

Year 20 • No. 10 • August 15, 2020



The *Saratoga*

# Special



## Ready to Fly

Swiss Skydiver jumps into Gr. 1 Alabama





# WAR OF WILL

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**Crowded House.** The field for Wednesday's seventh race breaks from the gate. Microsecond (11) prevailed a lap later.

Tod Marks

## here&there...in racing

Presented by Shadwell Farm



### NAMES OF THE DAY

**Invest, first race.** The 4-year-old gelding is by Super Saver.

**Rock Sugar, second race.** Bach Stable's 2-year-old colt is by Frosted out of Tiz So Sweet. Our teeth hurt.

**No Word, eighth race.** Wertheimer et Frere's homebred 3-year-old is by Silent Name out of Listen A. P.

**Get Smokin, eighth race.** Mary Sullivan's 3-year-old is by Get Stormy out of Hookah Lady.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**1:** Shank in the middle of South Broadway near the Avenue of Pines entrance to the Saratoga Spa State Park at 7:30 a.m. last Saturday. Anyone short equipment?

**6:** Winners this week for McMahon of Saratoga's Central Banker after Newly Minted won Thursday's Union Avenue.

**1:** Hand-made horse-themed cloth face mask sent to The Special's Joe Clancy by a reader. Thanks Linda Conroy. Keep up the good work.

**7,500:** Dollars for Kentucky Derby winner Country House's stud fee for the 2021 season at Darby Dan Farm in Lexington.

**797,000:** Dollars in price difference between 2-year-olds Polinesia (\$800,000) and The Kukri (\$3,000), who meet in Saturday's second race.

**615,668:** Dollars in the winning payoff of the Late Pick 5 for a 50-cent wager Friday, triggered by \$105 winner Say The Word in the ninth race.

### WORTH REPEATING

"Like the old man says, 'I ain't killing no one.' "

**Fernando Abreu,**  
about his mentor Allen Jerkens and cold streaks

"Total attendance at all those races – zero."

**Trainer Ken McPeck on Alabama favorite Swiss Skydiver's races at Gulfstream, Oaklawn, Santa Anita and Keeneland during the pandemic lockdown**

"Barclay knows what he's doing and I'm in good hands."

**Jockey Manny Franco about Travers winner Tiz The Law and trainer Barclay Tagg**

"I knew he was running. Like I say, he took off with me."

**Franco about looking back in the stretch of the Travers**

"You hit it on the head."

**Gordie Keys after reading a feature on Barclay Tagg in Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred**

"I said to him, 'What's wrong with my horse?' He said, 'He's no damn good.' That was it. I picked him up the next day."

**Keys, about having a horse with Tagg**

"The Laobans are running, that's about the only bit of good news in all of this."

**Trainer Eric Guillot on the New York-based freshman sire**

"Mask it or casket."

**Fasig-Tipton's Max Hodge**

## The Saratoga Special

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### Editors/Publishers/Owners:

**Sean Clancy:** (302) 545-7713. sean@thisishorseracing.com **Joe Clancy:** (302) 545-4424. joe@thisishorseracing.com

**Managing Editor: Tom Law:** (859) 396-9407. tom@thisishorseracing.com

### Writers/Copy Editors:

Paul Halloran, Terry Hill, Mary Eddy,  
Nolan Clancy, Ryan Clancy.

### Photography:

Tod Marks.  
Michael Trombetta Jr.

### Marketing:

Samantha Loud.

### Handicappers:

Charles Bedard, John Shapazian,  
Rob Whitlock.

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**Wake-Up Call.** Zoom Zoom Zoe, third in Wednesday's jump race, takes a break after a good roll at the Clark stakes barn Thursday morning.

Tod Marks

## The Chief

"In the old days, the grooms would stall and stall, waiting to be the last one to the paddock. Now, we've got to go over to the holding barn six hours before we run."

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



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Tod Marks

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## WORTH REPEATING

"I was introduced to him about 20 years ago when he wrote something about the passing of Eddie Gregson. He impressed me then and he still does today."

**Agent Ron Anderson on The Special's Sean Clancy**

"It's one thing to have to run against one tough one but in here there's two."

**Jeffrey Tucker, co-owner of Carrera Cat about her title defense in Thursday's Union Avenue (she finished sixth)**

"It's all anyone is doing, kicking around and killing time."

**Bloodstock agent Steve Young**

"I'd see Wayne Lukas bring horses over, LeRoy Jolley bring horses over, Woody Stephens, when he was kicking butt. They had stock. I can remember one owner saying 'you need to learn to train horses like Wayne Lukas.' I said 'bull\*\*\*\*', you need to buy me horses that Wayne Lukas trains.' That person was my dad. When you're training fast horses you look really good but when you're training bad horses you look bad."

**McPeck on his early years and trying to get better stock**

"As you know I have a taste for the bad pun jokes. Fortunately I remember that you do too, so I'm passing this one on: A termite walks into a bar and asks, 'Is the bartender here?' I told this last night and Tom barely cracked a smile. Still I knew you'd like it."

**The Special's Terry Hill to Joe Clancy**

"We got a goat, a baby goat, that we tried to use as sort of a nurse mare but that didn't work. For a nice foal, an Arrogate foal, a baby goat. The boys named it Billy. I said, 'four years of college and best we can come up with is Billy Goat?' It's scary."

**Trainer Jim Bond, taking a little dig at his sons Ryan and Kevin**

"OK. I'm going to my studio."

**Miles Clancy, 11, heading upstairs for virtual Shakespeare camp**

"I think the warranty has expired by now."

**Jump jockey Darren Nagle, who sold The Special's Nolan Clancy a 2002 Mazda almost three years ago (still going strong)**

"Where the hell are you? Covid-19 is no match for IPA Beer. 95 North, make a left and you're here."

**Trainer Phil Serpe to the Virginia-based part of The Special team who congratulated him on a win Friday afternoon**

"When Hoky was a baby he needed a companion in his field so I went out and bought a horse for \$3,000 and resold him for \$16,000. He ended up being named Willy Beamish, that won the King's Bishop."

**John Little, breeder of \$1.3 million earner Hoky and co-breeder of two-time stakes winner Gufo, entered in today's Saratoga Derby**

"I love the Special, even in truncated form."

**Old Friends' Michael Blowen**

"I just want to say thank you for the buff/neck gaiter, which I received yesterday. I won't be modeling it any time soon as it is in the 90s here in Maine all summer! But it will certainly come in handy this winter while shoveling the driveway."

**Reader's Club member Peggi Loveless**

"Just for fun. Big steeplechase race from Wroclaw, Poland to enjoy!!!"

**Longtime reader and international steeplechase fan, Richard Hutchinson with the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgGvzQZ6iua&feature=youtu.be>**

"Pat Day hand riding Flanders to the lead. Flanders coming home to an easy win here. No doubt about it. Flanders by 6 emphatic lengths."

**Tom Durkin announcing Flanders' debut win at Saratoga in 1994**





## POSTCARD TO SARATOGA

I remember Wise Dan at Saratoga, with that big window, the horses running in the afternoon, he might pick up his head, you could have him grazing or on the vibration plate and he would just watch them go by.

I was pretty optimistic about the Hall of Fame, but I didn't want to be cocky about it, when they called, I was pretty excited. Everybody said he was a slam dunk but you just don't know. They said he got something like 94 percent of the votes, I was overwhelmed.

You were around him, you were there every step of the way, all those works, we talk about those walks all the time. That one work when the trees were going...he walked across Union Avenue with the reins swinging, he wouldn't have blown out a match. He was amazing, that horse.

I was telling Reeve (nephew and former assistant McGaughey) and my wife Amy the other day, when you were in the midst of that thing it never really hit you what was going on and how good he really was, but when it's all said and done and you look back and think about how lucky I was to get my hands on a horse like this...We had a small stable of 16 horses and we had Turallure, Successful Dan, Here Comes Ben and him. We had five years, people go their whole lives and never have a shot at one horse like that.

You were a big part of it, not only with that horse but all the horses, the handful of horses we went to Saratoga and did good. I remember walking back from the Director's Room to the test barn, who walks all the way from the Director's Room to the test barn?

He's great. He's out there with his brother, he looks like a million dollars.

— **Trainer Charlie LoPresti**

*LoPresti picked off stakes wins at Saratoga with Here Comes Ben in the 2010 Forego, Turallure in the 2011 Bernard Baruch and Horse of the Year Wise Dan in the 2012-13 Fourstardave and 2014 Bernard Baruch. Retired on LoPresti's farm in Kentucky, Wise Dan was inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.*

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He's almost a little bit sinister looking."  
**Jockey Darren Nagle, on the old-school, all-angles look of Thursday's steeplechase winner Iranistan**



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COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

**LONG MONDAY**  
in first try on turf,  
wins MSW at Ellis Park

Breeder: Keene Ridge  
Owner: Hat Creek Racing  
Trainer: Justin Wojczynski



COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

**COOL ENOUGH**  
goes wire-to-wire by  
5 1/2 at Colonial Downs

Breeder: Morgan's Ford Farm  
Owner: Rashid's Thoroughbred Racing,  
Kingdom Bloodstock  
Trainer: Phil Schoenthal

\*Bloodhorse.com



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## With Jim Bond

The Bonds do things family style. Not always when it comes to meals per se – although the boys frequently grab a bite together with their significant others on a free night during the Saratoga meet.

The Bond Racing Stable and its breeding operation Song Hill Thoroughbreds feature a member of the family in every facet – father Jim, mother Tina and sons Ryan and Kevin. Jim handles the training, the veteran conditioner gears up for the Saratoga season close to home and consistently produces positive results. Tina handles most of the business while the sons keep things humming at the barn and on the farm.

Jim Bond has victories in Saratoga's two signature events – the Travers in 1996 with Will's Way and the Whitney in 1997 with Will's Way and in 2011 with Tizway. He's off to another strong start past the halfway point of the 2020 meet. The barn had seven wins from 25 starters through Friday, a good enough start that he jokes helps keep him off the couch at home. He's quick to credit the team at the farm in nearby Stillwater and at his private barn on Gridley Street.

"Both boys are good. I'm so blessed," Bond said. "I get nervous because of our business, the game itself. I see the same passion that I had at that age, and even more. I was still really wet behind the ears but they are so good. I'm so fortunate.

"The good thing is they both went to college, four great years of college. Ryan, the youngest, he has a finance degree. His mother kept saying, 'Why are you doing this? Can you look at our finances?' But they love it, work hard and do a great job."

The Bond operation leans heavily toward New York-breds, many bred by Song Hill and running in the family's blue and white colors. They've brought on some partners on those horses, a new twist to the operation that Jim Bond said helps spread the risk and bring in new blood to the game.

"I love raising horses and hopefully having them last for a few years," he said. "We have a lot of partnerships that are liking what we're doing. They're starting to jump in for a lot of 10-percent pieces, stuff like that. It's helping with the risk for



us, and that's fantastic because you can own too many, which we do. Saying that though, you don't know for two or three years, after you breed them, do you like them or not? And you have two rabbits you're feeding behind them.

"And it doesn't matter if they're by Tapit or by Jimmy, they all eat. And they all eat the same. The shoeing is the same usually. Costs as much to feed a good one as a bad one. The sooner we can find out, do the right thing, make them a riding horse or whatever, we try to do that. And every horse we breed, those horses have an index card with their foaling papers and if they need a home at any time."

The Bonds put the practice to the test when they arranged to repurchase Orino, a multiple winner for the family from 2013-16 who wound up in the claiming ranks and eventually in California. After the now 10-year-old son of Raffie's Majesty returned to New York he started training to become the operation's top pony, taking over for the now semi-retired Grade 1 winner Pleasant Breeze.

"Miguel Gutierrez (NYRA's lead outrider) helped us get Orino perfect, like he did with Pleasant Breeze," Bond said. "Pleasant Breeze is 26 now and he's kind of a babysitter for an Arrogate filly (whose mother died shortly after foaling this spring). The old man is raising an Arrogate filly. She's a beautiful filly and he's proud."

Bond talked about his Saratoga group with The Special's Tom Law after training late Tuesday morning.

Tod Marks  
**Daring Disguise gave the Bond barn a Saratoga win Wednesday.**

**Prioritize:** William Clifton's Grade 2-placed 5-year-old son of Tizway won a 9-furlong optional claimer on the main track July 25. The \$45,000 yearling has earned \$247,100 in 13 starts. "He's getting better. The trainer was not very intelligent, he had him on the turf for two years. Finally put him on the dirt and it looks like he's a pretty nice horse. He was a good grass horse but he's a really, really good dirt horse. We're looking for a dream spot for him, you'll probably see him before the end of the meet and not sure how big we're going to go, or how small. It might depend on how many horses are left here toward the end because a lot of horses will probably be pulling out to go to Churchill."

Are you hinting at the Woodward? "Yes. It's a mile-and-a-quarter and the way he ran the other day it looks like he'll get the distance. A lot of horses won't get the distance. We have to look at it, we'll nominate and see if it's smart or not-so-smart. He ran

a great race the 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."

**Graetz:** Homebred Tizway filly for Bond Racing Stable broke her maiden for \$40,000 at Belmont in June and finished third in an allowance here last Saturday. "She's a filly I kind of like. She's from a really nice Pulpit mare we have, and I like this filly and she'll come back at the meet and do very well. Luis Saez rides her and I thought she was up a little closer than I would have liked. We were on the outer instead of on the inner and I think on the outer it's very hard to stay wire-to-wire basically and she was 21 and change on the front end. She won the time before kind of 2 off of it."

**Rinaldi:** A graduate of the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Fall Mixed Sale in 2016, the son of Posse won two New York Stallion Series Stakes last summer for Bond Racing Stable. The 4-year-old gelding won an optional claimer July 30. In the money in five of his six, his only off-the-board-finish came in the Grade 3 Saranac Stakes last summer where he finished fourth. "One of the stable stars. Last September he stepped on something on the main track coming back from Oklahoma and we were scared to death we were going to lose him. He went to Rood and Riddle and Dr. Kathryn Dern saved his life without exaggeration. We had to do the fusion where they just keep flushing and flushing the coffin joint. We got him back, gave him the rest of the year off and started him again this spring. We had him ready for the beginning of April and then the world shut down. He got a bad start at Belmont, he was on the outside on the dogleg going a mile and a sixteenth and I think the gate was

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# Stable Tour —

## ■ Continued from page 6

set up wrong that day. The gate, they moved it two or three times before the race and Saez said the gate wasn't in the right place. The horse was heading toward the hedge instead of seeing daylight, so he broke out terrible. It cost him, he got beat a length. He ran a winning race off the bench, but didn't win. So I decided to just try and win the allowance race and he was impressive here a few weeks ago. We did nominate to the Fourstardave, I think that's very ambitious so the West Point most likely is where we'll show up. Or there's another allowance-starter spot that he's eligible for, too. And there's a spot at Kentucky Downs, too, that I might even venture to. It's non-winners of a sweepstake. That's \$400,000, so we have to look at it at least. He's kind of a one-banjo monkey. He goes to the front, that's his game. Catch me if you can and if you go with him it will cost you the race, too. He's a very nice horse."

**Giacosa:** Bred by Song Hill and Roderick Towle, the daughter of Tizway broke her maiden this summer at Belmont and carried her form to Saratoga, winning a New York-bred allowance last Friday by 2 lengths. "Very exciting 3-year-old filly. She's from that great family and the dam, Smart Engagement, gave us Tizelle, too. Just runners. Everything in that family wins within the first two starts of their life. She was very impressive the other day. She drew a bad post and was really wide first start here. She went off like 35, 40-1 and I'm looking at this and saying 'What am I missing?' She ran fourth, ran so wide the other day, poor thing. I ran her back and she's 8-5. Tyler Gaffalione rode a tremendous race, saved ground inside and when she saw daylight she exploded. She's a good miler. Seems to me a lot of the Tizways are awesome milers. They explode at the mile, or at least the ones I have. I have nothing picked out for her, might just wait until the fall and find a 3-year-old stakes and get some black type, or try to."

**Corretalto:** Another homebred for Bond, the 6-year-old son of Tizway earned his seventh victory in an optional claimer here July 24. With two other placings in his 17 starts, the veteran gelding has earned \$300,633. "My sprinter. He's hard on me. He has a lot of stop time as I call it. I need to take care of him and usually when I take care of him he takes really good care of us. He's just a good horse. He's got issues. Doesn't run often but when he does show up he's pretty strong. He doesn't like Belmont, I've learned to keep him off Belmont. That big track, a little sandy and he doesn't handle it very well. So I avoid it and that's his off time. We might come back, there's a non-winners of a sweepstakes going three quarters on the 20th (Tale Of The Cat Stakes). We may be there with him, we'll see how he trains."

**Zealous:** A \$150,000 yearling purchase, the son of Tiznow won a starter here last year and came back to win a \$35,000 claimer July 31. He has won or been in the money in 10 of his 15 starts. "He's getting to be a Saratoga horse. He won here last year going seven-eighths. Another horse I have to take my time and pick my spots with. We ran him the other day and he was boxed in a little bit, Saez pushed him through and he got up in the final yards to win for us. He's owned by Mr. Clifton. I don't need to say much more about Mr. Clifton, he's been with us a long time and just one of the nicest owners you could train for. I believe we've been together 27, 28 years. Lucky me. I met him through Rudlein Stable, Mr. Rudder and him were in business together with Equix Biomechanics. That was the pioneer years, when everybody was trying to find a niche. They were on the ground floor of it. It's helped us. I've picked out (and given good scores) over the last 20 some years to seven Horses of the Year. Looking at 1,500 yearlings per year. As Mr. Clifton says, 'When Jim gives them a 9 you go beg, borrow and steal to try and buy them.' We were the underbidder on Bricks And Mortar, underbidder on Arrogate, underbidder on Favorite Trick. Everything now is on the iPad and at the end of the day I send my scores to Mr. Clifton. Fortunately I don't look back, because shoulda, coulda, woulda, you've got to move forward. Mr. Clifton is very analytical. He's on Duke's board of directors and he always keeps everything I say and everything I write down and send to him. A horse will come up in a major race and he'll say, 'kid, you gave that horse a hell of a score.' I'll tell him, 'good, why didn't we buy it boss?' But anyway, he makes me better. He fills me with a lot of information, some of it is with Equix, there's other things, numbers, sheets. Thank God for Mr. Clifton."

**Evaluator:** R and H Stable's gelded son of Overanalyze started his career on the turf before making his way to the Kentucky Derby trail in 2018, finishing seventh in that year's Grade 2 Wood Memorial at Aqueduct. A \$30,000 graduate from the Fasig-Tipton New York-bred sale, he's since made the switch back to turf and finished third behind stablemate Rinaldi July 30. "He's a horse I've always liked. Got a little sick on us this spring. Just about Covid time, he got sick about 9:30 at night in the barn at Belmont. We rushed a truck in there because they didn't have the plasma at the Ruffian Center that I think is needed when a horse is this bad. It works. This was different. He ate up his dinner then all of a sudden it was like a fire hose. A horse can get very weak and go downhill in a short amount of time. You need to react quickly. We got him to Rood and Riddle, Dr. Dern again, she was at the race the other day for Rinaldi and him because she took care of both horses. She got to get her picture taken. Too bad she didn't get it with this horse because he's a nice horse. He ran a very sneaky big race the

Continued On Page 8

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## ■ Continued from page 7

other day to Rinaldi. Unfortunately, I had to put them in the same race. I didn't want to. That horse deserved to come off the bench and win first time. Tyler rode him great. There is a spot for him in the book that I'll come back in. He worked this morning. He's got a great future."

**Gallina:** Bond Stable's homebred 2-year-old is out of the Smart Strike mare Smart Engagement, making her a half-sister to stablemate Giacosa. "She's a beautiful Mineshaft filly. She's just poetic. Everything about her, she's big and gorgeous. She's kind of early, she's a February baby so I think you'll see her this fall."

**Tassi:** New York-bred 2-year-old filly by Fed Biz out of the Tiznow mare Tiz A Texan. Clifton bought Tiz A Texan for \$170,000 as a 2-year-old but she never raced. The Bonds purchased her and added her to the Song Hill broodmare band. "Her mother is a sister to the dam of McKinzie. Not a bad little horse. She's been training lights out for us, just shows me a ton of talent and I'm excited about her. The family is taking off. The mother was a 2-year-old purchase (for Clifton) and unfortunately one day she was going to the track, reared in the air, lost her footing and hit her head. It was a very bad blow, we could never race her. I always thought she was something. Now she has a Goldencents yearling and an Air Force Blue foal beside her. Her foals are gorgeous. She's Tiznow and he's proving to be a really great broodmare sire, of course with our possible

Derby winner from New York. I think I'm in the right church there, I just hope I'm in the pews in the front."

**Damilano:** Two-year-old Tizway out of the Anees mare Beesanees, New York-bred colt is a half-brother to stakes winner Bee Noteworthy, who won a New York Stallion Series Stakes for Bond in 2017. "We just got his name. He's got a lovely way of going. Very athletic, big, gorgeous. He might be OK. Our names are all Italian wines or Italian regions. All of the horses names, my wife and I work hard at it. Cerratalto, a lot of people don't realize it, that's a 100-rated wine that is approximately \$600 and some change for a bottle. He lived up to that name. We tried some California reds, Opus One, and others, over the years, but they didn't live up to it. So we went to Italian wines and being that the Mrs. is Italian it's pretty A-OK."

**Bolgheri:** A 2-year-old full brother to stablemate Graetz, the colt's second dam is a half-sister to multiple graded stakes winner Caress. "He might be the head of the list. Needless to say a great family. Unfortunately he's an April foal so I'm going to be very cautious with him and not do a whole lot early."

**Sori:** Unraced full sister to stablemate Cerretalto is the sixth named foal that Bond's Song Hill Thoroughbreds has bred out of the Dixie Brass mare Riserva. She's already on Tina Bond's short list. "That's the princess. Named for a very expensive bottle of wine. She's from our great mare Riserva and she's a full to Cerratalto. She will be retained for our broodmare band at the end. Her mother is 18 now, had a Lookin At Lucky this year so we're excited about that. But this filly, that's my wife's pride and joy. She gets a lot of attention."



Tod Marks  
Trainer Jim Bond owns victories in two of Saratoga's signature races, the Whitney and the Travers.

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**LANE'S END**



# Road Show

Swiss Skydiver makes Saratoga her seventh stop this season

Swiss Skydiver hams it up at trainer Ken McPeek's barn at the Oklahoma Annex Friday morning.



Susie Raisher

## BY TOM LAW

The streetlights continued to glow orange along Fifth Avenue a little more than a half-hour before sunrise Thursday when Swiss Skydiver made the short walk from the Oklahoma Annex to the main Oklahoma Training Track grounds.

The 3-year-old daughter of Daredevil, in town from Kentucky for a run in today's Grade 1 Alabama Stakes, lowered her head as Mike Laronde let her lope along while trainer Ken McPeek and his assistant Britt Stoddard hopped in his SUV to drive to the main track to watch the filly train. Swiss Skydiver, even-money against six others in a deep renewal of the Alabama, meandered her way along the horse path on the turn of the Oklahoma through Horse Haven, across Union Avenue and into the picnic area before meeting McPeek and Stoddard in the paddock.

"We just let her walk free over there and into the paddock," McPeek said. "This will be her second

## ALABAMA STAKES PREVIEW

day on the main track. She pretty much adapts to wherever you take her. (Wednesday) was real hot and humid and she got a little warm on the end of her gallop. Today it's cooler, perfect. You wish every morning was like this."

Swiss Skydiver arrived in Saratoga a little more than a week ago, flying from Louisville for her first start in a Grade 1 and in her first try at the Alabama's 10 furlongs.

Traveling is nothing new for Peter Callahan's filly though. She's run eight times at seven tracks, including Tampa Bay Downs, Fair Grounds, Gulfstream Park, Oaklawn Park, Santa Anita Park and Keeneland this year alone. Swiss Skydiver won three times in her six starts, blowout victories in the Grade 2 Gulfstream Park Oaks, Grade 3 Fantasy at Oaklawn and Grade 2 Santa Anita Oaks.

She'd probably be considered the leader in the

3-year-old filly division if not for Gamine, a two-time Grade 1 winner.

"She can win this race," McPeek said. "I think you've got to make a pretty good claim that she's one of the top candidates for champion 3-year-old filly. If she wins this then it knocks out the Grade 1. Then she's got to run against Gamine at some point. Or maybe she doesn't, who knows?"

Swiss Skydiver went about her business while McPeek pitched her credentials, which weren't diminished by her runner-up to probable Kentucky Derby second choice Art Collector in the Grade 2 Toyota Blue Grass in her most recent start July 11 at Keeneland.

Swiss Skydiver took a couple turns around the half-dark paddock, the only audible sounds a few doves cooing in the distance somewhere near Siro's and the hum of the always-on television monitors scattered throughout the grounds. After heading

**Continued On Page 11**



# Alabama —

## ■ Continued from page 10

down the chute and over the rubber pavers onto the main track Swiss Skydiver walked to the quarter-pole, jogged to the eighth and broke off on her gallop. She and Laronde galloped back around, joined by the other early sets and some breezers down on the fence before pulling up on the backstretch and jogging home.

McPeek caught her on his cell phone camera galloping past the second time, framed perfectly in the red sky coming to light on a Chamber-of-Commerce morning in the Covid-19 era when fans can't come to see the horses, the workouts or the races.

"Swiss Skydiver down on the inside," McPeek said while the filly galloped past on a tight hold and blowing just a bit.

McPeek, who won the 2018 Alabama with Eskimo Kisses over a field that included She's A Julie and Midnight Bisou, liked what he saw from his stable star.

"Looks like she could go around again?" McPeek said to Laronde, who nodded in approval. "Just turn right here, make a couple loops in the paddock then we'll take her home."

After walking back the same way she came, Swiss Skydiver took a few turns in front of McPeek's shedrow, occupied by only about

half-dozen runners and down significantly in numbers compared to most years.

Swiss Skydiver and her stablemate Envoutante, third in the Grade 1 Central Bank Ashland behind Speech and Venetian Harbor on the same card as the Blue Grass, will make the walk to the holding barn and then the paddock for today's 140th edition of the Alabama. One of Saratoga's most prestigious events, the \$500,000 Alabama also figures to be a steppingstone to the Sept. 4 Kentucky Oaks for both fillies.

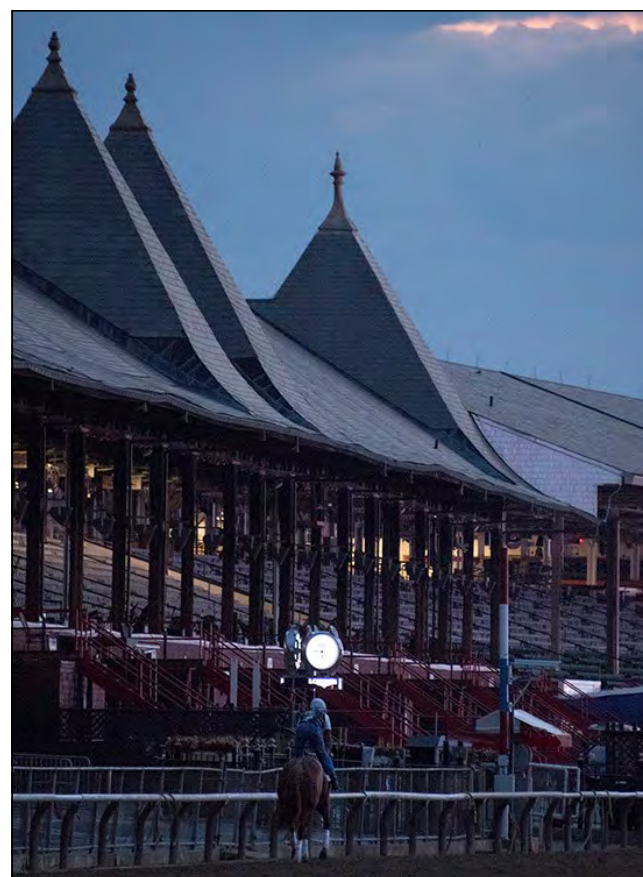
McPeek considered the Kentucky Derby for Swiss Skydiver after her 4-length win over Speech in the Santa Anita Oaks then backed off that idea publicly when she finished second in the Blue Grass. She still ranks 12th on the list of Derby contenders by points but a rematch against Art Collector and expected favorite Tiz The Law doesn't appear in the cards.

The Alabama wasn't the initial target after the Blue Grass but Swiss Skydiver breezed well back home at Churchill and McPeek shipped her north. She breezed 5 furlongs on the Oklahoma last Saturday in 1:01.49.

"Actually I was going to skip it at one point but it's such a great race and she's been steady as she goes," McPeek said. "She's an exceptionally sturdy filly. And the Alabama, a lot of really good fillies have won it."

McPeek did initially hope for a bit more time

**Continued On Page 12**



Susie Raisher

Swiss Skydiver jogs past the grandstand early Friday morning.

.....

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**GAMINE**



# Alabama —

## ■ Continued from page 11

between the 10-furlong Alabama and the 9-furlong Kentucky Oaks – a stretch of just 20 days – but isn't overly concerned.

"I politicked months ago for them to write it on the 8th of August," he said. "I even called (Martin) Panza in the racing office and said that timing would be better. They didn't want to overlap the Travers. The only bad thing is you have to come back in three weeks. How many horses have come back in three weeks and run fine? You hear everybody say things like 'ooooh, they're running back quick' and all that. It's ridiculous."

Swiss Skydiver made her opposition look close to that in her three wins before the Blue Grass, winning by a combined 9 3/4 lengths. She won those races after finishing third in her first start around two turns in the Grade 2 Rachel Alexandra at Fair Grounds, which followed a very wide fifth – beaten just three-quarters of a length – in the 7-furlong Gasparilla Stakes at Tampa.

Swiss Skydiver's first two starts came around one turn at Churchill, a win going 7 furlongs in her debut Nov. 16 and a second by a half-length behind Bayerness on a sloppy track going 1 mile 14 days later. Tyler Gafalione rode her in those first two starts at Churchill and rides again today.

"I tried to get her to two turns ... We wanted it," McPeck said. "At first we tried to find a never-won-two at a mile and a sixteenth but couldn't get the race to go. They wrote it at Keeneland, couldn't get it to go. Even in her maiden race I wanted to run her a mile. It seemed like the timing was wrong."

"Then you run into the problem in Florida, where you either run in the Davona Dale, there are no two-turn 3-year-old filly races, or nowhere. There's one at Tampa called the Suncoast. I had a filly Motu, she's a good filly in her own right, for that one (she finished third). To keep them from having to run against each other I ran her in the Gasparilla. After that we were like let's get her two turns and do her thing."

**Continued On Page 14**



Susie Raisher

Envoutante also represents the McPeck barn in the Alabama.



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# Alabama —

## ■ Continued from page 12

Todd Pletcher feels similar about Spice Is Nice, who earned another try around two turns and a second start against Swiss Skydiver.

The daughter of Curlin out of the Grade 1-winning Bernardini mare Dame Dorothy won a 1 1/16-mile optional around one turn at Belmont to earn a spot in the Alabama. She finished fifth, beaten 10 lengths by Swiss Skydiver, in the Gulfstream Park Oaks. A \$1.05 million purchase by Robert and Lawana Low at the 2018 Keeneland September yearling sale, Spice Is Nice finished second in the Grade 2 Davona Dale in her second start after a 12-length debut maiden win going 1 mile Jan. 12.

“She’s always given us the impression of a true two-turn filly, she’s a big scopey filly,” Pletcher said. “This filly is just dying for the mile and a quarter and we’re hoping we have enough

seasoning into her; it’s coming up a very difficult race but we feel a mile and a quarter is to her advantage.”

Spice Is Nice is the 3-1 second choice on the morning line and John Velazquez rides.

WinStar Stablemates Racing’s Crystal Ball runs back after finishing second in the Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks for trainer Bob Baffert. She’s 9-2 on the line for Javier Castellano.

Walking L Thoroughbreds’ and Three Chimneys Farm’s Envoutante, with Jose Ortiz, and Juddmonte Farm’s Grade 2 Fair Grounds Oaks winner Bonny South, with Irad Ortiz Jr. for trainer Brad Cox, are co-fourth choices on the line at 8-1. Harvey’s Lil Goil, who returns to the main track for three-time Alabama-winning trainer Bill Mott after winning the Grade 3 Regret on grass at Churchill; and Fire Coral, fifth in the Fantasy and fourth in the Grade 3 Indiana Oaks for Steve Asmussen, complete the field.



Elsa Lorieul/NYRA

Harvey's Lil Goil exits a stakes win on turf in the Regret for trainer Bill Mott.

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# Turf War

## Clement 3-year-olds ride streaks into \$500,000 grass stakes



Gufo and Roger Horgan train on the Oklahoma track.

Susie Raisher

### BY SEAN CLANCY

The similarities are too hard to ignore. Two 3-year-old colts. By Declaration Of War. Trained by Christophe Clement. Nine wins combined. Seven in a row.

Decorated Invader and Gufo eye each other every morning in Clement's Saratoga barn and have teamed for two recent morning skips over the Oklahoma turf. The duo clashes for the first time in today's co-feature, the Saratoga Derby Invitational. The eighth race on the 11-race card, the \$500,000 stakes attracted an accomplished group of eight sophomore turf routers.

Decorated Invader, winner of three stakes from three starts this year, attracts the most attention as the 7-5 favorite for West Point Thoroughbreds,

### SARATOGA DERBY PREVIEW

William Freeman, William Sandbrook and Cheryl Manning. Third choice Gufo lost his debut in November and has won four straight since, including the Grade 3 Kent Stakes in his most recent start for Otter Bend Stable.

As similar as the two appear on paper, their stories vary.

Decorated Invader was bred in Kentucky, foaled at Redmon Farm and sold as a yearling for \$200,000 to compete for a prominent racing partnership. His lineage traces through deep pedigree pages and big sales prices. It goes all the way back to the great Moccasin, winner of the Test and Spinaway at Saratoga and includes iconic programs

Lazy Lane, Walmac and Claiborne. Textbook.

Gufo, well, there is no textbook for his improbable climb.

Co-breeder John Little tried to explain.

"I'm notorious for trying to buy something too cheap," Little said.

Little bought Risen Miss, a four-time winner by Peteski, at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky open mixed sale in 2003.

"I liked the way she looked, she was a good race mare even though she didn't have black type," Little said. "The handler at the barn said she was open because his boss had gone broke, the mare had been in a field with some cattle for the last two years so she's going to go cheap. I bought her for \$4,500. It's

**Continued On Page 18**





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*Three Year Olds and Upward // Six Furlongs*

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*Three Year Olds and Upward // About One Mile And One Sixteenth*

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**THE ALMA NORTH STAKES**

*Fillies And Mares Three Year Olds and Upward // Six Furlongs*

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*Fillies And Mares Three Year Olds and Upward // About One Mile And One Sixteenth*

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MON/SEP 7

LABOR DAY

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)*





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## Derby —

### ■ Continued from page 16

a persistent theme.”

Two years after that bargain spree, Risen Miss produced Floy, a daughter of Petionville. Two years later, Floy made her debut in a 2-year-old maiden at Keeneland in April. She finished fourth and tore a hind suspensory ligament.

“She couldn’t run again so we bred her on a whim,” Little said. “Just to see what she would have.”

She would have a millionaire. Her first foal, a colt by Offlee Wild, fetched \$16,000 from Little’s Cave Brook Farm at Keeneland January 2010. Named Hoky, he won his first three starts, 19 in all and \$1.3 million in a 55-race career that lasted nine seasons.

“She’s been a challenge to get babies out of, we’ve only gotten four babies,” Little said.

And yeah, you guessed it, one of them is the third choice in today’s Saratoga Derby.

The story continues.

An anesthesiologist by trade, Little owns a 35-acre farm in Kentucky, producing about five foals a year, mostly to sell. But he’ll try anything, especially when a friend calls about getting in the horse game. Stephen Cainelli, a friend from early days in the medical

field in Texas and the godfather to Little’s son, Daniel, called and made a suggestion.

“He and I worked together in San Angelo, Texas. We got to be good friends, did a lot of stuff together,” Little said. “He calls and says, ‘I don’t have any children, don’t have any heirs, I want a reason to come visit, put me in on one good, do you have any good horses?’ I said, ‘Well, right now, I’ve only got one good one, I’ve got the mama of Hoky.’”

Cainelli asked how it would work, Little explained a basic foal share agreement. Little would pick the stallion, Cainelli would pay the stud fee, they would split the expenses and the proceeds (or losses). Little and Cainelli agreed, booking Floy to Declaration Of War.

Floy produced a chestnut colt Feb. 28, 2017. Cainelli asked if he could name him.

“He comes up with this name Gufo. I’m like, ‘What is that?’” Little said. “He said, ‘My family is from Northern Italy, it stands for horned owl, which in Northern Italy is a sign of good luck. I want to name him that.’ I said, ‘Fine.’”

Like any first-time owner, Cainelli asked what was next. Little, a seller for the most part, said they could sell the colt as a yearling or race him. That was a no brainer to his partner.

**Continued On Page 19**



Chelsea Durand/NYRA

Decorated Invader canters back after winning the Hall of Fame Stakes at Saratoga.



# Derby —

## ■ Continued from page 18

Little sent Gufo to Kenny Lejeune at Oak Ridge Training Center in Morriston, Fla., the same place he sent Schoolyard Dreams, a colt he bred and sold who would go on to finish second in the Sam F. Davis and Tampa Bay Derby in 2010. Lejeune tells it straight.

“If Kenny likes him, he’ll be a good horse,” Little said. “Kenny loved him, said he’s his best 2-year-old. ‘Do whatever you want to do with him.’ He said he’s distance and turf.”

Naturally, thinking about distance and turf, Little cold called Clement and asked if he had any interest in taking one horse from a one-horse stable. Clement’s son/assistant, Miguel, went to Lejeune’s and liked what he saw.

“We breezed him some more before we decided to spend that much money to send him to New York,” Little said. “Lejeune said he can run wherever he wants to run, this is a good horse.”

Gufo breezed with potential for Clement last spring/summer. A pa-



Tod Marks

**Colonel Liam steps into the Saratoga Derby off an easy allowance win July 22.**

tient trainer by nature, he suggested they back off and give Gufo some time to grow up and mature. Little was skeptical.

“My immediate thought is he’s got some major problem,” Little said. “I’ve got a farm here, I said put him on a van, we have good vets here in Kentucky. Clement said he wanted to keep him in New York. I don’t know Clement well enough. Is there something wrong or does he just want to

give him a little time?”

Little explained it to Cainelli who saw it a different way.

“Cainelli doesn’t know the horse business but is a smart businessman, he said, ‘Wait a minute, we sent him to this high-level trainer and he wants to give him a break...’” Little said. “At that point, to be fair to my friend Cainelli, he’s got a lot more money than me, I said, ‘You know what, you’re willing to take a lot bigger risk

than me, why don’t you break me even on the whole deal and buy me out?’”

Cainelli agreed but on one condition. He asked Little to manage it. His old softball league teammate from Texas agreed. Cainelli named his new stable after his farm on the Washington/Canadian coast.

“The rest is history,” Little said. “We gave him the layup and we left him in Saratoga. Clement was legitimate on trying to take care of his body because he was growing, there was nothing really wrong with him. We gave him the layup, he just started taking off, this spring he got better and better and he’s a pretty nice horse.”

As for watching it all, Little loves it.

“It’s been great. It’s been fun to see a guy that’s never had a horse have this much success, it’s amazing to me that this mare has had two this good,” Little said. “We watched Hogy for a long time and it’s awesome to watch Gufo run. I didn’t think I’d have a mare with two this good.”

With a Tourist filly and in foal to

**Continued On Page 20**



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SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 27

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

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

### UNBRIDLED SIDNEY

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

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

### POCAHONTAS (GIII)

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

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

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

### OPENING VERSE OVERNIGHT STAKES

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

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

## KENTUCKY OAKS DAY

### LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS (GI)

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

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

### EDGEWOOD (GII)

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

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

### EIGHT BELLES (GII)

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

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

### LA TROIENNE (GI)

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

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

### ALYSHEBA (GII)

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

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

### TWIN SPIRES TURF SPRINT (GII)

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

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

## KENTUCKY DERBY DAY

### OLD FORESTER BOURBON TURF CLASSIC (GI)

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

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

### IROQUOIS (GIII)

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

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

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

### PAT DAY MILE (GII)

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

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

### DERBY CITY DISTAFF (GI)

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

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

### AMERICAN TURF (GII)

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

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

### LONGINES CHURCHILL DISTAFF TURF MILE (GII)

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

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

### ACK ACK (GIII)

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

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

To nominate, call (502) 638.3806 or (800) 928.3372  
Ben Huffman, *Racing Secretary*  
Dan Bork, *Asst. Racing Secretary, Stakes Coordinator*

ChurchillDowns.com

# Derby —

## Continued from page 19

Preservationist, perhaps there will be more than two.

"It's a long story," Little said. "Probably more than you wanted to hear."

Never.

Clement's pair highlights the Saratoga Derby but the 1 3/16-mile stakes is far from a two-horse affair.

From the inside out.

Bama Breeze travels from Rusty Arnold's Keeneland base for his fifth career start. Owned by Ashbrook Farm and BBN Racing (of Concrete Rose fame), the 3-year-old son of Honor Code won his debut for Ben Colebrook in September before transferring to Arnold. This year, the dark bay gelding has produced a ninth in the War Chant, a second in the Audubon at Churchill Downs and a seventh, beaten just 1 1/4 lengths, in the Grade 3 Transylvania. Manny Franco rides the 15-1 shot.

No Word breaks from post 3 for Todd Pletcher. Owned and bred by Wertheimer and Frere, the son of Silent Name won his career debut here last summer before finishing fifth in the Grade 3 Pilgrim to end his freshman campaign. This year, he's posted two thirds and a win against allowance company going 9 furlongs at

Belmont Park. Jose Ortiz take the call at 15-1.

Domestic Spending returns for a rematch against Decorated Invader. Owned by Klaravich Stable and trained by Chad Brown, the British-bred son of Kingman broke his maiden at Tampa Bay Downs in February before taking an allowance race at Belmont and finishing third in the Hall of Fame, beaten 1 1/4 lengths by a geared-down Decorated Invader. Irad Ortiz Jr. has the return call at 6-1.

Pletcher adds Colonel Liam to the deep field for owners Robert and Lawana Low. The \$1.2 million purchase drew off to a comfortable score against allowance rivals here July 22. Javier Castellano rides the 7-2 chance in his stakes debut.

Field Pass seeks his sixth career victory for Three Diamonds Farm and trainer Mike Maker. The Maryland-bred son of Lemon Drop Kid won here last summer and has collected four stakes wins, including the Grade 3 Transylvania, this year. Tyler Gaffalione rides for the second time at 6-1.

Get Smokin offers speed from the outside for trainer Tom Bush and owner Mary Sullivan. The chestnut son of Get Stormy opened up 7 lengths before succumbing to Decorated Invader in the Hall of Fame. Luis Saez rides the multiple stakes-placed gelding.

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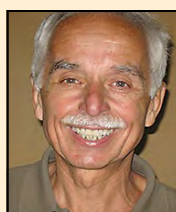
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## Saratoga Race Course – Saturday, August 15

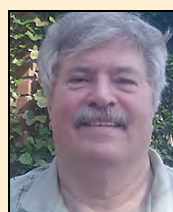
the  
**Power**  
grid



**John  
Shapazian**



**Tom  
Law**



**Charles  
Bedard**



**Rob  
Whitlock**

**Race #**

|              |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>1</b>     | Bebe Banker<br>Invest<br>Somebody                      | Bebe Banker<br>Somebody<br>Later Cat               | Bebe Banker<br>Indigo Yankee<br>Later Cat                | Bebe Banker<br>Invest<br>Somebody                    |
| <b>2</b>     | Public Sector<br>Rock Sugar<br>Polinesia               | Polinesia<br>Rock Sugar<br>Dreaming Of Gerry       | Mo Mischief<br>Rip It<br>Public Sector                   | Rip It<br>Public Sector<br>Scarlett Sky              |
| <b>3</b>     | Reed Kan<br>Chateau<br>Lusitano                        | Skyler's Scramjet<br>Bitumen<br>Reed Kan           | Chateau<br>Reed Kan<br>Skyler's Scramjet                 | Lusitano<br>Chateau<br>Bitumen                       |
| <b>4</b>     | Papa Luke<br>Eccoci Qua<br>Orb In The Tower            | Papa Luke<br>Eccoci Qua<br>Farragut                | Papa Luke<br>Farragut<br>Quick Return                    | Papa Luke<br>Eccoci Qua<br>Quick Return              |
| <b>5</b>     | Brazen<br>Fevola<br>Beach Front                        | Brazen<br>No Lime<br>Fevola                        | Brazen<br>Zelenka<br>Beach Front                         | Fevola<br>No Lime<br>Brazen                          |
| <b>6</b>     | Restored Order<br>Swill<br>Charleston Strong           | Swill<br>Calibrate<br>Restored Order               | Restored Order<br>Unitedandresolute<br>Charleston Strong | Swill<br>Restored Order<br>Charleston Strong         |
| <b>7</b>     | Simply<br>Sanctuary City<br>Mo Ready                   | Mo Ready<br>Jimmy Jazz<br>Sanctuary City           | Sanctuary City<br>Danfusi<br>Jack The Cat                | Mo Ready<br>Bourbon Bay<br>Jack The Cat              |
| <b>8</b>     | Decorated Invader<br>Colonel Liam<br>Domestic Spending | Decorated Invader<br>Field Pass<br>Gufo            | Decorated Invader<br>Gufo<br>Field Pass                  | Decorated Invader<br>Field Pass<br>Colonel Liam      |
| <b>9</b>     | Swiss Skydiver<br>Spice Is Nice<br>Crystal Ball        | Swiss Skydiver<br>Harvey's Lil Gail<br>Bonny South | Swiss Skydiver<br>Spice Is Nice<br>Bonny South           | Harvey's Lil Gail<br>Swiss Skydiver<br>Spice Is Nice |
| <b>10</b>    | Shiraz<br>Call Me Harry<br>Bustin Shout                | Shiraz<br>Maxwell Esquire<br>Bustin Shout          | Maxwell Esquire<br>Shiraz<br>New York's Finest           | Call Me Harry<br>Maxwell Esquire<br>Shiraz           |
| <b>11</b>    | Bricco<br>Michael's Bad Boy<br>Mommie's Jewel          | Bricco<br>Michael's Bad Boy<br>High Tone           | Bricco<br>Michael's Bad Boy<br>Freedom And Whisky        | High Tone<br>Michael's Bad Boy<br>Perfect Banker     |
| 2020 Records | <b>74/224</b>  | <b>68/224</b>                                      | <b>61/224</b>  | <b>50/224</b>  |

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# Good Catch

Feel Glorious gets up in time in turf stakes

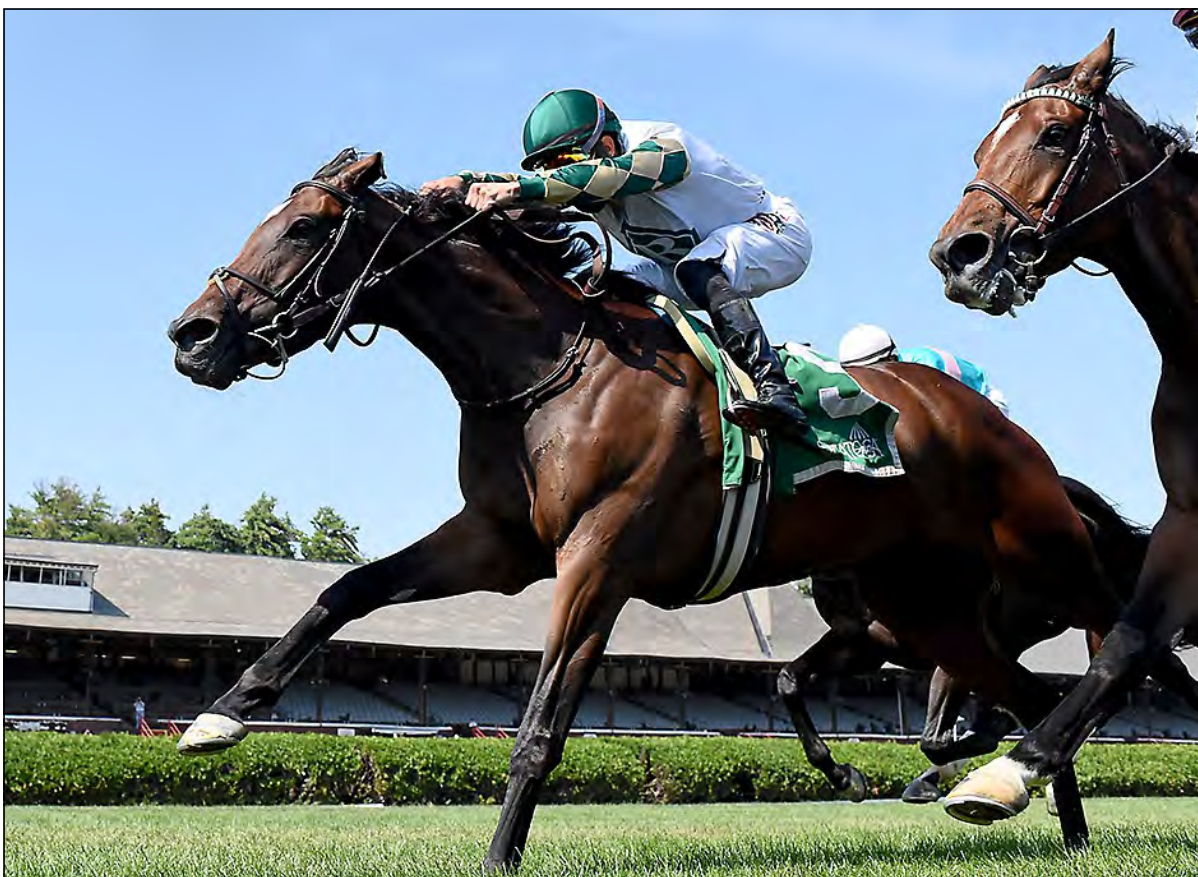
BY TOM LAW

Dean Reeves took a call one afternoon from Miguel Clement about a British-bred 2-year-old filly just purchased at the 2018 Tattersalls Ltd. autumn horses in training sale for about \$175,000.

"Strangely enough, he called when I was at Crooked Island in the Bahamas on a fishing trip," Reeves said. "He called about the horse and I probably had too many rum drinks but said, 'Sure, I'm in, I'll buy her.'"

Miguel Clement, assistant to his father Christophe Clement, said Marc Levine of Tango Uniform Racing wanted to take a percentage of the daughter of Bated Breath and Reeves and his wife Patti's Reeves Thoroughbred Racing went from there. The filly, Feel Glorious, proved more than a smart buy with three wins, including two stakes wins,

Continued On Page 24



Chelsea Durand/NYRA

Feel Glorious (left) strides out late to win Friday's Perfect Sting Stakes.

## One Horse

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



SEPTEMBER

SUN. 13 - FRI. 25

## NUTSIE, 2019

Brian Ivery, Ivery Sisters Racing

"When you're dealing with a limited budget like we are, you have to take your risk somewhere. Is it with an unproven stallion? An unproven mare? What is it? My trainer Dave Cannizzo had trained Momameamaria out of the same dam, and she was OK (five wins, a stakes-placing, \$302,820 earned). Exaggerator was a new stallion. We liked the horse, we vetted him, we thought he would be in our price range, we were going to bid. Then I got busy at work, Dave got busy, we totally spaced and missed him. I looked it up afterward and saw he was an RNA. I called Dave and we called (Taylor Made Sales Agency). He RNA'd for \$35,000. I wasn't going to mess around and offer \$30,000 or something, not after that. It was our fault. I said 35, they said sold and he was ours. We love him."

*Nutsie, a 2-year-old gelding by Exaggerator out of the Officer mare Special Dream, won his debut at Saratoga Race Course Thursday for Ivery Sisters Racing and DJC Racing.*



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# Friday —

## ■ Continued from page 22

and three other stakes placings last year. She'd been close in two starts this year against graded company and added another stakes win for the partnership and Clement in Friday's inaugural \$100,000 Perfect Sting at Saratoga. Junior Alvarado deftly timed his ride aboard Feel Glorious, who won in 1:42.09.

"She's turned out to be a real nice buy," Reeves said walking out of the clubhouse on his way to celebrate in the revamped outdoor "champagne room" near the paddock bar. "She's a filly that is right there, gives you 110 percent. You just love to see that in a racehorse."

English bloodstock agent Stephen Hillen helped pick out Feel Glorious, who won the 1 1/16-mile Perfect Sting by a half-length from Chaleur with Secret Message another half-length back in third.

Feel Glorious came to the U.S. after winning one of five starts in Europe for trainer George Baker. She won her third start at 125-1 with some book-

makers at the Glorious Goodwood meeting and also finished second in the listed Grosser Preis Soldier Hollow Youngster Cup at Hanover racecourse in Germany during her 2-year-old season.

After some time off and adjustment to American training Feel Glorious returned in a 1-mile Gulfstream Park allowance on the grass and another fishing trip factored in for one of her owners.

"That first time she ran at Gulfstream I was in a fishing tournament in the Turks and Caicos Islands," Reeves said. "When you watch that race she was like 10, 15 lengths back then all of a sudden when they turned for home she just blew by everybody. It shocked all of us. That's when Christophe said, 'We've got a racehorse here.'"

Clement saluted the owners' patience with the filly and also her own consistency after the Perfect Sting.

Feel Glorious improved her American record to four wins, two seconds and three thirds from 11 starts and boosted her American earnings to \$369,288. She finished third in the Grade 2 New York, behind the Grade 1 Diana bound Mean Mary and re-



NYRA Photo

**Feel Glorious hits the line with a narrow win over Chaleur.**

cent Grade 3 Waya winner My Sister Nat, and third in the Grade 3 Matchmaker on the Haskell Day undercard at Monmouth last time out.

"I would take five more like that," Clement joked to Reeves after they watched the replay. "Very consistent,

improving and as game as they come. She's very, very consistent. It's great because they've been very patient and it's nice when it works out."

The Perfect Sting also kept Clement in the mix in what's turned into a

**Continued On Page 25**



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# Friday —

## ■ Continued from page 24

competitive race for the training title with Todd Pletcher atop the standings after Day 22 with 17 wins. Clement sits second with 16 victories – and second by purses earned at \$1,146,017 – heading into today's card with Chad Brown third at 15 – and narrowly first by purses with \$1,151,976 – and Mike Maker fourth at 14 wins.

Clement, per usual in the midst of his strong meet at Saratoga, deflected credit to the filly and his rider.

"He (Alvarado) probably felt it was never in doubt because he rode her with an enormous amount of confidence, so he probably felt he had a lot of horse underneath him the whole time," Clement said. "It was a short field of good fillies and she was the fourth or fifth choice in the

race which surprised me because she trained very well and her two races this year were good races. I like her and I've always thought she was a very consistent filly. She's on the way up and she is a better horse this year than she was last year."

• Trainers Wayne Catalano, Phil Serpe and Carlos Martin picked up their first wins of the meet Friday in the opening three races.

Catalano, who frequently has a small string in Horse Haven, sent out Flashing Red to victory in the opener. The 3-year-old daughter of Violence broke her maiden for a \$20,000 tag and was claimed by owner Matt Schera and trainer Tom Morley.

Serpe won his first when his seventh starter, WellSpring Stable's Tiple, scored in the second, a 5 1/2-furlong allowance on the grass for fillies and mares. Tiple, an Irish-bred daughter of Requinto improved to 2-for-2 at Saratoga after winning here Aug. 1, 2019 when claimed by Serpe and WellSpring for \$30,000.

Martin sent out Collinsworth Thoroughbred Racing's Persian Queen to victory in the third, a \$14,000 claimer at 7 furlongs on the main track. The 3-year-old Union Rags filly, claimed out of the race by Alex Kazdan and trainer Bob Klesaris, was Martin's 11th starter of the meet. He added a second win Friday when Mopolka won the last, a \$40,000 state-bred maiden claimer on the grass for Schera.

• Each trainer with a runner in the sixth race wound up with an empty stall after all eight starters were claimed out of the 6 1/2-furlong event on the main track for the \$20,000 tag.

Bruce Brown sent out the winner, Malibu Pro, for his third win of the meet and lost the 7-year-old Malibu Moon gelding to Drawing Away Stable and trainer A. C. Avila. The other runners in the field, in finishing order, (with former trainer and new trainer) were Family Biz (David Duggan, Robert Falcone Jr.), Clench (Brad Cox, Mertkan Kantarmaci), Life In Shambles (Linda Rice, Rob Atras), Coltandmississippi (Dominick Schettino, Edward DeLauro), Shamrocked (Ray Handal, Tom Morley), Thousand Percent (Mitch Freidman, Chad Summers) and California Night (Chris Englehart, David Cannizzo).

### Saratoga Leaders

| TRAINERS           | 1ST |
|--------------------|-----|
| Todd Pletcher      | 17  |
| Christophe Clement | 16  |
| Chad Brown         | 15  |
| Mike Maker         | 14  |
| Linda Rice         | 10  |
| Steve Asmussen     | 8   |
| Jim Bond           | 7   |
| Rudy Rodriguez     | 7   |
| Jorge Abreu        | 6   |
| Ray Handal         | 6   |
| Orlando Noda       | 6   |
| Wesley Ward        | 6   |
| Shug McGaughey     | 5   |
| Bill Mott          | 5   |
| Rob Atras          | 4   |

| JOCKEYS             | 1ST |
|---------------------|-----|
| Irad Ortiz Jr.      | 33  |
| Jose Ortiz          | 33  |
| Joel Rosario        | 30  |
| Javier Castellano   | 17  |
| Manny Franco        | 14  |
| Tyler Gaffalione    | 14  |
| Luis Saez           | 14  |
| Jose Lezcano        | 11  |
| Junior Alvarado     | 10  |
| John Velazquez      | 10  |
| Dylan Davis         | 8   |
| Ricardo Santana Jr. | 8   |
| Eric Cancel         | 6   |
| David Cohen         | 5   |
| Kendrick Carmouche  | 4   |

Through Friday

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# Fresh Face

Newly Minted returns from 158-day layoff to win NY-bred stakes

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Sprint or route. Short rest or long layoff. Aqueduct, Belmont or Saratoga. On the lead or off the pace. It doesn't seem to matter to Newly Minted, who shows up every time.

If the 4-year-old New York-bred filly was going to be vulnerable, Thursday could have been the day, considering she was coming off a 158-day layoff, after running 10 times in 11 months upon breaking her maiden at first asking at Aqueduct in April 2019.

Combine that with returning at the challenging 7-furlong distance against five opponents that had combined for 24 wins in 64 starts, and she figured to have her hands full. That's how it turned out,

**Continued On Page 27**

Tod Marks  
Newly Minted skips home  
in the Union Avenue.



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# Thursday —

■ Continued from page 26

but Newly Minted tracked the pace set by Carrera Cat, took the lead in the stretch, and had just enough left in the end to win the \$85,000 Union Avenue Handicap for New York-bred fillies and mares.

The 4-year-old filly by Central Banker won by a neck over Mrs. Orb, who was three-quarters of a length in front of Forever Changed. Ratajkowski, the 6-5 favorite, broke slowly from the rail and rushed into contention before fading to fifth. The final time was 1:23.84 for Newly Minted, whose number stayed up after an inquiry in which the stewards ruled she did not interfere with Ratajkowski in deep stretch.

The Union Avenue was the sixth win in 11 starts, with three seconds and a third, for Newly Minted, Beach Haven Thoroughbreds' 2019 champion New York-bred 3-year-old filly. She made it 2-for-2 at Saratoga, having romped in the 1 1/8-mile Fleet Indian Stakes on Saratoga Showcase Day last year. Her earnings stand at \$515,988, making her the second-highest-earning progeny of Central Banker after Bankit, who has run out \$708,825.

"This was a nice surprise after such a long layoff," said John Sakkos, co-founder of Beach Haven with his friend Ara Aprahamian. "We were cautiously optimistic, but you never know when they're off that long."

The betting public didn't seem to be too concerned, sending her off as the 2-1 second choice. Trainer Linda Rice admitted after the race that she would have preferred to have gotten more than four workouts — all at Bel-



Tod Marks

**Newly Minted strikes a winner's pose.**

mont in July — into the filly.

"I didn't get quite as many workouts in her as I would have liked, but she has a lot of raw talent and I was hoping that would carry her through," Rice said.

Sakkos, who watched the race from the New Jersey Shore town for which the partnership is named, isn't sure what's next for Newly Minted, who has been entered into the Keeneland November breeding stock sale, though that could change.

"With her performance (Thursday), our options are open," Sakkos said. "She hadn't raced in a while and we talked about it with Linda, who thought maybe we should consider (the sale). We registered her, but we're not set on it yet. We could always pull her out. We'll give her a couple of weeks and we'll regroup."

Whatever the final decision is,

**Continued On Page 28**



Tod Marks

**Newly Minted leads the pack through the stretch in the Union Avenue.**

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Tod Marks

Nutsie (1) scores in his debut for trainer David Cannizzo.

## Thursday —

■ Continued from page 27

there's a good chance it will be the right one if Beach Haven is involved, as the partnership has a record of 22-10-6-1 in less than three years, with earnings of \$943,770.

"We've been very blessed," Sakkos said.

- Nutsie, a 2-year-old gelding by Exaggerator who sold privately at Keeneland September last year after being a \$35,000 RNA, scored a mild upset in the second when he won at 5-1 for trainer David Cannizzo and owners Ivery Sisters Racing and DJC Racing Stables.

Nutsie won by 2 lengths over Malibu Luna, and lived up to some of the early promise he showed in Florida while prepping at All In Line Stables with Karl Keegan.

"We thought he was a Belmont runner and then once the pandemic hit we kept him in Florida and went to Saratoga in June," said co-owner Brian Ivery. "We've always been excited about him. He's been very forward, he just

had to wait to get into a race. He did it nicely. To have a 2-year-old win like that at Saratoga is something."

— Joe Clancy

- Tom Morley and Jim Ryerson sent out their first winners of the meet. Xanthique gave Morley his first in the third, a 5 ½-furlong optional on the grass. Miss Marissa won for Ryerson at 20-1 in the sixth, a 9-furlong optional on the main track.

- Two years ago, Iranistan made people watch. And talk. The 4-year-old blazed into steeplechasing with three consecutive wins and jumped all the way up to Grade 1 company at Saratoga for the A.P. Smithwick Memorial and New York Turf Writers Cup. He placed in both, behind far more seasoned rivals, but missed the rest of the year and much of 2019 with an injury.

He pulled up in his return in the Grand National last October and was fourth against novice company in November. His two starts this year – a fourth and a pull-up in open stakes company in June – weren't much better.

Continued On Page 30

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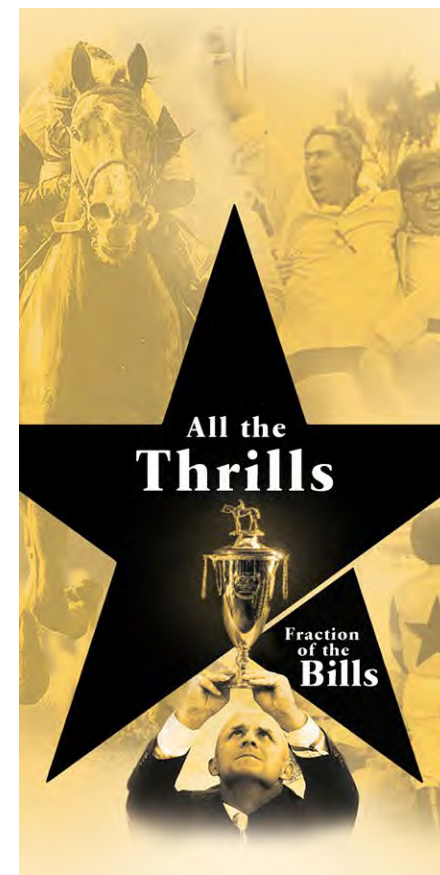






Tod Marks

Iranistan shows the way early in his handicap hurdle win – which ended a six-race losing streak – Thursday.



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# Thursday —

## ■ Continued from page 28

And then came another chance at Saratoga Thursday, and a revelation. In with horses rated 130 and below on the National Steeplechase Association's handicap system, Iranistan found his early 2018 form and made it stand up — leading for the entire 2 1/16 miles (save a few strides in the stretch) and winning by a half-length for Hudson River Farm, Jonathan Sheppard and jockey Darren Nagle. The \$50,000 race stopped a six-race losing streak dating to July 4, 2018 (when he broke his flat maiden) and even further back over jumps to May 12 of that season.

The 6-year-old Einstein gelding controlled the race from the front, with crisp jumps and long strides, and saved enough to deny a stiff challenge from Must See The Doc and jockey Tom Garner late. The latter got a head in front in deep stretch, but Iranistan fought back to get the win. Maccabee was 4 ½ lengths back in third.

"He was very tough at the end when he had to be," Nagle said. "Not

a lot of horses can answer a challenge like that after making the running for so long. That horse got right to me. I felt something putting pressure on me halfway on the turn and it was Tom. He was running. I thought I was cooked. He got upsides me, he even got a head in front of me. Everything I asked my guy, he gave me."

That fight is what enamored Nagle to Iranistan when they met in Camden, S.C. in the winter of 2018. The dark bay gelding had just lost his fourth consecutive flat start, and was learning the steeplechase game from Nagle and assistant trainer Keri Brion at the Springdale Race Course training center.

"I remember the first time I sat on him when he came up from Gulfstream and I was galloping in behind Keri and he just locked his jaw and ran straight away with me," Nagle said. "Schooling he ran straight away with me over the fences too. He was a funny horse to ride and quite tough at the beginning, but he has such a good heart. He just wanted to run and jump like a racehorse. I like that about him. Training or racing, he was

**Continued On Page 31**



Tod Marks

Heirloom Kitten saunters to the line with a win in Thursday's fourth for trainer Linda Rice.

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# Thursday —

## ■ Continued from page 30

so enthusiastic about what he was supposed to do and you want a horse to be like that.”

Iranistan pushed his career earnings to \$207,110 with five wins in 15 starts. He'll likely get another Saratoga run Sept. 2.

— Joe Clancy

• The day before Iranistan's heroics, Garner booted home Court Ruler for Leipers Fork Steeplechasers and

trainer Leslie Young. Sent off as the longest shot on the board at better than 12-1, the 6-year-old Irish-bred stalked Nagle and Global Freedom throughout and then pulled clear in the stretch to win by 2 lengths. Global Freedom stayed for second with Zoom Zoom Zoe third in the \$48,000 allowance hurdle for non-winners of two.

Court Ruler came to the United States unraced, and won his debut for a \$20,000 claiming price last fall. He was second in a 115 handicap after opening a clear lead late in June.

*Additional reporting  
by Tom Law and Joe Clancy.*



Tod Marks

Thoughtfully kicks clear in Wednesday's feature for trainer Steve Asmussen.

## Thoughtfully lands Adirondack

Hall of Fame trainer Steve Asmussen added a second 2-year-old graded stakes victory at the meet with a maiden winner from Churchill Downs when Heider Family Stable's Thoughtfully won the Grade 2 Adirondack Wednesday.

The 2-year-old daughter of Tapit, purchased last year for \$950,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga select sale, won the 6 1/2-furlong Adirondack by 5 lengths under Ricardo Santana Jr. She joined last week's Grade 2 Saratoga Special winner Jackie's Warrior and stablemates Echo Town and Volatile who won Grade 1s at the meet.

Santana rode Thoughtfully to her 8 3/4-length maiden victory June 11 at Churchill and came away impressed.

"She does the same thing in the morning. She's so special," he said. "When you work horses like her in the morning, you know what you have in the race. I was really happy and comfortable with where she was. This was the first time behind horses. Last time, she was in the clear."

Make Mischief added another runner-up finish to her second in the Grade 3 Schuylerville Opening Day for trainer Mark Casse, still searching for his first win of the meet from 26 starters through Friday. Ava's Grace finished third.

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# Rider's Up

## Ex-jockey Shaffer makes most of chance with Trombetta barn

BY MOLLY ROLLINS

On a brisk November afternoon in 2016, Sarah Shaffer found herself unable to move on the Laurel Park turf course. In a split second, the horse she was riding in the first race on the day's card clipped heels and she was hurled to the ground as the field thundered away. The race she had been riding in was 1 1/16 miles, and thus Shaffer would be in the path of oncoming horses as part of the gallop-out. Terrified and motionless, she watched the jumbo screen on the infield, praying that the outriders could get the horses pulled up in time.

Fortunately, they did. Shaffer had fractured seven vertebrae, a collarbone and two ribs. The race was de-

clared no contest and doesn't even show up in Shaffer's Equibase report, but it changed her life. The day before, she'd won her fifth race (losing the 10-pound weight allowance) and the future seemed bright.

But after returning to the saddle a mere four months after her fall, Shaffer realized "things just weren't clicking" the way they had before.

"I just started getting very frustrated with race riding" said Shaffer. "I was in my 30s trying to make it as an apprentice and I had changed my agent. And that's about the time when Mike [Trombetta] offered me a galloping job."

Shaffer, who has ridden horses since she was 7 years old, competed

**Continued On Page 33**



Michael Trombetta Jr.

Mike Trombetta assistant Sarah Shaffer returns from the track at Fair Hill.

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# Shaffer —

## ■ Continued from page 32

in show jumping and even dabbled in barrel-racing and team roping before being introduced to horse racing. Penn National trainer Brian Malone spotted Shaffer schooling horses for a friend in Jennersville, Pa., and promptly told her that with her frame and size, she “needed to be riding racehorses.” Malone sent Shaffer to a local farm where she learned to gallop. It wasn’t too long before Shaffer was getting a leg up at the races.

“I got my first taste of race riding with steeplechase horses, initially riding in point-to-points,” she said. Weighing “118 pounds on a good day,” Shaffer struggled with her weight in jump races – where the standard weight for jockeys is considerably higher than the weight carried by riders on the flat.

“I had a 20-plus-pound saddle, a 20-pound vest pad, and sometimes I had to carry a 20-pound lead pad,” she said. “The people I was riding for were like, ‘Look, you’re a good rider but you’re too small for this, you need to go to the flat track.’”

Nevertheless, she rode several steeplechase races and even got around the demanding Maryland Hunt Cup with longshot Joshua G. in 2015.

Prior to making her debut as an apprentice on the flat, Shaffer was awarded the opportunity to ride overseas for the Amateur Riders Club of America. During a six-month stint in Europe, she gained experience in Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Belgium and Norway, learning the assorted dynamics for each track.

Time proved that there were other adventures. After making 101 starts as a jockey on the flat and over jumps, 102 if you count the fall, Shaffer hung up her racing tack and started working for Trombetta. Although Shaffer had freelanced for the trainer on and off since 2013, and had even rode races for him at Laurel, she had never been involved with the management side of the barn.

It didn’t take long for Trombetta to notice Shaffer’s aptitude. In 2018, he sent her to Saratoga with nine horses.

“She picks up things very quickly,” said Trombetta. “Really, she can do anything she puts her mind to, she’s very good at everything from orga-

nization to galloping to breezing the horses and the list goes on.”

The Trombetta barn had two winners at the Spa that summer, including a score in the Riskaverse Stakes by Monte Crista.

“That meant a lot to me to have her win that race; it really changed things for me,” said Shaffer. “After that meet, Mike sat down with me and offered me the assistant position at Fair Hill since Melissa (Begley) was stepping down. I went from being in charge of nine horses to 47 when I came home in September.”

Last summer, Shaffer returned to Saratoga with one of her favorite horses, three-time graded stakes winner Global Access. The Live Oak Plantation homebred finished third in the Grade 2 National Museum Racing Hall of Fame Stakes before capturing the Grade 3 Saranac.

“Global Access’ win was huge,” said Shaffer. “Especially on top of the other three winners we had that summer. He was our big winner though.”


Shaffer enjoys what has become her yearly venture to Saratoga and with the smaller number of horses under her care – nine versus 45 or so – she can cater to each individual athlete.

“Saratoga is just an all-around magical place, the horses like it,” said Shaffer, who is running the Trombetta barn on the Oklahoma side again this summer. “We’re not so rushed in the mornings like we are at Fair Hill so if one wants to stand in for 10 minutes, I let them because I have the time to do it.”

The barn got off to a flying start, annexing two wins from its first two starters in Escape Fund and Universal Payday.

Shaffer and Trombetta are looking forward to continued success for the rest of the meet. While Souper Escape, a handy winner of the July 17 Trillium Stakes at Woodbine, will most likely remain on synthetic surfaces, Trombetta noted that if 2019 Kentucky Derby starter and Grade 1-placed Win Win Win “keeps training well he might be able to start up in Saratoga sometime in August.”

Although Shaffer’s race riding days are over, you’ll find her galloping along the Oklahoma track atop a Trombetta horse each morning – determined and focused in her new role – and not worrying about getting run over on the turf course.



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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.

The summer racing season at Saratoga in 2009 revolved around one horse – Rachel Alexandra. She'd won the Kentucky Oaks, the Preakness, the Haskell and everybody wanted to know where she would run next. It wasn't the Alabama, but the race took care of its own thrills as Canadian shipper Careless Jewel dazzled for Donver Stable, Josie Carroll and Robert Landry.

**August 23, 2009. Rachel Who? Canadian Careless Jewel rules Grade 1. By Joe Clancy.**

You can get from Northlands Park to Saratoga, but it takes awhile.

Donver Stable sent trainer Josie Carroll a cheap bay filly named Justjoriser back in 1999. The daughter of Cherokee Colony won once in nine starts that year and went 1-for-7 the next season. Ten years later, Donver and Carroll cheered Careless Jewel home in Saturday's Alabama – the \$600,000, Grade I Alabama.

"Holy moly," Carroll said in her best hockey accent while exiting the winner's circle.

"Josie, we won the Bama! Woo-hoo!" owner Vern Dubinsky shouted before bear-hugging his trainer.

Yes they did.

Careless Jewel tossed jockey Robert Landry to the ground twice before the race and then disposed of seven rivals just as easily – roaring home by 11 lengths in 2:03.24 for the 1 1/4 miles. Going into the first turn, the gray daughter of Tapit steadied and crossed Be Fair's heels as the pacesetter angled to the rail. Then, Careless Jewel set up shop outside and second down the backside. She took over on the far turn. Three lengths clear after a mile, she led by 7 at the top of the stretch and won by herself as the 5-2 second choice. Fellow Canadian shipper and slight favorite Milwaukee Appeal (John Velazquez) finished second with Casanova Move (Jose Lezcano) third.

Bred by Gainesway Thoroughbreds and Bill Andrade, Careless Jewel won her fourth consecutive race after finishing third in her career debut at Keeneland in April and made people think of another 3-year-old filly who skipped the Alabama.



"We were coming anyway, and I would hope we'd have made her run," said Carroll of Rachel Alexandra. "You don't know what you have until you run in these races so we were going to run."

Landry, who won his first Grade I in the United States, would have taken his chances.

"The way she ran today it would have been interesting to see her in there with Rachel," said the 46-year-old jockey. "Rachel's been impressive, don't get me wrong. This filly is getting better . . ."

The Alabama drew a field of eight, all with credentials. Some liked the dis-

**Continued On Page 35**



# Best Of —

## ■ Continued from page 34

tance. Some liked the track. Some exited a wild finish in Belmont Park's Coaching Club, at the same distance, in late July.

Only one mattered, however.

Careless Jewel shipped seven hours from Woodbine Thursday and took a stall in Angel Penna's barn on the Saratoga backside. The gray filly stared out the back window Friday morning after getting an electrolyte jug, and quietly put on her game face.

By Saturday afternoon, she was ready. She dropped Landry between the paddock and the track, again while warming up and then acted up in the gate. She broke second behind Be Fair and sped into the turn where Be Fair completed her angle to the rail, forcing Landry to shift to the outside and causing a bit of a chain reaction with Funny Moon and Don't Forget Gil.

"Into the first turn, Julien (Leparoux, aboard Be Fair) wanted to squeeze me out of there, I had to take her up and jump his heels," said Landry. "I almost went down."

The split-second of danger may have helped win the race.

"Getting her off the rail was smart, and he did a great job," Carroll said. "A lot of times times when that happens they get too on the bridle and they get too aggressive. He didn't panic, he didn't grab her, he just sat still."

Looking relaxed on Landry's long hold, Careless Jewel lobbed along just off Be Fair through a half-mile in 47.35 seconds and 6 furlongs in 1:12.14. Motionless, Landry let out a little more rein at the start of the turn and his filly lengthened her stride.

Race over.

Carroll won her first race at Saratoga and squared her record in the Alabama to 1-1. Her only other start at the track came in the 1999 race with Brushed Halory, who finished last behind Silverbulletday after bleeding.

"I thought I had a shot in 1999 too," Carroll said. "She was a very nice filly."

Carroll didn't return to Saratoga until now — partly because she didn't have a horse this good and partly because the purses at Woodbine Race Course in Toronto are so good.

"I don't think you come to Saratoga unless you think you have a real horse to bring," she said. "This is the place you want to be, but you want to be here with a horse that's live, that's good enough. It's pretty exciting to bring her and have her prove us right."

Donver (Donna and Vern Dubinsky of Alberta) bought Careless Jewel at Keeneland September in 2007 on the advice of agent Ciaran Dunne.

"She was in the back walking ring and we didn't have a client for her," said Dunne. "Vern was at home in Edmonton, I called him up and said, 'Hey, there's a filly in the ring, do you want to buy her?' He said yeah. It was that simple. She was always exceptional."

She impressed at 2, but chipped a knee in August and didn't start until this spring when she finished third as the favorite in a 6-furlong maiden April 5. She won her next start at Woodbine a month later and sped through the allowance ranks with another Woodbine score June 21.



Careless Jewel carried a 2-for-3 mark on synthetic surfaces to the July 18 Delaware Oaks, 1 1/16 miles on traditional dirt, and she flashed speed through an easy victory in the Grade II.

The Saratoga talk started shortly after the 522-mile ride home to Canada. Careless Jewel rattled off three solid works for Carroll and got back in the van. She packed her attitude.

"She's a bit of a handful, she's fine at the barn, but once she gets out to the track she gets like that," Carroll said. "She's the same way in the morning in her training. It's the anticipation of getting going. She wants to do it — now. That's a daily characteristic with her."

Landry, aboard for her previous three races and many of her works, rolls with the filly's behavior.

"You see horses all the time lose a race in the paddock or the post parade," said Landry. "I know one thing, she jumps higher than she used to, I was standing on the back of the saddle there for a second. Oh you're just thinking hold onto her, whatever you do hold onto her, I just didn't want to leave here and think about what might have been. I wanted to know what happened."

**August 26, 2009. Cup of Coffee: Not just along for the ride. By Sean Clancy.**

Running a marathon is easy. Training for a marathon is hell.

Winning the Alabama is easy. Preparing, securing and keeping the ride is tough.

Robert Landry bangs out a decent living at Woodbine; the 46-year-old veteran has guided 21 winners at the Canadian track this year, good enough for 13th in the standings. He was leading rider there in 1994, earned the Sovereign Award for outstanding jockey in 1993 and 1994, won his 2,000th career race this summer. When the weather takes over at Woodbine and the horses go south or go to the farm, Landry follows the coast to Florida.

He calls it a working vacation. He goes to the track every morning, gets on horses for his contact list of trainers, not necessarily looking for rides at Gulfstream Park but more to keep fit and to keep his name on people's minds. He rides a few races, breezes horses, golfs a few rounds with his buddy Roger Horgan. When Todd Pletcher ships to Woodbine, maybe he'll call Landry. If Josie

**Continued On Page 36**

## The **TOP 10** Performances of the Meet sponsored by

### OSCAR PERFORMANCE



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

- 1. Tiz The Law:** Belmont? Check. Travers? Check. Next stop, Derby. — Bred by Twin Creeks Farm
- 2. Gamine:** California-based 3YO filly left no doubt in Test.
- 3. Serengeti Empress:** Fought like a lioness in Ballerina triumph.
- 4. Vexatious:** Vanquished champ in Grade 1 Personal Ensign.
- 5. Improbable:** Beat quality group in Grade 1 Whitney.
- 6. Volatile:** Speedster made it look easy in Vanderbilt.
- 7. Starship Jubilee:** Four in a row this year, and getting better?
- 8. Echo Town:** Big noise in powerhouse Jerkens romp.
- 9. Decorated Invader:** He's starting to remind us of someone . . .
- 10. Paris Lights:** Brave effort in the Coaching Club American Oaks.

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# Best Of —

## ■ Continued from page 35

Carroll needs a rider when she gets back to Woodbine, hopefully she'll name Landry.

If you're not in the room, you're out of the deal.

"I'm 46 years old, my weight is still good, but it's real hard to take off once you put it on, so I need to work," Landry said. "Florida is a working vacation, just trying to stay fit and stay out there, be visible, maybe when these guys ship to Woodbine, they'll think of me. I have a real good strike rate with Todd Pletcher. Jim Bond, George Weaver, when they come to Woodbine, I ride for them a lot of times. It's just good for business."

If you get out of bed every morning, there's no telling what might happen.

You might climb aboard a flighty gray filly who spends most of her mornings with the pony and lunges like a dolphin when you turn around the right way to gallop.

Careless Jewel won the Grade 2 Fitz Dixon Cotillion in her next start before finishing eighth in the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic. She retired with five wins for \$1,013,346. She was sold to Southern Equine Stable for \$1.95 million at Keeneland November 2010 and resold in foal to Bodemeister to Summer Wind Farm for \$1.85 million at Keeneland November 2013.

Reframe, her 2-year-old daughter by American Pharoah, won a mile maiden race at Niigata in Japan July 25. It is one of the most incredible performances we've ever seen. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJhDq0jC1eQ>

She might be a freak.

Landry worked with Careless Jewel in Florida when she was 2. Worked with, meaning worked the horse next to her. A year later, Landry really worked with her. He climbed aboard Careless Jewel at Palm Meadows this winter. The gray filly wasn't easy, still isn't, and Landry learned to cajole and massage the dynamic filly.

He's a horseman first. Jockey second.

The first time he breezed her, he knew she was different.

"Where have you been?" is how he described the reaction.

Carroll shipped Careless Jewel to Keeneland for her debut. Landry didn't go with her. John Velazquez rode the robust daughter of Tapit, she

went off favorite and finished third. In her next start, at Woodbine, with Landry, she won. She hasn't lost since. Landry guided her to an allowance win and then traveled to Delaware Park to win the Delaware Oaks. She won her stakes debut – and dirt debut – easily. The Alabama, Landry's first Grade I victory in the U.S. – made four in a row.

Careless Jewel dropped Landry twice before the Alabama.

"She was a little fractious to say the least, maybe the crowd," said Landry. "She was a little bit funny at Delaware, rearing up a bit and a little hot but not to this extent. She's got some idiosyncrasies, knowing her is a big plus."

Landry knows Careless Jewel. He also knows the game and knows any jockey is one wrong move (like turning her loose either time when he fell off her Saturday) from losing any ride, much less, a ride like Careless Jewel.

"I'm confident I will (keep the ride) and if I don't, I don't. She owes me nothing. Naturally, I'd love to ride her but I'd understand, it's the game," Landry said, after the Alabama. "I've been in it a long time, I've been taken off a lot good horses before, you just roll with the punches, the trainers always come back and they respect you

more, they pay the bills, I'm going to live with it. But, it's nice to go along for the ride."

Articulate and professional, Landry appreciates the ride. He won his first race in 1981, his first stakes in 1982. He's broken his cheekbone and his back. He's breezed Skip Away, won on Buck's Boy and rode five straight champion 2-year-old fillies in Canada. Now he's won the Alabama, to go along with the Delaware Oaks, the Woodbine Mile, the Molly Pitcher.

"This is my biggest win in the U.S. I've won a lot of Grade II stakes here, well, my horses won, I just steered them," Landry said. "I've been very, very lucky and ridden some nice horses."

The Alabama was more than a jockey winning on a horse.

Landry had guided Careless Jewel in the morning; tried to ration her ability, tried to nurture her mind, tried to teach her to go a mile and a quarter in a Grade I at Saratoga.

"I've been very, very lucky to come around some really good horsemen," Landry said. "There's a lot of riders with a lot of talent gate to wire, but not as much horsemen. Guys that have been around, come around and did it the hard way. You're more hands-on, I think you can learn a lot that way."

As the Alabama celebration wound to a close (Landry nursed a Diet Pepsi), owner Vern Dubinsky tried to convince Landry to come to Prime Restaurant at Saratoga National for dinner, spend the night in Saratoga.

"I've got to get back home tonight," Landry said. "I've got horses to work in the morning, one of my good horses. I'll get fired."



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# The SARATOGA Special



## Publishing Calendar for 2020 season

An online newspaper for the summer racing season at Saratoga Race Course

|                            | SUNDAY   | MONDAY                                   | TUESDAY                | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|----------------------------|--|--|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| J<br>U<br>L<br>Y           |  |  |                        |  | Opening Day <b>16</b><br><b>ISSUE 1</b><br>Schuylerville,<br>Peter Pan     | <b>17</b><br>Shine Again,<br>De La Rose  | <b>18</b><br><b>ISSUE 2</b><br>CCA Oaks,<br>Hall of Fame   |
|                            | <b>19</b><br>Lake Placid                               | <b>20</b><br>No Racing                   | <b>21</b><br>No Racing | <b>22</b><br><b>ISSUE 3</b><br>Lubash (NYB)      | <b>23</b><br>Statue of Liberty<br>(NYSS)<br>A.P. Smithwick<br>Steeplechase | <b>24</b><br>Quick Call  | <b>25</b><br><b>ISSUE 4</b><br>A.G. Vanderbilt,<br>Ballston Spa                                    |
|                            | <b>26</b><br>Bernard Baruch                            | <b>27</b><br>No Racing                   | <b>28</b><br>No Racing | <b>29</b><br><b>ISSUE 5</b><br>Dayatthespa (NYB) | <b>30</b><br>John Morrissey (NYB)  | <b>31</b><br>Coronation Cup  | <b>1</b><br><b>ISSUE 6</b><br>Whitney, Personal<br>Ensign, Allen Jerkens,<br>Bowling Green, Caress |
|                            | <b>2</b><br>Birdstone                                  | <b>3</b><br>No Racing                    | <b>4</b><br>No Racing  | <b>5</b><br>Summer Colony                        | <b>6</b><br><b>ISSUE 7</b><br>Cab Calloway (NYSS)                          | <b>7</b><br>Saratoga Special   | <b>8</b><br><b>ISSUE 8</b><br>Travers, Ballerina,<br>Test, Troy, Ways                              |
|                            | <b>9</b><br>Alydar                                     | <b>10</b><br>No Racing                   | <b>11</b><br>No Racing | <b>12</b><br><b>ISSUE 9</b><br>Adirondack        | <b>13</b><br>Union Avenue (NYB)  | <b>14</b><br>Perfect Sting   | <b>15</b><br><b>ISSUE 10</b><br>Saratoga Derby,<br>Alabama   |
|                            | <b>16</b><br>Saratoga Oaks                             | <b>17</b><br>No Racing                   | <b>18</b><br>No Racing | <b>19</b><br><b>ISSUE 11</b><br>Bolton Landing   | <b>20</b><br>Tale Of The Cat<br>N.Y. Turf Writers Cup<br>Steeplechase      | <b>21</b><br>Skidmore  | <b>22</b><br><b>ISSUE 12</b><br>Fountain Dave  |
|                            | <b>23</b><br>Diana                                     | <b>24</b><br>No Racing                   | <b>25</b><br>No Racing | <b>26</b><br><b>ISSUE 13</b><br>Mahony           | <b>27</b><br>Smart And Fancy<br>Times Square (NYSS)                        | <b>28</b><br>Lake George   | <b>29</b><br><b>ISSUE 14</b><br>Sword Dancer, Forego,<br>Amsterdam, Saranac                        |
|                            | <b>30</b><br>Shuvee                                    | <b>31</b><br>No Racing                   | <b>1</b><br>No Racing  | <b>2</b><br><b>ISSUE 15</b><br>With Anticipation | <b>3</b><br>P.G. Johnson<br>Park Avenue (NYSS)                             | <b>4</b><br>NY-bred Showcase<br>Albany, Fleet Indian,<br>Funny Cide, Seeking<br>the Arde, West Pt, Yaddo | <b>5</b><br><b>ISSUE 16</b><br>Woodward, Prioress,<br>Glens Falls, Jim Dandy<br>Ky. Derby Day      |
| A<br>U<br>G<br>U<br>S<br>T | <b>6</b><br>Spinaway,<br>Honorable Miss,<br>Lucky Coin | <b>7</b><br>Closing Day<br>Hopeful, Lure | <b>8</b><br>No Racing  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b><br><b>ISSUE 17</b><br>Season Wrap-Up   |
|                            |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |
| S<br>E<br>P<br>T           |  |  |                        |  |  |  |  |
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joe@thisishorseracing.com  
(302) 545-4424

**SEAN CLANCY**  
sean@thisishorseracing.com  
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Calendar for planning purposes only and subject to change.





*"I was at Belmont when it first hit. There in New York when it was being called the epicenter of the whole pandemic. Nobody knew what was going on or how great the danger was. A lot of people were more than just anxious, we were scared."*

*"You could avoid it. Anyone could say, I have a healthcare risk or I come in contact with older people and walk away. Everyone would understand. But of the hundreds of people I came in contact with each day down there, they all kept showing up and caring for the horses. They all stayed in the room."*

*"Yes, of course, they need the jobs to feed their families. But the underlying feeling was more like – 'This is our lives, this is what we do, and no matter what the circumstances, we have to be here for the horses because they can't take care of themselves.'"*

*"It was very moving actually."*

– Makaia Carpenter, exercise rider

The backstretch way of life has been pretty (if I can be forgiven this pun) stable for a long, long time. When I look at old black-and-white backstretch photos from the early 1900s, they look remarkably like ones taken yesterday. The closest thing to a revolutionary change in the last hundred years was probably the invention of the golf cart.

But all that was before the Covid-19 pandemic. Clearly the pandemic must have shaken things up a bit.

"Not really," says trainer Tony Dutrow, sitting at a picnic table by his barn after his horses have worked. The man grew up as the son of a trainer and has been around backstretches all his life. He knows the routine. "It might be different for other trainers but for me and my outfit – we're doing pretty much the same."

Marialice Coffey, another trainer on the Oklahoma backstretch, agrees.

"There are still horses. We still have to take care of them. We still have to train them to run. So we do



Tod Marks

it," Coffey said. "Because of Covid we have to go through some hoops to get here, and get our people here, but it's not that onerous really."

Some trainers have said it's harder getting workers. They've suggested that the government is taking a closer look at, and requiring more information from, the temporary work visa applicants. In addition, some trainers and their workers opted to stay at Belmont Park this summer instead of moving their operations upstate.

Last year there were around 1,000 workers on the backstretch; this year's number is closer to 600. And though there are fewer horses overall to care for, there is a shortage of hands to do the work. Still the work gets done.

Francisco Hernandez is a groom for five horses in Rudy Rodriguez's stable.

"Every day I'm doing just what I did before," he says with a shrug before adding, "except now I wear a mask."

He smiles. Well at least I think he smiles; the mask hides it.

Could it be that this worldwide cataclysmic event has seemed to make only the smallest dent into the backstretch life and routine?

"Well a lot of that is that we've been living with it for almost half a year now; there's been adjustment," says Chaplain Humberto Chavez of the New

**Continued On Page 39**

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■ Continued from page 38

York Race Track Chaplaincy. “Back in March when the pandemic arrived, we were all at Belmont. There was a lot of uncertainty and a lot of anxiety.

“The Chaplaincy couldn’t do much about the uncertainty, except try to get information out clearly when it became available. But a good part of our job those early days was, I guess you’d call it ‘anxiety stabilization.’ And I think we helped.”

The pandemic did not spare Belmont Park, however. Numerous backstretch workers had to be quarantined and/or hospitalized. There were daily meetings, calls and action plans to address the various issues involved with trying to keep people healthy. Cases occurred in several barns and one backstretch worker, Martin Zapata (a hotwalker for trainer Tom Morley) died of Covid.

All hands played a role – the Chaplaincy, the Backstretch Employee Service Team, the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association, NYRA staffers – and the pandemic’s impact on the backstretch community faded even if it didn’t go away fully.

As more regulations and restrictions came into being, the Chaplaincy took more concrete steps. Now they collect and help distribute food. They communicate and help administer the new protocols. They deliver meals to

quarantined workers and their families. And every day Chavez and his team get new calls for help.

But many of their programs had to be eliminated or dramatically cut back. This included almost all of the recreational and children’s programs at Saratoga.

Last year there was a posted calendar of events for backstretch workers. There was at least one for every day of the season. The new protocols mean that virtually all of those are gone this year.

And as you walk through the main side and Oklahoma backstretch area, it becomes clear that’s the main difference this year. There’s far less hanging out in the afternoons and evenings, sitting around picnic tables, listening to music, eating together and telling stories. Very few pick-up soccer games or card games.

“Everybody has to keep the distance. Not as much fun,” says Hernandez.

Chavez acknowledges the loss.

“Yes, the social side has been one of the casualties of the pandemic,” Chavez said. “NYRA’s really been very cautious, but maybe it’s paying off. So far there hasn’t been a single backstretch case reported at Saratoga.”

I really wanted to ask the Chaplain to knock on wood when he made that last statement, but I wondered about the propriety of asking a man of God to pay homage to a superstition.

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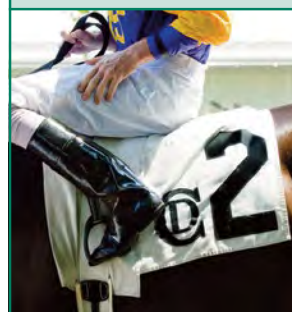
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Also closing September 12, 2020 is **The DTHA Governor’s Day Stake** and **The George Rosenberger Memorial**. Both stakes are restricted to horses which have started at Delaware Park in 2020 (stake races excluded). A \$50,000 purse bonus will be added 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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# To Absent Friends

It did not register. Did not occur to us. Until it began. When Joe and I started Steeplechase Times in 1994, the challenge of writing about our friends, our colleagues, our cohorts was exhilarating. Their wins, their moments. Their races, their results. We quickly realized, with the wins come the losses. The human losses. Who would write about those?

Sometimes they start with a question...Did you hear about Cort...? You know the answer. Sometimes it's a phone call...Jonathan has been in an accident. A frantic roadside meeting...Trish is hurt. Other times, it's more natural, or at least seems more natural, a man's life winding to a close but a life well lived...hey, just thought you should know that Henry Stern died this morning.

Nowadays, it's usually a Tweet or a Facebook post...Carmen Barrera died in her sleep last night... John DeMarco...Randy Romero...Bill Graves... Paddy Neilson...Dennis Lynch dead at 68.

Earlier this spring, Todd Wyatt called me about his dad. It was more about two old friends and the passage of time than anything else. I was a friend first, writer second. I tried to put a man's life into words, for his son, for his family, for some kind of solace, some kind of closure.

In May, it was Martin Zapata, a hotwalker for Tom Morley, a coronavirus victim, trying to give the man a sendoff instead of a slipoff.

Some you miss. And you feel bad about that. I hope those families had someone else to offer words to console, to comfort.

They never get easier.

As John Leonard wrote in a book review of the Red Smith Reader and Red Smith's To Absent Friends, a collection of obituaries from the Pulitzer Prize-winner writer in the New York Times July 15, 1982.

...He lived long enough to bury most of his friends and then, of course, opening a vein, to write about them. Several columns and many anecdotes

overlap as if the two books were a conversation in the same wise head, on those midnights when "tears stood in all four of these eyes."

No matter. Those who play the game, whatever game, are young, young enough for the press box to love, envy and curse. Then, like ordinary people, the young get old, and we sit around remembering what they were like when they began, that double play, that dive off tackle, that jump-shot and that putt and the brilliant bet against the odds. These are stories told by the fire, inside the cave, using the shadow machine. Death is a damnable measuring tape, but some of us are longer than others in the stretch, by a nose. What the hell: What a poet.

I wish I had the words of Red Smith. His columns read like letters to first loves. The only thing I recognize is the tears while hovered over a keyboard, prying words like cannonballs through a garden hose.

Today it's for Pat Graham.

Britt, his daughter, my friend, texted me July 23.

So, yes I know you are swamped with obligations and maybe this is a job for Joe but I don't have his #. Dad is taking his last breaths so to speak and since we are sequestered in SC and I'm opposed to straight up posting on fb I was wondering if when the time comes if you would be willing to do an obituary of sorts in your paper...

I said of course.

Britt texted again July 31.

Dad passed this morning I sent you an email but didn't include much. Let me know if you want some more information.

And now I realize it's been two weeks since Pat Graham died.

Promptness doesn't always come with this part of the job. I've been toying with the words, toiling

over the words ever since. The shadow machine flickering, an obituary of sorts.

Patrick Joseph Graham died peacefully in his sleep on the morning of July 31. In hospice care, in Camden, S.C. A father, a grandfather, a brother, a husband, a horse trainer. He was born Feb. 6, 1939 in Tipperary, Ireland. Came here when he was 19. Trained flat horses and jumpers, based in Virginia, Delaware Park, a mainstay in the early days of Fair Hill Training Center. Cut from an old cloth, Graham trained horses for owners/breeders, Powhatan, Pillar, Montpelier, Ivy Dell and a few of his own. Won 132 races from 1976 to 2016. He had started long before that with the likes of Casamayor, Afilador and Pinino, winning jump races at Aqueduct, Saratoga, Tanglewood, Marlborough and Stoneybrook. Retired in 2016, his owners, the old-school ones who wanted their trainers to feel each leg, every day, had gone long before him. Mentored many. A quiet gentleman. Lost a son, Charles so many years ago. Survived by his wife, Viveca, his daughter, Britt, his son Peter and his wife Suzanne, granddaughters Ellen and Julie, in Seattle. Brothers Jim and Joe in Ireland and sisters Mary and Madge in New York.

He trained Secretariat's first U.S. winner.

Sacrebleu, a gray colt, won a 7-furlong maiden at Laurel Park Dec. 22, 1977.

"I intend to run Sacrebleu at Bowie in a race for non-winners of two, as his next start," Graham told The Washington Post. "So far this colt has done everything we've asked of him, and he's done it easily but he only does what he has to."

Typical Pat Graham, realistic and to the point.

Rest easy, horse trainer.

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# The Big Picture

with Tod Marks

**Miss Alabama 2009.** Careless Jewel, soaks up some spray after winning Saratoga's Alabama for Canadian connections. See page 34 for more from the Best of The Special.

