamic creatures called Thoroughbreds?

- Jack Moreno

Our beautiful friend Jack is greatly missed and not a meet will go by where we do not think of you. We will continue to dance to Shakira, open the door to those who need a hand, smile to complete strangers and offer to buy them a drink because that is what you do. Cheers to you my friend today and always. One love, Staci Snider.

POETRY CORNER

The Morning Line

Horse races without fans I can understand But without a horse I cannot endorse But if it comes to be It won't suit me The jockeys at the track Might never get back – Peter Finley

here&there...in racing

ADWE I FARUI

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POSTCARD FROM SARATOGA

Dear Saratoga.

I'm not sure who has it worse, those who can't be here, or those of us who are and can't go in! I pass by the track and can't comprehend the races are happening right there, right now. The meet is on. No people, no traffic, no noise, no nightlife, no sale, no bands on Broadway, no Siro's, no jockey karaoke, no Marylou!

I want to go over in the morning with Trish, have a coffee, visit with our friends, ride around with my brother, heckle some riders, bust some chops. Find out all that's right and wrong in the world.

I want to go to the races in the afternoon. I want to handicap with my buddies. I want to get tips from everyone. I want to pay \$7 for a lemonade and \$12 for a burger. I want to join Sean Clancy and The Special crew for Closing Day. Heckle everyone. I want to hear you yell, "Hey, Macgluggin."

Unfortunately, it's not to be. instead I'm outside the fence looking in. I'm at home watching on TV like everyone else, only I'm a half-mile from the track. So close, yet so far away.

I hate for it to end this way. Things have changed. Trish and I are leaving Saratoga. Twenty-five years I've been blessed by this game and especially this town. Time to move on. What do you do next when you've lived your dream? I guess you find a new dream but the last one will be tough to top. So, I'll try to savor the memories, appreciate the gifts. Be thankful.

Thank you, Kiaran. Thank you, Trish. Thank you, Saratoga.

- Neal McLaughlin

Neal and Trish McLaughlin were assistant trainers for Travers-winning trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, Neal's brother, before he retired in May.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There's no lightning bolt down his forehead, or anything like that."

Trianer Phil Gleaves, when asked if Thin White Duke

looked like THE Thin White Duke



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Tod Marks

The scene at Bill Mott's barn (here after an Alabama win in 2017) doesn't change much

With Bill Mott

The last stop and always a favorite stop, Bill Mott hosts the final Saturday of the meet Fasig-Tipton Stable Tour once again.

We caught up with the Hall of Fame trainer aboard his pony Round between sets Thursday morning, scheduled it for that day at noon, showed up a little early while Mott and son Riley discussed members of the stable on a bench outside his small office on the Oklahoma Training Track, waited in the shade for a few minutes and started on time.

Mott opened up screens, stepped in some stalls, fed snacks and admired the stars and would-be stars of his main barn and two others nearby.

A nine-time winner of the Saratoga training title, Mott sits in a tie for 10th in the standings by wins this year – thanks to 22 seconds – but third by purses with more than \$1.6 million heading into today's Woodward Day card where he runs the favored Tacitus in the feature.

"I've had some meets where we were noticeably high on seconds. It could be up here, too," Mott said. "Usually they equal out, if you have 10 wins you have 10 seconds. This year I've got nine wins and all those seconds.

"The bad thing is some of the ones that were second I lost in the claiming box – No Lime, Breithorn, Lone Rock – all horses that could come back and win if we ran them in similar spots."

Mott didn't start this year's tour like he typically does with The Special's Sean Clancy, who stayed home in Virginia for the meet thanks to the ongoing pandemic. Tom Law stepped in for Sean and went stall by stall with Mott for more than an hour.

Obligatory: Juddmonte Farm's homebred gray 2-year-old filly by Curlin, who occupies the end stall closest to the Oklahoma, shows eight works including a pair from the gate on the training track. "She's out of Uno Duo. Uno Duo won a stakes for us at Aqueduct (Fickle Fanny in 2013). She came in late, her and another Curlin filly right next door."

Millefeuille: Juddmonte homebred breezed a half from the gate on the Oklahoma in :49.33 Monday, her seventh work. "She's another Curlin filly out of a mare that was unraced. Her mother, Bandana, was a War Front out of Honest Lady. The mother could run, but was unfortunate not to make the races.



Neither of them have run yet; we're hoping to run sometime in September. Late September, early October."

Channel Maker: Last week's Grade 1 Sword Dancer winner stands at the ready when Mott walks up, wary as ever. Ontario-bred English Channel gelding has won six of 35 and earned \$2,494,051, so no doubt gets a little leeway. "Come here, come here, come here grouchy. I know you're going to pin your ears (which he does, on cue). You want to be nasty don't you? You're saying, 'Everybody's tough on me, you run me every 30 days.' He's not a mean horse, he's protective of his stall. But once you're in there he's fine. He will bite you though. The Joe Hirsch Turf Classic is next I suppose."

Aunt Kat: A \$410,000 yearling buy in 2018, 3-year-old Uncle Mo filly spent time with the stable at Belmont last summer and fall, then Payson Park in the winter. She's been training at Saratoga since the Oklahoma opened in June. "She's an unraced filly. She's been a real project. Look at all the works I've got on her. Working, working, working."

Say Moi: Bach Stable's 3-year-old Union Rags filly is entered in today's sixth, a 7-furlong allowance on the main track. "She broke her maiden at Churchill. She was one of the first ones we sent in to Churchill because they opened. So we sent her in there and she won there in her second start. Then she was second behind Todd Pletcher's nice horse Spice Is Nice. We ran her back the other day at a mile-and-an-eighth, which was not the right thing to do. But we wanted to find out. She was second going a mile-and-a-sixteenth so a mile-and-an-eighth seemed like the thing to do. She's back in going seven-eighths."

Eye Of A Soldier: Homebred 3-year-old Soldat filly races for Estate of Harvey A. Clarke and Paul Braverman. She's won one of five with two seconds and a third. "Second and a third here, ran well, the only times we've run her. Turf. Nice filly."

Casa Creed: Lee Einsidler's LRE Racing and JEH Racing Stable's 4-year-old by Jimmy Creed won last year's Grade 2 National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame and finished third last time in the Grade 1 Fourstardave. He's won three of 14 and earned \$423,008. "Hey big boy. Looks good this sucker, doesn't he? Nice horse. Hard knocker. Third in a Grade 1 last time, poor guy probably will have to go to the Shadwell Mile or something. Lee likes to go. He's my man."

Golden Award: Summer Wind Equine's multiple graded stakes winner finished fourth in Sunday's Grade 3 Shuvee. She's won five of 15 with five seconds for \$440,300. "She was fourth the other day, second in the earlier stake (Summer Colony). Kind of a fast type of race, the Shuvee. We're determining if we want to finish the year.

She's doing great. She'll be a broodmare next year I'm sure."

Crescent Lady: Equivine Farm's 4-year-old Scat Daddy filly finished fourth in Friday's eighth race. "New York-bred 1x. Broke her maiden here (July 22). I had her last year, raced her a couple times and she's done well this year."

Berning Question: Summer Wind's 2-year-old Bernardini filly is out of the Not For Love mare For Royalty, a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Constellation and a \$2.1 million purchase carrying the filly in 2017. "She's entered for Sunday. She's doing fine, she's doing good. One of those that we have to run her. Take her over there, run her and see what we've got. She's been very straightforward. Early on she was very forward. I'm not going to make too many predictions on these 2-year-olds."

Harvey's Lil Goil: Graded stakes winner on turf and third in the Grade 1 Alabama last time, 3-year-old American Pharoah filly stands in the middle of her stall until Mott opens her screen. "Harvey. Did you eat? She's got a good appetite. You're looking for more aren't you? She's been putting on weight. Hey baby. Want some? I'll give you a little taste. She already ate her lunch. There you go. There you go. She's put on weight. Some of these fillies are difficult to keep weight on in Florida. She went to Churchill then when she got here from Churchill I could see she put on weight. And she's continued even since her race. She was thin. Light over her hips and she's started to really blossom. A lot of those fillies just don't blossom in Florida. Some do, some don't."

What do you attribute that to? "I don't know. Weather is nice, feed is the same, she's eating the same and they don't put on the weight and then they get up north sometimes and they put it on."

Continued On Page 7

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 6

Blamed: Cleber Massey's multiple graded stakes winner and \$600,065 earner is entered in Sunday's Grade 2 Honorable Miss. Ninetime winner finished second in the Shine Again last time. "Hey girl. She's going to sprint. She won going 6 ½ (furlongs) and it's kind of like, where do we go? I could have gone to the big stake in Kentucky or stayed here."

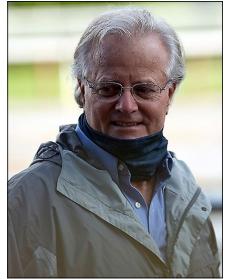
Forza di Oro: Homebred Speightstown colt for Don Alberto Stable was \$325,000 RNA at 2018 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale. The winner of one of three last year, he's been off since an eighth in the Grade 2 Remsen in early December. "I thought he was my best 2-year-old last year. He hasn't run yet this year. I was really high on this horse. He broke his maiden in his second start. He was second, then he won and then I ran him in the Remsen and he didn't run any good. Then he came up with an injury behind that's taken some time. He had an ankle bothering him. He's back going now, we've got some works into him and he shouldn't be too long."

Brother In Arms: Mott coerces 2-year-old War Front colt to the front of the stall with a, "Come here buddy." Godolphin paid \$2.9 million for colt out of Brereton Jones' Kentucky Oaks winner Believe You Can. "He was a big purchase. Just came in. We've only had him four or five days. We're galloping him. He was backward, you can see he's a big, huge, strong, muscular horse. He's getting on. We're with him now like we were with some of them in May. Getting to know him."

Seismic Wave: Juddmonte's stakes-winning homebred Tapit ridgling finished second in the Grade 3 Poker, sixth in Grade 2 Bernard Baruch and second in an optional here Aug. 27. He's won three of 15 and earned \$362,800. "He was second, I ran him off the turf the other day."

Selfmade: Team Penney Racing's 3-year-old Tiznow colt cost \$220,000 at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale. He's winless in five starts with two seconds. "He ran in the maiden 40 New York-bred (Wednesday). I ran him off the turf and he didn't do any good."

Tacitus: The big horse. What a resume, two-time Grade 2 winner with thirds in the Kentucky Derby and Jockey Club Gold Cup and seconds in the Belmont, Travers and Jim Dandy. He's won four of 12 and earned \$2,817,500. Expected to be heavy favorite in today's Grade 1 Woodward at 10 furlongs off a victory in the Grade 2 Suburban July 4. Mott continues along with his half scoop of feed and the gray Tapit colt reaches over his screen for a handful. "Back up, I'll give you some more. Come on. We opted to skip the



Tod Marks

Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott.

Whitney because we know if we wait for this one, the distance is good. We've got this one, we've got the Jockey Club Gold Cup and of course we'd love to make it to the Breeders' Cup Classic."

Were you glad to see the Woodward lengthened to a mile-and-a-quarter? "For us, yes it worked out. I didn't ask them to, but it worked out."

Endorsed: Godolphin's homebred 4-year-old Medaglia d'Oro colt finished second in the Alydar Stakes after runs this year in the Santa Anita Handicap, Westchester Stakes and Metropolitan Handicap. "Second to Todd's horse that's in the Woodward. The horse that beat him, Spinoff, he might not be a bad horse. I would have liked to see him not so keen."

Antoinette: Godolphin's Saratoga Oaks Invitational winner doesn't charge the screen but looks like she might, after some testing from Mott. She's won three of eight with four thirds, including one in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks on dirt and the Grade 3 Wonder Again on grass. "Aren't you happy? Oh veah. Come here, here, don't kick . . . I know you hate people don't you? You hate people. She'll bite your head off." Mott offers some sweet feed from his scoop and that settles Hard Spun filly down a bit. "And you're real friendly now and as soon as I pull this away you'll pin your ears and want to come after me. We're happy with her. The Belmont Oaks will be next (Sept. 19), that would make the most sense."

Hidden Scroll: The enigma. Juddmonte's Hard Spun colt burst on the scene winning his debut by 14 lengths on a sloppy track on Pegasus World Cup Day in 2019. He's had to live up to it since and has yet to hit the board in a stakes, either on dirt or turf, short or long. Won his 2020 debut in a Gulfstream optional,

Continued On Page 8



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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 7

then finished seventh in the Grade 3 Count Fleet before dropping John Velazquez in his turf debut June 3 at Belmont Park. Fifth in an optional here Aug. 1. "Here's the best eater in the barn. If you keep giving it to him I don't know how much he'd eat. He sees me walking by he'll go crazy, he wants to eat more. He's about as good looking of a horse as you'll see. Look at him. Huh? Look at his head. I haven't run him back because if I don't run him back I'm not frustrated."

Sol Del Sur: Two-year-old Medaglia d'Oro colt finished fifth in two maiden races going two turns on the grass, including Sunday for owner/breeder Don Alberto Stable. "He's run twice, probably will run back on the dirt. I've run him twice on the grass to get the distance, but he's going to have to try the dirt. He doesn't have a big enough turn of foot to run on the turf."

Rivendell: Veterinarians and their team are scoping 3-year-old Lemon Drop Kid filly as the tour makes its way down the shedrow. Mott steps into her stall, takes a look and offers a chance for some veterinary education. "Hey Tom, you ever look through an endoscope?" A maiden winner in her debut July 5 at Belmont, she finished fifth in allowance race Aug. 19. "She broke her maiden impressively, came back up here, was favorite in an a-other-than, finished fifth. We scoped her after and she had an entrapped epiglottis. We were checking on that. We operated on her right here in the stall and it looks pretty good. She walked for 10 days is all. We tack-walked and she's just jogging now. She won't lose a lot of conditioning I don't think. She's back jogging a couple miles a day. She could actually, I'm being a little conservative, looking at that you could

probably go ahead and train I suppose. I don't mind giving her a little extra time."

Editor's Note: Tom peeked through the scope (his first such exam). All looked good.

Tactical Move: Unraced 3-year-old First Defence filly for Godolphin occupies the last stall in the main barn. She's back on the work tab with steady breezes first at Keeneland then at Saratoga starting in July, including 5 furlongs on the main track in :59.44 Monday. "We had her here last year, we liked her, sent her home. She had some bone bruising going on, gave her some time and brought her back now. She should be ready to run pretty soon."

Thorn: Bay 2-year-old Speightster colt out of the unraced Dixieland Band mare Modern Rose occupies a stall in a nearby barn. Fourth and fifth in two starts, both maiden special weight races at Saratoga this meet. "He's run twice, belongs to W. I. Mott and Lee Einsidler. House horse. Probably going to see the claiming ranks."

Simply Sweet: Marty and Pam Wygod's 3-year-old filly by Super Saver out of champion Sweet Catomine. She's finished fourth in two maiden races on the dirt, July 9 at Belmont and Aug. 20 at Saratoga. "Maybe try her on the grass. She's run a couple times."

No Salt: Einsidler's 3-year-old Tonalist colt, a \$200,000 buy out of the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale, appreciated class relief in Aug. 23 victory. "He won, broke his maiden for 40 the other day in his fourth start. He'll go in a starter, non-two for 40."

Tercero: Three-year-old Majestic City colt finished fourth in Friday's sixth for owners Wachtel Stable, Pantofel Stable, Je-

rold Zaro and Parkland Thoroughbreds. He'd been off since early January. "New York-bred maiden, coming off the shelf. He's been out over 180 days, I know that because we had to have the 180-day test. He ran in December, early January. He was turned out and he's back. Should be better."

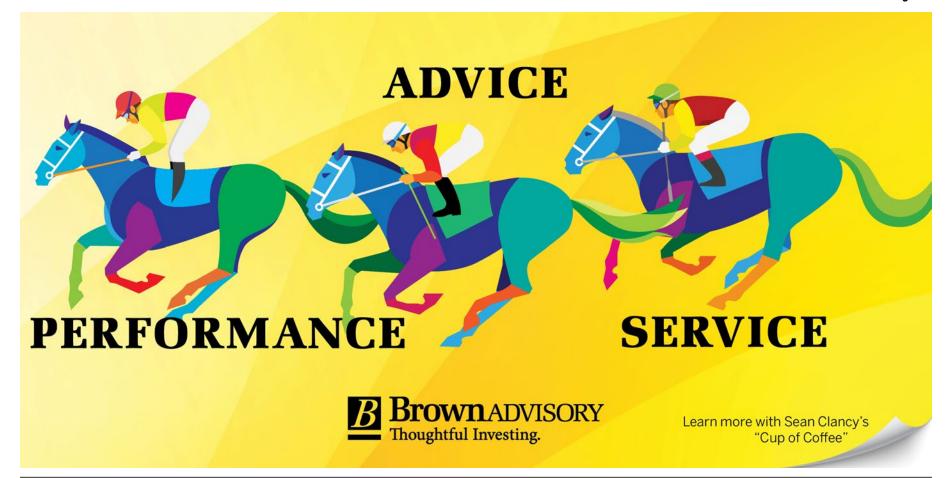
Honey Won't: Full-brother to former Mott trainee Honey Dont, useful 4-year-old Soldat colt has four wins and three seconds in 17 starts and \$153,987 in earnings. He won two starts back in allowance company on the turf at Belmont July 11. "Fourth here the other day and ran really well. Full-brothers, Honey Won't and Honey Dont. This horse has actually developed into a nice horse. He was small when he was 2. He's really developed over the years. He's probably changed a lot. The other horse (Honey Dont) withered away. They were both small when they came in, both athletic early, both good movers. The other one went this way (Mott closes his arms together) and this guy went this way (spreads his arms out). It's weird because you never know which way they'll go."

Spotters Hill: Irish-bred 2-year-old by Iffraaj out of the Invincible Spirit mare Floriade purchased in England for \$211,6989 by China Horse Club and WinStar Farm's Maverick Racing. "One of WinStar's that just came in. I know nothing about the pedigree other than he was purchased at one of the sales. He's only been training with us for about a week."

Mr Jaggers: Homebred 3-year-old Twirling Candy colt for the Wygods finished fifth in allowance here Aug. 9. "He broke his maiden down at Belmont. He's an a-other-than on the turf."

Stone Town: James Karp's 2-year-old filly by Tapizar out of Storm Cat mare Counterpoise finished second in debut July 19 then fifth in 6 ½-furlong maiden won by Steve Asmussen's

Continued On Page 10



8 The Saratoga Special Saturday, September 5, 2020

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Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

Cantata by 10 ¼ lengths Aug. 16. "Looks OK. I ran her back a second time, got into a little tougher race. I worked her back on the grass and she worked pretty good. I don't know, might be something to think about with her. Not a lot of pedigree there for turf but some. She worked good on the grass the other day. Her video was on XBTV. That's nice to see sometimes. Can't hide many babies, I'll tell you that, when they're around."

Jane Grey: Entered in Sunday's fifth, Godolphin homebred 2-year-old filly by Into Mischief out of unraced Bernardini mare Crowned, whose dam Mushka won a Grade 1 for Mott and Brushwood Stable. "Hey girl. Entered for Sunday, first time, just going to give her a nice, easy run. She's good. Nice. Flighty, looky, you know what I mean? But athletic."

Caramel Swirl: Godolphin homebred Union Rags filly entered for debut in Sunday's first, 7-furlong maiden on the main track. "She's going to run Sunday. If they don't split I'm going to be out of luck." The race split, Jane Grey runs in the second division.

Lovestruck: The Tapits keep coming. Godolphin's 2-year-old filly is out of the Mr. Prospector mare Love Style. "Nice big filly, a little later developing kind. She's a Tapit and a half to Scat Daddy. It is a good pedigree, but you know Scat Daddy and one other (Grade 3 winner Antipathy) are the only ones out of that mare that have done anything? I don't know what they've done on the breeding end of it, but as far as the racetrack I don't think much. He's been the main one. I guess he ran plus he was a good sire, right?"

Reina Del Sol: Don Alberto homebred 2-year-old filly by Tapit filly out of the winning Galileo mare Reach The Stars finished third in debut Aug. 19 going two turns on the grass. "Nice filly. She's going to be good. She was green. A lot of these fillies are very green, looky, need some racing and need a little confidence. They're very hyper, very flighty, nice fillies but need racing. We even had a little set of blinkers on her to help keep her focused. I'm not a big blinker guy. I loved her race, she was good, galloped out. It was a good race."

Hardison: Godolphin's 2-year-old colt by Tapit out of Grade 1 winner Octave, a \$4 million purchase at the end of her career at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's November mixed sale. Entered for debut in today's seventh, 1 1/16-mile turf maiden. "He's in on the grass, wants to go a mile-and-a-quarter. Nice easy race in him, get him around there, get some experience in him. I think he's going to benefit from it."

Kissing Frogs: Fourth in debut last November, 3-year-old Cairo Prince filly broke her maiden at Gulfstream Dec. 29 before going to the sidelines for Paradise Farms Corp., Umberto Ferri, Ira Keeperman and Harold Chubinsky. "She had an ankle surgery and she's just coming back."



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Olympiad: A \$700,000 yearling for Grandview Equine, Cheyenne Stables and LNJ Foxwoods, 2-year-old Speightstown colt entered for second start in today's fifth race. "Maidens going 7 furlongs, 2-year-olds. He was third his first time."

Repo Rocks: LRE Racing and JEH Racing Stable's Tapiture colt out of the Not For Love mare Hawaiian Love finished fourth and third in maiden races at the meet. "Third the other day, maiden 2-year-old. He's going to appreciate a little more distance."

Chewing Gum: Fourth in the Grade 3 Troy Aug. 8, 5-year-old son of Candy Ride came back to finish ninth in the Grade 1 Fourstardave 14 days later. He's won three of 13 and earned \$247,625 for Wachtel Stable, Pantofel Stable and Jerold Zaro. "We wheeled him back in two weeks. He ran good going 5 1/2, then I ran him back in the Fourstardave at a mile. I wanted to go to Kentucky Downs and run him 6 furlongs there. He's already won there."

Migrate: Adele Dilschneider spent \$575,000 for Candy Ride colt as a yearling. "He just came in. He's only been off the farm for a week. Nice colt, we like him, he had some things going on, bucked his shins."

Nubian: Juddmonte homebred 3-year-old filly by Pioneerof The Nile out of French and English classic winner Special Duty. "She's getting ready to run. She had an injury last year. Never ran as a 2-year-old. She was at Churchill for a little while, we had her for a couple months then went to the farm. She had to go make a quick stop."

Cucina: Donald Dizney's homebred 3-year-old Northern Afleet gelding is 2-for-9 with \$109,350. He finished fourth behind Yaupon in 6-furlong allowance July 18 and is in Monday's 10th race. "We won with him in Florida, an a-other than Florida-bred race and he's eligible for the open a-other-than here. He's one I had as a main-track-only the other day. He was at Belmont. Weather forecast all week, sun, sun, sun, sun, sun, well 7:30 in the morning it dumped down rain. Then they took it off the grass, he's at Belmont. They asked if he could go. No way I could get him up here. I had no idea it was going to rain."

Ascending Moon: Malibu Moon colt cost Ilium Stable and Angelantonio Freda \$75,000 as a yearling last year. He's breezed 10 times in Saratoga, including four works on the Oklahoma turf. "He's a big Malibu Moon colt. Probably going to have to go to Belmont. Right? Belmont might suit you with those big turns and stuff. He's a big guy. Not very quick from the gate. We've worked him on the grass, he's pretty good there. Cruises along OK."

Serene: Godolphin spent \$800,000 to buy filly by Tapit out of the multiple Grade 1-placed Smart Strike mare Fascinating. She's breezed seven times at Saratoga, including a half on the grass Monday and 5 furlongs from the gate in 1:01.88 on the main track Aug. 24. "I'll enter her for Monday. First-timer, try to get a nice education race in her. She and Hardison, they're backward but if you run them and if they come back OK in a month's time they'll be more apt to get it. You can train them for another month and run them, but we're here. Rather than switching tracks, switching environments, going through that whole thing. The owners are fine with that. They're not locked into having to win first time out. If that's what they want with me they probably have the wrong guy."

Two horses occupy open air stalls just outside Mott's office building, one a veteran of the tour and faithful servant to the stable and the other a graded stakes-winning filly.

Frank's Rockette: Frank Fletcher's homebred Into Mischief filly is the 5-2 second choice for today's Grade 2 Prioress. She won the Grade 3 Victory Ride last time at the expense of today's foes Reagan's Edge, Center Aisle and Up In Smoke. Second in last year's Grade 1 Spinaway, Grade 1 Frizette and Grade 2 Adirondack, she's won four of eight and earned \$413,603. "Here she is. She loves her stall. The one thing though, not only do the horses like it out here the flies seem to like these stalls, too. The flies are worse this year than ever." After Mott gives the filly and her neighbor a sufficient amount of fly spray he's asked about her Prioress chances. "I like her. Her winning margin wasn't that great last time, she had to work for it."

Round: The Tour ends – almost, the guest came close to overstaying his welcome – with the same three words that usually start it off. "This is Round. He's doing good. I raced him and he's been here for six, seven years now. You're a pretty good boy and were this morning. I hadn't ridden him in four days. I thought he was going to be wild. I thought you'd be wild huh? Yes, but you were pretty good. I was giving my back a break, but I don't think it mattered."

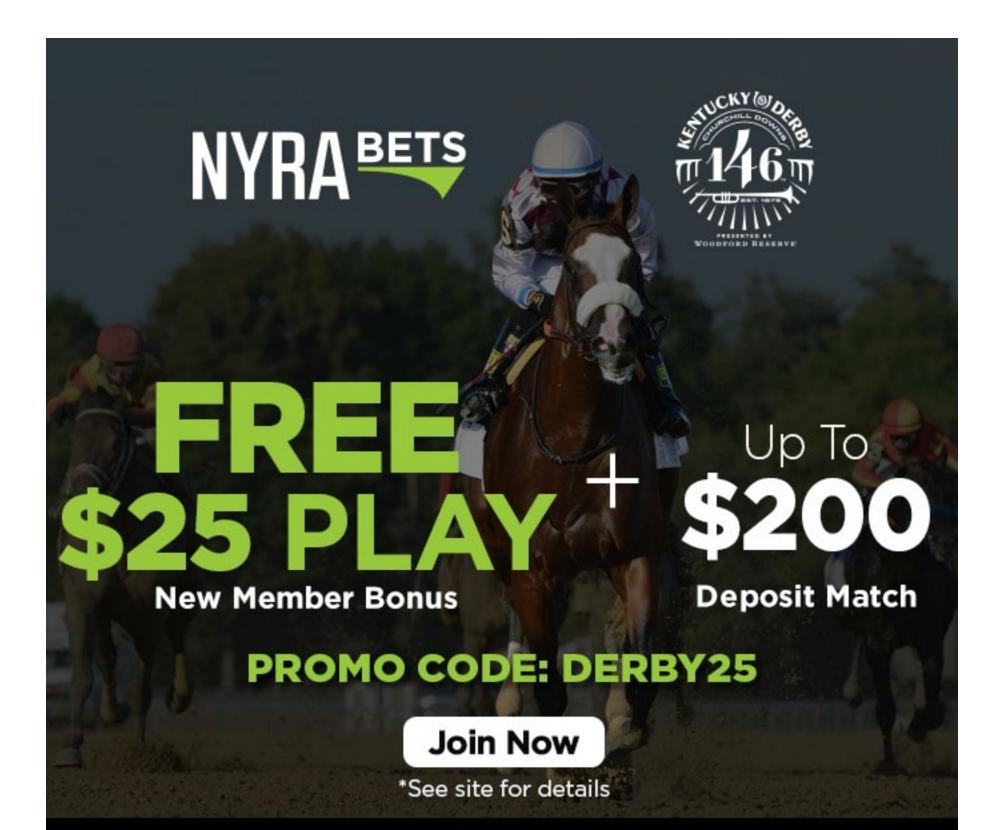
Once a winner in nine starts for Mott and Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, Round is a 9-year-old son of Arch and the Seeking The Gold mare Enth. The bay last raced in 2015, but plays the valuable role of stable lead pony.

Before going to pull manes and hold horses for the blacksmith with the team Mott talked about his runners at Churchill Downs, one who could give him the most unique double of all time. South Bend shipped to Louisville from Saratoga and could give Mott back-to-back wins in the Kentucky Derby, last year's via disqualification with Country House and this year watching on television in New York.

South Bend: A private purchase by Gary Barber, Wachtel Stable, Peter Deutsch and Pantofel Stable, son of Algorithms moved to Mott's care in early July. He finished fourth in the Travers, beaten 9 1/2 lengths by Tiz The Law. Winner of the Street Sense at Churchill Downs as a 2-year-old for Stan Hough and Sagamore Farm, he's won three of 12 and placed in four other stakes. Tyler Gaffalione rides the 50-1 longshot, who showed up in the entries at the 11th hour Tuesday. "They had heard there was a defection (of Art Collector), were interested in running and called me. I've always felt, I fight sometimes on a lot of the other races, but with that race, if you've got four owners and four owners want to run you better just go ahead and run. He doesn't have the best numbers, doesn't have the record quite as good as some of them but he ran well here. Couple of my guys are sheet guys, they said if he got a good sheet he could move forward, he's ready to move forward. Maybe they're right you know? Barclay's horse (Tiz The Law), if you look at the speed figures he's just way faster. There's one or two of them that are a bit faster.

Maybe you get a piece? "I'm not really interested in running fifth, but if they want to run you have to. I'm OK with it. The only thing is if I ask them after we do it if we need time you have to go along with me a little bit."

Horologist: Mott took over training New Jersey-bred 4-year-old by Gemologist in late spring and she won the Grade 2 Molly Pitcher at Monmouth Park July 18. She followed that up with a third in Friday's Grade 1 La Troienne on the Kentucky Oaks undercard at Churchill. "She ran fast in the Molly Pitcher. Her Rag number was 2 points faster than Monomoy Girl has ever run. I got the Sheets, I saw it. Now I don't know if she'll reproduce that. I was scrolling through and was like, holy . . . She was here and we sent her down there. She's doing good, too. It would be a stretch to think we're going to beat that filly."







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Back In Gear

World traveler Tacitus makes Saratoga return off two-month break



YRA Ph

BY TOM LAW

Tacitus racked up some miles this winter and spring, going from Payson Park in Florida to Saudi Arabia, then a short hop from Riyadh to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and ultimately back to Florida. That's a little over 23,000 miles if you're keeping track.

In the midst of the pandemic and with the trip to the UAE for naught when the Dubai World Cup was canceled, Bill Mott thought one more trip might be the right move for Juddmonte Farm's sturdy son of Tapit. A trip to Hot Springs, Ark., for the Oaklawn Handicap seemed like the right move at the time, but ultimately proved wrong.

"We traveled to Saudi Arabia, we traveled to Dubai and then I foolishly took him to Oaklawn," Mott said Thursday, standing outside the gray colt's stall and coercing him to poke his head out with a scoop of sweet feed. "I was frustrated, asking myself, 'Are we ever going to race again anywhere?' I

thought we had to run. That was probably a bad training move."

By Tacitus standards, Tacitus didn't fire in the Oaklawn Handicap, finishing fourth behind By My Standards, Warrior's Charge and Mr. Freeze. The race wasn't a complete bust, he lost by only 4 lengths, but messed up some timing and the chance to run in Churchill Downs' Stephen Foster and Saratoga's Whitney.

Mott adjusted and two months after the Oaklawn Handicap stayed in New York for the Grade 2 Suburban at 10 furlongs, which Tacitus won in a laugher. Now two months after that victory, he eyes his first Grade 1 in today's Woodward Stakes at the same distance.

"With the traveling, we missed a little training, I don't know," Mott said. "If I could do it over I wouldn't go to Oaklawn. But we did and then we won the Suburban.

"We were in such flux at the time as far as this virus goes. We didn't even know which racetracks

WOODWARD STAKES PREVIEW

were going to open. We didn't even know if they were going to open here," Mott said. "We had no idea. They were not open when I took him to Oaklawn. They weren't open in Kentucky. Maybe we panicked, thinking, 'You're never going to run again.' That's why he went to Oaklawn."

Tacitus, second in two prior starts at Saratoga in last year's Grade 1 Travers and Grade 2 Jim Dandy, takes on five opponents in the Woodward. None ran in the Whitney, which featured a field of five many considered the best race in the country this year.

The Woodward drew a pair from trainer Todd Pletcher's barn in Moretti, second to Tacitus in the Suburban and winner of the 1 ¾-mile Birdstone Aug. 2 at Saratoga, and Spinoff, winner of the restricted Alydar Aug. 9 at Saratoga.

Continued On Page 13

Woodward —

■ Continued from page 12

Global Campaign, the second choice at 5-2 to Tacitus at even money, ships in from Kentucky for trainer Stan Hough off a win last time in the Grade 3 Monmouth Cup.

Math Wizard, the lone Grade 1 winner in the field after his 31-1 upset of the Pennsylvania Derby last year before a fifth in the Breeders' Cup Classic, returns off a week's rest for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr.

Trainer Jim Bond, in the midst of a strong Saratoga meet with 12 wins after Rinaldi's victory in the West Point Stakes Friday, aims high with Bill Clifton Jr.'s last-out Saratoga winner Prioritize.

"A meet to remember," Bond said Thursday morning on his way to watch a set train on Clare Court.

Prioritize started his career on the grass, where he won and finished third in the restricted Better Talk Now Stakes and Grade 2 Hill Prince as a 3-year-old. The son of Tiz- A Saratoga winner in 2018, Prioritize aims high in the Woodward. way, who Bond trained to win the Grade 1 Met Mile and Whitney as a 5-year-old, stayed on the turf last year before making the switch in late 2019.

"He just lost a bit of interest for me on the turf and I couldn't find any rhyme or reason, so I decid-



ed to take a shot and try him on dirt," Bond said. "His works on dirt in the morning were OK, nothing over the top. He sure has improved."

Risked for a \$35,000 tag in a 1-mile race Dec. 20, Prioritize won at nearly 14-1 before coming back to finish second in a higher level optional claimer without being entered for a price.

Bond didn't winter in Florida this year and when racing shut down in March he, like many of his colleagues, was forced to wait. Prioritize picked up where he left off when racing returned to New York. He didn't come with Bond's string bedded down on Gridley Street immediately when the Oklahoma Training Track opened in early June but soon after a runner-up in another optional at 1 1/16 miles at Belmont June 18.

Prioritize won a 9-furlong optional July 25 at Saratoga, defeating the Kentucky Derby-bound Money Moves by a neck and got Bond thinking about the Woodward. He called the Woodward a "dream spot" for the gelding, who gets in light at 115 pounds and nine less than Tacitus.

"It's a mile-and-a-quarter and the way he ran (July 25) it looks like he'll get the distance," Bond said. "A lot of horses won't get the distance. ... He ran a great race the Tod Marks other day, showed his determination and he just seems to be climbing. His numbers are just getting better and better. Tizway was a pretty good horse at 5. Maybe he's following his daddy's footsteps.

"He's doing good and he's won on the surface here. Sometimes you throw the ball and hopefully he can catch it."



Signs of Life

Owner Lawrence, 3-year-old test deeper water in Gr. 2 stakes

BY JOE CLANCY

Like the rest of you Saratoga fans, Bill Lawrence watches the races from home. He bets, wears shorts, occasionally hollers at the television or computer screen and doesn't – for a change – sweat the dry-cleaning bill.

Such is 2020 for a Thoroughbred owner. Last year, and for more than a decade before that, Lawrence was a partner with Seth Klarman's powerhouse Klaravich Stable – winning some of the nation's top races, campaigning the likes of Bricks And Mortar, Practical Joke, Cloud Computing, Money Multiplier and others, and taking center stage in crowded winner's circle photos. Klaravich and Lawrence ran their last horse together

JIM DANDY STAKES PREVIEW

in November, with the former pressing on with dozens of horses mainly in the barn of trainer Chad Brown. Lawrence stayed involved, but went another direction. He didn't buy any yearlings in 2019, and skipped the 2-year-old sales this year as the coronavirus pandemic hit, but has four in training and takes a swing at today's Jim Dandy Stakes with Liveyour-beastlife.

"My fun is going to the races and being able to bring some friends and things, and it's not the same when you can't do that," Lawrence said after his Jim Dandy runner won a Sara-

Continued On Page 16



Tod Marks

Liveyourbeastlife exits a win over the track for owner Bill Lawrence.



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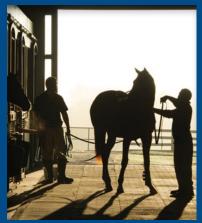
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Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 14

toga allowance Aug. 12. "I'm happy not owning a lot of horses right now. I've gone from having one of the biggest stables out there with Seth to a much smaller stable now. It's strange to not go there, but that's what I need to do."

Citing some minor, but potentially serious, health issues, the Latham, N.Y., resident won't attend the races at Saratoga for the first time in 45 years though not much else has changed. He's still an owner, still a fan, still the "racing guy" in his circle of friends who grew up going to the track at Saratoga.

"I've still got the same guys calling me and things about being at the top of the stretch and watching the races," he said. "You can't sit around and be depressed about it. We're racing, I think that's great. The coverage on Fox is good. I didn't anticipate the handle being so strong everywhere. This spring I had people texting me, 'Where's Fonner Park?' "

Lawrence didn't quite reach that level, and told his friends to Google the Nebraska track, one of a handful that kept racing through the Covid-19 outbreak, all the while looking forward to a return to racing. Lawrence's horses have won three of eight starts this year - the first at Gulfstream Park in January, another at Aqueduct in March and then more than

two months of inactivity. Liveyourbeastlife, purchased for \$200,000 at Fasig-Tipton's Florida 2-year-old sale in 2019, finished fourth at Gulfstream in May, was a solid third behind the highly-regarded Creed at Belmont in July and then dispatched six others going the Jim Dandy's 9 furlongs at Saratoga.

"He broke his maiden last year, so we had to throw him to the wolves and he got blasted in the Nashua," Lawrence said of a sixth behind Independence Hall last year. "He's gotten better. The race where he was third showed me something. I expected him to run pretty well (the day he won). We don't have Derby fever but we'll talk."

Jim Dandy fever will have to do. Traditionally a prep for the Grade 1 Travers, the race takes on a new role as an alternative for 3-year-olds who didn't make the Kentucky Derby field but might have late-arriving expectations. The Preakness awaits the winner Oct. 3.

"There are only a few more shots to run against straight 3-year-olds," Lawrence said. "It's all kind of upside down, but I think he'll continue to improve."

He'll have to step forward Saturday. Thanks to the presence of Todd Pletcher trainees Dr Post and Happy Saver. The former, a \$400,000 Keeneland September purchase, races for St. Elias Stable and has looked good in four starts this year - a maiden win

Continued On Page 18



Tod Marks

Dr Post is favored in the Jim Dandy for the Todd Pletcher stable.

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Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 16

in March, a score in the Unbridled Stakes in April, a second in the Belmont Stakes and a third in the Haskell. Irad Ortiz Jr. takes the call on the Quality Road colt at 7-5 from post six.

"I'm very happy with him," Pletcher said of Dr Post. "He showed his quality in the Belmont when he ran as close to Tiz The Law as any one (a 3 ³/₄-length defeat). He kind of had a less than Lipskall but hopefully he's ready to move forward here."

A Wertheimer and Frere homebred, Happy Saver trounced maidens in his debut on the Belmont undercard in June and then blitzed allowance foes at Saratoga July 26 - both with Ortiz aboard. The light schedule hints at bigger things to come, Third in the Peter Pan, Mystic Guide returns and adds blinkers. though he gives up experience to every other starter. Jose Lezcano takes the ride from the inside post at 9-5, though the chestnut is also entered in Monday's Federico Tesio at Laurel Park.

Godolphin's Mystic Guide adds blinkers off a third as the favorite in the Peter Pan here July 16 for trainer Mike Stidham. The 3-year-old Ghostzapper-Music Note colt broke his maiden by 5 lengths at Fair Grounds in March, then ran into Tap It To Win when second in a Belmont allowance June 4. Jose Ortiz stays aboard the homebred, who breaks from the outside at 4-1.



Fourth in the Peter Pan, Imperial Racing's Celtic Striker seeks his fourth win for trainer Ray Handal at 20-1 from post five. The son of Congrats won the two-horse Easy Goer by 19 3/4 lengths at Belmont June 25. Joel Rosario rides for the first time.

Monmouth Park shipper Jesus' Team adds blinkers for trainer Jose D'Angelo off a fourth in the Haskell and a second in the Pegasus Stakes. The Tapiture colt has won twice, both while risked for a claiming price, in nine starts. He's 6-1 from post four for Luis Saez.

Noda Brothers' First Line was scratched from the Travers, but returns here at 20-1 from post three for Dylan Davis.

As an assistant to Brown, Abreu cared for many Lawrence horses and turned that connection into a client for a training career which started in 2016. Abreu won two races that year, seven the next, 28 in 2018 and 31 last year. He's won nine races so far at the 2020 Saratoga meet, good for a tie for 10th in the standings. Lawrence loves to see the success.

"He was with Chad a long time and has a similar mentality and he's been doing a great job," the owner said. "He's starting to show some talent for it and from my interaction with him we operate the same way. I want to be with a smaller stable. separate the horses and see who can get to the next level.

"With Jorge, it's 'Where's the path to some success?' The horse doesn't know if you paid 20 grand, 200 grand or a million dollars. For me, it's put them where we can win some purses and some races and if they don't fit our program after awhile you've got to move them along but that's OK too."

Besides the Klaravich partnership, Lawrence had horses with Nick Zito in 2009 and put his colors in the Saratoga winner's circle for the first time in 2011 with Majestic Hope.

After a four-year break, Lawrence won two races with Analyze It in 2017. Third in the 2018 Breeders' Cup Mile, Analyze It makes his first start since that race in today's Red Bank Handicap at Monmouth Park.

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Fresh Air

Frank's Rockette adjusts to Spa from outside stall at Oklahoma

BY TOM LAW

The red light on the voice recorder didn't burn out but had been running almost an hour when Bill Mott reached the last stall of a third barn on the Oklahoma Training Track that houses members of his blue-blooded stable.

He'd talked about 45 horses, from unraced 2-year-old maidens to established stars like Channel Maker, Harvey's Lil Goil and Antoinette, and looked ready to get back to work when an 11th hour question made him change course.

"What about Frank's Rockette?" Mott was asked.

He turned and looked at the questioner, the way only Mott can do, and changed his path.

"OK," he said, walking into the

PRIORESS STAKES PREVIEW

courtyard that abuts the horse path alongside the first turn of the Oklahoma. "We hide her. ... That's pretty good, we got all the way through these and you realized she wasn't on your list?"

Frank's Rockette definitely appeared on the pre-Stable Tour list, both because of her accomplishments the last two seasons and because she's one of the major players in today's Grade 2 Prioress on the Woodward Day undercard at Saratoga Race Course.

Mott's walk turned out short, to the side-by-side open-air covered stalls that sit between the main barn

Continued On Page 22



Chelsea Durand/NYRA

Frank's Rockette (right) and Reagan's Edge meet again in today's Prioress

One Horse Buyers and sellers remember some names from Keeneland September sales of years past. SEPTEMBER KEENELAND. SUN. 13 - FRI. 25

SHARLA RAE, 2013

Marette Farrell

"Sharla Rae was the sweetest buy for me. The mandate was \$20,000 and maybe don't lose it for a bid or two. We're wandering around, snipping away, trying to find a horse that would fit. She was in Barn 43. I remember it like it was yesterday. As I was walking up the hill she was standing there and she was so proud. I want to say she was a vision, not in the runway-model sense, a vision in that she just grabbed your attention. She was so smooth, she had so much bone. This was in the morning and the horses were galloping down below on the track and she didn't turn a hair. I'm early, they were bathing her when I saw her. I'm sure it was the first show and she was just, 'Not a bother. OK. Whatever you want.' She walked this way and that, did everything right.

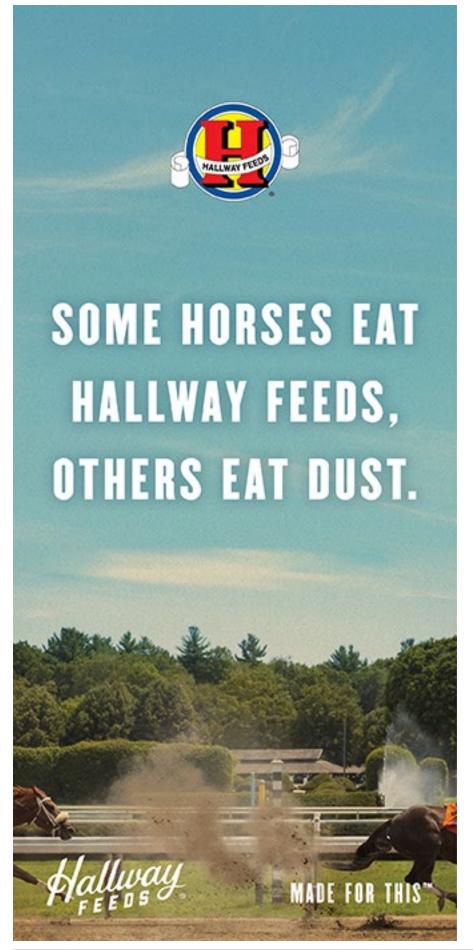
"To think that we got her and she ended up winning the Del Mar Oaks. In a funny, odd way she was as unheralded as a Grade 1 winner as she was going through the ring. She beat Her Emmynency, Zipessa, some really nice horses.

"You love bucking the system. You love being able to zig when everybody else zags. I have a picture of her in my house and every once in a while I look at her and think about how it happened and how special it was."

Purchased from the Castle Park Farm consignment for \$22,000, Sharla Rae won four races (three stakes) for Denny Boultinghouse's W.C. Racing before selling to Gary Barber, Brous Stable and Wachtel Stable and adding the Del Mar Oaks. She earned \$452,308 and is now a broodmare in Japan.

THE SARATOGA SPECIAL SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020





Prioress —

■ Continued from page 20

and the small building where he keeps an office.

"She loves her stall. It's the best stall in the house. She's next to Round. She has a buddy," Mott said, pulling out his iPhone and scrolling through his photos of Frank's Rockette and Round, a 9-year-old son of Arch who won for the barn in 2014 and now the Hall of Fame trainer's almost daily ride during training hours, touching noses. "See, they like each other."

Frank's Rockette, the 5-2 second choice on the morning line for the 6-furlong Prioress behind 2-1 Kimari, enjoys her time outside and Mott admits he likes her in that spot, too.

"It's a great stall. I had Carina Mia and some other good fillies out here, they like it and I can sit in my office and look out here and see them," he said. "I can look at Round and her, a couple of my favorite horses. They're right there out the window."

Mott also enjoys seeing Frank's Rockette win and she's done that in half of her eight starts. She's finished second in the other half, including twice at Saratoga last year in the Grade 2 Adirondack midway through the meet and in the Grade 1 Spinaway on Closing Weekend.

The daughter of Into Mischief returns to the end of the meet again this year off back-to-back wins in a May 25 optional at Churchill Downs and the Grade 3 Victory Ride July 4 at Belmont Park. She won her 2020 debut in the Any Limit Stakes at Gulfstream before a second behind Kimari in the Purple Martin Stakes at Oaklawn Park during the pandemic when racing was shut down in New York.

Frank's Rockette did most of her prep work for the Prioress downstate with Mott's string at Belmont Park before moving north and into her new digs in early August. She's breezed three times for Mott on the Oklahoma, including a 3-furlong tightener in :36.30 Monday. Junior Alvarado takes the call on Frank's Rockette from post five in the Prioress, which goes as the 10th race today at 4:57 p.m.

Wesley Ward tries to win his second stakes of the meet with Kimari, winner of the 2019 Bolton Landing at Saratoga who made trips to Europe for major stakes the last two seasons.



Tod Marks

Kimari is favored in the Prioress.

The daughter of Munnings hasn't been out since finishing second to Golden Horde in the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup June 20 at Royal Ascot.

Kimari won the Purple Martin in her only other start of 2020 after a 2-year-old campaign that saw her win three of five and finish second in the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot for owner Ten Broeck Farm. Irad Ortiz Jr. rides Kimari from the rail.

Seven other 3-year-old fillies entered the Prioress, including a pair from trainer Chad Brown's barn while he continues the battle with Todd Pletcher for the meet's leading trainer. Brown adds blinkers to Center Aisle, a daughter of Into Mischief who cost \$1.5 million at the Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale last year. She finished third, beaten three quarters of a length by Prioress starters Frank's Rockette and Reagan's Edge in the Victory Ride. Center Ails is 4-1 with Joel Rosario on a return call. Brown also sends out Secondary Market for Seth Klarman's Klaravich Stable, currently atop the owner standings at the meet. Jose Ortiz rides the daughter of Into Mischief, who is 12-1 on the line.

The field features yet another daughter of Into Mischief in Sound Machine, 15-1 with Eric Cancel for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. Up In Smoke, third in the Grade 1 Test and fourth in the Victory Ride for George Weaver, Maryland-bred champion Hello Beautiful, Victory Ride third Reagan's Edge, now owned by Lael Stable, and Kentucky shipper Purrfectly Claire complete the field.



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12:40PM POST

STAKES CLOSING WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

\$100,000 GUARANTEED

THE FEDERICO TESIO STAKES

Three Year Olds // One Mile And One Eighth

\$100,000 GUARANTEED

THE WEBER CITY STAKES

Fillies Three Year Olds // About One Mile And One Sixteenth

\$100,000 GUARANTEED

THE HENRY S. CLARK STAKES (LISTED)

Three Year Olds and Upward // One Mile And One Sixteenth(Turf)

\$100,000 GUARANTEED

THE LAUREL DASH

Three Year Olds and Upward // Five And One Half Furlongs (Turf)

\$100.000 GUARANTEED

THE ALL ALONG STAKES (LISTED)

Fillies And Mares Three Year Olds and Upward // One Mile And One Eighth (Turf)

New Plan

Albertrani hopes Lovely Lucky finds niche going long on turf

BY TOM LAW

Lovely Lucky took a while to figure out.

The 4-year-old daughter of Lookin At Lucky showed promise in her debut sprinting on the dirt and Tom Albertrani figured the \$5,000 yearling might prove useful on the main track.

"I like to see them run on the dirt one time just to see if they like it or not," said Albertrani, who trains the filly for Elizabeth Mateo. "In the back of our minds we thought she would be better on the grass, but she ran OK first time out when we ran her on the dirt."

The debut came in early December, around the time most of Albertrani's string ships to Florida and Palm Meadows Training Center to

GLENS FALLS STAKES PREVIEW

run at Gulfstream Park. Lovely Lucky stayed in New York, with designs on more dirt races but it didn't pan out. She finished fifth in the slop and sixth in late February and her trainer changed plans.

"The third time we ran her on the dirt it was a completely dry track and we knew then we were struggling with the surface at that point, so we shipped her to Florida," Albertrani said. "Then the pandemic hit."

Racing continued at Gulfstream and Albertrani went looking for a race.

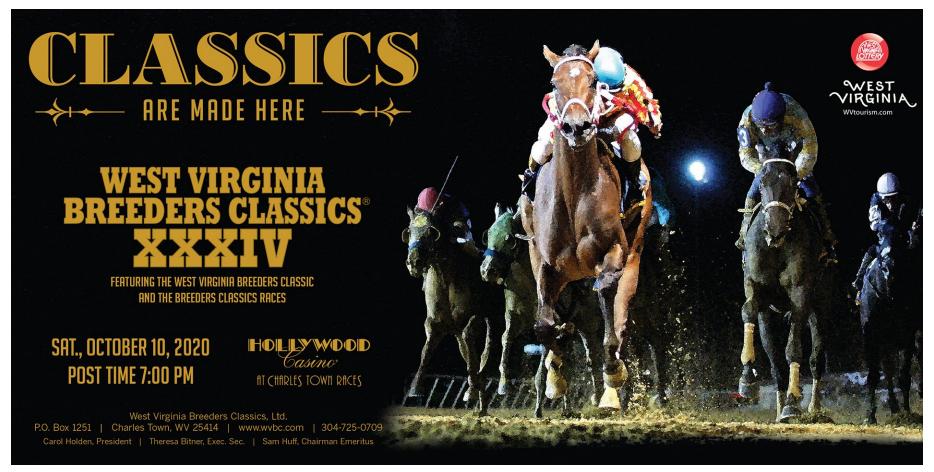
"I had her in for maiden claiming on the grass, thinking her form hasn't

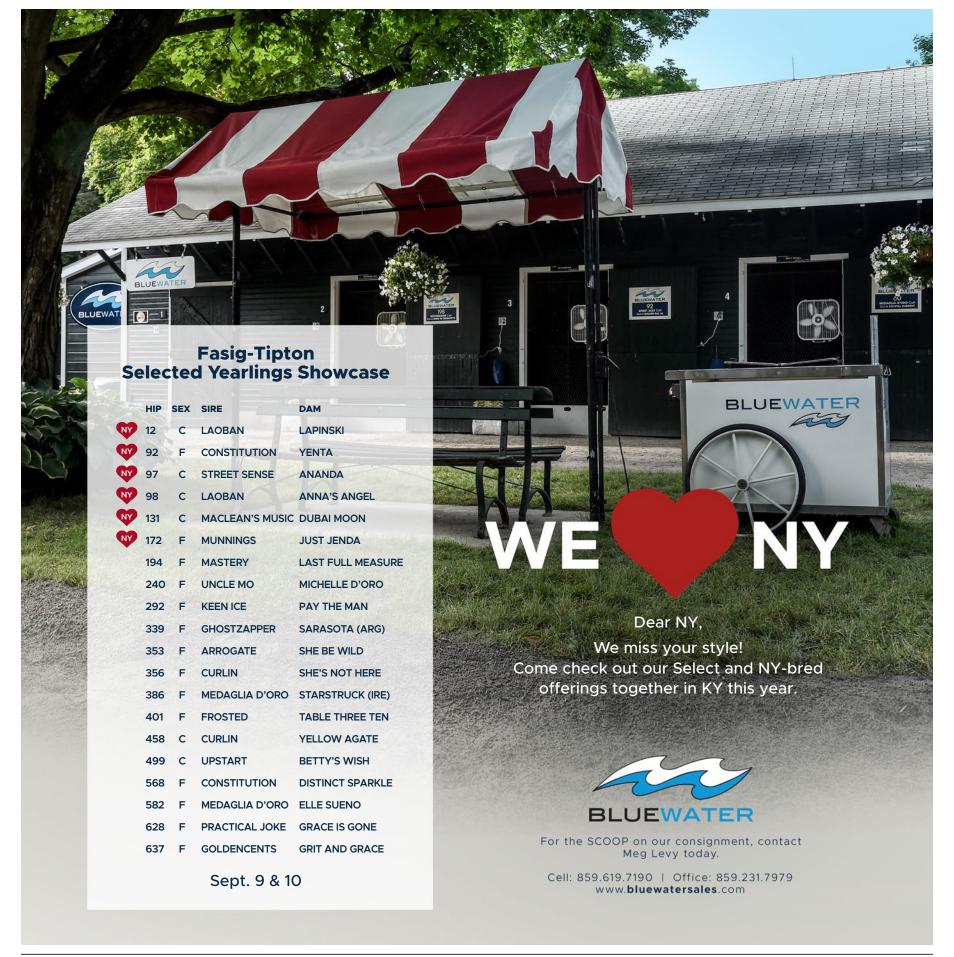
Continued On Page 26



Tod Marks

Off a win in the Waya, My Sister Nat will be tough to handle in the Glens Falls.







2020 Derby Week & September Meet Stakes Schedule

SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 27

THE CHAMPIONS DAY MARATHON

Runs Tues., Sept. 1 \$115,000 Three Years Old & Up Closes Aug. 15 1 1/2 Miles, Dirt

UNBRIDLED SIDNEY

Fillies & Mares Three Year Olds & Up 5 1/2 Furlongs, Turf

POCAHONTAS (GIII) "WIN AND YOU'RE IN BREEDE FILLIES DIVISIO CUPJUVENILE

Fillies, Two Years Old

Closes Aug. 15 1 Mile. Dirt

OPENING VERSE OVERNIGHT STAKES

Runs Thurs., Sept. 3 Closes Aug. 15 (No nomination fee) 1 Mile, Turf Three Years Old & Up

KENTUCKY OAKS DAY

LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS (GI) Runs Fri., Sept. 4

\$1,250,000

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

Fillies, Three Year Olds

Runs Fri., Sept. 4

\$300,000

Closes Aug. 15

Closes Aug. 15

1 Mile, Turf

(\$300 nomination fee)

Fillies, Three Year Olds 7 Furlongs, Dirt

EIGHT BELLES (GII)

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

Runs Fri., Sept. 4

\$300,000

Closes Aug. 15 1 1/16 Mile, Dirt

Closes Aug. 15

(\$300 nom

LA TROIENNE (GI)

EDGEWOOD (GII)

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

(\$300 nominatio 1 1/16 Miles, Dirt

TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT (GII)

Runs Fri., Sept. 4 Three Year Olds & Up Closes Aug. 15

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)

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

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

Closes Aug. 15 on fee)

LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE (GII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 5 \$500,000 Fillies & Mares, Four Year Olds & Up Closes Aug. 15 (\$300 nom

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

26

Closes Sept. 12 (\$100 nom 1 Mile, Dirt

To nominate, call (502) 638.3806 or (800) 928.3372

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

ChurchillDowns.com

Glens Falls —

■ Continued from page 24

shown much, we'll get a little aggressive," he said. "The race came off the grass, I scratched her. I re-enter again in a maiden claiming. Rained off again. I said, 'we didn't ship her all the way down here to run on the dirt,' so scratched her again.

"We ended up running maiden allowance, I was impressed with that race and thought, 'maybe we have something we can work with now."

Lovely Lucky, one of two for Albertrani in today's Grade 2 Glens Falls Stakes going 11 furlongs on the grass, showed she was a little more than useful. She finished fourth in her first start on grass going 1 mile at Gulfstream and three weeks later broke her maiden for a \$75,000 tag at the same trip at Belmont Park. Now she lands in a Saratoga graded stakes off a 6 3/4-length win over the same course and trip July 24.

"Stretching her out, that was a very impressive race last time," Albertrani said. "I wouldn't dismiss her. I really like what I saw in her last race. To me it looked like she might be developing into a nice router. ... It's a big step up but she reminded me watching her run of a nice filly that liked stretching out. Actually, she could be the horse to beat."

Listed at 8-1 on the morning line behind odds-on Grade 3 Waya winner My Sister Nat, River Memories winner Civil Union and behind stablemate and Waya fourth Beau Belle, Lovely Lucky might need a duplicate of that last race to factor.

Lovely Lucky could wind up with the ideal setup under Jose Lezcano behind Beau Belle, who didn't go to the front as expected or planned last time and might be lone speed in the Glens Falls.

'Beau Belle got a little compromised last time," Albertrani said. "Manny (Franco) was trying to take her off the front end when she got inside and got a little rank when he dropped her in behind. She would have fared a lot better if he just let her do her own thing. It could have been the difference where she finished that

"They went 25 and change. After the race I was a little disappointed. The plan was to let her go and I don't know why he decided the other two



Beau Belle represents Tom Albertrani in the Glens Falls.

were trying to send pretty hard. They weren't actually going very fast. Maybe misreading the race into the first turn then she got a little keen once she got dropped behind."

Luis Saez, who won four races again Friday, replaces the out-of-town Franco on Beau Belle. She's 5-1 on the line and won two races at the 2019 Saratoga meet to earn a spot against the best in the division in the Grade 1 Flower Bowl Invitational.

Beau Belle finished fifth in the Flower Bowl and ran once more without success last year before restarting in Florida this winter. The Waya was her fourth start of the year and she finished 3 lengths behind My Sister Nat after being keen early and unsettled.

"It looks like the way the race shapes up she'll be the speed in there," Albertrani said.

My Sister Nat won for the first time in the U.S. for Chad Brown and owner Peter Brant in the Waya after coming close in last year's Grade 3 Long Island and the Grade 2 New York in late June. A Group 3 winner and Group 1 performer in France, the 5-year-old Acclamation mare started her American career in June 2019. Jose Ortiz rides My Sister Nat on a return call.

Brown also entered Brant's Eliade. second at the 11-furlong trip last time behind Hungry Island. Irad Ortiz Jr., locked in a battle for leading rider honors with his brother Jose, takes the return call aboard the 8-1 Frenchbred filly.

Two longshots complete the seven-member lineup - Kentucky shipper and former Brown trainee Complicit for trainer Eric Reed and Pallas Athene, fourth in the Hungry Island-Eliade race last time out for John Terranova.

The Glens Falls leads off the stakes action on Woodward/Kentucky Derby Day, going as the fourth of 12 races on the card with a 1:26 p.m. post.



Saratoga Race Course – Saturday, September 5

the
Power
grid

Race #



er	
	John Shapazian

Race #	Shapazian
1	Tackle Ancient Times Kaz's Beach
2	Repole entry Deep Sea Vincero
3	Gringotts Saratoga Love Magnolia's Lady
4	My Sister Nat Civil Union Complicit
5	Olympiad Directional Caddo River
6	Say Moi Pop A Choc Don't Call Me Mary
7	Tiwanaku Sifting Sands Hidden Enemy
8	Microsecond Good Old Boy Barleewon
9	Happy Saver Dr Post Mystic Guide
10	Kimari Frank's Rockette Center Aisle
11	Tacitus Global Campaign Spinoff
12	No Lime Doubly Blessed Life On Top
2020 Recor	ds 123/372



Law
Tackle Ancient Times Bernardino
Repole entry Deep Sea Brush Country
Saratoga Love Graetz Silkv Blue
Lovely Lucky My Sister Nat Civil Union
Olympiad Munqad Greatest Honour
Say Moi Forever Changed Pop A Choc
Hidden Enemy Sifting Sands Hardison
Good Old Boy Point Him Out Jack The Cat
Dr Post Mystic Guide Celtic Striker
Frank's Rockette Center Aisle Kimari
Tacitus Prioritize Global Campaign
Life On Top Doubly Blessed Traffic Pattern



Charles **Bedard** Tackle Noble Mischief Make Motime Repole entry Deep Sea Vicar's Legend Magnolia's Lady Fractorzation Silky Blue My Sister Nat Civil Union Complicit Olympiad Directional Mungad Pop A Choc **Timely Tradition** Don't Call Me Mary Tiwanaku Hidden Enemy Sifting Sands Barleewon Simply Microsecond Dr Post Mystic Guide Jesus' Team Frank's Rockette Reagan's Edge Hello Beautiful **Tacitus** Global Campaign Math Wizard Traffic Pattern Shooting The Breeze Tollgate Bay



Rob Whitlock Tackle **Ancient Times** Kev To Victory Repole entry Deep Sea Vincero Saratoga Love Magnolia's Lady Silky Blue Civil Union My Sister Nat Lovely Lucky Caddo River Olympiad Mungad Say Moi Union Maiden Pop A Choc Hidden Enemy Sifting Sands Mo Heat Point Him Out Microsecond The Sinner is You Dr Post Jesus' Team Happy Saver Frank's Rockette Center Aisle Reagan's Edge **Tacitus** Global Campaign Spinoff Life On Top **Doubly Blessed** Our Country

87/372



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110/372

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101/372

Team Effort

Delayed Kentucky Derby set to become reality amid trying times



Coady Photo

BY TOM LAW

Kentucky Derby Week means many things to many people. Everyone's got a tradition or two, whether it's hosting a party with homemade mint juleps or scoping some sweet seats at Churchill Downs and a suite at the 21c Museum Hotel or Omni in downtown Louisville.

Every year but two since 1998 has meant a trip by plane or car – mostly car – from home to the Derby City for the event that Hunter S. Thompson called decadent and depraved. You always remember your first and for me that was Real Quiet, a crooked colt Bob Baffert liked when he saw him from the old wall in the back at Keeneland and bought for \$17,000.

There have been so many good ones since, all with some sort of personal tie. A huge score with Monarchos in 2001. Hanging out at the winners' party at the Derby Museum and walking back to the barn in the dark to see Funny Cide with Barclay

KENTUCKY DERBY PREVIEW

Tagg. Standing next to John Shirreffs when Giacomo won in 2005. Telling a colleague "we need to get down there, something cool is about to happen," before Barbaro rolled in 2006. And last year, when Bill Mott deadpanned, "makes for an interesting day" while the inquiry dragged on and his Country House was put up.

Never been as a fan, not sure I'd want to go as a fan, unless I was fortunate to score some sweet seats like 2017 when Mark Grier hooked me up not only for the Kentucky Oaks but also the Kentucky Derby, right on the finish post. And a room at the Galt House to boot. So good.

Decision time for Derby 146 came about half-way through the Saratoga meet, when I went from 50-50 after Tiz The Law won the Travers to 20-80 when it looked like there might be fans and down to 0-100 when word of protests and fans started

to percolate. Hopefully the protests stay peaceful and our game's signature event can go off without a hitch. If anything in 2020 can go off without a hitch.

To help colleagues with coverage of this year's Oaks and Derby the National Turf Writers And Broadcasters worked with Churchill Downs to develop a plan in the midst of limited access to the grandstand, clubhouse and stable area. Churchill determined that five members of the media would be granted access to the barns and the NTWAB would determine the pool reporters. Commonplace in coverage of the White House doings and big-time election campaigns, pool reporters are unknown to racing and it's a safe bet that the five on the scene in Louisville are making history. They're also crushing it, providing rich and colorful content that's been picked up from coast to coast and enhanced coverage of the great races.

Continued On Page 29

Derby —

■ Continued from page 28

The team came together after I put out a call a few weeks ago in an NTWAB newsletter to our 200-plus members seeing who was interested. After a few responses, phone calls, suggestions and coercions, the team was set:

- Jennie Rees, longtime turf writer from the Louisville Courier-Journal and past president of the NTWAB;
- Alicia Hughes, a former colleague at Thoroughbred Times who also worked at the Lexington Herald-Leader and The Blood-Horse, and past president of the NTWAB;
- Nicole Russo, who I hired from The Saratogian to join the team at Thoroughbred Times (the same path I took way back in 1998) and member of the NTWAB board of directors;
- Byron King, former longtime Kentucky correspondent for Daily Racing Form and current staff writer at The Blood-Horse; and
- Greg Hall, former equine business and turf writer at the Louisville Courier-Journal and current vice president of the NTWAB.

They've done an amazing job and haven't left many stones uncovered; I know because I'm on their daily text chain that starts before training hours and keeps rolling well into the afternoon and night. Here's a sampling of their work, featuring some of the major players for today's Kentucky Derby.

2. Max Player. Two-time winner breaks from the inside after defection of Finnick The Fierce. Chased Tiz The Law in the Belmont and Travers before switching trainers from Linda Rice to Steve Asmussen.

Trainer Steve Asmussen: "I'm extremely excited about how he's going to run in the Derby. I love how he looks going over the racetrack here. He came in with a great attitude and traveling well and he still is. He's got a great attitude, he rests well, he eats well. We've been able to do everything we hoped to do in his training leading up to the Derby. I think the reason he's here is to acclimate to the surface and the surroundings and to try to make up the difference, he's been third to Tiz The Law in his last two races and that's obviously the deserved post-time favorite and a tall task. One chance at the Derby and you want to do everything possible to give this horse his best chance."

3. Enforceable. The son of Tapit made nine starts from May to March before freshening and coming back to finish fourth in the Blue Grass July 11.

Trainer Mark Casse: "We need there to be a lot of speed, we've lost some speed recently with some of the scratches. We are at the mercy of the pace. I do think Enforceable is extremely sharp, he's a different horse than he was three months ago or five months ago. I think he'll come away with a little gusto. If we ran the Derby on the first Saturday in May, he would not have run. He was a tired horse. We think we have a shot, we have a better shot than most because we're in the race. Is he good enough? I don't know. I'll tell you Saturday night."

4. Storm The Court. The champion 2-year-old after upsetting the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, the son of Court Vision



Coady Photo

Honor A.P. motors around the turn at Churchill Downs.

hasn't won in five starts since, finishing second in his turf debut at Del Mar Aug. 9.

Trainer Peter Eurton: "We were definitely pointing for it in May. After a poor effort in Arkansas and OK in Ohio, I didn't think we would have enough points to get in, the way things turned out, with the defection, it made it a no-brainer. He ran a good race on the grass, like a good workout, we felt pretty good the way he came out and it was just a matter of how he worked up to last week of whether we were going to go or not. The turf was a good opportunity to stay home and we thought we would use the race as more knowledge of how he was going to like the grass and also a good setup of an easier race on the body. We are confident in him, it's a tough race on paper, but we know he doesn't always run his A game. We like what we see, we love our post position, obviously there are three or four, five or six horses who are very talented individuals, he's going to have to turn it up a notch."

5. Major Fed. Longshot is the first Derby horse for trainer and Kentucky native Greg Foley.

Trainer Greg Foley: "He's happy, healthy, and doing good. We're ready to go. I like this horse. He's had some hard luck in some races and whatnot. Obviously, he can't have that Saturday. I just hope they go fast up front. He'll be sitting off of it and come running and pick up the pieces. Everybody thinks about it. I've been doing this a long time, and it's the first time I've got one to lead over there. You hope you've got a young horse coming in that can do it, but it's dodged me up until now. It makes it that much more special for me, with (son/assistant) Travis and even my voungest boy Alex and (sister) Vickie, we're kind of grouped together over there, really, and my wife Sheree, she's our biggest cheerleader. All of them here watching it, they're really excited – not that I'm not, but it makes it that much more fun. It doesn't feel like Derby, especially when it's moved from May to September, and no people. It's quiet. It's definitely different, and that takes something away from it, also. It's an odd year, for sure."

Continued On Page 30

The TOP 10

Performances of the Meet sponsored by

OSCAR PERFORMANCE



The Saratoga Special keeps up with the meet's best performances.

- Win Win Win: Wild, wild, wild rally, rally, rally in Grade 1 Forego.

 Bred by Live Oak Stud
- **2. Tiz The Law:** Belmont? Check. Travers? Check. Next stop, Derby.
- **Gamine:** California-based 3YO filly left no doubt in Test.
- **Serengeti Empress:** Fought like a lioness in Ballerina triumph.
- **Sushing Fall:** Diana winner was gutsy in stretch battle.
- **6. Vexatious:** Vanquished champ in Grade 1 Personal Ensign.
- **7 Halladay:** Made fastball stand up against strong Fourstardave field.
- Improbable: Beat quality group in Grade 1 Whitney.
- **9. Volatile:** Speedster made it look easy in Vanderbilt.
- **10. Swiss Skydiver:** 3YO filly got her G1 in Alabama; look out Ky.

And the Oscar goes to... The breeder of the horse with the

Top Performance of 2020 receives a FREE 2021 breeding season to Oscar Performance. Good luck to all, and keep an eye out for quality weanlings this fall.

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Derby —

■ Continued from page 29

7. Money Moves. Two-for-two this winter at Gulfstream, the \$975,000 2-year-old purchase was added late to the Derby mix after a neck defeat against older horses in a 9-furlong allowance at Saratoga.

Trainer Todd Pletcher: "That was a tough beat. One of those situations where you have to be really pleased with how the horse ran, he got pretty sick after his allowance win at Gulfstream. We were looking for a spot to bring him back and unfortunately there wasn't what we considered an ideal option, finally we decided to land on the nine-furlong two other than, that's a big move up in class. The one other than to the two other than is one of the toughest step ups espe-

cially when you're going against older horses, especially when you're going a mile and an eighth, especially when you're doing it off the layoff and having missed some time from being sick. It was one of those times when you're disappointed you didn't win but very, very pleased with the horse's effort. It was everything except a win."

8. South Bend. Another one added late, the three-time winner finished fourth in the Travers for trainer Bill Mott.

Assistant Kenny McCarthy: "You know last year was very special and we had two very legitimate horses. This horse, it was a bit of a last-minute decision to go into the race but having said that, I think initially when the horse was purchased from Sagamore, that might have been in the back of their minds, to try and get themselves a Derby horse. Obviously

with the defection of Art Collector, they figured let's take a shot. Here's to longshots. He's a very consistent horse, if you look at all his races and he tries hard every time. His Travers race was certainly not a bad race. He obviously needs to move forward off of that race, but he seems to like this track here. We've seen over the years that some horses look like a cinch coming in, but they couldn't get it done."

9. Mr. Big News. Trained by Bret Calhoun and owned by Allied Racing, the son of Giant's Causeway was another late addition to the mix.

Owner Chester Thomas: "The horse is doing really well. I was at Ellis Park on Sunday, I got home Sunday evening, my wife and I and my mother were there, I was talking about it, my mother said, 'You know, son, you don't get a chance to run a horse in the Derby often, you've got the money, go ahead and do it.' I took her advice. I studied it for about three hours that night. Bret and I talked about it Monday morning, he was good at it and here we are. This year with the Covid and all the protesting and stuff, horse racing has been totally different. It's so surreal to be here at Churchill Downs, it's a very surreal, a very different feel, a very different vibe. It's a big swing. We get it, Tiz The Law is without a doubt an outstanding looking horse."

10. Thousand Words. One of two entries for Hall of Famer Bob Baffert, the four-time winner upset the Shared Belief to book his ticket to Louisville.

Trainer Bob Baffert: "He got side-tracked. He can be a little bit tough mentally, but all of a suddden he started doing really well. He's getting closer. Everything's got to go right for him. He's in a good spot, he beat a good horse last time. What makes the Derby a great event is when 150,000 people show up. It's not the same when people aren't watching, that's what makes the Derby so great. The fans. We're doing it, but I think it will be probably better on television than being here."

11. Necker Island. Claimed from Stan Hough and Sagamore Farm for \$100,000 in June, the son of Hard Spun finished third in the Indiana Derby and Ellis Park Derby for new owners Raymond Daniels, Wayne

Scherr and Will Harbut Racing.

Trainer Chris Hartman: "Wayne always wanted to run a horse in the Derby. It's on his bucket list. He's tried to do this in various ways – buy a horse or two at the sales, yearling sales, pinhooks, we haven't been able to do it. A couple years ago, he decided, 'why don't we claim a horse?' I said, 'Wayne, they don't run Derby horses for a tag. It doesn't happen. You don't claim Derby horses. But I'll be more than glad to look.' In the crazy year it's been it's obvious the horse wouldn't have run in the Derby if it had been on schedule. But this horse popped up, and I called up and he said, 'Let me look him up,' and in five minutes he was ready to go. Stanley Hough's an exceptional horseman. I've got a lot of respect for him. Of course, when you claim one for \$100,000, we knew we were hopefully going to get a fairly decent horse that had miles left on him. We're going forward to the Derby and Wayne's going to get his bucket list ticked off, and the partners are super excited. The only way I know you can't win it is if you're not in it."

12. Sole Volante. Owned by Reeves Thoroughbreds and Andie Biancone, daughter of trainer Patrick Biancone, the four-time winner finished sixth in the Belmont Stakes.

Assistant/owner/exercise rider Andie Biancone: "It just feels crazy, it's all the horse. I remember the day we bought him at OBS and to think about the year we've had is crazy. He's the nicest, kindest, most intelligent horse. So nice to gallop, so nice to ride. I love him so much. I can't believe how far we've come. Him being a \$20,000 purchase that my dad picked and my dad decided to give him to me as a birthday present. I say thank you to him all the time for where he's taken us. It's an unbelievable feeling."

13. Attachment Rate. A winner of just one race, the son of Hard Spun finished fifth in the Blue Grass and second in the Ellis Park Derby.

Jockey Joe Talamo: "His last two races, he's really moved forward from race to race. In the Blue Grass, I thought he ran a pretty good race and it seemed like he wanted to go a little bit further. In the Ellis Park Der-

Continued On Page 31

DELAWARE CERTIFIED THOROUGHBRED PROGRAM



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For Two Year Olds • Five and One Half Furlongs

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For Fillies and Mares Three Year Olds and Upward • Six Furlongs

The New Castle

For Three Year Olds and Upward • Six Furlongs

Also closing September 12, 2020 is **The DTHA Governor's Day Stake** and **The George Rosenberger Memorial**. Both stakes are restricted to horses which have started at Delaware Park in 2020 (stake races excluded). A \$50,000 purse bonus will be added to these two stakes for Delaware Certified eligible horses that run and finish 1st thru 5th. Purse total will be \$125,000 for DCTP horses.



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30 The Saratoga Special Saturday, September 5, 2020

Derby —

■ Continued from page 30

by, it was the same thing, he couldn't quite stay with Art Collector, again, galloping out, I was real impressed, he still had a lot of energy. The mile and a quarter is going to suit him well. Year after year, some horses look unbelievable at mile and an eighth, they get that extra eighth, it can make all the difference in the world. I'm hoping that's the case with Attachment Rate."

14. Winning Impression. Trained by Dallas Stewart, the son of Paynter owns one win from nine starts and finished seventh in the Indiana Derby and Ellis Park Derby.

Jockey Joe Rocco Jr.: "I'm blessed to have the opportunity. I know it doesn't show it on

Thousand Words is one of two Derby runners for trainer Bob Baffert. paper, but he finished really, really strong, he galloped out in that race super impres-

sive and hopefully it correlates to running a big race here. Hopefully get a good, clean trip and get some pace to run at. Dallas' horses usually come running home in the Derby and hopefully this one keeps that trend going."

15. Ny Traffic. One win, three seconds and a third since joining Saffie Joseph's stable, just missed with a closing second in the Haskell, his third straight second after blinkers were added.

Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr.: "So far, all is well. He's trained forwardly, he's had a good series of breezes in, our preparation as far as a race horse coming into a race, as good as we could ask. The Haskell was his best on all handicapping figures. He's going to need to improve again to compete with a horse like Tiz The Law and Honor A.P., we feel with the spacing of his races, he should have some improvement again. Each race, he's made a little jump. If he makes a little jump again, he's right there among the leaders. We put the blinkers on him, it seemed to take him to a new aspect, he was more steady in his races, more focused. All we need is one more improvement, if he can give us one more improvement, he's going to be a horse that's going to make his name outside of this. My first Derby starter means everything."

16. Honor A.P. Deserving second choice, robust son of Honor Code finished second in the San Felipe March 7 and won the Santa Anita Derby June 6 before finishing second as the favorite in the Shared Belief Aug. 1.

Trainer John Shirreffs: "It is a lot different, of course, everything is different this year. It's quiet back here. When we made the San Felipe, that meant we would have made the Derby if things went well. It would have been nice to run then, the sequence would have been just perfect, I don't think the four months has helped or hurt him. Going into the Share Belief, we were working on other things other than cranking him up for the race, we were working on his attitude, trying to get him to behave a little bit better. We wanted to do everything we could do to quiet him, calm him down, get him to relax and not crank him up or get him aggressive. After the Shared Belief, we knew now



Coady Photo

it's time to get him ready for the Kentucky Derby."

17. Tiz The Law. The overwhelming favorite rolls into the Derby on a four-race winning skein that includes the Holy Bull, Florida Derby, Belmont and Travers. By a combined 16 ½ lengths.

Trainer Barclay Tagg: "He's perfect. He gets handled constantly, we keep a pretty tight rein on him but he's a good little guy. He can get excited. That's what happened with Funny Cide, when I had to get him back to New York, five days of torture before the race, it's tough on him. It's always exciting to have a horse in the Kentucky Derby. Funny Cide was a good horse, this horse is completely different. If you had to pick him apart, he's completely different, a smaller, chunkier type. Funny Cide was really high strung, this colt is a little more sensible. I like being on the outside, I didn't particularly want to be out that far but he seems to handle everything that's thrown at him so we'll just have to leave it up to him. It gives you a chance, if you have any speed at all, it gives you a chance to get a better position. He's a unique horse, I keep pinching myself because he's such a unique horse. Everything we've asked him to do he just does it. He's a strong horse, he's not flighty but he's on the muscle all the time. He's so exciting in his races. You think he's gotten in trouble here, in trouble there and next thing you know he's in front. He's a pretty amazing horse. I don't know if I've seen a horse like him."

18. Authentic. Once beaten son of Into Mischief led every step to win the Haskell.

Trainer Bob Baffert: "In the Haskell, it looked like he was coming up short, but I thought a lot of it was he shut it down early. He's trained really well, he's coming up to the race in great shape and that's all you can ask for right now. He's on the outside post, he's going to have to use him up a little to get position but he's doing well. He looks around in the stretch, if we're lucky and if he turns for home and he's right there, you've got to keep him busy because he does look, he checks things out. He wears ear plugs so he won't be able to hear anything."

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The Tiz Team

Sackatoga partners revel in ride to Derby

BY PAUL HALLORAN

They come from Saratoga and Clearwater. Philadelphia and Palo Alto. Atlanta and Houston. Dallas and Washington (Pennsylvania, that is).

They are members of Team Tiz The Law, a group of 35 Sackatoga Stable partners who share ownership in the horse who is expected to start as the first Kentucky Derby odds-on favorite in 28 years.

"It's a lot of fun," Sackatoga founder and managing partner Jack Knowlton said. "We have a lot of veterans who have been with us a long time and continue to play."

As they say on Law & Order, these are (some of) their stories.

Bill Evans

A mutual friend introduced Evans to Knowlton after the races at Gulfstream one day in 2009. They had a drink, Knowlton gave him the rundown on Sackatoga and Evans was ready to write a check. There was just one thing giving his pause.

"I told Jack, 'I'd be in right now,' but I remembered hearing that one of the Funny Cide partners didn't tell his wife and she was the only one who didn't know," Evans said. "I told him my wife was coming down the next day and I wanted to run it by her."

After meeting Knowlton and hearing the Sackatoga story, Pam Evans said they would think about it overnight. But after leaving the restaurant, they hadn't even gotten to their car when she told her husband, "We're in."

After their initial investment, the Evanses bought into another 15 Sackatoga horses before Tiz The Law. The 17th one was the charm.

"From the day he broke his maiden, Barclay (Tagg) thought he was a very good horse," Evans said. "Heading into the Champagne, I thought it couldn't get any better, but it sure has. I told Pam, 'I think this horse is going to the Derby."

Living across the street from the Philadelphia



Coady Photo

Tiz The Law gets a taste of Kentucky grass at Churchill Downs this week.

Museum of Art, Evans can look outside and see the Rocky statue. He hopes his horse can deliver a knockout punch in Kentucky Derby 146.

Lew Titterton

Other than Knowlton, Titterton is the only partner in Tiz The Law who was part of the ownership of Funny Cide, who took the original Sackatoga group on a wild ride in 2003 – in their yellow school bus – winning the Derby and Preakness.

"When we shifted to Barclay, he said he had to get us a good horse," Titterton said. "We bought a horse called Bail Money who won a few races, then got claimed for \$62,500. We used that money to buy Funny Cide."

Titterton, the lead director of a biotech company who lives in Walnut Creek, Calif., never expected lightning to strike twice.

"Guys have invested millions and never got into the Kentucky Derby," he said. "And our little group has won the Derby and we might win it again."

It appears as if they have the equine athlete to do it.

"He has such acceleration, it's incredible," Titterton said. "It's amazing how strong he is."

Ed Mitzen

Mitzen became a minority owner of Sackatoga Stable LLC when Knowlton formed it in 2006. He serves as marketing director and also invests in individual horses, including Tiz The Law.

"My wife teases me that after 15 years, with Tiz The Law maybe we're even," he said. "When I got in, never in a million years would I have imagined we would have a horse in the Derby." Not to mention one that has already won the Belmont and Travers.

"I'm so happy for Jack, he has such a passion for it," said Mitzen, who lives in Saratoga and owns Fingerpaint Marketing. "This has been so much fun, but we had some lean times. That makes this so much more rewarding."

Growing up in the Capital Region, Mitzen has been going to Saratoga since he can remember. "I was the kid in the backyard with my buddies with a cooler and \$2 tickets. I yearned to sit in one of those boxes. I'll never take this for granted. This is like fantasy land. I have to pinch myself."

Aaron Knowlton

Jack's son was along for the Funny Cide ride, but not as an official owner. He has been a partner in more than two dozen Sackatoga horses in the last 12 years, none close to as good as Tiz The Law.

"Even before his first race, I had not seen that kind of excitement around the barn in a long time," said Knowlton, who lives in Palo Alto, Calif. and works for an education technology company. "Robin (Smullen, assistant trainer) said all great horses are fast, but they also have to be smart. She was talking about how intelligent Tiz is."

Continued On Page 33

Sackatoga —

■ Continued from page 32

A Saratoga High graduate, Knowlton started going to the track before he was born, thanks to his mother, Dorothy. He worked as a pari-mutuel clerk at Saratoga, and when Dorothy owned a balloon business, Aaron sold the helium products outside the track after the races. He also worked in the dining room at the harness track at night. Now he's a part owner of the Kentucky Derby favorite.

"It's great having the feeling of true ownership," he said, "and to be doing it with family and friends. They're all good people. We have a lot of fun together."

Roger Sofer

When Funny Cide was shipped to Lone Star Park for the 2004 Breeders' Cup Classic, he was stabled with Dallas Keen, who trained horses for Sofer at the time. Keen told Sofer to introduce himself to Tagg the next time he went to Saratoga. That led to a phone call with Jack Knowlton and a visit to Saratoga to discuss opportunities with Sackatoga.

"We went to the Grey Gelding for a drink and we hit it off," said Sofer, who lives in Houston and owns a financial planning firm. "Jack is beyond the original great guy. I wanted to be part of that group."

Fifteen years later, Sofer is still trying to fathom owning a horse like Tiz The Law.

"This is not once in a lifetime," he said. "It's once in three lifetimes, to strike lightning again with a New York-bred. He's an unbelievable creature. We've got the best horse, but a lot of things can happen."

As Sofer has been reveling in the euphoria of the Tiz The Law experience, he has been dealing with a significant health crisis. He woke up one day in March with a skin rash, prompting him to go to the doctor. The next day, he was diagnosed with a form of leukemia so rare that MD Anderson, ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the best hospital in the country for cancer care, sees only five such cases a year, he said.

Sofer was discharged from the Texas hospital March 28 and got home in time to watch Tiz The Law win the Florida Derby. The outfits he and his wife, Linden, wore that day have been brought out for the Belmont and Travers and it's a sure bet they will be sporting them today.

Sofer, who underwent a bone marrow transplant two months ago, has a positive outlook and is confident that he will be back at Saratoga next summer.

"I'm at the best cancer hospital in the world, with the best doctors," he said. "Saratoga is special to me. I'm going to have a good time next summer." Roger that.

Bruce and Margaret Phillips

Even in a story so full of joy, there can be sadness.

Continued On Page 34



In the paddock for the Travers (from left) Jack Knowlton, Margaret Phillips, Manny Franco and Ed Mitzen get ready for Tiz The Law.

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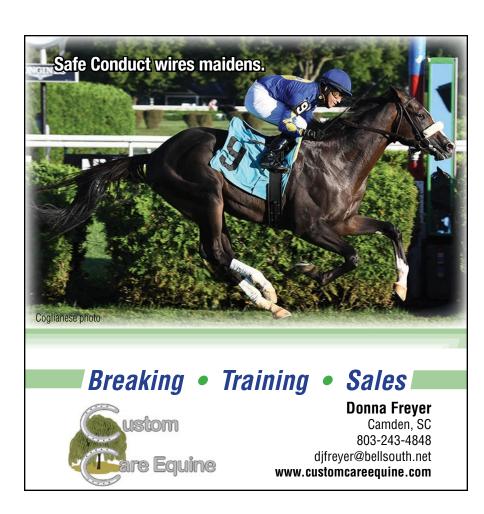
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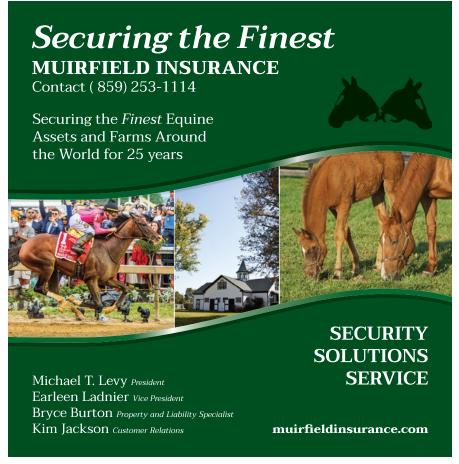
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Sackatoga —

■ Continued from page 33

Bruce and Margaret met Jack and Dorothy Knowlton at the 2003 Preakness and were invited to the Funny Cide victory party. The couples hit it off and became fast friends, and the Phillipses have invested in every horse Sackatoga has purchased in the last 15 years.

Bruce, a highly regarded attorney with a passion for racing, dreamed of having a horse in the Kentucky Derby, an event which he attended at least 30 times. He and Margaret are both Kentucky Colonels – an honor bestowed by the state in recognition of noteworthy accomplishments, contributions to Kentucky society, remarkable deeds and outstanding service to a community, state, or the nation – making the Run for the Roses even more significant.

When Tiz The Law romped in the Champagne Oct. 5, it was clear the Derby was on the radar. "This was Bruce's dream," Margaret said Monday. "He always said Jack and Barclay would have another horse in the Derby. His dream is coming true."

Less than three weeks after that Champagne win, Bruce suffered a fatal heart attack at his Dallas, Pa. home, leaving Margaret to live out the dream with the support of many, starting with the Knowltons.

"Jack and Dorothy have brought me along a lot," said Margaret, who stayed in Saratoga with Dorothy before flying to Louisville with her Thursday. "We are all such good friends."

Margaret knows she will be experiencing a sea of emotions at Churchill Downs, especially when they play "My Old Kentucky Home" and she will not hear Bruce singing, as he loved to do. She will be comforted, however, by the realization that what her husband wanted so badly has come to fruition.

"Bruce's dream is coming true," she said. "And it's a dream come true for me as well."

Eric Kordsmeier

With a mare in Florida and another in Arkansas, Kordsmeier was in the game as a breeder before Tiz The Law came along to solve some problems.

"Having a share in Tiz replenished about four years of horrible losses," said

Kordsmeier, a tax accountant and financial planner who grew up in Arkansas and lives in Clearwater, Fla. "This horse is the gift that keeps on giving."

Kordsmeier attended a Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association (TOBA) Owner View seminar at which Jack Knowlton spoke. They ended up sitting at the same table and that led to Kordsmeier buying a share of Spa Jazz, a 2-year-old. He bought into a few more before Tiz The Law.

"Everyone loves Saratoga," he said. "I wanted to have a reason to go up there. I like the action and going to the track."

Kordsmeier is also an investor in Ten Strike Racing, which shares ownership of Warrior's Charge, winner of the Iselin Stakes at Monmouth by disqualification Aug. 22. He plans to concentrate more on the breeding side of the business in the near future, but for now he will enjoy the Tiz The Law ride and continue to hope for the best.

"There are so many bad things that can happen (in racing), but Jack never loses the faith," Kordsmeier said. "He is so positive. And Barclay was always high on Tiz. Now we're going to the Derby."

Bruce Cerone

As principal of one of Saratoga's most popular restaurants, Pennell's, Cerone was already cooking for horse owners, so he figured why not join them. Knowlton came in one night, and Cerone asked him how he could get involved with Sackatoga. He has shared ownership in about a dozen horses since, including Tiz The Law.

"Just to be a part of it is pretty special," said Cerone. "Even if I were not a part owner, I would be a huge fan of this horse. I've watched a million races, and I haven't been awed like this in a long time."

Sounds like the reaction of someone trying the Pennell's veal parmigiana for the first time.

Cerone missed Tiz The Law's maiden breaker at Saratoga Aug. 8, 2019 because the restaurant was jammed that night. He was in South Carolina for the Champagne win, but he made it to Gulfstream in February for the Holy Bull and was at Saratoga for the command performance in the Travers four weeks ago.

As a Saratoga resident – he and his wife, Jennifer, have three children and

Continued On Page 35

Sackatoga —

■ Continued from page 34

two grandchildren – Cerone is aware of the feel-good aspect of the story.

"Maybe this is what we need right now, to watch a horse like this," he said. "He can be a bright spot for people."

Sounds like the perfect recipe.

Larry Davis

As an entrepreneur who owns more than two dozen businesses, Davis can appreciate that sometimes you have to follow your gut. That's what happened at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale, when Knowlton and Sackatoga went \$10,000 over their budget to land Hip 311, a son of Constitution out of the Tiznow mare Tizfiz.

"Thank God," said Davis, who lives in Hallandale Beach, Fla. "We'd be kicking ourselves in the ass."

Davis, who has been a partner in 13 Sackatoga horses since 2009 after switching from another syndicate, said they knew they had something special early on.

"When Barclay started talking about the horse in the same sentence as Funny Cide, we took notice," he said. "This horse continues to outperform. He's probably the most competitive horse I've ever seen. If another horse comes from behind him on the gallop out, he'll put it back in gear."

Superstition be damned, Davis is not afraid to look beyond the Derby.

"Baltimore (Preakness), Lexington (Breeders' Cup) and I'll have my passport ready for Dubai (World Cup)," he said. "This has been a wonderful ride."

Jim Webb

A friend introduced Webb to Bill Evans, who suggested he meet Knowlton. Webb invested in his first Sackatoga horse in 2014 and Tiz The Law is his eighth. That is fitting, because that number plays a leading role in his personal success story.

"He broke his maiden on August 8, won the Travers on August 8 and that is our anniversary," said Webb, who was celebrating elsewhere with his wife, Dana, and did not see either race in person.

Based on the previous horses he owned, Webb, the former women's

basketball coach at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Penn., did not have Derby dreams when he bought into Tiz The Law.

"From what I am used to, to have the Derby favorite is a dream come true," said Webb, a Washington, Pa. resident. "I would never have imagined. It's been a wild ride."

Webb has experienced the Derby in an RV and from the seats. He appreciates the opportunity Knowlton has given him.

"Jack has been so good to me," he said. "Every time I go to the track with him we have a good time."

Nancy Stone

She may be a Sackatoga rookie, but Stone is no stranger to the game, having bred and owned horses before joining Team Tiz.

"I'm the good luck charm," said Stone, whose first horse in the partnership is the Derby favorite.

Like Kordsmeier, Stone met Knowlton at a TOBA conference. He told her there was one share left in a Constitution yearling they had just bought.

"I asked Jack who the trainer was and he told me Barclay," said Stone, who is retired and lives in Atlanta. "I always had the utmost respect for Barclay. He's a horseman's horseman."

Stone asked Knowlton if she could see the horse and he invited her to visit Tony and Elizabeth Everard's training center in Ocala. "I watched him work and my initial impression was that he didn't have a large, flowing stride, but he had one of the most efficient strides I have ever seen."

Feeling comfortable with the principal owner, the trainer and the horse, Stone was in.

"Barclay Tagg was the key for me," Stone said, "and it wasn't a vast sum of money, so why not?"

Good decision.

"This is the dream of a lifetime for this little girl," Stone said. "It's a gift, especially at this time. This horse has brought a lot of joy to a lot of people."

Especially the 35 who call him their own.

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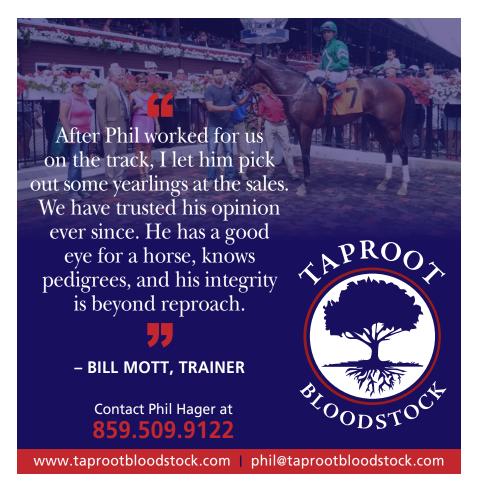
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Betting the Derby

"Garlic Rob" Whitlock, sitting fourth on the Power Grid handicapping page for the season – although on pace

BANKROLL CHALLENGE

to far exceed his debut season in 2019 – came up with a fun way to give selections for today's Kentucky Derby.

"Let's do a \$100 imaginary bankroll bet competition," he texted Monday. The Special's Tom Law, second on the handicapping page behind John Shapazian, took the bait.

"I like that idea, let's do it," he said. "We'll do it, but nobody will top Shapazian."

Then the trash talk started.

"Chalk eater," Rob fired back, with a picture of a handwritten projection of selections from John, Tom and Charles Bedard - all with \$100 to win on Tiz The Law. "There, done. Now you have more time to work on the Stable Tour."

Well, here goes, the first (and hopefully last) Saratoga Special Kentucky Derby bankroll challenge:

John Shapazian

"Let's see how good Rob is at the windows. I'll play everything 'ice cold.' \$75 Exacta, Tiz The Law/Honor A. P.

\$20 Trifecta, Tiz The Law/Honor A. P./Ny Traffic.

\$5 Superfecta, Tiz The Law/Honor A.P./Ny Traffic/Thousand Words.

Tom Law

"The straight win bet would top Garlic Rob's picks, but we'll try to hit the exacta for the second year in a row."

\$2 Exacta Box, Max Player, Enforceable, Thousand Words, Honor A.P., Tiz The Law.

\$2 Trifecta, Tiz The Law with Honor A.P. with All.

\$5 Exacta Box, Tiz The Law, Honor A.P., Thousand Words.

Charles Bedard

\$10 Exacta, Tiz The Law with Money Moves, Sole Volante, Honor A.P., Authentic.

\$5 Exacta, Money Moves, Sole Volante, Honor A. P., Authentic with Tiz The Law.

\$1 Trifecta, Tiz The Law, Honor A. P., Authentic with Necker Island, Honor A. P., Tiz The Law, Authentic with Money Moves, Sole Volante, Honor A. P., Tiz The Law, Authentic.

\$4 Win-Place-Show, Sole Volante.

Rob Whitlock

"You won't beat me betting \$100 to win on Barclay. You need gimmicks." \$20 Win, Honor A. P.

\$10 Trifecta, Honor A. P. with Tiz The Law with Enforceable, Major Fed, Money Moves, South Bend, Mr. Big News, Thousand Words.

\$3 Trifecta, Enforceable, Major Fed, Money Moves, South Bend, Mr. Big News, Thousand Words with Honor A. P. with Tiz The Law.

\$2 Win, Tiz The Law.

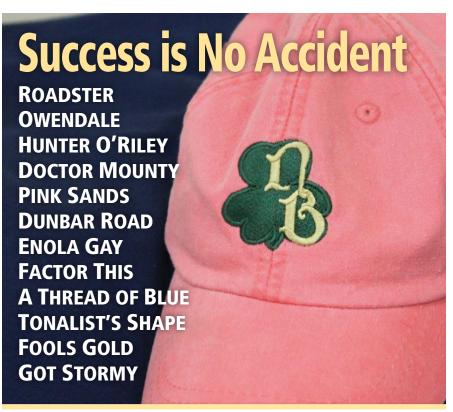


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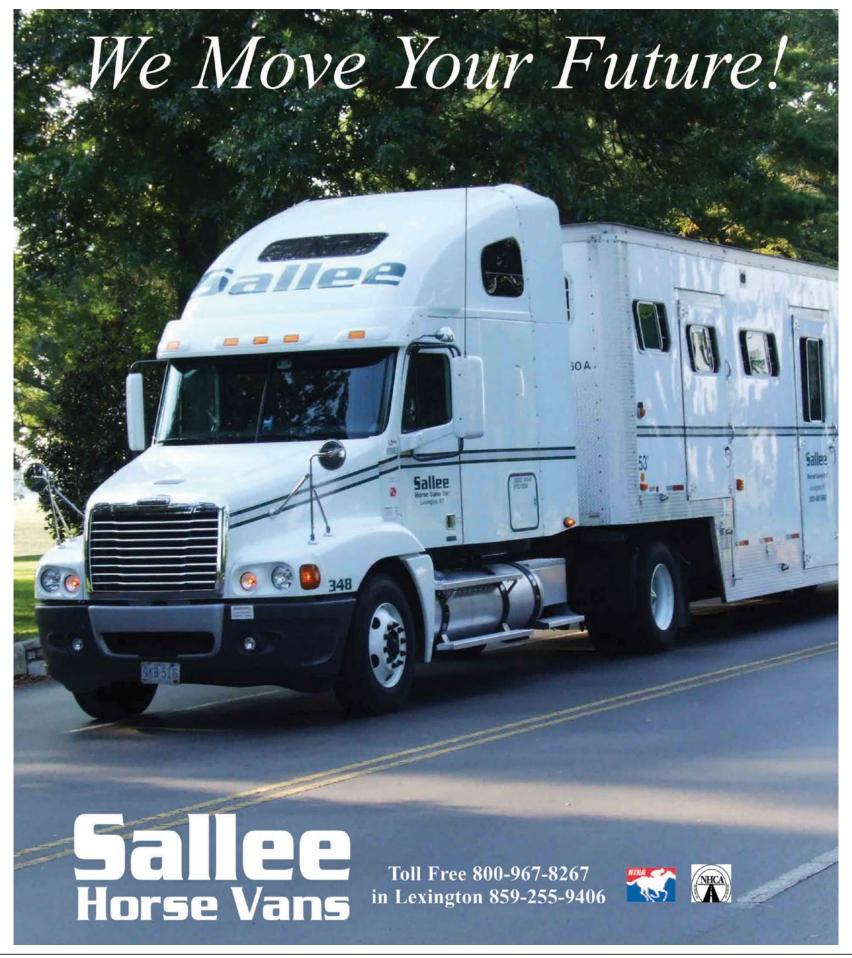
Coady Photo

Tiz The Law casts a long shadow in the Derby.



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Jersey Girl

Whitney filly Regret helped make Derby the Derby with 1915 win

BY TERRY HILL

T's called "Run for the Roses" because of the blanket of roses that adorns the winner. It's also called "The two most exciting minutes in sports," because it is.

But in the end, it's still just a horse race. Run for the 146th time Saturday at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky., how did it get to become a national institution?

On April 2, 1912, in a barn in Lincroft, N.J., the thoroughbred mare Jersey Lightning gave birth to a chestnut filly foal.

The breeder, Harry Payne Whitney, who had been hoping for a colt, named the filly Regret. Whitney turned the filly over to his trainer, James Rowe to prepare her for the races.

Rowe liked what he saw and had so much confidence in her that he skipped making her debut a maiden race. Instead he entered her in a stakes race. The Saratoga Special wasn't restricted to fillies which meant she'd have to run against colts, including that year's top 2-year-old colt Pebbles.

After the Special, Pebbles was still the top juvenile colt, but no longer the top 2-year-old. He finished second, beaten a length by Whitney's filly with "speed in reserve" according to the Daily Racing Form.

A week later she beat another field of colts in the Sanford Stakes. And the week after that Pebbles again tried her in the Hopeful and again she beat him. In 15 days, she'd demolished the rest of the 2-year-old field and became a rock star.

She was admired and her glories were sung across the nation – the girl who beats the boys. Remember at this time women still didn't have the vote and the suffragettes were on the march. Regret became something of a feminist symbol.

She spent the next eight months

at the Whitney Stable back in New Jersey, resting and preparing for her 3-year-old year.

The Triple Crown had not yet been invented. If some racing marketing genius had come up with the idea for the Triple Crown in the early 1900s, it would probably have consisted of the Belmont Stakes, the American Derby and the Lawrence Realization Stakes. Those were America's three most important races for 3-year-olds in those years.

Maybe the Triple Crown didn't come into being back then because at that time the foremost marketing genius in racing had his hands full breathing life into a moribund racetrack called Churchill Downs.

In 1902 Matt Winn, a local Louis-ville merchant, was recruited to help save Churchill Downs from closure. He had no real involvement in Thoroughbred racing before that, though he had been a fan since he was a boy. At 13 he was taken by his father to the inaugural running of the Kentucky Derby. He then went on to attend each of the first 75. He missed the 76th edition because, as Max Beerbohm once put it, "Death cancels all appointments."

Beyond being a sound business manager, Winn was a brilliant marketer and his innovations not only saved Churchill Downs but altered racing in America.

For instance, the minimum bet at racetracks was \$5. This at a time when you could stand yourself to a steak dinner in the most expensive restaurant in New York for \$1.50. Winn wanted to democratize racing and in 1911 he lowered the minimum to \$2.

It became the standard. And when the results and payouts are posted for this year's Derby you'll note they will be based on Winn's standard \$2 bet. If you've ever used the expression



Courtesy of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame

Though the photo's origin is somewhat in question, 1915 Kentucky Derby winner Regret is flanked by James Rowe and Harry Payne Whitney after a big win.

"the average \$2 bettor," you should give a slight genuflection in a general southwesterly direction toward the St. Louis Cemetery in Louisville where Winn is buried.

But the biggest problem Winn faced in putting Kentucky racing on the national map came from something he had nothing to do with. During the 1886 Derby, due to some strong, incompatible personalities and perhaps some strong bourbon, there were angry and apparently unforgivable words spoken (perhaps shouted). The result was that the Derby-winning East Coast contingent decamped Kentucky and headed back to New York, yowing never to return.

So great was the rancor that the offended owner talked all of his friends into not going to Kentucky either. This resulted in an almost 30-year boycott of Churchill Downs by the then superior East Coast stables.

Winn knew he had to draw the top East Coast horses if he were ever to make the Kentucky Derby something bigger than a "pretty good regional race," its reputation at the time.

Following the first instinct of all promoters, he decided to throw money at it. At the time the biggest purse

for any 3-year-old stakes race was about \$2,000. Winn raised the Derby purse by \$10,000.

He then made personal recruiting trips east, talking to the top owners about their 3-year-olds and touting his race, its purse and Kentucky hospitality. In 1915 his top target was Regret, the Jersey girl who had seduced the country.

In the end, the silver-tongued Winn succeeded in attracting three East Coast runners to compete in the 1915 Derby field of 16 that year. Included among them were the masochistic Pebbles and the rock star Regret.

Colonel Tom Parker had found his Elvis.

* * *

Whitney Stable had been started by Harry's father and was already one of the best known in the sport. It would hold that prominence for years, a symbol of excellence later memorialized in the lyrics of the Cole Porter song, "You're the Top."

"You're the top! You're the Tower of Babel You're the top! You're the Whitney Stable."

Continued On Page 39

Regret —

■ Continued from page 38

But prior to 1915, the stable had never before ventured west to run in the Derby. The Regret team arrived in Kentucky May 1, the same day Whitney's brother-in-law, Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, also a horseman, had boarded an ocean liner taking him to a meeting of the International Horse Breeders Association in London. The ship was called the Lusitania.

The Whitney name and Regret's celebrity drew attention, and the filly's two pre-Derby workouts were attended by crowds of happy onlookers.

The filly's trainer, however, was not happy. The train ride to Louisville had apparently upset Regret. She was off her feed and seemed listless; her workouts were not good.

Then the day before the race, May 7, two things happened.

First came the news of the sinking of the Lusitania by a German torpedo. The passengers' fates were still unknown.

And in Kentucky, the heavens opened and delivered a downpour that turned the Churchill track into a swamp. Rowe was thinking of withdrawing his filly from the Derby. Once again Matt Winn had to deliver a sales pitch and managed to convince the trainer to let her run.

Regret's jockey Joe Nutter never considered the 1915 Derby one of his best performances.

"One of the easiest victories of my career," he said years later.

Regret jumped in front at the start and was never headed. The eternal optimist, Pebbles challenged her, but in the end, again had to settle for second as Regret pulled off to win by 2 lengths. The crowd of 50,000 roared its approval as she crossed the finish line.

And the Derby was made.

The East Coast horses finished 1-2-3 in the field of 16 and the boycott was definitely over. From that time on, the Derby became a required destination for the top East Coast (and later West Coast) 3-year-olds.

"The race needed only a victory by Regret to create coast-to-coast publicity," said Winn. "She did not fail us!"

The Racing Hall of Fame, which provided the accompanying photo of Regret, Rowe and Whitney (Regret is the horse), strongly believes that the shot was taken just after the Derby, though they can't be absolutely certain.

If they're right, you can't help but study it and try to divine what Whitney must be thinking. He's just won the Kentucky Derby with "the prettiest filly you ever saw," as he called her to the gathered journalists after the race, but even a day after the Lusitania was sunk, he still did not know the fate of his brother-in-law.

Later when it became clear that Vanderbilt had not survived the sinking, Whitney gave up racing his horses for the rest of the year out of respect for his wife's brother.

In August, when Regret won the Saranac Stakes, again against males, she was wearing the colors of L.S.Thompson, a friend to whom Whitney had leased her for the year.

Whitney's comments after the race could have been written by Winn. "This is the greatest race in America," the owner said, "The glory of winning the event is big enough. Regret can retire to the New Jersey farm any time now."



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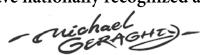
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Cooking with Robin

Smullen known for more than riding star 3YO

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noticed we love tomatoes!

BY MELISSA BAUER-HERZOG

Robin Smullen has often thought that if she hadn't caught the horse racing bug years ago, she would have been a chef or a cooking teacher. But she never expected posting pictures of her cooking was something she may become more well known for than her association with Tiz The Law.

"I never intended to [post pictures on Twitter] but every time I make dinner [partner Barclay Tagg] says 'Oh my God, you have to take a picture of this! Look how good it looks!' so I started taking pictures of it," she laughed. "Then I started sending it to my friends and they loved it. One day I just happened to put it on Twitter because I'm friends with (pedigree columnist) Sid Fernando and Sid loves that kind of stuff. He'd always say what he was having for dinner at what restaurant, so I

started posting my dinner and he loved it. I didn't realize that so many people followed it."

Tweeting her first dinner photo in late April earned her 23 favorites. Her photos continue to be big hits and her reputation as a cook hasn't been confined to Twitter with people often jokingly asking her what she's going to be making them.

"I go places and people are like, 'What's for dinner?' and I say, 'I don't know, what's for dinner?' It was only because Barclay said 'Oh my God, you've got to take a picture of it' that I started taking pictures of my dinner. Not all of them, but you know, if it looks exceptional, I'll take a picture of it and say, 'Yeah, that looks pretty good tonight,' "Smullen said.

Cooking isn't something she just picked up during the pan-

demic – though she does cook more now so they don't have to go out to eat. Responsible for helping her mother cook as a child, Smullen quickly developed a love for it and says it's something that relaxes her in the evenings. But it wasn't until about 10 years ago that she returned to cooking most of their meals.

"A lot of it started because every time we would go to dinner, we would leave thinking, 'I didn't like that that much. It wasn't cooked the way you cook it.' is what Barclay would say. It tastes better when I cook it at home. We just have our certain taste buds and like it the way I cook it. We don't go out much, especially now," she said of their decision to eat more homecooked meals.

If you eat with the pair, it's likely you'll have some sort of seafood and fresh vegetables. They rarely eat other kinds of meat because they prefer fish and for Smullen it's easy to prepare beforehand and just pop in the oven when it's time for dinner.

"Swordfish is my go-to when I like to have friends over because I do cook a pretty good swordfish," she said. "Not everyone likes salmon but most people like swordfish or sea bass. It's so easy. If it's all prepared and on the counter, which I do ahead of time, then you can have a glass of wine and talk with everybody and then when it's time to cook it's literally 15 minutes from start to finish."

Smullen tries to buy all her ingredients as fresh as possible. She orders her seafood from a few places, but she doesn't usually know exactly what she'll

cook each night. The nightly meal depends on what is in the fridge and what she feels like making.

"Whatever I happen to get at the grocery store, and I have on hand," she says of the meals that inspire Twitter. "When I order stuff online, I'll order my scallops and stuff from a place in Maine called The Crab Place. Their food is fabulous. I order crab legs from there and my scallops from there and sometimes my crab cakes. I don't make that stuff from scratch; I just prepare the meals from scratch.

"We have a great fish store at our place in New York about three miles away and I go get fresh fish every week there. Salmon and seabass and swordfish, that's where I get that. Up here (in Saratoga) it's a little harder to get. There's only one place, called Moby Rick's, and then there's

The Fresh Market where you can get stuff."

Racing is a sport full of superstitions, but she admits she's never thought about lucky or unlucky meals. The one thing that is always off-limits though is Tagg cooking.

While the trainer knows how to cook, it's something she says he doesn't enjoy and if she had to guess, the same goes for most of the horses in the barn. She thinks that even though most of them enjoy the meals she makes them, she doesn't think anyone would particularly like being a chef. Though if Tiz The Law took that career path, she's



Susie Raisher

Tiz The Law and Robin Smullen train at Saratoga last month.

positive he'd be a master chef and grill up an excellent steak.

For those of the human variety who want to try their hand at cooking, Smullen recommends that there always be olive oil in the kitchen. It is the one thing she can't live without, though she also makes sure she has a steamer as she often steams her vegetables. She also stresses that no matter what, fresh food is best.

"Buy the best product you can," she said. "That's the secret, fresh everything."

While her photos make the meals look like they've taken hours to cook in a five-star restaurant, all of her cooking – and her life – is based on a saying her mother drilled into her head.

"There's a motto whether it's racing or riding or cooking: Simple is best. Don't overcook it. When you're riding a horse, don't override it. If you're going to put a bridle on a horse, start easy. Less is always better."

It isn't likely that Smullen will leave racing any time soon. But if she does, check the nearest kitchen or cooking class – odds are she'll be there.

Robin's Cooking Tip

Cook for yourself before attempting to cook for others and most importantly, let your taste buds lead the way.

"If you like sea bass, that's the easiest thing you can cook. It literally takes three minutes or so on each side if it's a thin cut. Then just go by taste. Maybe it needs a little of this or a little of that but that's the easiest thing I've found to cook is sea bass. Salt, pepper, lemon and a little bit of butter and you're good to go."





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Space **Oddity**

Thin White Duke upsets Funny Cide for Gleaves, partners

BY SEAN CLANCY

Seth Hancock walked into Woody Stephens' barn on the turn of the main track at Saratoga Race Course and offered exercise rider Phil Gleaves an opportunity and a situation.

"Phil, I've got two tickets to the Garden if you want to go see Bowie tonight."

Gleaves finished soaping the last leather bridle,

Continued On Page 43



Janet Garaguso/NYRA Photo

Thin White Duke rolls to victory in Friday's Funny Cide Stakes, part of Saratoga Showcase Day for New York-breds.



■ Continued from page 42

checked the Greyhound Bus schedule, parked his car next to the Spa City Diner that afternoon and made the 180-mile trip to Madison Square Garden in Manhattan.

Bowie opened with Star, then Heroes, What in the World, Golden Years, Fashion...encored with The Jean Genie, a cover of The Who's I Can't Explain and finished with Modern Love.

It was one of 11 Bowie concerts Gleaves saw before the rock icon died in 2016.

"After work that afternoon, I jumped on a Greyhound bus, went to see Bowie," Gleaves said. "Got back on a Greyhound bus, got home at about 4 in the morning and was on a horse for first set."

Unraced, future millionaire Miss Oceana? Maybe Saratoga Special winner Swale? Or perhaps an unraced son of Halo named Devil's Bag who would win his debut three weeks after that concert?

"I don't remember the horse, but I know it was a good one," Gleaves said. "I couldn't miss the opportunity to see Bowie."

Thirty-seven years later, Gleaves saddled a homebred gelding named for the reason for the excursion to win the Funny Cide Stakes on the Saratoga Showcase Day card for New York-breds. Thin White Duke broke his maiden in the state-bred stakes for Gleaves, Steven Crist, Ken deRegt and Bryan Hilliard. Ridden by Joel Rosario, the son of Dominus broke from the outside post, settled off the pace, waited behind horses and shifted out late to score by a half-length over favorite Eagle Orb and Lookin For Trouble, finishing 6 ½ furlongs in 1:16.75.

Following Stephens' lead, Gleaves has kept Thin White Duke busy with five starts as a juvenile.

"We run them. We run them. The meet personally is going quite well, we've started a dozen, we've had three seconds, three thirds," Gleaves said before the Funny Cide. "We haven't quite gotten to that hallowed winner's circle yet, but I emphasize the word yet. We've got a few left to go."

Thin White Duke took care of that. Bred by Gleaves, Thin White Duke



Tod Marks

Trainer Phil Gleaves.

is out of Aberdeen Alley. The daughter of Distorted Humor never raced but has been prolific for Gleaves, producing Saratoga stakes winner Miami Cat, stakes placed I Ain't Gonna Lie who Gleaves sold after her debut win, maiden special winner Sweet Summer Sweet, Belmont Park debut winner Yes And Yes and stakes placed Now Is.

"Unfortunately, we lost the mare last year, we had to put her down, she had some age and she had a bad injury. We had Now Is, who was a 3-year-

Continued On Page 44



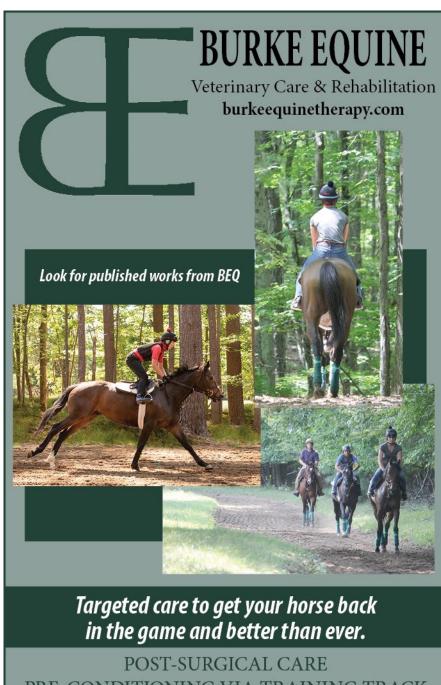


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old out of the mare, he had a heart attack this past winter while training. Then a week ago, the last foal of the mare, a New York-bred by Freud, she had hernia surgery and it did not go well so we had to euthanize her," Gleaves said. "You know the vagaries of this game. Thin White Duke is the last of the line of Aberdeen Alley who has been so good to us. The game can bring you to your knees."

Thin White Duke brought it back Friday afternoon, pushing his career earnings to \$120,020. He finished third in his career debut at Belmont Park June 19 and came right back to finish third again at Belmont July 12.

"The first day, I was expecting him to be on the lead but he hit the gate and came from last to finish third," Gleaves said. "His second start, we rushed him off his feet."

Switched to the turf, the dark bay gelding finished second by a length at Saratoga July 19 and came back to get nailed by a neck in another 5 ½-furlong turf test Aug. 13. Gleaves



Chelsea Durand/NYRA Photo

Makingcents prevails in the Fleet Indian Stakes.

and partners decided to think bigger, think differently, with their hard-hitting maiden.

"We could have drawn into an easier spot in a maiden race that came off the grass," Gleaves said. "That was our original plan, but we put our

heads together and thought let's try this one and see how we stack up."

Like Bowie's greatest hits on the corner jukebox.

"I'm the biggest David Bowie fan and always wanted to name a horse Thin White Duke," Gleaves said. "That was one of his stage personas and I thought this is the one."

Add another hit to the charts.

Tragedy, triumph

Five hours after leaving Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital in sadness and dejection, Jeremiah Englehart walked into Saratoga winner's circle in tempered joy.

It is ironic that a horse called Makingcents delivered some consolation for Englehart on the most difficult of days, because how can you make sense of this game?

Englehart's Saratoga Showcase Day started with a front-running win by Samborella in the \$150,000 Seeking The Ante, but the \$500,000 yearling purchase never even made it back to get her picture taken. Just before the finish line, Samborella fractured a sesamoid in her left front, necessitating the trip to Rood & Riddle, where she was euthanized.

"I feel bad for everyone who had the chance to work with her because she was a really nice filly and she was special," Englehart said. "The owners entrusted me to take care of her and it just sucks."

Continued On Page 45





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■ Continued from page 44

The nature of racing often calls for its participants to soldier on, and Englehart had five more horses to saddle on the card.

Two of them won, including Makingcents in the \$150,000 Fleet Indian Stakes for 3-year-old fillies at nine furlongs on the dirt. Adding to the irony, Richard Nickolai, who races under Fortune Farm, was a partner in Samborella and owns Makingcents outright.

"It's bittersweet," Nickolai said by phone from his home in Saratoga. He had planned to come to the track for the Fleet Indian, but after the tragedy with Samborella, opted to stay home.

"My family wanted to watch the race together so I stayed here. I wasn't in the mood (to come to the track)."

Nickolai said Engelhart told him Makingcents, by Goldencents out of the Cape Town mare Mischief Maker, was sitting on go.

"He told me to expect her to run a big race," said Nickolai, who also owns Makingcents' half-sister, Makin' Out. "She's a gritty filly who has always showed a lot of guts. I didn't know if she was good enough to win but I knew she would put in a good effort."

Having Luis Saez on her back certainly didn't hurt her chances, as the meet's fourth-leading rider won three of the state-bred stakes and four races overall for the second consecutive Friday, to go with his five-win performance Aug. 20.

Saez sent Makingcents to the lead from the rail and led at every call after fractions of :24.48, :48.73 and 1:12.53 and 1:37.24, finishing in 1:50.31.

Makingcents held off a closing Ice Princess on the inside and Sharp Starr on the outside and paid \$8.80 to win.

"I'm really happy to have won this race," Nickolai said. "It helps me to keep my head up."

Bred by Windhorse Thoroughbreds, Makingcents was a \$37,000 RNA at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred yearling sale. Because he already owned her sister, Nickolai asked his trainer's brother Jeff to make a private purchase for

Continued On Page 46

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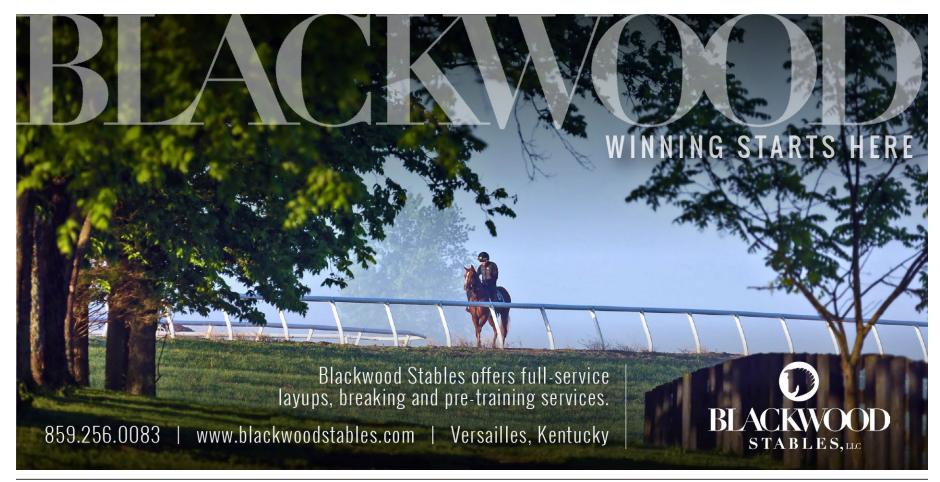
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■ Continued from page 45

him. He clearly wanted her, as he was willing to pay \$50,000.

"I'm happy to have her," said Nickolai, who is retired and also has a home on Long Island. "She wasn't the most perfect-looking horse, but she's pretty sound. She didn't look the part but as she grows older she has gotten much better."

Makingcents improved her perfect on-the-board record to 6-3-0-3 and boosted her career earnings to \$169,820.

On this day, however, the money earned in the 10th race could not even begin to compensate for the life lost in the first.

"It's never easy," Englehart said.
"It's like my dad said, 'you're going to get punched in the gut a lot. It's how many times you can get up.'"

Chris Englehart, who also picked up a training win on the card with Saratoga Pal in the sixth, can be proud that his son has learned his lessons well.

Samborella, purchased at last



Chelsea Durand/NYRA Photo

Rinaldi scores in the West Point for trainer Jim Bond.

year's Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-bred sale, led throughout the Seeking The Ante and crossed the finish 2 1/4 lengths in front of multiple graded stakes-placed Make Mischief. The ill-fated filly won for the partnership of Gold Square, It's All About The Girls, Paul Braverman, Fortune Farm and Harlow Stables.

Bred by WinStar Farm and out of the Tiznow mare Light And Variable, Samborella finished third in her debut July 24 at Saratoga.

- Paul Halloran

Rinaldi keeps Bond rolling

It's not uncommon for a trainer to get off to a fast start at Saratoga, only to fade in the dog days of August. Nor is it unusual for one to come out of the gate slow and surge as the calendar approaches Labor Day. This year, Jim Bond has displayed good speed and staying power.

"You didn't hear? They're going to go another 30 days," Bond joked in the winner's circle after Rinaldi went gate-to-wire in the West Point Stakes.

Doesn't he wish.

Bond picked up his first win on the fifth racing day, July 22, and the West Point win gave him 12 for the meet, from only 38 starts (31.6 percent). He has added 11 on-the-board finishes, making for a very good summer for his family operation.

"My wife (Tina) and I spend a lot of time and money to build up a really nice operation," Bond said. "To have this happen in these tough times for a lot of people is just icing on the cake."

Bred by Barry Ostrager and sold to Bond for \$5,000 as a weanling out of the 2016 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga October mixed sale, the 4-year-old Posse gelding races for the Bond Racing

Continued On Page 47



Continued from page 46

Stable that includes Craig Allen and John and Amy Pickett (and their son Jacob). Bond named the horse for an Italian wine – as is his wont – but he subsequently learned he has a neighbor with the same last name.

Rinaldi gave his owners reason to uncork a bottle of red or white with a gutsy performance in the 1 1/16-mile stakes for 3-year-olds and up on the turf. Saez sent him to the lead - of course - and the 6-5 favorite carved out fractions of :25.09, :50:39, 1:13.61 and 1:37.29, finishing in 1:43.52 over the inner turf listed as good. As they turned for home, it looked as if he might get swallowed up by the next three betting choices, but Saez had plenty left in the tank and he won by 1 1/2 lengths over Dot Matrix, with Therapist in third.

"Luis is just amazing," Bond said. "I know this horse on the front end is pretty strong. Luis made the lead and then he backed down going into the turn. They came to him a little bit and he re-broke."

Rinaldi returned to the races in June after a 10-month layoff resulting from stepping on something during training and puncturing his frog, the underside of his foot.

Bond said if the wound were much deeper it would have been career-ending and could have been fatal. He credited Dr. Kathryn Dern of Rood & Riddle with nursing the horse back to health.

"We prayed and prayed and prayed, and it's a miracle," Bond said. "I gave him the rest of the year off."

Rinaldi was ready to run in April, but Covid-19 had other plans, so he did not return until June 26 when he ran second in an optional claimer at Belmont.

He won a similar race at Saratoga July 30, setting him up for the stakes try, a year after he ran fourth in the Grade 3 Saranac Stakes.

"This horse has been telling me," Bond said. "He's been working with Prioritize (who runs in today's Grade 1 Woodward Handicap). These two have just been hammering the last three weeks for me. I'm kind of excited to run Prioritize."

Keep the wine handy.

– Paul Halloran

Chestertown rebounds in Albany

The Albany Stakes might be the best indication of the success of New York's breeding program, not so much for who's in it as for who isn't.

New York-bred colts Tiz The Law and Ny Traffic were eligible for the 3-year-old stakes on the dirt at 9 furlongs. They would have been major players if not for being occupied in another big race in Kentucky and unavailable for the Albany.

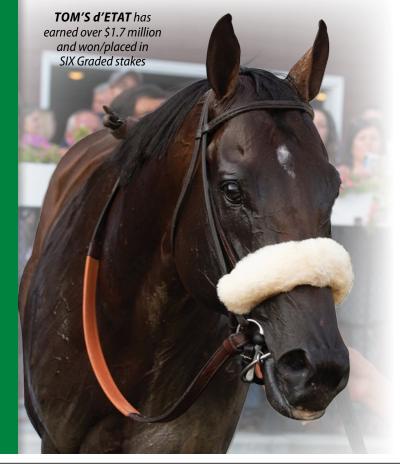
The field of five that did run in the 2020 edition of the \$145,500 Albany included two stakes winners and two

stakes-placed horses with the Christophe Clement-trained City Man established as the 4-5 favorite. Midway in the stretch it looked as if the betting public was going to prove right as City Man and jockey Joel Rosario made their move on the leader, 2-1 second choice Chestertown. But when City Man came within a head of overtaking him, Chestertown pulled away to win by three-quarters of a length.

Chestertown was the only entry who came into the race without

Continued On Page 48





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stakes credentials but that ended with the Albany victory. Ridden by Jose Ortiz, the gray colt by Tapit out of Grade 1-winning New York-bred Artemis Agrotera raced third or fourth throughout most of the trip. He hooked More Graytful at the quarter pole, took the lead in the stretch and held off City Man.

"Down the backstretch and coming into the far turn, my horse wanted to go for the lead," Ortiz said, "but I knew where we were placed I had the other one [City Man] hemmed in on the rail and I wanted to keep him there as long as I could."

Chestertown won for trainer Steve Asmussen and owners West Point Thoroughbreds, Chester and Mary Broman, Woodford Racing, Siena Farm and Rob Masiello. Tom Bellhouse the COO of West Point Thoroughbreds, represented the owners in the winner's circle.

Bred by the Bromans, Chestertown sold for \$2 million at the 2019 OBS March 2-year-olds in training



NYRA Photo

Chestertown draws away to win the Albany.

sale. He's the first foal out of Artemis Agrotera, who won the Grade 1 Frizette at 2 and Grade 1 Ballerina at 3 for the Bromans and trainer Mike Hushion.

"There's been a lot of expectations of this colt because of what he cost

and he's just never quite met them," Bellhouse said. "He's shown flashes so there was always hope. Today in the paddock they told me he's been training like a bear so we were hoping he'd show up, and he certainly did."

The Albany was the second win in

eight starts for Chestertown.

"Tapits are often better at 4 and 5," he said. "This was a great first step. As he keeps improving, I don't see why he can't compete in open company down the line."

Jose Ortiz agreed.

"I think he's learning still," he said. "He's got some races under his belt and he's figured it out now. The blinkers helped, too. He'll be better at 4."

Ortiz added another win on the day in the eighth aboard Light In The Sky for Horacio DePaz, while his brother Irad was blanked. He's within one in the jockey's race with three days remaining in the meet.

Can he do it?

"I will catch him," Jose assured.

– Terry Hill

Myhartblongstodady goes all the way in Yaddo on turf

Lawrence Goichman's homebred Myhartblongstodady made her stakes debut a winning one, leading the entire 1 1/16 miles of the inner turf course in the \$145,500 Yaddo Stakes for fillies and mares. The 5-year-old

Continued On Page 49



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Scat Daddy mare won by a length from Wegetsdamunnys as the 3-2 favorite.

Myhartblongstodady improved to 4-for-8, a stakes winner for the first time and 2-for-2 under her new trainer Jorge Abreu, who got her after a more than eight-month layoff.

Before the trainer switch from Chad Brown a few months ago, Myhartblongstodady had been running her races from off the pace and at times from way back. Under Abreu, the mare has led at every call in both her last two, both wins coming with Jose Lezcano aboard.

"Jorge's really figured her out," Goichman said. "And today she really showed up. Just give her a lead and say goodbye."

Myhartblongstodady raced only once last year and has just two starts this year. Why has she been so lightly raced? "She gets colds every so often," said Goichman philosophically.

Myhartblongstodady added \$82,500 to her bankroll, now at \$235,216.

Saratoga Leaders TRAINERS1ST Todd Pletcher......27 Chad Brown 26 Mike Maker 20 Christophe Clement......19 Linda Rice.....14 Steve Asmussen 13 Rudy Rodriguez13 Jim Bond......12 Wesley Ward 10 Jorge Abreu 9 Jeremiah Englehart9 Bill Mott9 Orlando Noda......9 David Donk 8 JOCKEYS1ST Irad Ortiz Jr. 53 Jose Ortiz......52 Joel Rosario......45 Luis Saez......38 Javier Castellano 26 Jose Lezcano24 Tyler Gaffalione21 Manny Franco 18 John Velazquez 16 Dylan Davis15 Junior Alvarado......12 Ricardo Santana Jr.....12



Chelsea Durand/NYRA Photo

Myhartblongstodady (right) leads everybody home in the Yaddo.

"I've been in the business since 1979 and right now I've got 11 mares," Goichman said. "Generally we keep the fillies and sell the colts. If we think we've got a filly coming we bring her up here so she can be part of this program. It's been great."

Myhartblongstodady is out of the multiple stakes-placed Elusive Quality mare Elusive Rumor, who was also bred and raced by Goichman. Elusive Rumor, whose entire 14-race career was spent in New York, finished third in the Yaddo Stakes eight years ago.

"It's been very exciting and very satisfying," Goichman said.

A bit of a surprise were Myhartblongstodady's odds. She was listed at 12-1 in the morning line, but went off as the favorite, partially because of the scratch of multiple New Yorkbred champion and graded stakes winner Fifty Five.

- Terry Hill

• Maybe this will be a good weekend for Barclay Tagg.

After Saratoga Flash, the even-money favorite, and Bohemian Ruby both ran off the board in Friday's second, the Tagg barn rebounded in a big way when Step Dancer closed from next to last to win the fourth, a New Yorkbred maiden for 2-year-olds at 1 1/6 miles on the turf. Tagg acolytes were rewarded with a \$50.50 win ticket.

Pivotal Run ran second, making it an all War Dancer progeny exacta that paid \$559 for \$1. Sugar Plum Farm bred both, with Richard Pressman a co-breeder on the winner.

"I hadn't ridden him at all," said Robin Smullen, Tagg's assistant, who is minding the store at Saratoga while her partner is off trying to win the Kentucky Derby with Tiz The Law. "Then I rode him two weeks ago and I kind of liked him. Heather (Smullen) was breezing a horse next to him and said, 'That little horse can run.'

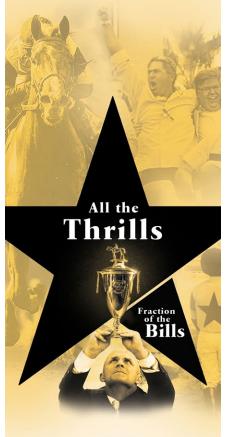
Winning with a first-time starter going long on turf is not necessarily a signature move for Tagg, and Smullen admitted she was mildly surprised.

"I didn't expect him to win," she said, "but I thought he would run well. I didn't think the light bulb had gone off yet."

It certainly didn't look like it as he languished near the back of the 10-horse field down the backstretch, but he started to pick it up on the far turn and when Dylan Davis hit the switch in the stretch, he easily powered to the lead and a 3 1/2-length win.

"You can't rush babies," said Smullen, who will watch the Derby tonight at the home of a Sackatoga partner. "When Dylan asked him, he really responded."

- Paul Halloran



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September Select

Fasig-Tipton reschedules sale from Saratoga to Lexington

BY MELISSA BAUER-HERZOG

Less than 48 hours after Saratoga runs its final race of the 2020 season, yearling season gets its belated start with the canceled Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sales pairing up and moving to Kentucky as part of the revamped Fasig-Tipton Selected Yearling Showcase Wednesday and Thursday.

It's a sale that's been six months in the making, though none of the Fasig-Tipton team thought their March inspections would be for a single September sale instead of their normal summer sales.

"The one thing that made the whole process very interesting was the dynamics," Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning Jr. said of the challenges they faced. "The circumstances changed, I don't think when any of us became aware of Covid in March that we expected that six months lat-

er we'd still have as much disruption as we have so it was certainly a challenge."

The Yearling Showcase has led to a catalogue of a tick over 660 yearlings before outs and Browning is confident that buyers can expect the same level of quality they'd have at each of the individual Fasig-Tipton sales.

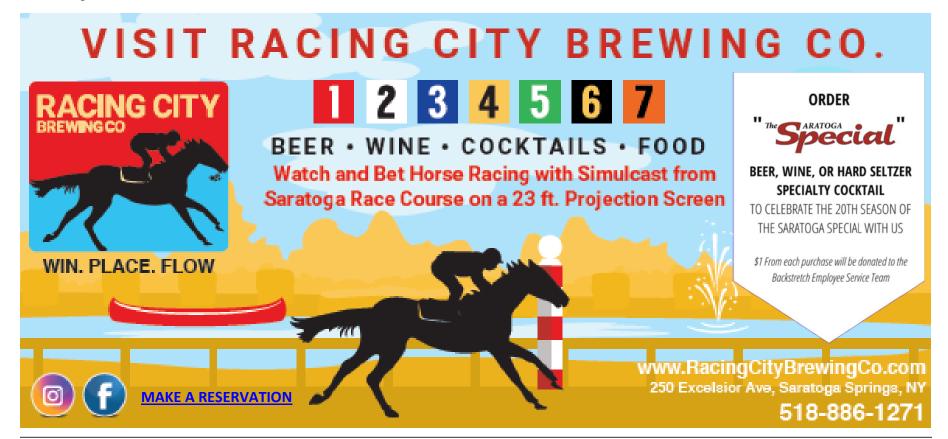
"At the end of the day, all of us at Fasig-Tipton are very pleased and very happy with the overall group of yearlings we've been able to assemble for the Selected Yearling Showcase," Browning said. "I don't think any of us knew what to expect as we got into the rearranging and the shuffling of the sales calendar and the challenges that we were facing in Saratoga this year which resulted in the cancelation and reallocation of those horses. But at the end of the day as we're a

Continued On Page 51



Photos by 7/Fasig-Tipton

Fasig-Tipton's Kentucky sales grounds will host the select yearling sale next week.



Sale —

■ Continued from page 50

week before the sale starts, we're very pleased with the horses we have catalogued and will have on offer next week."

An important part of Fasig-Tipton's brand has been its New Yorkbred sale and with that in mind Fasig-Tipton has scheduled the sale to start with a 165 hip New York-bred section.

Sequel New York's Becky Thomas has 13 New York-breds in the sale and applauded Fasig-Tipton for the decision to hold the section. Thomas believes the sale isn't just important for New York breeders but also Fasig-Tipton itself.

"[New York breeders'] pinnacle of breeding is to be able to sell in that New York-Bred Sale," she said. "The opportunity to sell in Maryland or OBS or in Kentucky, that is not comparable to selling in the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga New York-Bred Sale. So I think it was very important to our breeders, but I also think it was important to Fasig-Tipton for market share. It's an important part of their catalogue, that sale has continued to escalate in valuation, I mean as an example - Tiz The Law. He did not come out of the main Saratoga sale, he came out of the New York-Bred sale. I think [having the section] makes a substantial statement but it's not just important for breeders, it's very, very important for Fasig-Tipton's market share."

The consignor of Tiz The Law in the New York-Bred sale two years ago, Thomas says the draft she is sending to Fasig-Tipton is very similar



Photos by Z/Fasig-Tipton

The barn area will be full of horses, with shows set to begin Sunday.

to both of her original Fasig-Tipton Saratoga drafts.

Among the horses in her consignment is Tiz The Law's Mission Impazible half-brother but she says there are many others to be excited about as well – especially first yearlings by Union Jackson.

"We've got first crop Union Jacksons in this sale and we've been blessed to be in a partnership with Stonestreet," she said. "There are two yearlings by Union Jackson that are owned in partnership with Stonestreet and that was a horse that was near and dear to Mr. Jackson and Barbara Banke's heart. Obviously he's named after Mr. Jackson so we feel really good about having that first

crop. We've got three of those in the sale. So our draft for Fasig-Tipton is exactly what we would have had in the New York-Bred Sale as well as horses that would have been in the main sale."

Another horse Tiz The Law could give a major update to is Hip 13 out of Little Bug, who is selling through the Fort Christopher's Thoroughbreds draft. Also by Mission Impazible and in the New York-bred section, the filly is out of six-time winning half-sister to Tiz The Law's dam Tizfiz.

The filly has many of the same attributes as Tiz The Law with Chris Shelli saying she's the complete package.

"She's always been a really nice athletic individual," Shelli said. "She's well balanced, she's got a super topline and she's got a really great walk. On top of that, she's just been a great horse to be around, she's got a great mind on her. So we're excited to have her. She's very athletic and at least with her we've got a lot to talk about with the updates."

While all but one of the Fort Christopher offerings are part of the New York-bred section, having the Fasig-Tipton Sale in Lexington, Ky. is actually logistically better for the consignment.

All the yearlings prep at his two Kentucky farms for every sale so Shelli admits that there are benefits to having the sale close to home.

The only downside is that with most of his offerings being New York-breds, his clients aren't able to watch them go through the ring in person due to quarantine restrictions.

It is likely that he'll be plenty busy even without clients in town however, with the Little Bug filly already bringing plenty of attention to his draft.

"My opinion is any time you have a horse like Tiz The Law with a significant and a current relevant update in one of your families, it is big [for your whole consignment]," he said. "I think he can only help. We've had many, many phone calls regarding that filly and questions as to what she's like and so forth so I think it helps as a whole."

Many consignors are set to start showing their Fasig-Tipton horses Sunday with the first horse scheduled to go through the ring at 10 a.m. during Wednesday and Thursday's sessions.

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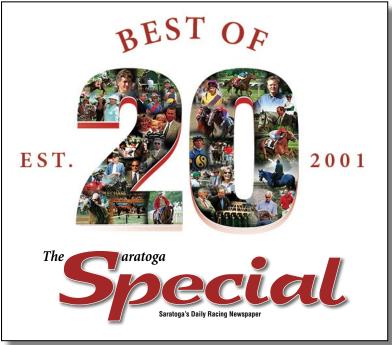
"Troy Mulligan saves me hours of work and days of worry. Now, I can watch the horses again."

- Sean Clancy, Riverdee Stable

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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.

Given all the advance pre-race hoopla – banners on Broadway, "Run like a Girl" advertisements in the papers, the "Will she or won't she?" debates and everything else in between – the 2009 Woodward had plenty of chances to be a dud. And then it was as good as it gets. Three-year-old filly Rachel Alexandra, winner of the Kentucky Oaks, Preakness and Haskell, defeated older males in the late-season Grade 1 as Saratoga Race Course shook from the rafters to the bunkhouses.

September 6, 2009. As Good as it Gets. Rachel Alexandra rules Saratoga. By Sean Clancy.

She came, she conquered. She fought, she won.

"Calvin kept telling me, 'You wait until they look at her, there will be more.' He said that every time," Steve Asmussen said after Rachel Alexandra won the Woodward. "I'm like, 'How the hell would you know?' How would you know?"

Borel knew. Now we all know.

Rachel Alexandra proved her mettle matched her talent in an epic renewal of the Grade I Woodward Stakes. The iconic filly rocked seven older horses and rocked Saratoga like it's never been rocked. Hooked early, harassed throughout and hanging tough at the end, Rachel Alexandra became the first filly to win the Woodward Stakes. In 56 runnings, only six had tried the 9-furlong \$750,000 race.

They gave her nothing. She dispatched Da' Tara from his attempt at setting the pace, then shook off Past The Point on the turn, stiff-armed Bullsbay at the eighth pole and finally held off Macho Again to win by head. Rachel Alexandra finished in 1:48.29.

Owned by Stonestreet Stable and Harold McCormick, Rachel Alexandra went off 3-10 in the field of eight and improved her 2009 mark to a perfect 8-for-8. She's won five consecutive Grade I stakes. They read long and tall – the Kentucky Oaks, Preakness, Mother Goose, Haskell and Woodward. Three-year-old fillies, 3-year-olds males and now older males. What else is there?

The talk all year has been about Rachel Alexandra and Zenyatta, the unde-



feated champion from California, squaring off in the Breeders' Cup, the Beldame, the Mattress Mac Cup. That looks anti-climactic after the Woodward.

Rachel Alexandra broke alertly from stall 3, Borel kept her well off the rail going into the first turn. Her cruising speed propelled her to tangle with Da' Tara who had the rail and the lead. Rachel Alexandra took over from last year's Belmont winner after a quarter-mile in 22.85 seconds. Past The Point tracked in third with Cool Coal Man fourth and It's A Bird grappling for a part of the front flight. Bullsbay relaxed in sixth, with Asiatic Boy and second choice Macho Again biding their time after a half in 46.41.

Continued On Page 53

Best of -

■ Continued from page 52

"She broke a little sharper than I thought she would but Steve talked to me the day before and he said she might be sharper. He was right," Borel said. "She got a little aggressive and left running. Everything he said might happen did happen. He told me just to wait as long as I could before I really asked her. I rode her just like that, from there, that's all I can do."

Past The Point picked up the baton from Da' Tara as Rachel Alexandra rolled into the far turn. Last year's Woodward runner-up got to her saddle towel. That's all. Bullsbay ducked inside Past The Point, who carried It's A Bird and Asiatic Boy wide coming off the turn, and made third run at the filly. The Whitney winner ranged up to her flank and that's all. Borel slapped her on the right shoulder, then switched and hit her three times on the left side. Macho Again roared past Bullsbay to take a fourth run at Rachel Alexandra who clung to the rail and the lead. Borel switched his whip back to his right and transformed into his Borel scrub, pumping and hitting like he's waving a blanket at a bull. Macho Again chased her all the way to the line but couldn't get past her, ultimately failing by a head. Macho Again tries hard every time. This time, he couldn't pin her shoulders to the floor.

"I always knew she'd have it. She's the best horse I've ever been on. She had to prove herself today, but I already knew she could run like that. Nobody else gets to ride her in a race so there's no way to describe it to them," Borel said. "It was an unbelievable performance. You wouldn't imagine the feeling. I don't know how good she really is. Nobody does. Every time they come up to her, she just goes again. She doesn't want to let anyone by her."

As Borel wagged and waved after the race, Asmussen hugged assistant Scott Blasi and owner Jess Jackson and then walked into the winner's circle to await the \$2.9 million earner. As she walked in, Asmussen raised his hands above his head and clapped like he was a fan on the apron at the quarter pole. After the photos, the only filly to ever win the Woodward headed for the test barn.

Asmussen grabbed his children, signed photos

and programs, sat down at the press conference, signed photos and programs and then hopped the back fence of the jocks' room to go see the best in the world.

"I don't know what to say. I really don't," Asmussen said. "You can change everything about races but





Tod Marks (2)

Rachel Alexandra (right) held off Macho Again (left) and Bullsbay in front of a packed house in the 2009 Woodward.

the outcome. You can want it but this isn't a movie, they don't go according to script. You've got to go and do it. People tell you, you can't lose, then, guess what, they open the betting window and let you bet on it. I'm just nervous, I can't help it. I wouldn't go downstairs until they put her number up, that's me."

Jackson balances Asmussen's nerves with audacious confidence. As the racing world ogled over Rachel Alexandra's 20-length romp in the Oaks and dreamed of what she would have done in the Kentucky Derby, Jackson stepped up to find out what she could do in the Preakness. He bought her from breeder Dolphus Morrison and transferred her from Hal Wiggins to Asmussen. Dominic Terry began getting on the daughter of Medaglia d'Oro.

She won the Preakness, 15 days after winning the Oaks. They skipped the Belmont, regrouped and won the Mother Goose with ease. Shipped to Monmouth Park, Rachel Alexandra swept the Haskell over eventual Travers winner Summer Bird. The Woodward made 11 for her career, eight this year. She's beaten males in three of her last four starts.

Pushing the envelope? This is pushing the mail

"Honestly, no slight exaggeration, when the options are out there, 'what could you run in?' He's taken the spot," Asmussen said of Jackson. "We all know how hard it is to be brilliant once in a row, eight in a row, oh my gosh. She was going in 59 at

Oaklawn in February. I've never seen anything like her."

Borel, who fell off in the post parade when Rachel Alexandra reacted to the crowd noise, is in awe of his filly.

"It's emotional. It's a filly running against the boys, running that well, trying that hard," he said. "She won the Woodward, and she had to work at it. One after another she fought them off."

Back at the test barn, Asmussen watched Rachel Alexandra cool out. Leaning on a wooden rail, on his own, he was part racing fan, part caretaker of the best horse in the country.

"I'm proud of her, proud for her," Asmussen said. "She gets to keep that twinkle in her eye. Everybody says they can do it, but you've got to prove it. She proved it. I coulda, I woulda, I shoulda, she woulda, she coulda . . . she did it. She came through didn't she? I cried, I've never cried at a horse race. It moved me."

With that, Javier Espinoza led Rachel Alexandra from the test barn, across Union Avenue and back down to stall 1 of Asmussen's barn on the Oklahoma side.

"That is one of the fastest horses that ever lived. That's the only 3-year-old filly to win the Woodward," Asmussen said. "The other morning, Dominic said she could have actually left the ground if he asked."

On Saturday afternoon, she left the ground. And took Saratoga with her.

cupofcoffee 🖐

BY SEAN CLANCY

Tony Reinstedler had a place for me to stay. That clinched it, I was going to the Derby. After homemade seafood jambalaya and a couple of Abitas Monday night, Reinstedler pointed to a tent in his backyard. I could still hear music from Baxter Avenue as I fell asleep. Mark Hennig smuggled a backstretch parking pass and held a spot for my Honda Civic. I finagled a press pass from John Asher, it had Steeplechase Times in block letters. Doc Richardson handed me two glossy box tickets as I wandered aimlessly before the first on Oaks Day. I wound up at the Lavins' party along the river.

Welcome to Derby Week. It was the old Churchill Downs. Maybe not the oldest, but the oldest to me. When the Twin Spires were the Twin Spires, standing tall, like they were placed last, rather than erected first. The clubhouse was cramped, stifling, airless, nooks and crannies, tucked-away bars and betting windows, new friends and old friends strewn like scissors, batteries and pens in the kitchen junk drawer. Betting lines wound long and deep, bar lines, too. I tried to walk from the grandstand to the paddock, kicked more Budweiser bottles than Messi kicked balls, and gave up. The races started early, an hour between races, they ran late.

For the first time in my life, I didn't have a job on the first Saturday in May. I wasn't at the Virginia Gold Cup, cajoling hurdle horses and tempering timber horses to go 4 miles in the big one. Without a riding job, without a writing gig (sorry, John), long before a radio assignment, I was a fan, just a horse racing fan, with other horse racing fans. A spectator. It was strange. It was glorious.

Monarchos won the Derby. From what I could tell. Who could see anything? I bet him. Gas money. That's about all.

My first Kentucky Derby. 2001. Where have you been all my life?

That was the first and, no, there will never be another first.

Derby Day



A year later, War Emblem won the Derby. I couldn't relate to that one. It happened, we watched from the clubhouse stairs, we went home.

A year later, my friend Chris Young got me a gig for MSNBC's documentary on the Triple Crown. I had my own room at the Executive West (Reinstedler put up the tent just in case), hung out with Gary Stevens and Jeff Mullins in the basement bar. The producers wanted me to track Bobby Frankel and Empire Maker, gave me a pair of glasses with a camera in the center. Long before GoPro, these looked like something out of Maxwell Smart. I never thought there was a bigger certainty than Empire Maker in the Derby. I stood dumbfounded next to Frankel, watching from the paddock, while Funny Cide upset the Derby. Frankel didn't have much to say. Neither did I.

A year later, I spent the week at Churchill Downs and then went home to see Extra Check, a horse I owned, run at Pimlico Saturday. He finished fourth. I regret that. Smarty Jones won one for the ages. I made the Preakness and that oh so deflating Belmont.

I was there for Giacomo a year later. But not as there as I should have been a few days earlier when Mike Smith was telling me how good the 50-1 shot was training and how brilliant his trainer, a guy named John Shirreffs, was at delivering on the big

day. I went home skint that year.

Then there was Barbaro. Writing a feature for Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred, I fell for the robust colt and his local connections early. I was as certain as I was with Empire Maker. By then, I had learned that you could actually make the walk with the horses and was heading back to the barn when I met Michael Matz walking the other way. He was flustered. Well, flustered for a guy who won an Olympic gold medal and rescued children from a burning plane. Here he was, swimming upstream as owners, trainers, writers and gawkers walked the other way.

"My son, Alex, wanted to walk over with me, and I told him no; I just thought there would be too much going on for him," Matz said. "Then as I was walking, I got to thinking, 'I might not ever get here again.' My first Olympics, I didn't even go to the opening ceremonies. I said, 'Oh, I'll be here every year.' It took me 16 years to get back. After that, I was the first guy on the bus."

Matz's wife, D.D., delivered 9-year-old Alex. Father and son walked back to the barn, hand-in-hand. I walked with them, taking notes, knowing it was big. Two weeks later, I learned how big.

Of all the Derby winners, of all the Derby memories, Barbaro's singed my soul. I went to nine in a row after Barbaro. There was Street Sense on the rail, Big Brown from the parking lot, Mine That Bird in a shocker. There was Super Saver for Todd Pletcher's first, Animal Kingdom for friends John Velazquez and Graham Motion and a powerful run from I'll Have Another. There was Orb for the biggest ticket I ever cashed, California Chrome for the little guys and then American Pharoah. When he won the Triple Crown, it seemed like a good time to step off the ride. I haven't been to the Derby since.

This year? I'm not sure I would have gone or not. But, like all of us, I sure would have liked to have

As Matz said, "I might not ever get here again."

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The Big Picture with Tod Marks

The One and Only. The great Rachel Alexandra sets off on a sunrise gallop on the Oklahoma training track in 2009, the year she won the Grade 1 Woodward as a 3-year-old filly taking on older males.







JACK KNOWLTON DIARY:

ENTERING DERBY WITH 'WORLD OF CONFIDENCE' IN TIZ THE LAW

Jack Knowlton has been maintaining a diary that is now taking followers of America's Best Racing through a season deeply impacted by the pandemic. The Derby is not being run in May for the first time since 1945 and will represent the middle leg of the Triple Crown. The Preakness Stakes has been rescheduled for Oct. 3 at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course.

Click to read the seventh installment of Knowlton's diary, written with Tom Pedulla.