

Year 17 • No. 7

The *aratoga*

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Special

Daily Racing Newspaper since 2001



Chosen One

Good Samaritan upsets stars in Jim Dandy

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LEA ▶

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here&there... at Saratoga

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Jockey wearing a Chicago Blackhawks sweatshirt while working a horse Saturday.

ODDBALL APPAREL ITEM OF THE DAY

Pink satin The Monkees jacket sported by photographer Barbara Livingston on the backside Saturday morning. Cheer up Sleepy Jean.

FEEDSTORE LEFTOVER

If you're a regular reader, the last remaining item from the feed store – which occupied our office space for years – is a salt block. We use it as a doorstep. Nobody won the big prize, though there were a few guesses (bag of lime, bale of straw...).

SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Realigned equestrian fez bewilders picky monarch. That's what came up in the sample box of our account with Adobe Typekit font software today. Couldn't agree more.

NAMES OF THE DAY

Five Hearts, second race. The 5-year-old mare is out of Royal Flush.

Fortune Street, fifth race. The 2-year-old filly, who races for Seidman Stable, is by Bellamy Road out of Money Madness.

Desperado, sixth race. Joan Milne and Mark Nienstedt's 4-year-old colt is by Iron Deputy out of Miss Rodeo.

New York's Finest, 10th race. Tic Stable's 3-year-old is by City Zip out of Is It Safe.



Winning . . . and not. Two racing fans experience the ups and downs of going to the window. Connie Bush

The Sarago-to stallion

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Since his first crop were three, **Bernardini** has had more Graded Stakes wins and more G1 victories at The Spa than any other stallion.

Stallions by Saratoga Graded Stakes wins, 2011-'16

1	Bernardini	11
2	Tapit	10
3	Speightstown	7
4	Curlin	6
	Smart Strike	6
	Unbridled's Song	6

Stallions by Saratoga G1 wins, 2011-'16

1	Bernardini	7
2	Unbridled's Song	6
3	Speightstown	5
4	Congrats	4
5	Hard Spun	3
	Dansili	3
	Empire Maker	3
	Ghostzapper	3
	Super Saver	3
	Tapit	3
	Tiznow	3

Darley

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't even know who any of those people they were talking about are, but I'm caught up on all the gossip now."

Trainer Charlie LoPresti, after a session with Heather Craig and Lisa Bartkowski Saturday morning



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here&there... at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"Call her and ask about the weather."

Trainer Julie Gomena's advice to The Special's Sean Clancy about calling his wife as an impending storm hit Middleburg, Va.

"Hey, bro."

Jockey Kendrick Carmouche, who spotted a new haircut on Rick Violette Friday morning

"He called me Bro this morning, scared me a little bit."

Violette, after bumping into Carmouche

"She likes coming with me because she doesn't have to walk as far."

Niall Brennan, about his Jack Russell Terrier Gizmo who skipped out on a 5-miler with Stephanie Brennan Friday morning

"I wonder how crazy I'd be if I had a big stable of horses."

Trainer with a small stable

"Keep your hands down."

Jockey Kendrick Carmouche, with some advice for exercise rider Simon Harris Friday morning

"Plan ahead? You haven't been paying attention have you?"

The Special's Tom Law, after intern Madison Scott suggested a long-term (for us) assignment

"What are you doing with your free time?"

A reader to The Special (we'll let you know when we have some)



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Maryland-breds in the Shuvee Handicap record books.

Before 2013, today's Grade 3 Shuvee was run in May at Belmont going a mile. It was a Grade 2 then and, like now, a key fixture for the good fillies and mares in the region. Maryland-bred **SHINY BAND**, bearing the silks of her breeder Bohemia Stables, made it her first stakes win in 2002. Champion Maryland-bred **PEARL NECKLACE** won it in 1979, on her way to winning seven graded NY stakes and \$737,862. Both were foaled at Mrs. Richard C. Dupont's Woodstock Farm in Chesapeake City, MD.




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WORTH REPEATING

"I've got both hands on the wheel now."

Exercise rider Leigh Delacour, galloping Aquaphobia on the main track Saturday (a few moments after neck-reining the same horse past at a trot)

"We called her a copybara, because that's the biggest rat in the world."

Brandon Badgett, about his sister Brooke, telling their parents about a Saratoga indoor balcony-jumping incident a few years ago

"Sorry we couldn't cooperate to help the editorial product."

Owner Alan Brodsky, whose horse Right Ben (purchased at the same sale as Wrong Ben, and a good story) finished fourth Friday

"I've never been inside a newspaper office before, and this is my favorite newspaper so . . ."

Happy reader, stopping by The Special office

"Dos Large Hot Chocolates."

Morning Line Kitchen customer, trying out his Spanish

"Muchas vacaciones."

Night watchman/hotwalker Eliseo Ochoa Sanchez, on the Saratoga plans of former co-worker Ryan Clancy

"Three men in a group is good, any more than that and you've got Van Halen."

Designer Jenn Peyser referring to ST Publishing's trio of Joe Clancy, Sean Clancy and Tom Law

"I have that picture on my wall in my living room, I see Saratoga's grandstand with the rainbow. It's your picture. It's been a long time since I've really seen the grandstand."

Trainer Ron Spatz to photographer Barbara Livingston

"You need to win so you can stay here instead of going back to the 100-degree heat."

Ron Spatz to Amsterdam entrant Mo Cash, who is based at Gulfstream Park

"If I had \$1 every time someone asked me if this horse is by Uncle Mo. . ."

Ron Spatz on Mo Cash, who is by Adios Charlie out of Mo's Prize, by Eltish

"Today, you don't need them. By Labor Day, you'll need them."

Trainer Steve Asmussen as a Special paperboy saved two steps with a cart-to-cart delivery Saturday morning

"I don't trust you. I don't trust you. I trust you."

The Special's papergirl, Muireann O'Brien as she skipped over a sister and a brother and handed her tip money to her cousin Michael

"Do you think Sciacca knows any gluten-free restaurants?"

Trainer Pat Reynolds

Photo of the day

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Congratulations to Kirkwood graduate Coal Front – winner of Saturday's Amsterdam.

Tod Marks

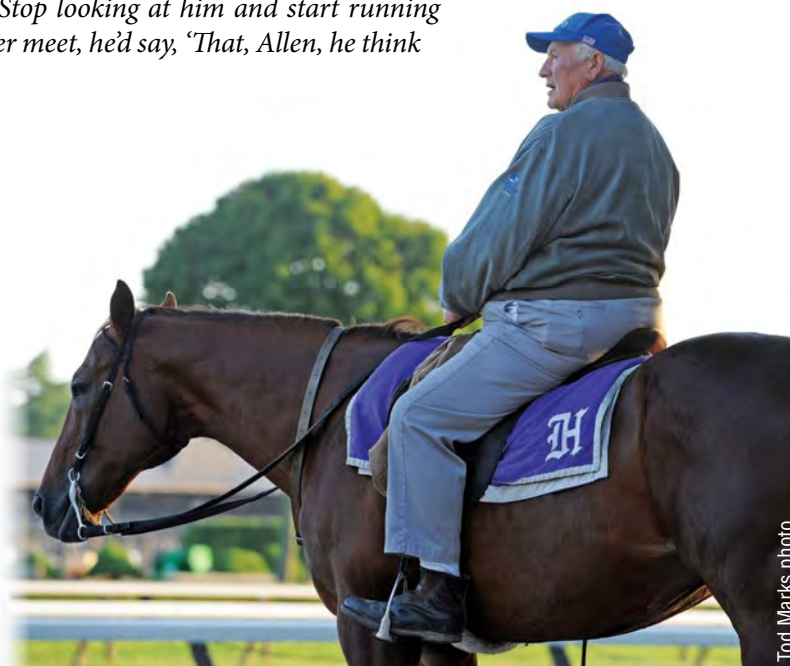
The Chief... Day 7

"Naturally, to start with, I learned from my father, reading those books, being around, watching Hirsch Jacobs, Fitzsimmons . . . The one thing that surprised me, I had a good idea when the horse was doing good and would run good, I had a pretty good handle of that, I don't know where I got that. My father got mad at me for not running a horse, he said, 'Why haven't you run that horse?' I said to him, 'I'm trying to get him to look good.' He said, 'Stop looking at him and start running him.' He was as good a guy as you could ever meet, he'd say, 'That, Allen, he think he know everything.'"

– **Trainer Allen Jerkens**
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with Brad Cox

Brad Cox grew up two blocks from the back gate of Churchill Downs so it only makes sense he wound up with a career in Thoroughbred racing.

"My dad took me to the track at an early age, and me and buddies would sneak over there all the time – I shouldn't say sneak, but you know what I mean – but we'd go all the time for the races," Cox said. "I knew at an early age I wanted to be in the business. Doing what I didn't know. Then after a while I thought I'd try to train. I was a hotwalker, believe me I worked my way up."

Cox worked for Frankie Brothers, Burk Kessinger, Jimmy Baker and Dallas Stewart on the way up, then branched out on his own in late 2004. He sent out his first winner at Turfway Park in just his second start.

"Turfway Park. I started the filly at Churchill, she was 40-1 and was on the lead at the eighth pole, I thought she would win and she wound up third," Cox said. "I ran her back two weeks later at Turfway and she won with Joe Johnson. December 4, 2004. Her name was One Lucky Storm. That was exciting."

Cox continues to work his way up, and he's got a barn of 16 inside Horse Haven on the Oklahoma Training Track and stalls at the harness track. Still active in the claiming game – he'd claimed River Date, High Noon Rider and Grand Candy the first four days of the meet – his Saratoga string features a mix of promising and sometimes high-priced 2-year-olds with accomplished stakes horses. Cox won three races at Saratoga in 2016 and four in 2015.

"The numbers, our percentages, we're happy with how we've done in the past here," Cox said. "Hopefully we'll have more starts and more wins this year, that's the goal. We're trying to build the division up."

After wrapping up training and checking on his horses, Cox walked



down his shedrow Wednesday morning with The Special's Tom Law

Dowse's Beach: The big gray 6-year-old New York-bred son of Disco Rico occupies the stall next to Cox's office. He's won back-to-back turf sprints in allowance-optional company, the first June 4 for an \$80,000 tag. "We claimed him at Belmont for \$62,500 and have run back twice. He ran back for the three-other-than optional 80, was in for the tag that day and ran really well. The owners wanted to protect him next time and I agreed with them, we put him in a three-other-than, he performed well again, won the race and we're going to point him for the Troy. It's a tough race, obviously, with his stablemate here next door. He's going to be in there as well. He's really doing well, we breezed him on the dirt and hopefully he'll breeze Monday on the turf. If all goes well we'll go in the Troy."

Green Mask: Multiple graded stakes winner relaxed with his ice boots on while he dug into his feed tub. He perked up a bit with visitors outside his stall, repeatedly biting, picking up and dropping the tub. "He's a character, a cool horse. He thinks he's the boss. He's earned that title. He's training well, breezed on the dirt (July 24) and is slated to go again Monday. Javier (Castellano) has ridden him his last three starts and he's been a very consistent horse all year. He seems to run well with Javier, he seems to get along with him really well.

We're just trying to get him to the Breeders' Cup in the best condition, or path we can. I don't know how many more times he'll run after the Troy (Aug. 6)."

Sassy Little Lila: Second in last year's Grade 1 American Oaks at Santa Anita and second in the Grade 1 Just A Game in her last start Belmont Day. "Nice filly. I guess she's only made two starts in Grade 1 company and she was second in both. We'll go to the De La Rose (Aug. 5) with her, it would be a great spot here. She's doing great, we're excited. Hopefully we can make her a stakes winner at the meet. She likes Saratoga."

More Mojo: Jeff Drown's 2-year-old More Than Ready filly finished third in 5 1/2-furlong maiden Opening Day. "We like her, she broke from the 1 hole. We'll give her time to recover from that race. She came out of it well and we think with the added ground and hopefully not drawing the 1 hole next time she'll improve. This filly is nice."

Ezmosh: Zayat Stable's Oklahoma-bred 2-year-old son of Tizway finished third behind Sporting Chance and Givemeaminut in 5 1/2-furlong maiden the first Saturday of the meet. "He's a horse we had at Churchill and was really doing well so we decided to ship him up. He came up two days before the race, Javier rode him, he broke from the

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

2 hole and was a good third. It looked like a solid race, Lukas won it with a Tiznow that he paid \$575,000 for. We think he could probably stretch out with distance and time. He'll get another shot up here."

Arklow: Won the Grade 2 American Turf on the Kentucky Derby undercard after connections flirted with possible run at the Triple Crown in graded stakes this winter at Fair Grounds. "He ran bad (11th) in the Belmont Derby (July 8), didn't come out of it with any physical reason but probably needed the race going from a mile-and-a-sixteenth to a mile-and-a-quarter with nine weeks in between. He's breezed here and if all goes well we're pointing for the Hall of Fame (Aug. 4)."

Cool Beans: Magic Cap Stable's 2-year-old daughter of Candy Ride cost \$300,000 at Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale. She's worked twice on the Oklahoma Training Track since shipping up from Belmont. "She should make a start here at the meet. We like her, she's gone a couple halves and is ready for a gate work."

Purely Lucky: New York-bred 2-year-old filly by Lookin At Lucky bred and owned by Sanford Robbins breezed a half-mile in :51.02 from the gate on the Oklahoma Saturday. "She's getting close to running. Obviously will run in New York-bred company but she's doing very, very well. Hopefully in this first book at Saratoga, if not the first then the second."

Andrew's Game: Sprawled out in the stall, son of First Samurai cost \$350,000 at this year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-olds in training sale. "He's up to a half out of the gate, doing well and getting there. Hopefully he'll make the meet."

Southern Hills: A \$150,000 buy at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale by Mike Ryan, son of Paynter breezed a half in :51.62 Saturday on the Oklahoma. "He's at about the same fitness level as Andrew's Game. He should also make the meet if all is well. I like him, I think he could be OK going long."

Maximize: The Kindred Stables went to \$525,000 for son of Bodemeister at this year's Fasig-Tipton Gulfstream sale. Breezed a bullet half-mile July 15 at Belmont before another half in :48.46 on the Oklahoma July 22. "Another at about the same fitness level as most

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

of these, ready for a half out of the gate. He might be a little behind, but you never know, he might catch up.”

Chocolate Ride: GenStar Thoroughbreds’ four-time graded stakes winner finished second in Grade 2 Wise Dan at Churchill June 17 and fourth in Warrior Veterans Stakes at Indiana Grand July 15. “He’s at Churchill. He’s cool, we didn’t back off of him and he’s actually going to breeze this weekend. He’s doing great, moving well. We’re going to carry on with him and pick our spots. Ellis, maybe West Virginia, Louisiana Downs. Pick spots in the Midwest going long on the grass.”

Benner Island: Winner of the Grade 2 Eight Belles on Kentucky Oaks Day, 3-year-old daughter of Speightstown finished third in Grade 1 Acorn behind Abel Tasman and Salty at Belmont June 10. “We just sent her to the farm yesterday, she had a setback and she’s going to be out for the fall.”

Cowboy Culture: Head of Plains Partners’ and Cheyenne Stable’s 3-year-old by Quality Road won the Grade 3 Arlington Classic May 27 in his most recent start. “He just breezed last weekend and if all is well he could make the Saranac at the end of the meet. He’s at Churchill, not here yet and may come up.”



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Good Move



Tod Marks

Good Samaritan (left) pulls away from his Jim Dandy rivals including Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming (right) and Preakness hero Cloud Computing (second from left).

JIM DANDY STAKES RECAP

BY SEAN CLANCY

Bill Mott bounded along the top row of box seats as fans and friends yelled Happy Birthday to the newly turned 64-year-old Hall of Famer.

“What about that?” Mott said. “He came storming.”

Making his dirt debut, Good Samaritan had come storming to upset Saturday’s Grade 2 Jim Dandy, obliterating the Derby-Preakness grudge match of Always Dreaming and Cloud Computing and torpedoing a spastic 3-year-old division that’s desperate for a leader.

Mott met WinStar Farm’s Elliott Walden at the top step of the stairs to the winner’s circle.

Mott yelled, “Elliott...” and the two comrades high-fived.

“Told you,” Walden said. “Told you.”

“You were right,” Mott said.

Everybody was right about trying the dirt with Good Samaritan. Owned by WinStar Farm, China Horse Club, SF Racing Group and Head of Plains Partners, Good Samaritan earned his third career win and second Grade 2 stakes score with a last-to-first rally under Joel Rosario.

Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming shot from the inside post to secure the lead in a matter of strides. The Preakness winner Cloud Computing lapped on his right before Javier Castellano eased into Always Dreaming’s slipstream as Giuseppe The Great and Pavel volleyed for third and fourth.

Dirt experiment pays off for Good Samaritan

Rosario glanced to his left twice and guided Good Samaritan to the rail like he was dropping an anvil off a ledge. Always Dreaming loped through the first quarter-mile in :24.13 and a half in :48.53, opening up 3 lengths on Cloud Computing, who led Pavel and Giuseppe The Great while Good Samaritan looked like he was on a morning gallop, nearly 15 lengths off the lead.

“He was getting over the dirt nicely, I knew that right away, but they got away from me,” Rosario said. “He was happy where he was, just let him play his game. I knew he was going to put the same

run he does on the turf.”

Always Dreaming’s commanding lead slipped away quicker than a Union Avenue parking space as Cloud Computing and Pavel ratcheted up the pressure. In the middle of the turn, Always Dreaming, Cloud Computing and Pavel reached even terms as Giuseppe The Great slipped 4 lengths back and Good Samaritan stayed in touch but was far from menacing. Passing the quarter pole, John Velazquez implored Always Dreaming from the rail, Castellano roused Cloud Computing and Mario Gutierrez on Pavel, making his second career start, began to think big from the outside.

Turning into the stretch after 6 furlongs in 1:13.27, Always Dreaming, Cloud Computing and Pavel churned in a line, they weren’t getting up from their barstools, Giuseppe The Great made up ground four wide and Good Samaritan swooped five wide, gaining ground, impulsion and momentum with every stride. By the eighth pole, it was over as Good Samaritan and a stone-still Rosario rolled past his spent rivals. Rosario changed his hold, shook the reins, flicked his whip out of idleness before saluting Good Samaritan with three gentle pats on his right shoulder. Good Samaritan, ears pricked, finished 9 furlongs in 1:50.69.

“I couldn’t be more proud of him,” Rosario said. “He loves to run. He’s so easy to ride, just let him be happy, and he puts in that run every time.”

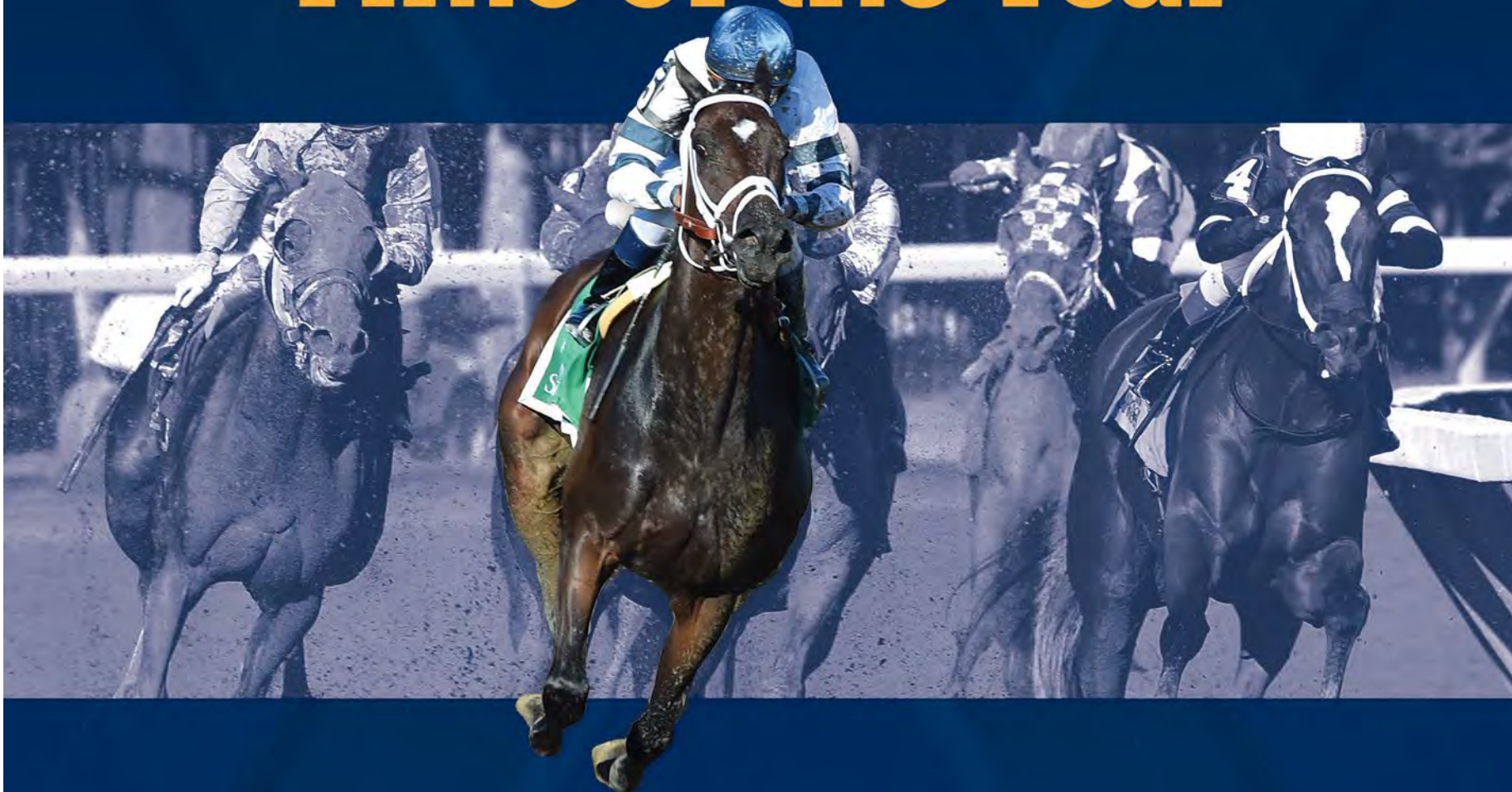
Continued On Page 12



Tod Marks

Good Samaritan crosses the line in the Jim Dandy.

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Jim Dandy —

■ Continued from page 10

The first six times, on the turf, that run produced two wins, two seconds, a third and a fourth – he was deliberate. In the seventh, on the dirt – he was dominant.

Good Samaritan won his debut on the turf here last summer, won the Grade 2 Summer Stakes on the turf at Woodbine in his next start and finished third in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf in November.

A switch to dirt was contemplated all the way back then.

"We cross-entered him in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile," Walden said. "Harlan's Holiday out of a Pulpit mare, we tried him on the turf originally because it was a mile race, then he did well, it's hard to pull up, I wish now I ran him in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile, it's hard to come from behind like that on the turf."

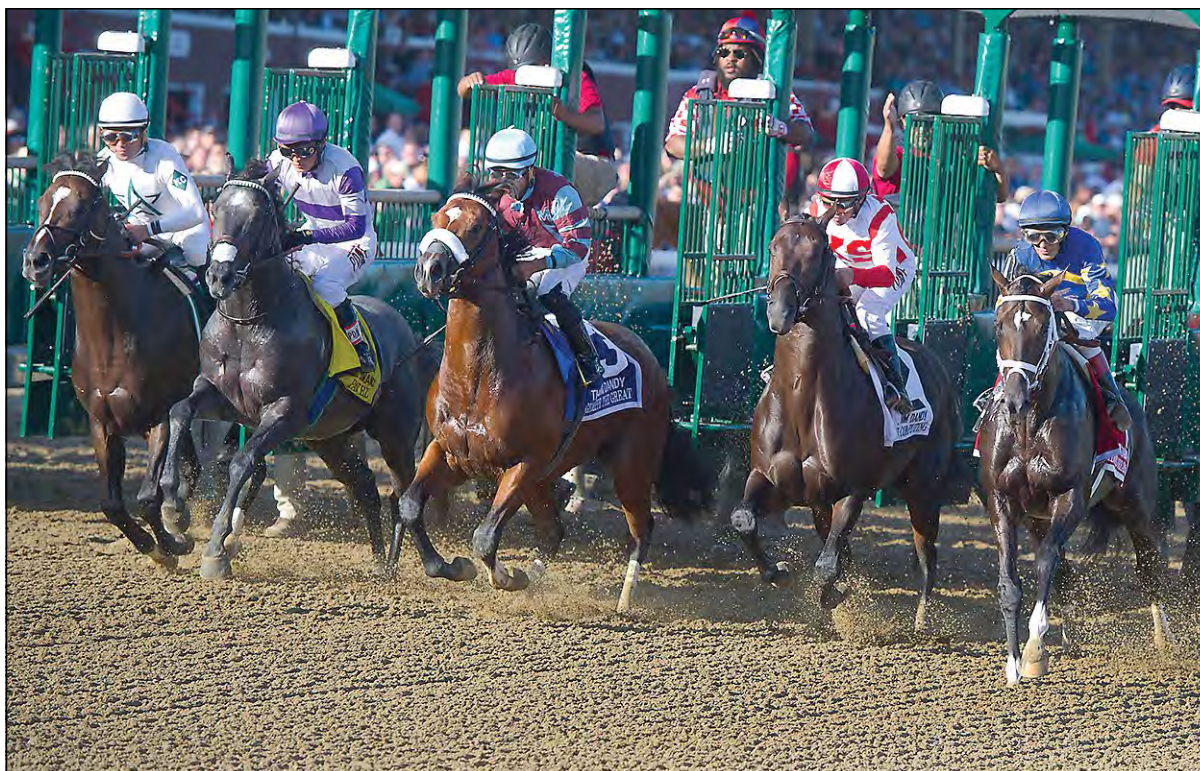
Mott convinced Walden to stick to the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf, which Mott still thinks he could have won with a clean trip into the first turn.

"I talked Elliott out of it, I was a little bit leery about the California dirt track being speed favoring," Mott said. "I told Elliott, I'll run him in the Breeders' Cup and then run him back in the Remsen, if he was doing well. As it turned out, he needed some time so we couldn't do it."

With an extended break, the Triple Crown was out and Mott decided to stick to the turf, with the Belmont Derby's \$1.2 million purse as the dangling carrot. Good Samaritan finished second in the American Turf May 6, second in the Pennine Ridge June 3 and fourth in the Belmont Derby July 8. After the Belmont Derby, Walden turned up the pressure.

"As soon as the Belmont Derby was over, Elliott said we've got to try him on the dirt," Mott said.

Walden wanted Good Samaritan to make his dirt debut in the Travers and Yoshida, fifth in the Belmont Derby, to make his dirt debut in the Jim Dandy. In Mott's Saratoga tack room Monday morning, Mott and Walden finalized a plan. Mott lobbied to keep Yoshida on the turf, he won that,



Tod Marks

Always Dreaming (right) breaks on top in the Jim Dandy. Winner Good Samaritan is at far left.

he'll start in the Hall of Fame Stakes August 4. While thinking about the Jim Dandy or the Travers for Good Samaritan, Mott hit the sooner-rather-than-later button.

"Elliott wanted to wait for the Travers, we discussed it and I said, 'What the hell, if we're going to do it, let's go ahead and do it now.' Coming off three weeks rest but he was doing well, he worked fine, there's a lot of speed, let's go ahead and do it now," Mott said. "The majority of the credit to move him to the dirt goes to Elliott Walden. He kind of wanted to wait for the Travers and I might have encouraged him to go a little bit sooner and go to this race."

Asked if he would have made the move without Walden's pressure, Mott hesitated and contemplated while riding the escalator up to the second floor to watch Saturday's 11th race.

"That's a good question. You try to listen to log-

ic. He's helped me make some good decisions in the past, he's helped me win a Belmont, helped me win a Breeders' Cup Classic, both with Drosselmeyer," Mott said. "He's given me a good nudge at some very critical times. Put it this way, I think we work well together. Sometimes he has to beat me with a stick to get me to listen, he does it, and frankly, I appreciate it and I value our relationship and our friendship that we can haggle back and forth and still get it done."

Mott watched his two fillies finish off the board in the finale, walked down the stairs, still accepting birthday wishes and paused at the bottom of the stairs.

"I've won the Jim Dandy a couple of times," Mott said. "I've never won the Travers."

Told he had four weeks, Mott asked, "What, to figure out how?"

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For Real

El Deal streaks to Grade 1 victory for Crawfords, Navarro



Tod Marks

El Deal leads everybody home in Saturday's Grade 1 Vanderbilt.

BY JOE CLANCY

Michelle and Albert Crawford own 280 (give or take) Standardbreds of all ages, shapes and sizes on the various parts of 1,100-acre Crawford Farms in western New York.

Their Thoroughbred operation is considerably smaller, but the pacers and trotters might want to make some room after El Deal smashed the Grade 1 Alfred G. Vanderbilt Handicap Saturday.

The 5-year-old benefited from the late scratch of morning-line favorite and defending race winner A. P. Indian (with some ankle filling), but would have been tough for anyone to handle in the \$350,000 stakes. El Deal shot to the front from post three for Javier Castellano, put up fractions of :22.50, :45.28 and :57.03 before hitting the finish line 8 lengths clear in 1:09.26 for 6 furlongs. Awesome Banner

ALFRED G. VANDERBILT STAKES RECAP

claimed second, a head in front of 8-5 favorite Limousine Liberal. Trained by Jorge Navarro, El Deal improved to 3-for-3 for his new owners who wound up in the Saratoga Room sipping champagne and wondering how it all happened.

"Crazy, crazy, crazy," said Albert Crawford. "Honestly, to get involved with (Navarro) a year ago – 'You're doing what? You're going to Saratoga for a Grade 1?' I don't know how it happened."

Not that he's new to racing. Founded by Crawford's parents Jim and Patricia in 1966, Crawford Farms is a leading Standardbred breeder in New York. Crawford breeds, sells at major auctions and campaigns some of the best on the circuit. A week before El Deal's win, Crawford's Funkandwaffles

set the 3-year-old gelding track record at Saratoga Raceway by pacing a mile in 1:50 4/5.

El Deal went considerably faster, and raised the bar for whatever the Crawfords have planned for next weekend (Hambletonian, anyone?).

The Crawfords dipped their toes into Thoroughbred racing when they bought two yearlings at the Fasig-Tipton Saratoga sale in 2015 and sent them to trainer Ian Wilkes.

A year ago at Gulfstream Park, near where the Crawfords spend the winter and where Albert bases his business Bankers Healthcare Group, harness trainer Chris Oakes introduced the Crawfords to Navarro. They claimed some horses together and bought El Deal this year for \$80,000 on the trainer's recommendation.

Continued On Page 16

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Vanderbilt —

■ Continued from page 14

"I always loved him," said Navarro, who tried to convince former owner Passion Stable to change trainers. "I trained for him and I asked my owner, 'What about this horse?' He never came to my barn."

When El Deal came up for sale this year, Navarro jumped — and called Crawford. The son of Munnings made light work of a Charles Town handicapper in April, then won the Decathlon at Monmouth Park in June. Navarro circled an easy spot at Mountaineer next weekend, then thought about Saratoga. Graded sprint winners A. P. Indian and Limousine Liberal looked tough. Millionaire Green Gratto would be there, along with Californian Awesome Banner, Grade 2 winner Bird Song and \$700,000 earner Ready For Rye.

"I was sitting on it, sitting on it," Navarro said of the Mountaineer race, the \$100,000 West Virginia Legislature Chairman's Cup going 4 1/2 furlongs. Then he started talking to himself.

"You know what Jorge, you've got to swim with the sharks," he said. "The horse is doing good."

Navarro called Crawford, and kept up the sales pitch.

"You're a winner in West Virginia for fun," the trainer told the owner. "It's guaranteed money. But I'd like

to try him here. It's a big purse and these are horses that we're going to see what we have and I think we have something but we don't know until the race."

Crawford went along with it, then watched one of the year's top sprint performances.

El Deal broke on top, kept Green Gratto at bay for a quarter-mile, then led by 3 lengths after a half-mile. Limousine Liberal chased, but couldn't keep up as El Deal cut the corner and built a quick 6-length advantage before rolling home alone. Awesome Banner rallied to catch Limousine Liberal for second.

Bred in Kentucky by Martha Buckner, the bay 5-year-old won for the ninth time in 16 starts and collected \$210,000 to nearly double his lifetime earnings to \$505,025. Leaving the winner's circle, a fan told Crawford the horse was the favorite for the Breeders' Cup Sprint, and the owner laughed. He's new to this, but he knows it's not that simple.

"I know the risk, 100 percent," he said. "My colt Albert Charles ran in a maiden race here (last year). He's still finishing, so it's not all Grade 1 wins in Saratoga. We had a colt running the other night for 250 (thousand) at Plainridge and he was in front and looked like a winner and got bumped off the turn and broke (stride) so we went from first to seventh. That's the game. And we couldn't have been lower. It just makes you appreciate the highs when they come along."



Owners Albert and Michelle Crawford (center) meet El Deal in the winner's circle.

Tod Marks

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25th Anniversary

Big Game

Hunter O'Riley wins on cut back for Shay, Ryan, Toner

BY TOM LAW

Jimmy Toner watched the early stages of Saturday's Grade 2 Bowling Green Stakes unfold from his clubhouse box and thought more of the same was in store for him and jockey Florent Geroux at the Saratoga meet.

Geroux was aboard Hunter O'Riley in the 1 3/8-mile turf marathon and the son of Tiz Wonderful was lagging toward the back of the field as several of the race's major contenders and more accomplished rivals established a more forward position. The same thing happened last month when Toner stretched Hunter O'Riley out to 2 miles for the Belmont Gold Cup and watched him make his old-reliable run in the lane but just not enough to get past a quicker quartet of Europeans. Hunter O'Riley finished fifth that day, losing by just 2 1/2 lengths.

"I'm hoping, 'OK, maybe he'll beat two horses or something,'" Toner said of his thoughts as the field headed up the backstretch while the race's three favorites Ascend, Sadler's Joy and Bigger Picture readied their runs at the leader.

They all made their runs first, but Geroux and Hunter O'Riley proved the old theory that in grass racing the last move usually wins more than the first move. Hunter O'Riley made the widest move, too, and won the Bowling Green by a neck in a three-way run to the wire with runner-up Bigger Picture and third-place Sadler's Joy.

"That was some ride, huh?" Toner said watching



Tod Marks

Hunter O'Riley (left) rallies last of all to catch Bigger Picture and take Saturday's Bowling Green.

the replay in the clubhouse. "Look at this move he makes ... unbelievable. He kept working on him, just kept working with him.

"He settled beautifully. It was different going a mile and three-eighths today, when they'll go out in front of you. Going 2 miles they don't go in front of you. They slow down, they slow down and you're back to being jammed up in front of you. Then you try to make that run and they kick off. That's what happened in the 2-mile race the last time they ran. He only got beat 2 1/2 lengths to nice horses, but they kick on when you get there. Today at least he had a chance to pick them up."

Hunter O'Riley, who races for Sean Shay and Mike Ryan, indeed picked them up. He made up nearly five lengths from the 3/8ths pole to the wire, ran the last 3 furlongs in under 35 seconds and won

in 2:12.94.

The Bowling Green is the first stakes win for Hunter O'Riley, who was purchased by Ryan and some partners for \$120,000 as a yearling, offered at a 2-year-olds in training sale and essentially bought back when Shay showed up on the buyer's list on a \$50,000 bid. The victory was also the first at the meet for Toner and Geroux.

"It got me off the duck," Toner said as he walked from his box to the winner's circle. "He was zero for something and I'm zero for something. We were all zeroes going into this."

In fairness, Toner was only 0-for-3 heading into Saturday's Jim Dandy Day card, while Geroux's sledding was slightly more difficult as he brought

Continued On Page 19

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Bowling Green —

■ Continued from page 18

a record of 0-for-13 into the day and lost on his three mounts prior to the Bowling Green.

"It's great, I won a stakes a few years ago, for two minutes, then I got DQ'd," Geroux said of I'm A Chatterbox's disqualification in the 2015 Coaching Club American Oaks. "It's a great feeling to win a stakes anywhere, especially for good connections like Jimmy Toner. It takes a little bit of a pressure, it's only been a week, but you want to get off to a good start."

Geroux wasn't in any hurry after the start of the Bowling Green and settled Hunter O'Riley, who he rode to a second in allowance company last summer at Saratoga, last of seven around the first turn. Closing Bell, who along with California shipper Frank Conversation, broke sharp and took the early lead under Jose Lezcano before being joined by a headstrong Hello Don Julio and John Velazquez around the first bend.

Hunter O'Riley raced last into the stretch, just behind and to the inside of Grade 1 Manhattan winner and 9-5 favorite Ascend through the quarter in :25.87. Hello Don Julio and Closing Bell continued to race as a team through the stretch, leading the side-by-side pair Frank Conversation and Ascend and another side-by-side duo of Bigger Picture and Sadler's Joy. Geroux and Hunter O'Riley loped along through the half in :49.78 and were still there as Velazquez gave Hello Don Julio his head and led through 6 furlongs in 1:14.16 just ahead of Ascend.

The six in front of Hunter O'Riley started to bunch up heading into the far turn and past a mile in 1:37.72. Closing Bell, who was eventually pulled up, dropped back first as Geroux went around him before going back inside to save ground. The remaining five fanned across the track around the turn and into the lane.

"Turning for home, I thought I might pick up something, maybe third," Geroux said. "The last sixteenth of a mile, he really wanted to win the race, he gave me a little extra boost."

Sadler's Joy snatched the lead from Ascend with a furlong to run as Hunt-

er O'Riley and Bigger Picture raced almost in tandem, the latter holding a neck advantage as they flew through the final furlong on the firm ground. Geroux went to his right-handed whip five times in quick succession inside the sixteenth pole and drew on even terms with Bigger Picture and Sadler's Joy a few strides from home.

Hunter O'Riley inched clear at the wire, a neck in front of Bigger Picture, who had a neck on Sadler's Joy.

"It looks like he has a hard time winning races but he always tries and he never gets beat very far," Geroux said. "You know the distance won't be a problem, it was almost too short for him. Great trip, just save as much ground as I could, when it was time to go, I pulled the trigger and the horse quickened very nicely."

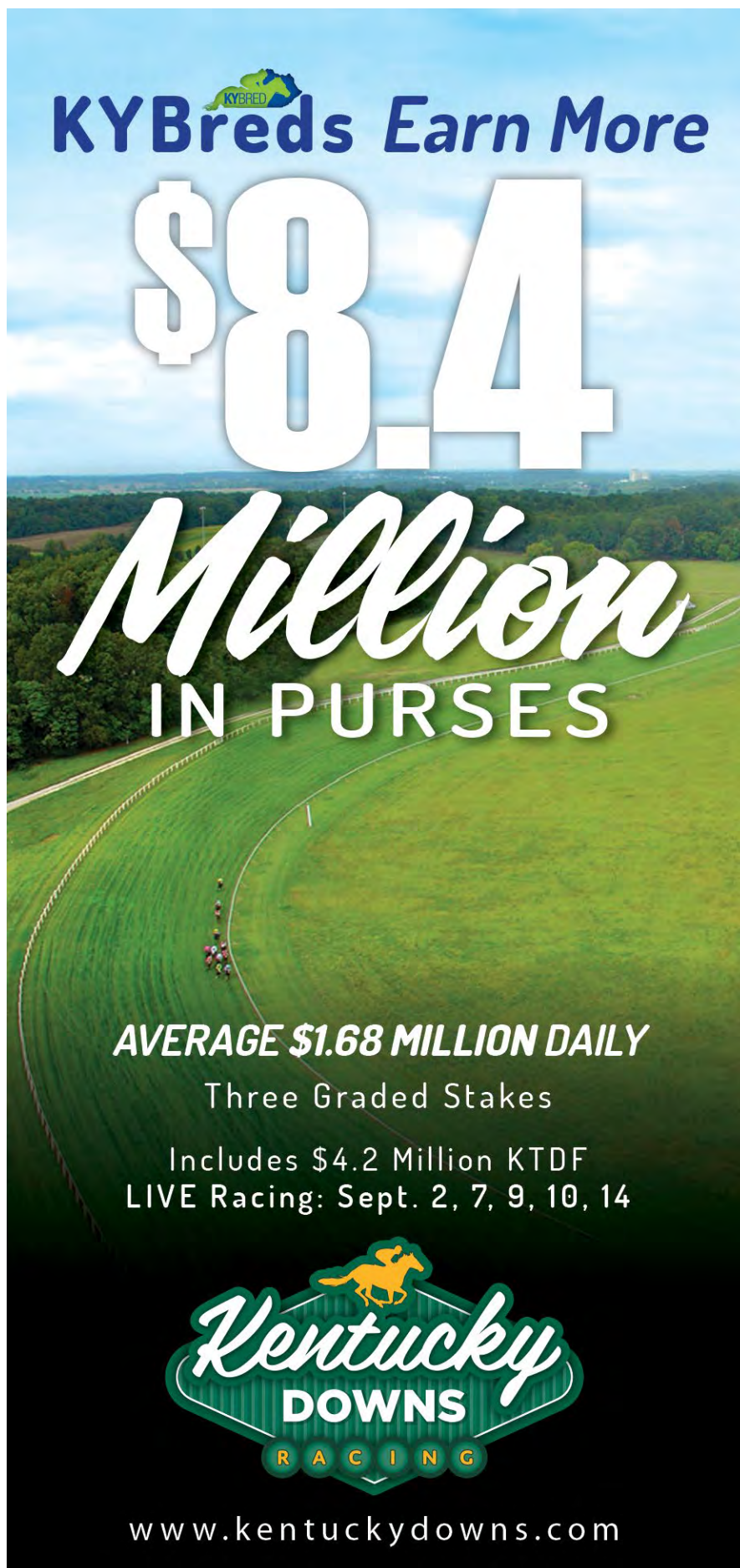
Toner and Ryan were quick to credit Geroux's winning ride on Hunter O'Riley, who added the Bowling Green to his other win in 2017 in a 1 1/2-mile allowance at Keeneland and his fourth victory from 15 starts.

"He rode him beautifully," Ryan said. "He's a one-run horse and needs to get to the outside. He was a little closer to the pace today, which helped, and they picked up the second quarter, which was a big help, too."

Toner also liked the setup of the Bowling Green versus last time in the Belmont Gold Cup, when the early pace was considerably slower over the extended trip. Hunter O'Riley was still able to close into the leaders that day, making up more than a dozen lengths but not quite measuring up to the Europeans.

"Two miles is too long for specific horses," Toner said. "European horses, they're used to doing that and they gallop around. He's a horse you would think would go 2 miles but without the speed, the pace, they don't come back to you. So when you need to kick they kick off in front of you. Plus they were handy horses in that race this year."

"This is great for him, he's a neat horse to be around and enjoys everything. He really just laid it out there for us. And he always does. He tries, just sometimes he can't get there, but he always tries. He never runs a bad race. Today he was able to get there, perfect ride, he saved all the ground, Florent waited before he tipped him out. I'm happy for Florent, we got him off the schneid today and me, too. It worked out for the both of us."



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Tod Marks

Coal Front (right) makes off with Saturday's Amsterdam, his third win in as many starts.

Fast Forward

Unbeaten Coal Front impresses in stakes debut score for Pletcher

BY BRANDON VALVO

AMSTERDAM STAKES RECAP

After trainer Todd Pletcher saddled Coal Front in the No. 2 stall of the Saratoga Race Course paddock, assistant Tristan Barry took the shank and walked the 3-year-old around his designated tree.

The colt's dark bay coat sparkled in the afternoon sunlight like a freshly shined pair of shoes. The colt bowed his neck, pricked his ears and fixed his eyes forward. A lone white diamond on his forehead contrasted the rest of his coat, along with Pletcher's distinctive white bridle.

For a horse who looked exceptional ahead of the Grade 2 Amsterdam Stakes, Coal Front was lucky to be here at all. After impressing his connections in the mornings as a 2-year-old, the \$575,000 purchase out of the 2016 OBS April sale suffered a serious setback, as Steve Young, the bloodstock agent who bought Coal Front, explained.

"He was arguably the best 2-year-old last year here," Young said. "He worked tremendous out of the gate and he got hurt. We sent him to Kentucky and Dr. Bramlage and WinStar put him back together. You're grateful and ecstatic that he did make it back because a lot of horses don't."

Coal Front, owned by Bob LaPenta and Head of Plains Partners, stood out to Young as a physical specimen and the agent loved his pedigree. Coal Front's dam, Miner's Secret, is by Mineshaft out of Madame Lagonza, an unraced mare who's a proven producer.

"She's one of those horses that if you really know, she was so much more than what she looked like on a pedigree page because she got hurt before she ever ran," Young said. "But she threw horses like Miss Ocean City, who broke her maiden here for Zito, and there's always an inherent ability that even the horses that don't show up on this pedigree could really run."

"The horse stood on his own merit, he trained great for the sale, and all the stars aligned. Between Bob (LaPenta) and I loving Mineshaft mares and being out of that family and training the way he did and looking the way that he did. He was a first-round draft choice."

Pletcher gave Coal Front plenty of time after his recovery. He debuted a winner in a Keeneland maiden special April 20. After stalking early, Coal Front streaked away in the lane to win by 6 1/2.

"It was the right thing to do by the horse and a horse that we felt like had a lot of talent," Pletcher said. "Mr. LaPenta is a patient owner and it paid off. It definitely helps when you have an experienced owner like Mr. LaPenta who knows sometimes you just have to take the time and give them a chance to develop."

After his maiden victory, Pletcher pointed Coal Front to an allowance at Belmont where the sophomore faced older horses. He won again, this time by 2 3/4.

"He certainly ran impressively enough in his debut that if you were ambitious, you could have tried a stakes, but we felt like it was more important to his development to take that additional step," Pletcher said.

Coal Front's first two wins made him the 3-5 favorite in his first stakes appearance in the Amsterdam. Coal Front pinned his ears back as the gates opened and sprinted to the lead. After a quarter-mile in :22.37, he was a length ahead of rival Mo Cash. Jose Ortiz shook up Mo Cash on the turn and pressured Coal Front through a :45.90 half.

John Velazquez gave Coal Front a tap on his right shoulder swinging into the stretch.

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Amsterdam —

■ Continued from page 20

The pair opened up 3 lengths on Mo Cash. Velazquez delivered one smack on his mount's right side, twirled his stick into his left hand, and gave another. Although Excitations rallied along the rail to be second, he never threatened Coal Front. Ridden out the final sixteenth, he won by 1 1/2, completing 6 furlongs in 1:09.77. Singing Bullet finished third.

"He beat a pretty strong group of older horses last time. To step up into a graded stakes, he seems like he's getting better and better," Pletcher reacted. "He was very professional and very relaxed during the race. He pricked his ears coming to the wire, which is hard to do when you're running that fast."

Coal Front is by Stay Thirsty, who LaPenta bought as a yearling and sold as a 2-year-old to Pletcher and Mike Repole. Pletcher campaigned the sire to Jim Dandy and Travers glory in 2011. As he thought back to that summer, a smile crept up on the trainer's composed expression.

"It's great to see (Stay Thirsty) do well and have a horse of this quality. He had a lot of success here in Saratoga, so it's fun for one of his offspring to do well. The main similarity is the talent level is very high. Physically, they're a little bit different. This horse is pretty fast."

In the winner's circle following the race, Pletcher considered the question of Coal Front running farther next time out.

"We'll be looking for at least seven-eighths next time," he joked, referring to the Grade 1 Allen Jerkens on Travers Day. "We'll see how he comes out of this. I do think he's a horse with a strong enough pedigree and enough talent that he will stretch out when the time is right."

Coal Front gave Pletcher his fourth win in the first five races Saturday. Mojovation broke his maiden in the first, Hieroglyphics captured the second and El Dulce debuted a winner in the fourth. Pletcher leads the Saratoga trainer standings with nine wins.

"It's good any time you're doing well and your horses are running well," he said. "It gives you confidence."



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Early Domination

Pletcher wins four of the first five races

Todd Pletcher entered the Saratoga winner's circle for the first of four times to meet Zayat Stables' first-time starter Mojovation following his win in Saturday's opener going 6 furlongs on the main track.

Purchased for \$330,000 at the Keeneland September yearling sale, the 2-year-old son of Quality Road broke sharp, led effortlessly and won by 2 lengths in 1:11.14.

"It was a good field, I think he did it really easily," said Pletcher. "He broke really alertly for a big

Continued On Page 23



Dave Harmon

Mojovation blazes to the finish to open Saturday's card with a win for trainer Todd Pletcher.



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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 22

colt that's meant to go further, he's got good tactical speed. He was training really well, we were really optimistic but you never know with first time starters. I thought he handled it all extremely well."

Pletcher wasted no time returning to the winner's circle and joining a group from Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners after the Hieroglyphics won the second, a 1-mile allowance on the turf.

"He's got a lot of upside, we've always been pretty high on this horse," said Jacob West, vice president of bloodstock for Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. "When he got onto the grass it kind of moved him up a lot. He did it pretty easily."

The colt was purchased for \$450,000 at last year's OBS March sale.

"He's pretty effective from a mile to a mile and an eighth," said Pletcher. "He's got good tactical speed, was able to rate timely and finish up well so I wouldn't be afraid to stretch him

out if the opportunity were there."

Pletcher didn't have a starter in the third and won the fourth with Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners again when 2-year-old first-time starter El Dulce took the 5 1/2-furlong turf maiden on the front end.

"It's tremendous when (the partners) can come in town, get their picture taken in the winner's circle. It's amazing," said West. "It's the best racecourse in America and for a lot of the partners it's a big sentiment."

Pletcher's day was highlighted by his victory in the Grade 2 Amsterdam with Coal Front, marking his fourth win of a tremendous day. He later saddled Kentucky Derby winner Always Dreaming to a third in the Grade 2 Jim Dandy.

— Shayna Tiller

- Saratoga is full of history and tradition. Same for the pedigrees of the Phipps Stable horses in trainer Shug McGaughey's barn.

"When they're nice ones like him, it's fun. When they're bad ones, it's not," Shug McGaughey said of training foals out of the great Phipps' mares. One of those foals is Revved Up, winner of the sixth race going 1



Dave Harmon

Phipps Stable's Revved Up hits the finish in Saturday's sixth.

3/8 miles on the grass in allowance company.

Revved Up is out by Candy Ride and out of champion Storm Flag Flying, a granddaughter of Hall of Famer Personal Ensign and winner of the 2002 Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. Storm Flag Flying is the dam of six

foals to race and Revved Up is the only to win more than one race.

Revved Up hadn't won since he took an allowance at the same distance last August at Saratoga. He failed to break through the second-level allow-

Continued On Page 24

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Tod Marks

Kirby's Penny stretches for the finish in Saturday's third race.

Saturday —

■ Continued from page 23

ance condition in three tries this year.

Revved Up was reunited with Jose Ortiz Saturday and the pair went off as the 7-2 second choice. Going down the backstretch, Ortiz moved to the outside of his brother Irad aboard 5-2 favorite and eventual runner-up Call Provision. They were still about 10 lengths from the leader. The field bunched around the turn, and Jose kept Irad to his inside, but now the top two finishers were only 2 lengths from the lead. Jose went outside while Irad was forced to go inside when they turned for home. Revved Up outfinished Call Provision to win by half-length.

"He trained well before we left Belmont and had a great work up here," McGaughey said. "When he came over, I thought he'd run good, and he did. He likes it here too, these sharper turns."

Although McGaughey stayed out of the win photo, Revved Up still had the company of many Phipps family members.

"We've got them all here. That's always good," McGaughey said.

— Ben Gowans

- "Brought me luck that little tiger," exclaimed one of the connections of Kirby's Penny after her win in the third. "First time I've ever worn these pants!"

"The dog lifted his leg on him this morning," trainer Wesley Ward explained.

Kirby's Penny didn't need much luck to win the starter allowance over 6 1/2 furlongs. The Kent Spell-

Saratoga Leaders

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Todd Pletcher	9
Chad Brown	8
Kiaran McLaughlin	5
Danny Gargan	3
Linda Rice	3

Jockey	1st
Irad Ortiz Jr.	12
Jose Ortiz	12
John Velazquez	8
Javier Castellano	7
Joel Rosario	7
Luis Saez	7
Ricardo Santana Jr.	5
Eric Cancel	4
Kendrick Carmouche	3

Through Saturday

man-owned filly went straight to the lead and didn't give it up on her way to a 5 1/2-length win under John Velazquez.

"Here there's obviously a lot of pressure because everybody wants to have a winner and be successful," Ward said, winning his first of the meet from 13 starters. "I come here and I try to get everybody a race, hopefully a winner, but I'm not too particular about entering. Actually the first 10, 12 starters of the meet were a little rough, I can tell you that, so it's a big relief."

Kirby's Penny was trained by Ward for her first four starts before being claimed by Thomas Julian for \$20,000 at Keeneland in April. Ward wasted little time claiming her back when the filly ran back for a \$40,000

Continued On Page 26

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Saturday —

■ Continued from page 24

tag 12 days later.

"I had her as a yearling, I broke her, as a 2-year-old and 3-year-old, she won here last year on the grass," Ward said. "I kept running her on the grass and she didn't quite raise her game up against winners. So we tried her on the dirt a few times in the morning and she went great. So I waited until Keeneland, she won, and somebody caught me. So the next guy put her back in for a claim, because of that here we are today."

— **Madison Scott**

• The dunk tank got quite a bit of use Saturday as part of Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund Day Across America.

"We reached out to all the race-tracks throughout the country to do something to raise awareness for the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund," Jockey's Guild National Manager Terry Meyocks said.

Fans and jockeys participated in what was quite a show during the early part of Saturday's card. For \$10 a throw, fans (as well as fellow jockey's) could throw a ball at a target to dry and "dunk" the jockey on the hot seat into the cold water.

Meyocks was unsure of the total amount raised for the PDJF, but it was evident the event was a success.

"Whatever it is, it's helpful to take care of 60 permanently disabled jockeys," he said. "There's no guaranteed funding and each permanently disabled (jockey) receives \$1,000 a month. That offsets their costs, bills."

Teaming up for a worthy cause, nearly every jockey in the room par-

ticipated in some way.

"It went pretty well. I want to thank everybody for helping the PDJF," jockey Eric Cancel said after leaving the dunk tank.

In a role reversal, many jockey's took the opportunity to dunk NYRA commentator Andy Serling, whose white T-shirt was drenched by the end of his stay in the tank.

"It was fun, everybody had a good time," Serling said. "It's a great cause and Saratoga is about having fun. If you can't have fun up here and make a little fun of yourself and have good a time while supporting a good cause, then what's the point?"

— **Ben Gowans**

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DUNK TANK
1-3PM
SUPPORT PDJF WITH
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PARTICIPANTS

1-1:15PM	Andy Serling
1:15-1:30PM	Carmouche/Santana, Jr.
1:30-1:45PM	Joe Bravo
1:45-2PM	Davis/Reyes
2-2:15PM	Alvarado/Leparoux
2:15-2:30PM	Brian Hernandez
2:30-2:45PM	Cancel/Arroya
2:45-3PM	Ramon Dominguez

Participants and schedule subject to change

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CHURCHILL DOWNS

2017 September Meet Stakes Schedule

September 15 - October 1

POCAHONTAS (GII)

2017 "Win and You're In Juvenile Fillies Division"
2018 Kentucky Oaks Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 16	Closes Sept. 2
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination fee)
Fillies, Two Years Old	1 1/16 Miles

IROQUOIS (GIII)

2017 "Win and You're In Juvenile Division"
2018 Kentucky Derby Points Race

Runs Sat., Sept. 16	Closes Sept. 2
\$150,000	(\$150 nomination fee)
Two Year Olds	1 1/16 Miles

LOCUST GROVE (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 16	Closes Sept. 2
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up	1 1/16 Miles

OPEN MIND

Runs Sat., Sept. 16	Closes Sept. 2
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Fillies & Mares, Three Years Old & Up	6 Furlongs

DOGWOOD (Listed)

Runs Sat., Sept. 23	Closes Sept. 9
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Fillies, Three Years Old	7 Furlongs

ACK ACK (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 30	Closes Sept. 16
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Three Year Olds & Up	1 Mile

LUKAS CLASSIC (GIII)

Runs Sat., Sept. 30	Closes Sept. 16
\$200,000	(\$200 nomination fee)
Three Year Olds & Up	1 1/8 Mile

JEFFERSON CUP (Listed)

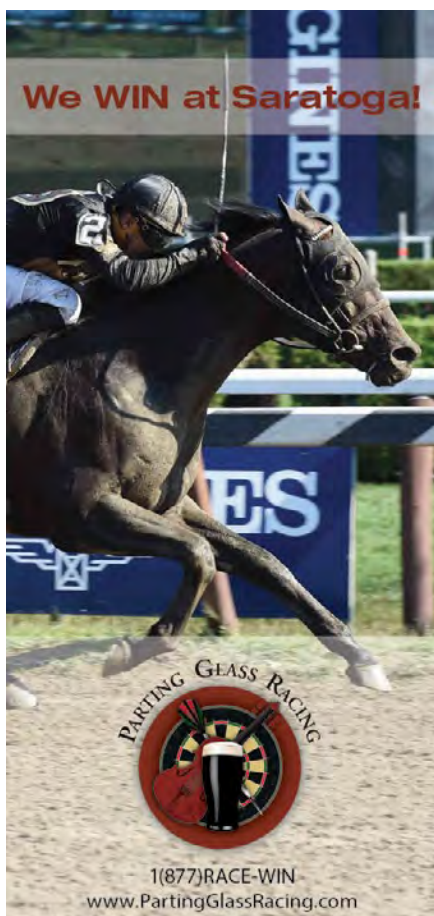
Runs Sat., Sept. 30	Closes Sept. 16
\$100,000	(\$100 nomination fee)
Three Year Olds	1 1/8 Miles Turf

Ben Huffman Racing Secretary: 502.638.3820 • ben.huffman@kyderby.com
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SARATOGA RESULTS

Saturday July 29.

FIRST \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 6F

5	Mojovation	J. Velazquez	\$3.70	\$3.00	\$2.20
2	Lionite	J. Ortiz		\$4.80	\$2.70
3	Bourbon Resolution	B. Hernandez, Jr.			\$2.20

B Colt 2015, by Quality Road - Starship Warspeed by Congrats
Owner: Zayat Stables, LLC. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: WinStar Farm, LLC (KY). Time: 1:11.14
Exacta (5-2), \$16.80; Superfecta (5-2-3-6), \$78.00; Trifecta (5-2-3), \$35.60

SECOND \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO, 1M TURF

8	Hieroglyphics	J. Ortiz	\$7.30	\$3.80	\$2.60
11	Hembree	J. Rosario		\$7.30	\$4.10
2	Surprise Twist	J. Castellano			\$3.00

B Colt 2014, by Pioneer of the Nile - Double Lime by Limehouse
Owner: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Anthony Guida (KY). Late Scratches: Junket, Master Merion
Time: 1:35.57
Daily Double (5-8), \$17.00; Exacta (8-11), \$55.50; Quinella (8-11), \$27.60; Superfecta (8-11-2-10), \$1,012.00; Trifecta (8-11-2), \$205.00

THIRD \$55,000, STARTERS ALLOWANCE \$50,000, 3 & UP, 6 1/2F

3	Kirby's Penny	J. Velazquez	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$2.10
4	Paluxy Princess	E. Cancel		\$18.40	\$6.60
7	Pico Chick	A. Arroyo			\$3.10

Dk B/ Br Filly 2013, by Macho Uno - Spirit Seeker by Peace Rules
Owner: Spellman, Kent. Trainer: Wesley Ward.
Breeder: Hidden Springs Farm (KY). Time: 1:18.17
Daily Double (8-3), \$15.40; Exacta (3-4), \$66.00; Superfecta (3-4-7-2), \$1,634.00; Trifecta (3-4-7), \$326.00; Pic 3 (5-8-3), \$23.20

FOURTH \$83,000, MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 2 YO, 5 1/2F TURF

3	El Dulce	J. Velazquez	\$11.60	\$6.10	\$3.90
2	Ultima D	J. Ortiz		\$4.80	\$3.10
10	Midnight Tea Time	R. Maragh			\$7.80

B Colt 2015, by Twirling Candy - Figureta (ARG) by The Leopard
Owner: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners. Trainer: Todd Pletcher.
Breeder: Clearsky Farms (KY). Late Scratches: Thunder's Honor
Time: 1:02.91
Daily Double (3-3), \$16.40; Exacta (3-2), \$48.00; Quinella (2-3), \$25.80; Superfecta (3-2-10-7), \$3,555.00; Trifecta (3-2-10), \$920.00; Pic 3 (8-3-3), \$53.50

FIFTH \$200,000, STAKES - AMSTERDAM S., 3 YO, 6 1/2F

2	Coal Front	J. Velazquez	\$3.20	\$2.60	\$2.40
5	Excitations	J. Castellano		\$4.80	\$4.00
1	Singing Bullet	R. Albarado			\$4.70

Dk B/ Br Colt 2014, by Stay Thirsty - Miner's Secret by Mineshaft
Owner: LaPenta, Robert V. and Head of Plains Partners LLC.
Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Breeder: Michael Edward Connelly (KY).
Time: 1:16.05
Daily Double (3-2), \$22.00; Exacta (2-5), \$18.20; Superfecta (2-5-1-3), \$367.00; Trifecta (2-5-1), \$131.00; Pic 3 (3-3-2), \$23.20; Pic 4 (5/8/9-3-3-2), \$130.00; Pic 5 (5-5/8/9-3-3-2), \$265.50

SIXTH \$90,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/8M TURF

5	Revved Up	J. Ortiz	\$9.20	\$4.80	\$3.30
7	Call Provision	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.90	\$3.20
4	Tasit	J. Leparoux			\$5.80

B Colt 2013, by Candy Ride (ARG) - Storm Flag Flying by Storm Cat
Owner: Phipps Stable. Trainer: Claude McGaughey III.
Breeder: Phipps Stable (KY). Late Scratches: Altar Boy
Claimed: Spring Up claimed by Patricia's Hope LLC for \$62,500
Time: 2:13.29. Daily Double (2-5), \$16.40; Exacta (5-7), \$33.00; Superfecta (5-7-4-9), \$2,509.00; Trifecta (5-7-4), \$404.50; Pic 3 (3-2-5), \$108.50

SEVENTH \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

8	Ack Naughty	J. Rosario	\$5.40	\$2.90	\$2.60
7	Mom's On Strike	L. Saez		\$3.10	\$2.80
3	Affileo (GB)	J. Alvarado			\$9.20

B Mare 2012, by Afleet Alex - Dash for Money by General Meeting
Owner: Nantucket Thoroughbred Partners and Sheep Pond Partners.
Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Waterville Lake Stables Ltd LLC (NY).
Late Scratches: Crimson Frost, Dreamofjean E., Just Got Out
Time: 1:43.16
Daily Double (5-8), \$28.20; Exacta (8-7), \$14.60; Superfecta (8-7-3-12), \$2,178.00; Trifecta (8-7-3), \$142.50; Pic 3 (2-5-8), \$41.20

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

3	El Deal	J. Castellano	\$7.10	\$4.80	\$3.00
2	Awesome Banner	J. Lezcano		\$9.50	\$4.50
8	Limousine Liberal	J. Ortiz			\$2.40

B Horse 2012, by Munnings - Spirit of Wailea by Out of Place
Owner: Crawford, Michelle and Crawford, Albert.
Trainer: Jorge Navarro. Breeder: Martha Buckner (KY).
Late Scratches: A. P. Indian. Time: 1:09.26
Daily Double (8-3), \$22.20; Exacta (3-2), \$56.00; Superfecta (3-2-8-5), \$273.50; Trifecta (3-2-8), \$116.50; Pic 3 (5-8-3), \$84.00; (5-8-4), \$24.80

NINTH \$250,000, STAKES - BOWLING GREEN, 4&UP, 1 3/8M TURF

5	Hunter O'Riley	F. Geroux	\$34.60	\$12.40	\$6.60
1	Bigger Picture	J. Bravo		\$5.10	\$3.40
4	Sadler's Joy	J. Castellano			\$2.60

B Ridgling 2013, by Tiz Wonderful - Oblige by Bernardini
Owner: Shay, Sean and Ryan, Michael J.. Trainer: James Toner.
Breeder: Mike G. Rutherford (KY). Time: 2:12.94
Daily Double (3-5), \$151.50; Exacta (5-1), \$166.00; Superfecta (5-1-4-7), \$1,140.00; Trifecta (5-1-4), \$524.00; Pic 3 (8-3-5), \$495.50

TENTH \$600,000, STAKES - JIM DANDY S.

PRESENTED BY NYRA BETS, 3 YO, 1 1/8M

5	Good Samaritan	J. Rosario	\$19.20	\$5.60	\$3.50
3	Giuseppe the Great	L. Saez		\$8.50	\$3.90
1	Always Dreaming	J. Velazquez			\$2.90

B Colt 2014, by Harlan's Holiday - Pull Dancer by Pulpit
Owner: WinStar Farm LLC, Head of Plains Partners LLC, China Horse Club, SF Racing Group. Trainer: William Mott.
Breeder: WinStar Farm, LLC (KY). Time: 1:50.69
Daily Double (5-5), \$275.00; Exacta (5-3), \$145.00; Superfecta (5-3-1-4), \$1,070.00; Trifecta (5-3-1), \$355.50; Pic 3 (3-5-5), \$1,156.00; Grand Slam (3/7/8-2/3/8-1/4/5-5), \$90.50

ELEVENTH. \$83,000 F&M MAIDEN SPECIAL WGT, 1 1/16M TURF

2	Durable Goods	J. Ortiz	4.20	3.00	2.30
3	Wake Island	J. Castellano		5.50	3.80
8	Magical Sky	J. Leparoux			3.60

B. f. 4, Medaglia d'Oro-Divallarious, Distorted Humor. Breeder: Tenth Street Stable and Darley.
Owner: Klaravich Stable and William Lawrence. Trainer: Chad Brown.
Exacta: \$19. Trifecta: \$105.50. Superfecta: \$834. Double: \$61.50. Pick 3: \$1,027. Pick 4: \$4,667. Pick 5: \$58,984. Pick 6: \$49,568. Pick 6 consolation: \$630.

On Track Handle: 6,531,330. Inter-State Handle: 21,173,075

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Small time

Three-horse field kicks off Sunday card

BY SEAN CLANCY AND TOM LAW

Fifteen days ago the \$200,000 Shuvee Handicap, the feature race on today's 10-race card, closed with just 10 nominations. When entries were taken Thursday, only three were entered.

The trio, in post position order, are Grade 2 Fleur de Lis runner-up Apologynotaccepted, Grade 2 winner and recent Grade 1 Ogden Phipps runner-up Paid Up Subscriber and four-time Grade 3 winner and Grade 1 Apple Blossom runner-up Terra Promessa. The trainers of the three are some of the best in the business, Bill Mott, Chad Brown and Steve Asmussen. Same for the jockeys, Luis Saez, John Velazquez and Jose Ortiz.

A three-horse field for a graded stakes race, or any race for that matter, is essentially a riders' race. Pardon the cliché on that, but ask around.

We asked three retired jockeys, all winners of the Shuvee, to analyze the race and look back on their personal experiences in short fields. Richard Migliore, Robbie Davis and Ramon Dominguez, collectively the winners of more than 12,800 races and \$467,564,858 in purses, told us what to expect.

Robbie Davis won 3,382 races, including the Shuvee twice when it was run at Belmont. The Idaho native retired in 2013 and remains in the game as a trainer based in Saratoga. After walking back to his barn on the harness track Friday morning, Davis cleaned his tack, looked back on his own ride in a three-horse race and analyzed the 2017 Shuvee.

Worst races to ride. If you get in trouble you might be the dumbest jockey on the face of the earth to get in trouble in a three-horse field. You take back off the two of them and you're boxed in, they've got you sitting there, they're not going to move until they have to. It happened to me. I was riding for Allen Jerkens. I was like, 'how does that happen?' They trapped me. I can't take back and I can't go forward and they just had me in a box in a three-horse field.

It was a pretty good race, I forget, it was up here in Saratoga. I just scratched my head all the way home and was like, 'how did I fall for that?' I was thinking those two would hook up, burn each other out, I'd sit behind, pick them up and win the race. Well they had other ideas. It was Cordero and Jorge Velasquez. They said something in Spanish, I wasn't sure what it was but they just kept slowing the pace down and slowing it down and I just kept checking and checking and checking. It was something.

The Chief yelled at me pretty hard. He was not happy. He said, 'you're the dumbest jock on the face of the earth, you got in trouble in a three-horse field. You're the only jock I've seen get in trouble in a three-horse field.'

The race Sunday is a mile and an eighth, it's a jockey's race. Completely. I see Johnny Velazquez is in the Hall of Fame so I put my money on Johnny. He's riding Paid Up Subscriber,

SHUVEE HANDICAP PREVIEW

he's really smart, he's in the Hall of Fame for a reason and he's riding for a Hall of Fame trainer. My money's on him.

Billy Mott though, he's got Apologynotaccepted and you can never count him out. It's one of those things, you have to break out of there like you're going or if nobody goes you take it and slow it down as much as you can and hope the guys next to you choke their horses down and are out of the race. If he makes an early move you've got to go with him, there's no taking back. So it could end up in a match race where two of them go out as hard as they can and run the other one off their feet trying to catch them.

Apologynotaccepted on the rail has speed, he's going to go and Johnny's not going to let him get too far in front of him. He's going to breathe on him, grab him by the throat, he's going to have to keep him soft. He can't let him go out there and just gallop. He's got to breathe on him a little bit. It could be all three of them going down the backside together. Terra Promessa, she's got speed, too.

It's an interesting race, it really is. May the best horse win, hopefully. It makes it fun though; I don't like to see three-horse fields but it is a jockey's race.

Hopefully there's not a scratch in the race, that would make it worse. Match racing is just not fun, especially after Ruffian and all that. Who knows, there could be a couple scratches and there'd be a walkover. I've never seen one of those. Spectacular Bid did it once. I'm surprised there isn't somebody in there going for fourth money. I would have put my horse in there for fourth money. They didn't call me. I mean, hey, fourth money is huge. That's like winning one. And if it's a scratch in the race you're stakes-placed, blacktype. It's hard to believe these big guys, they know the races are coming up. Where are they? It's unbelievable. Maybe they're running too many female stakes too close together.

I'm going to be an interesting race, I'll definitely be watching it.

Ramon Dominguez looked at the first page of the Shuvee, with two entries, then turned the page to see one. "Get the heck out of here...three horses. You've got to be kidding me. For real, you want me to look at this?" Nobody could read a race and adapt to a race better than Dominguez, a member of the Hall of Fame and the winner of 4,985.

It's one of those things where logically, less horses, easier handicapping but it's actually quite the opposite, it can get extremely complicated, to anticipate what is going to happen is nearly impossible. With only three horses, it's sort of the time, regardless of the trainer, that there is so much pressure that they feel that they fall into giving instructions. Even as a jockey, as much as you prepare and try to foresee the scenarios, you need to go open-minded and be willing to improvise as the race develops.

On paper it seems like Asmussen and Mott will go at it and it should set up beautifully for Paid Up Subscriber, who is versatile and there is absolutely no reason to go to the lead so she should sit in third. There should be pace but who's to say that one of them doesn't say, 'Maybe I'll sit third.' It's just one of those races, you play close attention to the other two but as far as positioning, it's almost where you can close your eyes and put your horse where your horse needs to be. At the same time, if you sense that the pace is too comfortable, let's say you're sitting second, you are more willing to go and put pressure way earlier than you would in a larger field, because you're not as concerned about doing the job for somebody else.

It's one of those races, as a jockey, you hated to ride. If you go out there with a plan, because there's only two horses, it's usually ends up being a disaster. It's so easy to understand



Tod Marks

Paid Up Subscriber, one of three in the Shuvee.

your opposition, what they like, what they don't like, the other jockeys, what they do, where they are but at the same time there's a huge gray area of improvisation that's needed, you need to be open, alert about pace, more so than in a regular race. Silly stuff, for example, you're in front in a large field, you have pressure on both sides, you don't really care if you're dead on the rail, but in an evenly matched race, you want to make sure you don't open the rail. Then again, if you're third, do you go up the rail or around, they always say don't ever go inside one or around two...

The toughest part, the one who has to make decisions the quickest is Jose. His horse does have quite a lot of speed, the first two strides out of there determine, 'Do I go or do I let Apologynotaccepted go?' Based on what I see, this is a filly that can absolutely sit second off the other one or she can go. Do you establish the lead, do you go with Apologynotaccepted if she goes and risk going too fast? But, who's to say, typical Asmussen, she might break on top and it won't be his choice, then it's just a matter of finessing her and trying to slow her down.

Quite honestly, if you're riding a filly who just got beat a length by Songbird, regardless of your plans, if she breaks on top, you put your hands down and you might have to say, 'Let's go for it?' If you break on top, why on Earth would I take back?

Let's just say that three of them break evenly and the outside filly is committed to go and the inside filly is going at it, hypothetically speaking, if Johnny's filly is relaxed enough where he can sit just a length or two off them, that's perfect.

I rode some smaller stakes in Maryland with three horses, when it happened, I said, 'Great, less horses,' but the choices are magnified, there is little room for error.

Richard Migliore won 4,450 races, including the Shuvee four times when it was run at Belmont. The New York native joined XBTv as a racing analyst before the meet started. Behind the Morning Line Kitchen Friday morning, Migliore leaned over the past performances and analyzed Sunday's feature.

Terra Promessa is the main speed, she resents being rated anyway, she's the most naturally fast, they all have some speed but she actually has real speed, look at her earlier fractions, she'll go in :23, these go in :24. She is naturally the fastest, you look at her best races they're on the lead, they're legitimate

Continued On Page 31

Shuvee —

■ Continued from page 30

fractions, she's rolling and going on with it.

I think Paid Up Subscriber will be laying third, the inside filly will leave from the rail just to make sure that the outside filly goes on a little bit and I think Johnny winds up last in a three-horse field, he's going to come out, Johnny's always going to come out forward.

Jose Ortiz is definitely on the lead, the worst thing he can do is try to slow her down, her best races are when she goes fast and she keeps going fast. He'll just let her get in a good rhythm, he'll try to get away with a :47 and change half, this is a deeper track, it would be a mistake to try to make her go any slower than that, you wouldn't want to get in the way of her natural gait, whatever she's doing well, let her do. Basically you want to suck these guys into the race with you, you want to keep them off the bridle chasing you.

It's not a match race because it's three horses, but you have three horses who usually have some semblance of speed, I think I would approach it like a match race, I'd let mine bounce along, they're all going to try to keep up with me so they'll get just as tired as I am on the lead. This race will get real ugly the last eighth of a mile, but I'd want everybody drunk if I'm on the lead.

The outside filly is going, she'll probably clear, the inside filly will be on the hardest chase and Johnny will be pecking at his filly, I think Terra Promessa outlasts them, that's who I want to ride, if you're in front, don't keep a straight path, meander, throw some dirt where you can, keep them guessing.

You want to go from the rail. If I'm Johnny, I want to hope that the 1 goes hard and entertains the other filly, of course I'm going to come out running, angle in, make Luis make a decision, he's that way anyway, he can beat Jose's filly but he'll need some help.

Come out running, try to create enough separation from this filly, he clears, you hop her heels, you're laying second, but Johnny is a guy who wants to be forward too, what psy-

chologically happens, when you see that, you go, that plays right into the outside filly, the other two are chasing you and probably having some body contact which is even better, that's a perfect world.

Johnny has the toughest decision and the most decisions to make. Johnny's got to hope they take some initiative, either way, he's in an unenviable position because he's got to take up the task of being the chaser.

Luis is aggressive, he's a strong finisher.

Johnny is the most complete rider out there today, there's nothing he can't do. He always wants to get his position.

Jose Ortiz is from the same cloth as Johnny, he's not at that level yet, but he's comfortable on the lead, comfortable from off the pace, comfortable on the grass, comfortable on the dirt. Great hands, horses run for him.

People don't realize how much harder it is to ride in a short field than a big field. Get a five or six-horse field and be on the overwhelming favorite and you'll find out how many friends you don't have.

For a three-horse field, it's an interesting race.

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Sunday, July 30.

1ST (1:00PM). \$200,000, STK - THE SHUVEE, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1 1/8M

Pic 3, Pic 5, Daily Double

1	.....	1.....	Apologynotaccepted.....	L. Saez.....	W. Mott.....	3-1
2	.....	2.....	Paid Up Subscriber.....	J. Velazquez.....	C. Brown.....	1-1
3	.....	3.....	Terra Promessa.....	J. Ortiz.....	S. Asmussen.....	6-5

2ND (1:33PM). \$67,000, CLM \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M , 1M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....	MTO.....	Annie Rocks.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....	12-1
1a	.....	5.....	Jet Majesty.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....	12-1
2	.....	1.....	Enduring Erin.....	A. Arroyo.....	R. Diodoro.....	8-1
3	.....	2.....	Industrial Policy.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Casse.....	6-1
4	.....	3.....	Bargaining Table.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Miceli.....	7-2
5	.....	6.....	Miss Aja Brown.....	M. Franco.....	C. Englehart.....	15-1
6	.....	7.....	Frozen Hannah.....	K. Carmouche.....	J. Sharp.....	3-1
7	.....	8.....	Five Hearts.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	J. Sharp.....	10-1
8	.....	9.....	Gotachancetodance.....	L. Saez.....	T. Pletcher.....	5-2

3RD (2:07PM). \$28,000, CLM \$14,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/8M

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1.....	Cody's Notes.....	L. Reyes.....	J. Morrison.....	20-1
2	.....	2.....	Fielding Gold.....	M. Luzzi.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	3-1
3	.....	3.....	Enduring Honor.....	F. Geroux.....	T. Amoss.....	9-2
4	.....	4.....	Dunk a Din.....	J. Velazquez.....	W. Catalano.....	7-2
5	.....	5.....	Sir Maurice.....	E. Hylton.....	R. Persaud.....	15-1
6	.....	6.....	Augie's Coming.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	8-5
7	.....	7.....	Linkappleyard.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Nevin.....	8-1

4TH (2:41PM). \$55,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....	1.....	Liberal Spin.....	A. Arroyo.....	G. Contessa.....	15-1
2	.....	2.....	Romans Paradise.....	J. Lezcano.....	C. Domino.....	15-1
3	.....	3.....	Rate for Me.....	M. Franco.....	G. Weaver.....	4-1
4	.....	4.....	Mister Maestro.....	J. Leparoux.....	M. Tomlinson.....	6-1
5	.....	5.....	Junket.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Moquett.....	8-1
6	.....	6.....	Axtell.....	J. Velazquez.....	M. Casse.....	7-2
7	.....	7.....	Six Schillings.....	J. Ortiz.....	W. Catalano.....	3-1
8	.....	8.....	Bookman.....	L. Saez.....	J. Sharp.....	6-1
9	.....	9.....	Heldatgunpoint.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	D. Cannizzo.....	10-1

5TH (3:15PM). \$83,000, MSW, 2 YO, F , 6F

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

1	.....	1.....	Separationofpowers.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....	5-1
2	.....	2.....	Party Club.....	L. Reyes.....	D. Lukas.....	8-1
3	.....	3.....	Fortune Street.....	J. Alvarado.....	M. Hennig.....	6-1
4	.....	4.....	Radiant Beauty.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	9-2
5	.....	5.....	We Are Family.....	M. Franco.....	M. Nevin.....	12-1
6	.....	6.....	Dancing.....	J. Leparoux.....	M. Casse.....	8-1
7	.....	7.....	Memorial Drive.....	F. Geroux.....	S. Asmussen.....	5-2
8	.....	8.....	Scary Not Scared.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	H. DePaz.....	7-2

6TH (3:49PM). \$83,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/8M (INNER TURF)

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

1	.....	1.....	All About Voodoo.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	T. Pletcher.....	4-1
2	.....	2.....	Snuggling.....	K. Carmouche.....	J. Sheppard.....	20-1
3	.....	3.....	Bushmill's Legend.....	M. Franco.....	G. Weaver.....	12-1
4	.....	4.....	Strong Side.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	C. Englehart.....	12-1
5	.....	5.....	Run Time.....	J. Leparoux.....	M. Maker.....	9-2
6	.....	6.....	Im the Captain Now.....	L. Saez.....	B. Tagg.....	5-1
7	.....	7.....	Captain Hardship.....	J. Velazquez.....	H. Motion.....	5-1
8	.....	8.....	Focus Group.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Brown.....	3-1
9	.....	9.....	Oh So Sinister.....	J. Panaijo.....	J. Gutierrez.....	30-1
10	.....	10.....	Desperado.....	D. Davis.....	J. Milne.....	12-1

7TH (4:25PM). \$56,000, CLM \$32,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 3/16M (TURF)

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

1	.....	1.....	King of New York.....	A. Arroyo.....	R. Diodoro.....	9-2
1a	.....	9.....	Dream Man.....	J. Alvarado.....	G. Contessa.....	9-2
2	.....	2.....	Indebted.....	L. Saez.....	J. Sharp.....	6-1
3	.....	3.....	Divine Oath.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	D. Jacobson.....	12-1
4	.....	4.....	Marriage Fever.....	M. Luzzi.....	R. Barbara.....	8-1
5	.....	5.....	Docs Legacy (IRE).....	J. Lezcano.....	D. Jacobson.....	20-1
6	.....	6.....	War Bond.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Maker.....	10-1
7	.....	7.....	Neoclassic.....	M. Franco.....	A. Adsit.....	12-1
8	.....	8.....	Generous Kitten.....	J. Leparoux.....	M. Maker.....	5-2
9	.....	10.....	Mills.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Rodriguez.....	5-1
10	.....	11.....	For Greater Glory.....	F. Geroux.....	R. Moquett.....	12-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$78,000, AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1.....	True Bet.....	M. Franco.....	M. Dilger.....	15-1
2	.....	2.....	Nobody Move.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Toscano, Jr.....	9-2
3	.....	3.....	Duquesne Whistle.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	L. Rice.....	8-1
4	.....	4.....	Saratoga Giro.....	J. Flores.....	P. Barrow.....	6-1
5	.....	5.....	Rectify.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Baker.....	7-2
6	.....	6.....	Runaway Lute.....	L. Saez.....	G. Contessa.....	20-1
7	.....	7.....	Syndergaard.....	J. Velazquez.....	T. Pletcher.....	8-5
8	.....	8.....	Cause for Surprise.....	A. Arroyo.....	G. Gullo.....	8-1

9TH (5:40PM). \$85,000, ALW, 3 YO'S & UP, 1M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....	2.....	Irish Prayer.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Maker.....	6-1
1a	.....	12.....	Mambo At the Gym.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	M. Maker.....	6-1
2	.....	1.....	Lucullan.....	K. Carmouche.....	K. McLaughlin.....	9-2
3	.....	3.....	Rappel.....	M. Franco.....	R. Ribaudo.....	10-1
4	.....	4.....	Kantune.....	J. Ortiz.....	M. Casse.....	7-2
5	.....	5.....	Black Tide.....	J. Lezcano.....	D. Cannizzo.....	12-1
6	.....	6.....	Planet Trailblazer (BRZ).....	J. Velazquez.....	A. Avila.....	15-1
7	.....	MTO.....	Dogtown.....	M. Franco.....	A. Arriaga.....	4-1
8	.....	8.....	Race Me Home (IRE).....	J. Leparoux.....	D. Romans.....	10-1
9	.....	9.....	Portando.....	J. Alvarado.....	L. Rice.....	5-1
10	.....	10.....	J. S. Choice.....	L. Saez.....	T. Pletcher.....	6-1
11	.....	11.....	Captain Moss.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	C. Englehart.....	10-1
12	.....	MTO.....	Strong Yen.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	R. Moquett.....	9-2

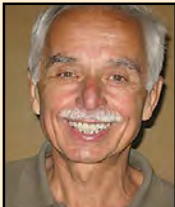
10TH (6:18PM). \$47,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....	6.....	Heated Verdict.....	L. Saez.....	G. Weaver.....	4-1
1a	.....	9.....	The Walk.....	M. Franco.....	A. Dutrow.....	4-1
2	.....	1.....	Psychic Energy.....	J. Velazquez.....	L. Rice.....	10-1
3	.....	2.....	Pioneer Spirit.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.....	J. Servis.....	3-1
4	.....	3.....	Bookew Bucks.....	R. Santana, Jr.....	G. Weaver.....	8-1
5	.....	4.....	Speedy Slew.....	J. Alvarado.....	M. Trombetta.....	20-1
6	.....	5.....	New York's Finest.....	J. Lezcano.....	L. Rice.....	9-2
7	.....	7.....	Real Creel.....	F. Geroux.....	R. Handal.....	15-1
8	.....	8.....	Independent Worker.....	K. Carmouche.....	N. Chatterpaul.....	20-1
9	.....	10.....	Tu Exageres.....	J. Ortiz.....	C. Clement.....	7-2
10	.....	11.....	Warm Springs.....	D. Davis.....	R. Reid, Jr.....	20-1
11	.....	12.....	Undercutter.....	A. Arroyo.....	R. Barbara.....	30-1
12	MTO.....	Saratoga Charlie.....	Rider TBA.....	L. Gyarmati.....	5-1
13	MTO.....	Holding Aces.....	M. Franco.....	C. Englehart.....	3-1

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the
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grid**



**John
Shapazian**



**Gaile
Fitzgerald**



**Tom
Law**



**Charles
Bedard**



**Max
Hodge**

Race #					
1	Paid Up Subscriber Terra Promessa Apologynotaccepted	Terra Promessa Paid Up Subscriber Apologynotaccepted	Paid Up Subscriber Terra Promessa Apologynotaccepted	Terra Promessa Paid Up Subscriber Apologynotaccepted	Paid Up Subscriber Terra Promessa Apologynotaccepted
2	Frozen Hannah Jet Majesty Gotachancetodance	Industrial Policy Gotachancetodance Frozen Hannah	Frozen Hannah Gotachancetodance Bargaining Table	Frozen Hannah Industrial Policy Gotachancetodance	Frozen Hannah Gotachancetodance Industrial Policy
3	Augie's Coming Dunk A Din Enduring Honor	Enduring Honor Dunk A Din Fielding Gold	Augie's Coming Dunk A Din Linkappleyard	Enduring Honor Augie's Coming Dunk A Din	Enduring Honor Augie's Coming Dunk A Din
4	Six Schillings Rate For Me Axtell	Rate For Me Junket Axtell	Axtell Six Schillings Junket	Six Schillings Rate For Me Axtell	Mister Maestro Bookman Rate For Me
5	Memorial Drive Scary Not Scared Party Club	We Are Family Memorial Drive Radiant Beauty	Scary Not Scared Memorial Drive Separationofpowers	Memorial Drive Scary Not Scared Radiant Beauty	Radiant Beauty Party Club Memorial Drive
6	All About Voodoo Focus Group Run Time	Im The Captain Now All About Voodoo Focus Group	Captain Hardship All About Voodoo Focus Group	Focus Group Im The Captain Now Desperado	Focus Group Captain Hardship Bushmill's Legend
7	Generous Kitten Winning Move entry Neoclassic	War Bond Mills Marriage Fever	War Bond Indebted Generous Kitten	Winning Move entry Generous Kitten War Bond	Generous Kitten King Of New York For Greater Glory
8	Syndergaard Rectify Nobody Move	Nobody Move Rectify Duquesne Whistle	Syndergaard Nobody Move Saratoga Giro	Syndergaard Rectify Cause For Surprise	Syndergaard Cause For Surprise Saratoga Giro
9	Kantune Lucullan Black Tide	Rappel J.S. Choice Lucullan	Kantune Lucullan Portando	Kantune Lucullan Portando	Lucullan Portando Kantune
10	Tu Exageres Pioneer Spirit West Point entry	Heated Verdict Pioneer Spirit Tu Exageres	Tu Exageres Pioneer Spirit Bookew Bucks	Pioneer Spirit Tu Exageres Heated Verdict	Heated Verdict Bookew Buck Real Creal
2017 Records:		22/82	19/82	20/82	30/82
					10/63*

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GUEST HANDICAPPER UPDATE

Today's guest handicapper is Max Hodge, vice president of the client services at Fasig-Tipton Co. in Lexington. Hodge is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, owner and breeder and a lifelong racing fan and horseplayer. Saturday, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce President Todd Shimkus picked three winners.

*The guest's win total does not include Monday or Wednesday, when only The Saratoga Special's regular handicappers' picks appear online at thisishorseracing.com.

Chiefly Speaking

I was going to write a story about Melissa Cohen, assistant trainer for Rick Violette, winner of the Godolphin Industry Award last year. I was going to meet Cohen at the barn and spend a day with her. I asked her what time to meet her. She said, "4:30...4:35." I set my alarm for 4:00 several mornings. Setting an alarm and abiding by an alarm are two different things. I did not meet Cohen at the barn at 4:30.

I decided I would find her around 6:30 or 7 Saturday morning, spend an hour with her, walk back and forth to the track while she ambled on my favorite lead pony (OK, I have a lot of favorites). Then the siren went off, the lights flashed and Cohen's morning, Violette's morning was shot. So was mine.

Hours later, without the moxie to try Cohen on a tough morning, I was picking trash and kicking stones at the Morning Line Kitchen when Hall of Famer Jacinto Vasquez walked past. Drinking a cup of black coffee and by himself, he just seemed like he wanted to talk. When in doubt/desperation, ask a Hall of Famer about another Hall of Famer.

I said hello and hit record. The subject was Allen "The Chief" Jerkens, and a big day at Saratoga in 1973 when an ordinary horse named Onion met a great horse named Secretariat.

"We catch Secretariat on a bad day. You have to give Allen Jerkens a lot of credit, he saw Secretariat work, that's how he made the decision to run the horse. I come to the paddock and he said, 'Just get me a check.' I said, 'What do you mean, a check? We're going to get the whole thing.' He was so nervous. After the race, he was crying like a baby.

"No, we didn't talk strategy, he never give me instructions, I never followed instructions in 50,000 races, I never follow instructions.

"Onion was a nice horse, you could lay third, fourth with him. He was a solid 30, 40,000 horse. He loved this racetrack, he loved this racetrack. I

went to the outside fence on the backside, I said, 'I'm going to make sure Secretariat goes inside me not around me.' Secretariat liked coming outside. Cordero and Belmonte were behind me, they holler, 'Here comes Big Red.' I went farther out. Turcotte was all mad, he yelled, 'Shut up. Shut up.'

"When I got to the turn, I crowded him right back to the inside fence, I keep him in there, I said to Turcotte, 'Please, Turcotte, don't leave me, take me for a ride to the eighth pole. Don't leave me.' He stayed with me, we passed the three-eighths pole and come to the quarter pole, I see him hit him on the shoulder and he didn't move, I said, 'Uh oh, I got Big Red.' I squeezed him a little bit more and made sure I kept him in there, I only let him down the last sixteenth, I went out and hit my horse left-handed, he won by about a length.

I came back and the crowd booed me like I did something wrong.

"Mr. Jerkens said, 'How can you win on this horse? How can you win on this horse?' I said, 'Because you're the trainer, that's why I win on the horse, because you're a good trainer.'

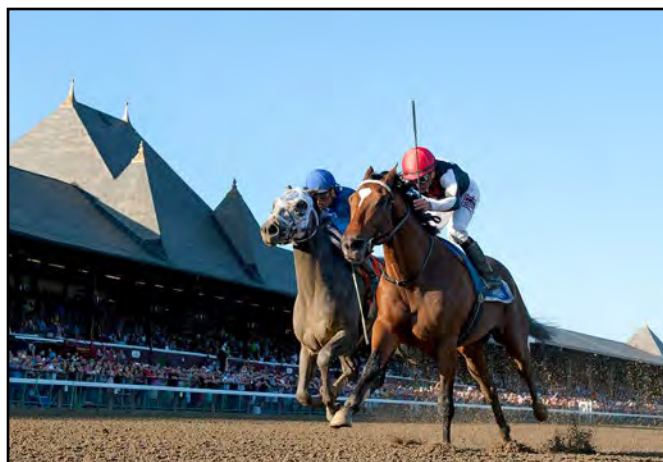
"He put Cordero on a horse one day that got beat, he started screaming and hollering, 'I don't know why this horse didn't run no good today.' Cordero said, 'Papa, Papa, Papa...' I said, 'Mr.

Jerkens, you just can't train any more.' He looked at me and said, 'You're ---damn right,' and walked away.

"He was an excellent guy to ride for, they don't make any human beings around the racetrack like Allen Jerkens. A lot of kids got started with him, he would give a mount to anybody. Anybody who was not doing any good would go to him and say, 'Mr. Jerkens, I'm not doing any good, can you put me on a horse?' He'd put them on the best freaking horse in the barn, he was always trying to help someone.

"John Ruane was riding a horse for him, he would make three or four moves with the horse and he got beat most of the time, he rode him three or four times. I went to him and said, 'Mr. Jerkens, why don't you put me on that horse?' He said, 'Damn it, I'm trying to help John Ruane, he's trying to make a living, trying to pay his bills.' I said, 'But, he's costing you money.' John Ruane went to ride another horse out of town, he didn't want to hurt his feelings, he put me on the horse and the horse galloped. John Ruane came back to town and he said, 'Sorry, you lost that mount to Vasquez.' He never wanted to take a jock off a horse. Allen Jerkens was the most wonderful trainer, the most wonderful man on the racetrack."

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