

Year 16 • No. 10

Thursday, August 4, 2016

The *Saratoga*
Special
Saratoga's Daily Newspaper on Thoroughbred Racing



Flying Horse

Bob Le Beau soars into Grade 1 Smithwick

CLAIBORNE

STALLIONS

ALGORITHMS

(Bernardini - Ava Knowsthecode) \$5,000

Undefeated GSW, 1st-crop 2yo include stakes horses Recruiting Ready (G3) and Junket.

BLAME

(Arch - Liable) \$25,000

#1 3rd-crop sire by lifetime Graded SH's, World's #3 Sire by Comparable Index.

DATA LINK

(War Front - Database) \$7,500

Grade 1 winner, course record setter, 1st-crop yearlings

FIRST SAMURAI

(Giant's Causeway - Freddie Frisson) \$15,000

Sire of 2015 GSW's Lea (G1), Stacked Deck (Sovereign Award Champion Sprinter)

FLATTER

(A.P. Indy - Praise) \$30,000

In 2016, 7 GSH / 4 GSW incl. Taris (G1), Kobe's Back, Upstart, & Ami's Flatter.

LEA

(First Samurai - Greenery) \$12,500

New for 2016! G1 winner of over \$2.3M, new course record setter in the G1 Donn H.

ORB

(Malibu Moon - Lady Liberty) \$25,000

Kentucky Derby winner, leading 1st-crop weanling and covering sire.

STROLL

(Pulpit - Maid For Walking) \$5,000

GSW's incl. Skylander Girl, Great Minds, Afternoon Stroll, champion Van Lear Rose.

TRAPPE SHOT

(Tapit-Shopping) \$10,000

GSH's incl. Fish Trappe Road (1st G3 Dwyer, 2nd G2 Woody Stephens), Quick Release, My Man Sam (2nd G1 Toyota Blue Grass S.)

WAR FRONT

(Danzig - Starry Dreamer) \$200,000

47 SW, 26 GSW, \$36M earnings. World's #1 Sire of 2016 2yo's by GSW and GSH.

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859-987-2330 (Bernie Sams)



Paris, Kentucky
Statistics as of 7/28/16

here&there... at Saratoga

T-SHIRT SLOGAN OF THE DAY

LET'S BLAME THE SUGAR, on young Thomas Murray at the Oklahoma training track Wednesday morning.

BY THE NUMBERS

1: Man (not jock's agent Mike Kelly) in a Miami Dolphins hat walking down Court Street Wednesday afternoon.

6: Minutes after scheduled post time the finale went off Wednesday, after two gate scratches

7:47: Birthday Mile time of artist and racing fan Mike Geraghty at Saratoga High July 31, his first sub-8:00 in 20 years. Next stop Rio.

11: Shakes in a row lost by Jeremiah Englehart (his count, halfway through Monday's card)

NAMES OF THE DAY

Pinstripe, second race. The 3-year-old colt is by High Cotton.

Indulgent, fourth race. Godolphin Racing's 3-year-old filly is out of Fast Cookie, making her a half-sister to Grade 1 winner Frosted among other things.

Sober On Sunday, fifth race. Gary Barber's 3-year-old filly is out of Margarita Friday.

May Flowers, seventh race. The 4-year-old filly is out of Spring Is Here.

Tiz Long Gone, ninth race. The 3-year-old colt is by Tizway out of Home Run Hitter.



Cowboy Hat. Retired racehorse Mr. Cowboy represents his favorite newspaper at Old Friends Cabin Creek. Connie Bush

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm from Oklahoma, quite a coincidence
I work on the Oklahoma track."
Outrider Roger Stockton



NAME OF THE DAY

Global Positioning, 10th race.
The 4-year-old gelding is by Malibu Moon
out of Changeisgonnacome.

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CORRECTION OF THE DAY

Heavenly Prize defeated Lakeway in the 1994 Alabama, not Lakeville Miss (special thanks to volunteer proofreader Jason Blewitt – where was he when we needed him?).

WORTH REPEATING

"Get your chin straps on boys, we could be in for a bumpy ride."

Tony Jaccino, chief horse identifier, as four horses reared in the paddock before Wednesday's 10th race, which wound up with two scratches behind the gate just before post time

"I finally made the cover of The Special, I finally made the cover of The Special. I can't believe it."

Mark Jones (that's him in the light blue polo on the outside rail by the winner's circle in Wednesday's paper with Curalina)

"Like riding a bike, man."

Veteran horseman Mike Quinlan, leading up a horse (who turned out to be a winner) at Saratoga again

"As long as it's not behind the gate, we're probably OK."

Rick Violette on Upstart's post position for the Whitney

"I was 12 when I bet on Onion to beat Secretariat."

Trainer Mark Casse remembering Allen Jerkens' legendary upset of Triple Crown winner in the 1973 Whitney

"He's giving us all the right vibes."

John Terranova on pointing El Kabeir to the Whitney

2016 STALLIONS

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Albert the Great – Chasethewildwind, by Forty Niner

DAAHER

Awesome Again – Irish Cherry, by Irish Open

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here&there...at Saratoga

WORTH REPEATING

"I feel like there's one every half hour."

The Special's Tom Law, trying to fit in some writing and editing in between races Wednesday

"Takes bad news almost better than he takes good news."

Violette on owner Ralph Evans

"Up here they don't eat all parts of the pig but down in Louisiana we eat everything. We'd even eat the squeal if we can catch it."

Trainer Eric Guillot discussing the sausage he gets sent north via FedEx

"Come on, help your dad. Don't let him get run over."

Trainer David Cannizzo joking to one of Jim Bond's sons while he saddled a tough Waco in the paddock for the sixth Wednesday

"When she won in Kentucky, the doors opened and she didn't react at all. Races like this, you don't want to step out of there and not get the position you want, she broke good and I took advantage of it."

Jockey John Velazquez, after guiding Curalina to win the Shuvee Saturday

"Textbook Hall of Fame ride from Johnny."

Eclipse Thoroughbred's Aron Wellman, about Velazquez's ride in the Shuvee

"Come on, get a win. What's it been, like 48 hours?"

Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning Jr. to Aron Wellman, 18 minutes before Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners' Capriana did just that in the ninth Wednesday

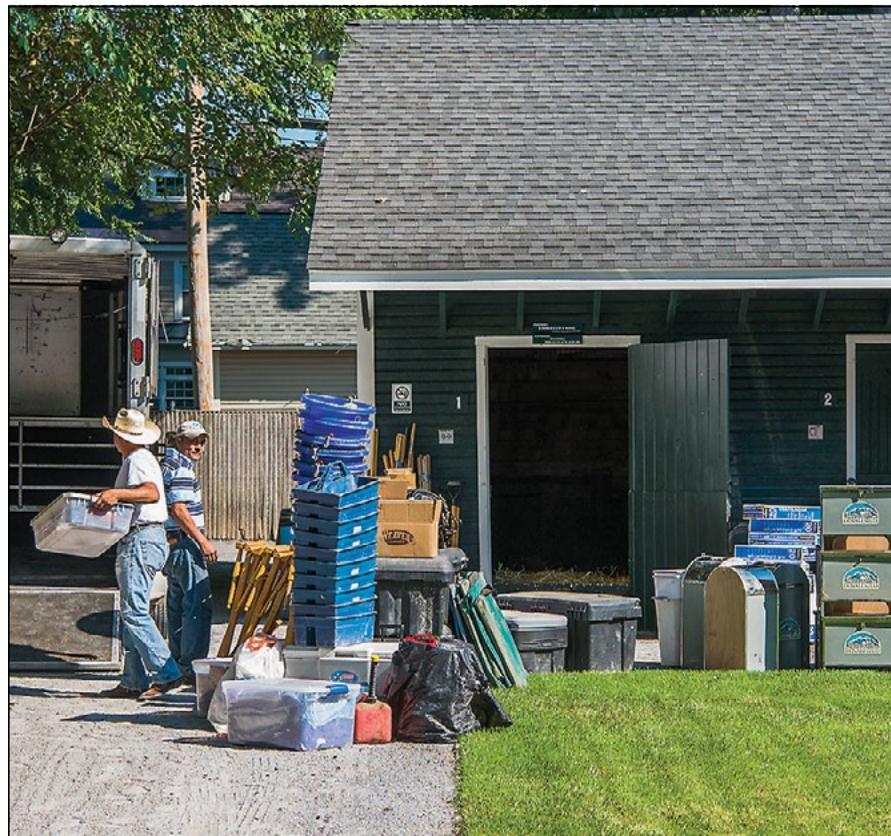
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166 **CANDY RIDE** - Stormy West c.
237 **CANDY RIDE** - Christmas Ship c.

MILL RIDGE

John Stephen Hockensmith ©

The Chief . . . Day 10

"That was one time when I was right, the rail was so fast, I said to the jock, 'Go to the lead.' He said, 'But, Migliore's got speed.' I said, 'I don't care, you go like hell, hoop and holler, when he sees how crazy you are, he'll sit right off you.' He did and we won."

- **Trainer Allen Jerkens**
1929-2015



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Tom Albertrani's stable is tucked away in the quiet southeast corner of Saratoga Race Course's main track stable area. He's been there nearly 10 years and it's the same barn that housed the legendary Secretariat when he raced at Saratoga during Horse of the Year campaigns in 1972 and 1973.

Albertrani trained Bernardini here in 2006, winning that year's Jim Dandy and Travers en route to taking home the Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old male.

"In 10 years I haven't had one quite as good as him," Albertrani said earlier this week. He has trained major stakes winners Balletto, Better Lucky, Brilliant Speed, Gozzip Girl, Romansh, Songster and Twilight Eclipse.

Bernardini has quite a presence in the barn as the sire of nearly a dozen of Albertrani's current horses in training.

Albertrani's Saratoga contingent features 50 horses - 30 in the barn on the main track and 20 at Godolphin's exclusive Greentree training facility on Nelson Avenue. The barns are full of well-bred 2-year-olds and there's a fair share of proven older horses that have successfully made their way to

the top under Albertrani's patient approach.

"We have horses to look forward to and we're trying to get our first winner for the meet," Albertrani said. "We've had a couple of nice 2-year-olds start already. They all seem to be doing well here."

Albertrani and his daughter Teal, director of customer service for West Point Thoroughbreds in Saratoga Springs, took some time during the break Monday to walk through his two strings with the Special's Shayna Tiller.

Twilight Eclipse: West Point Thoroughbred's Purim gelding finished third in the Grade 2 Bowling Green July 30. "He ran a good race. He always runs a good race. He's 7 years old now and he's been in the barn for four years. He was only beaten by about a length and a half or so, but he put up a good fight. Maybe we'll see a rematch in the Sword Dancer, or we may end up sending him to Kentucky to run early September. Just trying to figure out where his spot will be."

Smooth Daddy: Robert Baker and William Mack's 5-year-old Scat Daddy horse finished second in his last two starts, including the Grade 3 Fort Marcy at Belmont. "Ran second against Twilight Eclipse at his last (allowance) start at Belmont. We're trying to find a spot for him up here. We don't have a race intended

with Tom Albertrani

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



for him up here but we're trying to wait and see what the next opportunity's going to be for him."

Empire Dreams: West Point's 5-year-old gelding by Patriot Act is a five-time stakes winner. "He's been with us since he was a 2-year-old. He's been out of training for a while. Slight injury that just needed some time off, he just came back about two weeks ago and had been off about three months. He won the New York Derby up at Finger Lakes a couple years back and we should see him maybe make a start up here at Saratoga near the end of the meet."

Giant Run: Also owned by Baker and Mack, 3-year-old Giant's Causeway colt won the Manila Stakes July 4 at Belmont. "He's going to be running this week in the Hall of Fame Stakes Friday. He won his last start and he's been training really well so we're looking forward to seeing him run this week."

Toughest 'Ombre: Hickory Plains' Tale of the Cat colt exits 12th in Grade 1 Belmont Derby Invitational July 9. "He was fourth two starts back (in the Grade 3 Pennine Ridge Stakes). He was 100-1 and got beat a neck for the whole race. His last start he didn't run very well in the Belmont Derby, but he's a nice 3-year-old that we should see hopefully make a start in the next couple weeks."

Three Alarm Fire: Lightly raced 5-year-old Pyro gelding is owned by West Point Thoroughbreds and Michael Basone. "He was third in his last start. A couple of years back he beat Liam's Map right here at Saratoga, he was really impressive. There's a race for him coming up in a couple of weeks. He's been training really well, looking really good."

Biz The Nurse: John D'Amato's 6-year-old Irish-bred horse by Oratorio finished third in

the Cape Henlopen Stakes July 9 at Delaware Park. "He's a distance runner, he's a graded stakes running horse that came over from Italy a few years ago. Actually, Teal was going to school abroad over there and one day I got a phone call from one of the agents for the owner and we got talking. I told him my daughter was going to school in Florence and he got really excited. We visited Teal during Thanksgiving and I got to meet and talk to the owner there before he got shipped to America. He's probably going to make his next start at the John's Call in a few weeks."

Berned: West Point Thoroughbreds purchased the Bernardini filly for \$550,000 at last year's Keeneland September yearling sale. "Here's one of our favorite 2-year-olds. She's by Bernardini so we wanted to come up with a nice name for her, which is really appropriate for her. As soon as we named her between all of the politics going on and 'Feel the Bern.' Nothing to do with the campaign. Hopefully in a few weeks she'll make a start."

Ready For Rye: Chalk Racing's 4-year-old City Zip gelding won last year's Quick Call at Saratoga and most recently was third in the Grade 3 Belmont Sprint Championship. "Another barn favorite. One of our top sprinters in the barn. He's won a couple of races for us here and he'll be making maybe his next start in the (Grade 1) Forego."
"He likes to lick you like a dog," added Teal.

Ladies Day: Godolphin Racing's 2-year-old Bernardini filly finished second in a July 31 maiden special weight. "Her very first start, a good race. I was just hoping to see her run well, it was a little better than I expected so that was a pleasant surprise."

Hemsworth: Godolphin's 2-year-old colt

Continued On Page 9

Stable Tour —

■ Continued from page 8

by Bernardini out of the Grade 3-placed Unbridled's Song mare In Step. "He reminds me a lot of Bernardini, I'm hoping that he follows his daddy's footsteps. He ran fourth his first time out (in July 31 maiden special weight), and so did Bernardini in his first start. He looks like a horse that definitely can improve off his first race. He's got a nice quiet mannerism like his daddy."

Proven Commodity: Godolphin's 4-year-old colt by Bernardini out of Grade 2 winner Sahara Gold, by Seeking The Gold, finished fourth in an allowance-optional July 28. "He's a half brother to one of the top fillies I trained, Better Lucky. Grade 1 winner, she was beaten a head in the Breeders' Cup (Filly and Mare Sprint) in 2014. He's a nice horse that we're looking forward to running back in the meet. He's kind of tiny."

Songster: The barn favorite, Tom and Teal Albertrani waited until he was finished ponying his set to greet him at the barn and shower him with attention. Teal took over the tour briefly to talk about the multiple graded-stakes winning son of Songandaprayer. "After he retired, we turned him into a riding pony. One of our top sprinters, Grade 2 winner. He's 13 years old now. He's a real personality horse, and he's so intelligent so it worked out really well. I was 12 years old when we had him as a racehorse. He's adapted really well, he likes to be on the track and he likes to be in the barn and the people that come and visit him."

Newman: Godolphin's 2-year-old colt by Bernardini out of True Style, by Foresty, is entered in the second race Saturday. "Hello Newww-man! Jerry Seinfeld! He's by Bernardini and he's doing really well. He's had a few good workouts, and he's just about ready to make his first start in a few weeks. We have a lot of Bernardini's down here (at Greentree)."

Libreta: Godolphin's 3-year-old filly by Girolamo out of Enrichmen, by Ghostzapper. "She won one of the New York Stallion Series races back at Aqueduct (in April). She's a really kind horse. She really loves attention."

"If she's laying down and sees that you're coming over to the stall, she'll get up to come hang out with you and stick her head out to be pet," Teal said.

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What about Bob?

Grade 1 winner Bob Le Beau headlines meet's first jump stakes

BY JOE CLANCY

It's 10:36 on a Wednesday morning. Most of the Thoroughbreds at Saratoga Race Course are finished training for the day. But Bob Le Beau, 5-2 favorite in today's A.P. Smithwick Memorial hurdle stakes still has work to do.

He's on the infield turf course at Oklahoma, applying some finishing touches for trainer Elizabeth Voss and jockey/exercise rider Jack Doyle. The 9-year-old Irish import goes for a gallop with stablemate Portrade, then pulls up to a walk. Doyle aims his mount at Voss, who offers a pat on the neck and removes the German martingale's leather runners. Portrade and Bob Le Beau walk to a schooling fence, take a good sniff and a look, then turn around and jog about 15 strides before turning back toward the fence. Portrade shows the way. With two tail-swishes, Bob Le Beau follows and jumps the single fence, gallops out, pulls up and prances back to Voss' barn at the Oklahoma Annex across Fifth Avenue. He's light, happy, hoping for more work.

"As soon as I got him out on the grass this morning he woke up and got happy," said Doyle. "He was good. I liked to see that. I'm happy with him, looking forward to it."

Bob Le Beau finished fourth in last year's Smithwick, but rebounded to win his next two starts – the Grade 1 New York Turf Writers Cup here and the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory at Belmont Park. The victories, and a \$220,250 bankroll, made him an

Eclipse Award finalist for champion steeplechaser.

Owned by The Fields Stable, Bob Le Beau has yet to run over jumps this year as Voss scratched from a planned start in May because of soft turf. As he did last year, Bob Le Beau won a flat prep at Parx in July as a Saratoga tightener – a good sign according to the trainer.

"The main goal all year was to come up here and get to September at Belmont," said Voss. "He ran great at Parx. It was easy enough, and he got some work out of it. We're ready to go."

Doyle hopes to have the son of Big Bad Bob on the move late, and thinks this year's course configuration (without a stretch fence the final time) plays to his horse's strengths.

"If the last fence was missing in the Smithwick last year, he might have won it," said the jockey. "In (the Colonial Cup last fall) he missed one fence in a bit of softer ground, lost some momentum and then he flew home (to be fifth). He's the same working, you work him over 4 or 5 furlongs, he's only getting going and then you can't pull him up."

Doyle expects to use similar strategy in the race today.

"I'm going to drop in three-quarters of the way back, get him switched off, hopefully everyone gets racing too early and we come and pick up the pieces," the jockey said. "That's the way you have to ride him. We'll see. You can play it by ear a little bit with him."

Continued On Page 11



Tod Marks

Bob Le Beau steps in as the favorite in today's Smithwick.

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A.P. Smithwick —

■ Continued from page 10

Carrying top weight of 158 pounds, Bob Le Beau takes on nine others in the 2 1/16-mile race over eight fences. Fellow 9-year-old Demonstrative seeks to halt a six-race losing streak. The 2014 champion needs a win to become just the fourth American-based steeplechaser to pass \$1 million in career earnings. Trainer Richard Valentine turns to Bernie Dalton to ride the multiple Grade 1 winner, whose only jump start this year was a fifth in May's Grade 1 Iroquois. Like Bob Le Beau, Demonstrative schooled Wednesday – powering into a strong gallop and flying two fences more for fun and a bit of a blow than for actual practice. The son of Elusive Quality is 6-1 and breaks from the outside at 156 pounds.

Trainer Jack Fisher upset last year's Smithwick with Choral Society, and runs three – multiple stakes winner Schoodic (6-1, Danny Mullins), novice stakes winner Overwhelming (12-1, Sean McDermott) and the Grade 1-placed Scorpiancer (8-1, Connor Hankin). Schoodic finished second to Bob Le Beau in last year's Turf Writers and won a Grade 3 stakes in May. Overwhelming won a Saratoga allowance and a Belmont novice

stakes last year. Scorpiancer finished behind division leader Rawnaq twice this spring.

Amy Taylor Rowe's Maserati looks like the 2016 version of Choral Society, coming off four consecutive wins – three over jumps and one on the flat. Trained by Ken McPeck on the flat, the son of Point Given has never been worse than third in six hurdle starts for trainer Leslie Young but faces open company for the first time. Gavin Sheehan rides the Brazilian import at 9-2 and 144 pounds under handicap conditions.

The Young stable also entered recent English import Spirit Of Shankly. The 8-year-old makes his first American hurdle start, but owns four English wins including a 25-length chase score in March.

Trainer Julie Gomena and jockey Mark Watts upset the steeplechase opener last week and bring another horse up Aiken, S.C. (by way of Virginia) for this. Balance The Budget won April's Carolina Cup novice stakes in his only start this year. Mark Watts has the mount at 10-1 and 142 pounds. Rudyard K, a Saratoga winner in 2014, finished third behind Rawnaq and Scorpiancer in April, then fell in Schoodic's win at Radnor in May. The 7-year-old Ohio-bred gets another chance with jockey Ross Geraghty at 12-1 and 142. Bob Le Beau's schooling mate Portrade completes the field at 15-1 for Gus Dahl at 142.

Rudyard K seeks a repeat of his 2014 Saratoga win.

Tod Marks

Sunrise Stallion SHEETS

Picks of the Day

BIG BROWN • FROST GIANT • HEAVY BREATHING

LOVER'S KEY

2YO Filly by Frost Giant
Thursday, Race 6

Empire Equines LLC, *Owner*

Akindale Farm, *Breeder*

Tom Bush, *Trainer*

PASSPORTTOVICTORY

2YO Filly by Frost Giant
Thursday, Race 6

The Elkstone Group LLC, *Owner*

Joanne Nielsen, *Breeder*

Tom Morley, *Trainer*

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-Richard Migliore



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A.P. SMITHWICK PREVIEW

Same horse, new career

Former McPeek runner Maserati revs motor into Gr. 1 steeplechase



Sean Clancy

Smithwick runners Spirit Of Shankly (left) and Maserati stroll the Saratoga backside.

BY JOE CLANCY

Ken McPeek had just won the Travers with 34-1 shot Golden Ticket, in a crazy dead heat with favorite Alpha, and everybody wanted a moment of the trainer's time. But he still had work to do on that August afternoon at Saratoga Race Course in 2012.

"I've got a horse in the next race," he said, and headed for the paddock to leg up two jockeys in the day's 13th race. McPeek accepted 250 (cautious estimate) congratulations, took as many deep breaths and uttered even more, "Can you believe that?"s.

NYRA staffers wanted him at the Travers press conference. McPeek wanted to watch his horses run. Everybody compromised and wound up at the overhead television by the jocks' room.

"This Point Given horse might be OK, I kinda like him," McPeek said as the maidens started loading in the gate. "I want to see how he does in here."

McPeek's horse, a 3-year-old first-time starter, was 29-1 in a field of 12 and he did OK – finishing sixth after

Continued On Page 13



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Maserati —

■ Continued from page 12

being far back early. He got beat less than 4 lengths.

Almost four years later, he's a steeplechase stakes winner. Maserati won the \$75,000 Queen's Cup novice hurdle stakes April 30 and repeated that victory in a \$45,000 handicap hurdle at Fair Hill in late May. The dark bay gelding returns to Saratoga today as the second choice in a contentious A.P. Smithwick Memorial. The 7-year-old has never been worse than third in six hurdle starts for trainer Leslie Young, and has won his last four counting a flat race at Suffolk Downs last September.

McPeek loves it.

"He found his niche," the trainer said this spring. "If a horse is going to do better at that than they are on the racetrack, then let them do their thing. As a flat horse, he just wasn't good enough. He didn't have enough turn of foot, but we knew he could go all day. He was a good, solid, consistent 30 claimer."

Bred in Brazil, and purchased at auction by McPeek, Maserati lost his first eight starts including that Saratoga maiden race. He finally broke through with a win (for a \$30,000 claiming price) at Oaklawn Park in 2014. He won next out at Keeneland (for \$40,000), but was running for \$20,000 at Saratoga that summer.

Young and McPeek are friends and he said she should look at the horse. She loved him and got a check.

"I'm lucky I have a good rapport

with him," Young said of McPeek, whose Saratoga shedrow is in the traditional steeplechase spot at the Oklahoma Annex. "You have to believe in the people who are helping you."

Since switching genres, Maserati has done nothing wrong — winning on the flat at Penn National shortly after the purchase, winning his third start over jumps last season, winning on the flat again at Suffolk Downs last summer and closing last year with an allowance hurdle win. His 2016 includes two starts — and two wins, the novice stakes in April and the handicap in May. He's earned \$107,600 over fences, to go with his \$101,543 on the flat.

McPeek trained eventual hurdle stakes winner Quem Se Atrave (also a Brazilian import) on the flat, and even had a steeplechase starter himself in Old Man Buck in 2009 so the jump game isn't all that foreign to the trainer.

"I buy horses with a really long hip on them, a certain type of hind leg," he said. "If they don't have any speed, they can go do things like that. I might have told my partners to keep him and run him over jumps ourselves, but most people in flat racing don't have the patience for that. Einstein (a Grade 1 winner of \$2.9 million also imported from Brazil) would have been one hell of a steeplechase horse."

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Early Schooling

Benson embarks on training career while pursuing degree

BY MICHAEL SMITH

In his Saratoga Race Course debut last week, Liam Benson saddled Not So Quiet Man to a runner-up finish behind the Bill Mott-trained House Of Friends. In today's \$100,000 Quick Call Stakes, the 21-year-old trainer and University of Louisville student hopes to finish ahead of the Hall of Famer and the other conditioners with a starter in the 5 1/2-furlong turf sprint.

Benson sends out Expected Ruler in the Quick Call and the bright-eyed bay son of Leroidesanimaux will be the trainer's first stakes starter at Saratoga. Originally from Red Bank, N.J., about



Linzay Marks

Trainer Liam Benson and Expected Ruler compete in today's Quick Call Stakes.


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15 minutes from where he now bases his string of five during the summer at Monmouth Park, Benson has fond memories of going to the Jersey Shore track where it all started for him as a young boy.

"The first race I remember seeing at Monmouth was when Dixie Union won the Haskell before we were even involved in Thoroughbreds," Benson said of the 2000 Haskell winner.

Benson's passion for the game was ignited when his father, also named Liam, retired about 10 years ago and his family moved to Florida, bought a farm and quickly made a splash in the Sunshine State's Thoroughbred industry.

"We were the third-leading breeder in Florida by numbers one year," Benson said. "We had 35 mares at one point and when the foals don't sell you have yearlings and when the yearlings don't sell you have 2-year-olds and all of a sudden you've got some racehorses. We had always had quite a few horses at the track and my parents said 'Why don't you take a swing at Colonial Downs?'"

In 2013 with his parents' blessing and encouragement, Benson grabbed

the proverbial bit and took out his trainer's license. He started with six horses, won his first race that year at Colonial and continues to train while attending school.

While most trainers worked as an assistant for an extended period before taking out their licenses, Benson took a different path. His education in racing has consisted of trying to get a well-rounded experience in the industry and lots of learning through osmosis.

Expected Ruler was bred and is owned by his father. The younger Benson foaled the colt while working at his family's farm in Florida.

"I feel like I've covered most of the industry in one form or another from foaling to sales to 2-year-olds and now racehorses," Benson said. "Derek Ryan trained for us for years and I never worked for him per se, but you can learn a lot from watching a guy like him. He's one of the best horsemen you can come across in this business."

Benson hopes everything he learned in his young life comes together in the Quick Call when Expected Ruler

Continued On Page 15

Quick Call —

■ Continued from page 14

makes his eighth start and seventh in stakes company.

Expected Ruler broke his maiden in the Tyro Stakes last August at Monmouth before two off-the-board efforts in graded stakes in Kentucky — the Grade 3 Iroquois going 1 1/16 miles on dirt and Grade 3 Bourbon at Keeneland was us testing the distance on turf.

“The Iroquois was a mistake, he’s a turf sprinter and I ran him on the dirt,” Benson said. “The Bourbon at Keeneland was us testing the distance.”

Benson gave Expected Ruler some time off after the Kentucky races and brought the colt back in the 5-furlong Texas Glitter in late February at Gulfstream, where he finished sixth. As the school year wound down he picked up a victory with the colt in a 5 1/2-furlong turf allowance at Keeneland in mid-April. Two more losses followed — against Ben’s Cat, Spring To The Sky and other older horses in the Jim McKay Turf Sprint at Pimlico and the Select Stakes at Monmouth.

“I brought him back in the Texas Glitter and he was probably two works short in that race,” Benson said. “But it put a lot into him and it set him up perfectly for that win at Keeneland. His race last time, the Select Stakes, when he turned for home he got bumped around the quarter pole and grabbed his ankle. It was a puncture wound just above the joint capsule, so he got two weeks off and that did him a world of good. He got back out to the track and he was feeling great.

“We’ve got a live horse in a stakes race at Saratoga. This is the stuff you grow up dreaming about, especially a horse we bred and I pulled out of the mare myself.”

Expected Ruler is 12-1 on the early line for the Quick Call with Didiel Osorio getting the return call.

Patricia Generazio’s homebred Too Discreet, a full-brother to Grade 1 winner Discreet Marq, is the 2-1 favorite for the Quick Call for trainer Christophe Clement and jockey Joel Rosario.

Too Discreet won going 5 1/2 furlongs on the grass in his debut last summer at Saratoga before adding a victory in the Schenectady at the same



Tod Marks

Too Discreet (left) is favored in the Quick Call.

meet. Freshened for the winter, Too Discreet was fourth in the Woodhaven at Aqueduct before shortening up to 7 furlongs and winning the Paradise Creek on the turf in late May at Belmont. He finished sixth behind Giant Run and Strike Midnight, who go in Friday’s Grade 2 Hall of Fame, in his most recent start in the Manila Stakes July 4.

Holding Gold, a winner on synthetic in his seasonal debut at Woodbine three starts back, is the 5-2 second choice while Mott sends out the 3-1 third choice in July 2 maiden winner Commend. Tiz Long Gone, Bust Another, Don’t Be So Salty and Save The Drama complete the main portion of the field, while Sudden Surprise is entered for the main track only.

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THURSDAY SARATOGA ENTRIES

Thursday, August 4.

1ST (1:00PM). \$125,000, STK - THE A.P. SMITHWICK MEMORIAL, 4&UP, 2 1/16M (HURDLE)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Spirit of Shankly (GB)	.....	P. Young	.....	L. Young	.....	10-1
2	.....	2	.....	Maserati (BRZ)	.....	G. Sheehan	.....	L. Young	.....	9-2
3	.....	3	.....	Schoodic	.....	D. Mullins	.....	J. Fisher	.....	6-1
4	.....	4	.....	Rudyard K	.....	R. Geraghty	.....	T. Wyatt	.....	12-1
5	.....	5	.....	Overwhelming	.....	S. McDermott	.....	J. Fisher	.....	12-1
6	.....	6	.....	Balance the Budget	.....	M. Watts	.....	J. Gomena	.....	10-1
7	.....	7	.....	Scorpiancer (IRE)	.....	C. Hankin	.....	J. Fisher	.....	8-1
8	.....	8	.....	Bob Le Beau (IRE)	.....	J. Doyle	.....	E. Voss	.....	5-2
9	.....	9	.....	Portrade (IRE)	.....	G. Dahl	.....	E. Voss	.....	15-1
10	.....	10	.....	Demonstrative	.....	B. Dalton	.....	R. Valentine	.....	6-1

2ND (1:33PM). \$62,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO, 6F

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

1	.....	1	.....	Pinstripe	.....	J. Castellano	.....	J. Servis	.....	2-1
2	.....	2	.....	Two Times Book	.....	M. Franco	.....	J. Toscano, Jr.	.....	12-1
3	.....	3	.....	Formal Summation	.....	F. Geroux	.....	K. O'Connell	.....	8-1
4	.....	4	.....	Zen Papa	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	9-2
5	.....	5	.....	Baduke	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	S. Klesaris	.....	6-1
6	.....	6	.....	Cocked and Loaded	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	L. Rivelli	.....	9-5

3RD (2:06PM). \$50,000, MCL \$50,000, 2 YO, F, 5 1/2F

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

1	.....	2	.....	Kissin Cassie	.....	D. Davis	.....	E. Barker	.....	6-1
1a	.....	4	.....	Yorkiepool Princess	.....	J. Torres	.....	E. Barker	.....	6-1
2	.....	1	.....	Bellelarama	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	S. Asmussen	.....	4-1
3	.....	3	.....	Briar Rose	.....	J. Davis	.....	C. Martin	.....	10-1
4	.....	5	.....	Banty's Girl	.....	M. Franco	.....	T. Albertrani	.....	6-1
5	.....	6	.....	Hoponthebusgus	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	9-2
6	.....	7	.....	Promise Me Tiz	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	R. Persaud	.....	12-1
7	.....	8	.....	Tizway That Way	.....	F. Geroux	.....	L. Rivelli	.....	6-1
8	.....	9	.....	Murrell's Belle	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	G. Gullo	.....	7-2

4TH (2:40PM). \$83,000, MSW, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 6F

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

1	.....	1	.....	Take Charge Niki	.....	J. Rosario	.....	D. Stewart	.....	10-1
2	.....	2	.....	Timido	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	C. Clement	.....	9-2
3	.....	3	.....	Madcap Heiress	.....	S. Bridgmohan	.....	B. Cox	.....	3-1
4	.....	4	.....	Midnight Visitor	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	R. Moquett	.....	10-1
5	.....	5	.....	Catsadiva	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	5-1
6	.....	6	.....	Splashtackular	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	M. Casse	.....	8-1
7	.....	7	.....	Road to Perfection	.....	M. Franco	.....	D. Donk	.....	15-1
8	.....	8	.....	Indulgent	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	K. McLaughlin	.....	5-2

5TH (3:14PM). \$55,000, STR \$50,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Tizanillusion	.....	J. Rosario	.....	B. Lynch	.....	9-5
2	.....	MTO	.....	Northern Screamer	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	2-1
3	.....	3	.....	Veil Dance	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	D. Donk	.....	15-1
4	.....	4	.....	Sober On Sunday	.....	F. Geroux	.....	M. Casse	.....	6-1
5	.....	5	.....	Wildcat Belle	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	D. Gargan	.....	7-2
6	.....	6	.....	Cosmic Tale	.....	M. Franco	.....	C. Baker	.....	4-1
7	.....	7	.....	Rio Vista	.....	L. Saez	.....	G. Weaver	.....	6-1
8	.....	MTO	.....	Sing for Beauty	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	C. Baker	.....	5-1
9	.....	9	.....	Crystal Pier	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	8-1

6TH (3:48PM). \$73,000, MSW, 2 YO, F, 6F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Passportvictory	.....	J. Castellano	.....	T. Morley	.....	5-1
2	.....	2	.....	Lover's Key	.....	F. Geroux	.....	T. Bush	.....	20-1
3	.....	3	.....	Got the Gist	.....	P. Lopez	.....	P. Reynolds	.....	15-1
4	.....	4	.....	Miss Horoscope	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	A. Adsit	.....	12-1
5	.....	5	.....	Great Neck	.....	S. Bridgmohan	.....	B. Cox	.....	6-1
6	.....	6	.....	Tiznow's Smile	.....	M. Franco	.....	C. Baker	.....	10-1

7	.....	7	.....	About That Base	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	3-1
8	.....	8	.....	Tainted Angel	.....	L. Saez	.....	A. Adsit	.....	9-2
9	.....	9	.....	Lucky Bug	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	5-1
10	.....	10	.....	You Promise	.....	M. Luzzi	.....	B. Brown	.....	15-1
11	.....	AE	.....	Skylar's Lil Cutie	.....	M. Franco	.....	M. Mareina	.....	12-1
12	.....	AE	.....	Swing and Sway	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	R. Moquett	.....	15-1
13	.....	AE	.....	Little Chiseler	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	G. Sciacca	.....	15-1
14	.....	AE	.....	Tizza Temper	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	J. Englehart	.....	10-1
15	.....	AE	.....	Cha Cha Heels	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	8-1
16	.....	AE	.....	Bree's Got Heart	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	R. Reid, Jr.	.....	8-1

7TH (4:24PM). \$47,000, CLM \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 5 1/2F (TURF)

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

1	.....	1	.....	Bubbe Zena	.....	M. Franco	.....	D. Donk	.....	20-1
2	.....	2	.....	Same Kinda Crazy	.....	K. Carmouche	.....	B. Brown	.....	6-1
3	.....	3	.....	Glare Ice	.....	J. Davis	.....	J. Toscano, Jr.	.....	30-1
4	.....	4	.....	It's Two Hot Benny	.....	A. Arroyo	.....	A. Adsit	.....	8-1
5	.....	5	.....	Downside Scenario	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. Brown	.....	8-5
6	.....	MTO	.....	Battle Tux	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	5-2
7	.....	7	.....	Orzo	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	R. Rodriguez	.....	15-1
8	.....	8	.....	May Flowers	.....	L. Saez	.....	J. Englehart	.....	15-1
9	.....	9	.....	Coramoss	.....	E. Esquivel	.....	B. Levine	.....	5-1
10	.....	10	.....	Barrier to Entry	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	9-2
11	.....	11	.....	Foxy Posse	.....	A. Gryder	.....	B. Levine	.....	20-1

8TH (5:02PM). \$90,000, AOC \$62,500, 3 YO'S & UP, F & M, 1 3/8M (INNER TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pic 3, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Daddy's Boo	.....	F. Geroux	.....	L. Rivelli	.....	20-1
2	.....	2	.....	Joyful Hope (GB)	.....	J. Rosario	.....	C. Clement	.....	9-2
3	.....	3	.....	Promotional	.....	M. Franco	.....	T. Proctor	.....	15-1
4	.....	4	.....	Iromea (IRE)	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	C. Clement	.....	8-1
5	.....	MTO	.....	Thrilled	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	2-1
6	.....	6	.....	Sky Painter	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	K. McLaughlin	.....	5-1
7	.....	7	.....	Rachel Wall	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	H. Motion	.....	8-1
8	.....	8	.....	Coming Attraction	.....	J. Castellano	.....	C. McGaughey III	.....	9-2
9	.....	9	.....	Songoficeandfire	.....	J. Lezcano	.....	W. Mott	.....	8-5

9TH (5:40PM). \$100,000, STK - THE QUICK CALL, 3 YO, 5 1/2F (TURF)

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double

1	.....	1	.....	Tiz Long Gone	.....	J. Castellano	.....	L. Rice	.....	12-1
2	.....	2	.....	Bust Another	.....	E. Cancel	.....	M. Pino	.....	10-1
3	.....	3	.....	Commend	.....	J. Alvarado	.....	W. Mott	.....	3-1
4	.....	4	.....	Expected Ruler	.....	D. Osorio	.....	L. Benson	.....	12-1
5	.....	5	.....	Don't Be So Salty	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	L. Rice	.....	12-1
6	.....	6	.....	Save the Drama	.....	T. Rice	.....	K. Rice	.....	20-1
7	.....	7	.....	Holding Gold	.....	J. Leparoux	.....	M. Casse	.....	5-2
8	.....	MTO	.....	Sudden Surprise	.....	J. Velazquez	.....	T. Pletcher	.....	7-2
9	.....	9	.....	Too Discreet	.....	J. Rosario	.....	C. Clement	.....	2-1

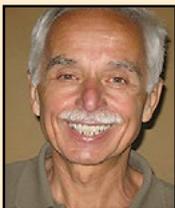
10TH (6:17PM). \$50,000, CLM \$25,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6 1/2F

Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta

1	.....	1	.....	Readthebyline	.....	J. Ortiz	.....	D. Gargan	.....	5-2
2	.....	2	.....	Global Positioning	.....	E. Esquivel	.....	R. D'Alessandro	.....	6-1
3	.....	3	.....	Bug Juice	.....	J. Rosario	.....	D. Cannizzo	.....	3-1
4	.....	4	.....	Jeter	.....	M. Franco	.....	E. Barker	.....	10-1
5	.....	5	.....	Street Lord	.....	I. Ortiz, Jr.	.....	G. Gullo	.....	8-1
6	.....	6	.....	Bustin the Bank	.....	J. Torres	.....	J. Toscano, Jr.	.....	12-1
7	.....	7	.....	Dean Verdile	.....	A. Gryder	.....	M. Friedman	.....	15-1
8	.....	8	.....	More Zen Tea	.....	R. Santana, Jr.	.....	G. Contessa	.....	10-1
9	9	Cooper's Storm	D. Davis	D. Jacobson	15-1
10	10	American Creed	F. Arrieta	O. Barrera, III	20-1

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the
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grid**



**John
Shapazian**



**Gaile
Fitzgerald**



**Tom
Law**



**Chad
Summers**



**Charles
Bedard**

Race #

1

Bob Le Beau
Schoodic
Maserati

Bob Le Beau
Maserati
Schoodic

Schoodic
Maserati
Bob Le Beau

Scorpiancer
Bob Le Beau
Maserati

Bob Le Beau
Schoodic
Demonstrative

2

Pinstripe
Cocked And Loaded
Baduke

Cocked And Loaded
Baduke
Formal Summation

Pinstripe
Zen Papa
Formal Summation

Zen Papa
Pinstripe
Baduke

Pinstripe
Cocked And Loaded
Zen Papa

3

Hoponthebusgus
Murrell's Belle
Tizway That Way

Hoponthebusgus
Tizway That Way
Bellelarama

Hoponthebusgus
Tizway That Way
Bellelarama

Bellelarama
Banty's Girl
Hoponthebusgus

Tizway That Way
Bellelarama
Hoponthebusgus

4

Indulgent
Catsadiva
Madcap Heiress

Catsadiva
Indulgent
Madcap Heiress

Indulgent
Midnight Visitor
Madcap Heiress

Indulgent
Catsadiva
Timido

Midnight Visitor
Timido
Madcap Heiress

5

Northern Screamer
Tizanillusion
Rio Vista

Northern Screamer
Tizanillusion
Sober On Sunday

Tizanillusion
Sober On Sunday
Cosmic Tale

Wildcat Belle
Sober On Sunday
Tizanillusion

Sober On Sunday
Wildcat Belle
Tizanillusion

6

Passportvictory
About That Base
Lucky Bug

About That Base
Tainted Angel
Great Neck

Great Neck
About That Base
Lucky Bug

Great Neck
Lucky Bug
About That Base

Passportvictory
Tainted Angel
About That Base

7

Battle Tux
Downside Scenario
Barrier To Entry

Battle Tux
Downside Scenario
It's Two Hot Benny

Coramoss
Barrier To Entry
Downside Scenario

Bubbe Zena
Downside Scenario
Coramoss

Same Kinda Crazy
Bubbe Zena
Coramoss

8

Thrilled
Songoficeandfire
Joyful Hope

Joyful Hope
Songoficeandfire
Coming Attraction

Songoficeandfire
Joyful Hope
Coming Attraction

Joyful Hope
Coming Attraction
Sky Painter

Thrilled
Coming Attraction
Daddy's Boo

9

Sudden Surprise
Commend
Holding Gold

Commend
Holding Gold
Too Discreet

Too Discreet
Holding Gold
Expected Ruler

Commend
Too Discreet
Bust Another

Holding Gold
Sudden Surprise
Don't Be So Salty

10

Readthebyline
Bug Juice
Street Lord

Readthebyline
Bug Juice
Global Positioning

Bug Juice
Readthebyline
Dean Verdile

Readthebyline
Global Positioning
Bug Juice

More Zen Tea
Dean Verdile
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Tod Marks

Wavell Avenue (left) pulls away late in the Shine Again.

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Throwback

Breeders' Cup star Wavell Avenue scores for Brown in sprint stakes

BY TOM LAW

Fans of the old-school meetings were all about Wednesday at Saratoga Race Course. You know the meets, the ones dating back to the early 1990s when racing in upstate New York was contested over 24 days, almost exclusively in August and when a seriously proven star might show up on any given midweek card. The Test fell on a Thursday, Lady's Secret might run on a Monday (she did) and since renamed or altogether scrapped races like the Daryl's Joy, Nijana, Empire and Gallant Man were run weekdays. Heck, even the Diana used to be run during the week back then. On a Monday no less.

The first Wednesday in August of the 2016 Saratoga meeting gave a similar feel of old as Wavell Avenue, winner of the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint and narrowly beaten in Eclipse Award voting for champion female sprinter, showed up on the

SHINE AGAIN STAKES RECAP

overnight for the \$100,000 Shine Again Stakes.

Eligible for the race for older fillies and mares which had not won a graded stakes in 2016, Wavell Avenue got back to the winner's circle for the first time since the Breeders' Cup in her fourth start of the season, her first out of the graded stakes cauldron.

Wavell Avenue closed from seventh, sliced her way through the field around the turn and at the top of the lane to win by 1 3/4 lengths under Joel Rosario from 22-1 longshot Momameamaria with Chilean import Linda Linda third in the field of eight. Wavell Avenue ran the 7 furlongs in 1:21.83.

"It was important to put a W up on the board," said winning trainer Chad Brown, who trains Wavell Avenue for the partnership of Michael

Continued On Page 19

Shine Again —

■ Continued from page 18

Dubb, David Simon, Head of Plains Partners and Bethlehem Stables. “Good trip, class prevailed. I like the fact that she won and I don’t think she was hit. I don’t think this will be a hard race for her, she should move on to the Ballerina in good shape.”

Wavell Avenue stood out among the group, with her win in the Breeders’ Cup and an allowance-optional score last summer at Saratoga topping her form, along with placings in the Grade 1 Madison at Keeneland and Grade 3 Bed o’ Roses at Belmont this year that are probably better than they appear.

The Madison turned out to be no picnic, with Grade 1 winner Sheer Drama and 2015 Breeders’ Cup Distaff winner Stopchargingmaria in the field. She finished third by 2 1/4 lengths behind those two, giving five pounds to Sheer Drama and three to Stopchargingmaria.

“The first race back, the way the weights worked out we were giving weight to the winner of a Breeders’ Cup race (and a Grade 1 winner) from last year,” Dubb said. “And we only got beat a couple lengths.”

Brown agreed that the Madison wasn’t as bad as it seemed and also acknowledged the 5-year-old Harlington mare probably regressed when fourth as the favorite in the Grade 1 Humana Distaff on the Kentucky Derby undercard four weeks later.

Wavell Avenue returned in the Bed o’ Roses June 25 and couldn’t overcome a wide trip, and the concession of six pounds, when second to By The Moon.

Horseplayers hammered Wavell Avenue down to 1-2 against her seven opponents that included graded stakes winner Promise Me Silver, Vagrancy runner-up West Coast Chick and Chilean Group 1 winner Linda Linda.

West Coast Chick and John Velazquez took the initiative as expected from the break and kept the field honest through fractions of :22.20 and :44.86. Rosario let Wavell Avenue settle 6 lengths off the pace through the opening quarter-mile before inching up just past Sweet On Smokey and into seventh a half-mile into the Shine Again.

Rosario kept Wavell Avenue down on the inside all the way around the far turn, caught a break as Linda Linda drifted out a bit approaching the stretch and didn’t run up on the battling West Coast Chick on the inside and Momameamaria to her outside into the lane.

Rosario tipped to the outside at the eighth pole and needed only to outrun Momameamaria as West Coast Chick retreated approaching the sixteenth pole.

“I was concerned for her to be on the inside,” said Rosario, who rode Wavell Avenue in the Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Sprint and in her two most recent starts. “I’m not sure she had been inside other times, but she handled everything fine. I just didn’t want to go wide because last time, she was a little bit wide and she kind of hung a little bit at the

end. I tried to save as much as I could for the end.”

David Cannizzo praised the effort of Momameamaria, who came in with a victory in an allowance-optional June 22 at Belmont after a fourth in the Grade 3 Vagrancy May 21.

The daughter of Quality Road got a little wound up in the paddock and behind the gate, nothing new according to her trainer who put in plenty of time to try and avoid any serious issues in the prelims.

“She’s very goofy. I knew our first shot is our best. Anywhere we take her she’s like, ‘where am I?’ The next time she’s a fruit loop,” Cannizzo said. “The only spot she’s ever good is at Belmont, because it’s home. She comes out of her own stall, she knows where she is, she goes through the paddock every day.”

Wavell Avenue’s connections were certainly thankful for the opportunity to get a win and they’re looking forward to getting her back on a Saturday card very soon.

First up is the Grade 1 Ballerina Aug. 27, with a long-range target a defense of her title in the Breeders’ Cup Filly and Mare Sprint Nov. 5 at Santa Anita Park. Wednesday’s win was her seventh in 17 starts and it boosted her earnings very close to the seven-figure mark, to \$988,125.

“When you bring back a Breeders’ Cup horse to race another season you’re already at the top, you need to maintain, you really can’t do anymore,” Brown said. “Yes there’s added pressure, but she’s a sound, really honest horse and we felt confident racing her another year.”



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Dr. Winner

Veteran jumper provides Graham with first Saratoga win

Eddie Graham waited.

“I think his head was down,” Graham said, while standing outside the winner’s circle after Wednesday’s first race, a hurdle handicap.

When the 9 flashed above the 3, Graham exhaled, years of frustration released.

“About time,” Graham said. “Finally, I won a race here.”

Graham had won races here, well, he had run winners here, all the way back when he worked for Bruce Miller, traveling from the farm with Grenade, a jet black rock who won here in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Steeplechasing’s version of Fourstar-dave, Grenade didn’t go anywhere without Graham.

“My man Grenade, he was my main horse,” Graham said, as he walked through the clubhouse after Clorevia Farm’s Dr. Skip won a nose decision over Top Striker in the \$70,000 handicap.

Grenade has company at the top.

Graham, who upset the Arlington Million with Hardest Core in 2014, produced Dr. Skip for his first win since 2013. In a skid of seven jump defeats, the Maryland-bred son of Ed-dington had lost his rider twice, finished second by a neck in a Grade 2, third in a novice stakes and flopped in soft ground in May. Graham regrouped, prepped in a jumper flat

WEDNESDAY RACING RECAP

race at Parx – he earned a 74 Beyer for the effort – and aimed at Saratoga.

“Since coming up here with Bruce, you always want to win here but every time I’ve come here, I haven’t done any good,” Graham said. “Dr. Skip has been in the barn for a while, so it’s good to win with him.”

Willie McCarthy, riding Dr. Skip for the first time, placed the 8-year-old in the middle of the nine-horse field, Graham’s instructions playing in his head.

“I told Willie to sit in the middle of the pack,” Graham said. “I told him when you hit the backside, if everybody starts going on the backside, be patient, it’s a long way.”

Andi’amu led early while Miguel Grau and Bodie Island tracked in second and third. Top Striker anchored on the rail, pulling but primed. With a circuit to go, Dr. Skip was cruising.

“He has a tendency to not relax but I was hoping he would get him settled, when I saw him settle there, I was real happy,” Graham said. “Every time I give him a flat prep, he runs good, so I thought with less fences, he would love it.”

Leaving the backside, Top Striker slid through along the wing, Andi’amu battled between horses, Special Skills drafted behind Top Striker



Tod Marks

Dr. Skip (left) and Top Striker battle to the finish in Wednesday’s jump race.

and Dr. Skip began to rally as McCarthy switched him three wide.

On the turn, Andi’amu retreated, Special Skills shuffled and Dr. Skip and Top Striker put their last bills on the bar. In a long drive, McCarthy galvanized Dr. Skip, who once ran an 81 Beyer, while Bernie Dalton implored Top Striker, who once ran a 92 Beyer, the two jockeys low and tight, as the two Maryland-breds accelerated through the open wings of what used to be the last hurdle and finished together.

“It’s very long. I said to Bernie, I don’t think I’ve ever ridden a finish that long in my life. He got his head in front at the right time. Bernie gave his horse a super ride. I knew he was waiting for the last sixteenth and he was going to try me again, and he did,” McCarthy said. “He got his

head in front but it helped me. It gave my fella something to get his head in front of again. It’s a funny race to ride because we’re not used to riding from that far away when there’s no last fence.”

– Sean Clancy

- Saratoga attracts elite horses from around the country and sometimes even the world. While not all run at the highest levels, everyone who comes to play the game knows how hard it is to win at the historic racetrack.

When Blue Stork Farm’s Little-missbusiness, a \$15,000 yearling purchase, annexed a 6-furlong maiden claimer to take the second race against horses bought for up to four

Continued On Page 21

Join us in the Winner’s Circle!
Parting Glass Racing
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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 20

times her price, Blue Stork's Rick Franco summed up the situation.

"Life is funny."

Littlemissbusiness bumped with Splash Of Sass coming out of the gate and was last away. Jockey Javier Castellano hustled her into fourth where she tracked the leaders moving into the turn. The Mitch Friedman trainee followed them four wide around the turn and drove to the lead into the stretch. Urged, she kicked clear by 8 ½ lengths.

Franco and his wife Cindy, long-time owners and proprietors of Blue Stork Stables were delighted to get their first winner of this year's Saratoga meet.

"We're grateful," Rick Franco said.

Littlemissbusiness's drop in class from her previous start meant there was a good possibility she would be claimed. This came to fruition when trainer Jeremiah Englehart and Neal Allread claimed the daughter of Mass Media.

"You know what, it was just time to grab the roses, that's all," Franco said. "Sometimes you do it and then you turn the page and go to the next horse. It was aggressive but sometimes in life we do things and after you do it you don't look back, you just do it."

— Michael Smith

• Parting Glass Racing started its first horse of the meet in Wednesday's fourth and emerged a winner as Alabama Bound led the field gate to wire in the 1 1/16-mile maiden on the inner turf. Although Alabama Bound has proven to be a valuable addition to the Parting Glass team, she's actually a substitute for a horse who was injured.

"The original horse that I bought for this partnership, I bought a really nice horse at the Ocala sale, and he broke down," Parting Glass's Tom Gallo explained. "These people are new, so instead of saying, 'thanks for your money, bye,' I found Alabama Bound as a replacement horse."

Gallo purchased Alabama Bound from Ocala-based Gayle Woods.

Continued On Page 22

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Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 21

“She always has a bunch of nice New York-breds down there,” Gallo said. “I needed a horse, the auctions were already over, and it worked out real well.”

Woods purchased Alabama Bound for \$2,500 as a yearling in 2014. The daughter of Proud Citizen improved her record to a win and two seconds from five starts. Although her front-running style had left her vulnerable in her two most recent races, Wednesday’s race set up perfectly as jockey Luis Saez slowed her through a :25.47 opening quarter and a :49.92 half.

“I said, ‘you know what, they’re going to have to run to catch this filly,’ and it’s nice to have the same rider on her. Luis really knows her and gets her to relax,” Gallo said. “She broke sharp, she got out on a nice lead, and by the time they got into the first turn, she was already into a nice, relaxed gallop. Then they have to come and get her, they’re not going to get her.”

Although Alabama Bound is quick out of the gate, she has a calm demeanor off the track. Her ability to relax, then flip the switch and turn away her foes is a key to her success.

“(Woods) always said, ‘this filly is a fighter. She’s as calm as a pussy cat, but when you get her under tack and



Tod Marks

Trainer Mitch Friedman and owner Rick Franco greet Javier Castellano after the second.

horses come to her, she pins her ears and just wants to go.’ ”

Alabama Bound’s victory was the first of the meet for trainer Tom Bush, who’s been with Parting Glass Racing for 14 years. The relationship stems not only from the results the conditioner gets on the track, but also his willingness to work with new owners behind the scenes.

“He’s fabulous with owners,” Gal-

lo said. “When owners come by to see their horse, he’ll do whatever he has to do. Bring them out, go in the stall, turn them around, even in the winter at Belmont. And he has a genuine, real love and connection with each individual horse. He knows them as an individual and knows their personalities.”

Although Alabama Bound has eight or nine partners, to Gallo’s approval, there were several dozen in the winner’s circle to greet her.

“I say, ‘how many times are you going to run at Saratoga? Bring your friends, bring your family, bring everybody,’ ” Gallo said. “You’re always going to get to the paddock, but are you always going to get to the winner’s circle? No. But to have both, it’s like heaven.”

— Brandon Valvo

• A monkey on your back is what it can feel like to be well into the Saratoga race meet and still not have a win to your name. But what a relief it is to finally cross the wire in front, especially with a hard-trying mare who hasn’t found the winners circle in two years.

Five-year-old Orient Harbor dove through the center of the field, made a run along the outside to win by three-quarters of a length over First-hand Report in the seventh, 5 ½ fur-

long allowance on the turf.

Hall of Fame trainer Shug McGaughey praised the mare’s consistency and the determination she demonstrates in each race. A Stuart Janney homebred, the chestnut daughter of First Samurai finished third in an allowance at Belmont May 1 and ran a game fourth in her previous start, only 2 lengths behind Tent City in an allowance at Belmont Park June 19.

“Every time we run her she gives it everything she’s got. I’d like to have 50 like her. She might not be a champion, but she gives it everything she’s got every time we bring her over here,” McGaughey said. “I’m glad she finally won. Her two races this year, her first one you can see she just got beat. And then the last time she ran she was fourth, but the track was so fast down there then she just couldn’t catch up.”

McGaughey, a long-time trainer for Janney who was not present for the win, expressed his happiness with earning a victory for his loyal supporter.

“He’s a great guy, been a great owner for me. Not only is he my client, but I feel like a good friend too and I enjoy talking to him, I enjoy being with him,” McGaughey said. “And he enjoys the game. He’s up in Maine, he’s going to be thrilled.”

With 11 days down and more than a month to go, there’s still plenty of time for a few more trips to the winner’s circle. But McGaughey was still happy to have the first one down.

“I felt like maybe we had a couple horses run last week that didn’t run the way I thought they would,” McGaughey said. “Feels good, I got the monkey off my back.”

— Annise Montplaisir

• Numerous generations of veterans and active duty military attended Saratoga Race Course for Military Appreciation Day. The faces of the veterans varied from young to old, the wars from Afghanistan to Vietnam, Korea to World War II, the service and sacrifice of every individual — indubitable.

The day began as NYRA paid tribute to the service member and veteran employees with a special ceremony in the winner’s circle as a stirring rendition of the National Anthem played by the Racing City Chorus.

Continued On Page 23



Tod Marks

Parting Glass Racing owners lead in Alabama Bound.

Wednesday —

■ Continued from page 22

Generations of veterans gathered in the winner's circle following the third race, named in honor of Military Appreciation Day.

"The public relations that reached out to me asked if I could organize veterans from different eras here, so I did so," said Dave Lockhart, former Commander of Saratoga County's American Legion. "I got the American Legion from Saratoga and Montgomery County involved. The American Legion's a big family."

Montgomery County's American Legion Commander Carl Rice was present in the winner's circle following the race. He served as Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army Reserve, as well as two tours

in Afghanistan.

"I've been in the Army for 28 years now," said Rice. "I'm actually here with my family, I brought my three daughters down here and we're enjoying the day at the racetrack. They love to come to the races, they've been doing it for years, and they started bringing me along the last couple of years. It's good to see people come out and appreciate the service like this, days like this mean a lot to us."

Saratoga County's American Legion Commander Keith Koster, found trackside for a good part of the day, enjoyed various activities at the Saratoga Pavilion. Koster served for the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Suribachi.

"Served six years under Commander in Chief Ronald Reagan. I met the ship the day the Beirut barracks were bombed, and shortly thereafter we were ordered to go to Grenada and I was in the war down there," said Koster. "I served honorably

and got to see a lot of the world, taught English in Turkey, and had fun. There were times we all might have struggled while we were in, but we all miss it now. Whenever you see a veteran in uniform the memories come right back. It's been really neat to meet even some of our World War II vets here, seen a lot of old friends too. It's been a real special day here at Saratoga, and I'm a Saratoga resident so it's been an outstanding day put on."

— Shayna Tiller

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Todd Pletcher	10
Kiaran McLaughlin	7
Steve Asmussen	5
Jason Servis	5
Jeremiah Englehart	5

JOCKEYS	1ST
Irada Ortiz Jr.	17
Javier Castellano	11
Jose Ortiz	11
John Velazquez	11
Joel Rosario	10
Luis Saez	8
Ricardo Santana Jr.	7

Through Wednesday



WEDNESDAY SARATOGA RESULTS

Wednesday August 3.

FIRST \$70,000, HANDICAP, 4 YO'S & UP, 2 1/16M

9 Dr. Skip	W. McCarthy	\$14.20	\$5.40	\$4.60
3 Top Striker	B. Dalton		\$5.10	\$3.90
6 Special Skills	C. Hankin			\$3.80

Ch Gelding 2008, by Eddington - Mz. Ann by Citidancer
Owner: Clorevia Farm. Trainer: Edward Graham.
Breeder: Michael P. Cataneo (MD). Late Scratches: Kingdom
Time: 3:54.20. Exacta (9-3), \$71.00; Superfecta (9-3-6-5), \$875.00; Trifecta (9-3-6), \$209.00

SECOND \$37,000, MAIDEN CLAIMING \$20,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

8 Littlemissbusiness	J. Castellano	\$4.30	\$2.60	\$2.10
1A Phantom Phasr	C. DeCarlo		\$3.30	\$2.10
5 Smart Alex	R. Santana, Jr.			\$2.40

Dk B/ Br Filly 2013, by Mass Media - Princess Chispa by Blue Ensign
Owner: Blue Stork Stables. Trainer: Mitchell Friedman.
Breeder: William P. Sorren (FL).
Late Scratches: Lebowski, Feistyloulabelle
Claimed: Littlemissbusiness claimed by Allread, Neal M. for \$20,000, Smart Alex claimed by Winning Move Stable for \$20,000
Time: 1:10.52
Daily Double (9-8), \$45.80; Exacta (8-1), \$12.80; Quinella (1-8), \$8.20; Superfecta (8-1-5-2), \$81.50; Trifecta (8-1-5), \$27.60

THIRD \$50,000, CLAIMING \$25,000, 3 YO, 6F

6 One Minute	R. Santana, Jr.	\$9.20	\$4.60	\$2.90
1 Frostie Anne	J. Lezcano		\$5.40	\$4.00
2 Gianna's Dream	J. Ortiz			\$2.70

B Filly 2013, by Run Away and Hide - Bach Hamilton by Cherokee Run
Owner: Heiligbrodt, L. William and Corinne. Trainer: Steven Asmussen.
Breeder: Ashley Hillyard (KY).
Late Scratches: Scarlet Goddess, Stones of Navarone
Claimed: Frostie Anne claimed by Sharp, Joe for \$25,000, Gianna's Dream claimed by Wycoff, Jordan V. for \$25,000, Hot Dudette claimed by Drawing Away Stable for \$25,000
Time: 1:11.30
Daily Double (8-6), \$31.40; Exacta (6-1), \$55.50; Superfecta (6-1-2-4), \$192.50; Trifecta (6-1-2), \$118.50; Pic 3 (9-8-6), \$243.50

FOURTH \$73,000, NY-BRED MAIDEN SPECIAL WEIGHT, 3 & UP, 1 1/16M

1 Alabama Bound	L. Saez	\$5.80	\$3.30	\$2.70
3 Catch Your Dreams	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$4.10	\$2.80
4 Talkn Til Midnight	J. Ortiz			\$3.90

B Filly 2013, by Proud Citizen - Suki by Scarlet Ibis
Owner: Parting Glass Racing (Thomas J. Gallo).
Trainer: Thomas Bush. Breeder: Find A Cure Stable, LLC (NY).
Late Scratches: Jennifer's Legacy, Moonshine Cate, Redemption Queen
Time: 1:44.12
Daily Double (6-1), \$36.80; Exacta (1-3), \$28.60; Quinella (1-3), \$12.60; Superfecta (1-3-4-7), \$308.50; Trifecta (1-3-4), \$111.00; Pic 3 (8-6-1), \$85.50

FIFTH \$47,000, CLAIMING \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

9 Show Bound	R. Santana, Jr.	\$14.60	\$6.20	\$3.60
8 Ross J Dawg	J. Castellano		\$3.30	\$2.50
10 Harvard Man (GB)	F. Geroux			\$3.20

B Colt 2013, by Warrior's Reward - Spanish Cat by Hennessy
Owner: Durant, Jerry. Trainer: Steven Asmussen.
Breeder: Don Amos & Crossroads Farm, LLC (KY).
Late Scratches: Frosti Agosti, Dr Luber's Kiss, Crowd Funding
Claimed: Show Bound claimed by Imaginary Stables for \$40,000, Harvard Man (GB) claimed by Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K. for \$40,000. Time: 1:02.92
Daily Double (1-9), \$54.50; Exacta (9-8), \$44.00; Superfecta (9-8-10-3), \$1,473.00; Trifecta (9-8-10), \$173.00; Pic 3 (6-1-9), \$265.50

SIXTH \$56,000, CLAIMING \$32,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 6F

6 Monster Mash	L. Saez	\$9.20	\$4.50	\$3.80
11 Royal Saint	R. Santana, Jr.		\$5.40	\$4.50
4 Brewing	F. Geroux			\$9.20

Dk B/ Br Horse 2009, by Ghostzapper - Rose Frances by Crafty Prospector
Owner: Allread, Neal, M.. Trainer: Jeremiah Englehart.
Breeder: Marilyn Seltzer & Edward A. Seltzer (KY).
Late Scratches: Fabulous Kid, Rockford
Claimed: Royal Saint claimed by Anthony, George for \$32,000, Classic Salsa claimed by Ramsey, Kenneth L. and Sarah K. for \$32,000
Time: 1:09.08
Daily Double (9-6), \$108.50; Exacta (6-11), \$49.40; Superfecta (6-11-4-3), \$4,740.00; Trifecta (6-11-4), \$754.00; Pic 3 (1-9-6), \$406.00; Pic 4 (6-1/6/8/11-9-6), \$1,894.00; Pic 5 (4/6/8-6-1/6/8/11-9-6), \$5,043.00

SEVENTH \$85,000, ALLOWANCE, 3 YO'S & UP, 5 1/2F

8 Orient Harbor	J. Ortiz	\$15.00	\$7.90	\$4.80
10 Firsthand Report	J. Velazquez		\$12.20	\$7.20
2 Lady of Victory	J. Alvarado			\$3.90

Ch Mare 2011, by First Samurai - Quiet Harbor by Silver Deputy
Owner: Janney, III, Stuart, S.. Trainer: Claude McGaughey III.
Breeder: Stuart S. Janney, III LLC. (KY).
Late Scratches: Malibu Princess, Northern Screamer
Time: 1:02.66
Daily Double (6-8), \$69.00; Exacta (8-10), \$193.00; Superfecta (8-10-2-5), \$8,196.00; Trifecta (8-10-2), \$1,025.00; Pic 3 (9-6-8), \$643.00

EIGHTH \$100,000, STAKES - SHINE AGAIN S., 4 YO'S & UP, 7F

3 Wavell Avenue	J. Rosario	\$3.00	\$2.40	\$2.10
7 Momameamaria	M. Franco		\$10.20	\$7.50
2 Linda Linda (CHI)	P. Lopez			\$4.90

Dk B/ Br Mare 2011, by Harlington - Lucas Street by Silver Deputy
Owner: Dubb, M., Simon, D., Head of Plains Partners LLC and Bethlehem Stables LLC. Trainer: Chad Brown. Breeder: Eugene Melynk (ON).
Late Scratches: My Savannah Belle
Time: 1:21.83
Daily Double (8-3), \$24.80; Exacta (3-7), \$29.40; Superfecta (3-7-2-1), \$959.00; Trifecta (3-7-2), \$304.00; Pic 3 (6-8-3), \$104.50

NINTH \$78,000, NY-BRED AOC \$40,000, 3 YO'S & UP, 1 1/16M

2 Capriana	J. Castellano	\$3.60	\$2.40	\$2.10
11 Ack Naughty	I. Ortiz, Jr.		\$3.30	\$2.60
8 Saturday Bliss	R. Santana, Jr.			\$4.40

Ch Filly 2012, by Street Boss - Dynamism by Dynaformer
Owner: Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and Frankel, Ronald.
Trainer: Todd Pletcher. Breeder: MDS Farms, LLC (NY).
Late Scratches: Feeling Bossy, Legally Bay, Bi Light of Day
Time: 1:41.75
Daily Double (3-2), \$6.00; Exacta (2-11), \$9.10; Superfecta (2-11-8-5), \$386.00; Trifecta (2-11-8), \$84.00; Pic 3 (8-3-2), \$51.50; Place Pix Nine (4/6/11-2/8/10-2/3/7/9-1/2/12/1), \$37.80

TENTH. \$39,000 MDN CLM (\$25,000) NY-BRED 3&UP, 6F

12 Chico Grande	I. Ortiz Jr.	5.30	4.10	2.90
11 Buckwellspent	R. Santana Jr.		12.00	7.50
4 Peculiar Sensation	M. Franco			2.90

Dk. B/Br g 4, Read The Footnotes-Cat In Deed, Alydeed.
Bred by TSP Enterprises (NY).
Owner: Arthur Meisner. Trainer: Jason Servis.
Late Scratches: Cats Landing, Here Comes R J, How Frost It Is, Southern Gentleman.
Exacta (12-11) \$75. Trifecta (12-11-4) \$331.50. Superfecta (12-11-4-13) \$3,075. Double (2-12) \$13.60. Pick 3 \$24.80. Pick 4 \$147. Pick 6 (5 correct) \$53. Pick 6 (6 correct) \$4,719.

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Every Day

Nearing the end of the Capital OTB show Wednesday morning, Seth Merrow offered a question and a statement all rolled together, letting it hang in the air.

“You write the Cup of Coffee, on or near the back page, every day...?”

“Every day,” I said, knocking on wood, “I haven’t missed one yet.”

I just knocked on wood again, eight hours later, as the clock ticks and I sit behind an empty screen.

You’d think, after 15 years, I’d get better at knowing what I was going to write about each day. Retired Daily Racing Form editor-in-chief Rich Rosenbush, part editor, part psychologist who knew his writers like Jerkens knew his horses, once said to me, “You know, you’d be a lot better writer if you decided on what you were going to write about earlier, instead of on deadline.”

He had a point.

I wander all morning on the backstretch, horses and horsemen coming and going, then spend part of the afternoon at the track and come back to the office without a subject...? I look back at the day and think about all the missed opportunities, all the chances to research and report, all the chances to create 800 words from scratch.

But, alas, I don’t know I’m writing a column even though I know I’m writing a column. Rosenbush would shake his head at that one.

If I knew I was writing a column, I would have taken notes as two women and a man dissected The Special like they were pulling a tomato out of the center of a Dagwood, turning Tuesday night’s work into Wednesday morning’s seat saver. The green benches on the grandstand apron, still damp with dew, instantly had color, Curalina spread out across three green slats, Sallee’s back cover wedged and folded, Tom’s story on the Shine Again tucked at the corners like a made bed. I would have asked them if that really works, if their seats would be there in the



afternoon, I would have jotted down their names and asked them if they had read the paper before they used it as a seat saver.

If I knew I was going to write a column, I would have gone to the sales ground to write a mood piece about the first stall plaque to be hung, the first horse to arrive.

If I knew I was writing a column, I would have gotten the name of the bay horse I grabbed from the outrider when crisis hit on the Oklahoma late Wednesday morning. I would have taken better mental notes of his kind eye, the warmth of his neck on my hand, his stress dissipating as we turned and walked away. I would have asked about his story, every horse has a story, and wrote about why some get lucky and some don’t.

If I knew I was writing a column, I would have written down the names of the couple sitting in folding chairs under the awning between the club-

house and the paddock. The ones who stopped me in my tracks when they yelled, “We love your paper. We love it. I mean, we love it. It’s the best newspaper ever. Ever.” I thanked them, but if I stopped and thought about a column, whew, 800 words would have come easy from two horse breeders, two fans, two readers.

If I knew I was writing a column, I would have gone with Julien Leparoux when he said he was going to see Tepin Wednesday morning. Yeah, I just sat there and wondered what I should write about as the jockey went to visit the best horse in the country.

If I knew I was writing a column, I would have stuck with Eddie Graham as he walked through the clubhouse after the first. I would have asked him what was the difference between winning the Arlington Million and winning a ratings handicap over jumps at Saratoga. Actually, I did ask him and all I got was a laugh. If I thought about this column, I would have asked him about his first trip here, the time he came with Grenade for Bruce Miller. Yeah, Grenade and Eddie Graham deserved half a page in the back of The Special.

If I knew I was going to write a column, I would have asked Willie McCarthy what it was like to go from falling in two rides at Suffolk a few weeks ago to winning the first Wednesday. Hell, that one even had a lede, when he said he picked up a good ride on Dr. Skip last week.

If I knew I was writing a column, I would have taken better notes when A.C. Avila took a long drag of his cigarette and explained his move from Brazil to America back in the early 90s. The night he went to bed with \$200,000 in the bank and in the morning he had nothing. A loan, the government called it.

If I knew I was writing a column, I wouldn’t be sitting here on deadline with Rosenbush’s voice in my head, “You know, you’d be a lot better writer if...”



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